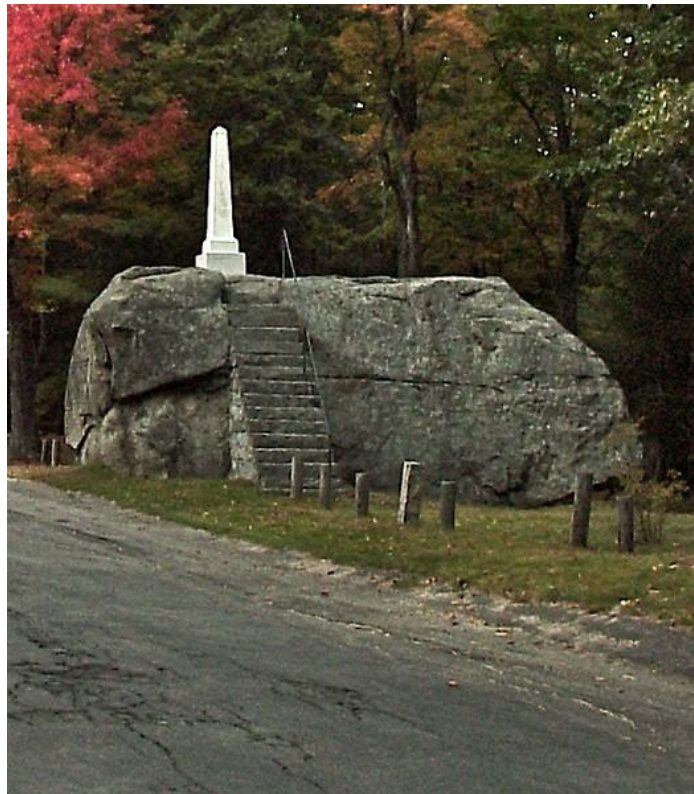


Chapter XII

Cultural & Historic Resources



"The great potential contribution of preservation to American life is not in the saving of structures per se but in the transformation of the values by which we live."

~Roderick S. French

Chapter XII

Cultural & Historic Resources

12.1 INTRODUCTION

It is hardly surprising that Tamworth, founded in 1766 – and the area first settled several decades earlier – is rich in historic structures and sites. These have been partially documented in such works as *Tamworth Old Home Week* (1906) that includes photograph of 56 houses, churches, stores and shops, a few of which no longer exist; Lillian C. McGrew's *If Walls Could Speak* (1976) and updated in 2005 by Jean Ulitz and Chris Clyne, which lists, with brief histories, some standing old farmhouses in the area; Bryant F. Tolles' *Summer Cottages in the White Mountains: 1870-1930* (2000) that features 18 architecturally important houses in the Tamworth area, more than in any other comparable area in the region; and *Chocorua Lake Basin: a National Historic District* (2005) by Jim Bowditch, a summary of the successful effort to make the Basin the largest National Historic District in New England, with 50 "contributing," i.e. older than fifty years, houses, 16 bathhouses, three bridges and three visible remnants – the old Nickerson sawmill on the upper Chocorua River and the once-impressive Engleman house and barn on Fowlers Mill Road – plus, as an aside, eleven cellar holes (there are more).

There are, of course, many more structures and sites of historic interest and importance: houses, churches, cemeteries and scenic views. The 1995 Master Plan, drawing on the 1980 plan, lists 16 scenic views, to which should be added the view of the Sandwich Range now opened at the crest of Fowlers Mill Road; 22 burial plots; 6 churches, one of which, the Catholic Our Lady of Perpetual Help, is now deconsecrated, though still preserves its outer structure intact; and only 12 historic buildings, of which two, the Cook Memorial Library and the Enoch Remick House, now part of the Remick Museum, were on the National Register of Historic Places. The Tamworth Historical Society Building, aka the Chocorua Grange, is on the State Register of Historic Places.

All of these – plus several houses beyond the Chocorua Basin featured in Tolles' book, including "Great Hill Farm" on Cleveland Hill Road; "Kilmarnock," the long-time home of Dr. John Finley, New York State University President and close friend of President Cleveland; "Seven Hearths" in Wonalancet and many others not previously identified – deserve to be preserved as irreplaceable historic treasures.



"The past isn't dead. It isn't even past."

~ William Faulkner

12.2 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

According to the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places, a structure or group of structures must be at least fifty years old to qualify for inclusion in the National Register, although age per se is not enough; in addition, the structure or site must either be associated with "events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our [national] history," to lives of persons significant to our [national] past," embody "distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represent the work of a master," or have potential for yielding "information important in prehistory or history" * There is also a New Hampshire Register that lists properties whose historical significance is more local.

What being on the National Register does is to:

- qualify a property for preservation easement programs and potential benefits such as charitable deductions and tax reductions;
- qualify a property for LCHIP (Land & Community Heritage Investment Program) funding; and
- mandate review of state- and federally-funded projects to assess their impact on the property or district.

What being on the Register does not do is:

- impose any restrictions on an owner regarding alterations or use, provided that no federal license, permit or funding is involved;
- require owners to open properties to the public or to restore or even maintain them; or
- require signs, banners or any other notice declaring that "This is an Historic Place".

"History does not repeat itself. But it does rhyme."

~Mark Twain



12.3 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

The responses were broken out into four categories: total, year-round residents, voters and business owners. In general, the results from all four groups were very similar.

On the question of whether the town should encourage historical preservation, 87% responded yes, 3.9% no and 4.7% had no opinion, the percentages essentially equal among year-round residents and others, although business owners were 91.4% in favor.

To the question "Should there be restrictions on renovating or removing historic houses, structures or sites?" 57.8% said yes, 24.9% no and 9.3% had no opinion, with 35.5% of responding business owners saying no.

As to whether Tamworth Village should apply for historic district status, 58.8% said yes, 17.0% no and 17.4% had no opinion. (It should be noted that as a required part of the Chocorua Village Safety Project, a study was conducted to determine whether that village would qualify.)

The final question – "Are there historic sites in Tamworth that should be protected?" – elicited an affirmative answer from only 26.0% of respondents, with 6.7% saying no and 37.9% having no opinion, which would seem to indicate that the majority have little or no knowledge of the township's rich historical heritage. A number of the answers were rather generic: "Everything," "All of them," "All houses built before 1850," "The town as it is," "Ya know 'em when ya see 'em," etc.

However, those who named specific places - about 126 – singled out one or more of the following:

- Barnstormers - 25
- Town House - 20
- Old churches - 20
- Ordination Rock area - 10
- Tamworth Inn - 6
- Village stores - 5
- Chinook Kennels - 5
- G. Cleveland House - 5
- Narrows Bridge - 4
- Great Hill Tower - 3
- Cleveland Hill Memorial Wall - 3
- Chocorua Grange Hall - 2
- Old schools - 2
- Ayer House - 2
- Old Page farm syrup house - 2
- Jewel cellar holes - 2

One each for:

- Stevenson burying ground
- Kilmarnock
- Huckins barn
- Great Hill and Page Hill old skiing areas
- 521 Turkey St.
- Old Fair Grounds
- Osgood Rd Bridge abutments



(It should be noted that while the 50 “contributing” houses in the Chocorua Basin are part of the National Register, individual houses are not considered Historic Places; the same would be true if Tamworth Village were to be put on the Register.)

12.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Since over 88% felt that the town should encourage historic preservation and well over half thought that Tamworth Village should apply for historic district status, it would be worth the town considering incentives or at least a preservation education program that would encourage owners to consider applying for NH or National Register status. Serious consideration should be given to restoring the Town House, while care should be taken that certain specific buildings/sites are protected from indiscriminate development or destruction.



“The basic purpose of preservation is not to arrest time but to mediate sensitively with the forces of change. It is to understand the present as a product of the past and a modifier of the future.”

~John W. Lawrence

12.5 HISTORIC RESOURCES

State Historic markers

The **Barnstormers Theatre** is the oldest summer playhouse in NH, and one of the oldest in the U.S.

The **Chinook Kennels** moved to this site in 1930, and operated for decades producing champion dogs bred for exploration and racing.

The **Chocorua Legend** relates the tragic tale of the deaths of Chief Chocorua and his son and conflict with local settlers. The marker is located near the lake on Route 16.

Historic Buildings & District

The **Cook Memorial Library** was established in 1796 by the Reverend Samuel Hidden, the fourth social library founded in New Hampshire. The current library building was constructed in 1895 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The **Captain Enoch Remick House** was built in 1808. It is significant as an agricultural property and for its architecture and interior wall paintings.

The **Chocorua Lake Basin Historic District** encompasses more than 5,000 acres of land around Chocorua Lake and includes historic summer cottages and primary residences.

The **Chocorua Grange** was originally part of the Gilman Tavern. It housed the Tamworth Historical Society from 1961 until 2007. It is now privately owned. It was added to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places in 2002.

Historic Organizations

The **Tamworth Historical Society** stimulates interest in the history of Tamworth through the collection and display of articles of historical value and the dissemination of information.

The Tamworth Historical Society was founded in 1952 by a small group of volunteers dedicated to preserving the history and traditions of Tamworth. The first meetings were held in members' homes and then in the library. In 1961 the society was able to purchase the Chocorua Grange Hall, located on Gregs Way, just a short distance from the center of Tamworth Village. Extensive renovations created a large meeting room on the first floor and a small museum on the second floor which displayed the society's collection of Tamworth



memorabilia in room settings. The Tamworth Historical Society sold the Grange Hall in 2007 and moved its collection in June 2008 to an early 1800 Federal style house on the corner of Great Hill Road, now known as the Hall-Dyer House. A three year remodeling plan is underway to provide room for the society's expanding collection and to serve as a base for its ongoing mission to preserve the heritage of Tamworth.

The Remick Country Doctor Museum & Farm provides education on the life of a rural country doctor, and was created for the preservation and interpretation of the Remick property for the benefit of the public. Monthly special events are provided relating to the agricultural way of life.

Historic Inns & Taverns

The Brass Heart Inn
Gilman Tavern Inn
The Highland House
Riverbend Inn
Red Horse Hill Farm
The Tamworth Inn
The Lazy Dog Inn



"There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here and there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody."

~Richard Moe

12.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Tamworth is fortunate to have a wealth of cultural resources which can be enjoyed by its residents. Included are libraries, historic markers, sites of local importance and numerous clubs, organizations and services which contribute to the quality of life in Tamworth.

Cultural Sites

The Barnstormers Theatre is a year-round theatre with a focus on summer theatre and education in the performing arts. Founded in 1931 by Francis and Alice Cleveland with Edward Goodnow, it is the oldest professional summer theatre in the United States.

Runnells Hall is a public space located in Chocorua, available for educational, entertainment and fund-raising events.

Union Hall of South Tamworth maintains the Union Hall public space. It develops and strengthens fellowship and understanding among the citizens of Tamworth.

Libraries

The Cook Memorial Library is a full-service lending library with over 600 volumes as well as photos, slides, videos and DVDs. Computers, microfilm and microfiche machines are also available.

The Chocorua Public Library is a privately funded library started in 1888 and originally housed in Runnells Hall. It moved to a new brick building in 1969.

Schools

Bearcamp Valley School and Children's Center offers preschool, before- and after-school day-care and multi-age, pre-K through elementary classes.

The Community School is a private, co-educational day school, grades 7-12, educating young people so that each one may become a valued and contributing member of our local and global communities.

Kenneth A. Brett School is a public elementary and middle school, kindergarten through grade eight.

Marrone's Community Kids Childcare is a preschool program for ages three to six.

Tamworth Learning Circles provides classic academics in a progressive setting for elementary through high school students.

Churches

The Chocorua Baptist Church is a Baptist church in Chocorua Village built in 1835.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help was built around 1900. Formerly a Catholic Church, it was de-sanctified in 2001, and now houses a weaver's studio.

St. Andrews-in-the-Valley is an Episcopal parish whose church on old Route 25 was completed in 1927.

The Tamworth Congregational Church was completed in 1853. Samuel Hidden, its first minister, was an influential town leader.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Eastern Slopes is housed in the former village school at the "four corners".

The United Methodist Church in South Tamworth, built in 1832, was remodeled in 1861.

The Wonalancet Union Chapel was built in 1880, and the bell tower and the bell were added in 1896. It is still used for weddings, summer services and a Christmas Eve service.

Local Importance

Cemeteries are maintained by the trustees of the trust funds. Numbering about 28, most are small family plots; Ordination Rock, Chocorua, Fowler's Mill and Wonalancet have space available for interments.

The Cleveland Summer House is the former summer home of President Grover Cleveland and his family.

The Great Hill Fire Tower is located in Hemenway State Forest. It was built in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps and is on the National Historic Lookout Register.

The Grover Cleveland Memorial Stone Wall is a straight stone wall along one-third mile of Cleveland Hill Road leading to the former President's summer home. Granite markers with a plaque mark its beginning.

Ordination Rock is a large glacial erratic, and was the sight of the ordination of Tamworth's first minister, Samuel Hidden, in 1792. In 1862 a granite monument was erected on its top to commemorate the ordination.

Tamworth Schoolhouses once totaled 19; some were converted to homes when no longer needed. In 1908 the village frame school was built at the "four corners". It closed in 1956 when the Kenneth A. Brett School opened.

The Town Pound sits next to Ordination Rock, and was used from 1807 to 1879 to house stray livestock. In 1976 a fence and a sign were installed as part of the Bicentennial Celebration.

The Tamworth Town House began its existence in 1794 as the town meeting house. It later moved to its present location, was converted to a town house in 1852, and is now used for town activities and voting.

The **Tamworth Veterans' Memorial** is located in Tamworth Village at the intersection of Route 113 and 113A. It is dedicated to all veterans who entered the service from Tamworth New Hampshire. The original Memorial, erected in 1929, honors veterans who served our country in The Revolutionary War, The War of 1812, The Civil War, The Spanish War and World War I. The new addition to the Memorial, dedicated on August 12th, 2007 as part of the Heritage Day celebration, honors Tamworth veterans who served in World War II, The Korean War, Vietnam, Lebanon, Grenada and Panama. Those veterans now serving in Afghanistan, the Persian Gulf and Iraq will go on an Honor Role in the Town Office. The Veterans' Memorial is in the care of the Trustees of the Trust Funds & Cemetery Commissioners.



Community Organizations

Altrusa is a service organization that partners fellowship with volunteerism and community service.

The Arts Council of Tamworth enriches the lives of the people of Tamworth and surrounding communities by exposure to the diverse arts.

The Bearcamp Valley Garden Club promotes interest in gardening and horticulture, good conservation practices and an attractive community.

The Bearcamp Valley Sportsmen's Club promotes hunting, fishing and outdoor activities and provides a safe shooting range.

Boy Scout Troop 151 instills values in boys ages 10 1/2 to 18, prepares them to make ethical choices over their lifetimes, and inspires them to achieve their full potential.

The Chocorua Community Association is a network of Chocorua/Tamworth residents dedicated to improving the appearance of Chocorua Village while making the area safe for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

The Chocorua Ladies Aid is for women of all ages. It raises funds for annual distribution to Tamworth organizations.

The Chocorua Lake Association maintains and preserves the water quality of Chocorua Lake and the Sandy Beach and Grove areas.

The Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation preserves and protects the scenic environment of the Chocorua Lake region.

The Chocorua Mountain Club helps the Forest Service maintain the Brook, Beeline, Hammond and Weetamoo Trails on Mt. Chocorua, and the Beeline, Old Paugus and Whitin Brook Trails on Mt. Paugus.

Cub Scout Pack 151 is a year-round scouting program designed for boys ages 6-10.

Friends of the Cook Memorial Library promotes library resources and services, fosters relations between the library and the community, and publicizes the functions and needs of the library.

Girl Scouts of Swift River Council inspires girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service so that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.

The Mill Brook Trail Association creates and maintains trails in the Mill Brook area.

The Ossipee Mountain Snowmobile Club constructs and maintains area snowmobile trails.

The Right Foot Co-op is a pre-order food buying club, mostly organic.

The Tamworth Caregivers gives non-professional, volunteer assistance to help residents maintain their independence and dignity in their own homes.

The Tamworth Civic Association educates Tamworth citizens about, and encourages their participation in, local government and community, and facilitates productive and positive communications among all citizens and government entities in Tamworth. It publishes the *Tamworth Civic News* every other month.

The Tamworth Community Christmas Project assists Tamworth families in need with Christmas gifts and food baskets.

The Tamworth Community Guild provides financial assistance to local organizations.

The Tamworth Community Nurse Association provides free healthcare services to all residents of Tamworth.

The Tamworth Firemen's Club raises money and supports morale of the Fire Department.

The Tamworth Foundation preserves and improves the well-being of the Town of Tamworth through the acquisition, management and distribution of properties.

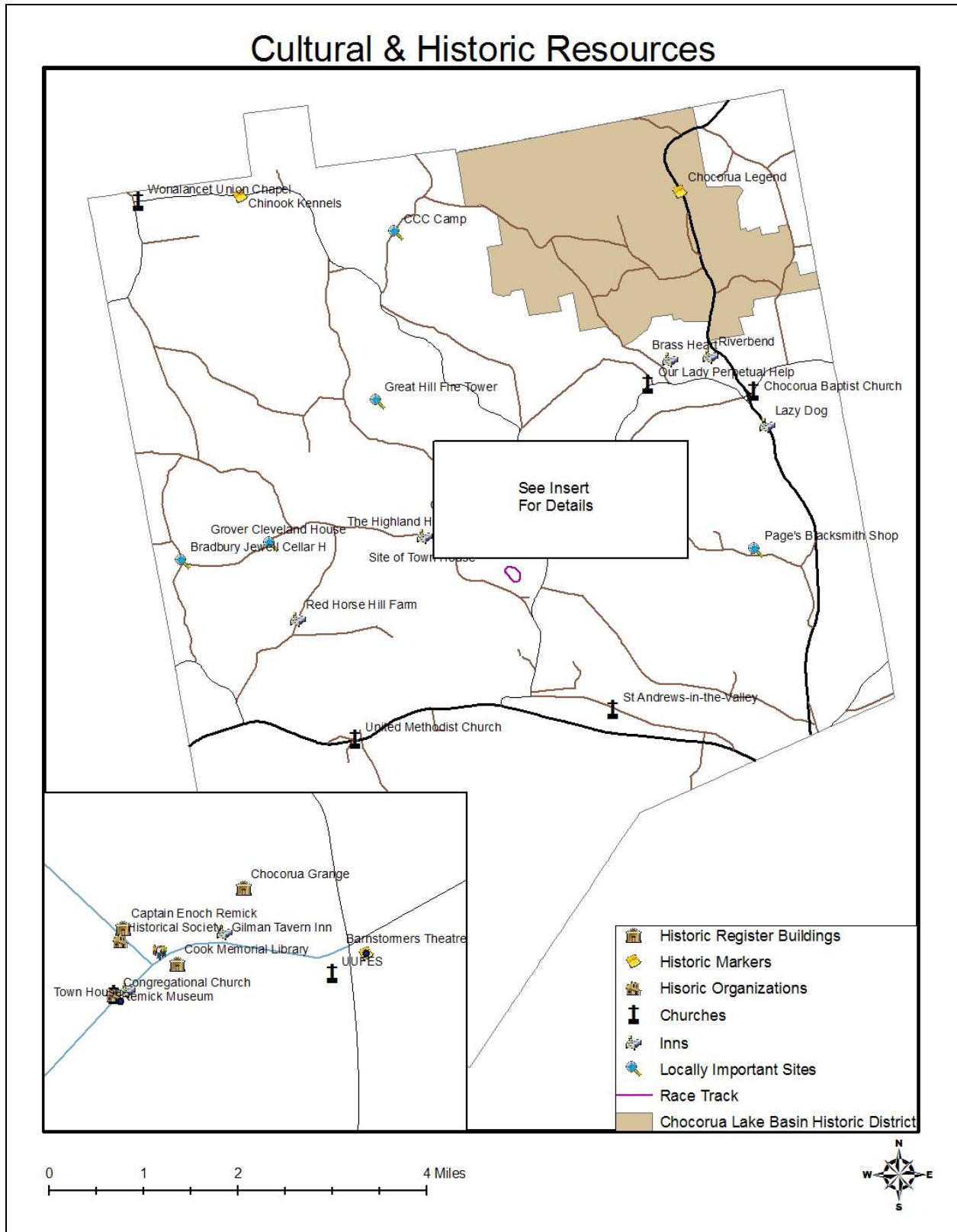
The Tamworth Rescue Squad Club supports the Tamworth Rescue Squad.

The Tamworth Scholarship Committee provides financial aid for Tamworth students pursuing post-secondary education.

The Tamworth Village Association maintains and enhances Tamworth Village while keeping its rural character.

The Wonalancet Outdoor Club maintains trails in the Wonalancet area, and promotes conservation of the White Mountain National Forest and other forest lands.

The Wonalancet Preservation Association preserves the natural beauty of Wonalancet.



Map 12.1 Historic Locations