

B – HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Town of Addison was named by the first settlers along the Pleasant River, after British essayist and poet Joseph Addison who lived from 1672 to 1719. The town celebrated its bicentennial in 1997 and reissued an updated history - *Addison Then and Now* - an engaging and thorough chronicle of the town.

Originally published in 1982, the bicentennial edition is full of photos, descriptions of early enterprises, schools, churches, war veterans, public servants and vessels built in the former shipyards. The Comprehensive Plan reproduces here the relevant facts of Addison's history but directs readers to this wonderful history of place and people.

Early migrants to the region were attracted by the abundance of marsh hay in places like Addison. Plentiful codfish also brought settlers from Martha's Vineyard and Cape Cod during the late 1700s and early 1800s. The population peaked in 1860 at 1,272 persons when shipbuilding was the dominant feature of the local economy. Twenty-one vessels were constructed in Addison between 1860 and 1869. Quarrying of local granite began in the late 1800's and lasted well into the middle of the twentieth century, gradually declining into nonexistence in 1958 with the closing of the quarry on Harwood Island.

The role of the seas has been an important one in Addison's history, providing several major occupations revolving around fishing, fish processing, shipbuilding and shipping. Seamen were involved in the coastal trade and deep water voyages. The coastal trade, or coasting as it was called, was the main source of transportation for people and goods until rail service was initiated in the late 1800s. Many of the people who lived in Addison depended on coasting for their living. The timber industry and its mills along with granite quarrying and silver mining were the other major industries in Addison.

Table B-1 HISTORICAL POPULATION OF ADDISON

| Year | Population | Year | Population |
|------|------------|------|------------|
| 1790 | N/a | 1900 | 1059 |
| 1800 | 350 | 1910 | 985 |
| 1810 | 399 | 1920 | 838 |
| 1820 | 519 | 1930 | 867 |
| 1830 | 741 | 1940 | 805 |
| 1840 | 1053 | 1950 | 846 |
| 1850 | 1152 | 1960 | 744 |
| 1860 | 1272 | 1970 | 773 |
| 1870 | 1201 | 1980 | 1061 |
| 1880 | 1238 | 1990 | 1114 |
| 1890 | 1022 | 2000 | 1209 |

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In the late 1980s and early nineties the economy of Addison is as Louis Ploch has characterized it, "A variation on the theme of getting by ... through a skillful and, in some cases, an ingenious combination of clamping, lobstering, worming and wreathing."¹

Agriculture has never been a major factor in Addison's commercial life. While people farmed, they apparently did so as an adjunct to other businesses and occupations.

Table B-2 KEY DATES IN HISTORY - ADDISON, MAINE

| | |
|-----------|--|
| pre-1603 | Red Paint People and other Native American settlements and activities |
| 1604 | Champlain visited general region |
| 1770-1800 | Migrants from Cape Cod to Addison for cod fishing, utilization of salt marsh hay, and other small farming and forestry occupations |
| 1797 | Town of Addison incorporated |
| 1800 | Three thriving villages established in Addison: Addison Point, Indian River, and South Addison |
| 1860-1869 | Peak of ship building era in Addison |
| 1860 | Population peaks at 1262 |
| 1866 | 100 Addison residents migrate to Palestine aboard the "Nellie Chapman" to join a religious community |
| 1800-1900 | 90 wooden ships built in Addison during this period |
| 1891 | last of the wooden schooners, "Annie M. Preble" built and launched in Addison |
| 1880-1950 | Period of quarry operations for local "black diamond" granite |
| 1880-1950 | Local seafood processing at its peak in Addison |
| 1938 | Great Addison Point village fire - several businesses lost |
| 1960 | Population declines to lowest level since 1800 - 744 persons |

Early Settlement

The earliest white settlers in Addison were from Martha's Vineyard. They were looking for richer farmlands, cod and good meadow grass for their cattle.

Some of the earliest permanent settlers, of whom we have any knowledge, were William Hix, Wilmont Wass, Moses Plummer, Seth Norton, Richard Samuel Coffin, Tilly White, Daniel Look and John Nash , with most arriving in 1767.

Addison was settled about 1779 and was organized as a plantation, know as "Number Six West of Machias". It was then called Pleasant River and also "Englishman's River". It was incorporated as a town on February 14, 1797, and named in honor of the English writer, Joseph Addison.

The Bangor Historical Magazine gives the entire number of inhabitants as 213, on April 27, 1778.

It is said, "practically all the residents of Addison are descendants in one way or another of the Vineyard Settlers."

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The town itself spreads over a large area and includes many island, coves and headlands.

In the late 1800's and into the 1900's there were manufacturing plants including clam, sardine, blueberry and lobster canneries. None of these are in existence at the present time.

Today Addison is mainly a fishing port with lobsters, scallops, clams, periwinkles and mussels as the principal catches.

Mayhew Library

The Mayhew Library called the "Addison Public Library" when it first opened on January 30, 1892, the library was renamed in 1897 to honor both Calista Wass Mayhew, the daughter of David and Hadassah Wass, and her husband, Francis L Mayhew, who had generously aided and supported its growth during its early years.

The first library building was on the North Side of Water Street, in a building that also served as a shoe shop and telegraph office. The telegraph operator Minnie Wass, was the first librarian, while her brother, Frank N. Wass, ran a harness and shoe shop in the same building. In 1915 Calista Wass Mayhew purchased the building and the lot on which it stood, and gave it to the library association.

In May 1938, the devastating fire at Addison Point destroyed the old Mayhew Library. Herbert and Ross Ward, who lost their house in the fire, donated their vacant lot to the library association. The present library building was erected on this site, opening to the public on December 20, 1939.

Addison has two buildings that are listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings (the Indian River Baptist Church and the Union Evangelical Church on the Ridge Road).

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission lists 28 prehistoric archaeological sites along the Addison coastline, 11 of which are considered significant.

The Pleasant River Historical Society helps build public awareness of the importance of historic sites and buildings. There is currently no direct municipal involvement in protecting historic resources in Addison.

Quarries

After the Civil War a construction boom on the eastern seaboard stimulated a rise in granite quarries. There were several quarries in Addison. The "Pleasant River Block Granite Company" was located on the east side of Pleasant River; the "Black Diamond Granite Quarry" (Lang's Quarry) was on Yoho Bay; a paving stone quarry was located on the west side of the river; and Moose-A-Bec Quarry on Hardwood Island.

Stone in the rough shape and monuments made here were shipped to all parts of the United States and were used in the construction of many famous buildings.

The quarries dwindled as the demand for granite declines, ceasing around 1920. However, in recent years there has been a quarry started in the Basin area know as the Fletcher Granite Co.

Schools

The first schools in town were held in private homes. Gradually the town established separate school districts: in 1855 there were 14 districts, with additional pupils on Nash Island. There were one-room one-teacher schools. Later the S.S. Nash School at the Point became the sole school for Addison students.

In the fall of 1966 Addison consolidated with five other towns into SAD 37, with Narraguagus High School in Harrington serving the whole district. In 1975 the D.W. Merritt Elementary School was constructed for all students, K-8.

Shipyards

Since everything had to be shipped by water, shipbuilding was very important for the growth of the town.

There were four shipyards making the center of the little town a busy spot. The four yards located on crooked Pleasant River were Look Brother's Yard, Knowles Shipyards, Nash Shipyard and the William Nash Shipyard.

At least 83 vessels were built in Addison from 1800-to 1900. The peak decade was 1860-1870 when 21 vessels were constructed. The Annie M. Preble was the last vessel built in Addison during the peak years. It would be more than 100 years before another vessel would be built on the banks of the Pleasant River; "RawFaith" in 2003

In 1866, in Leander Knowles' shipyard the vessel "Nellie Chapin" was built. This was the ship on which the Palestine Emigration Colony made their ill-fated voyage to Jaffa that year. Many members of the Colony were from Addison, Indian River and Jonesport. They had sold their land and possessions with the plan to settle in Jaffa. When their settlement failed many families returned home to Maine practically destitute. A few families went further west and set up new homes in Michigan.

RawFaith

In the summer of 1999, George McKay and family began building a ship on the shores of Pleasant River, the first to be built in Addison in over 100 years. The shipyard is approximately on the site of the Leander Knowles yard where many ships were built from the 1840's until his death in 1888.

"RawFaith" is handicapped accessible and will carry those who would not be able to get out on the water and enjoy sailing.

The ship was launched on August 4, 2003 with the help of many and a large audience in attendance. It is presently at anchor in Jonesport as there is much more to be done.

Sources: Addison Bicentennial History 1997

Addison Town Register 1905, Mitchell

Maine Place Names and the Peopling of its Towns, Ava Harriet Chadbourne, 1957

Vineyarders Down East, Dorothy Cottle Poole

An Era to Remember

Early Pleasant River Families of Washington Co. Maine

Leonard F. Tibbetts and Darryl B. Lamson

SELECTED REFERENCES

"*Addison - It's Persistencies and Changes*"¹ contains an historical profile of Addison, discussing the rise and fall of various industries and the structure and functioning of key community institutions. This booklet was written by Dr. Louis Ploch, Professor Emeritus of Rural Sociology at the University of Maine at Orono. "*Addison Then and Now*", was written and published in 1981 by students and teachers at the Merritt School also provides a narrative account of key periods in the history of the town. As noted above, it was reissued in 1997 as a Bicentennial History of Addison.

An earlier look at Addison was conducted in 1949 by Hay et al, and was published by the University of Maine Extension Service. There is also a booklet issued by the Mayhew Library that provides historical record of the growth and development of Addison, in particular the various libraries that existed at Addison Point.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission maintains an inventory of important sites including buildings or sites on the National Registry of Historic Places (NRHP). They record two such listings for the town both of which are shown on Map 2, Addison Public Facilities and Cemeteries:

1. Indian River Baptist Church, Route 187
2. UNION evangelical Church, Addison Ridge Road

MHPC notes that a comprehensive survey of Addison's above-ground historic resources is needed to identify other properties which may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The following buildings, shown on Map 2: Addison Public Facilities and Cemeteries, are of historic importance to the town's residents and might be worth consideration for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for Addison:

1. The Church on the Hill - "Baptist Church Society"
2. Indian River Grange Hall

There are many older homes in Addison and if property owners choose to nominate their properties to the National Historic Register they are encouraged to do so.

CEMETERIES

Cemeteries are a cultural resource providing insight into the history of the community. There are approximately forty cemeteries and family graveyards in Addison including a few additional cemeteries in the bordering towns of Jonesport and Harrington that have been cataloged and published complete in 1998 by members of the Pleasant River Historical Society.

¹ "*Addison - It's Persistencies and Changes*," Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Maine, August 1990.

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An inventory of Addison's cemeteries and burial sites is shown on Map 2 – Addison Public Facilities and Cemeteries.

Addison Point and West Side

- A1. Church Hill Cemetery
- A2. Nash Cemetery at Addison Point on West Branch Stream
- A3. Dyer Cemetery on the Ilama farm property
- A4. Cemetery on Nat Lord property, (in Harrington)
- A5. Ramsdell's Cove Cemetery, (in Harrington)

Wescogus

- B1. Wescogus Cemetery on Tracy corner
- B2. Norton Cemetery, on the road to Wescogus
- B3. Merritt Cemetery, behind the gravel pit on Route 187
- B4. Marshall/Sawyer Cemetery in John Foss field
- Indian River, Basin and along the south part of Route 187
- C1. Indian River Cemetery, (in Jonesport)
- C2. Leighton Cemetery at Hall's Hill
- C3. Zebediah Alley family, on Crowley's Island
- C4. Crowley's Island Cemetery
- C5. William Gray family Cemetery on Basin Road
- C6. Hiram Tabbutt family Cemetery
- C7. Carver Cemetery on the Lang's Quarry Road
- C8. Basin Cemetery
- C9. Cemetery near Margaret Stevens (none found)
- C10. Batson Cemetery, near Ronnie Look
- C11. Newberry Cemetery near, Austin Lamson
- C12. Kelley Cemetery near the shore
- C13. Chandler Cemetery on Bickford Point
- C14. Joyville Cemetery
- C15. Doyle Island

East Side

- D1. Norton Family Cemetery, behind Carlton Norton's
- D2. Look Family Cemetery, north of Walter Batson's
- D3. Look Cemetery
- D4. Eastside Cemetery
- D5. Graves at Three Brooks (none found)
- D6. Look Graves behind Preble house
- D7. Foster, Hinkley, Irons & Norton graves, near Stoddard House
- D8. Look and Redimarker, behind Shirley Redimarker's
- D9. Farnsworth graves in Walter Batson's pasture

South Addison and Cape Split

- E1. South Addison Cemetery
- E2. Cape Split Cemetery
- E3. Ladd-Look Family Cemetery
- E4. Wass Cemetery near Miranda Thompson house
- E5. Harry and Vesta Wass Cemetery
- E6. Tabbutt Cemetery, across from Lea Reiber field

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E7. Christopher Wass Cemetery

E8, E9 & E10. Small graveyards at South Addison and Nashes Island

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

There are thirty known prehistoric archaeological sites located within Addison, according to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) all of which are located in the coastal zone. Most are shell middens located during the 1970s University of Maine surveys. MHPC notes that survey of the coastal zone was completed in 1990 and that the Pleasant River and Indian River need to be surveyed. Maps of the areas needing further survey are on file with the Town Clerk.

There are also fourteen historic archeological sites in Addison summarized on the table below. Only five of these sites are mapped (ME 003-001, 002, 003, 007, and 008) as the shipwrecks are only estimates of where ships went down. A map, provided by MHPC, depicting the location of these sites is on file in the town Clerk's office. MHPC indicates that no professional survey for historic archeological sites has been conducted in Addison. They indicate that further such fieldwork could focus on sites relating to the earliest European settlement of the town in the late eighteenth century.

Table B-2 Historic Archeological Sites

| Site Number | Name | Type |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ME003-001 | Contact Site | Native American burials |
| ME003-002 | Addison Salt Marsh | French and English dikes |
| ME003-003 | Lawler | "Norse" artifact find |
| ME003-004 | "Ellen M. Mitchell" | American wreck, schooner |
| ME003-005 | "Magnet" | American wreck, schooner |
| ME003-006 | "Mary Peavey" | Unidentified wreck, schooner |
| ME003-007 | Doyle's Island Coin Find | Roman/Native American coin find |
| ME003-008 | Excalibur #3 Sword Find | American artifact find |
| ME003-009 | "Decorra" | American wreck, schooner |
| ME003-010 | "J.S. Glover" | American wreck, schooner |
| ME003-011 | "Lubec" | American wreck, schooner |
| ME003-012 | "Lacon" | American wreck, schooner |
| ME003-013 | "Freddie B." | Canadian wreck, schooner |
| ME003-014 | "James E. Shafner" | Canadian wreck, brigantine |

Municipal planning concerning archeological sites should identify and protect significant sites. Resource protection zoning can accomplish this and/or individual landowners of significant properties can be approached to obtain permission for nomination of archeological sites on their property to the National Register of Historic Places. Individuals can also voluntarily donate preservation easements. National Register listing extends protection of Federal legislation against actions by Federal agencies, while the combination of National Register listing and preservation easement with posting against ground disturbance extends the protection of State Antiquities Legislation to archeological sites.

THREATS TO EXISTING SITES/PROTECTION OPPORTUNITIES

The vast majority of the identified sites in Addison receive little or no formal protection or preservation efforts.

Historic Buildings: The historic buildings that have been identified above are not protected within the provisions of existing land use regulations. Without the proper ordinances being in place, the loss or conversion of the remaining buildings is possible.

Sites with national, state, or local significance are eligible for nomination to the National Registry of Historic Places. This registry protects sites only from intervention or development by a federal agency. Highway projects with federal funding, for example, may be challenged if they impact on registered sites. NRHP status is often erroneously assumed to protect the building from alteration or destruction.

Archaeological Sites: The locations of the above referenced archaeological sites are adequately protected under the existing Shoreland Zoning and Flood Plain Management Ordinances adopted by the town.

MHPC coordinates the National Registry as it affects Maine and maintains an inventory of historic, archaeological, and coastal heritage sites in Maine, although the agency has no direct authority to protect sites. MHPC does, however, coordinate the distribution of available funds for preservation, restoration, and inventory. Such funds are currently extremely limited, but may be more available with future appropriations or bonds. Archaeological sites are also protected by Maine State Antiquities Legislation.

Private individuals and groups play an important part in preserving Addison's historic resources. The Pleasant River Historical Society, for example, plays an active role in identifying sites and promoting public awareness and protection. The Historical Society also includes members from Jonesport and Columbia Falls. Individual owners of properties, including churches and homes, also protect their properties through maintenance, deed restriction, or other protective covenants.

REHABILITATION GRANTS

The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program rewards private investment to rehabilitate certified historic structures (building listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places or a building located in a registered historic district and certified by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historic significance of the district). The building must currently be used or will be used for commercial, industrial, agricultural, or rental residential purposes, but not used exclusively as the owner's private residence. Under PL 99-514 Internal Revenue Code Section 47, tax incentives include:

1. A 20% tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of certified historic structures.

2. A 10% tax credit for the rehabilitation of non-historic, non-residential buildings built before 1936.

For both credits, the rehabilitation must be a substantial one. That is, during a 24-month period selected by the taxpayer, rehabilitation expenditures must exceed the greater of \$5,000 or the adjusted basis of the building and its structural components. And, the rehabilitation must involve a depreciable building. The National Park Service must approve, or "certify," all rehabilitation projects seeking the 20% rehabilitation tax credit. Owners seeking certification of rehabilitation work must complete the Historic Preservation Certification Application.

A Maine State taxpayer is allowed a credit equal to the amount of the Federal credit claimed by the taxpayer under section 47 of the Internal Revenue Code for rehabilitation of certified historic structures located in Maine. The credit is nonrefundable and is limited to \$100,000 annually per taxpayer.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

Key Findings and Issues

Addison has two buildings listed on the National Registry of Historic Buildings (the Indian River Baptist Church) and the Union River Evangelical Church. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission also lists 30 prehistoric archaeological sites located along the Addison coastline, 11 of which are considered significant. These riverbank areas have yet to be surveyed in the detail required for purposes of registration. Areas of archeological interest in the town do not currently receive protection. The Pleasant River Historical Society helps build public awareness of the importance of historic sites and buildings. There is currently no direct municipal involvement in protecting historic resources located in Addison.

Conclusions and Planning Implications

Historic sites are threatened by a number of different factors. Archaeological sites are often altered due to development and construction, especially if the significance of the site is not known. Other archaeological sites are vulnerable to looting of artifacts. Historic buildings are threatened by disrepair, alteration, and development in the immediate surrounding areas. Historic sites are expensive to maintain, and owners are pressured economically to convert them to sustainable uses, or decrease their level of maintenance. Roadway improvements, finally, can be a threat to many of Addison's historic resources. The pressures for growth in Addison often directly confront the historic, cherished characteristics of the Town.

Few people would argue with the importance of protecting historic resources. The extent to which they should be protected, and whose money and property rights should be forfeited in the process, however, is a difficult decision for any community. One of the first steps toward protection is identification. There should be continued efforts in Addison to identify historic sites and assess their importance. Past publications, awareness built by the Pleasant River Historical Society and the resources available at the Mayhew Library work toward this end.

Once sites are identified, they should be reviewed for nomination to both national and municipal

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registries in order to obtain maximum protection. Owners of important sites should also be advised of possible private efforts to maintain the integrity of the sites. Public education, public acquisition, tax incentives for maintenance, and publicly funded maintenance are other tools the town, state, or private groups can use to protect and preserve historic resources.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

| Goal: Addison will preserve the State's historic and archeological resources for future generations to enjoy and pass on to their children as they have been passed on to the present. | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Policy | Implementation Strategy | Responsibility | Timeframe |
| Protect and preserve known archaeological and historic sites. | Promote awareness of historic structures and artifacts including the consideration of listing on the National Register of Historic Places. | Planning Board | On-going |
| | Work in cooperation with the MHPC Maine to protect identified historical and archaeological resources within Addison | Historical Society | On-going |
| Formulate guidelines or land use controls to protect and preserve historic and archaeological resources if identified. | Review the existing Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and develop land use controls for protection of known archeological sites and historic buildings/structures/objects. | Planning Board; Historical Society | Immediate |
| | The planning board should require the developer to provide evidence that the proposed development will not negatively impact known or newly discovered archeological sites. | Planning Board | On-going |
| | Where significant site disturbance is anticipated within areas identified in need of further survey the town will consider contacting MHPC for an opinion, and/or review of the construction areas by an MHPC-approved archeologist. | Planning Board/CEO | Short-term (within 2 years) |

SUMMARY

The history of Addison is based upon the natural resources that drove the local and regional economy, including fishing and boat building. Early residents engaged successfully in a variety of businesses. Many current residents can trace their families back to the town's early days, and continue to work in maritime industries. Addison still enjoys many of the benefits from our past, as a small town with a strong sense of community, where people look out for one another. While encouraging new development, the town should seek to maintain a link to our heritage through the protection of historically significant buildings, and we should continue to collect and preserve our historic records.

