

Hampden Historic Resources Inventory, Fiscal Year 1992
Part III - The Old County Road, Coldbrook Road and parts of West Hampden

The third year of Hampden's Historic Resources Survey has concentrated on inland areas of the town and greatly enlarged our understanding of its agricultural roots. Because of the limitation on state monies available for this survey work, and the fact that the Town of Hampden must compete for funds annually with other Certified Local Governments engaged in similar survey work, the areas in the remaining, unsurveyed sectors of the town, are selected somewhat arbitrarily. This year we have covered the Old County Road, whose story actually precedes that of the Main Road North, and some of the properties traced are in fact parts of the same settlers' lots which were surveyed in Part III of the Historic Resources Inventory (the River Road, or Main Road North south of the Old Country Road fork near the Bangor line was actually not laid out until about 1835, see cover illustration of *Historic Resources Inventory, Part III*).

Also covered in the current Inventory project area were the Coldbrook and Old Coldbrook Roads, the remainder of Western Avenue and the Kennebec Roads not surveyed in earlier surveys, and the section of farm roads (Miller, Fowler, Shaw Hill) off Western Avenue. It is anticipated that the remaining areas of the Town: Route 69, the Back Winterport Road, and all small intervening roads with structures aged fifty or older, will be covered in the final phase, Fiscal Year 1993, of this project, for which Hampden has already received the promise of funding. It should be noted that this survey work is done on a matching basis, and that the Town of Hampden provides its match through the services of the Town Planner, Assessor and secretary, through the provision of space and office services, and through the volunteer provision of time by the photographer for each project, R.M. Pullen, and by members of the Hampden Historical Society (particularly Kay Trickey). It has truly been a community project for the past three years, and although the owners of historic properties are not listed in the providers of the "match," they too have been most helpful in providing information, and welcoming the surveyor to their properties, so that the end product as accurate as possible.

As in previous year, the Historic Resources Inventory itself consists of two sets of double-faced cards with photos of each structure which are handwritten, because they are designed as computer databases for the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The second set of cards is kept in Hampden and numerous copies are made and distributed to the Historical Society, libraries, town offices, school libraries, etc., for reference. Streets and roads are listed in alphabetical order and then by numerical address or Tax Map and Lot number. As new information develops about properties in the Inventory, it is entered on the Town's set of cards, making this a true working document.

The current project has also provided for the addition of nine new nominations to the Multiple Resource National Register Historic District ("Historic Architecture in Hampden"), which was submitted in 1992 and is now in the process of revision in Augusta.

A description of the process by which Hampden adopted a Certified Local Government form of historic preservation ordinance, making it eligible to compete for survey funds, is given in the

introduction to Part I of the Historic Resources Inventory (1990). The same guidelines apply in the selection of structures eligible for designation as landmarks or contributing elements of historic districts as before. Derived from the guidelines of the National Register of Historic Places and the Secretary of the Interior, these guidelines require buildings aged fifty or more to exemplify historic styles and be relatively unaltered in materials and elements. This still permits buildings to incorporate the changes caused by stylistic alterations over the years, and by additions, but requires such changes to be in historic styles and materials. Such changes are evidence of the buildings' own histories and constitute what is called the continuum of style. However, serious recent changes in material or elements (*e.g.*, replacement of doors, sash, siding material, removal of trim) usually disqualify a building from being a contributing element in a district

The Abbreviations and Sources listed in Part III of the Hampden Historic Resources Inventory apply to this segment of the work.

Some general remarks about Hampden's history and development in the Introduction to Part III of the Historic Resources Inventory should be kept in mind by the user of this section of the survey. Since this is the first purely "agricultural" survey area, it has presented a different picture to the surveyor, one that is marked by a much higher incidence of broken chains of title, and difficult title searches. A surprisingly high number of unrecorded deeds have complicated the work. Oral history has made a much more significant contribution in this year's project area, and the fact that a considerable number of properties are still in the hands of original settlers' descendants or belong to the first owners to purchase from descendants, has been significant in providing information to flesh out the little found in deeds or tax lists.

Working on this survey has been a source of great personal satisfaction. I have been helped at all stages by David Gould, Town Planner, R. Michael Pullen, Volunteer Photographer and Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission, Katherine W. Trickey and her colleagues at the Hampden Historical Society, Vivian Gresser, Town Assessor and Nancy Morris, administrative assistant, and by the owners of subject properties. The survey will be a valuable tool in planning for Hampden's future as the town enters its third century.

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Abbreviations and Sources

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.

HHRI Thompson, Deborah. Hampden Historic Resources Inventory (by Parts).

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 Press.

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.