

## **CHAPTER IV HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

There are many reasons for preserving historically significant resources and their surroundings. Among the most compelling are psychological ones, reasons which are associated with the continuity and quality of life. Older buildings provide us with tangible links to the past; they give us a sense of the continuity of time and place. Just as important, they become part of our own lives. These historic, cultural, and architectural riches frequently bear a relation to events, eras, or persons in history which help to define us as a cultural group.

Gradual and pervasive erosion of the historical character can happen with the accumulation of incremental changes to buildings and places. It is our challenge to ensure that this does not continue to happen in Sutton. Historic preservation is an important issue to Sutton residents, as evidenced through the Community Survey. Over 76% of the survey respondents felt that the Town should use regulations and ordinances to protect and preserve historic sites, buildings, and village centers and 73% would be in favor of spending tax dollars to protect or acquire natural or cultural resources through purchase or easement.

Many historical sites have been lost through the years due to growth and development. Some of these sites include Native American burial grounds, family cemetery plots, homestead sites of earlier settlers, the site of the log meeting house in Sutton Village, and sites of early mills. There have also been sites that have come under private ownership, with a lack of public access and proper maintenance following. Preservation should not be a reaction to a crisis, but part of the planning process. Preservation does not and should not be thought of as prevention.

This Chapter looks to highlight local historic and cultural resources, describes why they are significant, and looks to provide the resources, recommendations, and tools to plan for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of those resources.

### **HISTORY OF SUTTON**

Artifacts reportedly found on the shores of Kezar Lake more than two centuries ago show that Indians were present in Sutton in early times. However, details of their lives and of when they were here have yet to be uncovered.

On November 30, 1749, the Masonian Proprietors granted "Perrystown," the township that would later become Sutton, to 30 men from Haverhill District and Kingston in New Hampshire and to 25 from Haverhill, Newbury, Andover, and Bradford in Massachusetts. During the following winter, Obadiah Perry, the surveyor Timothy Clements, and four other men working 28 days laying out and marking the lots in the town which were assigned to the 55 town proprietors at a lottery on July 11, 1750.

In spite of the early drawing of lots, Perrystown did not have any settlers until Samuel Peaslee arrived in April, 1770. A 1771 map and its accompanying documents show the existing roads, house locations, and dates of arrival for Perrystown's first settlers – Samuel Peaslee, Cornelius Bean, Thomas Cheney, Jacob Davis, Ephraim Gile, and Samuel Bean – and the partly built house of John Knight. By 1779, Perrystown had grown to about 50 families and was incorporated by the state under its new name of Sutton in 1784.

Much of the land in town, including the tops of hills, was cleared for grazing or cropland and remained open for well over a century, but many of the farms were abandoned as the town's population gradually declined after 1820. The topography of the town led to the development of three main villages – South Sutton, Sutton Mills, and North Sutton – each with a church and a store and with family dwellings close together. Smaller gatherings of houses and a few businesses gave East Sutton an identity along with the now abandoned lesser communities of Potash Corner and Palmertown. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century summer residents began to make Blaisdell Lake popular.

During the past few years, Sutton's population has past its pervious high in 1820. As new residents arrive, their awareness of the town's history and heritage will enrich their personal attachments to the town and perhaps encourage their involvement with community affairs.

### **COMMUNITY CORNERSTONES PROJECT**

The Community Cornerstones Project was an outgrowth of then Governor Judd Gregg's Commission on New Hampshire in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Community Cornerstones Project is designed to help towns identify various aspects of the natural and built environment which are important to the heritage of the town. The long-range goal of the project is for each town to develop a plan to protect each Cornerstone for negative impacts as New Hampshire becomes more populated.

Sutton participated in this project through a group of volunteer townspeople. The Committee distributed a survey to the Town in early November 1990 and generated a list of about 30 nominations for Cornerstones. The nominations covered many different categories of historic sites, buildings, and Town events. Some of the Cornerstones were general and some specific, with some being publicly owned and some privately owned. A second round of informal volunteer balloting was held at the 1991 March Town Meeting in order to focus the list to 21 Cornerstones, which are listed below and can be seen on the **Community Cornerstones Project Map**.

- 1) South Sutton Village<sup>1</sup>
- 2) Sutton Mills Village
- 3) North Sutton Village
- 4) Eaton Grange
- 5) Muster Field Farm/Harvey Homestead

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<sup>1</sup> Each Village consists of several historic sites and buildings, which have been identified in the nomination process. Generally, the Cornerstone should be considered as the central, thickly settled portion of each of the Villages.

- 6) Wadleigh Homestead
- 7) Schoolhouses and sites
- 8) Settler's Oven
- 9) Indian Fireplace
- 10) Jones Gristmill Site
- 11) Town Pound
- 12) King Hill Quarry
- 13) Palmer Town/Sutton gore
- 14) Scenic Roads
- 15) Scenic High Places
- 16) The Pinnacle
- 17) Old Home Day
- 18) Fourth of July Parade
- 19) Muster Field Farm Day
- 20) Icing Day
- 21) Children's Christmas in South Sutton

The purpose of going through the Community Cornerstones Project is to document community consensus about which aspects of community life are the most important to preserve and protect. Most of the 21 Cornerstones are discussed and mapped in this Chapter on historic and cultural resources. The Scenic Roads and scenic vistas are discussed in the Transportation Chapter and the Natural Features, respectively.

## **HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

### **National and State Register of Historic Places**

Having a property listed in the National or State Registers of Historic Places can contribute to the preservation of historic properties in a number of ways, which include:

- Public recognition that a property is significant to a community;
- Consideration and advocacy in the planning of local and state funded or otherwise assisted projects;
- Qualification for state financial assistance for preservation projects, when funds are available; and
- Special consideration or relief in the application of some access, building and safety code regulations;

### **National Register of Historic Places**

Under the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service maintains the National Register, which lists the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register is the Nation's roster of properties that are important in history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. Properties may be nominated individually, in groups, or by Districts. The nomination process requires careful documentation as to a site's historical significance. In addition to buildings and bridges, other categories - such as Main Streets and roads, villages, parks, and monuments - can be listed.

Sutton currently has two sites listed on the National Register, which are listed below and can also be seen on the **National Register, State Historic Marker, and Local Historic Marker Location Map**.

*Matthew Harvey Homestead*

The Homestead, erected in 1787 and placed on the National Register in 1992, is an elegant example of rural Georgian architecture, little altered except for certain remodeling in the Federal style around 1800. Built with heavy timbers of oak and white pine, the building is one of the most massively framed structures of its size in the region. There is an historical easement on the Homestead, which gives legal protection in perpetuity against any alterations or activities that would adversely affect the appearance or workmanship of the building.

*Pillsbury Memorial Town Hall*

Sutton's Town Hall was built in 1891 and was formally accepted as such by the town in 1892; the generous gift of John Sargent Pillsbury (1828-1901). Pillsbury Memorial Hall is located at 93 Main Street in Sutton Mills and is described as a Richardson-Romanesque in style and was designed by architect Leroy S. Buffington of Minneapolis. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.

There are a number of benefits for properties listed on the National Register. These include the provision for special review and mitigation if a road widening, or other project using Federal funds is undertaken in the vicinity, and the possible eligibility for Federal benefits. These include charitable deductions for donations and easements, grants for preservation, and investment tax credits for the rehabilitation of income-producing buildings.

No additional regulative restrictions are placed upon those properties that are listed on the National Register; but instead, a listing in the Register recognizes the property's significance, encourages the stewardship of the property or resource, and stimulates local pride, appreciation, and commitment to preservation.

New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places

The New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places is one part of the state's efforts to recognize and encourage the identification and protection of historical, architectural, archaeological and cultural resources. These resources may be buildings, districts, sites, landscapes, structures or objects that are meaningful in the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or traditions of New Hampshire residents and communities. The State Register is administered by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR), which is the state's Historic Preservation Office. Sutton currently has no sites listed on the State Register.

Owners of private property listed on the State Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose, without oversight or comment from the NHDHR, provided that no state monies or permits are involved.

All properties listed on the State Register are documented and evaluated against the following criteria. These broad criteria are designed to guide individuals, local governments and others in evaluating potential entries in the State Register. Properties not specifically described in the text below may still be eligible.

- Properties may be listed on the State Register for the story they tell.
- Properties may also be meaningful for their associations with people who made important contributions to a community, profession or local tradition.
- Properties may be listed on the State Register for their tangible merit, either as a well-preserved example of local architecture, design, construction or engineering, or as a long-standing focal point in a neighborhood or community. These types of resources need not be extraordinary or the best example in town; they often can be a common, although irreplaceable, feature on the New Hampshire landscape.
- Identified, but unexcavated and unevaluated archaeological sites may also be listed.

Generally, properties eligible for listing on the State Register should be at least fifty years old. Properties approaching the fifty-year mark can be listed, if their historical values are already clear.

### **Goal**

To obtain national and state recognition of important historical sites in Sutton through National and State Register listings.

### **Recommendations**

- The Town should support individuals and organizations that are proposing sites in Town to be placed on the National Register or the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places by providing applicable information and resources.
- Sutton Historical Society should increase public education regarding the location and significance of National Register sites in Sutton.
- Establish a permanent source of funding for the maintenance of the existing, and the establishment of new, National and State Register sites, as well as the printing and distribution of material about the sites.

### **State and Local Historic Markers**

Many historic and cultural resources within the Town deserve to be highlighted and identified through State and Local Historic Markers for the purpose of public education.

#### State Historic Markers

The Historical Marker Program is one way that New Hampshire remembers its past. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is responsible for approving the subject, location, wording, and accuracy of the State Markers. The authorizing official of the historical marker program is the Commissioner of Transportation, who has the power to erect up to ten markers per year. The only way a marker can be placed in a Town is in response to a proposal and petition of twenty signatures from concerned citizens. These markers can be erected on State and local roads. However, the initial costs of the markers and on-going maintenance are local responsibilities. Some of the marker locations contain tangible reminders of the past, while others mark the locations where structures once stood or a historical event took place.

Sutton has one State Marker at the birthplace of John Sargent Pillsbury. See the National Register section for a description of this site. The location of this State Historic Marker can be seen on the **National Register, State Historic Marker, and Local Historic Marker Location Map**.

### Local Historic Markers

Local Markers, or the actual remnants of the structures themselves, indicate the sites of various other historic landmarks and events. Local historic marker sites are commemorated by the municipality, a local historical organization, or both through the placement of a marker. Sutton has five sites that are identified as Local Historic Markers throughout Town, which are listed below. The location of these local markers can be seen on the **National Register, State Historic Marker, and Local Historic Marker Location Map**.

#### *Muster Field Farm Museum*

This marker commemorates the historic Harvey Homestead and was erected in 1984 by the Bicentennial Committee. Matthew Harvey settled here in 1772 and was active in town affairs. Son Matthew was Governor in the 1830's and son Jonathan led the State Senate and General Court. Both Matthew and Jonathan were members of the US Congress. The 30<sup>th</sup> NH Regiment mustered at this location.

#### *Smiley Grove*

This marker, which was erected in 1984 by the Bicentennial Committee, commemorates the many summer camps and hotels that were located at Smiley Grove on Kezar Lake. The "Summer Business" flourished around Kezar Lake and North Sutton Village from the late 1800's to about 1950. People from the cities came to the rural lands and lakes of Sutton where farmers accepted boarders into their homes. Some of the farmhouses grew into hotels – Twin Pines House, Huntoon House, and Follansbee Inn. Children's summer camps shared the lake – Camp Penacook for boys and Camp Bueno for girls.

#### *Sutton Free Library*

A marker, which was erected by the Bicentennial Committee, stands at the entrance of the Sutton Free Library in the Sutton Mills Region. Sutton Mills Village was first called Quimby's Mills after Moses Quimby, who settled here in 1773 and built saw- and grist-mills. Later, upstream from this site, seven more dams were built that provided waterpower for making a variety of products, from bobbins to wagon wheels. Nearly all the dams were destroyed in 1936 with the last sawmill remaining in operation until 1939.

#### *Province Road*

A marker lies next to Province Road at the East Sutton Cemetery, which was erected in 1984 by the Bicentennial Committee. First called the "Indian Road," NH's first east-west carriage road was authorized by Act of Provincial Assembly in 1769. Built as a military road, it was also an aid in settlement of towns. It stretched from Boscawen to Charlestown, entering Sutton at its eastern boundary, passing through the Village of South Sutton, and exiting at its western boundary.

#### *Birthplace of John Sargent Pillsbury (1828-1901)*

Pillsbury is remembered for his distinguished service as Governor of Minnesota and his outstanding career as an entrepreneur with a marker near the place of his birth. He, his brother, and his nephew started Pillsbury Four Milling business around 1855 in

Minneapolis, MN. The site is located on the common in South Sutton at the junction of NH 114 and Meetinghouse Hill Road.

### **Goal**

To obtain state and local recognition of important historical sites in Sutton through State and Local Marker placements.

### **Recommendations**

- Nominate the following for State Marker designation – General John Eaton, a 1854 graduate of Dartmouth, ordained minister, the colonel (regiment leader) of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Colored Infantry and then a brigadier general in the Civil War, and US Commissioner of Education from 1870-1886; and Lydia Wadleigh, who was one of the most prominent national female educators during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both of these people were born in Sutton.
- Sutton Historical should increase public education regarding the location and significance of State and Local Historic Markers in Sutton.
- Sutton Historical Society should investigate the designation and placement of additional State and Local Historic Markers at sites within Town.
- Establish a permanent source of funding for the maintenance of the existing, and the establishment of new, State and Local Historic Markers, as well as the printing and distribution of material about the Markers.
- Sutton Historical Society should have oversight of the maintenance, preservation, replacement, and expansion of the Local Historic Markers in Sutton.
- Create a standard format for Local Historic Markers so that they are easily identifiable.
- Sutton Historical Society should create a map of the local historic sites, with information about each one that can be used for self-guided tours.
- Relocate the Province Road Local Marker to a yet-to-be-determined site. Its current location at the East Sutton cemetery is at least a mile from where the Province Road actually ran.

### **Historic Structures**

The following historic structures – Town-Owned Historic Structures and Sites, One-Room Schoolhouses, and Churches – were chosen for inclusion in this Chapter because these resources are the one that the community identifies with as part of the Town’s past. Although there are numerous other examples of privately-owned homes and other structures within town that are of equal historic importance, the time and resources were not available to do a complete inventory.

#### Town-Owned Historic Structures and Sites

The Town of Sutton currently owns two buildings of historic significance. The Town-owned buildings are listed below with descriptions of their historic significance.

*Pillsbury Memorial Town Hall* - Sutton’s Town Hall was built in 1891 and was formally accepted as such by the town in 1892; the generous gift of John Sargent Pillsbury (1828-1901). Pillsbury Memorial Hall is located at 93 Main Street in Sutton Mills and is described as a Richardson-Romanesque in style and was designed by architect Leroy S.

Buffington of Minneapolis. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.

*Old Store Museum* – The first store (1800), which was destroyed by fire, was located on the same site as the present Old Store Museum. The present building dates to 1850. It operated as a general store supplying grain, hardware, dry goods, meats, and other commodities to the residents.

The first telephone in the Town was installed in this building in 1892 and the first call was made to the Post Office in Bradford. Mail arrived by train in Bradford and was transported by stagecoach to South Sutton. The US Post Office was located in this building until 1931. It served as an important communication link between South Sutton and the outside world.

*Settler's Oven* – A dry laid stone “bee-hive” oven built against a large glacial erratic by an early settler. The site includes ground depressions indicating possible structures were located on the site. There has been an archeological dig at the site, which was conducted by Howard Sargent. The site was deeded to the Town at the time of the approval of the Southfield Subdivision in XXXX.

*South Sutton Common and Civil War Monument* – This Common is historic because XXXXXX. The civil war monument was given to the Town by George Alfred Pillsbury, the brother of John Sargent Pillsbury, in XXXX.

*World War II Veteran Monument* – This monument is located in Smiley Grove in North Sutton and was erected in XXXX.

### One-Room Schoolhouses

Also known as the rural school, these schoolhouses were the earliest educational systems in America. At one time, there were 14 separate school districts where schoolchildren of all ages were taught together in a single room. As the town population declined, so did the number of districts. Sutton had 13 original one-room schoolhouse's, 9 of which are still standing and are indicated in the list below.

- 1) Old South School - Route 114 and Johnson Hill Road
- 2) North School – Route 114 and North Road
- 3) Eaton School – Birch Hill Road
- 4) Center Mills School - Sutton Mills, Chalk Pond Road
- 5) Northwest School - King Hill; no longer standing
- 6) Northeast School – Baker Road
- 7) Buck Union School - Near Pound Road; no longer standing
- 8) Gore School - Gore Road; no longer standing
- 9) South Center School – Sutton Mills, Newbury Road
- 10) Kendriels School – Eaton Grange Road
- 11) Todd's School – Hominy Pot Road
- 12) Burpee School - Newbury/Nelson Hill Road

### 13) Poplar District School - Baker Hill and Poor Farm Road

#### Churches

Throughout history, religion has played an important role within a community and this section tries to highlight those houses of worship still remaining in Sutton.

*North Sutton Meeting House* – Serves as the First Free-Will Baptist Church. In 1797, this building was a true meeting house, meaning that it served the town as a place to conduct meetings and as a house of worship. The building did not have a second floor but rather a balcony that was located on the east, west, and south sides. “Porches” on each end of the meeting house provided access to the balcony, which was probably never completed (the porches were removed when the building was remodeled in the late 1800’s). The entire first floor served as the meeting and worship area. An elevated pulpit was centered on the north wall (wall closest to the cemetery). Box pews were arranged on the remaining floor space. The door on the side opposite the pulpit was the main entrance. The meeting house was remodeled in 1855 with balcony being replaced with a full second floor, which served as the worship area. The building did not have a steeple and bell (added in 1870). The clock was added in the 1920’s. During the 1980’s the meeting house was remodeled and a porch was added to the west end and this addition is now the primary entry to the building.

*South Sutton Meeting House* – Currently owned by the Sutton Historical Society. The construction of the original South Meeting House was started in 1794; however a fire burned the building to the ground. Reconstruction began immediately, was completed in 1797. The present meeting house was built in 1839 and the fate of the earlier meeting house is not known. There may have been one additional meeting house in South Sutton that served between the original and the current buildings.

*Sutton Mills Church* – Currently used as a private residence. This church was built on land purchased in 1839. The building is similar in design to the current South Meeting House. The building served as a church until 1989.

The locations of the Town-owned historic structures and sites, one-room schoolhouses, and churches can be seen on the **Historic Structure and Cemetery Location Map**.

#### **Goal**

To protect and preserve historic structures of importance in Sutton.

#### **Recommendations**

- Create a management plan for the two town-owned historic buildings and sites that includes scheduled maintenance and rehabilitation, proposed uses, and funding sources for the preservation of these buildings.
- Town should put aside funding each year for the purchase of additional historic resources, sites, and structures that may become available.

- Ensure that town historical information– books, papers, artifacts, maps, etc. – are stored using the best preservation and conservation practices, are properly catalogued and accounted for, and are accessible to the public, where feasible.
- Encourage the use of the town-owned historic building for the education and display of historical resources, i.e. maps, documents, books, artifacts, etc. that can be accessible to the public for their use and research.
- Create a permanent source of funding from the Town for the Sutton Historical Society to preserve, protect, display, and educate residents about Sutton’s history.
- Sutton Historical Society should increase education about the importance of historic buildings through the use of historic photographs and brochures to be displayed at the various historic buildings and in other public places.

**Cemeteries**

Cemeteries - both Town-owned and small private family plots - are an important and personal link to the past. Cemeteries, whether they are historic family plots or larger and newly established, play an important and visible role in the history of Sutton. The goal is to ensure that all cemeteries within Town are well maintained and protected to preserve their historic characteristics.

The following is a chart of historic cemeteries located in Sutton. The location of these cemeteries can be seen on the **Cemetery and Historic Structures Location Map**.

<b>Cemeteries</b>	<b>Location</b>
North Sutton	Off Route 114, by Kezar Lake
Sutton Mills	Sutton Mills, off Village Road
Millswoods	Between the Lane River and NH 114
Old South	Off Meeting House Hill Road
East Sutton	Southeastern Sutton, off East Sutton Lane
Sutton Gore (Palmertown)	Off Kearsarge Gore Road
Blaisdell Hill (Privately Owned)	Next to 118 Blaisdell Hill Road
XXXXXX (Privately Owned)	Intersection on Kearsarge Valley and Baker Roads

The Cemetery Commission is a Town Committee that is charged with maintaining the town-owned cemeteries and ensuring their preservation.

**Goal**

To ensure the proper maintenance, preservation, and protection of historic cemeteries.

**Recommendations**

- Create a permanent funding source for the repair and maintenance of headstones and fences in historic Town-owned cemeteries.
- The Town Cemetery Commission should conduct a detailed inventory of all historic cemeteries in Town, which should include photos of the headstones, a map of each cemetery with the layout, a copy of what each headstone says, and an assessment of the condition of each headstone at the time of inventory. This effort should be

coordinated with the Sutton Historical Society to make sure that efforts are not duplicated.

- The oversight of alterations to and the preservation and care of the historic cemeteries located in Sutton should belong to the Town Cemetery Commission.
- Ensure that the historic importance of established cemeteries are taken into consideration when any type of development is proposed that may impact the cemeteries and that appropriate precautions are taken, such as the establishment of buffers.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

In a Town like Sutton, cultural resources are difficult to isolate from historical resources because one is often part of the other. The following list highlights some of the Town's resources, which are often described as being cultural. Some of the resources are run by the Town, while others have benefited from an association with the Town, but are privately directed.

### **Children's Christmas Pageant**

This event is a 25-year tradition that takes place at the South Sutton Meeting House on the Sunday prior to Christmas at 5pm. No formal committee or organization runs the pageant, just local residents and parents who want to keep the tradition alive. There is a living crèche with traditional costumes, verses, and music. This is followed by the lighting of individual candles, the singing of Silent Night, and the procession down to the Common to await the visit of Santa Claus.

### **Fourth of July Parade**

Established in 1920, the parade is a community-wide event in that more people are usually in the parade than are watching it. Led by Miss Liberty draped in antique bunting, followed by the Spirit of '76, participants decorate themselves, their animals, bicycles, and carts in red, white, and blue. They form at the junction of Roby Road and 114 and march down to the Common, where an antique cannon is fired.

### **Muster Field Farm**

Muster Field Farm Museum was established for educational purposes to promote and encourage the history of NH agriculture and early architecture. The Museum has 4 major attractions:

- 1) The Matthew Harvey Homestead, a handsome 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 2) A varied collection of historic farm buildings, ranging from huge barns to small corn bins, and a one room school house, saved from destruction and moved to the property.
- 3) A working farm, producing vegetables, flowers, hay, cord wood, and maple syrup
- 4) A superb, scenic location between Mount Kearsarge and King Hill, covering 250 acres of field and woods.

The Museum sponsors several seasonal events during the year, including Farm Days in August, Harvest Day in September, and Ice Day in January. Exhibits of sheering sheep, spinning and weaving, barn raising, the power of man and animal on the farm, and the practice of defense through reenactment battles.

Museum grounds are open to the public every day. Visitors can take a self-guided walking tour of the farm buildings and garden. Cross-country and snowshoeing trails.

### **Old Home Day**

The Sutton Historical Society now organizes Old Home Day. Governor Frank Rollins declared that all citizens should return to their home town once a year, and 2004 marked the 89<sup>th</sup> year of participation in Sutton. Participants are urged to wear period costumes as they sing a hymn lined in the old-time way, listen to native son, Tom Lowe's, wonderful "New Hampshire Sunday Morn" sung by the choir, the children's bell ringers, and thoughts of visiting speakers. After the service in the South Sutton Meeting House, there is a picnic lunch on the green, usually toe-tapping music, and old-fashioned games for the children.

There are three buildings under the care and preservation of the Sutton Historical Society – the 1839 South Sutton Meeting House, the 1863 South Sutton School, and 1/3 of the Benjamin Evans House, built in the early 1800s. This last building is fondly known as the Blue House, and has been furnished as it might have been at the time of its birth. It stands next to the Old Store Museum. These buildings are open on Old Home Day and once a month during the summer.

### **Goal**

To support events, programs, and organizations that promote cultural events for Sutton residents.

### **Recommendation**

- Work with cultural organizations to locate presentation and display spaces within the Town to highlight their work and/or programs.

## **RESOURCES TO MEET HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES NEEDS**

THIS WILL BE IN AN APPENDIX

Sutton has a rich historical legacy that is evident in its buildings, landscapes, and patterns of development. These resources contribute to the quality of life in the community and provide a sense of identity that many residents enjoy and find important to them. The strategies listed below can help ensure that these resources are protected and preserved so that future generations may not only learn from them, but also enjoy them.

### **Barn Owner Tax Relief**

RSA 79-D authorizes municipalities to grant property tax relief to barn owners who can demonstrate the public benefit of preserving their building and who also agree to maintain their structure throughout a minimum 10-year preservation easement. On or before April 15<sup>th</sup> of the new tax year, owners of historic barns or other farm buildings may seek relief by applying to

their local governing body to grant a discretionary preservation easement to the municipality and by agreeing to maintain the structure in keeping with its historic integrity and character during the term of the easement. For more information, contact the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.

### **Citizens for New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage**

A coalition of organizations are working to protect the special places that define our state. This coalition provides technical assistance, outreach, and education, which are available to communities and organizations.

### **Conservation License Plate Grant Program**

The NH Division of Historical Resources provides grants under the Conservation License Plate Program, commonly called the "Moose Plate" program, for the preservation of significant publicly-owned historic resources or artifacts that contribute to New Hampshire's history and cultural heritage. Grants are available to municipalities that own historic properties or significant publicly-owned historic and archaeological artifacts that contribute to New Hampshire's cultural heritage.

### **Cooperative Ventures with Private Organizations**

When the interests of the Town to conserve historic or cultural resources match with the interests of a private organization, the potential for a cooperative partnership exists. This tactic will require some creative thinking and introductory discussions by Town officials with area organizations that have, or could develop, an interest in conserving such resources.

### **Grants from Foundations**

The Town should research available grants and develop proposals to seek funding for the conservation of particular pieces of property or other historical resources within Town. Funding could be sought from foundations at the local, state, regional, and national level.

### **Land Trust**

The Town should support non-profit land trusts that accept and pursue property and easements for land of local historic and cultural concern.

### **Library and Archives of New Hampshire's Political Tradition**

First of its kind in the nation, the Political Library is designed to provide both an important historical record and insight into the primary election campaign process itself. The Library collects, organizes, and makes available to scholars, students, campaign managers, reporters, current candidates and future aspirants, the only comprehensive collection of election campaign papers and paraphernalia from half a century of New Hampshire presidential primary history.

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation**

For more than 50 years, the National Trust has been helping Americans protect the irreplaceable. A private nonprofit organization with more than 200,000 members, the National Trust is the leader of the vigorous preservation movement that is saving the best of the country's past for the future. The Trust's mission statement is: The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a

privately funded non-profit organization that provides leadership, education, and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities.

### **New Hampshire Department of Cultural Resources**

The Department of Cultural Resources serves New Hampshire's citizens in local efforts to broaden minds and spirits, preserve history and culture for future generations, and to recognize and promote our cultural resources as an essential element of New Hampshire's economic and social well being. The DCR is committed to

- Provide leadership in public policy and cultural affairs and thus provide the framework for culture's definition in the state
- Coordinate statewide information services and thus provide small businesses and individuals with the tools to succeed in today's economy
- Stimulate cultural tourism and thus stimulate the economy
- Encourage historic preservation, including the review of highway construction projects, and thus maintain the historic character of New Hampshire's cities and towns
- Support arts in education and thus create a productive, imaginative workforce for New Hampshire in decades ahead
- Support cultural institutions and individual artists and craftspeople, and thus leverage private-sector support for the activities which enhance our quality of life
- Engage in partnerships with other state agencies and private businesses and thus multiply the effect of public funds
- Encourage programming which includes people with disabilities and thus serve all public sectors in arts and culture

### **New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources**

The Division of Historical Resources, located in Concord, was established in 1974 as the "State Historic Preservation Office." The resources and materials available at the NHDHR include the National Register of Historic Places criteria; New Hampshire historical marker programs; the offices of the State Architectural Historian, State Curator, State Archaeologist; preservation tax incentive programs; historical survey programs; and grant programs.

### **New Hampshire Historical Society**

The New Hampshire Historical Society, in Concord, is an independent, nonprofit organization and is accredited by the American Association of Museums. The services and resources that the New Hampshire Historic Society provides include the Museum of New Hampshire History, the Tuck Library, a museum store, a newsletter and quarterly calendar, and technical assistance to local libraries, historical organizations, and citizens.

### **New Hampshire Preservation Alliance**

The Alliance was founded in 1985 and works to preserve New Hampshire's historic buildings, landscapes, and communities through leadership, advocacy, and education.

### **New Hampshire State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP)**

A public participation program for archaeological research, management, and education.

SCRAP is administered by the Archaeology Bureau in the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) of the Department of Cultural Resources. The program is supported by state and federal

funds, donated private funds, and the volunteered services of trained and certified avocational archaeologists.

### **New Hampshire State Library**

The New Hampshire State Library houses approximately 2,400 titles of published family histories for New Hampshire and New England. This collection is enhanced by the unique name index to early town records on microfilm. The town records, ranging in years for each town, but falling roughly between the years 1640-1830/1840, can provide birth, death, and marriage dates, as well as a listing of such items as tax inventories. Other major resources available include town and county histories, annual town reports, Federal census records for New Hampshire (1790-1920), local newspapers on microfilm, the genealogical column of the "Boston Transcript," legislative biographies (1890 +), city and county directories, and military records.

### **Preservation Easements**

Preservation easements are initiated by landowners who wish to protect their land from future development, while still retaining owner's rights. Farms, buildings, and scenic and historic areas all have the right to be protected by an easement. Perpetual easements protect the land or structure through subsequent owners, while term easements have a set time period agreed to by the town and current owner. Perpetual easements often reduce the estate tax on large amounts of property, though the decision to award tax relief is officially decided by State Law, local officials, and town assessors. For more information contact the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.

### **Revolving Funds**

Revolving funds help protect and preserve publicly significant historic properties by using options to purchase, direct acquisition, or deed of gift to acquire threatened or endangered properties. Profit from the sales are rolled back into the fund to help save other endangered properties and perpetuate the fund. The National Preservation Loan provides loans to establish or expand local and statewide preservation revolving funds.

### **Sutton Historical Society**

The Historical Society is a private non-profit that was re-established in 1985. Its mission is:

- 1) The stimulation and development of interest in the history of the Town of Sutton;
- 2) The identification, collection, ownership and preservation of property, and of facts of historical significance to the Town of Sutton and/or its residents;
- 3) The education of Sutton's residents and other interested individuals and organizations about the history of the Town;
- 4) To cooperate with other societies as appropriate for the furtherance of these purposes;
- 5) To maintain adequate fiscal condition which will provide for normal annual requirements and proper upkeep of its buildings; and
- 6) Special fundraising activities shall be conducted, as needed to assure the above.

### **Sutton Library**

The Library was housed in the upstairs Round Room of Pillsbury Town Hall from 1892-1941. In 1941, with a gift from Fred Nelson, the brick Library now standing at the corner of Main Street and Corporation Hill Road was built, and the books moved in 1942. The Library stands

next to the falls of Lane River, where many mills were located in the previous century, including a clothes pin mill.

### **Sutton Municipal Records**

Sutton's town records are retained at the Town Hall (Pillsbury Memorial Hall) located in Sutton Mills. The records are maintained in accordance with the New Hampshire Municipal Records Boards Rules of 1995 under NH Code of Administrative Rules, which state what records are to be retained, their duration of retention, as well as any conditions pertaining to their disposal.

Safe space for sensitive and historic documents and records consist of a fireproof, walk-in safe on the first floor and is the repository of the town's oldest records, some of which date to the town's founding.

A number of original documents have been professionally preserved, encapsulated against further deteriorating and bound. These include the following:

- Proceedings of Town Meetings 1784-1814
- Proprietor Records 1749
- Record Book 1785-1806
- Births, Marriages, and Deaths Prior to 1878
- Births, Marriages, and Deaths 1878-1894
- Births, Marriages, and Deaths 1895-1924
- Births, Marriages, and Deaths 1924-1940
- Record of Sutton Social Library 1796
- Record of Intention of Marriage 1868-1973

### **Tax Rehabilitation Credits and Incentives**

Income tax deductions may be granted for two types of historic properties, a historically important area, or a certified historic structure. A twenty-percent tax credit is given by the government for rehabilitation of certified historic structures. The Bank of America Historic Tax Credit Fund grants equity investments for the rehabilitation of historic commercial and residential properties eligible for the federal and state historic tax credit, as well as the 10% non-historic federal tax credit.

### **Transportation Enhancement Funds (TE)**

Transportation Enhancement Program (TE) is another viable source for improving communities. Funding for the TE program is slightly more than \$3 million dollars annually. These funds are provided in an 80/20 match, with the State paying for the majority of the project cost. Typical examples of projects eligible for TE funds include:

- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- Scenic or historic highway programs
- Historic preservation
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, and facilities
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors
- Archaeological planning and research
- Establishment of transportation museums

## **CONCLUSION**

Granted in 1749 as Perrystown, first settled in 1767, and incorporated in 1784, Sutton has a long and distinguished history that deserves to be memorialized. Sutton's historic resources range from farmlands, forests, stonewalls and waterways to cemeteries, farmhouses, barns, community buildings, churches and the sites of former buildings.

Particularly during a time of rapid growth, Sutton should move more aggressively than it has in the past to protect its historic resources. These measures should include not only conservation steps to protect the town's natural resources, but initiatives to guard buildings and sites that were significant in the community's early life and growth.

Town officials and community groups should begin the process of placing significant structures and sites on national and state historic registers. Additionally, they should encourage the formation of private organizations that can begin to preserve and, when appropriate, acquire buildings and sites.

For the benefit of both the present generation and those who will follow, we need to establish permanent reminders of the people, sites and buildings that were part of the history and development of Sutton. Documentation of the present through photographs, preservation of records, and maintenance of buildings is very important because current events become tomorrow's history.