

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 27 1987

date entered

NOV 30 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic

and/or common Newington Center Historic District

**2. Location**

street & number 272-336  
305-353 Nimble Hill Road n/a not for publication

city, town Newington n/avicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Rockingham code 015

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: forest, open space

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple --- See continuation sheet

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Registry of Deeds  
Rockingham County Courthouse

street & number Hampton Road

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire 03833

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local \_\_\_\_\_

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Newington Center Historic District consists of an impressive grouping of public buildings and private dwellings ranging from the early 18th to early 20th century, inseparably linked to a virtually unspoiled landscape which combines an old cemetery, parade ground, the Town Forest and open fields indicative of the town's agricultural heritage.

All of the buildings in the district front Nimble Hill Road which runs in a north-south direction, coming to an abrupt end at the southern edge of the district, at the boundary with Pease Air Force Base. Until recently this road was known as the "parade", an area dating back to 1716, where the Town Militia was drilled and mustered. At the northern end of the district the Old Post Road enters from the northwest, part of the ancient road from Boston and Newburyport to Dover, Concord and the northern wilderness. From the west, Little Bay Road intersects Newington Road near the center of the district, separating the Frink Property at the north from the Town-owned land and cemetery to the south. A town road approximately twenty feet wide, Nimble Hill Road is paved, without curbing or shoulders. Since the 1950's, utility poles and electrical lines have crisscrossed the district, only slightly diminishing its rural character. The 1950's also brought about the creation of a mammoth neighbor for Newington's town center, in the form of Pease Air Force Base. Yet, despite the introduction of frequent aircraft overhead and the clearing of many acres of town forest land to the south and southeast of the nominated district, the base has had little effect on the appearance of the district itself. At the southern end of the district a metal gate marks the forced end of Nimble Hill Road and the beginning of the base's property. The road, which previously continued to the Town of Greenland, has disappeared in favor of a runway.

As the historic civic center of Newington, the nominated district contains a concentration of public buildings and sites including the church, the old town hall, library, school, cemetery, forest and two parsonages. At the northern end of the district are two private residences. The town was historically a farming community, and the structures and landscape of these residential properties surrounding the civic core reflect an agricultural heritage. Each retains its barn, related outbuildings and open fields.

The structures which comprise the district are as follows and are keyed to the accompanying sketch map. Descriptions begin with the church, continuing northward along the west side of Nimble Hill Road. The descriptions then continue southward along Nimble Hill Road to the boundary line of the airbase and then cross the road, continuing north along the west side to the beginning point.

1. Newington Congregational Church, 316 Nimble Hill Road, 1712; rebuilt 1835. Contributing Building.

The focal point of the historic district is this single story frame and clapboard structure measuring 3 x 3 bays, set upon a granite block foundation and capped by a low gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Centered on the

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1937	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics:government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1640-1937      **Builder/Architect** Various -- See text

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Newington Center Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A (for settlement) and under criterion C (for architecture). It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The district's period of significance runs from 1640, when the common ground was laid, to 1937 (to use the 50-year cut off, as the beginning of the construction of Pease Air Force Base began 25 years later, in 1952). The nominated district retains Newington's early town center as well as agricultural and open space elements which reinforce the area's historic appearance. In addition, resources introduced to the area during the 19th and early 20th centuries reflect the architectural and developmental forces which shaped the community. The district's architectural resources constitute an attractive grouping which illustrate well-preserved examples of rural styling spanning the 18th to 20th century. Despite the presence of the Air Force Base abutting it, the district appears principally as it did in the early 1900s.

A unique union of architecture and open space, the district has served as the local center of political, religious, educational and social activity since the early 1700's. The buildings of the district illustrate a broad range of architectural history, as well as an evolution of changing community needs and expectations from the 18th to 20th centuries. Save those destroyed by fire over the years, all of the original town center buildings survive in a very good state of preservation and virtually free of modern intrusions. Development elsewhere in town, including the development of neighboring Pease Air Force Base, has insulated the historic center of town, leaving it very much intact.

The town of Newington, situated on the Piscataqua River and Great Bay is one of the oldest communities in the State of New Hampshire. New Hampshire's first permanent settlement started in 1623 nearby in a cove on the easterly side of Dover Neck. During the next one hundred years the southeastern section of what is now New Hampshire consisted of four great towns: Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter and Hampton. Today, this area, New Hampshire's earliest settled region, is widely considered to be its most historic.

The land area of Newington was originally granted as part of Dover, as were the townships of Durham, Lee, Madbury, Rollinsford, Somersworth and parts of Newmarket and Greenland. As early as 1633 the area which is today known as Newington was labelled Bloody Point, supposedly because of a fight between the king's agents from Dover and those of Portsmouth vying for the land. In 1712 due to the difficulty of reaching church services in Dover, Bloody Point was set off as a separate parish, incorporated the following year as Newington.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 92 acres

Quadrangle name Portsmouth, NH-ME

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	19	350590	4773805
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	19	351280	4773200
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	19	351200	4773010
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D	19	350930	4772860
---	----	--------	---------

E	19	350700	4772880
---	----	--------	---------

F	19	350580	4772940
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G	19	350570	4773120
---	----	--------	---------

H	19	350380	4773600
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Mausolf, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization

date

street & number 14 Parkhurst Street

telephone (603) 448-2783

city or town Lebanon

state New Hampshire 03766

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*R. Stuart Waller*

title New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 22, 1987

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register

date

11-30-87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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List of Owners (By Site Number)

1, 1A, 1B, 1C 2, 2A, 2B	Town of Newington 205 Nimble Hill Road Newington, NH 03801
3, 3A, 3B, 3C, 3D	Lydia Frink 272 Nimble Hill Road Newington, NH 03801
4, 4A, 4B	Paul Harvey 97 Middle Road Portsmouth, NH 03801
5	Newington Town Church Congregation c/o Reva Kartens 317 Nimble Hill Road Newington, NH 03801
6	Christopher Cross 2904 Loring DR #A Loring Air Force Base, Maine 04751-3731
7	Town of Newington 205 Nimble Hill Road Newington, NH 03801
8	Lillian Norton, Real Property Officer c/o Commander, 509th C.S.G. Pease Air Force Base Portsmouth, NH 03801
9, 10, 11A-F, 12, 12A	Mr. Gary Vest Deputy for Environmental Safety ODASAF, Pentagon, Room 4C916 Washington, DC 20330

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List of Owners (Alphabetical)

Christopher Cross (6)  
2904 Loring Dr #A  
Loring Air Force Base, Maine 04751-3731

Lydia Frink (3, 3A, 3B, 3C & 3D)  
272 Nimble Hill Road  
Newington, NH 03801

Paul Harvey (4, 4A & 4B)  
97 Middle Road  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Newington Town Church Congregation (5)  
c/o Reva Kartens  
317 Nimble Hill Road  
Newington, NH 03801

Lillian Norton, Real Property Officer (8)  
c/o Commander, 509th C.S.G.  
Pease Air Force Base  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Town of Newington (1, 1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 2A, 2B, 7)  
205 Nimble Hill Road  
Newington, NH 03801

Mr. Gary Vest (9, 10, 11A-F, 12, 12A)  
Deputy for Environmental Safety  
ODASAF, Pentagon, Room 4C916  
Washington, DC 20330

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### Representation in Existing Surveys

Newington, New Hampshire Cultural Resources Survey, Inventory & Plan  
Prepared by the Strafford Rockingham Regional Council, September 1981  
Depository: NH Division of Historical Resources, Concord, NH  
Rockingham Regional Council, Exeter, NH

Summary of 1978 Archival Research, Archeological Research Services.  
University of New Hampshire, 1981. [Data on the Old Parsonage]  
Depository: Newington Historical Society.

Historic American Buildings Survey [Old Parsonage only - photographs  
and data sheets], Library of Congress Annex, Division of Prints and  
Photographs, Washington, DC

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pedimented facade, the main entrance contains double leaf wooden doors, each consisting of three recessed panels. Two quarter round louvered fans cap the doorway. The recessed panel surround is decorated by recessed cornerblocks and a projecting keystone. A single concrete step fronts the doorway; a curving slate walk leads to the entrance which is framed by evergreens and rhododendrons. A small wooden and glass information box is located to the left of the doorway and is capped by a swans neck pediment. Suspended from the central keystone of the door surround is a modern electrical carriage lamp. Located on either side of the window is a doublehung 20/20 window with exterior screens and wooden storm windows. Each has a wooden sill and a surround echoing that of the main entrance.

Three similar windows are evenly spaced on the north and south side elevations. A simple wooden watertable surrounds the building. Plain cornerboards rise to a projecting boxed cornice beneath which are two moldings, with a cyma reversa and fillet profile, and a plain frieze. On the windowless rear elevation an exterior brick chimney, square in plan, breaks through the center of the clapboarded pediment end. A wooden hatch on the south side provides access to the basement.

Rising from the front of the gable roof is a two stage square bell tower which diminishes in size as it rises in height. The clapboarded base is windowless with the exception of a small doublehung 8/8 window on the rear elevation. Like the main building the base is framed by a baseboard and cornerboards which support a projecting boxed cornice, the underside of which is decorated by a cyma reversa molding. Crowning each side of this stage is a series of three recessed horizontal rectangular panels; that in the center is in each case slightly smaller than those flanking. The corners of the stage are marked by rectangular panels set vertically, capped by heavy bulbous wooden finials. The second stage of the tower is sheathed in vertical flushboards. On each side a central arched louvered opening, emphasized by projecting springblocks and keystones, is framed by pilasters supporting a plain frieze with the same cornice detailing seen on the main building and lower stage. A smaller low wall with finials, identical to that on the first stage, caps the tower.

The first mention of the meetinghouse in town records occurs in 1712, when it is noted that "A meeting was held by the inhabitants of Newington Parish at the Meetinghouse on the 21st day of January in the year 1712 in order to confer about having a minister." [1] It was also at this time that the inhabitants petitioned the Provincial Council in Portsmouth to have Bloody Point (as the Newington area, originally part of Dover, was known) made an independent parish. In support of their proposal, the petitioners noted that they were too remote from the established place of worship (seven miles to Portsmouth) and that they had of late already erected a meetinghouse and obtained a tract of sixty acres for a parsonage. [2] A new parish was subsequently set off and named Newington in 1714.



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Historians believe that the meetinghouse remained unfinished for some time, the walls were windowless and inside were backless benches. [3] Pews were sold in 1714, at a price of twelve pounds for the largest and ten pounds for the smaller. These funds were to be "laid out for the building and finishing the meetinghouse and the overplus if any to be for the support of the minister". [4] The following year a committee was established to work with the selectmen to seat the people in the meetinghouse as they saw fit. [5]

Thanks to Miss Temperance Shackford, a descendant of an early Newington family who died in 1876 at the age of ninety years, what is thought to be a fairly accurate description of the meetinghouse in its early years has been handed down to us today. As was typical of second period New England meetinghouses, the main entrance was on the long south side, opposite the pulpit. A feature unique to this meetinghouse was a private entrance on the east end which is said to have opened into the pew of prominent parishioner Col. John Downing. Downing's pew occupied the whole of the end of the interior except two corner pews. Galleries probably originally occupied three sides of the interior but have been removed. [6] A singing gallery was built in 1800. [7]

In 1752 town records indicate that the men's hind seat in the meetinghouse was sold to the highest bidder for the privilege of building a pew. At the same time it was voted to move the men's stairs into the belfry, with the resulting space to be turned into four additional pews. The removal of the stairs was the charge of the buyer. [8] Similarly, in 1763 the women's hind seat was converted to a singing seat for seating such persons as the Selectmen saw fit and to be renovated at town expense. [9]

It appears that wealthy parishioners were given considerable latitude in the appearance of the meetinghouse. In 1755 Hutson Peavey and Lt. Christopher Huntress were given permission to cut windows out of their pews, with the provisions that the windows not impair the structural integrity of the building and that the repair and maintenance of such windows be the responsibility of the party and his heirs. [10] In 1763 Joseph Coleman installed a window in his gallery pew. [11]

It would appear that the meetinghouse included a belfry early on, for in 1744 records indicate that the meetinghouse and bell were struck by lightning. [12] Using donated timber and labor and with the aid of three gallons of rum, a new belfry was raised by committee in 1751. [13] Lightning struck the meetinghouse steeple again in 1757 and in 1767 part of the broken timber of the old steeple was used to build a steeple at the west end. [14] In 1798 the old steeple was taken down and a new one built, complete with a spindle and weathercock. [15]

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The original bell which hung in the belfry was a gift of the people of Newington, England, now a part of the city of London. [16] In 1804, the church bell cracked, supposedly either due to lightning or under the strain of calling the godly to meeting, depending on what source is consulted. The defective bell was loaded onto a cart and hauled by oxen to the shop of Paul Revere and Son in Boston. [17] A receipt recording the transaction (dated November 23, 1804) is located in the town library. Many local residents believe that the original bell was recast although recent evidence may suggest that the parish was refunded with a bell cast for a different town. According to research by Barbara Myers, the bell in the steeple is dated 1803, although it did not come into the town's possession until 1804. [18]

Revere bell historian Edward Stickney believes that the bell was originally sold to Pembroke, Massachusetts. Apparently it was not what they wanted or needed and was returned for a larger one soon after the purchase, a few months before the Newington purchase was made. Although a specific entry for the Newington bell does not appear in the Revere ledgers, Stickney notes that the Pembroke bell was the only one listed in the ledger anywhere near the weight of the Newington bell, with a one pound difference which could be accounted for. Owing to the coincidence of weight and time, Stickney concludes that the Pembroke bell was indeed later sold to Newington. [19]

On September 25, 1834 the steeple was taken off the old meetinghouse. [20] The next year modifications to the meetinghouse began in earnest under the guidance of a committee comprised of Cyrus Frink, Thomas Pickering, and James Pickering [21] using surplus funds coming to the town from the National Treasury during the Andrew Jackson administration. Building receipts indicate that work on the building was extensive, utilizing several thousand feet of clapboards and planks and spanning about four years. [22] At this time the structure was raised two feet higher above the ground and set on a granite block foundation. The arched windows and front doorway were also installed as was the two stage square bell tower with its heavy corner finials. In 1835 in a contract with Cyrus Frink and James Pickering, Thomas Pickering agreed to build a cupola on the meetinghouse "in form similar and in durability equal to the cupola on the Congregational Meetinghouse in Greenland and to be finished on or before the first day of January 1836" for the sum of forty dollars. [23] The Greenland Church which served as a model is unfortunately no longer standing. A receipt in the Newington Historical Society papers indicates that John Pickering was paid five dollars in 1839 for "turning eight urns for the meetinghouse", a supposed reference to the tower finials. [24]

At a special town meeting in 1838 it was proposed that part of the Town's portion of surplus funds from the National Treasury during the Andrew Jackson administration be used to finish the inside of the building. A committee was established to make an agreement with the owners of the pews so

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as to establish this as a free house for public worship and the transaction of town business. Challenging this lack of separation between church and state, local Methodists took the town to court. [25]

The present interior consists of a pulpit at the west end, body pews, two side aisles and two walls of wall pews. A vestibule occupies the east end with a singers' gallery above.

Located at the northeast corner of the building and surrounded by a metal pipe railing is a large granite stone approximately 4 x 9 feet, laid on the ground. Leaning against the building is a tombstone fragment (2'4" x 1'9") with a badly eroded inscription relating the passing of John Downing Jr. in 1739.

Upon his death Col. John Downing, at his request was buried under his pew which, as mentioned previously, differed from others in the meetinghouse because of its private entrance. Approximately one hundred years later during the reconstruction of the meetinghouse, Downing's remains were taken to South Cemetery in Portsmouth and the tomb was filled with gravel. The stairs to the tomb are thought to survive although local historians tend to believe that this tombstone is a later addition. [26]

1A. Horsesheds, 1893. Contributing Building.

Located just five feet behind the rear wall of the church is a row of seven horsesheds extending in an east-west direction. Sheathed in wooden shingles, the rear wall of th sheds rests on a mortared fieldstone foundation while in the front, wooden posts are set upon granite post bases. The profile of the wood shingled roof is such that the rear slope is longer and less steep than the front slope. The fronts of the stalls are without doors; a small exterior-hinged opening, about five feet from the ground pierces the rear wall of each stall. Interior partitions between the stalls are constructed of horizontal planks.

In 1867 the Town gave William Rollins and others the privilege of erecting a horseshed at the westerly end of the meetinghouse and on the south side of the burying ground, provided that the sheds were kept in good repair. The building committee was permitted to remove the burying ground wall as far as the shed extended as long as no graves were disturbed. [27]

The sheds were built by Louis de Rochemont and were individually sold. According to receipts there may have been as many as fifteen originally. These stalls were destroyed in a big wind storm in 1893 or 1894. Sections of the roof not wrecked were sold to various citizens, who used them as farm outbuildings or were taken by their owners. The new sheds were apparently built in 1893 or 1894 by Mr. Moody. Local residents note that one shed on the western end was taken down in recent memory. Originally privately owned, the

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stalls were turned over to the town in the late 1960's.

A separate set of horsesheds was located north of the town hall, owned by L.C. Beane, E.A. Badger, S.A. Packard and Herbert B. Dame. They were standing in 1912 and taken down soon after. [28]

East of the church and library is a semielliptical shaped lawn area oriented with its straight edge bordering Nimble Hill Road. A horizontal path, now paved, divides the area into a southern third and a larger section to the north.

The following variety of objects are arranged in the northern section of the grassy area including a central metal flagpole.

1B. Horse Block, c. 1710. Contributing Object.

Located east of the meetinghouse and along the curved western border of the green is a stone boulder approximately three feet high with a lower level surface about a foot high cut out of the side facing the church. Mounted on the stone is a bronze plaque identifying this as the Town Horse Block, moved from an opposite field to serve this purpose after the construction of the meetinghouse. Historically it was used by local residents, particularly women, as a step for mounting horses.

A series of four maple seedlings line the Nimble Hill Road side of the green, in addition to a fire hydrant and a wooden sign identifying the Newington Town Church.

1C. Cast Iron Fountain, 1913. Contributing Object.

Located on the east side of the green, just north of where the area is divided by a road is a cast iron fountain about 4 1/2 feet tall. Above a square base the circular basin is decorated by foliate forms. Originally this structure served as a horse watering fountain with a dog fountain on its lower level. It was piped to the springhouse located between the library and church (12A). Today it is used as a planter.

The fountain was given to the town in 1913 at a cost of \$1,772 of which \$450 was contributed by private individuals. Originally a shield decorated by a bird serving as a weathervane, sat atop a revolving silver ball. [29] Vandals destroyed parts of the shield; remaining pieces are located in the Old Parsonage Museum.

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2. Cemetery, 1716. Contributing Site.

North of the church is the old burying ground occupying a polygonal area approximately 500 feet square. It is bordered on the north by Little Bay Road and on the east by Nimble Hill Road with a paved access road extending in an east-west direction. The church serves as the southern boundary. Two additional north-south roads and a single east-west access road divide the cemetery into an uneven grid. Simple granite gravestones predominate with a number of obelisk and urn-topped monuments as well. Mature evergreen bushes dot the grassed cemetery. The earliest stones, dating to the 18th century are those in the area adjacent to the church and horsesheds. The rest of the old cemetery was laid out in the 1880's. More recent stones are located in the west and south extensions.

From the northeast corner of the church a mortared stone wall consisting of two staggered courses of large horizontal granite blocks turns the corner and continues paralleled with Nimble Hill Road. Two breaks in the wall mark entrances to the cemetery and are both framed by large granite blocks set on end. Small bushes are evenly spaced in front of the wall.

About thirty feet west of the northeast corner of the cemetery the granite block wall becomes a dry fieldstone wall. Fieldstone walls mark the north and south boundaries of the old cemetery ending at the westernmost access road. On each of the north and south sides a single entrance is marked by granite posts. The north stonewall, like that of the east, is setback from the road with a grassy area between the road and wall. Trees are randomly spaced along the outer edge of the wall.

In 1716 the Town voted to set aside a small piece of land on the back side of the meetinghouse for a burying plot. [30] The Town Pound was originally located in the northeast corner of the cemetery. Mrs. Hannah Newton had a monument set in this location in 1885. [31]

In 1810 it was voted to fence the burying ground [32] and in 1833 Nicholas Pickering was hired to build 46 rods of stonewall around the burying ground at a price of \$2.48 per rod. [33] In 1876 the Selectmen were authorized to sell the pound and laid out the unoccupied portions of the cemetery into uniform lots. [34] The earliest portion of the cemetery is that adjacent to the church and horsesheds. In 1884 Town meeting authorized the fencing and grading of the cemetery and the following year lots were for sale in the new extension at a cost of \$1 for residents and \$3 for non-residents. [35] In 1886 and 1955 additional acreage to the west extended the size of the old cemetery. An additional area to the south, west of Langdon Library was added to the cemetery in 1974. The perimeter of the later cemetery additions and the town-owned parcel is marked by a split rail fence. A copy of the cemetery record book is located in Langdon Library.

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2A. Adams Monument, 1925. Contributing Object.

Near the front entrance of the cemetery, at its southeast corner, is a stone block monument almost six feet tall, bearing a plaque in memory of Rev. Joseph Adams. Born in Braintree, Massachusetts, Adams became the first settled minister in town, serving for 68 years at the time of his death in 1783. Pastor Adams was the uncle of John Adams, second president of the United States.

2B. Receiving Tomb, 1907. Contributing Structure.

Located near the geographic center of the cemetery is a small windowless receiving tomb building, covered in ivy. It rests on a granite block foundation and is capped by a slate gable roof. Double wooden doors, each consisting of two panels, are located on the gable front. The entrance is capped by a granite lintel while a two part brick frieze with dentils conceived in brick, decorates the cornice.

The tomb was constructed in 1907 with funds contributed by Mrs. Hannah Newton, who also at that time donated \$500 toward the construction of the cemetery wall. [36]

3. Frink House, c. 1820 [37], 272 Nimble Hill Road. Contributing Building.

A 2 1/2 story rectangular brick building, standing on a granite block foundation and set with its pediment end to the street. The bricks are laid in a common bond alternating seven rows of stretchers to a single row of headers.

One of its broad sides, the south elevation, measuring five bays wide, is treated as the facade. The central recessed entrance is framed by an outer semielliptical surround of header bricks supported by panelled pilaster strips above a wooden base. The recessed area is sheathed in shiplap siding. Wooden steps provide access to the doorway containing a wooden door with six raised panels. Four light sidelights flank the door over a recessed panel. A segmentally divided arc fanlight caps the doorway with a fluted surround and cornerblocks. A heavy molding spans the tops of the pilasters.

Windows on the building contain doublehung 6/6 sash. Those on the facade and the two bay wide east elevation are capped by rectangular granite lintels, with louvered blinds flanking all the building's windows. The north side is pierced by three windows with molded hood surrounds set into the brick, without lintels.

The projecting boxed cornice of the building which extends around the entire structure consists of a cyma reversa, torus and fillet molding. The crown



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molding extends up the raking edges of the asphalt gable roof to enclose a pediment on both the east and west elevations. On both the east and west ends of the building there are two doublehung 6/3 windows in the attic. Four tall brick chimneys rise from the interior ends of the building roof.

Attached to the west end of the main house is a single story kitchen wing, which connects with the barn. On the facade, the wing is clapboarded with a recessed entrance nearest the main house. From right to left the ell is pierced by a doublehung 6/6 window, a six panel door with a splayed lintel, a double set of doors with similar details and a sliding door with a small doublehung 6/3 window above. The lateral eaves on this elevation are decorated by a corbelled three part wooden molding.

The north elevation of the wing is covered in brick laid in a common bond alternating seven rows of stretchers to a row of headers and stretchers. On this side the wing steps downhill above a mortared granite block foundation. Openings on this side include a raised six panel wooden door, a 6/3 window and a fixed 2 x 2 pane window. A corbelled cornice with brick details decorates this elevation. A wooden section connects the brick section to the rear barn.

3A. Barn, 1837. Contributing Building. [38]

A large clapboarded structure set with its gable front facing eastward, articulated by plain cornerboards and a simple unadorned frieze under a plain boxed cornice. Large double vertical board doors provide access on the gable front. They are capped by inverted splayed wood boards which are in turn capped by a thirteen light transom and a cyma reversa shaped flat wooden lintel. Two doublehung 6/6 windows light the upper level with a louvered opening at the top of the gable. Sheltered by the ell extension which was later constructed to connect with the barn is a door opening and a fixed 3 x 2 light window. A small shingled shed addition (sawdust house) is located at the southwest corner of the barn, resting on a concrete foundation with exposed rafters. The rear elevation is covered in asphalt shingles.

The rear elevation of the barn is unpainted with a large central set of double doors. An additional door opening to the left has been shingled over while that to the right is covered in tarpaper. Two lower door openings, fronted by ramps lined by fieldstone walls, provide access to the lower level. Eaves on this elevation are close with a plain frieze and cornerboards.

Visible on the south elevation is the barn's fieldstone foundation. This side is sheathed in clapboards over wood shingles. A low continuous line of four horizontal 2 x 2 fixed pane windows pierce this side, in between which is a central vertical plank door.

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Small fixed windows with plain and splayed wooden lintels light the north side. At one time a tongue and grooved silo was located on this side.

Offset southwest of the barn is a single story shed-roofed milking room addition. It is sheathed in vertical board siding and octagonal asphalt shingles and is lit by 6/6 windows.

3B. Garage, c. 1925. [39]. Contributing Building.

Facing the house is a single story frame garage structure consisting of a gable front section to the north attached to a shed roofed rectangular structure. The building is sheathed in octagonal asphalt shingles on the front and sides over a horizontal board. As indicated by an interior wall and the elevation facing the road, the building was originally covered in wood shingles. The gable roof has exposed rafters and is covered in asphalt shingles, the shed roof is metal. Sliding vertical board doors face the house. Two doublehung 6/6 windows pierce the south and east elevations.

3C. Playhouse, 1956 [40]. Noncontributing Building.

South of the garage is a small gable roofed building constructed as a playhouse. It is sheathed in board and batten siding and tarpaper with a single vertical plank door opening. Two 6/6 windows are located on the south side.

3D. Chicken House, c. 1950 [41]. Noncontributing Building.

West of the garage is a small frame outbuilding with a shed roof and walls sheathed in tarpaper over a vertical board siding.

Stones remaining from a foundation mark the location, east of the main house, of the original structure on this property. According to Mrs. Lydia Frink this property, approximately 40 acres, was sold by Hopley Peavey to Cyrus Frink in 1816 and the family lived in the frame house (no longer standing) until they built the present brick house. It is not known whether Peavey cleared or farmed the land as he was the owner of a tavern in the part of his house that set near the road. Mrs. Frink believes that the present house was built in 1840, by Cyrus Frink, bridge builder and carpenter who came to the area from Stonington, Connecticut in 1794 to help construct the Piscataqua Bridge. Over the years the Frinks also operated a brickyard on Little Bay which made the bricks used in this house and the Old Town Hall, among others. Some planks in the barn floor reportedly came from Piscataqua brick salvage.

According to local historian John Rowe, this house was built by 1820 by Cyrus Frink for his son Darius, a replica of the house he built at Fox Point in Newington. [42]

According to Mrs. Frink, Cyrus Frink deeded the property to his son Darius



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on August 5, 1843 for the sum of five hundred dollars. It is presumed that Darius cleared and farmed some of the land as he was known to have had oxen and a good garden. When Darius' nephew Darius came into possession of the property and moved into the brick house in 1908 the fields had been hayed but brush and junipers had encroached from the borders. When Darius' son Harold became old enough to take over the farm in the 1920's he burned out the junipers and cleared the brush. The fields were then plowed, fertilized and either sowed down for a hay crop or field corn. With about fifteen milking cows, much of the land was used for pasture. Two small parcels were set out to apple trees, one on Old Post Road and the other on Little Bay Road. When it no longer became profitable to sell apples the trees were cut down for firewood and the stumps pulled out. In recent years a neighbor has planted the Post Road piece to alfalfa. No longer having milk cows, the fields are all used for hay except a vegetable garden patch on Little Bay Road. [43]

Thus, the property's current pastured appearance is true to its historic appearance and integrity. An electrical transmission line extends across the property in a southwest direction from the junction of Nimble Hill and Old Post Road. A stonewall and trees line the property's Old Post Road boundary line.

4. Hoyt-Harvey House, 305 Nimble Hill Road, c. 1893. Contributing Building.

A 2 1/2 story structure oriented with its three bay wide gable front to the street above a brick foundation. The formerly clapboarded exterior has been sheathed in vinyl siding. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and is pierced by a central corbel cap chimney. The sidehall entrance contains a modern six panel door and is fronted by wooden stairs with a wrought iron railing. The doorway is capped by a flat-roofed hood supported by two large brackets decorated by turned elements which radiate outward ending in a turned drop pendant. On the gable front, the raking flares at the bottom of the eaves. Windows on the structure contain doublehung 6/6 sash and are flanked by blinds. The lintels have been obscured by the application of artificial siding. The north facade is two bays wide with the area nearest to the facade and corresponding to an interior staircase, without windows. The south side is marked by three unevenly spaced window openings on each floor. What would have been the second of four bays on this elevation is without a window. On the first floor the two rear windows are shaded by a single story shed roofed porch supported by plain posts above a wooden deck. The rear of the main house features projecting eaves and a single 6/6 window in the attic.

Offset to the southeast is a 1 1/2 story wing also resting on a brick foundation. A central gable dormer with a modern three-sides bay window below are located on the south side. An entrance on the west side provides entry to the wing. A single story shed projects from the back of the main house filling the space between it and the wing. The rear elevation of the wing has close eaves and a corbel cap chimney at the rear of the ridge.

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4A. Garage, c. 1976. Noncontributing Building.

A modern garage constructed of T-111 siding over a poured concrete foundation is attached to the rear of the wing. Two arched garage openings are located on the broad, south side. The gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and has projecting eaves on the end.

4B. Barn, 1893. Contributing Building.

Southeast of the house is a large clapboarded barn resting on a mortared fieldstone foundation with its gable front facing westward. Centered on the facade is a set of oversized vertical plank sliding doors capped by a double row of transom lights, with thirteen lights to a row. The doors are fronted by a grassy ramp. A regular vertical plank door and doublehung 6/6 window are located to one side with two windows, consisting of two panes side by side, on the other. Two 6/6 windows light the attic.

Projecting eaves with a boxed cornice cap the elevation. As seen on the main house, the raking flares at the bottom of the eaves, as does the wide plain frieze. Plain cornerboards give rise to a two part frieze formed by overlapping boards on the lateral sides. On this side are a large sliding vertical plank door, flanked by two regular doors and a series of three light horizontal window strips. A single 6/6 window is the only opening on the north side.

A large sliding door with transom lights, similar to that on the front, is centered on the rear elevation, as are two 6/6 windows. On each side of the doors is a lower level opening with a ramp lined by a stone wall. Two three-light horizontal window strips are also located on this elevation.

Originally located on this property was the Eleazer Coleman House, built before 1717 and destroyed by fire March 14, 1893, after being occupied by the Hoyt family for many years. The present home was constructed sometime after the fire by Jackson Hoyt. [44]

The area behind the Jackson Hoyt farm was formerly used as pasture for cows with some space set aside for growing field corn. The rest of the land, uncleared, was covered with white pine and various hardwoods which were usually used for firewood and if not cut, just grew. [45] Today the backlot is wooded with a mixture of hard and softwoods. A rectangular area approximately 200' x 100' southeast of the house is cleared.

5. New Parsonage, 317 Nimble Hill Road, 1886. Contributing Building.

A 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure measuring 5 x 2 bays, set on a brick foundation and capped by an asphalt gable roof. Fronted by wooden stairs, the central entrance contains a metal door with a set of 3 x 3 glass panes

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over a horizontal recessed panel, with two vertical panels below. The door is capped by a flat-roofed door hood supported by two large scroll brackets decorated by knob ornaments on their sides. The elongated doublehung window openings contain 6/6 sash and are fitted with exterior storm windows. The simple shelf lintels consist of fillet and cyma reversa moldings; each is supported by two small simple brackets. Those on the second floor extend to a plain wide frieze under a projecting boxed cornice with a cyma reversa molding under the soffit. Thin plain cornerboards mark the corners of the building. The crown molding has a cyma recta profile.

The two side elevations are both two bays wide with two windows lighting the attic, their lintels overlapping the frieze. Foundation windows are three lights wide. A single story ell resting on a fieldstone foundation continues the north side elevation of the main house. The remaining portion of the rear elevation, visible south of the ell, contains three window openings on the second floor and two windows and a modern metal door with upper glass window, on the first.

The south side of the ell is bisected by a plain cornerboard. To the left of the board is a 6/6 window and a vertical plank door with plain surround. Above the door is a fixed 3 x 2 light window. To the right of the vertical strip are a 6/6 window and a vertical plank door with two integral lights.

Offset to the southeast of the ell is a small clapboarded barn above a fieldstone foundation. On the south side of the barn is a sliding vertical board door pierced by two windows, each containing 3 x 2 fixed glass panes. Above the door is a vertical board hayloft opening. A vertical board door with plain surround occupies the opposite end.

Projecting eaves, a boxed cornice, plain cornerboards and a simple frieze decorate the eastern and western gable ends of the barn. Two small fixed windows consisting of 2 x 2 panes are located on the eastern side; one of them has been boarded up. Two 6/6 windows, one in the attic and one on the first floor are located on the western side. Two small windows pierce the north elevation of the barn.

The job of erecting a parsonage was the charge of the Trustees of the Parsonage Fund, consisting of Darius Frink, James Hoyt, James Pickering, John Pickering, Elias Frink and Thomas G. Furber. Darius Frink and James Pickering were appointed a committee to buy a building lot of A.J. Hoyt, and to oversee the digging of the cellar. The Methodist Church burned on the site in 1865. Elias Frink and John Pickering were chosen a committee to bargain for and look after the erecting of the actual buildings. [46] The committee voted to build a two story house 26' x 34' at a cost not to exceed fourteen hundred dollars. [47] In her will, probated in 1884, Lydia Rollins contributed \$500 toward its construction, provided an equal sum was subscribed

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and expended for that purpose within five years after her death. [48] Other local citizens including members of the building committee contributed \$100 each. The construction date of the parsonage and the builder's name are carved in an attic timber. The parsonage was built by Jackson Hoyt who built several houses in Newington during this period, including the house next door. [49] According to Trustee records a Mr. Janvrin was responsible for construction of a shed and stable for an additional \$300. [50] The shed has since been removed. The house's first occupants were Rev. William S. Thompson and his family. Thompson preached in Newington until May 31, 1892. [51] The building is deeded to the Trustees rather than to the Congregational Church and has served as a parsonage for the past hundred years.

6. Open Field. Contributing Site.

Located south of the New Parsonage and north of part of the town forest is an open field. There is no record of a building ever being located on this parcel. Because of its key location and its compatibility with the existing landscape, this lot should be considered contributing within the district.

For a depth of approximately 500' from the street the lot is basically clear with some scrub brush. Three mature trees line the road. The backlot is densely wooded by pine trees.

As far back as anyone in town can remember this property has been a field. According to the plaque on the horseblock in front of the meetinghouse (1B) the stone was drawn from the "field across the road." The field was originally part of the Knight property. The Knights owned what is now called the Old Parsonage (7). According to local legend sometime between 1725 and 1765 a member of the Coleman family was disgraced by a Knight. As a result, the field in question was given by the Knight family as compensation to the Colemans. This accounts for the field being separated from the rest of the Coleman property (4). This story was confirmed by several local sources including an elderly woman who was for years the unofficial town historian as well as a descendant of the Coleman family. [52]

The present appearance of the field is true to its original integrity.

7. Old Parsonage, 337 Nimble Hill Road, c. 1710 or 1765. Contributing Building.

A 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure facing southward with a facade five bays wide and a saltbox profile. The building's clapboard sheathing extends nearly to the ground, largely concealing a fieldstone foundation. Eaves on the building cling closely to the sidewalls; a large brick chimney rises from the center of the asphalt roof. The facade's central entrance contains a wooden door with six raised panels and is capped by five transom lights

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and is flanked by broad pilasters supporting a simple entablature and pediment. First floor front windows contain doublehung 12/8 sash and four panel "indian shutters" inside. Those on the second floor contain 12/12 sash, the tops of their simple surrounds extend to the eaves.

The west elevation of the building is divided into two bays exhibiting five different window types. A doublehung 12/8 window lights the first floor front, beside which is a doublehung 6/4 window. A 12/12 window occupies the frontmost bay on the second floor with a doublehung 4/2 window at the rear and a fixed 2/2 window in the garret.

Unlike the continuous wall surface of the west side, on the east elevation the individual building components creating the saltbox shape are readily visible and distinct. The main 2 1/2 story front section is a single bay wide with a 12/8 first floor window capped by a 12/12 window with a fixed 2/2 window lighting the attic. Spanning the rear is a single story shed addition which projects just enough from the east wall surface of the main house to allow for a door opening facing southward. The plank door (not original to the house) is capped by a four light transom above which is a doublehung window.

A single doublehung 6/4 window lights the east end of the shed addition.

The rear of the building, like the front, is divided into five bays. Two central doublehung 9/6 windows are flanked on the east by two 6/4 windows with a single window of the same type on the other side.

A wing with a southern porch originally linked the main house to an attached barn at the east, demolished in the 1920's.

Despite considerable research by a number of authorities, the date of construction of the Old Parsonage remains in doubt today. Local folk lore, handed down by generations proposes the date of the building as 1699. Architect John Mead Howells in his "Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua" published in 1937, claims a construction date of 1710. [53] Later researchers date the building to 1725. [54] According to local legend, the house was built by Richard Pomeroy, first sexton of the Church. If this is true his death in 1725 would seem to suggest one of the earlier dates. [55] Yet, no mention of a building is made when the property was sold by Pomeroy's heirs to John Knight in 1725 for nineteen pounds. [56] In contrast, forty years later in 1765 the property with house and barn was sold to the Town of Newington for 2500 pounds. [57] According to recent research by Michael Dunbar the house was still under construction or unfinished when it was purchased from Knight, suggesting it was probably built shortly before 1765. [58]

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An archeological dig was conducted in 1979-80 on the site of the barn. (The first barn was taken down in 1776, the last was removed in the 1920's.) During the course of the dig a wattle and daub chimney was found in the center of the barn area. Considering this evidence, researchers have speculated that an early cabin may have been constructed by Pomeroy on the site, subsequently converted to a barn when the present building was erected. [59]

In 1788 the building was put in suitable repair by a Town Committee for the Rev. Joseph Langdon, the only pastor ever to live in the building (1788-1809). According to town records, in 1786 it was voted to make the parsonage two feet wider with a square roof (possibly the current lean-to). In 1790 various improvements including the lower staircase, papering and paint were let out to the lowest bidder. In May 1790 it was decided that the pediment over the door be included with the above improvements as well as the staircase to the garret. [60]

Over the years this building has served as tavern, town farm (1840-1843), school, tea room and rental property while for many years the western room of the house was reserved for a selectmen's room. The Newington Historical Society has leased the building since the Society's organization in 1912. It is operated as a museum by the Society and is open to the public Thursday afternoons in the summer.

The evolution of the building was recently studied by builders Malcolm McGregor and Stuart Worthington and is being restored to its original appearance. Old nailholes and markings suggested the previous existence of a doorway with pilasters approximately nineteen inches wide supporting a pediment lintel, rather than the plain surround in place last year. Historic photographs of the parsonage stored at Langdon Library reveal a cornerblock door surround, built around the earlier transom. It would appear that this lighter Greek Revival style door surround replaced an earlier, heavier Georgian surround and was in turn later replaced by the simple surround which preceded the recent restoration. The exterior doors in place were found to date to 1950. Marks on the front door jamb revealed the previous existence of HL hinges. According to McGregor the use of HL hinges rather than strap hinges would suggest that the original door was panelled with moldings on both sides. A new doorway and door has replicated these findings.

The existing windows did not appear to be original to the Old Parsonage as they had been laid over the clapboards, not between studs. McGregor and Worthington found no evidence of lintels ever existing over the windows. Glass in the windows is a mixture of early crown glass and later (c.1820) cylinder glass and was set into new 12/8 and 12/12 frames replacing the existing 6/6.

Surviving exterior trim on the building was found to be approximately seventy years old. A single length of thumbnail molding, possibly original to the



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building, survives on the eastern wing wall. Inside, thumbnail-edged moldings survive on the cupboard in the kitchen. A gunstock post is located opposite the rear fireplace. [61]

The portion of this lot to the north of the Old Parsonage has been part of the Town Forest since 1915. It has been continually treated as that with 4-H Clubs and the Conservation Commission replanting dead or diseased sections on a regular basis. The six acre parcel, abutting the Old Parsonage which had ceased to be needed as field was planted to white pine in the early 1940's by the boys 4-H Club. [62]

8. Stone Schoolhouse, 353 Nimble Hill Road, 1921. Contributing Building. (Albert H. Dow of Dow, Harlow and Kimball, architect; Harry Wood, contractor.)

Constructed of native cobblestone from the stone walls of older Newington farms, the Stone Schoolhouse is a symmetrical single story building with a raised basement, split level configuration. It is capped by a slate hip roof. Measuring 70' x 36' the building is set broadside to the road, fronted by a semicircular drive with a line of four evergreens and an oak tree near the road. A narrow central pavilion projects from the facade. A set of nine concrete stairs with a wrought iron railing provides access to double French doors, each of which contains 2 x 4 panes of glass. Fixed side panels of the same configuration flank the doorway. A fixed transom, five panes wide and two high caps the doorway with 2 x 2 pane areas over the sidelights. Floodlights are mounted in the frieze over the doorway. The entablature, which extends around the entire structure including the front pediment, has a deeply projecting wooden cornice. The cyma recta crown molding extends up the raking edges of the pediment to enclose a stuccoed tympanum pierced by a circular opening with a raised outer molding and keystones at the four quadrants. Originally a clock filled this void.

To each side of the entrance there is a band of seven continuous doublehung 6/6 windows with a rounded wood surround. A total of six window openings, currently boarded up, once containing individual doublehung 6/6 windows light the facade of the basement and extend to the ground. A distinct course line in the stonework is visible between the two floor levels.

On the north side of the building former window openings on the upper level have been stuccoed over and replaced by a wooden door with five horizontal panels, accessed by a metal fire escape. The south elevation is identical to the north except that it is completely obscured by ivy.

Projecting from the rear elevation of the main volume is a hiproofed ell section of similar height. The rear (east) elevation of the ell has a band of five continuous 6/6 windows on the upper level and two individual windows

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on the lower, above a concrete foundation. Window areas on the north and south ell elevations have been covered by boards, as have those on the rear elevation of the main building. Like the main roof, the ell roof is sheathed in slate shingles. A tall brick corbel cap chimney rises from the south slope with a large metal fan on the north slope.

Small vertical board utility room additions set above a concrete foundation and capped by hip roofs occupy the two corners where the main building and ell intersect. On each, a boarded-up window opening pierces the east wall with a vertical beadboard door on the other elevation. The field behind the Stone School was cleared for use as a playground.

Prior to the construction of this building the first floor of the Old Town Hall housed the elementary school. The Stone Schoolhouse was built to accommodate an expected population surge related to the Shattuck Shipyard, which despite prediction, closed shortly after the First World War. [63] Funds for the construction of the school were initially appropriated in 1919, but were insufficient due to a sudden increase in construction costs resulting from the war. The final cost of the school was approximately \$22,000. [64] Building committee members included T.W. Law, Jackson Hoyt, Benjamin Hoyt, Charles Coleman, Edith Hodgdon, Marion Howard and Martin Hoyt. Local landowners were asked to contribute stones for the outer walls. [65] Income from timbercutting in the Town Forest helped finance construction of the school. The elementary school in the neighboring Town of Greenland is also constructed of fieldstone and may have acted as a design source for this structure.

9. Old Town Hall, 336 Nimble Hill Road, 1872. Contributing Building.

The Old Newington Town Hall is a rectangular brick building of 2 1/2 stories standing on a foundation of rockfaced granite blocks which projects slightly from the wall surface. Measuring three bays wide and three bays deep, one of its gable ends, facing east, is treated as the facade. The brick is laid in a common bond alternating ten rows of stretcher bricks to a single row of headers and stretchers.

The central entrance is fronted by a beveled granite step and contains an elongated set of double wooden doors with four panels to a door. A lower step is pierced by a single bootscraper. Above the doorway is a six light recessed transom, which is capped by a smooth rectangular granite lintel which bears the inscription "1872". An electric carriage light is centered over the entrance. Above this is a long horizontal wooden sign with carved yellow letters on a black background spelling out "NEWINGTON". Two tall evergreens mark the corners of the facade with two smaller round evergreens flanking the entrance. A mercury vapor streetlight is located at the southeast corner of the building.



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Set into the brick to each side of the main entrance is a doublehung window with 12/12 sash and metal storm windows. The wooden sill is flush with the brick wall surface. Each window is capped by a rectangular rock-faced granite lintel. Identical windows light the second floor of the facade, as well as the north and south side elevations. Centered in the facade gable is a semielliptical window divided by wooden mullions into six equal segments. A surround consisting of two rows of header bricks with a raised course of header brick on the outside, radiates around the window, above a wooden sill.

A projecting boxed cornice extends across the side elevations, with returns on the facade and rear elevation. Dentils decorate the underside of the cornice, sloping in the gable ends. Under the dentil course four courses of brick project slightly from the wall surface forming a frieze which has been painted white. The crown molding is of a cyma recta profile. The roof of the building is covered in asphalt shingles. A single brick corbel cap chimney pierces the rear roof ridge.

An off-center vertical plywood second story door punctuates the rear elevation. A metal fire escape, manufactured by the Hussey Manufacturing Co. of North Berwick, Maine spans from the ground floor to the doorway. Under the fire escape is a doublehung 12/12 window capped by a segmentally arched lintel formed by two courses of header brick set on end.

A single story shed-roofed concrete block addition spans the northern two-thirds of the rear elevation. Two wooden doors with five horizontal panels provide access to the north and south sides. A small horizontal window lights the rear (west) side. The triangular area formed by the shed roof and top of the concrete block wall is filled with shiplap siding.

Erected in 1872, according to the Portsmouth Journal the building was dedicated on December 27, 1872 with an address by Rev. Carlos Martyn, pastor of the North Church in Portsmouth. [66] The Old Town Hall has served as a school, meeting hall, office building, home of the Piscataqua Grange and Reapers Circle and local social hall. Unfortunately, the records dating to the conception and construction of the building, other than a roster of the committee members, has disappeared. Committee members included Cyrus Frink, Richard Hart, Amos Dow and Winthrop Pickering. [67] A stage was built in 1886. [68] The first floor housed a two room elementary school until 1921. After the establishment of Pease Air Force Base it became impractical to use the building on a regular basis. Erection of the Civic Center replaced this building in 1957. The sign over the entrance was intended for a ship of that name, one of almost twenty wooden steamships built at the nearby Shattuck Shipyard during the First World War. The ship was only partially completed at the time of the armistice of 1918. [69]

As described by those who were schoolchildren of the era, a wooden ell once contained a coatroom, water and firewood while toilet facilities were located in a small wooden building adjacent to the schoolhouse, divided in half with

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separate two holers for the boys and girls. [70]

10. Town Forest. Contributing Site.

Serving as a backdrop for the Town Hall, Library, Old Parsonage and Stone Schoolhouse is what remains of the Newington Town Forest. A reputation as the state's first has been established for the Newington Town Forest, [71] although the point at which its use as a town forest (as distinguished from common ground) began is unclear.

In 1640 much of the land which was to become a community forest was reserved as common ground or unallotted lands for the settlers on Bloody Point, then a section of Dover. Part of the land was cleared for pasture and part held as timberland to be used for building and for fuel. [72] Subsequently at a public town meeting at the meetinghouse on Dover Neck May 22, 1710 approximately 50-60 acres was formally set aside with the intent of preserving some of the town's valuable natural resources from development and overuse. [73] Over the years and at its height, before the construction of Pease Air Force Base, the forest expanded to between 112 and 138 acres. [74] Historically the town forest can be divided into three units, designated as the Church Lot, the Parsonage Lot and the Downing Lot. Over the years the forest has supplied the town with revenue, building material and fuel wood.

The Church Lot, lying west of what is now Nimble Hill Road contained 42 acres including the old cemetery of five acres and the land on which the Congregational Church, Old Town Hall and Library sit. This tract has always been common land. Prior to the Civil War, this land was entirely open and used for raising crops. Subsequently a young growth of white pine became established but was entirely burned by a forest fire in 1889 which also threatened the Church and Town Hall. [75] Today the area between the Town Hall and Library is covered by substantial pine trees with open fields, including an area laid out for expansion of the cemetery, to the west. The wooded area adjacent to the Old Town Hall is the setting for an annual town picnic and Old Home Day celebration.

The Parsonage Lot, consisted of twenty acres of "pitch plains" granted to Richard Pomeroy in 1689. The lot was purchased by the Town of Newington along with the Old Parsonage (8) in 1765 for the minister.

The town at that time already owned about 20 acres adjacent which was likewise common land. During the 19th century the Town's selectmen managed this woodlot, giving fuel to the town poor, allowing citizens to cut their winter supply of wood and selling the growth on the lot to fund town projects such as Langdon Library, a town water system and the Stone Schoolhouse. [76]

The Downing Lot, consisting of about thirty acres north of what was called the "New Road" has been held and managed by the Town since Revolutionary days. The New Road was laid out in 1896 and discontinued by the establishment

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of the Air Force Base but is still visible north of the Old Parsonage. Records indicate the Downing lot was originally common land and part of the 20 acre lot to the south of the road. In 1890 the town sold a five acre piece of the tract to the Church for a new parsonage. [77]

In 1953 most of the church and parsonage lots were taken by the federal government for the construction of Pease Air Force Base compensating the town with a trifling \$15,500. In 1963 Pease officials concluded that tall timbers in the remaining part of the church lot were a hazard to aircraft landing and taking off from the base and selectment agreed to have the trees cut down. Of the longest continued community forest in the United States only the Downing lot remains intact. [78]

Local residents continue to strive toward the gradual restoration of what remains of the Town Forest. The Conservation Commission, 4-H Club and Girl Scouts have each restored small patches over the years.

A series of monuments front the section of forest between the Old Town Hall and Langdon Library.

11A. Boulder, c. 1980. Noncontributing Object.

Approximately 25 feet northeast of the Town Hall is a boulder with a bronze plaque, erected by the Conservation Commission, commemorating the establishment of the forest in 1710.

Northeast of the boulder and arranged in a north-south row near the street and fronting the pine grove is a set of war memorials, whose individual components are described below.

11B. Cannon, 1905. Contributing Object.

On the south side of the grouping is a muzzle loading three inch field model cannon dated 1905. It was set in its current location sometime after World War I.

11C. Monument, 1949. Noncontributing Object.

North of the mortar is a rectangular granite block approximately five feet high and four feet wide on which a bronze plaque is mounted in honor of those serving in the Second World War, 1941-5. The monument was erected by the Newington Veterans Association in 1949.

11D. Monument, c. 1955. Noncontributing Object.

In the center of the grouping is a stone block (3' x 2') erected in honor of Korean War veterans.

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11E. Monument, 1926. Contributing Object.

The fourth monument in the row is another rectangular granite block, 5 feet high, 4 feet wide and 18" deep, commemorating those serving in the Siege of Louisburg, War of Independence, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War and World War I. It was erected by the Shakespearean Club in 1926.

11F. Cannon, 1905. Contributing Object.

Framing the north side of the monuments is another 1905 3 inch field model mortar, identical to that on the southern side.

Three symmetrical evergreens act as an immediate backdrop for the monuments while smaller round bushes are located in the northeast and southeast corners.

12. Langdon Library, 328 Nimble Hill Road, 1892. Contributing Building.  
William A. Ashe, architect. [79]

A 1 1/2 story symmetrical brick structure set broadside to the street above a projecting foundation of rockfaced granite blocks with smooth margins. Brick on the structure is laid in a common bond alternating nine rows of stretcher brick to a row alternating header and stretcher bricks.

The central bay of the three bay facade is devoted to a projecting pavilion with semicircular arched entrance. The exterior wooden door consists of nine upper glass panes (3 x 3) over two vertical recessed panels. The partial sidelights consist of 2 x 3 fixed panes set above a wooden panel. Above the door is a three tier semicircular fanlight with mullions dividing the outer ring into eight segments and the center ring into four sections. Two semicircular brick courses, the inner slightly recessed, outline the fanlight. Brick pilasters with granite bases and caps support the outer granite surround with a central granite keystone. Above the arched entrance two long granite blocks form a horizontal band at the base of the gable with raised letters reading "LANGDON LIBRARY". Angled granite blocks mark the ends of the sign. Centered in the gable is a circular window with a surround formed by two courses of header brick. Mullions divide the window into four quadrants, radiating from a central circle, ending on the outer edge in a half circle. A triangular granite block with the date "1892" carved in relief occupies the top of the gable.

Located to each side of the entrance is a doublehung 2/2 window fitted with exterior screens and storms, a plain granite sill and a splayed granite lintel with central keystone. Narrow 1/1 windows occupy the side elevations of the vestibule.

The entablature of the facade has a two part brick frieze, projecting from the walls of the building in three stages from two courses of brick at the

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top, to a course of dentil brick with two additional brick courses on the lower edge. On the ends of the building the entablature meets granite blocks which also corbel. On the sides of the front pavilion the corbelled brick architrave and frieze are simplified, consisting of four courses of brick. The projecting wooden cornice consists of a fillet and cyma recta molding.

The southern elevation, two bays wide, contains the same 2/2 window form seen on the facade except there is no keystone. Plain granite sills cap the basement windows. The side elevation cornice consists of seven brick courses each projecting a half width over the last with two corbel courses. Outlining the close eaves, two courses of brick follow the roof profile. A single window and a wooden door with five horizontal panels capped by a single pane large transom and splayed lintel are located on the north elevation. A 2/2 window lights the attic. Two interior end brick corbel cap chimneys pierce the slate roof.

Over the years two additions have been constructed at the rear of the original library. The initial ell, less wide than the main structure, dates to 1913. The side areas were filled in to continue the lines of the front in 1970. The central ell rests on a granite foundation visible on the rear wall, the remainder sits on a concrete base. Walls are laid in a stretcher brick bond. Smaller 2/2 windows with splayed lintels and plain sills light the addition. An additional door is located on the north side of the ell. Cornice detailing on the ell consists of two projecting courses of stretcher brick with a row of headers set on end. A single central window is located on the rear elevation which is capped by a flush horizontal board pediment.

The interior of the library is characterized by varnished woodwork including vertical beadboard wainscoting, hardwood floors, horizontal panel doors and interior french doors leading into the library from the vestibule. Simple brick fireplaces with simple wooden lintels mark the north and south walls. Separating the original two rooms is a wooden arch with corner brackets and recessed panel pilasters.

Langdon Library was established through the generosity of Woodbury Langdon of New York City, a summer resident of Fox Point in Newington. In 1892 Langdon offered to donate 2,000 books to the Town of Newington if suitable provisions could be made for their care and circulation. The Town voted to erect a library at town meeting in 1892 and accepted the offer. A building committee was formed consisting of Jackson Hoyt, John Moulton, Cyrus Frink, James Coleman and Joseph Hoyt. Most of the construction costs were financed by the sale of lumber from the Town Forest with the remaining funds furnished by Langdon, who also financed the 1913 addition. The formal opening of the library was held September 20, 1893. [80]

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12A. Springhouse shed, 1913. Contributing Structure.

North of the library, on the town forest land is a springhouse shed, dating to 1913 when voters allocated funds for the installation of a water system to service the town buildings. Measuring approximately 20' x 8' the structure consists of a deteriorating asphalt roof set on a concrete base. The gables are constructed of flush vertical board. The original pipeline ran from the spring at the foot of the watering spring line to a faucet at the cemetery, from there to the church, then to a storage tank in back of the library and from the library to the town hall. [81]

The nominated district is comprised of eleven (11) contributing buildings, two (2) contributing structures, three (3) contributing sites, six (6) contributing objects, three (3) noncontributing buildings, and three (3) noncontributing objects.

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3. Frink House:

A bay window was added during a kitchen remodeling, completed in the autumn of 1987. An updated photographic view documents the change.

7. Old Parsonage:

Restoration work completed in the autumn of 1987 substituted restoration windows for earlier replacement sash. In addition, the building was repainted. An updated photographic view documents these changes.

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64. Town of Newington Annual Report, year ending January 31, 1922, p. 21. [Langdon Library, Newington].
65. Rowe, p. 233.
66. Portsmouth Journal, January 4, 1873.
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71. Newington's Town Forest is widely acknowledged to be the first town forest in the country although published reference to this or other early forests has found to be lacking. The date of 1710 used to refer to the establishment of the Newington Town Forest is the date at which common ground was set aside. Thus references to this date are not for the specific establishment of this tract for formal use as a town forest.
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75. "Biennial Report of the NH Forestry Commission", 1924.
76. Ibid.
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Even before Newington was granted as a separate parish the beginnings of a town center were very much in evidence. At a public town meeting on Dover Neck in 1710 some 50-60 acres of common land were set aside. This tract later became the town forest. The forest (10), which had reached 112 acres by the 1950's, was greatly diminished by the establishment of Pease Air Force Base. A meetinghouse (1), though sparsely finished and relatively unfurnished, had already been erected, with additional land set aside for a parsonage, when residents applied for separate status in 1712. The original design of the structure was apparently typical of the second period New England meetinghouse with a main entrance on the long south side opposite the pulpit and two tiers of windows. Structurally parts of the meetinghouse may date from this early period although its present appearance dates to the c.1835 rebuilding. The meetinghouse is still owned by the town today.

Exemplifying one of the typical residential forms of the Pre-Revolutionary Period is the Old Parsonage (7). Although conclusive evidence for a specific building date is lacking, the 2 1/2 story frame structure with its saltbox configuration and central chimney would appear to have been constructed between 1710 and 1765.

A training field, better known as the "Parade" was laid out on the south side of the meetinghouse in 1716 with a burying ground established on the opposite side. Thus, prior to the Revolution the nucleus of a town center had already been formed with a meetinghouse, parsonage and schoolhouse (located near the site of the Old 1872 Town Hall (9)) fronting the Parade and surrounded by the Town Forest, with private residences stretching to the shores of Great Bay.

Despite a hiatus of significant building activity in the district between 1714 and the early 19th century, Newington was far from dormant. With the completion of the Piscataqua Bridge in 1794 linking the town with Durham, Newington entered a new period of growth. This vital Portsmouth-Concord transportation route was part of the ancient Post Road linking the region to Boston and Newburyport with Concord and the north wilderness beyond. In the absence of water power, agriculture became the dominant occupation in town, supplemented by limited industries such as brickyards on Little Bay.

Local prosperity manifested itself in accelerated building activity in the district during the early 19th century. Coinciding with the transition between Federal and Greek Revival styles, several building projects occurred within the district.

The Frink House (3), constructed c. 1820-40 combines earmarks of the Federal style such as a semielliptical door surround, fanlight and partial sidelights with typical Greek Revival details including pediment ends and cornerblock detailing on the door surround. The present appearance of the Meetinghouse/

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Newington Congregational Church (1) also clearly reflects 1838 renovations during this period. In contrast to the early meetinghouse form, the location of the main entrance shifted from the broad south side to the recently pedimented end, indicative of a Greek Revival influence. The semicircular louvered fans capping the windows and front door represent stylistic holdovers from the then-waning Federal style. During these renovations, the building was raised, the foundation installed, and interior remodelled. The two stage bell tower with its unique heavy corner finials was also part of the renovations. The design of the tower was reportedly based on the Congregational Meetinghouse in the neighboring town of Greenland, a building which no longer stands. An additional public building, the Methodist Meetinghouse was constructed during this period (c. 1834). Located on the site of the New Parsonage (6) it subsequently burned in 1865.

Building activity in the period following the Civil War included the construction of horsesheds behind the Congregational Church (1A). Initially constructed in 1867 the original stalls were destroyed in a wind storm in 1893 and rebuilt soon thereafter. Limited funds and combined town and school purposes probably dictated the austere appearance of the Newington Town Hall (9), constructed in 1872. While this plain brick building does not fit into a particular stylistic category, it combines the massing of an Italianate period schoolhouse with features popular earlier in the century including doublehung 12/12 windows, a lunette window and a denticulated cornice with returns. Anachronistic as they are, these "colonial" features are either the work of an architect more than fifty years behind the times or a visionary anticipating the Colonial Revival before either the 1876 or 1893 Worlds Fair popularized the trend nationally.

Private and public interests combined for increasing building in the district at the end of the 19th century. The New Parsonage (5), dating to 1886 incorporates the simple 2 1/2 story 5 bay house form popular at the beginning of the century with vernacular Italianate detailing including entablature lintels supported by pairs of brackets and a flat door hood resting on decorative "Victorian" turned brackets. Made possible by a local summer resident, the design of Langdon Library (12) was the work of a Boston architect, William Ashe, who combined Richardsonian Romanesque features including a semicircular door opening and contrasting brick and stonework into a symmetrical brick structure demonstrating a growing Colonial Revival fervor. A fire in 1893 resulted in the construction of a new residence within the district for Jackson Hoyt (4). Ornament on the simple gablefront frame building is limited to a Victorian door hood.

With the advent of Shattuck Shipyard during the First World War, Newington's economic base began to shift from agriculture to industry. Population growth predicted due to shipyard resulted in the construction of the Stone Schoolhouse (8) in 1921. Like many of the town center buildings preceding it, the

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Schoolhouse was literally a product of the town's natural resources, with timber from the town forest furnishing lumber for its panelled interior and fieldstones from local stone walls used to build the exterior.

The coming of World War II and the resulting growth of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard continued the local trend toward industry. Due to its close proximity to Portsmouth, there was not much pressure for Newington to develop a commercial center of its own and increasingly the town became a bedroom community for nearby Portsmouth, while simultaneously developing a growing industrial area on the Piscataqua.

During the 1950's Newington's most dramatic changes occurred, centering around the construction of Pease Air Force Base. Planning for this Strategic Air Command Base was met by great opposition by Newington residents. Construction began in 1952 and was completed in 1956. The base occupies nearly half of the town's land area or 2,445 acres. Prior to the construction of a public road through the base in 1972, the base bisected Newington and South Newington, forcing residents to travel through Portsmouth in order to reach the other side of their town. Construction of the base also claimed much of the town's best farmland, eroding the town's agricultural heritage. Within the district, construction of the base forced the sale of the Stone Schoolhouse (8) as proximity to the base and the B47 aircraft initially stationed at Pease rendered the school unusable. Pease also resulted in the clearing of much of Newington's town forest (10) in the area south and southeast of the district, leaving only the Downing lot on the east side of Nimble Hill Road intact.

The 1960's-80's have witnessed increased development along Newington's deep water port and the construction of two large regional shopping malls in the eastern part of town. Ironically, the cumulative effect of these events, together with the construction of Spaulding Turnpike, a north-south four lane divided highway running the length of Newington and constructed in the mid 1960's, have only served to insulate the traditional town center and residential areas in the northwestern part of town. Not suprisingly development has also heightened the awareness of local residents regarding their vanishing heritage. At town meeting in 1974 a local historic district was established at Newington Center, spanning from the Air Base Line, north to the junction of Nimble Hill Road and Little Bay Road. A Cultural Resources Survey of Newington was completed by the Strafford Rockingham Regional Council in 1979. Simultaneously, Archeological Research Services (ARS) of the University of New Hampshire conducted a preliminary survey for historic sites on the Newington portion of the shoreline of Great and Little Bay, as well as two years of intensive work at the Parsonage site (7). Recently restoration work at the Parsonage has begun and a town history was completed.

While the district is to be nominated to the National Register based on the

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values inherent in its architecture, it is to no small extent dependent on the integrity of landscape form and spaces which provide a setting for the buildings. The cemetery (2), town forest (10), farm fields (3) and vacant lot (6) are all integral parts of the district. As described in Section 7, remarkably the present appearance of each is true to its historical use.

Within the region, as within the community, Newington Center remains a uniquely preserved microcosm of rural life. In Newington, in contrast to the seaport-inspired wealth of Portsmouth and the textile-induced monies of milltowns such as Dover and Somersworth, architecture was derived from the agricultural economy. The vernacular structures simply and succinctly reflect the needs and means of local residents. Unlike other districts of its type Newington Center still reflects both its town center and farming community functions. The open fields in the district retain their original character and have not been defiled by scrub brush, new construction or commercialism. More than anything, the Newington district owes its significance to the individual and collective integrity of the structures in the district and its cohesive feeling. The universally high state of preservation and lack of intrusions within the district sets it apart from others of its kind.

While the impact of Pease Air Force Base on the Town of Newington has been tremendous, it is important to emphasize that the base's impact on the appearance of the district itself has been minimal. Although there is now a vista of a runway southward from the edge of the district and the shadow and rumbling of aircraft overhead, all of the structures within the district appear just as they did before the base. Only the use of the Stone Schoolhouse has changed. Rendered unusable as a school by its proximity to the base, today it is owned by the Government and sits vacant. To the south and southeast of the district, the base forced the sale and clearing of many acres of the town forest. But that acreage which remained has, in a sense, been insulated and become more cohesive in the wake of Pease. The road to Greenland, the spine of the district, now dead ends at the southern part of the district. No longer is Newington Center subject to the growth pressures inherent in being located on any well-travelled road. A sense of timelessness characterizes the district, threatened only by the potential expansion of the air force base.

The year 1986 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the completion of Pease Air Force Base. While local residents have grown accustomed to the sound and shadow of aircraft overhead they are, now more than ever, determined that the tangible evidence of their past, exemplified by the Newington Center Historic District, must be preserved. It is hoped that this nomination will be a major step toward that goal.



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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated district are those indicated by a dashed line on the attached sketch map.

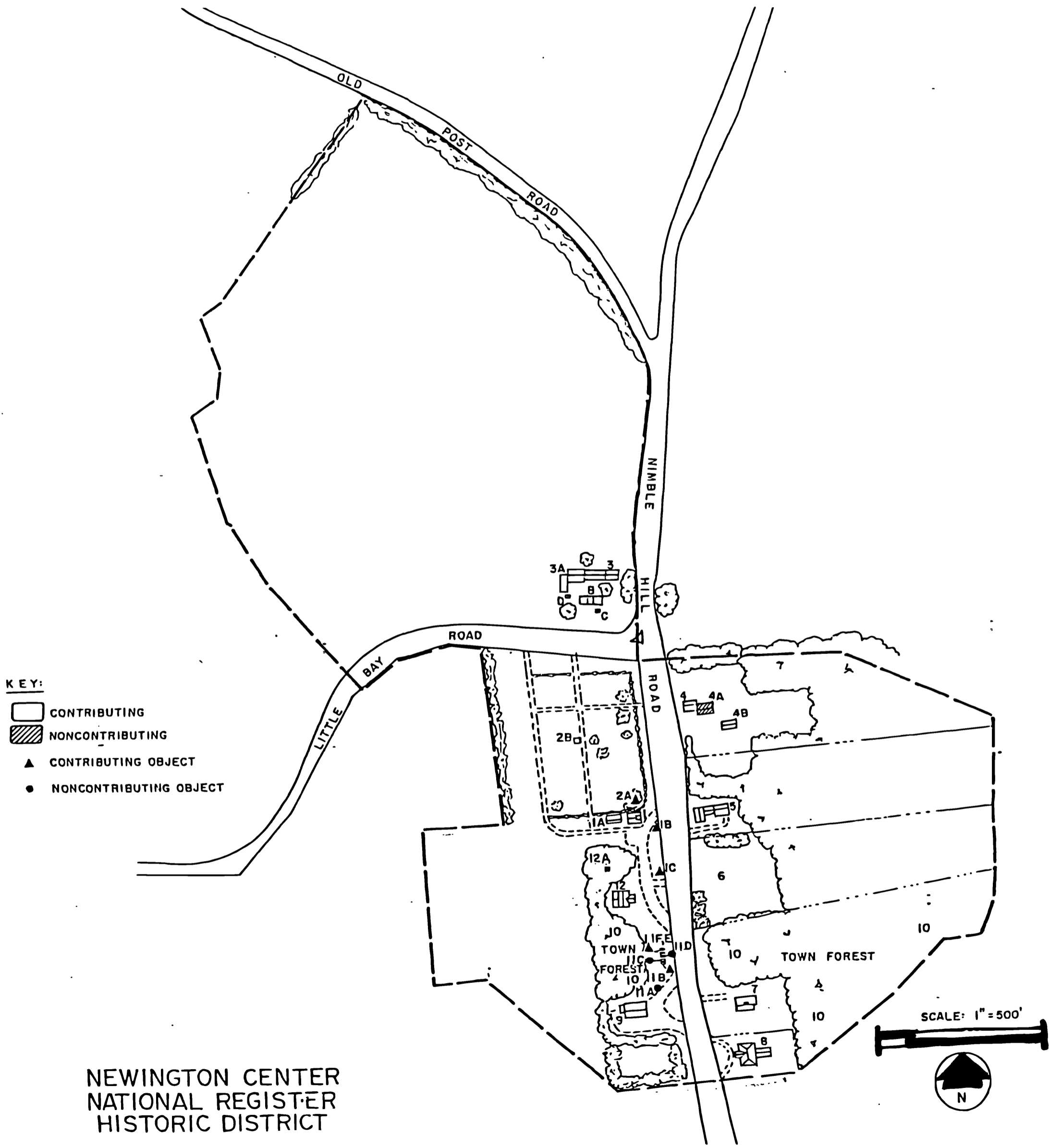
The boundary of the nominated district is drawn to include that acreage which survives from the original town center and which is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The district is bounded on the south and east by the Pease Air Force Base. At the south part of the town-owned parcel, the area housing the highway garage purposely has been excluded from the district boundary as have recent residential structures to the north. The district includes the agricultural lands associated with several of the properties and an area of open space due to their historic associations and the sense of place they contribute to the district. Boundaries are sufficient to convey the original context and to protect it.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Newington Center Historic District



NEWINGTON CENTER  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

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This certifies that the appearance has not changed since these photographs were taken except on the Frink House (3) and the Old Parsonage (7) where new views have been added.