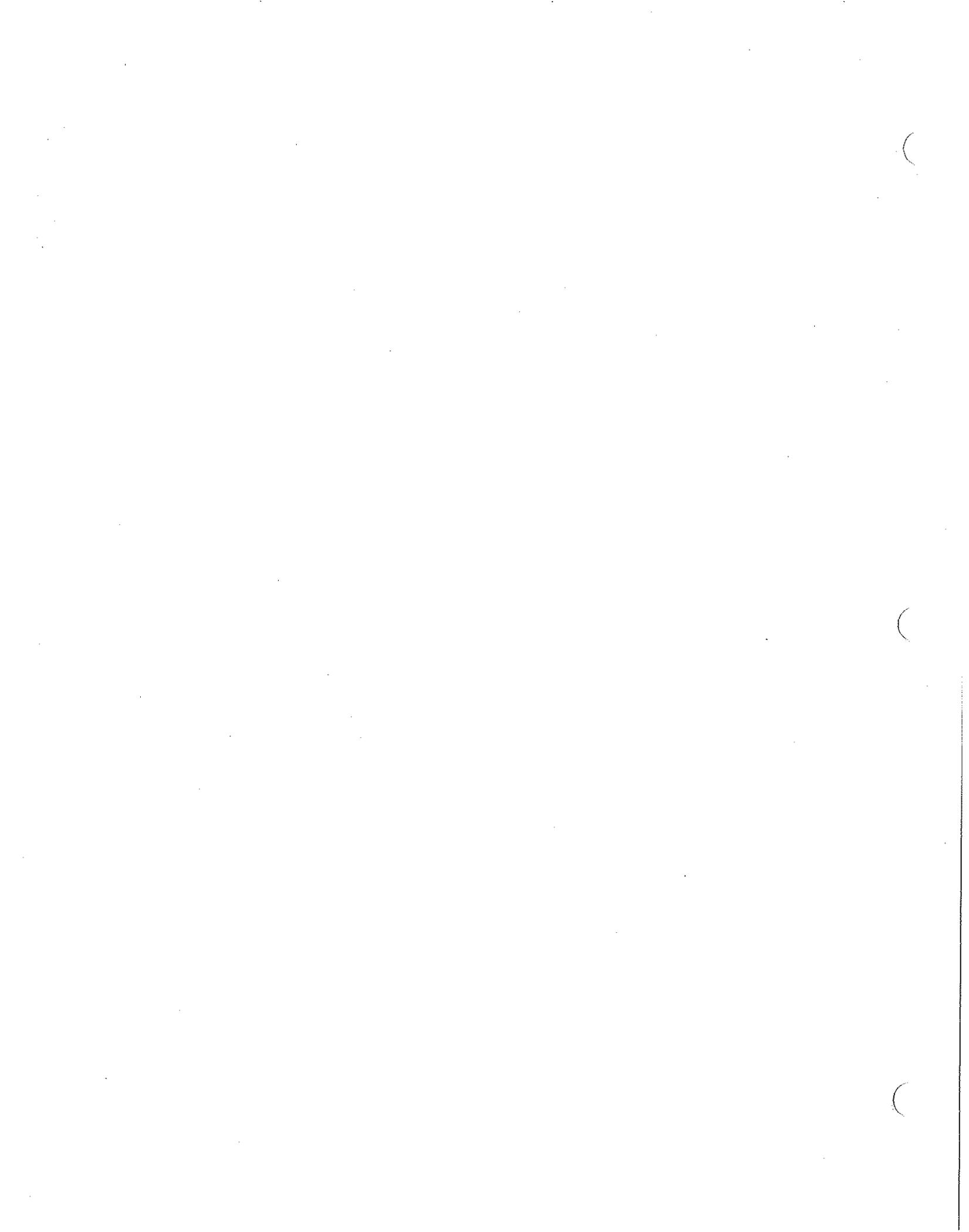
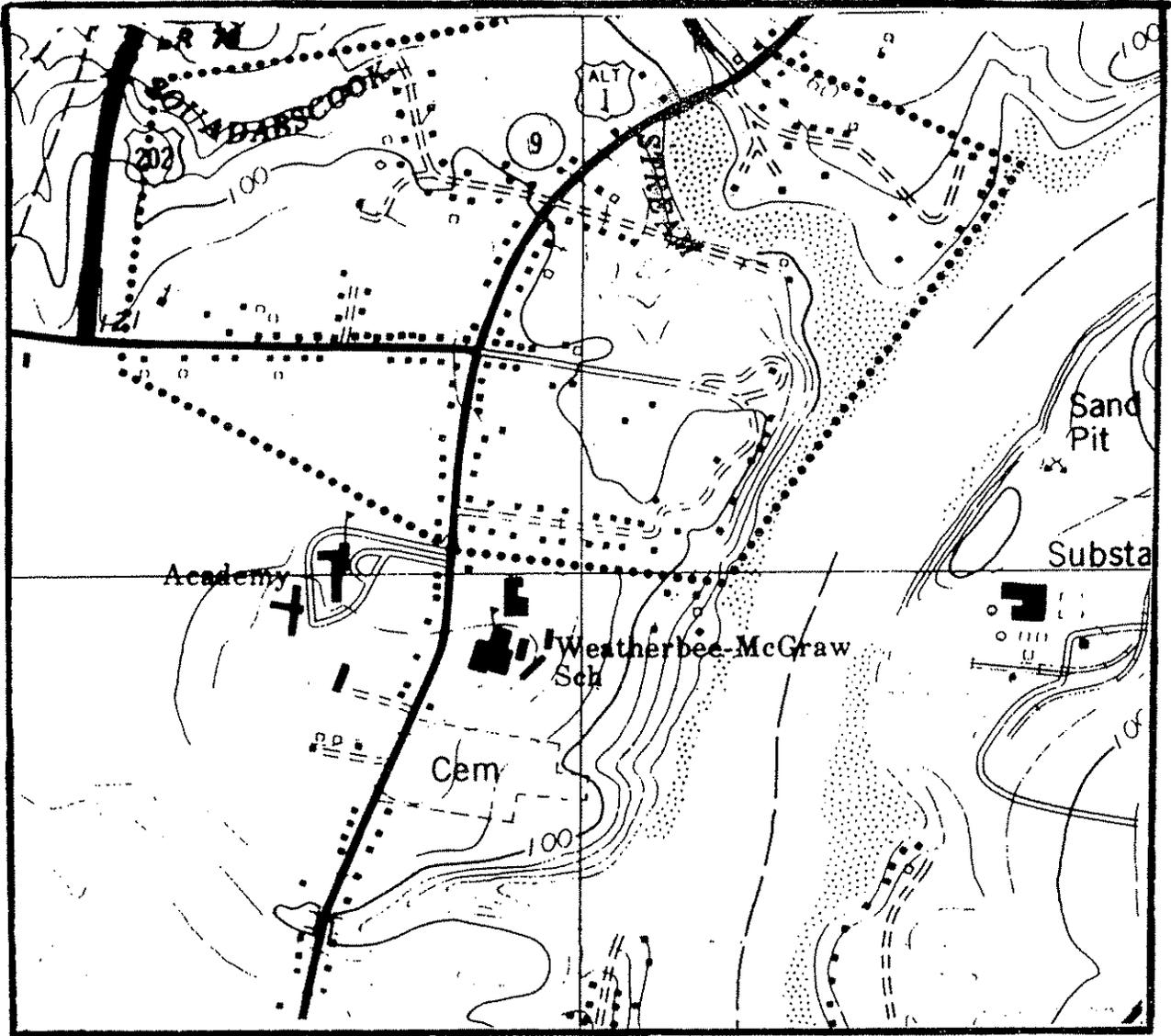


Study Area



Phase I Inventory of Historic Resources



..... Study Area

Hampden Historic Resources Inventory,  
Fiscal Year 1990, Part I

Introduction

After many years of citizen concern about the loss and alteration of Hampden's historic architectural heritage, which was heightened during the boom period of local development in the 1980s, the Town of Hampden enacted a comprehensive historic preservation ordinance in November, 1989. During its earliest days of service, the newly instituted Historic Preservation Commission (David M. Hamlin, Jean L. Heath, Ron H. Hidu, Valorie W. Larson, and Raymond M. Pullen, chairman, alternates Lisa M. Lawsing and Richard Newcomb) worked closely with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Town Council to amend that ordinance in order to make Hampden the fifth "Certified Local Government" in Maine. This "CLG" designation, indicating that Hampden's ordinance conformed in standards for designation and enforcement with National Register of Historic Places standards, made Hampden eligible for survey monies from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. (Non-certified ordinances have no access to such funds.) Hampden is also eligible for a portion of the state monies allotted by the state commission for survey work because this is the first time a survey is being undertaken under the strict criteria of the National Park Service. In fact, "Fiscal Year 1990, Part I" was funded by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission from state survey funds.

In order to protect Hampden's historic districts and isolated landmarks, it is necessary for them to be designated by the Hampden Town Council according to the procedures of the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Survey work -- research determining the eligibility of districts and landmarks, following the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places -- is necessary to propose potential districts and landmarks for designation. This first submission by an architectural historian of the Hampden Historic Resources begins the process of surveying the architectural resources of the entire town of Hampden and recording all significant and relatively unaltered structures that are at least fifty years old. (Fifty years is the cut-off point for National Register nominations.)

The format of the present survey, a form consisting of a two-sided acid-free sheet of heavy paper for each structure, bearing a three-by-five inch photograph of the building, has been determined by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Two sets of "originals," filled out by hand and with photographs, have been prepared, one for the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and another for the Town of Hampden. The information on these forms will be entered into a computer program and will be more effectively accessible in the future than would be a series of typed and photocopied volumes. As Part II of the present fiscal year survey is completed, its forms can be integrated alphabetically and numerically with the two master copies. Likewise, the streets and roads surveyed in the future can be made part of the master copies. The town may make available photocopies of its master copy and subsequent additions to it for consultation at the Town Office, Library, Historical Society, High School, and other appropriate locations.

In its first application for funding of this survey work, the Town of Hampden responded to state guidelines giving preference to areas that are

under pressure from development and heavy traffic. The four-mile-square district was already the subject of a moratorium for these reasons, and since it incorporates one site of Hampden's first settlement and its finest grouping of historic houses, its choice was logical. The choice of areas for subsequent surveys will be guided by such considerations, until all of the town has been surveyed.

One word should be added here about omissions and buildings in proposed historic districts which are judged to be "non-contributing." Readers may notice that structures known to be older than fifty years and which may have figured in the social and economic history of Hampden, or have been regarded as specially attractive from an architectural point of view, have been omitted. The reason will be that they have been altered by the removal of significant original material and the installation of modern finishes. The criteria for eligibility depend on the presence of original material in a building. Many buildings have been altered over time, to fulfill each generation's functional or stylistic needs, and this natural process of alteration is often called the "continuum of styles." But if a building has been altered in the last fifty years through the removal of original finishes, it usually loses its eligibility and would be classified as non-contributing if it fell into a designated district. It would still have to go through the review process for any exterior alteration or replacement of material, to protect the integrity of the district as a whole. But it would not have access to any positive benefits available through the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, such as potential tax credits for the rehabilitation of income-producing property, or matching grants to non-profit organizations. Among the most frequent alterations of

historic fabric which make historic buildings ineligible for individual designation or "non-contributing" in districts are: installation of synthetic siding; removal of windows and trim and insertion of modern, often shortened or differently shaped, light sash; closing in of door trim; and construction of modern entry porches. Some of these changes are reversible, and a small but growing trend nationally is for new owners of historic buildings to reverse simple alterations such as the installation of synthetic siding over clapboard, where the trim is intact, finding other ways to insulate the walls.

I have been helped by earlier deed research by members of the Hampden Historical Society, and although not all the areas of their survey are covered in Part I, it is acknowledged here. This work was done in an earlier effort to achieve the enactment of a historic preservation ordinance and to establish protected districts. Historical Society members who worked on this project were: Katherine Trickey, Elizabeth Millner, Eleanor Plummer, Kathleen Nickless, Florence Natalie, Celia Gray, Ruth Dorrity, Robert and Dorrice Wetzler, Janet Danforth, and Ardeana Knowles. I have also been helped by Katherine Trickey and Elizabeth Millner in gaining access to Hampden's historic tax records and other archival materials, which are in the keeping of the Hampden Historical Society. R.M. Pullen, chairman of the Hampden Historic Preservation Commission, has served as the volunteer photographer of the project, and has assisted in many other ways. I am especially grateful to Vivian Gressor, Assessor's Office, for assisting in the gathering of data and answering many questions, and to David Gould, Town Planner, who has acted as the overall administrator-coordinator for the project and in providing computerized

mapping assistance. Sincere thanks are also due to individuals with knowledge of specific structures, whose help is acknowledged under the relevant entries.

January 18, 1991

Deborah Thompson, Ph.D.  
Architectural Historian

#### Abbreviations

Abbreviated citations which appear on some of the forms (not all appear in Part I, but a list is given here) refer to:

1859 map Walling, Henry, Civil Engineer. Typographical Map of Penobscot County, Maine. Boston, 1859.

1875 atlas map Sherman, W.A. Atlas of Penobscot County, Maine. New York: Comstock & Cline, 1875.

HHS Hampden Historical Society (Kinsley House).

HRD Hancock Registry of Deeds.

HS Historical Sketches of the Town of Hampden, Maine. Hampden Historical Society, eds. K.W. Trickey, E. Millner, Marion Couillard

IJ Industrial Journal.

MHPC Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

NR National Register of Historic Places.

NR Nomination Nomination forms, on file at Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

PRD Penobscot Registry of Deeds.

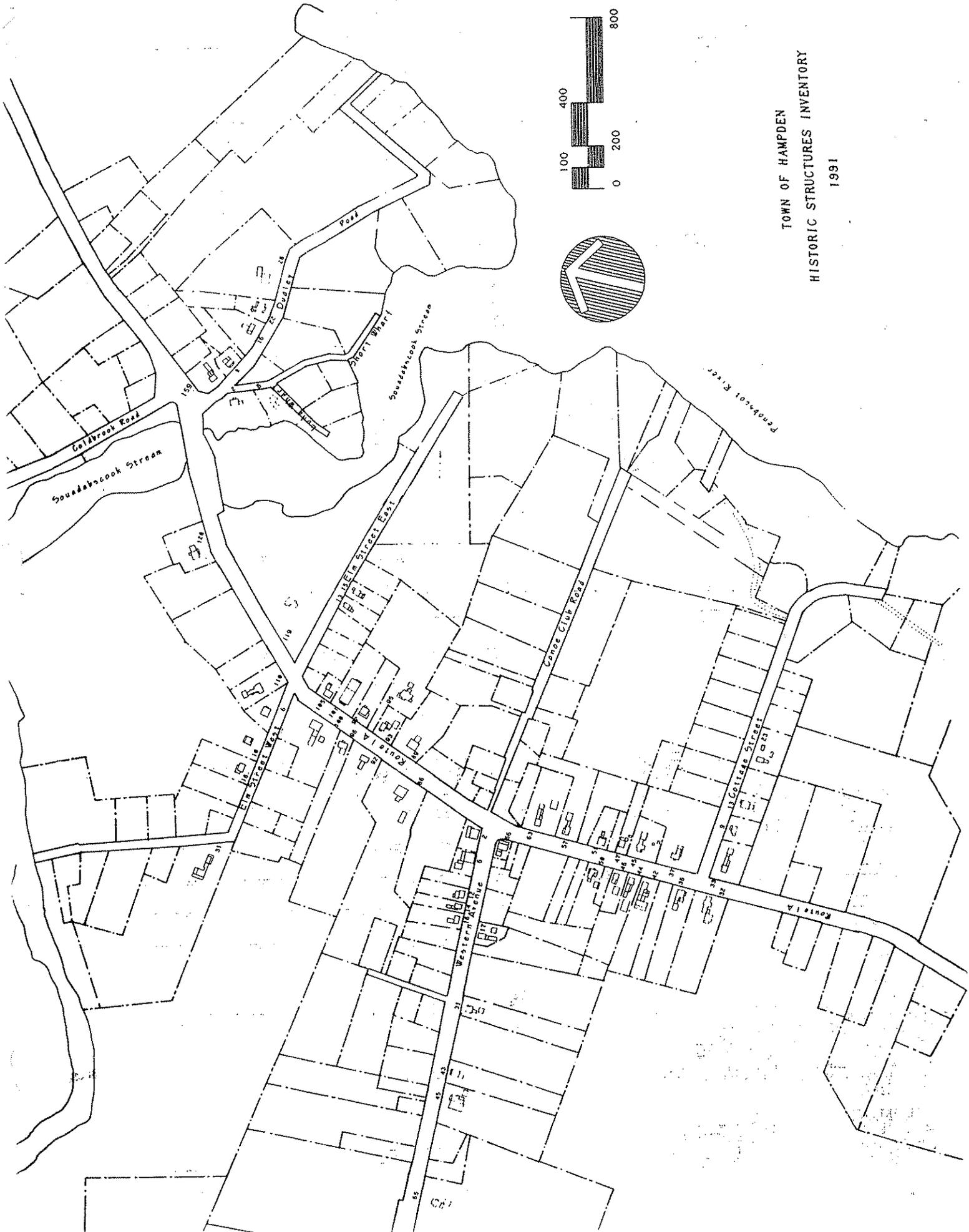
Spec. Coll. University of Maine. Special Collections, Fogler Library.

Tax Records Hampden Tax Records (19th century). On permanent loan to Hampden Historical Society.

Thompson, AH Thompson, Deborah. Bangor, Maine 1769-1914; An Architectural History. Orono: University of Maine Press, 1988.

Note: Photocopies of historic and Planning Board maps of Hampden are available in "Maps of Hampden, 1767-1985" Katherine W. Trickey ed., Hampden Historical Society, 1985 (in print).





TOWN OF HAMPDEN  
 HISTORIC STRUCTURES INVENTORY  
 1991

