

# HISTORICAL RESOURCES

(2003)

## ■ INTRODUCTION

This section of the Master Plan is intended to address the “*preservation, conservation, and use of natural and [hu]man-made resources.*” as provided by RSA 674: 2. The essential purpose developing this section of the Master Plan is twofold: (1) to enable the Planning Board to make better-informed decisions as to the development potential or lack thereof of certain land areas; and (2) to supply the Board and the Town with information and knowledge about important historic features that may need special protection. Decisions made on the basis of this information can then be implemented through a variety of techniques such as amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, or design/development standards written into the Site Plan Review Regulations to address specific concerns.

This section identifies and describes known information on a variety of historical resources in town considered special by the residents of Temple. The features identified and described herein are also illustrated on the *Zoning Map/Community Facilities* map following page 15.

### A Brief History

*Temple is one of the oldest and prettiest villages in Hillsborough County, a town of rustic charm, among hills and woods.*

—A History of Temple, New Hampshire, 1768-1976

Temple owes much of its charm to its agricultural roots. At one time almost all of Temple’s land area was devoted to farming. Summer pastures were located on the slopes of Temple Mountain and the other hills. Agriculture and farming reached a peak towards the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then started a gradual and steady decline to the present as much of the population moved west beyond New England to new lands that opened up after the Civil War.

The area of Temple was originally the eastern part of Peterboro Slip or “Sliptown” surveyed in October 1750 and bounded by Wilton, Peterborough, Lyndeborough, New Ipswich, Mason, and Jaffrey. The Peterboro Slip was divided along the Temple Mountain range and formed 2 separate townships: Sharon to the west and Temple to the East. Temple became incorporated in 1768 and included an unincorporated strip (1,600 acres) belonging to Wilton. The name was chosen to honor Sir John Temple, a native Bostonian. Additional annexations of land were made from 1781 to 1796.

Temple was founded on an agricultural economy with multiple generations assuming farms and businesses and living on original homesteads. In the early 1800s, when the region turned to development of industry and subsistence agriculture gave way to a cash economy, Temple remained agricultural and isolated.

Unlike many surrounding communities, Temple did not participate in the industrial and commercial development that replaced farming. Much of the land that was devoted to farming reverted to forest, although some was converted to housing. A small amount of agricultural activity continues today. This is mostly made up of small enterprises of dairy, livestock, hay, poultry, vegetables and orchards. Although these small farms are extremely important for the preservation of Temple’s cultural resources, this chapter is concerned primarily with raising awareness of the importance of identifying and protecting the historical remnants of Temple’s agricultural past.

## ■ SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC FEATURES

### Historic Village District

#### *Public Buildings:*

Town Hall built in 1842.

Church built in 1841–1842; Goodyear Chapel built in 1887. Friendship Hall was built in 1951/52 with an addition in 1998.

Willard's Store and Post Office (formerly a stable) built in 1805, rebuilt after a fire in 1882.

Mansfield Public Library built in 1890, with an addition in 1951 and 2002.

#### *Town Common:*

The “original” common was 2 ½ acres in size and was purchased as a meeting house site in 1768. Two meeting houses occupied the site; the first was present until about 1782; the second was razed in 1850. During this time the common area was used as a training ground or muster field for local militia.

The triangle of land now considered the Temple Common was depicted for the first time in the Hillsborough County map of Temple, 1858. The first monument was erected in 1872 and other improvements were made. The Common was officially dedicated on July 4, 1873. Kerosene streetlights were present by 1903. Flagpole in front of the Town Hall was set in a millstone base from Joseph Putnam in 1770 and dedicated to the town by the Barry family in 1895.

The Temple common was reestablished in 1910 to comprise the smaller currently fenced triangular area. Electrical lines were purposely excluded from the area in 1927. Historical uses included weighing hay (weigh station still visible), providing water for animals, and housing the volunteer fire department 1948-1949. The building of the fire department was moved to its present site on Rt. 45. Today, the Common is used for a variety of cultural events and is maintained by the Village Green Committee, and the Highway Department.

#### *Monuments:*

Soldier's Monument on Common dedicated on July 4, 1872, to honor Temple's Veterans, 2 cannons and 2 stacks of cannon balls placed in June 1889 on west side of central monument. The balls were cemented in 1962.

Large monument on south end commemorates Revolutionary War soldiers and monument at north end honors 7 soldiers of the War of 1812. Both dedicated in 1901.

Large boulder with bronze plaque to honor WWI veterans and Spanish-American War veterans.

Temple Veteran's Memorial dedicated in 2001 stands in front of the Town Hall to honor veterans from WWI to the present (and future).

### National Historic Sites

New England Glass Works established in Temple by Robert Hewes of Boston in 1780-1782 as one of the first glass manufactory sites in the U.S. Site partially excavated in 1970s by Boston University. Temple glass is highly valued today due to its rarity.

## **National Register of Historic Places**

The Birchwood Inn built in 1775 contains murals by Rufus Porter.

## **Historic Homes**

### ***Built in 1700s\*:***

Ball-Pratt house on Stone Lane  
Barnes-LaPree house on Hill Road  
Cobb-Sylvian house on Rte 45  
Colburn-Weston house on Colburn Road  
Cummings-Lee house on East Road  
Cutter-Hollister house on Vinton Lane  
Cutter-McAdoo house on Cutter Road  
Dinsmore-Sargent house on Fish Road  
Drury-Mirabella house on West Road  
Edwards-Lukas Foundation house on Memorial Drive  
Emery-Phillips house on Moran Road  
Felt-Byram house on Route 45  
Felt-Tobey-Scott house on East Road  
Fiske-Lukas Foundation house (Maynard house/Echo Farm) on Memorial Drive  
Foster-Karl house on Foster Road  
Foster-Fiske house on General Miller Hwy.  
Gardner-Carpenter house on Hadley Hwy.  
General Miller House (Marshall/Edwards-Miller- Friede/Beaudoin) on General Miller Hwy;  
functioned as store and potashery (pearl ashery).  
Goodale-Blood/Caney house on Blood Road  
Griffin-Lewis house on Old Revolutionary Road  
Heald-Bay house on Webster Hwy (constructed from cider mill)  
Heald-Copertino house on Webster Hwy  
Heald-Fox house on Old Revolutionary Road; built from oldest framed building in Temple; timbers  
moved from original location west along road to present location.  
Heald-Hawkins house on Old Revolutionary Road  
Heald-Whiting house on Old Revolutionary Road; functioned as store, inn, and tavern.  
Holt-Moore house on Colburn Road  
Howard-Davis house on Kendall Road  
Jewett-Munk house on Kendall Road  
Johnson-Whitcomb house on Colburn Road  
Killam-Kantner house on Derbyshire Lane  
Killam-Kantner house on Converse Road  
Lowell-Treadwell house on Old Revolutionary Road  
Mansur, Sr.-Bradler and Mansur, Sr.-Bradler houses on East Road  
Marshall-Mazza house Thomas Maynard Drive  
Miles-Guy house/Noah Miles parsonage on Leighton Lane  
Parlin-Pierce house on Mansfield Road  
Perkins-Wegmueller house on Tainter Lane  
Putnam-Barry house on Putnam Road  
Putnam-McDaniel house on Webster Hwy.  
Searle-Monzies house on Mansfield Road  
Severance-Quinn on Cutter Road

Shattuck-Henderson house on Rte 45  
Spafford (Spofford)-King house on Webster Hwy.  
Spofford-Klinck house on West Road  
Stickney-Bigelow/Mansfield house on East Road  
Tenney-Wolbers house on Hill Road  
Tenney-Ulch house on General Miller Hwy.  
Wheeler-Banks house on Main St.

***Built in 1800s\*:***

Barry House on Putnam Road. Functioned as a potashery, store, inn  
Child/Heald-Odell house on Old Peterborough Road  
Clement-Burnham house on West Road  
Drury-Doyle house on Rte 45  
Fiske house on General Miller Hwy.  
Hadley-Willard on Hadley Hwy  
Hawkins-Clements house on Hadley Hwy.  
Hawkins-Forrest house on Hadley Hwy.  
Howard-Davis house on Kendall Road.  
Killam-Head/Miller Head house on Rte 45  
Laws-Wright/Culliton house on Hadley Hwy.  
Lucy Heald House/Congregational Parsonage and barn on Rte 45  
Parkhurst-Sartell house on East Road  
Searle-LeBel house on General Miller Hwy.  
Searle-Pickman/Downs house on Colburn Road  
Shaw-Schubert house (Blacksmith Shop)  
Sheldon-Ricci/Lycyniak house on Hadley Hwy.  
Spofford-Felt house on Rte. 45; contains building materials from Felt-Tobey-Scott house  
Spofford-Areias house on West Road

\* Dates are approximate due to uncertainty of original date of construction and alteration and/or modification of original structures.

**Historic Schoolhouses**

District No. 1 schoolhouse built in 1805 on Hadley Hwy (Davidson-Benotti).  
District No. 2 schoolhouse built in 1805 on Fish Road (Sanford-Barnhisel/Bauchat house). An earlier structure was built across the road in the 1700s.  
District No. 3 schoolhouse built on East Road in 1799 by Ebenezer Edwards and moved across the road in 1919 to its present site (Leighton-Marchuk house). An earlier structure was built in 1782.  
District No. 4 schoolhouse built in 1855 moved to Hwy. 101 as a dwelling (Messing house) in 1931, near Temple Cabins. An earlier structure built in 1806 was moved from Howard Hill Road to Colburn Road before 1855 (part of the Colburn-Chemello house).  
District No. 5 schoolhouse built in 1900 on Webster Hwy near Heald-Cupertino residence, moved in the 1930s, and remodeled into Wildes residence on Hill Road.  
District No. 6 schoolhouse built around 1820 on Converse Road and moved across road in 1800s. Building was moved to the Village Center in 2001.  
Central Schoolhouse built in 1918 on Hadley Hwy (Moses house).

### **Cemeteries**

Village Cemetery/Old Burying Ground with gate dedicated to "The Wives and Mothers of 1776." Many of the first settlers were buried here from 1772 until 1891. Located in the Historic Village District across from the Town Common.

North Cemetery with burials from 1794 to 1822 located on Converse Road.

East Cemetery with earliest burial in 1800. Town tomb is visible at SW corner. Located on Gen. Miller Road.

Miller Cemetery across from East Cemetery obtained in 1898.

### **Archaeological Districts**

Earliest settlement in Spofford Gap area of the Wapack Range (to become Temple and Sharon) on Old Todd Road (the Ashburnham-Peterborough Trail) with numerous cellar holes and mill sites. First deed issued to Joshua Todd in 1758 (first cider-maker in town). School was first kept at the Walton place, now a cellar hole. Area includes Maynard Inn cellar hole and Glassworks site dating to 1780s.

### **Historic Roads**

Old Todd Road was the first road cut through Temple from Groton through Townsend, MA, to New Ipswich and Sliptown (Temple/Sharon) to Peterborough. Originally the Ashburnham-Peterborough Trail). Currently called Old Street Road in Peterborough. Predates the survey of the area Peterboro Slip in 1750 and dates 1738-1739. No longer appears on maps of 1858 and 1892 and so assumed to be abandoned by the early 1800s.

Old Revolutionary Road was cut in 1760 by English Royal Militia headed by Ephraim Heald. Road becomes Bennington Battle Trail in Wilton. Used as a military highway to convey munitions and troops.

### **Historic Stone Structures**

Stone arch bridge on old 101 Hwy across Blood Brook.

Stone arch bridge on Memorial Drive off Rte. 45.

Cut-stone culvert/bridge/canal on Old Peterborough Road.

Cut-stone culvert on Webster Hwy/Revolutionary Road.

Cut-stone canal on Hadley Hwy across Kids/Temple Brook from the Balch, Bacon, and Walton grist, saw, and cider mill site.

### **Historic Mill Sites** (as of 1975)

Souhegan River Tributaries

Whiting Brook:

Whiting mill

Butterfield grist and saw mill

Joseph Putnam grist mill

Jacob Putnam cider and woodworking mill

Farrar grist mill

Elias Boynton grain and saw mill

Blood Brook:

Killam woodworking mill

Boynton mill

Saunders mill  
Barnes Brook:  
Ball grist and cider mill  
Balch, Bacon, and Walton grist, saw, and cider mill  
Barnes mill  
Gulf Brook:  
Snow-Dutton grist mill  
Contoocook River Tributaries  
Bacon grist mill  
Williams's mill  
Non-Water sites  
Searle first combination grist and saw mill  
Colburn cider mill  
Cragin woodworking mill  
Howard mill

### **Historic Recreation Areas**

#### ***Public:***

Kendall Ledges for education and picnicking  
Pack Monadnock, Miller State Park, picnicking

#### ***Private:***

Lythia Spring operated from 1891 to 1911 as a picnic grove and place to purchase lithia water. Business was abandoned when it was discovered that lithium was artificially added.

### **Other Historic Structures**

Animal Pound on Colburn Road built in 1815. Original structure on General Miller Hwy built in 1774 has some sections still visible.  
Dated marker on Fisk(e) Hill.

### **Selected References**

Blood, Henry Ames. 1860. *The History of Temple, NH*. Publisher, Boston, MA.  
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