

### Chapter III

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

### INTRODUCTION

Pembroke has a long and interesting history. Formally chartered in 1759, Pembroke was an industrial center for much of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Evidence of Pembroke's past exists in its historic homes, churches, village center, and even in the rural outskirts of town. The structures and sites that tell the story of Pembroke's history and culture are irreplaceable and need to be preserved as Pembroke grows and changes. This Chapter will identify Pembroke's historical and cultural resources and discuss how they can be preserved for the enjoyment and appreciation of future generations.

This Chapter was produced by a Subcommittee that researched the history of Pembroke, identified key sites and structures, and ultimately outlined steps that can be taken to preserve Pembroke's historic character. The Subcommittee examined when different parts of Pembroke were built and explored the cultural trends that influenced how and why various structures were built. The Chapter contains lists of historic resources, including significant buildings, mills, dams, and cemeteries. In addition, the Chapter lists important references such as books and maps that detail Pembroke's history.

Many of Pembroke's residents have lived in town all their lives (47% of respondents to the 2003 Community Survey have lived in town for 21 years or more) and want to see the Town retain its historic charm (when asked about desirability of historic preservation, the majority of survey respondents considered it desirable). Unfortunately, preserving a town's history and character is not an easy task. As individual properties are developed or redeveloped, it is difficult to track what historic resources may be lost. Often people find it easier to demolish historic sites and structures to make way for future uses than to preserve them. Historic structures can also be costly to maintain. So, while retaining the overall historic character of a town is generally supported by the community, the responsibility of doing so often comes down to individual property owners. For this reason, it is key to raise awareness about the importance of Pembroke's historic features and create incentives and guidelines for the preservation of them.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE CHAPTER AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

These Objectives were developed as a result of Subcommittee analysis and interpretation of the data contained within the following chapter and from concerns raised from Pembroke residents and landowners from the Community Survey. They are listed in the beginning to give the reader the opportunity to view the results without reading through the entire Chapter.

- To appropriately guide future Town development by identifying historic sites and resources that are integral to the community and character of Pembroke.
  - Require that developers contact the NH Division of Historical Resources to ascertain if any known archaeological sites are within the vicinity of new development.
  - Encourage developers and landowners to consider preserving the historic and cultural resources found upon the landscape by promotion and education.
  - Require within the Site Plan Review and Subdivision Regulations that developers identify the historic and cultural resources of the property, possibly including photographs for posterity.
  - Encourage legislation to introduce an incentive for preservation of archaeological and historic resources on private property.
- To develop measures for retaining the visual quality and character of the landscape of Pembroke.
  - Preserve existing range roads as Class VI roads or as Class B trails, or upgrade only if necessary while preserving the historical integrity of the roadway.
  - Identify and designate scenic roads within the community to protect shade trees and stonewalls and other cultural landscape features.
  - Protect and preserve stone walls along range roads and encourage landowners to consider retaining or rebuilding stone walls during alteration or development.
  - Develop architectural design guidelines to enhance the aesthetics, character, and existing design of residences and businesses in the Suncook Village area.
  - Improve the language of the Architectural Overlay District to stipulate aesthetic guidelines which are appropriate for preserving existing historic architecture and encouraging the adherence of the guidelines by new development.
  - Encourage the granting of discretionary preservation easements as authorized under RSA 79-D.

- To raise the awareness of the historic resources of the community.
  - Improve the exhibits of town artifacts and make them more accessible to the public.
  - Encourage town administration to distribute materials to property owners and builders relating to historic and cultural resources and grant opportunities for preserving these features.
  - Communicate with the NH Division of Historical Resources on a regular basis to obtain current information on resource preservation that can be disseminated to the public.
  - Study the establishment of a Pembroke Heritage Commission
  - Plan for a town-wide survey of historic structures.
  - Cooperate with other towns in seeking legislation to authorize towns to adopt comprehensive policies for managing Class VI roads.

### **COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

Although there was no specific section within the March 2003 Community Survey dedicated to historical resources or a sense of community, a number of questions had components that are relevant to this Chapter. The full survey results are found within the **APPENDIX CHAPTER**.

#### **What general area to do you consider yourself a resident of?**

The majority of respondents indicated they lived within the Pembroke Street area (35.8%), followed by the Upland Area (26.5%). Additional responses were in the Pembroke Village Area (20.9%) and the Buck Street Area (16.8%).

#### **How long have you lived in Pembroke?**

Over 47% of respondents have resided in Town 21 or more years. Another 33% have resided in Pembroke between six to 20 years. The last 20% who responded to the survey have lived in Town from zero to five years.

#### **What do you consider the desirable features of the Town of Pembroke?**

This question spanned many different topics. With respect to history and culture, respondents felt that People/Community Spirit were highly desirable (37.5%) and of medium desirability (47.4%). People also felt that Historical Character was highly desirable at 32.5% and was of medium desirability at 42.3%. In comparison to all of the other topics, these history and culture items fell within the medium range of importance.

#### **Please indicate which of the following you would like the Town to develop and/or improve.**

This question also offered a list of various topics in Pembroke. The responses to Preservation of Historic Sites and Buildings were 45.9% at high desirability and 38.7% at medium desirability. Expansion or New Town Cemeteries, the other topic referencing Pembroke's history and culture, was of low desirability at 63.3%. In comparison to all other topics, the Preservation question scored within the higher range of importance and the Cemetery question was the single most lowest priority in importance.

**In order to help Town Officials better direct their efforts, please rate the following municipal services.** Historic Preservation activities were considered Good (27.9%) and Fair (36.7%). In comparison to all other services, it ranked within the medium range of satisfaction.

### **BRIEF HISTORICAL PROFILE OF PEMBROKE**

Pembroke's history begins in 1725 when Captain John Lovewell (sometimes spelled "Lovell") "and his intrepid band of Indian fighters recruited from the towns around Dunstable (Mass.), decided to drive the Indians out of what is now New Hampshire." Lovewell died in a bitterly contested fight with Native American Indians near Conway, NH; while this battle was somewhat inconclusive as to its victors, the Indians retreated to Quebec and European settlement began.

In 1728, the Legislature of the Province of Massachusetts granted to survivors of Lovewell's band, and heirs of nonsurvivors, the land forming present-day Pembroke. "Lovewell's Township" soon changed its name to "Suncook." However, a year earlier the New Hampshire government had granted the some of the same land as the Town of Bow. This kind of controversy was not uncommon during the early days of settlement in central New Hampshire and, in Pembroke's case, the situation was settled amicably.

Intra-town tension developed as early as 1733 when the settlers from Massachusetts built a Congregational meeting house. It stood "at the northeast corner of the graveyard, on Main Street, not far from the Meeting-house brook, to which it gave the name". In 1736 the Congregationalists chose Rev. Aaron Whittemore to be pastor. Tension arose from the fact that there were almost as many Presbyterians in the settlement as Congregationalists. The Presbyterians objected to being taxed for support of the Congregational minister (a requirement for all citizens regardless of church affiliation). Sometime near the period of incorporation, the Presbyterians built their own meeting house "on a little knoll covered with pine grove on the west side of Pembroke." (see map item #59) This controversy faded with the building of the Presbyterian meeting house. In subsequent years, it faded even more; eventually, the Congregational and Presbyterian churches were united in Pembroke.

It was not until 1759 that the Town of Pembroke was formally chartered under its present name and defined as the area of land that "took in part of Bow east of the Merrimack River and south of the Soucook River". It also included "a place called Buck Street". Governor Benning Wentworth named this area "Pembroke" in honor of the Earl of Pembroke who had been one of his supporters. With this act, "Suncook, as a township, became no more. However, it lived on in the common use of the day as a village partly within the Town of Pembroke". Since that time, "Suncook Village" has been the most populous part of Pembroke.

The first census, taken in Pembroke in the year 1767, is as follows: 49 unmarried and 85 married men between 16 and 60 years of age; 16 men over 60; 134 boys under 16; 97 married and 169 unmarried females; five (5) widows, and two (2) slaves. The total population was 557 people.

The Revolutionary War found men from Pembroke fighting in the Bunker Hill Campaign, the Quebec Campaign, and the Battle of Bennington.

Pembroke's cotton spinning and weaving industry began with the establishment of the Pembroke Cotton Factory Company, under the management of Caleb Stark, at the lower falls of the Suncook River in 1811. Brick-making was carried out by many individuals who used clay from along the riverbank to produce the product. Brick-making was a large source of local employment throughout the 19th century in Pembroke.

The formation of Pembroke Academy in 1818 was one of the 19th century's most significant events in Pembroke. Dr. Abel Blanchard was the school's founder and benefactor, having left provision in his will for the establishment of a "public school or academy". Fire destroyed earlier Academy buildings, but the Academy continues to be a vital institution in Pembroke.

Railroads and electric trolley lines played an important part in the history of Pembroke. In 1852, the Portsmouth to Concord Railroad passed through the southern part of town, with a station in Suncook Village. The Suncook Valley Railroad, extending northward to Pittsfield and Barnstead, was completed in 1869. Later, in the 20th century, the junction of Pembroke Street and Whittemore Road was known as Hobbs Corner. Hobbs Corner was the turn-off for the trolley running from Pembroke Street onto Whittemore Road, across the Merrimack River and on to Concord. The trolley serviced Concord and towns south to Manchester from about 1902 until 1927 at which time buses took over.

After 1860, Pembroke saw the arrival of French-Canadians who were recruited to work in the textile mills. On January 11, 1885, French-Canadians formed an association, "Le Cercle Dramatique et Litteraire", for mutual instruction and amusement. They produced plays and fostered artistic awareness. On September 9, 1888, they started a library to include French and English works and eventually holding about 600 volumes. The Franco-American presence in Pembroke enriched the town culturally and helped to make it a unique place in which to live in central New Hampshire.

## HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Many of the historical and cultural sites noted in this section are depicted on the *Historic and Cultural Resources Map*. On the map the sites are given an index number. The index number is listed next to the site name in the text below for cross referencing purposes.

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

The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program that coordinates and supports public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the US Department of the Interior.

In order to promote places of historic importance through National Historic Register designation, a research and writing effort is required of townspeople or consultants. Once a property is listed, the benefits are: recognition that a property is of significance to the Nation, the State, or the community; consideration in the planning for Federal or federally assisted projects; eligibility for Federal tax benefits; and qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.

Table III-1 lists the National Register sites in Pembroke. In April 2004 a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) was submitted to the NH Division of Historical Resources for eligibility of the commercial center of Suncook Village to the National Register of Historic Places. This application was completed by the *Meet Me in Suncook* committee with the help of a consultant. The application will be reviewed by state staff and then edited as needed. The State Historical Resources Council was planning to review the application in August 2004. It will then be sent on to the National Park Service. The listing should become official in Fall, 2004.

Table III-1  
National Register of Historic Site Locations in Pembroke

National Register Entry	Date Listed	Location
Noyes Block (two buildings)	02/27/86	48 Glass Street
Pembroke Mill (Emerson Mill)	09/12/85	100 Main Street, Corner of Front & Main
Suncook Village Core District	in progress	Suncook Village

*Source: National Register of Historic Places Database, 03/04*

### State of New Hampshire Markers

New Hampshire's state highway historical marker program is administered by the NH Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR). Marker requests are reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer; costs of the markers are borne either by the Transportation Fund or the sponsoring municipality/organization. Requests for markers must include draft text for the marker, research and justification, and a petition signed by at least 20 persons. There are two state historical markers in Town.

Table III-2  
State Historical Markers in Pembroke

State Historical Marker	Date Erected	Location
First Church and Meetinghouse	1982	US Route 3 adjacent to Whittemore Homestead
Suncook Village	2003	Corner of Main and Union Streets

*Source: Subcommittee Input; NH Division of Historical Resources archives*

The text marker of the First Church and Meetinghouse reads: "Site of the First Meetinghouse built on The Suncook Grant. Built in 1733, it was moved, rebuilt and enlarged several times. Its timbers were finally used in the red barn northwest of the site. The Christian community it nurtured still exists and flourishes as The First Congregational Church of Pembroke, United Church of Christ."

The marker of Suncook Village reads: “The waters of Suncook River were harnessed in the 1730s, eventually powering saw and grist mills, forge shops, and paper mills. The first cotton factory, owned by Major Caleb Stark, was built here in 1811. By 1900, Pembroke Mill, Webster Mill, and China Mill employed more than 1,500 workers, mostly recruited from the Province of Quebec, to make 35 million yards of cotton cloth each year (see map index #V6, #V18, and #V4). Suncook's commercial center, built of native brick and granite, attained its present appearance by 1887. It is one of the best-preserved small manufacturing villages in New Hampshire.”

### Local Markers

Local markers are erected by townspeople to celebrate the uniqueness of the community and its heritage. Twenty-four such local markers are known to exist in Pembroke. These are listed in Table III-3 below. Most of these sites are also shown on the *Historic and Cultural Resources Map*. The style of and information on each marker varies.

Table III-3  
Local Historical Markers in Pembroke

Local Historical Marker	Date Erected	Location	Type of Marker
A Symbol of Freedom-Dedicated to all Veterans of World War II	1994	Main Street & Glass Street at Legion Square	Plaque on antiaircraft cannon
Burial site of Hermon Fife, Inventor of the Revolver		Old North Pembroke Cemetery, 1/2 mile south of Cross Country Road	White marble obelisk grave marker
Dedicated to Jacob Chase, retired from Pembroke Fire Dept. over 47 years	1987	Pembroke Street (US 3) in front of fire station	Inscribed granite
Dedicated to Veterans of Pembroke Who Served in All Wars		Main Street & Broadway at Lamiette Square	Carved granite
George M. Lamiette Square		Broadway at Main Street	Town marker
In Memory of all Veterans of WW I, WW II, Korean War, Vietnam War		Pembroke Street (US 3) and Broadway	Inscribed granite block
In Memory of Kay Fuller, 1921-1985, District 5 American Legion		Broadway and Main Street at Veterans Park (Lamiette Square)	Carved granite
In Memory of Our Departed Members-J J Maguire Post 28 American Legion		Main Street and Glass Street at Legion Square	Carved granite
In Memory of Shawn Noel, 1968-1993 Persian Gulf Veteran	1994	Main Street and Broadway at Veterans Park (Lamiette Square)	Inscribed granite block
Kimball Tavern (First House in Town with Double Walls)		Pembroke Street (US 3) 500 feet north of Dearborn Road	Sign on post
Lafayette's Tour		Main Street on facade of #121	Plaque on building
Marker denoting northern boundary of Massachusetts Bay Colony		Brush Road, approximately 1/4 mile east of Fourth Range Road	Stone boundary marker
Memory of Soldiers & Sailors Served in War 1776, 1812, 1846, 1861, 1898		Pembroke Street (US 3) and Broadway at Pembroke Park	Carved granite with statue
Milestone, 1793 ("1793, 19 to CMH, 35 M to H, 6 M to C, Pembroke, DK")	1793	Pembroke Street (US 3) 500 feet north of Dearborn Road	Carved granite tablet
Pembroke Fire Department, 100th Anniversary	1969	Pembroke Street (US 3) at Pembroke Fire Station	Plaque on stone



Local Historical Marker (continued)	Date Erected	Location	Type of Marker
Sally Cochran Burial Site, Murdered by Mr. Abraham Prescott	1833	Old North Pembroke Cemetery, 1/2 mile south of Cross Country Rd	Grave marker
Site of Hermon Fife House, inventor of revolver		Cross Country Road at Junction with Sixth Range Road	Stone foundation
Site of Josie A. Langmaid Murder, Pembroke Academy student killed on way to school, 1875		Academy Road, 3/4 mile east of US 3	Granite shaft
Site of Sally Cochran murder	1833	Off North Pembroke Road, 1/4 mile into woods near Ames Brook	1 x 1x 3 granite post
SP4 Ernest Ulric Gamelin Park	1976	Memorial Field at west end of Pleasant Street	Inscribed granite
To Those Who Served, from the Citizens of Pembroke and Allenstown	1985	Buck Street at entrance to Evergreen Cemetery	Inscribed granite block
To Those Who Served, from the Citizens of Pembroke and Allenstown	1985	Buck Street at entrance to Buck Street Cemetery	Inscribed granite block
To Those Who Served, from the Citizens of Pembroke and Allenstown	1984	Pembroke Street (US 3) at entrance to Pembroke Street Cemetery	Inscribed granite block
Whittemore Memorial Stone		Pembroke Street (US 3) just north of Pembroke Street Cemetery	Plaque on boulder
World War II antiaircraft gun	1994	Main Street and Glass Street at Legion Square	Cannon on base

Sources: Subcommittee Input; NH DOT Database (provided by NH DHR)

### Significant Historic Sites and Structures

Many sites and structures document early community of Pembroke. They are listed here in Table III-4, and many are depicted on the *Historic and Cultural Resources Map*.

Table III-4  
Significant Historical Sites Structures in Pembroke

Historic Structure or Site	Location
Clock Tower	116 Main Street
China Mill	Downstream and across from Pembroke Mill
Congregational Church	310 Pembroke Street
Downtown Suncook Village Area	Suncook Village
Kimball's Tavern	223 Pembroke Street
Langmaid Monument	Academy Road
Old Buck Street Schoolhouse/Historical Society	311 Pembroke Street
Pembroke Academy	209 Pembroke Road
Pembroke Mill & Dam	Main and Front Streets
Pembroke Water Works	212 Main Street
Pembroke Town Pound	Pembroke Hill Road
Town Hall	311 Pembroke Street
Whittemore Homestead & Barn (First Meeting House)	374 Pembroke Street

Sources: 2004 Hazard Mitigation Plan; Subcommittee Input; Pembroke Town History

### **Archaeological Sites and Resources**

Much of Pembroke's history and prehistory lie unseen beneath the soil or in overlooked cellar holes and foundations. These sites trace the story of human occupancy of the land that is now Pembroke over thousands of years, from the arrival of Native American Indians following the withdrawal of glacial ice, down to the first European settlements, and on through the ages of agricultural and industrial prosperity.

Pembroke is fortunate in being bounded by three rivers: the Soucook on the west, the Merrimack on the southwest, and the Suncook on the southeast. These waters made the area attractive to human occupancy in all periods.

Deliberately or inadvertently, all human beings leave behind them a trail of discarded or lost items and abandoned structures. All these artifacts embody evidence of their date of production and the technologies that shaped them. The trained eye can extract this information, interpreting for current generations the lives, occupations, skills, and aesthetic language of generations who lived decades, centuries, or millennia ago.

When interpreted by trained individuals, archaeological resources have the ability to broaden our perspectives by freeing us from the limitations of our own time and place. These resources can sharpen our perception of change, and can document the long-term causes and effects of human activity. They can teach us lessons of human ecology, illustrating both successful and unsuccessful patterns of interaction between human beings and their environment.

The archaeological record of any community is valuable yet fragile. To yield its greatest potential of information, an archaeological site must remain undisturbed until circumstances may require its investigation by trained specialists. A number of archaeological resources in New Hampshire have been greatly diminished in value, or virtually destroyed, through disturbance by looters or treasure hunters. For this reason, state and federal laws protect sites that lie under public lands or waters. The same laws protect archaeological resources that may lie on private property but are affected by state or federal funding, activities, licenses, or permits.

A private property owner who does not employ government funding, or who does not need a government permit to carry out a given activity, is of course free to decide how to treat archaeological resources on his own land. But once an archaeological site is interfered with or destroyed through exploration or excavation, some or all of the information that is inherent in that site is lost forever. Archaeological resources are non-renewable resources.

For this reason, archaeologists and historians universally urge all private property owners to refrain from investigating known or suspected archaeological sites except under the guidance of a trained archaeologist. The best protection for archaeological resources is almost always to leave them alone until a genuine need, either for information or for changes to the land, arises at some future time. If such sites are discovered by accident and need to be evaluated and returned to a secure condition, landowners are asked to contact the New Hampshire State Archaeologist at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, 19 Pillsbury Street, P. O. Box 2043, Concord, NH 03302-2043; tel.: (603) 271-3483.

Private landowners who may wish to learn more about archaeology, or to receive training in responsible methods of researching archaeological resources, are encouraged to join one of several archaeological summer field schools that are offered in New Hampshire each year, or to contact SCRAP (the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program) at the address or telephone number given above, or at the New Hampshire State Government website, under “Historical Resources.” SCRAP provides training through its summer field schools, offers opportunities to work in archaeological curation, and also, through a total of fourteen workshop offerings, provides certification for avocational archaeologists.

#### Pembroke’s Prehistoric Archaeological Resources

At every cultural period from nearly 14,000 years ago down to the time of contact with European immigrants in the 1600s, Native American Indian activity focused on flowing streams and wetlands, especially the former. Research has demonstrated that native occupation of sites along streams, especially just below natural rapids or waterfalls, persisted over thousands of years. The intensity and duration of the use of such sites show that New Hampshire’s aboriginal population derived much nourishment from the fish and eels that could be caught at these natural river barriers. Especially important were the anadromous fish that left the ocean each year to migrate upstream to spawn at the place of their birth. Both Native Americans and early Europeans congregated at rapids and the confluence of rivers and tributaries at about the time the shadblush blooms in May, gathering huge harvests of these migrating species.

Throughout their long history on the land that is now Pembroke, Native American Indians typically occupied sites near these falls, rapids, or stream junctures. Extensive archaeological testing along the Merrimack Valley has shown that these people tended to establish themselves on natural river terraces located at a modest elevation above the streams. Most identified sites of long-term Native American occupancy are located half a mile or less from the Merrimack, on flat terraces that stand less than one hundred feet above the present-day water elevation of the river.<sup>1</sup>

With its extensive Merrimack River frontage downstream from Garvin’s Falls, and with its two other boundary streams, Pembroke clearly offers a high potential for prehistoric archaeological sites. A number of potential locations for such sites have been subjected to potentially damaging activities over the years, and many such sites have probably been destroyed. The building and rebuilding of Suncook Village in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, clay excavation for brick manufacturing along the Merrimack frontage in the nineteenth century, the grading of Memorial Field and the landscaping of Plausawa Country Club in recent years, and ongoing sand and gravel mining along both the Merrimack and the Soucook Rivers have undoubtedly destroyed many prehistoric sites and deprived posterity of the information they might have offered.

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<sup>1</sup> Victoria B. Kenyon, “Prehistoric Archaeology in the Merrimack River Valley,” *Man in the Northeast* 25 (Spring 1983): 1-5; Kenyon and Patricia F. McDowell, “Environmental Setting of Merrimack River Valley Prehistoric Sites,” *ibid.*: 7-23.

### Pembroke's Historic Archaeological Resources

The land area of Pembroke is rich in the archaeology of historic settlement. As noted in the section of this chapter that deals with architecture in Pembroke, certain areas of town have historically seen greater concentrations of settlement and activity than have others. These intensively occupied areas will naturally have a higher archaeological potential than will areas that served only agricultural uses, perhaps followed by eventual abandonment and reforestation. On the other hand, the constant building and rebuilding of places like Suncook Village may have left that district with a lesser degree of archaeological integrity than might be found at some long-abandoned farmstead.

Pembroke is especially fortunate in having a reliable guide to those historic sites that date before 1895. That guide is offered by the *History of Pembroke, N. H., 1730-1895*, written by the Rev. N. F. Carter and Hon. Trueworthy L. Fowler. The latter, a lifelong resident of North Pembroke, held many town offices and was a devoted local historian. Two maps and map keys were included in the *History*, one depicting the entire township and the other documenting Suncook Village. The map keys describe not only the buildings that occupied each site in 1895, but outline the land titles of each parcel and mention earlier buildings that had stood on the same spot. Further, the maps describe sites that had already been abandoned, and their buildings lost, by 1895. Thus, the two maps and their descriptive keys offer a comprehensive guide to nearly every site that had been occupied in town down to the end of the nineteenth century, including those that had already been transformed through abandonment into archaeological sites.

Until the mid-to-late twentieth century, threats to historic archaeological sites were traditionally few, at least in the rural parts of town. Occasionally, a well or a cellar hole might have been filled to reduce a hazard. But generally, the progressive abandonment of agriculture and the slow reforestation of former fields and pastures permitted old cellar holes, foundations, wells, and stone walls to lie unmolested and largely forgotten and unseen except by hunters and explorers.

In recent decades, however, the rapid construction of new homes in formerly undisturbed areas has posed a threat to old sites. Heavy earth-moving equipment is commonly used in the excavation of basements, the creation of improved roads and driveways, and the reshaping of natural land contours. Large-scale construction of new homes by these means has already resulted in the loss of archaeological sites and stone ruins, as has the creation of graded lawns around new houses. As a single example, the high split stone foundation walls of the furniture shop (map #311½) of Jeremiah Fife (1779-1852) on Cross Country Road disappeared soon after the construction of new houses in the neighborhood.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> For information on Fife, see D. Hamilton Hurd, ed., *History of Belknap and Merrimack Counties, New Hampshire* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Company, 1885), p. 584.

### Archaeological Research

Because it has been the site of a number of federally-funded highway and bridge projects or of housing projects that have required federal permits, and because its river frontage has been transected by a gas transmission pipeline, Pembroke has been the focus of a number of archaeological investigations. Reports of most of these investigations, numbering over twenty as of 2004, are on file at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, 19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03302-2043. Many of these site reports were written or co-authored by Victoria Bunker Kenyon. Published articles relating to Pembroke's archaeology, several of them by Ms. Kenyon, are cited in the *Historical Documents or Studies* section.

### **Range Roads in Pembroke**

Newcomers to Pembroke quickly encounter the term "range road." Most of the town's principal roads retain designations like "Third Range Road" or "Fourth Range Road." Even the road commonly known as "North Pembroke Road" bears the alternate name of "Eighth Range Road."

Range roads are defined as parallel highways that provide (or once provided) access to rows or ranges of farm lots of generally regular size. To connect these parallel highways, other roads were laid out at right angles, as needed. These right-angle connectors are often called "cross range roads." Examples of cross range roads in Pembroke are Brickett Hill Road, Cross Country Road, and Pembroke Hill Road. Together, Pembroke's range roads, cross range roads, and farm lots superimpose a grid on the land. This grid is a clue to the planning rationale that governed the granting of the town's lands beginning in 1730.

Pembroke has one of the earliest, most regular, and best-preserved systems of range roads and cross range roads to survive anywhere in New Hampshire. In some cases, these roads survive only as nearly abandoned lanes between parallel stone walls, more frequented by hunters or loggers than by ordinary travelers. In other cases, the range roads are our principal routes of automobile travel and of access to homes and businesses.

The planners of most New Hampshire towns repudiated the older New England ideal, seen in Massachusetts and Connecticut during the 1600s, of keeping all settlers together in a village of tiny house lots. In such older communities, most of the land was held in common. Outlying common lands were parceled out as private property over time, but only after the town's population had outgrown the central lands, near the village. These older towns, based on an English model, are called "nucleated townships."

By contrast, most New Hampshire towns are of a type called "range townships."<sup>3</sup> In the fully developed range township, all land was granted to private shareholders or "proprietors" before settlement began. Maps were drawn, superimposing a grid of uniform-sized farmsteads across the town's territory. Surveyors marked out the corners of each lot. Between the rows or ranges of lots, the surveyors reserved rangeways or range roads to provide access to each lot.

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<sup>3</sup> For a history of the development of the range township in New Hampshire, see James L. Garvin, "The Range Township in Eighteenth-Century New Hampshire," *New England Prospect: Maps Place Names, and the Historical Landscape*: Volume 5 of The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife Annual Proceedings, 1980, pp. 47-68.

Often two or four rods in width (a rod is 16.5 feet), these range roads were mapped as perfectly straight corridors of land. As actually built, range roads frequently found their ideal straightness defeated by New Hampshire's topography of hills, ledges, and bogs. Even in Pembroke, with its strong adherence to the ideal of rectilinear town layout, the range roads sometimes veer from a straight line to avoid difficult terrain.

Experiments with the range township began in New Hampshire when the provincial government began to lay out a tier of grants beyond the western limits of the original coastal communities. In May, 1722, the province issued charters to Chester, Nottingham, Barrington, and Rochester. Although Chester and Nottingham were planned with central villages, the majority of their lands were parceled out in ranges of large farmsteads. Barrington and Rochester dispensed with village lots altogether, simply laying out ranges of large farms.

At this period, Massachusetts claimed all the land that lay west of a line drawn three miles to the north and east of the Merrimack River. Thus, Massachusetts granted most of the land that became present-day Pembroke, and the first proprietors and settlers were mostly from Massachusetts.<sup>4</sup> In 1728, the Massachusetts House of Representatives responded to a petition from surviving soldiers who had fought Indians in two skirmishes in present-day Wakefield, New Hampshire, and Fryeburg, Maine, in 1725. These soldiers asked for the grant of land just downriver from the already granted township of Pennycook, later Concord. The Massachusetts House of Representatives confirmed the grant, which was known by the names of Suncook or Lovewell's Town. The latter name commemorates Captain John Lovewell of Dunstable, the commander of the two expeditions against the Indians.

In 1730, the grantees of Suncook employed surveyors Stephen Hosmer and Jonas Houghton to lay out lots in part of the area that would become Pembroke.<sup>5</sup> Their "first division" of lots was laid out in four straight ranges, extending as far northeasterly from the Merrimack River as today's Fourth Range Road. Additional ranges, extending toward the Chichester town line, were laid out by surveyor Samuel Chandler in 1736.<sup>6</sup> The proprietors of Suncook may have been influenced by similar road and lot arrangements in towns like Barrington and Rochester. In common with those towns, the surveyors of Suncook created a road system that is one of the most visibly rectilinear in all of New Hampshire.

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<sup>4</sup> Rev. N. F. Carter and Trueworthy L. Fowler, *History of Pembroke, N. H., 1730-1895* (Concord, N. H.: Republican Press Association, 1895; reprinted by the Allenstown-Pembroke Bicentennial Committee, 1976), pp. 3-71; New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers, Vol. 24, *Town Charters, Including Grants of Territory within the Present Limits of New Hampshire made by the Government of Massachusetts, and a Portion of the Grants and Charters Issued by the Government of New Hampshire* (Concord, N. H.: Edward N. Pearson, 1894), pp. 233-249; *Ibid.*, Vol. 25, *Town Charters Granted Within the Limits of New Hampshire* (Concord, N. H.: Edward N. Pearson, 1895), pp. 422-423.

<sup>5</sup> Carter and Fowler, *History of Pembroke*, p. 25.

<sup>6</sup> Carter and Fowler, *History of Pembroke*, p. 34.

The territory of the Suncook grant fell under the jurisdiction of the Province of New Hampshire when George II established the present-day boundary between New Hampshire and Massachusetts in 1740. Acting on the petition of those who had cleared and settled the land, the Province of New Hampshire incorporated the Town of Pembroke in 1759. The greater part of the territory of Pembroke, as it was incorporated, was the land of the old township of Suncook. The road system of Pembroke retained the old Suncook layout of the 1730s, and that plan persists today.<sup>7</sup> The system of parallel roads is thus a visible reflection of Pembroke's earliest years of settlement. The careful preservation of that system, both for highway and for trail uses, should be a conscious tribute by present and future generations to the first planners and settlers of the land that became Pembroke.

### Stone Walls in Pembroke

Pembroke has some of the finest stone walls in the Merrimack Valley. The impressiveness of these structures is enhanced by the fact that many of them border the straight roads and rectangular fields that were dictated by Pembroke's range township layout (see "Pembroke Range Roads"). The walls thus became a stone grid that makes the rectilinear town plan visible across our landscape.

In 1822, at a time when settlers were still clearing new land in New Hampshire, a writer for the journal of the State Board of Agriculture admonished farmers to build for the ages, replacing the temporary wooden fences they had thrown up while cutting trees. "Almost all farms have stone enough to make a wall for every necessary division and enclosure. . . . Labor used in this way answers a double purpose; it secures the fields from the ravages of stock, and improves them by removing rocks which are not only useless, but inconvenient and injurious in their natural situation. A farmer ought to consider it his proper business, as he has means and opportunity, to secure his lands by stone walls."<sup>8</sup>

Pembroke farmers heeded these words, as did all others in the rock-strewn post-glacial Northeast. The collective work of these hard-working settlers, intent on wresting farms from forested land, was one of the great feats of American civilization. By one estimate made in 1871, when most wall building had ceased and marginal farms were beginning to be abandoned, there were 252,539

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<sup>7</sup> As noted in the Carter and Fowler's *History of Pembroke*, p. 71, the first four ranges of lots and roads followed the old Suncook plan. The northern section of Pembroke, as it was incorporated in 1759, had never been included within the original Suncook grant of Massachusetts. This section of Pembroke was part of the territory of a large township called Bow, granted by the Province of New Hampshire in 1727. (The present-day town of Bow embraces a portion of the much larger original township.) As a competing grant, the New Hampshire township of Bow was superimposed over much of the territory of the two Massachusetts grants of Pennycook and Suncook, as well as embracing land outside those two grants. When Pembroke was incorporated in 1759, its upper ranges retained the roads and lots that had been laid out independently by the Bow proprietors beyond the limits of the Suncook grant. For information on the surveying of the upper ranges of today's Pembroke by Samuel Lane of Stratham, see David A. Bundy, *One Hundred Acres More or Less: The History of the Land and People of Bow, New Hampshire* (Canaan, N. H.: Phoenix Publishing, 1975), pp. 27-63; and Jerald E. Brown, *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane, 1718-1806* (Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 2000), pp. 88-104.

<sup>8</sup> *The New-Hampshire Agricultural Repository, Published by the State Board of Agriculture under the Patronage of the Legislature of the State of New-Hampshire*, No. 1 (Concord, N. H.: Hill and Moore, 1822), p. 48.

miles of stone wall in New England and New York. One researcher has estimated that building these walls consumed three billion man-hours.<sup>9</sup>

Pembroke has varied examples of stone walls. Some are a single stone in thickness, yet rise to a surprising height for structures that seem so unstable and have received so little maintenance for so many decades. Others are built with two separate faces of stone, with the two- or three-foot gap between these structures filled with thousands of smaller stones and pebbles turned up by the plow during decades of tillage.

While most walls in Pembroke are built from the glacially-rounded fieldstones that are found everywhere in central New Hampshire, some of our finest walls were constructed from split granite along the roadway frontages of such early burying grounds as Pembroke Street Cemetery (see index #1 on map), Old North Pembroke Cemetery (see index #6 on map), New North Pembroke Cemetery (see index #5 on map), and Pembroke Hill Cemetery (see index #3 on map).

Pembroke also has a rare stone structure in its surviving town animal pound. Built in 1813, this high, rectangular fieldstone enclosure stands on Pembroke Hill Road near its juncture with Fourth Range Road. Built to hold stray livestock until the animals could be claimed by their owners, the Pembroke town pound is one of relatively few structures of its type to survive in the Merrimack River Valley.

As New Hampshire farms were progressively abandoned after the Civil War and throughout the twentieth century, the stone wall began to be seen as a symbol of the virtues of New England's settlers and a sad reminder of the irrevocable end of the farming way of life. Lost in deep second-growth forest, the stone wall became an icon of times past, of labor lost.

Today, stone walls are venerated as a reminder of the traditional New Hampshire farming culture and the patient and hard-working character of New Hampshire people. The lichen-covered wall is valued both as an evocative symbol and as a feature of beauty in the landscape. Stone walls have inspired a myriad of newspaper and magazine articles, and a number of books.

Literature on stone wall building received its first substantial American contributions with the publication of Curtis Fields' *The Forgotten Art of Building a Stone Wall* in 1971, and John Vivian's *Building Stone Walls* in 1976. These were followed by a more general account, Susan Allport's *Sermons in Stone: The Stone Walls of New England and New York* in 1990. More recently, Kristine and Robert Thorson wrote a children's book, *Stone Wall Secrets*, in 1998. The year 2001 saw the publication of *The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building New England Stone Walls*, by Kevin Gardner of Hopkinton, a member of an extended family of wall builders. Robert Thorson's *Stone by Stone, the Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls* was published in 2002.

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<sup>9</sup> Robert M. Thorson, *Stone by Stone: The Magnificent History in New England's Stone Walls* (New York: Walker & Co., 2002).



Cellar holes, stone bridge abutments and culverts, stone dams, stone-lined wells, and stone boundary markers are also valuable and fragile elements in New England's legacy of stone. Recognizing the need for stewardship of these features, the Vermont Agency of Forests, Parks, and Recreation published *Stonewalls and Cellarholes: A Guide for Landowners on Historic Features and Landscapes in Vermont's Forests* in 1994. Now in its second (1995) printing, this booklet has been much used in New Hampshire.

The stone wall is not an indelible mark in the New Hampshire landscape. The very beauty of the lichen-covered fieldstones, so different from the appearance of recently excavated stone, has created a lucrative market for weathered rocks that have taken on the patina of two centuries or more. Every few weeks, state officials receive an anguished call from someone who sees a neighbor's ancient wall being loaded into trucks for use as landscaping stone. Other calls come from people who see a wall being bulldozed into a gully in order to smooth a site for a new house, or being undermined or buried by a town road agent.

New Hampshire law does not prevent the sale and removal of walls that lie on private property. While it has long been illegal to remove a wall that serves as a boundary between two properties without the consent of both owners, a wall that lies within a single land parcel is the property of the owner of the land. However grievous the removal of a privately-owned wall may be to neighbors who have grown accustomed to its presence, a stone wall on private land may be sold in the same manner as timber or gravel might be sold from that land.

In 1990, the State of New Hampshire afforded a measure of protection for walls that border state highways. Governor Judd Gregg asked the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to institute a stone wall protection policy. Developed in consultation with the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources and the Federal Highway Administration, this policy remains in effect. A committee evaluates the walls along each state-funded highway project, assessing the character of the wall, the highway, the adjacent buildings and land uses, and the interest of owners or local citizens in preserving the walls. Evaluation includes both aesthetic and technical criteria, and may result in the protection of all walls in a project, the selective preservation of the best examples, or the sacrifice of insignificant walls. Preserved walls are rebuilt on the new right-of-way line as part of the project.

No state law provides comparable evaluation and protection for stone walls that border town roads or that lie on private property, although Scenic Roads legislation (RSA 231:157-8) does provide that municipal road work, or work by utilities companies, on roads that have been designated as scenic "shall not involve the . . . tearing down or destruction of stone walls, or portions thereof, except with the prior written consent of the planning board" following a public hearing.

Towns are authorized to adopt local ordinances, and some New Hampshire communities have enacted ordinances and taken other actions that protect walls bordering town-owned roads. Dublin passed a stone wall protection ordinance years ago. An example of such an ordinance might read: "No person shall deface, alter the location of, or remove any stone wall which was made for the purpose of marking a boundary along, or which borders, any road in the town of Pembroke, except on written consent of the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen."

Adoption of such a local ordinance would strengthen the validity (and defensibility) of decisions made by municipal boards with the intention of protecting or preserving stone walls.

The Planning Board might also adopt detailed guidelines for retaining and protecting stone walls, other stone features, and archaeological sites as parts of Pembroke's subdivision and site review regulations.

Some towns have used funding from their Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the maintenance and repair of municipally owned stone walls. The Newington Historic District Commission, for example, has used CIP funds to rebuild long-destroyed stone walls within its locally designated Newington Center Historic District. The Marlborough Heritage Commission is planning the restoration of the town pound, and is advocating the eventual establishment of a regional institute to promote the craft of stone wall building and the preservation of stone structures. The Hillsborough Historical Society has a special initiative on the study and preservation of the town's stone walls, cellar holes, and arched stone bridges. In response to these many local initiatives, more New Hampshire artisans now practice the art of stone wall building than at any time since the nineteenth century.

### Cemeteries

As do many other small central NH region towns, Pembroke has a rich heritage and a strong connection to its past. Cemeteries are an important and personal link. A law was passed several years ago that allows municipalities to maintain any or all private cemeteries. In Pembroke there are eight cemeteries that are owned by the Town and two private cemeteries.

Table III-5  
Public and Private Cemeteries

Cemetery	Owner	Location
Pembroke Street Cemetery	Town	Pembroke Street
Abbott Cemetery	Town	Borough Road
Buck Street Cemetery	Town	Buck Street
Old North Pembroke Cemetery	Town	North Pembroke Road
New North Pembroke Cemetery	Town	North Pembroke Road
Evergreen Cemetery	Town	Buck Street
French Family Cemetery	Private	North Pembroke Road
Pembroke Hill Cemetery	Town	4 <sup>th</sup> Range Road
French-Dearborn Cemetery	Private	Off Borough Road
Richardson Cemetery	Town	Cross Country Road

*Source: 2004 Hazard Mitigation Plan; Community Facilities Chapter; Subcommittee Input*

### Historic Mill Sites

Pembroke has a rich mill history due to its location on the Merrimack, Suncook, and Soucook Rivers.

Table III-6  
Historic Mill Site Remnants

Name	Location
Webster Mill Site	Just upstream from the Main Street Bridge; archaeological site, now partially occupied by apartment buildings
Osgood's Mill Site	Just upstream from the double-deck bridge on Route 3
Pembroke Mill	Just downstream from the Main Street Bridge; now called "Emerson Mill Apartments"
Buck Street Dam (former mills)	On and near the island in the Suncook River immediately west of the Route 28 bridge at the Pembroke-Allenstown town line; archaeological site

Source: Subcommittee Input; NH DHR Suncook Village DOE Application, April 2001

### Historic Dams

Dams historically were a source of power for mills and industry. The availability of water-based power permitted dense settlement patterns and encouraged the development of industries. Many dams and dam remnants today provide both insights into past influences on town development. Many have also become part of the river environment providing a microenvironment for warm water fish.

Table III-7  
Historic Dams

Name and Description	Location
Buck Street Dam (1923)	Across the Suncook River immediately west of the Route 28 Bridge at the Pembroke-Allenstown line.
Osgood's Sawmill Dam (1890) Removed except for abutments and gate house	Across the Suncook River just upstream from the double-deck bridge
Webster Mill Dam (1865) Rebuilt in concrete just downstream from original dam circa 1917. Gatehouse is dated 1921.	Across the Suncook River behind the Post Office on Glass Street
Pembroke Mill Dam (1860)	Across the Suncook River immediately downstream from the Main Street Bridge.
China Mill Dam (1868) Rebuilt in concrete circa 1926. Gatehouse is dated 1922.	Across the Suncook River south of the intersection of Front Street and Bridge Street.

Source: Subcommittee Input; NH DHR Suncook Village DOE Application, April 2001

## COMMUNITY CHARACTER

The Town of Pembroke is roughly separated into four areas which comprise the majority of its history and development. Suncook Village, the southern populous section of Pembroke along the Merrimack and Suncook Rivers, has its own unique history as does the Pembroke Street area, Buck Street area, and Uplands area of the community.

### **Suncook Village**

There was a time when three mills were operating in Suncook Village, two of which were in Pembroke. This generated many jobs which were filled by Suncook residents and a large influx of people from Canada. The success of the mills helped to make Suncook village the “hub” of Pembroke. Services such as grocery stores, bakeries, restaurants, bars, a 5&10¢ store, and barbershops all prospered. Many of the mill workers were from Canada. Along with the Canadian workers and their families, came the use of the French language. Suncook quickly became a bilingual community. In fact, there was a time when Suncook residents spoke primarily French. English was strictly a second language.

With the destruction of Webster Mill by fire in 1983, and the close of Pembroke or Emerson Mill, there now remains only one working mill (actually located in Allenstown). The Emerson Mill building, as it is known now, is an apartment complex. Suncook is no longer the thriving industrial and commercial center of its past. From photos, it appears that the streets of the village were narrow and lined with large shady trees. As the streets have been widened, many of the trees have disappeared, leaving the streets uncovered and bare.

Many grandchildren of original mill workers are still living in town but are employed in nearby cities such as Concord and Manchester. This has forced the once booming Village businesses to close or relocate to other more congested areas. Although it is refreshing to hear the French language spoken periodically by some of the elderly residents, with the influx of non-French-speaking residents, the once-prevalent language is slowly disappearing.

Pride and the love of the downtown area still remain in Suncook Village today. With revitalization efforts by volunteer groups such as *Meet Me In Suncook*, many of the present residents are now learning about Suncook’s history through the many walking tours provided yearly to the public. Also efforts by some teachers in the Allenstown and Pembroke public schools to include the history of Suncook as part of their studies, has also provided young children with knowledge of the community, especially the village area.

The Town of Pembroke, in cooperation with *Meet Me In Suncook*, recently refurbished the much-loved Town Clock to its original glory. It nests high atop one of Main Street’s buildings. The Town also created a municipal parking lot to be used by the public, which plays a vital role to the remaining businesses in the village.

Many of the homes which surround Suncook Village were built in the late 1800s. These large homes, which once housed business owners and their families, were also frequently used as businesses. At the present time, many of these grand homes have become multi-family homes.

It is the desire of the Economic Development Committee to once again encourage combined use (business/residential) in the surrounding areas of Main Street (known as B1 and B2 districts) in order to bring about the rejuvenation of some of these homes and to provide support businesses for the already existing Main Street businesses.

### **Pembroke Street**

This was a major traveled way connecting Concord to areas in southern New Hampshire and it also served as the main route for travel by the town's residents conducting activities within the town. Until the mid 1900's this route was a picturesque scene with an archway or canopy of elm trees lining the roadway and large houses with attached barns on each side of the street. Recollection has about 15 operating farms at that time, mostly field crops but several operating dairy farms. Delivery to homes, as well as roadside vegetable stands, allowed residents to purchase local products.

Only one church, Congregationalist, was operational in the mid 1900's. However, a Presbyterian meeting house had been located in the area prior to this time, and a Methodist Church had stood north of Pembroke Street on Pembroke Hill, at the intersection of Fourth Range and Brickett Hill Roads, since 1836 (see map item #13). Wood framed houses and barns were most prevalent along this route; however, brick housing is also observed and can be attributed to the brickyards that operated along the Merrimack River. Brick is most prevalent in the Suncook village of both Pembroke and Allenstown and is ideal for areas of close structures. The availability of suitable clay in the Pembroke Street Area made the use of bricks feasible.

Gravel operations, gasoline stations, scrap vehicle deposit area, child care facilities, golf course, churches and the area high school were and are the non residential usage of the Pembroke Street area. In the mid to late 1900's, many single family homes were built along or close proximity to Pembroke Street.

### **North Pembroke Road**

North Pembroke Road was a connector between Concord and Epsom as well as a collector road for development in the North Pembroke area. Stone walls were and still are prevalent along this route. Wooded areas are prevalent along this road as old farming fields have given way to tree growth.

Fire was the prime cause of the loss of farming through the 1800's as evidenced by the number of old cellar holes found along North Pembroke Road. This was a result of no central heat in most buildings; therefore, wood burning was the means to heat and cook and the possibility of structural fires was prevalent. Only 10 operating farms existed in the 1900's.

The implementing of Class VI road designation curtailed housing growth for this area. Commerce, farms and housing needed legal frontage on an open town road to permit building. Only lumbering and field crop businesses were left to function in the area. Road building and improvements did create a need for suitable materials such as gravel which was available in the area primarily along the Soucook River.

### **Buck Street**

The predominance of cattle farms primarily for milk production is the remembrance of this area in the early 1900's. Milk was exported from this area to Manchester, NH by railroad; a milk platform, where local farmers could leave off their milk cans each day, was located in Allenstown near the present entrance to Bear Brook State Park. The Suncook River forked at this location and therefore two bridges were constructed to afford access to the railroad. Farms along Buck Street include the Richards, the Grimes, Veroneau, Miller, Hillman and Batchelder.

Few trees were visible as most of the land was cleared for farming usage, with many stonewalls along the right of way.

A cider mill provided an opportunity for neighbors to gather and consume the cider fresh from the press. One story is that kids of the area thought it great that they could drink all they wanted until a natural effect of cider occurred.

Strawberries were another farm product along Buck Street. A unique three-acre onion field existed in this area primarily for marketing as three acres produced more onions than could be used by the nearby residents.

Buck Street and Suncook Village were served by a public water system flowing through wood piping from Pleasant Pond in Allenstown.

## ARCHITECTURAL EVOLUTION OF THE COMMUNITY

Like many small New Hampshire communities, Pembroke's architecture has evolved with the decades as development, settlement patterns, available materials, and trends dictated the need and desire for different building styles.

### **Locations of Early Buildings**

Except in Suncook Village, Pembroke has not yet benefited from a regular survey of its historical architecture. For this reason, the descriptions provided below are based on subjective observation rather than on a full array of survey data supported by thorough research. Because Pembroke's architectural legacy is one of the town's character-defining attributes, early buildings deserve identification and some degree of protection against ill-advised remodeling, or even demolition. The town should therefore extend its architectural survey efforts beyond Suncook Village, with a focus on those nodes of early activity described below and on the isolated farmhouses that display outstanding architectural character or significant construction materials or techniques.

Due to rapid suburban expansion and subdivision in Pembroke during the latter decades of the twentieth century, the town has become increasingly populated by dwellings and other buildings of modern design and construction. These structures have been built with a random distribution throughout the town, as farm or forest land has been converted to housing. The only areas thus far exempt from this type of automobile-dependent residential development have been certain large holdings where owners have protected land from development, or where development is precluded by lack of access to tracts except over Class VI roads. The latter are usually the ancient range roads that typified Pembroke's eighteenth-century highway layout and are shown on the earliest maps of the township.<sup>10</sup> Because the modern dwellings built after World War II now outnumber the town's older houses, this chapter will concentrate on defining the traditional architecture of Pembroke, most of it built by local craftsmen from locally-obtained materials.

Prior to the advent of modern suburban development, the majority of land in Pembroke was in agricultural or forestry use. The original proprietors' lots were arrayed in regular patterns along the grid of range roads noted above. Because these lots were mostly forty or more acres in extent, the upland areas of Pembroke were populated by a multitude of fairly large farmsteads. The dwellings pertaining to these holdings were spaced somewhat regularly, but at some distance from one another, along the range roads. Pembroke's former agricultural uplands, which typify some 90% of the township's area, will therefore be found to retain widely-separated examples of architecture dating from the late eighteenth century through the first half of the nineteenth, the era of greatest agricultural activity in the township. Such buildings are more fully described below. Interspersed among these older buildings are scattered examples of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century domestic architecture and agricultural outbuildings. Many of these later

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<sup>10</sup> Pembroke's system of range roads is one of the best-defined examples of this type of town planning to be found in New Hampshire. The town's rectilinear grid of ancient highways provides the matrix upon which much of Pembroke's architecture is located. For a context on range roads, see James L. Garvin, "The Range Township in Eighteenth-Century New Hampshire," *New England Prospect: Maps, Place Names, and the Historical Landscape*: Volume 5 of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife Proceedings, 1980, pp. 47-68.

buildings were probably constructed when older ones burned or were regarded by their owners as obsolete.<sup>11</sup>

Pembroke has long had a few nodes of more concentrated population and activity. In these areas are to be found relatively dense groups of early buildings, sometimes of a domestic nature, sometimes industrial or commercial, and sometimes, as in Suncook Village, combining more than one function and architectural attribute. Suncook Village, the focus of water-powered manufacturing since the 1730s, supported sawmills, grist mills, forge shops, paper mills, a glass factory, and a number of fulling and textile mills throughout its long history of industrial production. Suncook Village is the single district in Pembroke that displays an urban character, combining many architectural styles, a variety of building materials, blocks of contiguous structures separated by party walls, and diverse building functions, all concentrated within one small geographical area of dense construction. Suncook Village is one of the best preserved small manufacturing centers in New Hampshire, but also retains a number of detached houses that predate its expansive growth as a center for manufacturing cotton cloth after 1860.<sup>12</sup>

The second area of architectural concentration and diversity is Pembroke Street, which is, in fact, one of the many parallel range roads that characterize the town's early highway plan. As a wide and straight thoroughfare, Pembroke Street eventually assumed the attributes of an early New England planning mode that has been described as a "highway village."<sup>13</sup> In such a layout, larger farmsteads along the principal street are subdivided or supplanted by smaller house lots. Homesteads are built along the street in fairly close proximity to one another. Because of the concentration of population along such a street, one or more religious or educational buildings typically come to share the thoroughfare with the dwellings.

Along Pembroke Street, such institutional structures included the Congregational meeting house (1746; now the Whittemore barn), which was eventually replaced by the Congregational Church (1836, see map index #60); Pembroke Academy (founded 1818, see map index #54 for location); the People's Literary Institute and Gymnasium (founded in 1840; purchased for use as town hall in 1865, and burned in the twentieth century); and several district schoolhouses, including Schoolhouse No. 1, a brick building constructed in 1851 across the road from the Congregational Church to replace earlier school buildings on the same site.

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<sup>11</sup> For the location and a description of the ownership of most of the formerly occupied sites in the township, see the Rev. N. F. Carter and Trueworthy L. Fowler, *History of Pembroke, N. H., 1730-1895* (Concord, N. H.: Republican Press Association, 1895; reprinted by the Allenstown-Pembroke Bicentennial Committee, 1976), map of Pembroke, 1894, with a key to the map, pp. 396-416.

<sup>12</sup> For the location and a description of the ownership of most of the formerly occupied sites in the Pembroke portion of Suncook Village, see map of Suncook Village, 1894, facing page 391, with a key to the map, pp. 390-396. For a narrative of the industrial history of Suncook Village, see Carter and Fowler, pp. 349-356. For additional information on Suncook Village industries, people, and buildings, see Frank Levi Aldrich, "Suncook To-Day," *Granite Monthly* 29 (July 1900): 3-93.

<sup>13</sup> Edna Scofield, "The Origin of Settlement Patterns in Rural New England," *Geographical Review* 28 (1938): 652-63.



Pembroke Street was given additional stature when it became a link in the Chester Turnpike, incorporated in 1804 to build an improved toll road between Chester Street and Pembroke Street. As Suncook Village is one of New Hampshire's best preserved small manufacturing centers, so is Pembroke Street one of the state's most recognizable "highway villages." While the Street has suffered from a greater degree of modern infill than have the comparable Canaan Street, Chester Street, or King Street in Boscawen, it has not undergone the complete transformation seen in its original counterpart, Main Street in Concord.

A third area of concentrated activity and population was East Pembroke, at the Buck Street Bridge over the Suncook River. Here several sawmills stood from the 1760s until after 1900, giving rise to a small village that eventually included a number of dwellings, a nearby schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, several stores, and a post office. In addition to the several sawmills that stood at the Buck Street dam, East Pembroke included grist mills, an axe handle factory, a bedstead factory, a twine mill, a fulling mill, a spoke shop, and a sash, door, blind and box shop at various periods.<sup>14</sup>

A major conflagration in East Pembroke in 1900 erased much of the industrial architecture of that village forever, and other buildings, such as a blacksmith shop and stores that clustered near the bridge over the Suncook River, have since disappeared. Yet East Pembroke retains some early houses, including the David Clark House of circa 1825, a center-chimney dwelling with stenciling attributed to the well-known itinerant decorator, Moses Eaton. The village also retains a number of houses dating from the mid-to-late 1800s. These buildings reflect economic activity and prosperity that characterized the hamlet after the Civil War, most of it generated by the water power of the Suncook River and the presence of Buck Street Bridge as a transportation link.

Other areas of Pembroke that were once recognizable as distinct hamlets have since lost so many of their early structures, or have been so overwhelmed by new construction, that their visual coherence as local centers has been diluted. One such hamlet is North Pembroke, located about midway between the Davis Bridge (first built 1841) over the Soucook River, and the former Bombay or Lovejoy's Bridge (1823, 1844) over the Suncook. After construction of the middle or Free Bridge across the Merrimack River in Concord in 1839, North Pembroke Road became a significant thoroughfare across the northern part of town, linking parts of Deerfield, Allenstown and East Pembroke with Concord. North Pembroke became a minor trading center, supporting a brick store run by local merchant Bailey Parker, a brick schoolhouse, and a number of other buildings. Of the brick structures, only one, Bailey Parker's brick dwelling of circa 1830, survives as a reminder of the thriving hamlet that once occupied the height of land between the Suncook and Soucook Rivers.

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<sup>14</sup> For the location and a description of the ownership of most of the manufacturing sites in the Buck Street section of East Pembroke, see Buck Street Bridge inset on map of Pembroke, 1894, with a key to the map, pp. 390-396. For a narrative of the industrial history of Buck Street, see Carter and Fowler, pp. 356-361. For additional information on some of the Buck Street industries, see Frank Levi Aldrich, "Suncook To-Day," *Granite Monthly* 29 (July 1900): 66-69; and Carol A. Martel, *The History of East Allenstown, New Hampshire and Bear Brook State Park* (Allenstown, N. H.: Catamount Publishing, 2003), pp. 25-28.

A similar district extended along Fourth Range Road between Brickett Hill and Cross Country Roads on the northwest, and Pembroke Hill Road on the southeast. During much of the nineteenth century, this district was served by two schoolhouses: District No. 4 (Pembroke Hill School) at the intersection of Fourth Range Road and Cross Country Road, and District No. 5 (Town Pound or Robinson School) on Pembroke Hill Road near its intersection with Fourth Range Road. There were other public structures in the district. The town hall was built at the intersection of Fourth Range Road and Pembroke Hill Road in 1811, superseding earlier meeting houses on Pembroke Street as the site of town meetings until the town purchased the site of the present town hall on Pembroke Street in 1865 (see map index #55). When the town hall was built at this intersection in 1811, Suncook Village was just poised to grow into the center of population and industry it became later in the nineteenth century. At that time, before the phenomenal growth of the village, a town committee determined that the juncture of Fourth Range Road and Pembroke Hill Road was “the center of money and travel” in Pembroke.<sup>15</sup>

The town animal pound was rebuilt of stone close to the town house and the Pound Schoolhouse in 1813, and remains on that site. Toward the northwestern end of the district, the Methodist Episcopal Church built a stately structure at the corner of Brickett Hill Road in 1837, and a store stood close to the church. With the exception of some early dwellings and the stone town pound (see map index #32), however, few structures remain to suggest that Fourth Range Road was once a major thoroughfare and focus of town life.

### Building Materials

To an unusual degree, Pembroke and neighboring Allenstown abound in the materials from which traditional New Hampshire architecture has been constructed. As suggested in preceding references to the many sawmills that occupied sites along the Suncook River in Suncook Village, and upstream at Buck Street Bridge or East Pembroke, there was ample available waterpower, at least in the eastern part of town. A series of dams harnessed the power of the Suncook River beginning in the 1730s, powering the reciprocating sawmills that were necessary to convert the local forests of conifers to merchantable boards and timber.

The soil of Pembroke supports three softwood tree species that were mainstays of New Hampshire’s wooden architecture. The most important is eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), a tree that was widely used for framing of houses and barns, for the production of boards, and for finish joinery or interior and exterior woodwork. It thrives in sandy soils, and abounds in Pembroke—and, even more, in the Bear Brook State Park section of adjacent Allenstown. The second most useful species is eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), long used for framing of houses, barns, and mills. The third species, which is found in lesser quantities, is the native red (or “Norway”) pine (*Pinus resinosa*), a hard pine that was useful both for framing and for long-wearing floor boards. A fourth pine species, the pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*), is found in great profusion in the western part of town, along the sandy plains of the Soucook River, where it represents the eastern portion of the

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<sup>15</sup> Carter and Fowler, *History of Pembroke, N. H., 1730-1895* (Concord, N. H.: Republican Press Association, 1895; reprinted by the Allenstown-Pembroke Bicentennial Committee, 1976), pp. 166,296-300; John N. McClintock, *History of Pembroke, New Hampshire* (bound with Carter and Fowler, *History of Pembroke, N. H., 1730-1895* as reprinted by the Allenstown-Pembroke Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 174.

noted “pine barrens” or “Dark Plain” that once covered the land between the Soucook and Merrimack Rivers. Although it was not much used in architecture, pitch pine may sometimes have been sawn for floor boards and used as diagonal braces in framing.

Although native hardwoods were not much used in local building, red oak (*Quercus rubra*) was the standard material for the diagonal braces that stiffen wooden house and barn frames. Red oak was also used frequently for the vertical posts of massive buildings such as meeting houses. The species grows plentifully in the uplands of Pembroke.

A good example of the result of a juxtaposition of softwood resources and a water-powered sawmill is seen in the David Clark House of circa 1825 in East Pembroke, just below the Buck Street Bridge and dam. In 1824, Clark received a warrantee deed of the sawmill “on the southeast side of Suncook river on Buck Street with all the privileges belonging thereto.”<sup>16</sup> Clark kept both a sawmill and a gristmill at this site, selling both his mills and his house in 1829.

The two-story, center chimney house that Clark built was initially finished only on the first floor, with the second story finished by later owners in a more modern style. The house has a frame of pine. Although some of the longer timbers of the frame are hewn, an unusual percentage of the frame was sawn on a reciprocating saw, as might be expected in a dwelling built by a mill owner adjacent to his mill. Posts, braces, attic floor joists, rafters, and purlins are all sawn, representing many more sawn elements than are seen in the average New Hampshire house of 1825—a testament to the productivity of the adjacent mill.

Just as Pembroke abounded in softwood timber for framing and boarding, it also abounded in excellent clay and sand for making bricks. Bricks were necessary for building chimneys in wooden houses. After about 1830, buildings constructed wholly of brick became more common in town, especially along Pembroke Street and in Suncook Village, but also in North Pembroke. Between the Civil War and about 1890, the center of Suncook Village was largely rebuilt in brick.

Under the impetus of this local market, and the still greater markets offered by growing cities like Manchester, brick making eventually became a major industry along the Merrimack River, not only in Pembroke but also in adjacent Concord and Hooksett. This portion of the Merrimack Valley had been inundated by a glacial lake that had permitted the slow deposition of clay at the end of the ice age. Glaciers also deposited much sand in the area. The manufacture of bricks requires the mixing of native glacial clay, which is thick and viscous, with enough sand to make the clay sufficiently plastic to be pressed into wooden molds.

The beginnings of the industry are recorded in the account book of Sterling Sargent of Pembroke and Allenstown, which documents Sargent’s activities during the period between 1813 and the 1850s.<sup>17</sup> Sargent worked at brick making only sporadically, mostly during the spring and fall months, and on a small scale, burning perhaps 50,000 or 55,000 bricks at one time.

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<sup>16</sup> Carter and Fowler, *History of Pembroke, N. H., 1730-1895* (Concord, N. H.: Republican Press Association, 1895; reprinted by the Allenstown-Pembroke Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 358.

<sup>17</sup> Sterling Sargent, account book, 1813-1857, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord.

Sargent was the father of two sons, Philip and Warren, who continued the trade of brick manufacturing into the era when the arrival of the railroad encouraged production on a much larger scale and permitted the creation of a brick village like Suncook, whose buildings consumed millions of bricks. By 1832, as the first brick dwellings were appearing in Pembroke, local production in the Pembroke-Allenstown-Hooksett area was a respectable 1,271,000 bricks per year. But by 1878, after the advent of the railroad in Pembroke and adjacent Hooksett, six brick manufacturers in Hooksett, Suncook Village, and the banks of the Merrimack in Pembroke were employing sixty men in making bricks. Each local yard averaged about 80,000 bricks per year per man employed, for a total of about 4.8 million bricks.<sup>18</sup> By 1895, maps in Carter and Fowler's *History of Pembroke* and Hurd's New Hampshire atlas indicate brickyards owned by Henry T. Simpson (Simpson owned two yards, and his showpiece brick house stands at 422 Pembroke Street.), Edmund Elliott, the Whittemore family, F. S. Whitehouse, and G. N. Simpson. These yards were placed at intervals along the Merrimack River between the Concord border (Soucook River) on the north and the Allenstown border (Suncook River) on the south (see map item #56, #57, and #62). An additional brickyard, owned by Martin H. Cochran and Isaac G. Russ, operated on Buck Street near McDaniel's Brook (map #121 in Carter and Fowler's *History*). Since bricks were too heavy to be transported by land over great distances, the former concentration of brick buildings in North Pembroke suggest that a brickyard may once have operated in that area as well.

Just as the mineral wealth embodied in the clay beds of the banks of the Merrimack allowed an impressive production of bricks of high quality, nearby ledges ensured the availability of granite in inexhaustible quantities. Although Rattlesnake Hill in Concord, New Hampshire, some ten miles from Suncook Village, had been noted for its production of fine, white granite since the early 1800s, another source of comparable stone lay still closer to the growing village. The granite ledges of Allenstown, located less than two miles away, produce a stone that is comparable to that of Rattlesnake Hill, but located at a lower elevation. The modest gradient between Suncook Village and the quarries of Allenstown eventually permitted construction of a railroad spur directly into the quarries.

The granite that was employed as underpinning for Pembroke's many wooden dwellings beginning around 1800 was probably quarried mostly from surface boulders. Such glacial erratics abound across the township except in the alluvial deposits of the river valleys. Quarrying from large boulders was commonplace before the advent of more effective stone splitting techniques around 1830 permitted the splitting of large blocks of stone directly from ledges.<sup>19</sup>

The same exploitation of surface boulders probably persisted during construction of most of Pembroke's early brick buildings, beginning in the 1820s and 1830s. Such buildings require not only granite underpinning to protect the brick walls from rising damp, but also, typically, granite window and door sills and lintels.

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<sup>18</sup> James L. Garvin, "Small-Scale Brickmaking in New Hampshire," *IA: The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archaeology* 20 (1994): 19-31. This article illustrates one of the Simpson brickyards.

<sup>19</sup> For early splitting techniques, see Donna-Belle Garvin, "The Granite Quarries of Rattlesnake Hill: The Concord, New Hampshire, 'Gold Mine,'" *IA: The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archaeology* 20 (1994): 50-68.

Suncook Village was transformed from a collection of wooden stores, taverns, and public halls into a concentration of contiguous masonry buildings as a result of a series of devastating fires, the three most serious occurring in 1876, 1878, and 1886. By this period, a larger quarry, operating on a commercial scale, had been opened in Allenstown. Bailey's Granite Works opened in 1874. By 1900, the quarry was owned by Charles A. Bailey and extended over some twenty-five acres. It provided constant employment for 125 men from April to December, and in 1900 shipped 2,200 carloads of granite via its own rail spur.<sup>20</sup>

Pembroke was unusual in having a local supply of window glass for more than ten years after the opening of the Chelmsford Glass Company on Glass Street in Suncook Village in 1839 (see map item #V17). The company built a substantial glasshouse and continued in operation until about 1850, although the factory was still indicated on the 1859 Merrimack County map, and its buildings were photographed in good condition circa 1860. The company made window glass by the cylinder method, but was forced to bring sand from as far away as New Jersey after nearby sources proved unsuitable for making clear glass.<sup>21</sup> Local tradition identifies certain houses in Suncook Village as retaining Suncook glass in their windows.

One building commodity that Pembroke lacked, in common with most New Hampshire towns, was lime for making plaster and mortar. With no native deposits of limestone except in a few restricted locations in the Connecticut River valley, New Hampshire was dependent upon supplies from afar, and was forced to ship casks of lime from sources such as the kilns at Thomaston and Rockport, Maine. Between the time that the Merrimack River was made navigable about 1812 and the advent of the railroad in Suncook Village in 1852, it may be supposed that lime for local construction was shipped in some quantities by canal boats. The Pembroke Cotton Factory Company maintained a landing and warehouse near the confluence of the Suncook and Merrimack Rivers, where such commodities could have been offloaded and stored for local sale.

### Types of Dwellings

Houses may be typified by such characteristics as construction materials (log, frame, brick), floor plan, or architectural style. The same style may be manifest in houses of differing construction materials and floor plans, and a preference for a certain floor plan or construction material may persist over more than one stylistic period. Pembroke has, for example, brick houses that display characteristics of the federal style, the Greek Revival style, the Italianate style, and various romantic styles.

Because these three attributes of houses may blend with one another, this section will follow a chronological classification that will describe periods and styles of construction, and will mention construction materials and floor plans that are often associated with each period.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>Frank Levi Aldrich, "Suncook To-Day," *Granite Monthly* 29 (July 1900): 11-13; Carol A. Martel, *The History of East Allenstown, New Hampshire and Bear Brook State Park* (Allenstown, N. H.: Catamount Publishing, 2003), pp. 27-28.

<sup>21</sup>Kenneth N. Wilson, *New England Glass and Glassmaking*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell and Company, 1972, pp. 89-93.

<sup>22</sup>For more information on architectural styles and construction materials, see James L. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England* (Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 2001).

Early Settlement Until the Post-Revolutionary Period, Circa 1730-Circa 1790; the Georgian Style

Little is known about this era of building in Pembroke. Carter and Fowler's *The History of Pembroke* identifies the Whittemore barn on Pembroke Street as one of the earliest surviving structures in town: the re-used Congregational meeting house that was built near its present location in 1746.<sup>23</sup> Although a few surviving dwellings have traditionally been dated within this period, these structures have not been examined to verify their popularly accepted dates of construction. One such house is the 1½-story center chimney "Cape Cod" house located at 503 Fourth Range Road near its intersection with Cross Country Road. The *History of Pembroke* notes that John White, the builder of the dwelling, "received a deed of the land from John Knox in 1749." Despite the fact that the *History* goes on to say that "it is not known when he [White] settled here," the date "1749" has long been painted on the large chimney.

Another dwelling that has long been identified as an early house stands at 379 Pembroke Street. The authors of *The History of Pembroke* say of this small house, which stands just north of Meetinghouse Brook, that it "is probably as old as any in town, if not the oldest one." They trace its land title to 1764.

Although most surviving early dwellings in all New Hampshire towns are of framed construction, research has shown that many settlements initially included houses built of hewn or sawn "logs," rectangular in cross-section, or of round "poles" in the manner of the typical American "log cabin."<sup>24</sup> No standing building of such construction has yet been identified in Pembroke. But the town's first meeting house, built adjacent to Pembroke Street Cemetery (see index #1 and #64 on map), was a log structure. The town records for 1733 recorded a vote that "a meeting House of Twenty four feet wide & Thirty feet Long be Built as soon as may be and set upon a Lott of Land in said Township bearing number Three or near To it[.] The said House To be made of Good Hewn Loggs Ten or Eleven feet stud[,] The Roof to be Covered with Long shingles well Layed and nail<sup>d</sup> and one Door well made and Hung y<sup>e</sup> ends of y<sup>e</sup> House to be Closed with good Clapboards or Boards all to be done sufficiently and workman like by the Last Day of June next . . ."<sup>25</sup>

While construction of the principal building in Pembroke of hewn logs in the 1730s does not imply that dwelling houses were constructed similarly, the likelihood exists that Pembroke, in common with many other new settlements on the New Hampshire frontier, had some log dwellings. The *History of Pembroke* asserts that the dwelling of the first permanent settler in town, Francis Doyen, was a "log hut" built circa 1730, but it is not clear whether this statement is based on real knowledge or the authors' assumptions.<sup>26</sup> The first house built in North Pembroke by settler John Parker is said to have been built of logs as late as 1780.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Carter and Fowler, *History of Pembroke, N. H., 1730-1895*, p. 57.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., pp. 5-8.

<sup>25</sup> Carter and Fowler, *History of Pembroke, N. H., 1730-1895* (Concord, N. H.: Republican Press Association, 1895; reprinted by the Allenstown-Pembroke Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 29.

<sup>26</sup> Carter and Fowler, *History of Pembroke, N. H., 1730-1895*, p. 20.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., p. 412.

The possibility that log houses were built by some early settlers is strengthened by the early presence of sawmills on Meetinghouse Brook and the Suncook River. Sawn logs were even more common than hewn logs in the “garrison” houses of the New Hampshire and Maine seacoast, so the presence of mills could have offered some economy of labor and thereby encouraged the construction of log houses. Those who have an opportunity to examine Pembroke’s early houses in the future should be alert to the possibility of log construction, especially in ells attached to later, substantial houses or in outbuildings. Such secondary structures are sometimes found to be the pioneering dwelling, reused by later generations for reasons of sentiment or economy.<sup>28</sup>

Some of the framed houses described below are described as architectural representatives of the federal period (1790-1830). For the most part, these buildings have not been examined. Some may prove, upon examination, to date before circa 1790 and to fall within the Georgian architectural style period.

#### The Federal Period, Circa 1790 to Circa 1830

The earliest Pembroke houses, that have thus far been examined and dated by their stylistic attributes, fall into this period. This era is marked by distinctive architectural features, including new molding profiles, new styles of doors and window muntin profiles, and an increasing use of mantelpieces around fireplaces. Federal period buildings also embody such technological advances as the use of machine-made nails, split granite underpinning and doorsteps, and the first widespread use of bricks as an alternative to traditional framed construction.<sup>29</sup>

Pembroke houses built during the Federal era assume many sizes, shapes, and construction techniques, but are unified in their seeming diversity by the attributes of style and technology mentioned above. Although we may assume that many small Pembroke houses of this era await identification, some of Pembroke’s first large dwellings also belong to this era.

Probably the grandest of these, and one that may have set the standard for other houses in more rural eras, was the large dwelling of Major Caleb Stark, built on Main Street in Suncook Village about 1812, when Stark assumed control of the fledgling Pembroke Cotton Factory Company. Although this house has long disappeared, two early manuscript maps of the village suggest that it was a three-story mansion with a hipped roof, duplicating the merchants’ dwellings of the same period in New Hampshire’s seacoast region.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> The sketch of Captain William Fife in D. Hamilton Hurd, ed., *History of Belknap and Merrimack Counties, New Hampshire* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Company, 1885), pp. 583-584, asserts that William Fife, an immigrant ancestor of Captain Fife, built a log house in North Pembroke shortly after 1772.

<sup>29</sup> For more information on this and other architectural styles discussed in this chapter, see James L. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England* (Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 2001).

<sup>30</sup> New Hampshire Historical Society map collections, Pembroke 912.778b/P396 su, and Pembroke 912.778b/P396 su<sup>1</sup>.

Other large Pembroke houses, two stories high and two rooms deep, apparently date from this era but await detailed examination and research. These dwellings, the largest of the town's surviving early houses, are to be found as rare examples in Suncook Village, along Pembroke Street, and scattered within the agricultural uplands. This small group of dwellings is typified by having two massive chimneys and a broad central stairhall. This floor plan can be traced back to the early 1700s in the New Hampshire seacoast, where such dwellings were called "double" houses.

Among the "double" houses that may be cited as examples of the type are the David Kimball tavern at 223 Pembroke Street (see map index #33), near the head of Broadway; the Aaron Whittemore homestead or tavern at 374 Pembroke Street, north of Pembroke Street Cemetery (see index #1 on map); the Cochran House on Buck Street at its intersection with Academy Road (see map index #66); the Richardson House at 441 Sixth Range Road (see map index #67), east of Cross Country Road and the Richardson Cemetery (see index #14 on map); and the Daniel Knox House at the intersection of Dudley Hill Road and Fifth Range Road.

Some of these houses, including the Kimball tavern (see map index #33), have traditionally been ascribed to dates prior to the advent of the Federal period in the 1790s, but closer dating of purported earlier examples must await careful examination of these houses. On the other hand, the double house at 179 Main Street in Suncook Village, said to have been built by selectman and postmaster Stephen Bates after 1833, seems to show that this eighteenth-century house type might persist in Pembroke even after the Federal style was giving way to the Greek Revival style.

Somewhat smaller than these "double" houses are central chimney houses, two rooms in depth, like the David Clark House of circa 1825 in East Pembroke, described above under "Building materials." Although most of Pembroke's examples of these classic New Hampshire farm dwellings appear to date from the Federal period, a few may prove upon examination to fall into the earlier Georgian period. This house type has been traced back to circa 1725 in Hampton and other towns in New Hampshire's coastal region. A number of examples may be seen along Pembroke Street and Buck Street. A few survive in Suncook Village, as seen in the house at 197 Main Street, built circa 1815 by William Kimball; Kimball also built the saw and grist mills later known as Osgood's Mills, on the Suncook River near the Turnpike and Double-Deck bridges.

Similar two-story central-chimney houses, one room deep instead of two, are also found throughout town. Good examples may be seen along Pembroke Street.

Other house types that are distinctly associated with the Federal style and period also appear in Pembroke at this time. One of these is the inappropriately named "I-House," a two story, one-room-deep dwelling with a central stairhall and chimneys placed against its end or its rear walls. Several wooden examples of this house type may be seen along Pembroke Street. A brick example, with the one-story kitchen ell that is often attached to these houses, is the Bailey Parker House of circa 1830 at 470 North Pembroke Road (see map index #68).



Brick began to emerge as a favored building material during the Federal period. One of the finest examples of an early brick dwelling is the two-story, L-shaped Doe House at 262 Pembroke Street (see map index #69). According to the town history, this is the first brick dwelling ever built in Pembroke. Its walls are laid in Flemish bond rather than the common bond that became standard after about 1830. It appears to date from circa 1825. It was followed by other Federal and Greek Revival brick houses, including the two-story Bailey Parker House (c. 1830) at 470 North Pembroke Road and the 1½-story Jonathan Kimball House (c. 1840) at 429 Fourth Range Road.

#### Greek Revival Period, Circa 1830 to Circa 1850

Pembroke has a number of houses built during this era, but few of them exhibit the classic gable-front temple form that is the ultimate expression of this style in other places. Rather, most houses of the Greek Revival period in Pembroke tend to display their style in their details, some of these features being inspired by architectural guidebooks like Asher Benjamin's *The Practical House Carpenter* (1830) and *The Practice of Architecture* (1833). It was left to now-lost institutional buildings such as the People's Literary Institute and Gymnasium (1840) on Pembroke Street (later the town hall), or the Methodist Church on Church Street in Suncook Village (1849), to express the Greek Revival style in its more classic form. Similarly, a number of the lost wooden commercial buildings that stood on Main Street in Suncook Village before the fires of 1876 and 1878 displayed broad gable fronts, especially those structures that provided meeting halls on their second or third stories. A number of the tenement houses that stand along Glass Street in the village once exhibited distinct Greek Revival features, but repeated remodelings have generally erased this character.

One house type that is strongly associated with the vernacular Greek Revival is the side-hall dwelling. Such houses are oriented with their narrow ends and roof gables treated as the façade. Rather than having their main entries placed in the center of this elevation, these houses have the doorway at one side, with the interior stairs running to the second story along the exterior side wall of the house. A 1½-story house of this floor plan may be seen at 722 Cross Country Road, and a 2½-story version at 225 Pembroke Street.

#### Romantic Styles

The period after 1850 saw the proliferation of a number of architectural styles. The architectural eclecticism of this era may be traced in large part to the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing, who published *Cottage Residences* in 1842 and *The Architecture of Country Houses* in 1850. *Cottage Residences* was the first American book to discuss domestic architecture in terms that were understandable and appealing to the householder; it was all the more revolutionary for its frequent discussion of household affairs and arrangements that were of special interest to women. *Cottage Residences* was the first publication to discuss, in essay form, the purposes, arrangement, and aesthetics of dwelling houses. It was of revolutionary importance because it introduced and advocated a wide range of romantic building designs, repudiating the spare classicism of the Greek Revival.

Downing recommended several house types in preference to the rectangular, gable-front house so strongly associated with the Greek Revival. Among his favorites, for both small cottages and grander country houses, were dwellings based on English precedent. The smaller of these are symmetrical; the larger tend to be asymmetrical but balanced in composition. Most have deeply overhanging roofs, some have bracketed eaves, and some have Gothic or Italianate detailing. One of Downing's maxims was that a house ought to express the personality of its owner.

It is not to be expected that a farming community like Pembroke, or a small manufacturing center like Suncook Village, would indulge in the construction of many houses of deliberate intellectual allusion, especially when farming prosperity was probably diminishing in Pembroke's agricultural uplands after 1850 and when Suncook Village was still a cluster of wooden stores and taverns. Few of Downing's designs were, in fact, copied literally anywhere in New Hampshire.

Nevertheless, many of the attributes that Downing illustrated began to pervade local architecture after the mid-century. Among these were preferences for bracketed eaves, often with pronounced overhang; central roof gables, sometimes with jerkin-head roofs, to intersect and break up the expanse of the plane of the main roof; and the appearance for the first time of bay windows and open porches. *Cottage Residences* appeared in many editions, and the fifth of these, appearing in 1873, included added designs that are reminiscent of several houses that survive in Suncook Village.

Pembroke has several significant examples of Downing's influence. One house that is clearly inspired by Downing, perhaps his "Irregular Villa in the Italian Style, Bracketed" in *Cottage Residences*, is the Captain William Fife House at 386 Pembroke Street near Meetinghouse Brook (see map index #70). Although the house lacks the sophistication of some Italianate houses built in cities like Concord and Manchester, the asymmetrical dwelling is marked by a tall square tower or belvedere, proclaiming, in Downing's interpretation, its builder's stature in the community. Its first owner was a carpenter and contractor who is said to have built the house as early as 1847.<sup>31</sup>

Among the Suncook dwellings that relate to the later edition of *Cottage Residences*, and to comparable architectural books of the last quarter of the nineteenth century, are the Eleazer Baker House at 8 Prospect Street, circa 1871; the Natt Bartlett Emery House at 164 Main Street, at the corner of Broadway, circa 1875; and the David Austin brick house at 27 Broadway, circa 1870.

At 287 Pembroke Street is the George P. Little House (circa 1868), designed by architect George Williams of New York (see map index #71). Although the basic dwelling is a simple rectangle with a three-bay façade, the front of the house is marked by a full-width piazza and by a second-story central porch capped by a fanciful gable that is embellished with an eclectic combination of stickwork and fretsawn vertical slats. A tall, faceted tower rises almost to the height of the roof's ridge at one rear corner of the building. With its adjoining farmstead of 175 acres, the Little

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<sup>31</sup> Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., and Carolyn K. Tolles, *New Hampshire Architecture: An Illustrated Guide* (Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 1979), p. 220; for a biographical sketch of Captain William Fife, see D. Hamilton Hurd, ed., *History of Belknap and Merrimack Counties, New Hampshire* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis and Company, 1885), pp. 583-584.

House was one of relatively few Pembroke farmhouses that displayed sophisticated architectural ideals in an agricultural setting.

Houses that were inspired by the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing tend toward asymmetry and imaginative ornamentation. Beginning about the time of the Civil War, a more severe and massive style of house began to gain favor. The larger of these dwellings usually have a three-bay façade, two full stories, and a Mansard roof. Because such houses were inspired by a dominant urban fashion in the Paris of Napoleon III, their style is referred to as the French Second Empire. Perhaps because the French Second Empire style began as urban architecture, American houses of this type are most often seen in villages or cities. True to form, most Pembroke examples are found in Suncook Village, where the style appears in both large and small dwellings. One row of smaller specimens is seen along the east side of Broadway. These houses were probably identical when they were built as worker housing, but have been altered in varying ways. A still smaller one-and-a-half-story example, well preserved and displaying careful exterior detailing, is the house of local furniture dealer and undertaker Charles P. Morse at 9 Maple Street in Suncook Village. A large, two-family brick version of the style is seen at 12 Broadway. The roof style of all these houses is echoed in the Mansard roof of the village clocktower of 1879.

#### Late Victorian Styles

The many house styles that appeared under the influence of Downing, and those writers who followed him, began to give way to a few dominant styles by the late 1800s. Chief among these was the so-called “Queen Anne” style. The Queen Anne is characterized by an irregular floor plan with a multitude of projecting bays; by varied roof planes, often with a tower capped by a pyramidal or conical roof at one corner of the house; by varied wall coverings, most often combining patterned wooden shingles on one story and clapboards on another; and often by open porches with elaborately detailed columns linked below the porch roof by friezes of turned spindles.

Among the best examples of the Queen Anne style in Pembroke is the Eleazer Franklin (E. Frank) Baker House at 3 Prospect Street. This elegant and well-maintained house was constructed in 1894 from plans by Concord architect George W. Cunningham, who designed a second house, with a mirror-image floor plan, on South State Street in Concord. A less complex example is the George E. Gordon House at 178 Main Street, built about 1885 by the owner of a drug store that occupied one of the brick blocks on the east side of Main Street.

The colonial revival style became popular at the end of the nineteenth century, a few years after the Queen Anne. The colonial revival is characterized by classical detailing that often combines attributes of the American Georgian style of the 1700s with those of the Federal style of the early 1800s. Colonial Revival houses are often, though not always, symmetrical in plan. One of the best examples of an asymmetrical colonial revival style dwelling is the Jacob Chickering House of circa 1900 at 167 Main Street (now the Petit Funeral Home), opposite the foot of Broadway. Chickering was a jeweler with a store in a brick block on the east side of Main Street, near the corner of Glass Street. The house has lost certain original details, including balustrades that originally capped its faceted corner tower and the flat deck at the center of its hipped roof.

### Mail-order House Plans

By the late 1870s, as Suncook Village was beginning to assume its present-day appearance, certain entrepreneurs were developing a new method of purveying architectural ideas to the American public. Mail-order house plans were offered by architects, or associations of architects, through books or catalogues that illustrated perspective renderings and floor plans of houses of various sizes, styles, and costs. Detailed working drawings, sometimes with lists of all materials required for construction, or even with suggested painting schemes shown in chromolithography, could be ordered through the mail.

Such services were especially valuable to people who lived in rural areas, far from an architect's office, but who wanted a house of more sophisticated style than could be supplied by a country builder. In New Hampshire, many houses built from mail-order plans are to be found in country settings, although most are seen in small villages where they often represent some of the most elaborate and imposing dwellings in a neighborhood.

The leading pioneers of the mail-order house plan business, in the late 1870s and early 1880s, were the partnership of George and Charles Palliser of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the Cooperative Building Plan Association of New York, founded by Robert W. Shoppell. They were joined in the late 1880s by George F. Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee, whose fanciful Queen Anne designs found favor in several New Hampshire towns.<sup>32</sup>

Suncook Village has at least three houses that were built from a single set of plans, almost certainly a mail-order design. The least altered of these houses is that of Josiah Frederick Baker at 6 Prospect Street, a thoroughfare that was laid out in 1876 past the already standing house of Eleazer Baker, the father of Josiah Frederick. A second copy from the same plan stands at 3 Exchange Street, with its floor plan reversed, creating a mirror image of the Baker House. A third copy, more severely altered than the first two, is at 16 Broadway. Yet another example, somewhat modified, is to be seen on Pembroke Street northwest of the intersection with Pembroke Hill Road. The source of this much-used plan has not yet been identified.

### Early Twentieth Century House Styles

Early residential neighborhoods of Suncook Village, surrounding the central core of brick commercial buildings, are to be found on upper Main Street, with its mixture of early nineteenth-century houses and its infill of late-nineteenth century dwellings, and along a series of other streets that were laid out in the late 1800s as new house lots were needed. Broadway was laid out in 1868, Pleasant Street in 1871, and Prospect Street, Maple Street, and Pine Street in 1876. All of these new streets began to fill with houses in various late-nineteenth-century styles soon after the thoroughfares were opened, creating concentric zones of new building around the old village core and the old highway, Main Street. Still later, newer houses appeared on upper Broadway and the streets leading from it, as well as on upper Main Street, near and upon the Chester Turnpike. It is in these later neighborhoods, still farther removed from the village core, that one finds the majority of houses from the early twentieth century.

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<sup>32</sup> James L. Garvin, "Mail-Order House Plans and American Victorian Architecture," *Winterthur Portfolio* 16 (Winter 1981): 309-334.

The early twentieth century saw the introduction of a number of house styles that were especially adapted to the small, middle class dwelling of three or four bedrooms. Among the most popular was the one-and-a-half-story or two-story “Dutch colonial” house, a dwelling with a broad gambrel roof, often pierced by a wide shed dormer that admitted ample light into the bedchambers. Although such houses tended toward symmetrical designs, they were often varied by the addition of an expansive brick chimney that rises against the exterior wall at one end of the house. Many have a one-story glazed sun porch or screened porch attached to one of the gable ends. A good Pembroke example can be seen at 207 Pembroke Street. Other examples stand at 10 and 55 Broadway.

Another very popular small house was the bungalow. Most bungalows are one and a half stories high, with broad roof planes that shelter an open front porch and offer constricted but adequate bedroom space above the first story. Roofs project well beyond wood-shingled or stuccoed walls. Rafter tails are exposed and painted, and triangular wooden brackets may support the projecting eaves. Examples of bungalows can be seen at 90 and 100 Broadway and at 34 Pleasant Street.

Beginning in the 1920s, a variety of “Tudor” or “English” cottages became popular. Often characterized by asymmetrical front gables with steeply-pitched, low-sweeping roofs that enveloped the bottom of broad fireplace chimneys, these cottages sometimes had clipped end gables that were meant to suggest the soft lines of thatched roofs. An example may be seen at 76 Broadway.

While these tend to be the most popular house types of the early twentieth century, many others are found. This was an era when the late-nineteenth-century idea of issuing mail-order house catalogues was made still more accessible by large firms, mostly in the Midwest, that employed scores of architects to issue books of plans showing houses of every imaginable style, size, and price. These books were made available to local lumber companies, and people in the market for a new house were able to choose from a wide array of designs to match their taste and budget.

### **Commercial and Industrial Buildings**

One of the richest portions of Pembroke’s architectural legacy is the center of Suncook Village. Here, in a constrained area a few blocks in extent, is one of the finest concentrations of masonry commercial, residential, and manufacturing buildings to be found in New Hampshire. These structures exhibit excellent design and detailing, displaying a highly skillful use of locally manufactured bricks and locally quarried granite.

Because its buildings, formerly of wood, were reconstructed following several fires, lower Main Street in Suncook is largely composed of structures that were built within a ten-year period, between 1876 and 1886. This district therefore displays great coherence of design, materials, and workmanship. These qualities have induced the Town of Pembroke and a local revitalization committee, *Meet Me in Suncook*, to contract for the preparation of a nomination of the commercial district to the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination is expected to be completed in 2004. The district is described and interpreted in a brief flier that *Meet Me in Suncook* prepared as a self-guided walking tour of the center of the village.

The builder of many of the commercial blocks constructed along Main Street in Suncook Village after the fires of 1876, 1878, and 1886, was Samuel S. Ordway (c. 1834-1909). Ordway practiced as an architect-builder in Manchester in the late 1870s. From 1879 through 1890, he was also listed as a carpenter and builder in Suncook. An example of Ordway's skill is the clocktower building. In announcing the proposed construction of this structure, the *Suncook Journal* of March 29, 1879, stated that "Charles Williams and J. L. Hosmer have purchased the land on which Nos. 1 and 2 Pembroke corporation building now stands, whereon they will erect, the coming season, a three-story brick block covering about 65x65 feet, fronting on Main street. The structure will be of modern style architecture, and over the corner of Main and Front streets there will be a tower 80 feet high, in which it is proposed to put a town clock. A plan of the Main st. elevation, drawn by Mr. S. S. Ordway, contractor and builder, of this village, shows a frontage of exceeding beauty. There are to be three capacious stores on the ground floor; the second story will be arranged for offices, while in the third story it is hinted that there *may* be a Masonic hall."

Central Suncook Village has suffered several losses, mostly from fire, that have somewhat diminished an even more impressive downtown area. While the district retains Pembroke Mill (1860; now Emerson Mill Apartments) and its adjacent company office (now Town Line Printing), fire claimed the second, nearby Webster Mill (1865) in 1983 (see map item #V6 and V18). Similarly, fire damaged one of a pair of long, brick boarding houses that were built by Pembroke Manufacturing Company; with its second story removed, this building has been occupied by the Veterans of Foreign Wars since about 1930. The second, similar boarding house on the opposite side of Crescent Street was removed to provide a municipal parking lot.

Still earlier, in 1914, fire caused the removal of a third story, containing an Odd Fellows' hall, from Addison Osgood's block at 132-138 Main Street. In 1937, fire destroyed the brick Eleazer Baker's Block at 11-15 Glass Street. Built in 1886, this impressive building had contained a department store, the town library, the village post office, and several other businesses. The site is now a parking lot.

Despite such losses, the commercial and manufacturing center of Suncook Village retains a level of architectural coherence and excellent craftsmanship that are seldom equaled even in New Hampshire's larger cities. In addition to its contiguous commercial blocks, most of them intended for residential space or meeting halls on the upper floors, the area includes specialized structures like the former police station, a detached brick building built at 43 Front Street in 1870 (see map item #V10), or the former fire station (later police station) built at 4 Union Street in 1934.

### **School Buildings**

Pembroke retains a number of early school buildings that provide a physical record of the evolution of education in the community from the mid-nineteenth century. These buildings may be separated into three groups: district or one-room schoolhouses; consolidated or multi-room school buildings; and Pembroke Academy (see map index #54), which served the town as a high school from 1818.

Until after the Civil War, all elementary education in Pembroke was provided in district schoolhouses that were located throughout the township at sites that were convenient for the children of various neighborhoods. Under a series of New Hampshire laws passed in 1805, 1808, 1825, 1827, 1842, and later, the construction, repair, and staffing of the district schools were the responsibility of the individual school districts to which each building belonged. These districts were required to choose their own clerks and keep their own records independently of the town selectmen or town clerk. This makes it difficult to carry out detailed research on the earlier schoolhouses of Pembroke.

The State of New Hampshire began to take an official interest in public education and in schoolhouse architecture in the 1840s. The legislature established the position of State Commissioner of Common Schools in 1846. In his first annual report, published in 1847, the newly-appointed commissioner placed strong emphasis on the defects of many of the schoolhouses that then served local school districts throughout the state. He lamented “the multitudes of [school]houses, in the State, [that are] not only inconveniently located, and awkwardly planned, but absolutely dangerous to health and morals . . .” He noted, however, that “if the architecture is neat, and the grounds tastefully laid out . . . not only will the [school]house answer the essential purpose of health and comfort, but prove a material auxiliary in elevating the minds and correcting the habits of those who receive their education in it.”<sup>33</sup>

Subsequent commissioner’s reports illustrated model school buildings selected from throughout the state, or reproduced illustrations and text from Henry Barnard’s *School Architecture; or, Contributions to the Improvement of School-Houses in the United States* (1848). In June, 1849, to encourage the improvement of district schoolhouses across New Hampshire, the legislature authorized the distribution of a copy of Barnard’s influential volume to the board of selectmen in each town.

The effect of this architectural reform movement seems to have been felt immediately in District No. 1 in Pembroke, the location of the Pembroke Street schoolhouse. A new brick Pembroke Street school building was built in the summer of 1851 to replace an older brick building that had fallen into disrepair. The building stands nearly unchanged on the exterior, and serves as the Grange and Odd Fellows’ hall. Its design was closely patterned on that of the brick schoolhouse of the Northern District in Greenland, built in 1847 and illustrated in the *Third Annual Report of the Commissioner of Common Schools* (1849). The report of the Superintending School Committee in the 1851 Pembroke Town Report called the new brick building “a beautiful, commodious, and well arranged school-house; a model for the town.”

In similar response to these progressive architectural ideals, other changes and improvements were made around 1860 to the District No. 3 (Buck Street) schoolhouse, which had been built around 1830 and was moved by the Pembroke Historical Society to a site behind the town hall in 1997.

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<sup>33</sup> *Report of the Commissioner of Common Schools to the Legislature of New Hampshire, June Session, 1847* (Hanover, N. H.: Dartmouth Press, 1847), pp. 13-14.

After passage of new statewide legislation in 1885, the construction, maintenance, and staffing of town schools became the responsibility of a single town-wide school district in each town, rather than of the separate neighborhood districts, as before. This change equalized the availability of school funding throughout an entire town, but did not make school administration the direct responsibility of town government.<sup>34</sup>

The State Board of Education issued new rules for schoolhouse facilities in 1919. These called for the provision of sanitary drinking water, and for facilities for washing the hands, in all schools. These changes were reflected in changes Pembroke's district schoolhouses.<sup>35</sup> By that time, Pembroke had six districts: Pembroke Street (District No. 1), Brickett Hill (District No. 2), Buck Street (District No. 3), Pembroke Hill (District No. 4), North Pembroke (District No. 6) and Borough School (District No. 7). A seventh rural school, in the Town Pound or Robinson district (District No. 5), burned in 1896. Throughout the nineteenth century, there had been as many as eight rural districts in addition to the Suncook Village school.

Of these rural district school buildings, two (Pembroke Street Schoolhouse and the relocated Buck Street Schoolhouse) survive in little-changed condition. Two others (North Pembroke and Borough Schoolhouses) have been converted to dwellings.

The rapid growth of Suncook Village after 1860 increased the need for a village school. The first consolidated or graded village school was built on the crest of the hill at the junction of Main Street and the Chester Turnpike in 1872 (see map item #V15). This large brick building (the property of the Pembroke Water Works since 1951) followed a well-recognized urban model of the period; a very similar building, now the Allenstown Town Hall, was built in 1877 on the Allenstown side of Suncook Village. The Suncook graded school was remodeled for use as a gymnasium and community building after construction of the new Village School in 1908, and was further remodeled on its first story for offices, garage space, and equipment storage by the Pembroke Water Works after 1951.<sup>36</sup> Despite these changes, the building is a landmark in the educational history of Pembroke and a now-rare survivor of an early consolidated school house. Its remaining architectural character should be preserved.

Overcrowding of the relatively small village graded school was acute by the early twentieth century. School authorities were concerned that the building did not afford playground space (being located close to the street and having a rocky ravine behind it), and that children were exposed to the danger of electric trolley cars that passed up and down the adjacent Main Street.

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<sup>34</sup> Chapter 43, Laws of 1885.

<sup>35</sup> James L. Garvin, "Report on the Buck Street Community House (District Number 3 Schoolhouse), Thompson Road, Pembroke, New Hampshire," November 11, 1997; updated to May 3, 1998, New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N. H. For commentary by the State Commissioner of Education on the status of Pembroke's rural schools at this time, see the Pembroke Annual Report for 1920, pp. 39-40.

<sup>36</sup> For a photograph of the building in original condition, see Frank Levi Aldrich, "Suncook To-Day," *Granite Monthly* 29 (July 1900): 6.



In 1907, the town appointed a building committee to construct a modern school in Suncook Village. The committee obtained a lot of nearly four acres at the western end of High Street from the Concord and Montreal Railroad and hired Chase R. Whitcher (1876-1940) as architect of the new building. One of the most experienced and prolific New Hampshire architects of the early twentieth century, Whitcher specialized in institutional buildings, especially schools, municipal buildings, hospitals, business blocks, and hotels. For some years, he was designated the “state architect,” and designed many structures for state government.<sup>37</sup>

The new Village School at 30 High Street, which is still in use, was built for \$20,000 (see map item #V19). It is a classic educational building of the early twentieth century, with a projecting central pavilion entered through a massive brick arch, banks of large windows for ample classroom illumination, and a tall hipped roof with chimney-like roof ventilators. It was constructed of bricks fired at the local brickyard of George N. Simpson and of granite quarried by Charles A. Bailey in Allenstown.<sup>38</sup> As a substantial educational building designed by one of the most important New Hampshire architects of any period, the Village School is one of Pembroke’s most significant municipal properties.

Education at the high school level in Pembroke has been provided since 1819 by Pembroke Academy (see map index #54). The first academy building was a brick structure that was dedicated in May, 1819, and remodeled in 1841 in the Greek Revival style. This building burned on June 21, 1900, and was replaced in 1904 by a brick structure that was comparable in size and appearance to the Village School. The 1904 building, in turn, was gutted by fire in 1936. It was then remodeled within its brick walls and enlarged at the rear, assuming the appearance of a typical high school building of that era. As then remodeled, this building remains in use, but it has been surrounded by a number of other structures that have accompanied the dramatic growth of the student population from Pembroke and neighboring towns.

### **Barns**

Some of the most vulnerable structures within Pembroke’s architectural inheritance are barns and other agricultural outbuildings. Among the largest structures in Pembroke when they were first erected to hold tons of hay and to shelter livestock, these wooden monuments to the town’s agricultural age have become less useful as the few working farms that survive have adopted new methods of storing provender and sheltering cattle. On former farms that are now used solely as residences, barns continue to exist only through the sufferance of owners who are sometimes motivated to maintain the buildings by sentiment or a sense of responsibility for the past. Examination of sources from around 1900 reveals that many of Pembroke’s largest and finest barns disappeared during the twentieth century.

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<sup>37</sup> Obituary of Chase R. Whitcher, *Manchester Union Leader*, August 26, 1940; William Whitcher, *Descendants of Chase Whitcher of Warren*, N. H. (Woodsville, N. H.: News Book and Job Print, 1907).

<sup>38</sup> Pembroke Annual Report, 1908, pp. 48-51.

The loss of old barns is not just a New Hampshire or a New England issue; it is now recognized as a national preservation problem. In response, the National Trust for Historic Preservation launched its *Barn Again!* program in 1987, offering cash awards to farmers who kept old barns in active use, and publishing a guide to the rehabilitation of older farm buildings. In 1989, the National Park Service published *Preservation Brief 20: The Preservation of Historic Barns* (available from the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources in Concord or on-line at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief20.htm>) to encourage the understanding and preservation of these often neglected structures. In New Hampshire, John C. Porter and Francis Gilman of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension published their practical guide, *Preserving Old Barns: Preventing the Loss of a Valuable Resource*, in 2001.

Depending on available funding, the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources and the non-profit New Hampshire Preservation Alliance have intermittently been able to offer modest grants for the evaluation and the actual repair of historic barns. The New Hampshire legislature created a permanent tool for barn preservation in 2002, when it passed a law (RSA 79-D) that encouraged the preservation of historic barns and other agricultural buildings. This law authorizes municipalities to grant property tax relief to owners whose agricultural buildings provide an aesthetic or historical benefit to the public, and who agree to continue to maintain their structures throughout the duration of a ten-year discretionary easement held by the town.

The preservation of Pembroke's barns and other agricultural structures is hampered by lack of a town-wide inventory of such buildings. Pembroke residents are urged to participate in New Hampshire's statewide barn survey, which is conducted and maintained by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources in Concord. Survey forms may be obtained from the Division, or on-line at <http://www.state.nh.us/nhdhr/barnsurveyproject.html>.

The following typology of Pembroke's barns is based on general observation, not on complete data.<sup>39</sup>

Like kindred structures elsewhere in northern New England, Pembroke's barns evolved over time and today display several forms. The earliest and smallest are the so-called "English" barns. English barns are 1½-story gable-roofed structures with their main entrances on one or both of the long elevations, beneath the eaves of their roofs. These buildings typically measure about thirty by forty feet. They were the standard barn type from the era of first settlement until about 1850. English barns are divided internally into three sections, each defined by the principal framing bents of the structure. Running through the center is a driveway or threshing floor. Stables for cows and/or horses are provided on one side of the driveway, with a low hayloft above the stables for warmth. A haymow fills the opposite side, extending from the floor (or from the cellar in the case of side-hill barns) to the rafters overhead. Above the central threshing floor is often an impermanent upper scaffold of saplings or light boards laid over the tie beams of the roof. This upper scaffold was used for additional hay or grain storage.

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<sup>39</sup> For a more complete and analytical discussion of the barns and other agricultural buildings of the region, see Thomas Durant Visser, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings* (Hanover, N. H.: University Press of New England, 1997). For information on the care of barns, see John C. Porter and Francis E. Gilman, *Preserving Old Barns: Preventing the Loss of a Valuable Resource* (Durham, N. H.: University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, 2001).

English barns were often built into the side of a hill or declivity to provide a cellar for manure beneath the main floor. An example of a side-hill English barn dating from about 1830 may be seen attached to the brick Bailey Parker House at 470 North Pembroke Road (see map index #68).

Between about 1810 and 1830, the more prosperous farmers adopted a new form of barn that was capable of being extended indefinitely in length. This was the gable-front barn, sometimes called the “Yankee” barn. Like the smaller English barns, gable front barns are approximately forty feet in width. In length or depth, however, these buildings may extend for one hundred or more feet with the addition of as many framing bents or bays as were needed. Such barns also lent themselves to being lengthened over time by the addition of additional framing bents as the farm prospered. While older framing bents may be constructed of hewn timber, added bents in a lengthened barn are often fashioned from sawn stock, and the difference in technology provides visible evidence of the enlargement.

Like an English barn, a gable-front barn has a central driveway or threshing floor, often with doors at both ends of the structure to permit wagons to exit the barn after unloading without backing the horses. On one side of the driveway are stalls and stables, with a hayloft overhead to provide warmth in the winter. The opposite side of the barn is usually given over fully to hay storage, and the barn may be designed asymmetrically, with the driveway offset toward the stable side to give the haymow side greater storage capacity.

Again like an English barn, a gable-front barn might be built on a flat grade with a simple foundation of fieldstone or split granite posts. More advantageously, such a barn might be built on a hillside or embankment, with a high foundation on one side providing access to a cellar for manure storage. Such a barn is termed a gable-front bank barn.

Once it superseded the English barn by about 1850, the gable-front barn remained the norm throughout the agricultural era. Over time, such barns were often decorated with architectural embellishments that reflected the stylistic eras in which they were built or remodeled: the Greek Revival, Romantic, or late Victorian periods. These barns also evolved slowly over time to reflect changing theories of animal husbandry. Many gable-front barns were equipped with large ventilating cupolas at the centers of their ridgepoles, for example, after it was discovered that shingling or clapboarding their walls for warmth had the unintended consequence of trapping moisture in the building and causing unhealthful wintertime condensation.

Large gable-front barns were built in Pembroke’s agricultural uplands, and few were also built on the larger farms that once operated along Pembroke Street. Many of these have been lost to neglect or fire. Among the few large barns that remain are those of the Emery-Langmaid Farm at 530 Buck Street, the Knox Farm at 615-17 Buck Street, the Isaac G. Russ Farm at 626 Buck Street, and the Abbott Farm at 423 North Pembroke Road. The Bachelder Farm at 710 Bachelder Road (Old Buck Street), next to the Buck Street Cemetery (see index #2 on map), retains not only a large barn but also an impressive collection of other agricultural outbuildings.

Some large barns were converted to hen houses during the early twentieth century, when the poultry industry became a source of prosperity in the region. An example of such conversion, which entailed inserting many windows for light and ventilation, may be seen in the barn at 471 Pembroke Street. The emergence of the Suncook Valley as a leading poultry region in the 1920s saw the construction of new hen houses of considerable scale. Most of these have disappeared, but a surviving example may be seen at 426 Buck Street.

### **Stables**

In contrast to large barns for storing tons of hay and sheltering many animals, smaller farms and village houses required only small stables for sheltering a horse, and perhaps a cow, together with an appropriate volume of hay for their sustenance. These small stable buildings were often treated with architectural detailing comparable to that of the accompanying house. Examples of elaborate stables may be seen in Suncook Village behind the George E. Gordon House at 178 Main Street, and behind the remodeled George E. Miller House at 11 Maple Street.

### **Agricultural Outbuildings**

Lack of survey data makes it impossible to predict the range and variety of agricultural outbuildings that may survive in Pembroke. Such buildings might include privies, hen houses or poultry barns, potato barns, sugar houses, greenhouses, cider mills, farm blacksmith or carpenter shops, shoe shops, creameries, icehouses, well or spring houses, windmills, woodsheds, wagon sheds, corn cribs, and silos. An example of the kind of agricultural rarity that may survive is the small brick smokehouse on the Noyes Farm, just south of the Pembroke Town Hall on Pembroke Street. This building was used to smoke meat, a task usually accomplished in New Hampshire in brick smoke chambers attached to the chimneys of houses.

**HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN PEMBROKE**

Pembroke is host to a number of programs and organizations which serve to educate or better the community as well as provide a venue for gathering. All organizations, most of which require intense volunteer support, are important to support and promote. The Town should endeavor to assist in any way possible to keep these community-focused groups fully functional.

Table III-8  
Historical and Cultural Organizations or Activities

Type	Organization or Activity	Building or Activity Location
Historical Organizations	Historical Society	311 Pembroke Street
	Pembroke Old Home Day Committee	50 Glass Street
	Meet Me in Suncook	160 Main Street
Community Gathering Places	Pembroke Town Library	315 Pembroke Street
	Memorial Field	45 Pleasant Street
	White Sands Conservation Area	White Sands Road
	Town Hall	311 Pembroke Street
	Pembroke Academy	209 Academy Road
Activities for Young Adults	Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts	310 Pembroke Street
	Girl Scouts & Brownies	Varies
	4-H	Varies
	Tennis Program (youth and adults)	209 Academy Road
	Swimming Program (grades 2-8)	Southern NH University, Hooksett, NH
	Suncook Youth Basketball (boys and girls, grades 4-6)	All Pembroke School Gymnasiums
	Summer Recreation Program (grades 2-8)	45 Pleasant Street
	Adult Open Gym	243 Academy Road
	Suncook Babe Ruth (baseball/boys 13-15)	45 Pleasant Street
	Suncook Little League (baseball/boys & softball/girls 5-18)	45 Pleasant Street
	Suncook Sharks (co-ed soccer 8-14)	45 Pleasant Street
	Suncook Youth soccer (co-ed 4-18)	45 Pleasant Street
Activities for Seniors	Moving and Motivated Senior's Group	311 Pembroke Street
Church Organizations	Hillside Baptist Church	547 Pembroke Street
	First Congregational Church, UCC	310 Pembroke Street
	Grace Capital Church	209 Pembroke Street
	Suncook United Methodist Church	160 Main Street
Service Clubs	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)	43 Church Street
	Masonic Lodge	144 Main Street
	American Legion Post 28	3 Glass Street

Source: 2004 Hazard Mitigation Plan; Subcommittee Input

## HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS OR STUDIES

Numerous sources are available for the history of Pembroke. Listed are a selection of those documents available which discuss many of the Town's historic sites, landscapes, and stories.

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### SUMMARY

The inclusion of Historic and Cultural Resources as a part of Pembroke's Master Plan serves two main goals. The first is to respond to the town survey done in 2003 where 67% of the respondents wanted Pembroke's history kept alive for our future residents to comprehend. The second is to serve as a guide to all private and governmental developments and improvements that occur here in Pembroke.

The intent here is not to repeat the town history but rather to give a synopsis of what and where to seek guidance. The appendix pages III-46 through III-49 lists available publications pertinent to Pembroke. "A Pembroke History" by Charles Whittemore, "Old Suncook Revitalization" by N H Historic Society, "Pembroke Town History" by Pembroke Historical Society and Pembroke Bicentennial Commemorative Booklet are good initial reference resources. "A History of Pembroke" by Cater/McClintock has listed locations for historical information of the town.

A look at the Carter/ McClintock a “History of Pembroke” shows that three major main roadways, Route 3, Buck Street and North Pembroke Road, were the major travel usage of our history. Travel throughout the town by Pembroke’s residents will be over the same major highways of the past and present where much of the cultural and historic resources exist. Care has to be taken to identify and preserve these resources, as the need for travel improvements is required. The importance of rivers in our past and the potential they present for the future should also be remembered. These are concerns that need attention as any improvements are planned and implemented.

Town commissions, officials, agencies, boards, as well as private developers need to direct their concerns as to where we have been and where we are proceeding.

The immediate need is to create and detail the task of a heritage committee or maybe the authority of a commission so as to direct on an advisory status to town and private agencies ways and means to preserve our historical and cultural background.

Page III-2 and page III-3 lists Chapter Objectives and Recommendations and divides them into three categories, guide, retain and a third awareness. Enactment of ordinances or regulations can be accomplished after thoughtful input by town inhabitants, town boards, town committees, town commissions, developers and various state agencies. Task completions where cultural and historic features of Pembroke are identified will be necessary to begin preservation of our past. Verbal and written communication with actual facts, town needs and stated purposes will be essential to achieve the recommended objectives. The Subcommittee’s designation of priority and logical lead agency is a best idea and should be reviewed periodically as new and changed activities occur in the Town of Pembroke.

- Respectfully Submitted, George Fryer, Historic and Cultural Resources Subcommittee Chair