

EXP. 12/31/84

19

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic

~~HISTORIC RESOURCES OF SOUTH HAMPTON~~ <sup>MRA</sup> NEW HAMPSHIRE

and/or common

(PARTIAL INVENTORY: HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL PROPERTIES)

## 2. Location

street &amp; number

The incorporation limits of

not for publication

city, town

South Hampton

vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~ (1st)

state

N.H.

code

33

county

Rockingham

code

015

## 3. Classification

## Category

☒ district☐ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object☒ MultipleResources ☒ N/A

## Ownership

☐ public☐ private☒ both

## Public Acquisition

☐ in process☐ being considered☒ N/A

## Status

☒ occupied☐ unoccupied☐ work in progress

## Accessible

☐ yes: restricted☒ yes: unrestricted☐ no

## Present Use

☒ agriculture☐ commercial☒ educational☐ entertainment☒ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☒ private residence☒ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☐ other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name

Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet)

street &amp; number

city, town

vicinity of

state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Rockingham County Courthouse/Registry of Deeds

street &amp; number

Hampton Road

city, town

Exeter

state

New Hampshire

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title

South Hampton, New Hampshire

Cultural Resources Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date

March 1980

☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

Rockingham Planning Commission, One Water Street

city, town

Exeter

state

New Hampshire

## 7. Description

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

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

#### 7A. Geographic Features and Man-Made Character

The Town of South Hampton, New Hampshire, occupies 5,000 acres adjoining the Massachusetts state border in southeastern Rockingham County. The topography of the area is characterized by rolling hills ranging in slope from 0% to 25%. Natural features include an abundance of fresh water wetlands (approximately 1,000 acres) and open space (approximately 2,400 acres). The majority of open space is wooded by second and third growth.<sup>1</sup>

South Hampton is a rural, residential community. Three hundred and fifty acres provide the sites for an estimated 225 residential structures. Nearly all of these residential structures are single family homes. Residential development maintains historical, low density settlement patterns. These patterns include one building deep, linear development oriented towards public roadways. Although there is now only one working farm in South Hampton, nearly all of the open land is still being cultivated, grazed or hayed by "part-time farmers." The existence of this large amount of undeveloped acreage is attributed to the town's policy of encouraging the maintenance of open land through a low tax policy. For example, a two acre developed plot was assessed at \$13,300 in 1982, and similar but undeveloped land was assessed at \$190 per acre.<sup>2</sup> Controlled natural areas within the town include a twenty acre preserve owned by the Audubon Society, an eight acre private campground and a fifty-five acre New Hampshire State Forest.

Twenty-one acres of the town are municipally owned. Ten acres provide the sites for municipal buildings (Town Hall, Barnard School), recreational facilities (playground, ballpark, tennis courts), and public cemeteries. Municipal structures form the nucleus for the South Hampton Town Center.

Commercial property is modest in comparison to community size. Businesses operating on South Hampton's estimated fifty-five acres of commercially zoned land include several construction companies and building supply concerns. None of these businesses are located in the Town Center.

#### Historic Resources

The Historic Resources of South Hampton include five distinct historic architectural districts and one individual site. The resources encompassed by the nomination are: the Currier House, the Jewell Town District, the South Hamptone Town Center District, the Smith's Corner District, the Woodman Road District, and the Highland Road District. Selected sites reflect the architectural, economic and historical development of the South Hampton area as a whole. Thus, architectural resources document the stylistic evolution of the town from the Georgian Period through the early twentieth century; most prominent are public and residential buildings of the Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival styles. Also represented are significant percentages of open space documenting original eighteenth century settlement patterns and nineteenth century farm divisions. The districts included maintain historical patterns of low density development. Historic resources include public and religious structures, dwellings, farm-related outbuildings and intact open space. The majority of the resources date between c. 1750 and c. 1870.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

7B. Historic Development

Beginnings in the mid-seventeenth century and gradual growth to c. 1825:

European settlement in the South Hampton area dates to the mid-seventeenth century. Originally a western extension of Salisbury, Massachusetts, those lands lying west of the Pow Wow River became part of Amesbury, Massachusetts following Amesbury's incorporation in 1666.<sup>3</sup> Jewell Town, Currierville, Highland Road, and the South Hampton Town Center were the first areas to attract settlers, the majority of whom were subsistence farmers migrating north from present day Massachusetts. The location of the Pow Wow River was a key factor in influencing initial settlement patterns. Mills, drawing power from the river, developed along the river banks. Mill operation, combined with farming, formed the cornerstones of South Hampton's economy through the nineteenth century.

Early eighteenth century border disputes between Massachusetts and New Hampshire were resolved in 1741 with the adoption of the Mitchell Line as the permanent boundary between the two colonies. With this settlement, present day South Hampton fell under the jurisdiction of New Hampshire. The area was subsequently incorporated as a town on May 25, 1742.<sup>4</sup>

Through the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, South Hampton maintained a stable population of approximately 500 inhabitants,<sup>5</sup> most of whom were engaged in farming. Mills continued to grow and diversify along the Pow Wow River, particularly in the Jewell Town area. Agricultural settlement continued in the Currierville, Town Center and Highland Road areas as well as expanding to include sites in the Smith's Corner area.

Examination of an early map of the town, dated 1803, confirms the above settlement patterns (Illustration 1). Analysis of the 1803 map along with surviving structures of the period and physical evidence of original land use, indicates that town development followed the pattern of nucleated settlement commonly associated with New England towns of the period. Strip farmland divisions, also characteristic of the period, originally extended to the rear of public-road-oriented residential complexes. South Hampton's nucleated settlement areas were linked by a radial network of roads converging on the first Meeting House (c. 1750, no longer extant). This Meeting House was constructed near the site of the present Town Hall (Site 164).

Prosperity: c. 1830 - 1860.

The pre-Civil War years were South Hampton's most prosperous. Industrialization was reflected by a growing number of small industries. By 1840, a total of 22 small manufacturers and tradesmen were active in the town.<sup>6</sup> In addition to blacksmith shops, small shoe shops and mills operating along the Pow Wow River, manufactories were established to produce such varied products as pails, umbrella handles, matches, and parts for carriage factories in Amesbury; a town emerging as a national and

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

Description continued

international center for carriage manufacturing.<sup>7</sup> Road improvements coupled with increased traveling throughout New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. Service industries, including taverns, blacksmiths and sheelrights, prospered in the Smith's Corner area as an extension of the stage trade.

By 1850, sixty-four farms averaging sixty acres in size were operating in South Hampton. Major products included corn, potatoes, hay, butter, and cheese. Orchard crops were produced by one-half of the farms surveyed in 1850. Orchard production increased in importance until the Civil War.<sup>8</sup>

Town development reflects the prosperity of the period. Public structures, located around Barnard Square in the South Hampton Town Center, were constructed as a stylistically cohesive complex defining and lending focus to the community as a whole. Residential development supplemented existing sites, most notably in the Smith's Corner area. Agricultural development expanded to include sites along Woodman Road and outlying sections of the Jewell Town area. The introduction of a definable town center, development of the Smith's Corner area, and agricultural expansion are reflected in an 1857 map of the town. (Illustration 2).

Decline: c. 1870 - 1900; 1912 - 1950.

As in the case of many New England agricultural communities, South Hampton experienced a period of economic and demographic decline following the Civil War. Failure of the town's agricultural sector depressed the economy of the town as a whole. From a population of 549 in 1860, the town shrank to 297 inhabitants by 1900. Decreased population was accompanied by farm abandonment, a regional phenomenon particularly severe in New Hampshire.<sup>9</sup>

An 1892 map of the area reflects town decline in the number of sites recorded. (Illustration 3) Development, as seen in the 1892 map, is less dense than mid-century levels. The South Hampton Town Center retains its pattern of nucleated development. Outlying areas, however, record a decline in site density. This is particularly evident in the Currierville and Jewell Town areas. Industrial sites are not listed and the established radial road network has decreased in scope.

Structures surviving in the town confirm a period of late nineteenth century decline. None of the architectural styles popular during the period are represented through new construction or earlier structure modification. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century economic conditions did not, however, directly affect the town's built and natural environment. Continued use of dwellings, either on a seasonal or year-round basis, contributed to their preservation through active use. Abandoned farmland returned to forest, resulting in the community's present high percentage of wooded land.

South Hampton's economy continued to stagnate through the early twentieth century. Population figures reached their lowest point in 1920 when 230 persons were recorded in the town.<sup>10</sup> The number of working farms continued to decline, resulting

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 2

Page 4

Description continued

in a shift in character from an agricultural community to a residential community.

Summer tourism became a source of economic livelihood. In 1902, Frank F. Perry opened a major hotel, "The Hilltop," in the South Hampton Town Center. The Hilltop became one of the region's most popular resort hotels and included accommodations for 100 guests.<sup>11</sup> The Hilltop burned at the height of its success in 1912. This fire also destroyed much of the South Hampton Town Center, including the Church Parsonage, a schoolhouse and many of the dwellings surrounding the Town Common. New construction filled in the gaps and in one instance, the Church Parsonage (Site 115) the original structure was reconstructed. The character of the Town Center is still distinctly Greek Revival, as the major buildings survived untouched. Since 1950, South Hampton has experienced a tremendous increase in residential development. Increased mobility has contributed to the town's popularity as a residential community for individuals employed in surrounding areas, particularly the Boston metropolitan area. Contemporary residential construction has occurred in all sections of town. In spite of this recent residential development, South Hampton retains the character of a traditional New England town as reflected by patterns of low density development, nucleated town center and open spaces.

7C Architectural Component

1. Major architectural styles represented are the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, and Bungalow Styles. These include seventeen Georgian homes (ranging from 1½ story Capes to 2½ story, 5-bay central chimney houses), some half-dozen Federal houses (generally 2½ story, 5-bay, central hall plan houses with twin interior chimneys), twenty Greek Revival buildings (mostly 2 or 2½ story gable front, sidehall plan houses, along with three Capes and the Town Hall, Baptist Church and Barnard School), and three houses with Colonial Revival features. Most of the houses built between 1870 and 1925 in South Hampton, of which there are fewer than eighteen, can be classified as vernacular. Buildings in all periods are almost universally of frame construction, 1½ or 2 stories in height.

The number, scale and architectural sophistication of buildings constructed in South Hampton parallels historical periods of economic prosperity. Building construction peaked prior to the Civil War and radically declined in post war years. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century economic decline did, however, directly encourage the intact preservation of the majority of South Hampton's building stock through continued use as permanent or seasonal homes.

2. The large percentage of open space found in the community is a direct consequence of mid-nineteenth century economic decline. With agricultural decline and farm abandonment, cultivated fields returned to forest. Surviving open areas, providing the town with spectacular landscape vistas as well as indications of early land management, have been maintained as open pastures through periods of economic decline.

3. The town of South Hampton is overwhelmingly residential in character. Building uses can be enumerated as follows: Residential - 98%; Commercial - 1%; and Public - 1%.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

Description Continued

7D Archeological Component: Archeological Survey has not been done

7E Methodology

The Multiple Resource Nomination of the Historic Resources of South Hampton, New Hampshire, to the National Register of Historic Places is based on data generated by the South Hampton Cultural Resources Survey, Inventory and Plan, a document prepared by the Strafford Rockingham Regional Council Historic Preservation Assistance Project between January, 1979, and March, 1980. Components of this preservation project included site specific survey of the town through 1979, inclusive, preparation of inventory maps for incorporation into the town's master plan, historic primary and secondary sources research, and the preparation of a formal survey report. This report included an analysis of the historical and architectural development of the town, narrative description and preservation planning recommendations.

The site specific, comprehensive survey recorded historic architectural and landscape features through written, graphic and photographic methods. Data was compiled on forms designed by the Strafford Rockingham Regional Council, in cooperation with the New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office. Field forms were edited and reviewed by the town for accuracy.

Footnotes

- 1 Master Plan, South Hampton, New Hampshire (unpublished, June, 1981) pg. 12
- 2 Tax Assessment, Town of South Hampton, 1982
- 3 Joseph Merrill, History of Amesbury and Merrimac, Massachusetts (Hampton, N.H.: Heritage Books, Inc., Reprint of 1880 edition.)
- 4 South Hampton Town Charter, Town Records, South Hampton Town Hall, South Hampton, N.H.
- 5 State of New Hampshire Inventory, South Hampton, New Hampshire 1765-1815
- 6 State of New Hampshire Inventory, South Hampton, New Hampshire 1840
- 7 Merrill, History of Amesbury and Merrimac, Massachusetts
- 8 State of New Hampshire Inventory, South Hampton, New Hampshire 1850-1860
- 9 State of New Hampshire Inventory, South Hampton, New Hampshire 1860-1900
- 10 U.S. Census, South Hampton, New Hampshire 1920
- 11 Hilltop Fire reference  
Strafford Rockingham Regional Council, South Hampton, New Hampshire, Cultural Resources Survey, Inventory and Plan, March 1980, pg. 14

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates      N/A      Builder/Architect      N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### 8A. Overall Significance

The South Hampton Multiple Resource Area is significant for its association with the broad pattern of northern New England's agricultural, economic and architectural history. The Multiple Resource Area possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. These qualities reflect the historical development of the area and exemplify the broad regional patterns of physical and economic development associated with agriculturally based northern New England communities during the period c. 1750 to the present.

#### 8B. Historical Development

Present-day South Hampton was first settled in the mid-seventeenth century by European settlers moving west from the town of Salisbury, Massachusetts. The location of initial settlement areas was influenced by the course of the Pow Wow River, a tributary of the Merrimack River that flows through the southern part of South Hampton. The Pow Wow River historically provided a power source for eighteenth and nineteenth century industrial development centered in Jewell Town. One of the first sections of South Hampton to be settled, the Jewell Town area, derives its name from the Jewell family who were locally prominent early settlers. Thomas Jewell is recorded to have arrived in the area in 1687. His son, Joseph, is credited with the construction of the oldest extant building in Jewell Town (Site 102, c. 1740). Joseph Jewell also controlled substantial interests in the area's milling operations including sawmill and bog ironworks. In addition to a sawmill and a bog ironworks, a grist mill was operating in the Jewell Town District by the mid-eighteenth century. An indication of the importance of the bog ironworks (1727–1742) to South Hampton's early economy can be found in local deed references for the period which refer to the bridge crossing the Pow Wow River along what is now Jewell Street as "the ironworks bridge."<sup>2</sup> Industrial expansion continued in the Jewell Town area through the eighteenth century. By 1793, lease privileges for a fulling mill were granted and a clothier's mill and shop were operating by 1794.<sup>3</sup>

Paralleling the establishment of milling and industrial concerns in the Jewell Town area were similar inroads to the establishment of area agriculture. Agricultural settlements, contemporary to the founding of Jewell Town, were established in the Currierville area, the Highland Road area, the Smith's Corner area and in the South Hampton Town Center area. Early agricultural development was subsistent in nature. Surviving patterns of land division suggest a medieval, strip land division system. These strip farming divisions appear to lack historically associated, nucleated village centers.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet  
~~Significance Continued~~

Item number 8

Page 2

Historical Development continued:

Until 1741, the South Hampton area fell under the jurisdiction of Massachusetts. Eighteenth century border disputes between the two colonies were permanently resolved with the adoption of the Mitchell Line in 1741. South Hampton subsequently became a part of New Hampshire as delineated by the Mitchell Line. Formal town incorporation followed shortly after, and on May 25, 1742, South Hampton became the first town incorporated during the term of Royal Governor Benning Wentworth. The area most probably derives its name from its geographic location. The town once included Seabrook, New Hampshire, located to the south of the town of Hampton. The first town meeting was held on June 7, 1742. South Hampton's first meetinghouse was soon constructed in the South Hampton Town Center area near the present site of the Barnard School (Site 165).<sup>4</sup> This meetinghouse is no longer extant.

Colonial period agricultural and industrial development patterns were continued through the Federal period. Regional road improvements and a general increase in travel led to the organization of a network of stagelines. South Hampton, located just north of the Massachusetts border, cultivated the stage trade and became a way-station for stagelines traveling through the region.

Although subsistence agriculture continued to provide the primary source of economic livelihood for South Hampton's residents throughout the Federal period, an addition was made to the town's industrial sector concentrated along the banks of the Pow Wow River. By the first quarter of the nineteenth century, a substantial brickworks was in operation to the southwest of the Smith's Corner area. This brickyard, owned by Elihu French, produced 100,000 bricks from local sand deposits in 1827. French employed English brick-making techniques and advertised his product as "equal, if not superior to, those made in Bristol, England."<sup>5</sup>

Increased regional industrialization during the period between 1830 and 1860 was reflected in South Hampton by the growth of small industries, which, by 1840, reached a total of 22.<sup>6</sup> In addition to blacksmith shops, small shoe shops, and milling concerns operating along the Pow Wow River, shops were established to produce such specialized products as pails, umbrella handles, matches and parts for carriage factories in Amesbury, Massachusetts -- a town emerging as a major national and international center for carriage manufacturing.<sup>7</sup>

An important shift in the nature of agricultural production occurred in the decades prior to the Civil War. This shift was from subsistence farming to cash crop production and was made possible by the advent of the railroad which opened regional markets for perishable commodities. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the New England network of railroads surpassed in density all existing regional systems, and few farms were more than a half-day's drive from a railroad station. The era of the "milk run" began, and South Hampton farmers now had the capacity to ship milk, butter and cheese to markets in Boston via Amesbury, and produce to even more distant markets.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

Significance Continued

Historical Development continued:

The period from c. 1830 - 1860 was South Hampton's most prosperous. As a result, it is responsible for setting the pattern of town architecture and development as they appear today. Ironically, the railroad system which created the conditions for pre-war agricultural prosperity also created post-war conditions which effectively destroyed northern New England's agricultural economy. As the railroad system expanded to include large-scale agricultural centers in the Midwest and West, competition for New England markets increased. New England farms could not compete with market prices offered by western agriculture and by the time of the 1870 census, thousands of multi-crop farms in New England had ceased production. Accompanying this regional agricultural decline was widespread farm abandonment. This phenomenon was particularly severe in New Hampshire, prompting the State to authorize the appointment of a Commission of Immigration in 1889 to encourage the "re-peopling of rural districts."<sup>9</sup>

The Commission on Immigration undertook an advertising campaign aimed at attracting two groups of potential abandoned farm buyers. The first were those interested in active farming and the second were affluent city dwellers interested in buying "a pleasant and beautiful home for the whole or part of the year." The first publication of the Commission of Immigration appeared in 1890 promoting the advantages of New Hampshire farm ownership and listing potential properties. In that year, three South Hampton farms were included. These properties ranged in size from 60 to 168 acres and included numerous barns and outbuildings.<sup>10</sup> In addition, by the close of the nineteenth century, accommodating summer boarders in private homes had become common practice for farmers unable to count on agriculture for their income. The large-scale commercial exploitation of the summer tourist trade was undertaken in 1902 with Frank F. Perry's opening of "The Hilltop," a popular resort hotel located on Jewell Street in the South Hampton Town Center. In 1912, at the height of its success, "The Hilltop" burned in a fire which devastated the surrounding town center. Destroyed in this fire were the church parsonage, a schoolhouse, and many of the private dwellings fronting the town common.<sup>11</sup> Thus, the period from 1870-1950 was one of economic decline except for some successful attempts to attract summer tourism.

Since 1950, South Hampton has experienced a period of tremendous residential development. Highway systems linking the town to points in Massachusetts have rendered South Hampton a desirable "bedroom" community for individuals employed in northern Massachusetts. In 1978, an estimated 50% of South Hampton's work force was employed in Massachusetts.<sup>12</sup> Despite this growth, the areas being nominated have retained the historic and architectural character of a small, rural New England village. Additionally, the town has committed itself to preserving this character through its master plan and the protection of areas by a local Historic District Commission. The architectural and accompanying landscape resources of the South Hampton Multiple Resource Area reflect the stylistic and economic evolution of the area. The resource areas are noteworthy for their architectural

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet  
~~Significance Continued~~

Item number 8

Page 21

Historical Development continued

cohesion and design integrity. Represented within the area are intact examples from the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival and Colonial Revival architectural periods, as well as late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular structures. The majority of these examples are Georgian and Federal style dwellings dating between c. 1720 and c. 1830. Surviving architecture indicates a period of town economic boom between 1825 and 1850, generated by agricultural specialization in perishable commodities. Major public buildings were built at this time along with some fourteen residential examples of the Greek Revival style. The period 1875 - 1935 shows very little building taking place in the town. Only fourteen structures survive from this period, five of which were built after the Hilltop Fire. Most of these are vernacular in character with the exception of Site 100, a high-style example of Colonial Revival.

8C Major Historical Figures and Events

The area of South Hampton was settled in the late seventeenth century; however, it was not until 1741, with adoption of the Mitchell Line as the permanent boundary between Massachusetts and New Hampshire which placed the town in the latter state, that it could look forward to incorporation. This took place on May 25, 1742, when South Hampton became the first town incorporated under the governorship of Benning Wentworth. In that year, or soon thereafter, the first meetinghouse was built; although the building no longer is extant, its location (Site 165) is marked by a stone in Barnard Square.

Although dozens of houses could be cited as examples of the growth of this farming community in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, that of Major Moses Eaton, Jr., (Site 163, c.1827) is one of the best-documented in terms of its owner. An elaborate Federal style house, it was built of former parsonage land facing Barnard Square by Eaton, who might best be described as an entrepreneur and politician; he was a harness and carriage maker, a Boston retailer and incorporator of the railroad (1846; never built) which was to run from Jewell Town proper north along the Pow Wow River to East Kingston. He also held the public offices of representative, selectman, postmaster and deputy sheriff, and died in 1862 leaving an estate worth \$60,000. Also dating from this period is the Cyrus Frank Smith House (Site 186, c.1830) located on the east side of South Road, about ¼ mile north of Smith's Corner. Smith was a blacksmith, and his shop (now gone) stood to the south of the house; undoubtedly he situated his business to take advantage of the traffic passing through this busy transportation center. His is one of four Greek Revival houses sited around the intersection carrying his name.

The houses of Moses Eaton, Jr., and Cyrus Frank Smith represent the growing prosperity of South Hampton in the early nineteenth century based on agriculture and small industry. A landmark in the history of local industry was the production by Elihu French's brickyard (which used clay from the area of Grassy Brook, a tributary of the Pow Wow River which rises on Chair Hill) of 100,000 bricks in 1827.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 5

Significance Continued

Major Historical Figures and Events continued

A result of growing local prosperity was the building up of the town center in the Greek Revival style; the Town Hall (Site 164), Baptist Church (Site 117) and Barnard School (Site 165) were all either built or planned in 1832 on sites adjacent to the common, which became known as Barnard Square after Jacob Barnard, whose bequest endowed the school in that year.

The long decline of the South Hampton prosperity was heralded (although not solely caused by) the 1860 acquisition by the Salisbury Mills Co. of Massachusetts of the water rights to the Pow Wow River as it passed through Jewell Town, thereby precluding any future local development of the river for industrial use. Attempts to substitute summer tourism for the eroded economic bases of agriculture and industry climaxed in the opening of Frank F. Perry's Hilltop Hotel (Site 117) in 1902; the Hotel burned in 1912, taking with it many early houses surrounding the town center. This tragic event, which put the seal on the town's economic decline, became known as the Hilltop Fire. Interestingly, Perry was the author of The Story of Pow Wow River (no date, but published while the Hotel was operating) which documents the town's rise and decline as an economic power in the region and its connection with the great events of the Revolution and the War of 1812.

- 8D South Hampton's economy was originally based as subsistence farming and several small industries such as sawmills, gristmills, and a bog ironworks. In this, it resembled countless other small New England towns, growing gradually through the eighteenth and into the nineteenth century. The numerous Georgian and Federal houses including the Murphy House (Site 4, c. 1730); the Jonathan Currier House (Site 122, c. 1750); the Moses Eaton House (Site 193, c. 1750); the Joseph Jewell House (Site 102, c. 1740); the Berry House (Site 3, c. 1800) are representative of this early, localized agricultural economy. The establishment of numerous local industries (brickmaking, coopering, silver plating, and manufacturing parts, matches, umbrella handles, axles, for example) in the early nineteenth century supplemented the traditional business of agriculture, while better transportation in the form of a comprehensive regional rail network enabled farms and industries to expand into regional (and even international) markets. As a result, the period c. 1830-1860 was one of considerable prosperity as reflected by the Town Hall (1832; Site 164); the Barnard Schoolhouse (Site 165, incorporated 1836); and the Baptist Church (Site 117, c. 1833); all built in the Greek Revival style, grouped together in the town center, as well as a number of houses such as those clustered around Smith's Corner (Sites 183, 184, 185 and 186).

As noted elsewhere in this report, the later history of South Hampton is strikingly representative of that of the region as a whole. Creation of a nationwide rail network along with more efficient farms in the Mid-west and West made local farms uncompetitive, while economies of scale had the same effect on local industries (so that today the only evident trace of flourishing nineteenth century industries is the canalization and damming of the Pow Wow River.)

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

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 6

8D continued

Efforts by the town and the state to promote summer tourism around the turn of the century culminated in the brief career of the Hilltop Hotel, which began operations in 1902 and burned in 1912. Otherwise, very little building occurred in the town between c. 1870 and 1950, so that South Hampton remains largely as it existed at the time of its fullest development around c. 1860. Open space preserves farming patterns of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, while the arrangements of the major public buildings and the 1834 cemetery around Barnard Square remains unchanged. Recent development has been suburban residential, dependent primarily on the economy of Boston, Massachusetts, although much part-time farming is carried on here, as elsewhere in the region.

Footnotes

- 1 The Religious History of South Hampton, NH (Exeter Newsletter, 1881) pg. 7-8
- 2 Samuel Gould, Will, 1727, Amesbury Court House, Amesbury, Massachusetts
- 3 Deed Book 157, Page 301, Rachael Jacob and Jonathan Jewell to Captain Robert Rogers, 1793
- 4 The Strafford Rockingham Regional Council, South Hampton, New Hampshire, Cultural Resource Survey, Inventory and Plan, March 1980, page 7
- 5 "Rockingham's Rambles," paper. February 11, 1927
- 6 New Hampshire Inventory, South Hampton, New Hampshire, 1840
- 7 Joseph Merrill, History of Amesbury and Merrimac, Massachusetts (Hampton, N.H.: Heritage Books, Inc., Repring of 1880 edition)
- 8 F.F. Perry, The Story of Pow Wow River, (South Hampton, New Hampshire: Fidelity Grange, No. 300, P of H, undated (c. 1905) ).
- 9 State of New Hampshire, "New Hampshire Farms for Summer Homes" (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Press, 1902)
- 10 Ibid, 1890
- 11 South Hampton, New Hampshire, Cultural Resource Survey, Inventory and Plan, Pg. 13
- 12 Master Plan, South Hampton, New Hampshire, June, 1981, pg. 16
- 13 F.F. Perry, The Story of Pow Wow River
- 14 Ibid.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 7

Significance Continued

8E Archeological Survey has not been done.

8F. Preservation Activity:

The preservation of South Hampton's cultural and natural resources has been a community concern actively supported by both public policy and private initiative. The town's commitment to preserving its cultural heritage was demonstrated early on by the appointment of an Historic District Commission to govern two local districts and again in January of 1979 when the South Hampton Board of Selectmen authorized a comprehensive town survey. Results of this comprehensive survey, undertaken by the Strafford Rockingham Regional Council's Historic Preservation Assistance Project, were incorporated into the South Hampton Master Plan.

Survey results also contributed to the addition of two Local Historic Districts, Jewell Town and Currierville, to the two Local Historic Districts already designated: the South Hampton Town Center District and the Highland Road District. This placed nearly 80% of the historic/architectural areas in the town under local stewardship. As of this writing, South Hampton is the only town in the state to have designated this much of its area to Historic District protection.

Continued public support of community preservation, including the funding of this nomination, has been an ongoing commitment.

Perhaps the strongest indication of the depth of South Hampton's commitment is demonstrated by private property owners, who exhibit concern and respect for the area's high calibre of architectural design and unique landscape features through continued community involvement and private preservation of their properties. (Nearly all of the historic structures in South Hampton have been rehabilitated and are being carefully maintained.)

8G. Choice of the Districts

Each of the components of the South Hampton Multiple Resource Area are distinctive and significant in their own right. Combined, they document the evolution of the town as a whole. This evolution has, in large, been the consequence of the rise and decline of the local economy, historically rooted in agriculture, small industry and commerce. Though no longer an active force within the community, agriculture and industry made possible the construction of the town's outstanding collection of domestic and public architecture. Evidence of the town's past agricultural character is dramatically evident in intact, open space, much of which has been maintained in open fields. The interplay of architecture and landscape within the town determines its identity and is critical in determining South Hampton's historical and architectural context.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Significance Continued

8G continued

Despite recent growth, the town of South Hampton includes many areas where the Historic/Architectural character of the town has been maintained to an unusual degree. These areas were identified in the Cultural Resource Survey. Based on the inventory results, these areas were reviewed as potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. While each of these areas contributes to the overall picture of the town's development, each is in itself unique both in architectural character and in its historic associations. Five areas were selected as districts. In one area, only one house remained of what was once an important area in the town's development. This structure is being nominated individually.

8H

The Multiple Resource Nomination of South Hampton, New Hampshire, does include properties that are generally exempted from listing in the National Register. These properties are located within the boundaries of nominated historic districts and are considered to contribute to the historic development and overall character of these districts. These properties include one church, two cemeteries and several structures that are less than 50 years old (these structures have been designated as "intrusions" on the individual survey forms and survey sketch maps.)

8I

Integration of Survey and Inventory:

The South Hampton Cultural Resource Survey formed the basis for formulating the South Hampton Master Plan enacted by the Town in March, 1981. The premise of the plan is that the town desires to maintain its unique historic rural/agricultural character in the face of extreme growth pressure produced by its location on the Massachusetts border. The zoning and growth management ordinances reflect this as well as the sympathetic subdivision regulations. If anything, the South Hampton Master Plan is too heavily weighted in favor of the preservation of its Cultural Resources.

The South Hampton Cultural Resource Survey and the South Hampton Master Plan are on file at the Regional Planning Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Office of State Planning, where they can be consulted by state officials making decisions affecting the area.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_ See Continuation Sheets

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References See Continuation Sheets

A	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	B	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	D	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
E	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	F	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
G	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	H	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheets.

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

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynne E. Monroe, Director, Historic Preservation Program  
Kathryn Kuranda, Architectural Historian; Woodard Opéno, Architectural Historian

organization Rockingham Planning Commission date July 1982

street & number One Water Street telephone 603-778-0885

city or town Exeter state New Hampshire 03833

## 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

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development  
title NH State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 8, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Belknap, Jeremy. History of New Hampshire, Hampton, N.H.:  
P.E. Randall, 1973, reprint of 1792 edition

Clark, Charles E. The Eastern Frontier. New York, N.Y.:  
Alfred A. Knopf, 1970

Fitts, George W. "Notes of Sketches of South Hampton and Some of the Early Settlers."  
Archives of South Hampton library.

French, Frederick B. "The Birth of South Hampton" Old Home Week Day Program,  
August 25, 1926. Private collection of Mrs. Cyril Embree, South Hampton

French, Frederick B. "Origin of South Hampton" Newspaper clipping, 1914.  
Private collection of Mrs. Cyril Embree, South Hampton

Hazlett, Charles A. History of Rockingham County. Chicago, Ill.:  
Richmond-Arnold Publishing Company, 1915

Hoyt, David W. Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury. Providence, R.I.: 1897

Hunt, Elmer M. New Hampshire Town Names. Peterborough, N.H.:  
William L. Bauhan, publisher, 1970

Hurd, D. Hamilton. History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties. Philadelphia: 1885

Jewell, Benjamin R. Religious History of South Hampton. Exeter, N.H.  
Newsletter Steam Job Print, 1881

Lawrence, Robert F. New Hampshire Churches. Claremont Manufacturing Co., 1856

Merrill, Joseph. History of Amesbury and Merrimac, Massachusetts. Hampton, N.H.:  
Heritage Books, Inc., 1978 reprint of 1880 edition

Metcalf, Henry H. One Thousand New Hampshire Notables. New Hampshire Historical  
Society, Concord, N.H.: 1919

Perry, F. F. "The Story of the Pow Wow River" in "Fidelity Grange" No. 300  
South Hampton, N.H., Archives of South Hampton library

Pettingell, Charles Ireland. "PowWow River Industries." Essex Institute of  
Historical Collections, Vol. 82 (1946) pp. 307-333. Salem, Massachusetts

Pettingell, Charles Ireland. "The West Parish of Salisbury, Massachusetts, and the  
Rocky Hill Church." Essex Institute Historical Collections, Vol. 82 (1946),  
pp. 97-121. Salem, Massachusetts



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

2

Bibliographical References continued

Rae, Virginia Evans. "A History of South Hampton," manuscript, 1942.  
Archives of South Hampton library

Scott, Kenneth. "Colonial Innkeepers of New Hampshire," in "Historical New Hampshire," Vol. 19, no. 1 (Spring, 1964), pp. 3-49. Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire Historical Society

Strafford Rockingham Regional Council, South Hampton, Cultural Resource Survey, Inventory and Plan. Exeter, N.H., March 1980

Squires, James D. The Granite State of the United States, Vol. 1, New York, N.Y.: The American History Co., Inc., 1956

Miscellaneous

Jewell Family Register. Hartford, Connecticut: Press of Case, Lockwood and Company, 1860. Archives of South Hampton Library

"New Hampshire Farms for Summer Homes." Concord, N.H.: Rumford Press, 1902, for the State of New Hampshire

"Old Home Day Success." Newspaper clipping, August 21, 1908. Private collection of Mrs. Cyril Embree, South Hampton

"Secure a Home in New Hampshire." Manchester, N.H.: John B. Clarke, 1890, for the State of New Hampshire

"Socio-Economic Study: South Hampton, New Hampshire." Exeter, N.H." Southeastern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

"South Hampton and Her Sons Who Fought for Liberty." South Hampton, N.H.: 1919  
Archives of the South Hampton library

South Hampton Marriages and Baptisms, 1743-1801. Boston, 1889.  
Archives of the South Hampton library

Vital Records of South Hampton, New Hampshire, 1742-1886. Published by the Historical Committee of the South Hampton Friends of the Library, 1970.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description - Entire Multiple Resource Area:

Delineation of the boundaries for the five districts and individual site composing the South Hampton Multiple Resource Area were based on the following criteria: natural geographic boundaries, shifts in density and architectural character, architectural cohesion, use, scale, and legal property boundaries. The following boundary description is keyed to the South Hampton, New Hampshire, town tax maps.

The five districts and one individual site comprising the Multiple Resource District of South Hampton, New Hampshire, are bounded by the corporate limits of the town. The town of South Hampton occupies 5,000 acres adjoining the Massachusetts state border in southeastern Rockingham County. The community is bounded to the north by Kensington and East Kingston, New Hampshire; to the west by Newton, New Hampshire; to the south by Amesbury, Massachusetts; and to the east by Seabrook, New Hampshire.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

CMB NO. 1024-0018  
EXP. 12/31/84



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

121

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name South Hampton Multiple Resource Area  
State New Hampshire

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |                                  |                    |            |                                 |
|-----|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1.  | Town Center Historic District    | Substantive Review | Keeper     | <u>Ronan Van Duzend 4/11/83</u> |
|     |                                  |                    | Attest     |                                 |
| 2.  | Smith's Corner Historic District | Entered in the     | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 4/11/83</u>    |
|     |                                  | National Register  | Attest     |                                 |
| 3.  | Woodman Road Historic District   | Substantive Review | Keeper     | <u>Ronan Van Duzend 4/11/83</u> |
|     |                                  |                    | Attest     |                                 |
| 4.  | Highland Road Historic District  | Entered in the     | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 4/11/83</u>    |
|     |                                  | National Register  | Attest     |                                 |
| 5.  | Jewell Town District             | Substantive Review | Keeper     | <u>Ronan Van Duzend 4/11/83</u> |
|     |                                  |                    | Attest     |                                 |
| 6.  | Currier, Capt. Jonathan, House   | Entered in the     | for Keeper | <u>Delores Byers 4/11/83</u>    |
|     |                                  | National Register  | Attest     |                                 |
| 7.  |                                  |                    | Keeper     |                                 |
|     |                                  |                    | Attest     |                                 |
| 8.  |                                  |                    | Keeper     |                                 |
|     |                                  |                    | Attest     |                                 |
| 9.  |                                  |                    | Keeper     |                                 |
|     |                                  |                    | Attest     |                                 |
| 10. |                                  |                    | Keeper     |                                 |
|     |                                  |                    | Attest     |                                 |