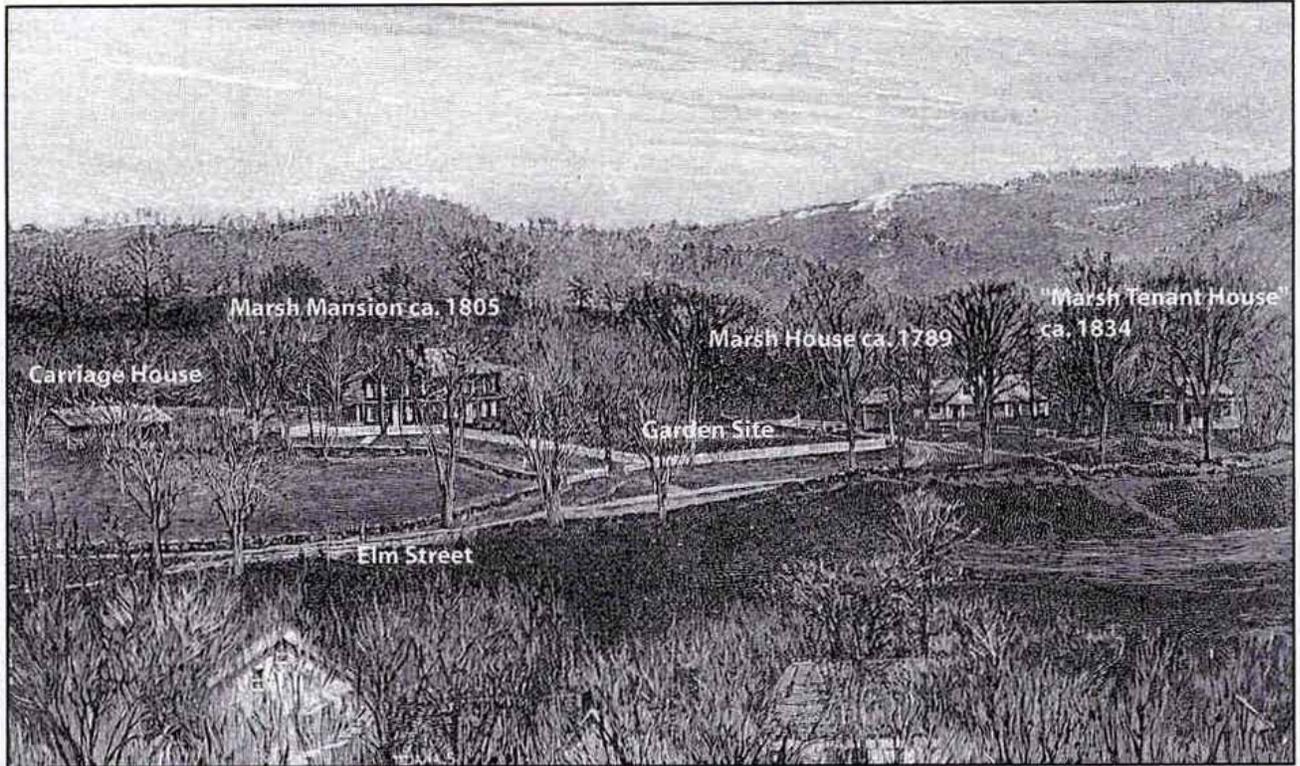


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT
OF THE
MARSH-BILLINGS-ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK,
WOODSTOCK, WINDSOR COUNTY, VERMONT**



Consulting Archaeology Program
University of Vermont
Report No. 446
January, 2007

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WOODSTOCK, WINDSOR COUNTY, VERMONT**

Submitted to:
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January, 2007
Report No. 446

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INTRODUCTION

Project Description and Objectives

This report presents the results of an Archaeological Overview and Assessment (AOA) of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park (MABI) in Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont (Figure 1). The National Park Service (NPS) contracted the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM CAP) to conduct the AOA through the Great Lakes Northern Forest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (GLNF CESU), of which UVM is a partner. The main study area includes the 555-acre property of the MABI. Consideration was also given to the adjacent and related 88-acre parcel that lies within the legislated Park boundary but is owned and managed independently by the Woodstock Foundation, Inc.

This AOA provides an updated inventory with basic site documentation of the known and potential historic period archaeological resources, including initial historic background research and descriptions of existing conditions. This report also identifies areas within the Park boundaries that have the potential to contain precontact Native American sites. Where possible, the AOA identifies which sites are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and what updates may be necessary to the property's existing National Register listing, as required under the National Historic Preservation Act Section 110a(2) and Standard 2.

This report also contains information collected to provide natural and cultural contexts for the archaeological sites that are known to exist or are potentially present in the study area. These sections of the report include overviews of the study area's natural setting and a brief history of human occupation within the study area and the broader region. The AOA also identifies the

need for additional archaeological research to locate and/or evaluate the Park's known and potential archaeological resources and identifies areas where archaeological research may benefit the interpretation of the Park in relation to specific periods of precontact and historic occupation. Finally, this report presents general and specific recommendations in regards to the management and protection of archaeological resources to be considered in the development of a formal Cultural Resources Management Plan.

Study Area Description

The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, established in 1992, is located in the town of Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont, and is divided into two management zones (Figure 2). The majority of the study area falls within the Historic Zone, which consists of 555 acres stretching from Elm Street (Vermont Route 12) west to Prosper Road. Important features found within the Historic Zone include but are not

Research Methodology

The preparation of this AOA included a review of available technical reports, archival research, and field inspections. Previously completed technical reports also were reviewed including cultural landscape reports for the forest and the Mansion Grounds, three archaeological reports, and a report documenting the history and engineering details of the carriage road network. Archival sources consulted in the preparation of this report include published town and county histories, all available historic maps, family genealogies, the records of the Vermont State Division of Historic Preservation (VDHP), and primary sources such as U.S. Census schedules, land records, vital records, and historic period newspapers. Field inspections within the

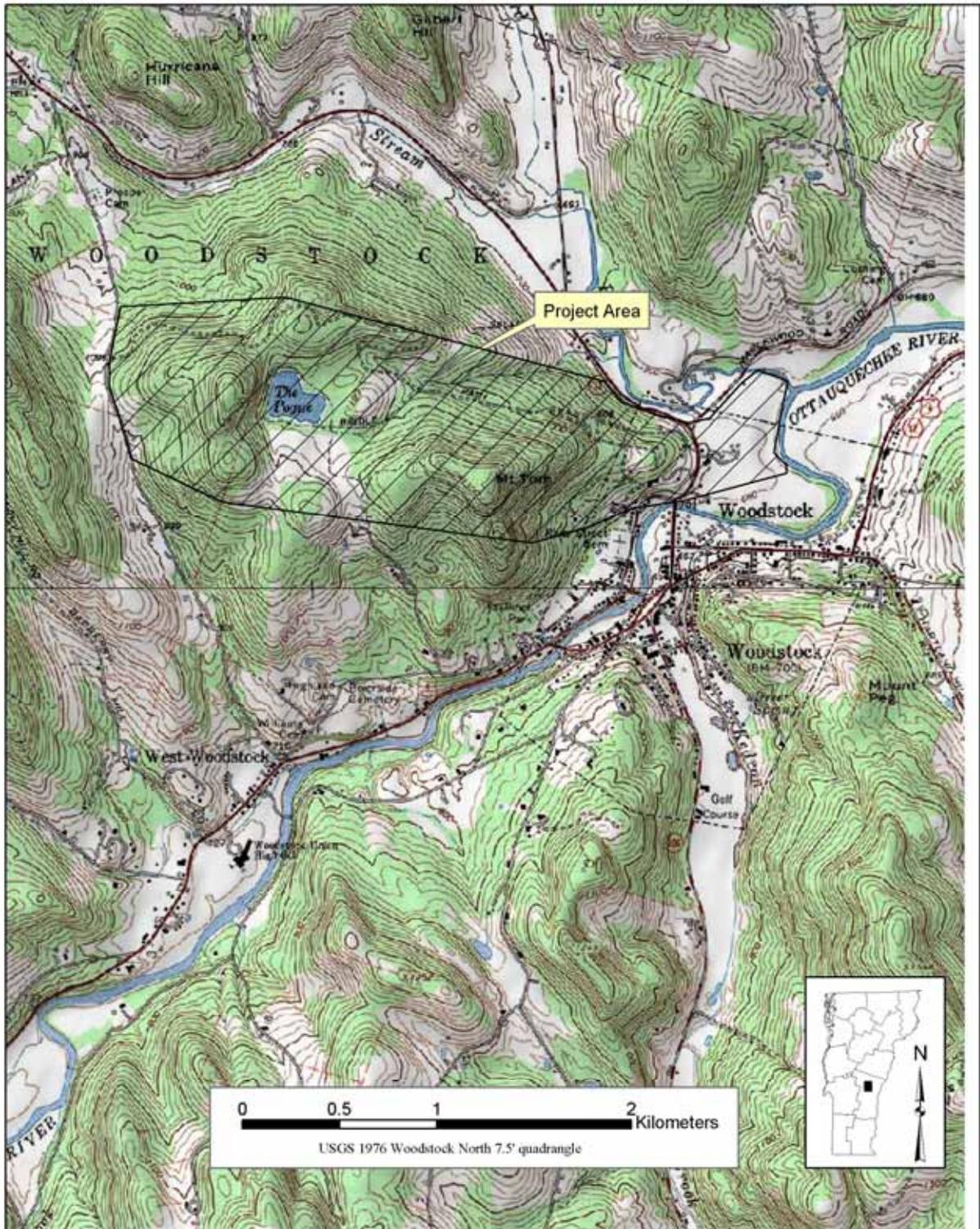


Figure 1. Location of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.



Figure 2. Landmarks and natural features within the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

Historic Zone were undertaken to confirm the location of and to record existing conditions at known archaeological sites as well as to identify areas potentially sensitive for precontact Native American sites.

Principal Findings

In the Historic Zone of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, a total of ten areas were identified as sensitive for precontact Native American sites by field inspection. There were five known historic period sites (that is sites with visible and evaluated archaeological features) including the McKenzie farmstead with its associated features; Sugar House Ruins 1 (Marsh-Billings); Sugar House Ruins 2 (McKenzie); North Loop Artifact Scatter; and the Maple Lot Artifact Scatter. There were also fourteen potential historic period archaeological sites (that is sites requiring further evaluation of archaeological significance) including the Marsh House; Tenant House; Mansion and its associated features; Mansion Grounds; Double Cottage;

Stable/Carriage Barn; Kitchen Garden; Bungalow; Woodshed; Boathouse; the Belvedere/Garden Complex, McKenzie Orchard; an un-investigated depression on the Hilltop Farm property, and the Carriage Roads. These sites are summarized in Table 1.

Other sites may be cultural or architectural but not archaeological (i.e. stone piles, logging ramps, summerhouses, swimming pools, tennis court, garages, Pogue dam & etc).

In addition to these sites, another thirteen potential historic period archaeological sites were identified in the Protection Zone of the Park (Table 2) including the Smith Cabin, James Cady's Cabin, Perkins' Cabin, Pent Road, Taylor-Washburn House, School #3, Royce and Richmond Brickyard, Marsh Farm House, Fair Grounds, Two Dwelling Houses, Herdsman's House, the Barn Complex. The Protection Zone also has the potential for any number of precontact Native American sites.

Table 1. Known and Potential Archaeological Sites in the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

Historic Zone Known Historic Sites	Known elements	ASMIS Number	AS #	Period
McKenzie Farmstead	House	MABI00016.000	AS-7	c1780-1800 to 1932
	Barn	MABI00016.001		c1780-1800 to 1932
	Woodshed	MABI00016.002		c1780-1800 to 1932
	Garage			early 20th C-1932
	Orchard (Stand #13)			c1880-Present
	Well			c1780-1800 to 1932
	Depression			Unkn
	Car Cassis			20th C
	Garden			c1780-1800 to 1932
Sugar House Ruins, Number 1 (Marsh-Billings)		MABI00014.000	AS-4	mid 19th to early 20th C
Sugar House Ruins, Number 2 (McKenzie)		MABI00015.000	AS-6	mid to late 19th C
North Ridge Artifact Scatter		MABI00020.000	AS-5	late 19th-early 20th C
Maple Lot Artifact Scatter		MABI00021.000	AS-8	late 19th-early 20th C
Historic Zone Potential Historic Sites				
Marsh House	Residence			c1789-1869
	Woodshed			c1789-1869
	Office			c1839-1869
	Garden			c1789-mid 1800s
"Marsh Tenant House"				c1834-1869
Marsh-Billings Mansion	Mansion	MABI00001.000		1805-Present
	Well 1			1836-Late 19th C
	Well 2			1870-1906
	Barn			early 19th C-1869
	Storehouse			early 19th C-1869
	Laundry			1870-1956
	Stable/Carriage Barn			1870-Present
	Aqueduct system			1805-unkn
	Icehouse			late 19th-early 20th C
Mansion Grounds		MABI00001.001		1869-Present
Billings Kitchen Garden				1869-mid 20th C
Double Cottage		MABI00002.000		1870-Present
Carriage Barn		MABI00004.000		1895-Present
Bungalow		MABI00006.000		1916-Present
Woodshed		MABI00007.000		1885-Present
Boathouse		MABI00019.000		1894-1930/40
Belevdere Complex	Belevedere	MABI00011.000		c1874-Present
	Bowling Alley	MABI00013.000		c1880-Present
	Bomb Shelter			20th C
	Greenhouses			c1869-1930/Present
	Terrace Gardens			c1894-Present
Hilltop Farm Unevaluated Depression				Unkn
Billings Estate Mt. Tom Carriage Roads		MABI00017.000		1869-Present
McKenzie Orchard				ca.1880-Present

Table 2. Potential Archeological Sites in the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park Protection Zone.

Protection Zone Potential Historic Sites	Known elements	Period
Smith Cabin		late 18th-early 19th C
Cady Cabin		late 18th-early 19th C
Perkins Cabin		late 18th-early 19th C
Pent Road		late 18th-early 19th C
Taylor-Washburn House		1780s-1794
Marsh Farmhouse	House	early to mid 19th C
	Garden	early to mid 19th C
Dwelling 1		early to mid 19th C
Dwelling 2		early to mid 19th C
Fairgrounds	Stands	1855-1932
	Track	1855-1932
	Halls	1855-1932
School #3		1815-Present
Brickyard		c1867-1870
1890 Farmhouse		1890-Present
Barn Complex		c1789-Present

NATURAL SETTING

Physiographic Zone and Drainage Basin

The Marsh- Billing-Rockefeller National Historical Park lies within the Vermont Piedmont section of the New England Upland physiographic zone (Figure 3). The Vermont Piedmont runs the length of the state north to south in a swath about 241.4 km (150 mi) long and from 32.2 km (20 mi) to 64.4 km (40 mi) wide. The western boundary of this physiographic zone follows the eastern foothills of the Green Mountains from Bennington (south) to North Troy (north). The eastern edge of this physiographic zone is defined by the Connecticut River between Brattleboro (south) and East Waterford (north) and further north by the western edge of the Northeastern Highlands physiographic zone, which roughly matches the western limit of Essex County, Vermont. The Vermont Piedmont is a plateau-like upland that was originally dissected by streams and then further carved and modified by glaciation. The topography within the Vermont Piedmont varies from undulating to rough, with numerous steep-sided valleys. Short chains of mountains and several isolated peaks, the product of locally intense folding, faulting, and/or igneous intrusions highlight the surface of the land. The topography is further marked by many small hills and a deeply cut irregular drainage system (Kerr and Jones 1918:6; Stewart 1961; Stewart and MacClintock 1969; Thomas and Torrence 1986:3; Wright 1974).

The study area is also located within the greater Ottauquechee and Black River drainage basin which forms part of the west-central portion of the Connecticut River drainage. The Ottauquechee River, which flows along the southern and eastern edge of the Protection Zone, originates in the northwest corner of Killington, high on the slopes of the Green Mountains. From its headwaters near Killington and Doubleday Mountains, the river runs about 56.3 km (35

mi) eastwardly through the towns of Bridgewater, Woodstock, Hartford, and Hartland to its confluence with the Connecticut River about 8 km (5 mi) below White River Junction. Along its course, there is a fall of 645.3 m (2,117 ft), mostly in its upper reaches (Vermont Publicity Service 1914:193-194).

Historically, the two best mill sites in Woodstock were located on the Ottauquechee River. One dam was constructed across the river a short distance upstream (west) from the Village of Woodstock and the other was built still further upstream near where the river enters the township (Thompson 1853:III 199). Both of these sites played significant roles in the economic life of the town in the 19th century.

Local Topography and Drainage

Together the Historic Zone and the Protection Zone encompass a diverse range of natural environments, from the wooded and stony upper slopes of Mt. Tom, to the high meadows south and east of the Pogue, to the floodplain of the Ottauquechee River. Elevations within the study area range from approximately 402.3 msl (1320 fsl) on Mt. Tom to about 201.2 msl (660 fsl) near the Ottauquechee River.

Mt. Tom

Mt. Tom stands on the south central boundary of the study area. Its highest peak rises about 201.2 m (660 ft) above the Ottauquechee River. Although both the North and South Peaks of Mt. Tom lie outside of the Park, its lower northern slopes lie within the Park.

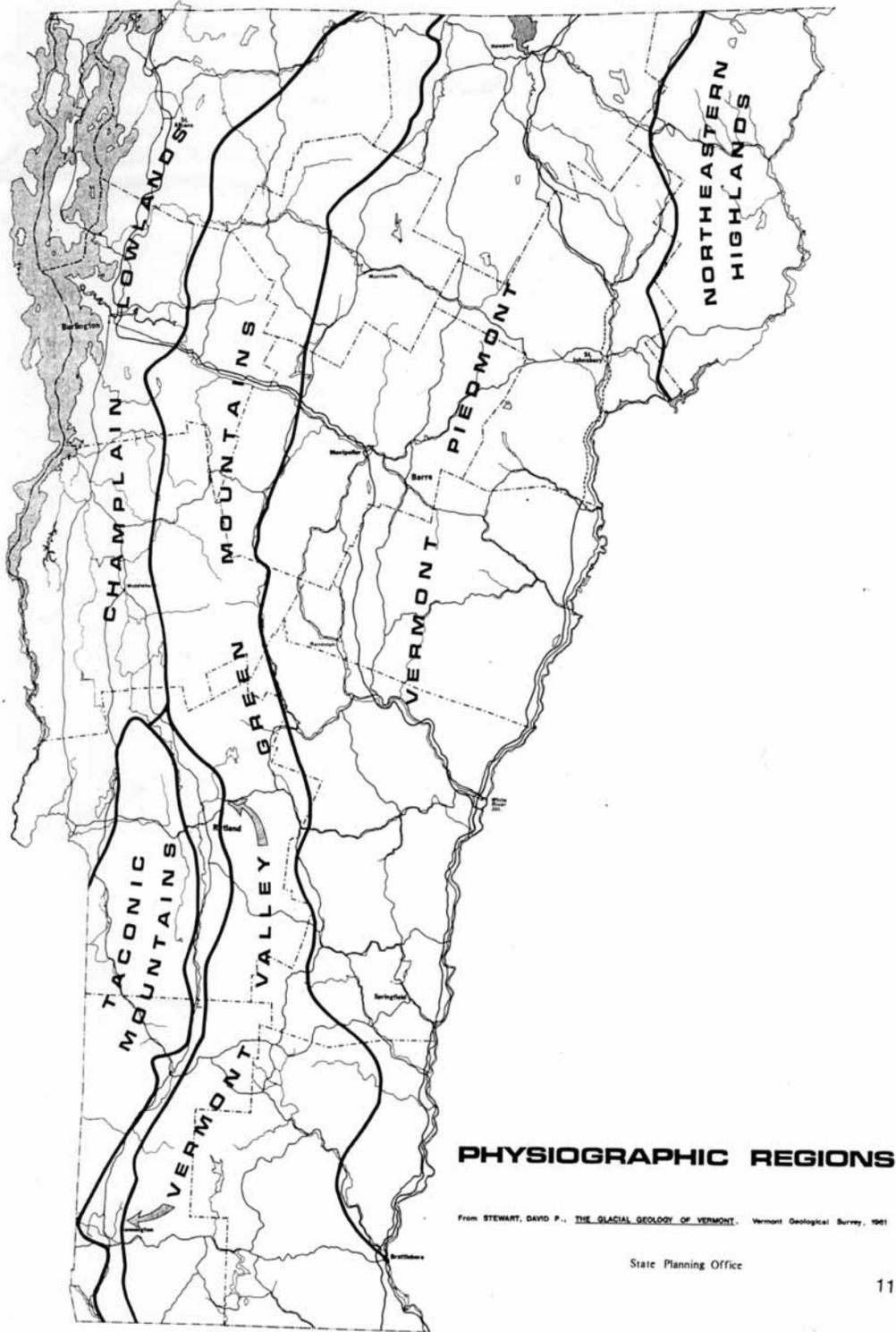


Figure 3. Physiographic Zones of Vermont.

The quartz outcrop on the North Peak was visited during this project, to make a preliminary assessment with regard to possible precontact Native American use. However, no evidence of precontact quarrying activity was identified and furthermore, it was noted that the quality of the exposed stone was generally inferior to materials preferred by Native American populations for tool production. This, however, does not eliminate the possibility that this distinct landform with its panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and the river valley below may have held other cultural or spiritual significance for precontact Native American populations.

The large white quartz rock boulder/outcrop on the North Peak, once clearly visible from the town and locally known as “White Horse,” has long attracted visitors (Wilcke et al. 2000:15). One of the earliest recorded historic gatherings on Mt. Tom took place on July 4, 1810. After the celebrations in town concluded, a number of the youthful citizens of Woodstock had a picnic on the top of Mt. Tom “according to the usual custom” (*Vermont Standard* June 3, 1869 2:3-4). A participant later recalled, “the great white rock was spread with refreshments, which were furnished by the gentlemen of the party. After the refreshments we played our games, and then had a good sing preparatory to coming down. Then the initials of the whole party were cut in a birch tree near the white rock, and if the tree has not been cut down you may see them there to this day [1869]” (*Vermont Standard* June 3, 1869 2:3-4).

Kedron Brook and Barnard Brook

Two major tributaries join the Ottauquechee River in the town of Woodstock. The first to join is Kedron Brook, formerly known as South Branch, which meets the Ottauquechee opposite the south side of the Billings Farm property. In the past, this brook offered good mill seats in South Woodstock and Woodstock Village

(Thompson 1853:III 199). The other major tributary is Barnard Brook, formerly known variously as Beaver Brook, Mill Brook, Pomfret Brook, Pratt Brook, and North Branch. This watercourse joins the Ottauquechee River at the northeast corner of the Protection Zone. Streams originating in Bridgewater, Barnard, and Pomfret feed Barnard Brook. Historically, Barnard Brook supported an important mill seat at the Dennison place, formerly known variously as Strong’s, Burtch’s, or Thompson’s mill, immediately north of the River Road and Elm Street intersection (Thompson 1853:III 199). Gulf Stream, a primary tributary to Barnard Brook, supported mills at Prosper, formerly called English Mills, located about 4.6 km (2.8 mi) upstream (west) from the project area (Thompson 1853:III 199).

Historic Period Floods

The northern edge of the lower meadow on the Billings Farm lies within the 100-year floodplain of Barnard Brook while a broad section of the eastern edge of the lower meadow lies within the 100-year floodplain of the Ottauquechee River (GMP 1999:52). Floods, ice floes, or ice dams occasionally affect these low-lying areas. A partial list of significant historic period floods on the Ottauquechee and its tributaries include rumors of a flood in the fall of 1785, one sometime in 1790 or 1791, and possibly a destructive ice dam in April 1807 as well as better recorded major flood events in July 1811, September 1828, July 1850, April 1869, October 1869, November 1927, March 1936, September 1938, and June 1978 (Federal Emergency Management Agency 2002; *Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1, November 25, 1869 2:3-4, and June 23, 1870 3:3-4).

According to a mid-19th century observer, “by far the most memorable of all floods in this vicinity took place on the 22nd of July 1811” (*Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1-5). After torrential rains, a “great flow of water” carried off Dennison’s dam and

mill on Barnard Brook and three bridges (*Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1-5 and November 25, 1869 2:3-4). Reportedly, the Elm Street Bridge, which is adjacent to the study area, took “a voyage of exploration and never came back” (*Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1-5 and November 25, 1869 2:3-4). The flood was so powerful that the course of Kedron Brook was altered near the Village of South Woodstock “washing away in the operation a part of the old burying ground” (*Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1-5 and November 25, 1869 2:3-4).

Similar destructiveness was seen during the flood in the fall of 1869. Between October 3 and 5, 1869, after about 16.1 cm (6.35 in) of rain, the floodwaters climbed to a point “not less than fifteen feet [4.6 m] above low water mark” (*Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1-5). This flood was estimated to have been 96.5 cm (38 in) above the level of the flood of July 1850 and 61 cm (24 in) higher than the flood of September 1828 (*Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1-5). Furthermore, this comparison did not take into account that the bed of the river through the village was estimated to have been “fully three feet [.91 m] lower” than it had been during the previous floods (*Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1-5). Below the Elm Street Bridge where “the Quechee met and mingled with the South Branch” (Kedron Brook) it was observed that the “united streams rose until the water reached the top of Mr. Marsh’s high meadow . . . and spread over it in a gentle current that found its way into the river again by the lower meadow” (*Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1-5). During this flood, the Elm Street Bridge (the one built in 1841) had its south abutment undermined and was swept away (*Vermont Standard* October 14, 1869 2:1-5 and November 25, 1869 2:3-4). After the flood receded, the bridge was found “comfortably reposing on an island down by Judge Porter’s” (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4).

Although the hurricane of 1938 caused some of the worst flood damage ever recorded in the Ottauquechee River Valley, Woodstock, “as compared to other towns in the county,” sustained only slight damage (*Vermont Standard* September 29, 1938 1:4-5). Woodstock reported some damage to riverside farms by waterborne sediment and debris, but most of the damage to structures and forests was caused by the high winds accompanying the storm (*Vermont Standard* September 29, 1938 1:4-5 and October 13, 1938 1:5). The Billings Estate alone lost some 2,000 trees in the gale (*Vermont Standard* October 13, 1938 1:5).

The Pogue

The Pogue is a 14-acre shallow water feature located in a basin formed by the east foot of West Ridge (McKenzie Hill), North Ridge, and the north slope of Mt. Tom (Dana 1889:552). Originally, the Pogue was a natural spring and run-off fed wetland or bog that had probably been impounded and expanded to about half its present size by beavers before the first settlers arrived (Adams 1846:208; GMP 1999:42). Between 1890 and 1891, a 36.6 m (120 ft) long rock and earth dam was built at its outlet at the southeast corner (Forest CLR Vol. 2 2004:89, 100). This dam raised the overall water level an estimated .61 or .91 m (2 or 3 ft), making the maximum depth approximately 4.3 m (14 ft), and enlarging the feature to its present size (Forest CLR Vol. 2 2004:89, 100). After the dam was completed, two sets of underground pipes were laid from the Pogue and from nearby springs and/or wells to the Mansion and Farm House. The water conveyed was used for irrigation of the lawn and flowerbeds, for fire hydrants, and (for a time) to supply an ornamental water pump on the Woodstock Village green (GMP 1999:53). The dam was rebuilt in 1991 to combat winter flooding and erosion problems for the Pogue Hole Brook (Forest CLR Vol. 2 2004: 89). The Pogue was also as a source of ice for the estate (Dana 1889:552; Wilcke et al.

2000:55-56). The Pogue was regularly dredged and/or cleared of sediment deposits to keep the water clean enough for use (Wilcke et al. 2000:55-56).

In the early nineteenth-century, it was believed that the area near the Pogue contained a deposit of marl. In 1846, marl was described as deposits of carbonate of lime derived from shells that were usually found at the “site of ancient ponds” (Adams 1846:181-182). Marl is more accurately defined as calcareous mudstone, a type of sedimentary rock, which was often burned to produce lime. In 1846, the state geologist wrote “there is a very valuable deposit of marl on the farm of Hon C. Marsh, covering twelve to fifteen acres; the marl is probably six to ten feet deep, lying beneath muck. Here was a small natural pond, very much enlarged doubtless by a beaver dam; the muck is three or four feet in depth above the marl, and of excellent quality. A supply of the best lime may here be made for the county, and manure for the town, for ages” (Adams 1846:208). While no record indicating the exploitation of the “marl” has yet been found, the peat-like muck, a valuable fertilizer, was regularly dredged and used to dress farm fields well into the Billings Estate era (Adams 1846:181; GMP 1999:42; Wilcke et al. 2000:54).

Additional disturbances in the vicinity of the Pogue include the construction of the carriage road around the enlarged Pogue ca. 1890 and the removal of stone from the general area ca. 1891 for use in stabilizing riverbanks along Pogue Hole Brook and/or Barnard Brook (Wilcke et al. 2000:56).

Small and Intermittent Drainages

There are several small natural drainages within the Park. The most significant of these is Pogue Hole Brook, which runs from the Pogue eastwards approximately 1.8 km (1.1 mi) to a confluence with Barnard Brook. The Pogue Hole Brook has a low but fairly constant flow and a fall of about

152.4 m (500 ft). Its channel is entrenched and steeply sided on steeper slopes and somewhat wider and shallower but still steeply banked on more level stretches. Two sets of pipes draw water from the Pogue (GMP 1999:53). For part of the way, Pogue Hole Brook is paralleled by underground pipes placed in the late 19th century-early 20th century to convey water from the Pogue to the Mansion and barn complex (Wilcke et al. 2000:55).

Other small drainages located on the property are spring and/or runoff-fed streams or intermittent drainages. The most notable of these is the watercourse that runs along the south side of the Spring Lot and unites with Pogue Hole Brook. There is also a series of intermittent drainages located north of the Mansion Grounds and Upper Meadow. One is located west of the Woodshed, one runs through the Woodland Garden, and another lies just east of the Woodshed lot. Although these drainages are certainly part of the natural hydrology, they “may have been modified in c. 1872 for construction of the mountain road and in c. 1980 for the Woodland Garden” (Auwaerter 2002:4C.1).

Pogue Hole Brook and the other drainages within the Park are rarely adversely affected by storms or spring run-off. However, the *Vermont Standard* reported on July 4, 1889 “the second severe storm of the week visited these parts on Friday afternoon last. This storm came in the form of a cloud burst over Pogue Hole, a very unusual phenomenon for this neighborhood. The cloud seemed to concentrate its force behind Mt. Tom, then swept down the valley of Barnard brook and over the village. An inch and sixty-five hundredths of rain fell in the village, nearly all of it in about forty minutes and the storm was over by five o’clock. Along the northerly slope of Mt. Tom was where the storm showed most violence. Pogue Hole Brook swelled beyond all bounds, becoming a mountain torrent, and swept away stone walls and everything else in its course. A

second, smaller brook entering Barnard Brook farther down played wild havoc in the same fashion. Still a third torrent came down through Mr. Billings' drainage bars and, crossing the highway, struck the south end of the bridge at Thompson's Grist Mills. This channel cut a deep gully down to the bed of Mill Brook, which it will take a hundred loads of earth to fill. The storm was the sharpest known in these parts for years." This storm may have, in part, led to the creation of the dam at the Pogue for flood control.

Springs

There are a number of springs on the Park's property, some of which were improved for use by the construction of wells or reservoir structures. There are at least two springs on the hill behind the Mansion, three at the southwest corner of the Pogue, two in the Spring Lot, one east of the Spring Lot at the head of a watercourse, and one in the area east of the Pogue. Such sources of fresh cool water were important to both precontact and early historic populations and the plants and animals they subsisted upon. Some of the springs on the property were very reliable. The local newspaper reported in 1869 that Frederick Billings "found a spring on the Westerly end of his farm which during the recent drouth [sic] discharged by estimate about 90 barrels of pure soft water in twenty-four hours. The water from this valuable spring is to be brought to his house and barns, a distance of nearly a mile, in iron pipe" (*Vermont Standard* September 16, 1869 3:1). Springs may also be located within the Protection Zone. For example, a deed for the Royce and Richardson brickyard, which was located in the northern section of the Protection Zone, indicates that there was a "large spring" along the fence between the brickyard and the fairgrounds (Woodstock Land Records [WLR] 24:173).

Climate

The climate within the general region of the

study area has changed dramatically over the millennia. Longer-term climate changes in the precontact era are discussed in more detail in sections 3.1-3.8 of this report. Currently, the climate of Woodstock is "marked by long winters, with temperatures generally below the freezing point, and by short, cool summers" (Kerr and Jones 1918:7-8). Usually the frost-free period extends from late May to mid-September (GMP 1999:51). The mean annual rainfall is approximately 101.6 cm (40 in) per year, with rain most abundant in the summer months (Auwaerter 2002:3.4; Kerr and Jones 1918:7-8). The mean annual temperature is 43.1 F (6.2 C) (Kerr and Jones 1918:8). However, the mean winter temperature is 18.3 F (-7.6 C) and the lowest recorded temperature is -36 F (-38.3 C) (Kerr and Jones 1918:8). Snow generally covers the ground from mid-December through March, with an average snowfall of 236.5 cm (93.1 in) but ranging between 177.8 and 254 cm (70 and 100 in) (Auwaerter 2002:3.4; Kerr and Jones 1918:8). Summer temperatures average about 70 F (21.1 C); the highest temperature of which there is record is 99 F (37.2 C) (GMP 1999:52; Kerr and Jones 1918:8).

Soils

A variety of soils are found within the study area. The primary soil series are Dummerston (near Mt. Tom), Pomfret (north of the Pogue and the western boundary of the forest), Glover (west of the Pogue) and Vershire (throughout the area) (GMP 1999:52). All of these soils formed from the unsorted loamy glacial till that was left mantling the bedrock after the final retreat of the glaciers about 12,500BP (Kerr and Jones 1918:12). The thickness of these soils ranges from less than 0.6 m (2 ft) to more than 1.5 m (5 ft) (Kerr and Jones 1918:12).

Given the relatively shallow nature of the sediment deposits within the Historic Zone, archaeological deposits of any age, where

and if present, are likely to be encountered close to the modern ground surface, unless the surface has been removed or buried by more recent cultural activity. In undisturbed glacial contexts, evidence of precontact Native American sites, even those thousands of years old, is typically recovered between the ground surface and 60 cm (23.6 in) below. However, deeper cultural deposits resulting from artifacts naturally migrating downward in the soil profile over time are occasionally found.

The generally well-drained loamy soils located in the Prosper Road valley (including the area of the McKenzie farmstead), the Pogue Hole basin, the area extending from the Pogue east to the Mansion, and the area extending south of the Pogue towards the Hilltop Farm were historically considered good agricultural soils. A typical soil profile in these areas would probably consist of a brown to yellowish-brown fine sandy loam plow zone approximately 20.3-30.5 cm (8-12 in) thick underlain by yellowish-brown fine sandy loam (undisturbed weathered subsoil) that grades with depth to a grayish loamy fine sand (unweathered subsoil) (Kerr and Jones 1918:15-16). Rocks and bedrock outcrops may be encountered throughout the soil profile but especially in the subsoil (Kerr and Jones 1918:16). In areas used agriculturally, many of the surface rocks were cleared away and used for building fences (Kerr and Jones 1918:16). Once the original forest cover and a fair amount of rock was removed, these areas were found well suited for corn, oats, hay, potato, pasture, mowing, sugarbushes, and apple orchards and these soils were generally employed in agriculture throughout the historic period unless steep slopes or lack of access prohibited use (Kerr and Jones 1918:15-16).

On the higher ridges and on the upper part of Mt. Tom the soil is usually a well-drained or excessively drained stony fine sandy loam. A typical stratigraphic soil profile in

these areas would probably consist of a brown to slightly yellowish brown fine sandy loam surface horizon 15.2 to 20.3 cm (6 to 8 in) thick (possibly shallower), underlain by a brownish-yellow fine sandy loam that grades with depth to a greenish-yellow or grayish fine sandy loam or loamy fine sand (Kerr and Jones 1918:14). Numerous bedrock outcrops and many stones ranging in size from 7.6-10.2 to 30.5 cm (3-4 to 12 in) may be visible across the ground surface of these soils (Kerr and Jones 1918:14). In the places where steep slopes or irregular rock outcrops prevented the use of agricultural implements and machinery, the land was used for woodlots or pasture (Kerr and Jones 1918:15). It was often found that when properly cared for (i.e. routine clearing of young trees and ferns) these pastures produced well (Kerr and Jones 1918:15). Areas of extreme stoniness and/or slope, such as the shoulders of the ridges or the upper part of Mt. Tom, were probably left as woodlots unless the area was close enough to the farmstead to be a convenient sheep pasture (Kerr and Jones 1918:22).

Within the Protection Zone, the upper and lower terraces have distinct soil environments. The older upper terrace, located at the foot of the Mansion Hill, is part of a bench-like formation that sits well above the floodplain, which occurs in a narrow but almost continuous belt along the Ottauquechee River Valley (Kerr and Jones 1918:19). The soils here developed on old stratified littoral (shallow water) deposits from a glacial lake (Kerr and Jones 1918:12; Stewart and MacClintock 1969:35-37, 111). The topography is level to gently sloping although there are, occasionally, abrupt rises of 1.5 to 6.1 m (5 to 20 ft) (Kerr and Jones 1918:19). The soil associated with the upper terrace is probably a light textured fine sandy loam that is "somewhat droughty" (Kerr and Jones 1918:19). A typical stratigraphic soil profile here would probably consist of a light brown fine sandy loam 20.3 to 30.5 cm (8 to 12 in) thick over

a loamy fine sand that grades to a fine sand at about 61 cm (24 in) below the ground surface. Coarse gravel may be found throughout the subsoil. Practically all of this soil was suitable for agriculture and was used throughout the historic period for general farming, corn being a principal crop (Kerr and Jones 1918:19).

In this environment, archaeological sites of any age, if present, are likely to contain deposits in contexts close to the modern ground surface. As with the other “non-depositional” soil environments in the study area and elsewhere in Vermont, evidence of precontact Native American sites, even thousands of years old, is typically recovered between the ground surface and 60 cm (23.6 in) below, with deeper deposits the result of artifacts naturally migrating downward in the soil profile over time.

The lower terrace in the Protection Zone represents a different and unique soil context within the study area. This relatively narrow, level to gently sloping landform extends from the eastern edge of the upper terrace eastwards to the Ottauquechee River. It has a slightly irregular surface and consists of post-glacial, Holocene epoch alluvium (Kerr and Jones 1918:12; Stewart and MacClinock 1969:35-37,111). A typical stratigraphic soil profile in this portion of the study area consists of a brown to dark-brown fine sandy loam or very fine sandy loam plow zone approximately 20.3-30.5 cm (8-12 in) thick underlain by various bands of yellowish brown or light olive brown gravelly loamy fine sand or gravelly fine sand possibly interspersed with buried ground surfaces (Kerr and Jones 1918:21). This landform was cultivated historically, principally for hay, but was considered suitable for other crops as well (Kerr and Jones 1918:21).

In this portion of the Protection Zone, archaeological sites are potentially present and may be deeply buried as a result of the depositional environment. Periodic large-

scale floods, such as the historic events mentioned earlier in this report, have contributed sediments to the floodplain, potentially covering evidence of early historic period sites and earlier precontact Native American occupations. In similar alluvial settings, precontact Native American sites have been found buried under more than one meter (3.3 ft) of historic period flood deposits.

Ordinary agricultural soil disturbances are expected in many areas throughout the Park and may include plowing, pasturing, and the removal of stone or tree stumps. Generally, as a result of such activities the upper horizon has been disturbed. As with similar environments across the state, cultivation may or may not have affected the integrity of archaeological sites, if present. It is important to note, however, that archaeological sites can still be considered significant, even if discovered in plow-horizon contexts. A deeper agricultural disturbance that may be encountered in the Park includes under-draining. Under-draining the land with underground pipes, tiles, or similar wood or stone structures was used to convert excessively wet areas (i.e. parts of meadows “kept moist by cold springs”) into productive fields (Adams 1846:185). Such a network of drain tiles was installed in a swampy corner of the meadow lying south of Pogue in ca. 1894-1896 (Wilcke et al. 2000:54, 56).

Flora and Fauna

The flora and fauna of the Park has experienced many changes over the ages. General changes during in the precontact era are discussed in greater in the Precontact and Ethnographic Occupation section of this report. Just prior to European settlement, the forest in the general vicinity of the project area was composed primarily of sugar maples and beech with a lesser mix of basswood, yellow birch, American elm, white ash, red maple, and eastern hop hornbeam along with an understory of

striped maple, witch hazel, hobblebush, and dogwood (Auwaerter 2002:3.2; Dana 1889:14; Kerr and Jones 1918:14). In a few places, the remnants of a chestnut-oak forest consisting primarily of American chestnut, red oak, white oak, black oak, and red maple may have been found (Auwaerter 2002:3.2). Hemlocks were probably located on cool mid-slopes and in deep sheltered ravines. In the project area, hemlocks were known to have thrived near the Pogue and on Mt. Tom (GMP 1999:40). White pine occurred in small stands on patches on lighter textured well-drained soil (Kerr and Jones 1918:14). One such stand stood on the lower terrace within the Protection Zone near the confluence of Barnard Brook and the Ottauquechee River (GMP 1999:40). Some spruce was found in the uplands while stands of alder preferred moist places (Kerr and Jones 1918:14).

In the early historic era, the settlers of Woodstock cut and burned large tracts of timber to clear the land for homesteads, fields, and pastures (Kerr and Jones 1918:9). While many hemlocks in Woodstock were harvested for their bark, which was needed by local tanneries, several large 300 to 400 year old specimens still survive within the Park (GMP 1999:40). Lumbering was a common activity in the winter and necessary as every home consumed several cords of wood a year (Kerr and Jones 1918:9). Within the project area, two forest fires, one in 1800 and another in 1845 damaged the forest on Mt. Tom (GMP 1999:40). By the late 19th century, most of the original forest in the region, except for woodlots, had been removed (*Vermont Publicity Service 1914:174-175*). In time, however, the abandoned pastures, fields, and cut over areas rebounded with a vibrant second growth (Kerr and Jones 1918:14).

Since the late 19th century, much of the land in the general study area has reverted to forest, including nearly 500 of the 550 acres in the Historic Zone (GMP 1999:4). Frederick Billings and his heirs planted

several pure stands of white pine, red pine, hemlock, Norway spruce, Scotch pine, sugar maple European larch, and European ash between 1882 and 1952 (GMP 1999:53; Wilcke et al. 2000:86). Billings' tree plantations were intended not only to beautify the estate but also to set an example of conservation in a State that suffered the effects of deforestation. It was reported in 1885 that "a large force under the direction of Mr. Mass, the gardener, are setting out trees for Hon. Frederick Billings. The intention is to set out nearly three thousand maples . . . Mr. Billings has in years past set out trees on the same liberal scale and in this way is teaching practical forestry to his neighbors" (*Vermont Standard* May 14, 1885 3:2). Many of the planted stands have survived to this day. Other areas within the study area were left to progress into forest through natural succession. The natural stands tend to be dominated by birch, beech, and maple mixed with some hemlock, oak, and ash (GMP 1999:53). Today, the forest also shelters an wide array of herbaceous understory plants including wildflowers such as "sympatica, trailing arbutus, bloodroot, violets, forget-me-nots, trillium, jack in the pulpit, trout lilies and adder's tongue" as well as "raspberries, morel mushrooms, leeks, fiddlehead ferns and ginseng" along with a wide variety of ferns that grow luxuriantly in moist places (GMP 1999:42).

Animal populations in the general region have also changed dramatically over time. The first European settlers found an abundance of animals upon their arrival such as deer, bear, raccoon, chipmunk, squirrel (gray, red, and flying), rabbit, wolves, beaver, woodchuck, fox, mink, skunk, muskrat, turtle, snakes, frogs, toads salamanders, pigeons, hawks, eagles, turkeys, ducks, and song birds as well as trout and other fish in the Ottauquechee River and its tributaries (Dana 1889:14, 58; Tucker 1889:107). A similar range of species can be projected back into the late precontact era. Historically, some of these

wild animals damaged crops or killed livestock. One observer reported that the early inhabitants of Woodstock “suffered much by the ravages of the wild beasts. In order to preserve their young cattle and sheep from the bears and wolves, they were for some years compelled to guard them during the night, or shut them up in yards, or buildings, prepared for the purpose” (Thompson 1853:III 198). In Vermont, there were active campaigns, even State sanctioned bounties, against certain problem species. Hunting and/or loss of habitat caused dangerous decreases in or even the disappearance of several major species including bear, deer, beaver, turkey, and passenger pigeon. Fish populations were adversely affected by the construction of dams, increased sedimentation due to the loss of forest cover leading to increased erosion, and pollution from human activities including sawdust, tannin, sewage, & etc.

This is not to say all animals were driven from the area. The woodlots around Mt. Tom certainly continued to provide shelter for many animal species throughout the historic period. In 1873, “A.H Sanborn and a man with him on the Dana farm, back of Mt. Tom, the other day took seven coons from one tree, the aggregate of coon weighing eighty-four pounds. Two gallons of oil was taken from the fatty lining of the skin of three of them” (*Vermont Standard*

December 18, 1873 1:1). Undoubtedly, the re-establishment of the forest probably encouraged the growth in population of some animal species as well as the return of others. Several attempts were made to stock the estate with certain species. For example, in 1894, a number of drakes and ducks were purchased by the Billings’ estate presumably to stock the Pogue (Wilcke et al. 2000:63).

The current faunal inventory of the Park includes rabbit, muskrat, mink, red fox, fisher, gray fox, raccoon, beaver, skunk, mole, shrew, white-tail deer, long-tailed weasel, snowshoe hare, porcupine, woodchuck, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock, hawks, owls, ravens, and woodpeckers along with the occasional black bear, bobcat, moose, or coyote as well as limited numbers of partridge, duck, and goose (GMP 1999:42, 54). Reportedly “deer yards exist in the western area of the park along Prosper road, and in areas of the park that border Billings Park” (GMP 1999:54). The Pogue was stocked with horned pout, yellow perch, largemouth bass (introduced 1974), and shiners (GMP 1999:42, 54). Also, during the historic period, some new and sometimes invasive species were introduced. These include mostly plants (i.e. Canada thistle), but also include mammals (i.e. black rat) and birds (i.e. starlings).

PRECONTACT AND ETHNOGRAPHIC OCCUPATION

This section of the report presents a general summary of the 11,000 years of Native American occupation in what is now Vermont as well as a brief overview of known sites in the vicinity of the study area (Figure 4). This information provides the context for Native American archaeological remains that are potentially present in the study area.

Early Paleoindian Period, ca. 9,500-8,000 B.C.

Archaeological evidence suggests that Native Americans first entered the region around 9,500 B.C. at the end of the Pleistocene epoch, sometime after the northward recession of the Wisconsin ice sheet. Environmental reconstructions based on fossil pollen records indicate that the climate was much cooler during this period than any subsequent period. The region was apparently dominated by open, treeless tundra with sub-arctic-like vegetation (Newby et al. 2005). Archaeological evidence from Vermont and elsewhere indicates that people practiced a wide-ranging hunting and gathering lifestyle during this period, relocating frequently to follow herds of game or other dispersed resources. They hunted now-extinct mammals including the mammoth as well as animals like the caribou, which today are more typical of colder, more northerly climates.

Sites attributable to this early period are generally small and thought to represent temporary camps. Larger sites are known, however, and it has been argued they represent less frequent seasonal aggregations of people (Thomas 2002). Stone artifact types characteristic of the period include projectile points, drills, scrapers, bifaces, and wedges. Tools diagnostic of the period include fluted spear points and spurred scrapers. In the production of these tools, both local and exotic (non-local) lithic materials were used. Exotic materials originating from areas including Maine, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Labrador are included in site assemblages from this period, attesting to patterns of long-distance trade and/or travel. Local chert and quartzite materials were also exploited, however, indicating that raw material sources were identified as soon as people entered the region.

The nearest Early Paleoindian sites to the study area are located near the Black River which, like the Ottauquechee River, is a major tributary of the middle Connecticut River drainage. The sites (VT-WN-273 and 289) are situated on a high landform in Ludlow, Vermont, near the base of Okemo Mountain resort.

Based on the documented early presence of people in this portion of the Connecticut valley, sites dating to the Early Paleoindian period are potentially present in the project area.

Native American Archaeology Timeline



The Paleoindian Periods

The Archaic Periods

The Woodland Periods

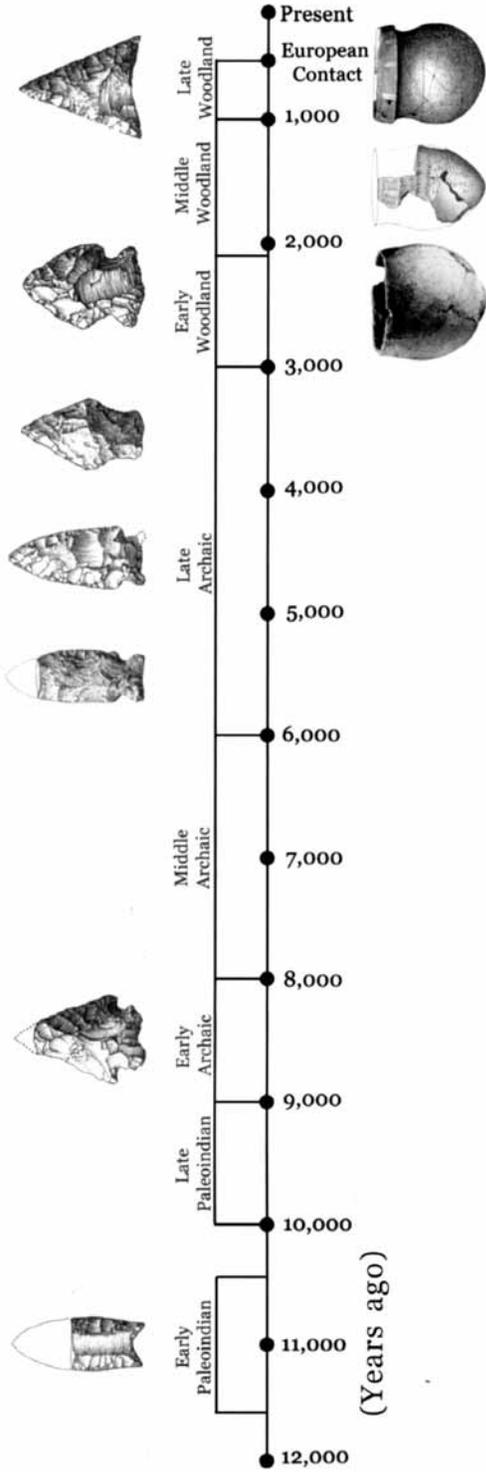


Figure 4. General Precontact Chronology of Vermont

Late Paleoindian Period, ca. 8,000-7,000 B.C.

During the latter portion of the Paleoindian period, the slow evolution of the landscape continued. Open areas began to be colonized by alder, poplar, birch, and willow, which ultimately gave way to spruce and fir as the climate became somewhat warmer. In the lowlands, larch and alder wetlands dominated and a mixed beech, oak, maple, and ash forest crowded into the better-drained bottomland and onto the lower foothills. Very little is known about the human occupation of what is now Vermont during this period.

A lack of data from this era once led researchers to postulate that Vermont was abandoned during the Late Paleoindian period, only to be recolonized later on. The first Late Paleoindian site studied in Vermont indicates that this was not the case, however. The Mazza site in Colchester, identified by UVM CAP in 2003, exhibits an unequivocal occupation during the Late Paleoindian period. Recent studies suggest that the lack of inventory of sites from this time is likely more a function of archaeological sampling than anything else.

Developing forest environments created niches for smaller game such as deer, bear, moose, beaver, lynx, porcupine, snowshoe rabbit, red squirrel, spruce grouse, mice, voles, etc., and humans undoubtedly adapted accordingly. Regionally, a wider variety of spear points apparently were produced including non-fluted types, such as the contracting stem point fragments recovered from the Mazza site. In the production of tools these people still relied to some extent on exotic materials but local materials were utilized as well.

Early Archaic Period, ca. 7,000-5,500 B.C.

Continued warming during the Early Archaic period transformed the region by

allowing hardwood forests of beech, oak, ash, and maple to thrive in the lowlands, consequently expanding the range of edible nuts, seeds, and plants. This, in turn, supported more and different kinds of animals. The increasing diversity of plants and the greater variety of small game and birds fostered the development of new hunting and foraging patterns. Foremost among these pattern changes was the establishment of seasonal camps over a wide territory each situated near specific resources (Thomas 2002).

During this time period, human populations increased and cultural traditions diversified. Archaeologically, this is evidenced by an apparent increase in the number of sites as well as the development of regionally distinct toolkits. Earlier projectile point styles were shared across North America but during the Early Archaic period, styles became more region-specific. In Vermont, spear points diagnostic of this period are characteristically short and wide and exhibit bifurcated bases or corner notches, dramatically different from the more elongated styles of earlier periods.

Middle Archaic Period, ca. 5,500-4,000 B.C.

Environmental reconstructions indicate that the climate continued its warming trend during the Middle Archaic period and the region continued to be attractive for human habitation. Little is known about the Native Americans living in Vermont during this period, however, due to a lack of well-studied sites dating from this era. As was once thought for the Late Paleoindian period, the Middle Archaic period was once thought to be a time when people left the region. Recent discoveries, however, have shown that people were here during this time and the lack of known sites is more a product of archaeological sampling. Archaeological investigations along Route 78 in Swanton, Vermont, for example, have

documented an occupation during the Middle Archaic period buried under more than one meter of flood-deposited sand (Cowie, personal communication 2004).

Late Archaic Period, ca. 4,000-1,000 B.C.

The warming trend that had begun millennia before peaked during the Late Archaic period. Temperatures across the region were warmer than they ever had been before and were warmer than they are today. There was increased precipitation that, when combined with the warmer climate, produced a time of abundance in what is now Vermont. Fruit and nut-bearing trees thrived, as did other nutritious plants, creating favorable conditions for a diverse variety of animals, including humans.

Archaeologists sub-divide the Late Archaic period based on different and distinctive projectile points and tool collections. Hundreds of sites dating from this period are known across the state, representing various traditions and subperiods, including Otter Creek, Laurentian, and Susquehanna, and providing evidence of increased population within the region. A variety of tool types and functionally distinct sites indicate the Late Archaic period was a time of technological advancement and sophisticated adaptation to the evolving environmental conditions.

The Spaulding site (VT-WN-189) located in Royalton, Vermont, is the closest well-studied Late Archaic period site. Situated on the floodplain of the Second Branch of the White River, the site lies in the next valley over within the same portion of the Connecticut drainage. The Spaulding site produced a Late-Terminal Archaic occupation with an assemblage of Orient fishtail-type projectile points. Fragments of Vinette I style pottery were also recovered. This Native American pottery style is the

first known in the Northeast, and its presence suggests that the Spaulding site may represent a transitional site, bridging the Late Archaic and Early Woodland periods.

Early Woodland Period, ca. 1000-100 B.C.

Temperatures grew colder during the Early Woodland period, reducing the number and variety of nutritious plants available and consequently, the number and variety of animals. The cooler climate and reduced food supply likely contributed to lower population densities within what is now Vermont. Relative to the Late Archaic period, sites dating to the Early Woodland period are relatively scarce. While the lack of data for this era may be the result of archaeological sampling, it also suggests that the region was less attractive to Native Americans than it had been during the Late Archaic period.

The Early Woodland period is marked by the introduction of clay pottery as well as bow and arrow technology. In Vermont, while relatively few habitation sites are known, several Early Woodland cemeteries have been identified and contribute a great deal to the understanding of Native American life during this period. At the Boucher site in Swanton, Vermont, for example, Early Woodland period burials contain evidence of extensive trade networks. Native Americans were buried with copper from the Great Lakes, stone material from Ohio and Pennsylvania, and shell from the Gulf coast, among other exotic goods (Heckenberger et al. 1990). Due to extraordinary preservation caused by the inclusion of copper, the site provides a window into the lives and religious ideology of Native Americans during prehistory that is unprecedented in Vermont.

Middle Woodland Period, ca. 100 B.C.– A.D. 1000

Temperatures during the Middle Woodland period apparently began to rise again, increasing the availability of plant and animal foods important to Native Americans. Based on the numbers of sites attributable to this period, human populations appear to have rebounded as well.

A wide variety of tools were employed for specialized tasks including the Jack's Reef-type corner notched projectile point and "thumbnail" endscrapers. The trade and exchange of exotic raw materials continued during this era. Middle Woodland period sites in Vermont regularly contain material from as far away as Maine and Pennsylvania. Pottery technology improved substantially during this period. Decorative styles including rocker-dentate designs evolved over time and provide archaeologists with temporal markers that can be used to date sites to narrow ranges of time.

During the Middle Woodland period, there also appears to have been a greater focus on floodplain environments for habitation, at least seasonally. This may reflect the increased importance of plant resources that were concentrated in floodplain environments, an adaptation that focused on major river corridors, or a combination of factors. Large Middle Woodland sites known along the Winooski River for example, suggest larger aggregations of people and perhaps greater sedentism during this period (Petersen 1978; Toney and Crock 2004).

Late Woodland Period, ca. A.D. 1000- 1600

The climate during the Late Woodland period was apparently much like it is today with a similar variety and distribution of plants and animals. This period likely

represents the most technologically advanced period of prehistory in Vermont. A continued elaboration of pottery technology accompanied the advent of agriculture. Sites dating to the Late Woodland period in Vermont provide the first evidence of cultivated crops including domesticated forms of maize, beans, and squash. Trends that began in the Middle Woodland period continued, such as the establishment of larger, more permanently occupied villages on the floodplains of major rivers.

Within the Connecticut valley, sites like Skitchewaug in Springfield, Vermont, are representative of this period. That site has produced the earliest evidence of agriculture in Vermont, producing dates from the earliest portion of the Late Woodland period on cultivated maize (Heckenberger et al. 1990).

Known Precontact Sites in the Study Area and Vicinity

There are no known precontact Native American sites within the MABI study area and, to date, very little is known about the Native American occupation and utilization of the Ottauquechee River portion of the Connecticut Drainage. The Vermont Archaeological Inventory (VAI) maintained by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation contains information on only two precontact Native American sites identified in the Ottauquechee River Valley (VT-WN-57 and VT-WN-60). Both of these sites were discovered at the head of the Quechee Gorge, about 12.9 km (8 mi) downstream from the MABI study area, during a management survey for the North Hartland Dam in 1985. Site VT-WN-60 was small, approximately 15 by 7 m (49.2 by 3 ft), in size and located on a low river terrace adjacent to small tributary. The site included hearth features and a low-density lithic debitage scatter (Thomas and Torrence 1986:11). The site at VT-WN-57 consisted of a buried, intact stratum with lithic

material including flakes and fire-cracked/affected rock. Some hearth features were identified at this site and one was radiocarbon dated to 490 yrs B.P. or to the latter portion of the precontact era during the Late Woodland period. The archaeologists who studied the site suggest that it is probably part of larger, short-term occupation that extended outside of their project area onto private property (Hasenstab et al. 1985).

Although there are no precontact Native American sites recorded within the town of Woodstock, there are two reported isolated “spot finds.” In 1871, a blocked-end tubular pipe was found at an unspecified location in Woodstock (VDHP Town Files). The pipe, analogous to pipes recovered at the Boucher site, is now housed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. Like the Boucher site burials, the Woodstock pipe is typical of the Middlesex burial complex and probably dates to the Early Woodland period. The second “spot find” from Woodstock is curated by the Peabody Museum, Andover and consists of about four dozen pieces of worked quartz and associated flakes (VDHP Town Files). Given the apparent lack of temporally diagnostic artifacts in the collection, these materials cannot be ascribed to any specific period of prehistory.

Contact Period and Ethnographic Occupation

Very few Contact period sites are known in Vermont, likely because most of the state was part of a less accessible “interior” and was not permanently settled until at least 150 years after the first Europeans entered the region in 1609. Diseases introduced by Europeans likely arrived long before settlers, devastating local communities. Hence, in Vermont there exists very little evidence of Native interaction with Europeans, such as the trade goods recovered at sites nearer to the Atlantic coast (e.g., Calloway 1990). The impact of Contact, both indirect and

direct cannot be understated. “Abenakis living in Vermont by the time European settlers arrived were survivors of a holocaust in which faceless killers cut down their relatives, tore gaping holes in the social fabric, disrupted economic and cultural life, left the non-dead dazed and paralyzed, and perhaps (as in fourteenth-century Europe after the Black Death) drained their confidence in traditional sources of spiritual strength” (Calloway 1990:71).

Based on ethnohistoric documents, the portion of the Connecticut River Valley that includes the study area was inhabited by bands of Western Abenaki, a cultural group that occupied a large portion of what is now Vermont, New Hampshire, and western Maine. Specifically, the Sokoki tribe inhabited the portion of the Connecticut valley that includes the study area (Day 1978). The Fort Hill village site located to the south near the Connecticut River in what is now New Hampshire, is one of few systematically studied archaeological sites that can be directly connected with an early historic period Western Abenaki group (Day 1978; Thomas 1979). Excavations at Fort Hill, established by the Sokokis in 1663, provide evidence of dramatic cultural change during the Contact period, but also help document traditional subsistence patterns that were in place prior to Contact, including the seasonal exploitation of available wild and cultivated resources (Thomas 1979).

Early historic documents include brief mentions of Native Americans, primarily in reference to raids on European settlements and/or kidnappings of Europeans by Native Americans. One such account is of the Royalton Raid, which occurred in 1780. The raid was led by British Lieutenant Richard Houghton who brought with him a handful of junior officers, a few European guides, and nearly 300 Native Americans; representing several bands but composed mostly of “Cagnewaga” Mokawks (Herwig 1964:17; Lovejoy 1911:119). As they left

Montreal, their goal was Newbury, Vermont, on the Connecticut River (Herwig 1964:17; Lovejoy 1911:119). When the raiders encountered a small party of hunters in central Vermont, however, they learned that Newbury was prepared for their arrival (Prince 1930:250). As a result, the invading party deflected southward, using the valleys of Stevens and Jail (Goal) Branch to pass through the towns of Barre and Orange. They then crossed over Washington Heights to where they picked up the First Branch of the White River and followed its course to Chelsea (Lovejoy 1911:119; Prince 1930:250). They pressed on following the First Branch to Tunbridge where they camped on a hill not far from the Royalton line on the night of Saturday, October 14 (Herwig 1964:17). The party remained in their camp concealed all day Sunday (Herwig 1964:17). In the predawn hours of Monday, October 16, 1780, the raiding party broke camp and descended into the settlement at Royalton.

The raid was short but dramatic. Before the raiders finished at least four settlers had been killed and about 26 captives taken (Herwig 1964:21; Prince 1930:249). The raiders also burned many structures (including 28 houses, 32 barns full of grain, one unfinished barn, a sawmill, and a grist mill), took some choice livestock (about 150 cows and 30 horses), and killed the

remaining animals (including, “all the black cattle, sheep, Piggs &c of which there was a great quantity”) (Prince 1930:250). Most of Royalton’s residents fled and sought refuge in nearby population centers. Some individuals headed southward, apparently followed by Native American raiders, over the mountains from the White River Valley and into the Ottauquechee Valley, into what is now Woodstock (Dana 1889:87-88). One “company of fugitives who came down the road from Pomfret on the way to Hartford” stopped at Burtch’s [sic] mills (now called Dennison’s Mill) in Woodstock (Dana 1889:87). Apparently the pursuit of the refugees was pressed almost to Woodstock, alarming the local residents. Upon “receiving the alarm” Mrs. Benjamin Emmons who lived on River Road in Woodstock, “caught up her little children, carried them into the meadow, then thickly covered with trees, and stowed them away under some fallen logs and branches, concealing the hiding place as carefully as possible. She at the same time placed some bread and cheese with the children, and giving them a whispered warning not to make any noise, for their lives, left them and returned to the house” to hide the family’s valuables (Dana 1889:87, 89). However, word soon came “that the Indians were on their retreat northward; the alarm was over, and the fugitives returned to their several homes” (Dana 1889:87).

HISTORIC PERIOD

Early Settlement (1768-1789)

The town of Woodstock was chartered on July 10, 1761. The first permanent settler, James Sanderson, arrived about seven years later, in 1768. By the time the first U.S. Census was taken in 1771, there were 42 individuals, within 10 households, living in the town (Dana 1889:16). The early inhabitants were primarily descendants of early English settlers who had migrated from neighboring New England states such as Massachusetts and Connecticut or even from older towns in Vermont. The town was officially organized in May of 1773. The earliest years were dedicated to opening patches of farmland and the establishment of vital services that would attract additional settlers to the area. Joab Hoisington, built the first grist and saw mill on Kedron Brook in Woodstock Village ca. 1776. Prior to the construction of these mills “the inhabitants were obliged to carry their grain to Windsor, and sometimes, to Cornish, N.H. to be ground” (Thompson 1853:III 198).

During the Revolutionary War era, Woodstock was close to the frontier. “There were at this time scarcely any inhabitants in the state to the north and northwest of this township, and the settlers here were subject to frequent alarms by reports that the Indians were coming upon them” (Thompson 1853:III 198). Following the Royalton Raid in 1780, “it was said that for sometime afterwards most of the settlers [of Woodstock] repaired at night to a camp which they formed upon ‘the island,’ as it was formerly called, which now [ca. 1886] forms a part of Mr. Cushing’s meadow on the north side of the old channel of the river, thinking they would be safer and better able to defend themselves there together in case of a night attack than in their scattered houses” (Dana 1889:88). While “the progress of the settlement was much retarded” during the years of conflict, it was not stopped altogether (Thompson 1853:III

198). For example, at least 50 families moved from Middleboro, Massachusetts, to Woodstock between ca. 1772 and 1787 (Weston 1906:xxii).

After the war, Woodstock grew quickly. Around the time Charles Marsh (senior) arrived (ca. 1789-1790), the population of the town had already reached about 1,597 and it was the second most populous town in Windsor County behind Hartland (Arnold 1981:28). This rapid growth was due in part to the fact that when Windsor County was created in 1781, Woodstock was chosen as the county seat because of its central location. This provided a good financial boost for Woodstock Village in particular. With the construction of the jail and the opening of the courthouse in ca.1787-1788, came lawyers, litigants, visitors to prisoners (i.e. debtors), improved roads, mail routes, stage lines, printers, taverns, inns, and access to more specialized goods and services. During this period, however, the vast majority of people in Woodstock relied on agriculture. According to various 19th century accounts, the settlers found the soils of Woodstock “generally of a good quality, and easily cultivated” especially on the lower slopes of the hills, in the valleys, and along the bottom lands of the Ottauquechee River and its larger tributaries (Adams 1846:208; Child 1884:286; Thompson 1853: III 199). As soon as possible, farmers suspended subsistence farming in favor of mixed agriculture that not only provided the family necessities but also yielded products for the general market. Early farmers of the Connecticut River basin raised wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, and beef cattle as well as producing maple sugar, pot and pearl ashes, and a variety of home manufactures much of which was destined for southern New England (Kerr and Jones 1918:9).

Study Area

In the 20 years or so before the arrival of Charles Marsh (senior) several settlements were made within both the Historic and

Protection Zones of the Park. These initial settlements evolved into three farms by the early 1790s specifically the Cobb, Thomas, and Marsh farms. James Cobb settled the 115-acre Hilltop Farm south of the Pogue ca. 1778-1779 and George Thomas settled the McKenzie Farm in the western section of the Historic Zone at about the same time (Dana 1889:58). At least five early historic period houses were once located in the area east of Elm Street on land later absorbed into the Marsh Farm.

One of the earliest recorded events to occur within the Historic Zone was a tragic accident. On June 15, 1781, Nathan Tinkham accidentally shot and killed Moses Sampson near the Pogue while the pair were deer hunting (Dana 1889:552). At the time, Moses Sampson was married to Lucy Churchill whose brothers Ichabod and Joseph Churchill had settled in Woodstock along the Ottauquechee River in 1778. All three were children of a Middleboro, Massachusetts, sea captain who had died at an early age (*Vermont Standard* December 15, 1870 2:4).

Marsh Era (1789-1869)

This era, spanning the time that the Marsh family owned and occupied a significant proportion of the current Park property, is contemporary with the rise of Woodstock into a thriving diversified community that reached its peak population of 3,315 in 1840 and follows the town through a time of overall stability until the 1860s (Arnold 1981:28). By 1800, Woodstock had a population of 2,100 with “nearly all . . . living on the hillsides engaged in farming” (*Vermont Standard* June 24, 1869 3:6-7). At the same time, the population of Woodstock Village was estimated as “less than two hundred” (*Vermont Standard* June 24, 1869 3:6-7). Most of the buildings in the village “were clustered round the common, but some few dotted at long intervals the sides of the old town road that ran from the Common down what is now Central Street”

(*Vermont Standard* June 24, 1869 3:6-7). There were at least three taverns, a hotel, two doctors, a potash manufactory, an oil mill, a tailor, a house painter, a hatters shop, several law offices, the courthouse, the jail, the county clerk, the sheriff, and at least five mercantile stores in the village (*Vermont Standard* June 24, 1869 3:6-7; December 23, 1869 2:2-3; and April 7, 1870 2:1-2).

Although the overall population grew steadily, there was a fairly high turnover among the individual residents. It was later noted, “ever since this town was settled its inhabitants have been constantly on the move. It is surprising to notice how many of the pioneer settlers, after getting reasonably well established in this neighborhood, moved off and died elsewhere. About the year 1802 we sent out West a colony of one hundred, besides settling almost the whole of the town of Stowe about the same period, and this thing has been going on ever since” (*Vermont Standard* August 22, 1889 4:2).

By 1824, the Village of Woodstock consisted of “a handsome Congregational meeting house, a court-house, a stone jail which is the best in the state, a village school-house, of brick, two stories high, eight attorneys, five physicians, a post office, seven English and India goods stores, two of which contain assortments of drugs and medicines, one bookstore, one hat store, two taverns, two watchmakers and jewelers, one carriage maker, two tailors, two painters, two milliners, two saddlers and harness makers, one tannery, one distillery, one oil mill, one triphammer, three blacksmiths, one manufactory of musical instruments, one sawmill, one gristmill, one woolen factory, one marble factory, two printing offices . . . about 80 dwelling-houses, some of which are elegant, and 500 inhabitants” (*Vermont Standard* September 20, 1888 2:3).

Other areas within the township at large were also showing brisk growth. South Woodstock, located five miles south of

Woodstock Village on Kedron Brook, consisted of “a meeting house, a store, a tavern, about twenty dwelling-houses and a number of mills and mechanics’ shops” (*Vermont Standard* September 20, 1888 2:3). Scattered elsewhere about the township were 18 schoolhouses, six grist mills, seven sawmills, five fulling mills, three carding machines, four tanneries, one oil mill, and three distilleries (*Vermont Standard* September 20, 1888 2:3).

Less than two decades later, by about 1840, the Village of Woodstock was the largest community in Windsor County with about 350 buildings providing space for “5 churches, courthouse, jail, 12 attorneys, 6 physicians, 2 printing offices, 20 dry goods grocery and other stores” (Thompson 1853:III 199). Since the town could offer more services (i.e. tinsmiths, silversmiths, & etc.) and a broader range of goods, it found that it had a considerable commercial hinterland (Thompson 1853:III 199). During this time, Woodstock could also boast “for the variety and extent of its manufactures and mercantile transactions, this village ranks as one of the first in the state” (Thompson 1853:III 199). Important industries added to the town in the 1830s included a factory that made “carding machines, jacks, shears and all other articles used in woolen factories” and another factory that produced “sythes, clothiers’ shears, axes and other edged tools” (Thompson 1853:III 199).

Throughout this period, however, agriculture continued to be the primary pursuit of most of the residents of Woodstock. In the early to mid-1800s, Woodstock was considered to be “one of the best farming townships in the state” (Thompson 1853:III 199). Around this time, commercial stock raising (i.e. horses) and dairy (especially cheese) were vital to Vermont’s farm economy. Sheep

were of increasing importance with the growth of the woolen textile industry both in southern New England and locally, the introduction of fine wool breeds particularly the Merino ca. 1810, and a protective wool tariff that was in effect between 1828 and 1846. By the mid-1830s, Windsor County was the third largest sheep farming county in Vermont behind Addison and Rutland Counties (Wilcke et al. 2000:23). In 1840, the agricultural census counted 15,974 sheep (capable of yielding 39,072 pounds of wool), 5,719 cattle, 1,655 pigs, and 621 horses in Woodstock (Thompson 1853:III 199). The leading crops included oats (28,878 bushels), corn (15,141 bushels), wheat (4,671 bushels), buckwheat (3,900 bushels, and rye (1,426 bushels) along with potatoes (82,584 pounds) and hay (8,374 tons) (Thompson 1853:III 199). Woodstock also produced 32,072 pounds of maple sugar in that enumeration year (Thompson 1853:III 199). Later, in the 1850s and 1860s, mixed agriculture continued to dominate Vermont’s farm economy. However, there was an increasing emphasis on dairy, especially butter production. Even after the wool tariff was dropped, sheep continued to be raised for wool and as breeding stock in this region.

Study Area

Charles Marsh (senior 1765-1849) was the eighth of 12 children born to Col. Joseph Marsh. Charles Marsh (senior) was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, on July 10, 1765 and moved to Hartford, Vermont with his family ca. 1778 (Figure 5) (Dana 1889:468; *Vermont Standard* October 20, 1870 3:6-7).

His father was a prominent lawyer and at one time was Lieutenant Governor of Vermont. Charles Marsh (senior) graduated from Dartmouth College in 1786 at the age of 21 and was admitted to the Connecticut bar in 1788 at the age of 24 (Dana 1889:468; *Vermont Standard* October 20, 1870 3:6-7).

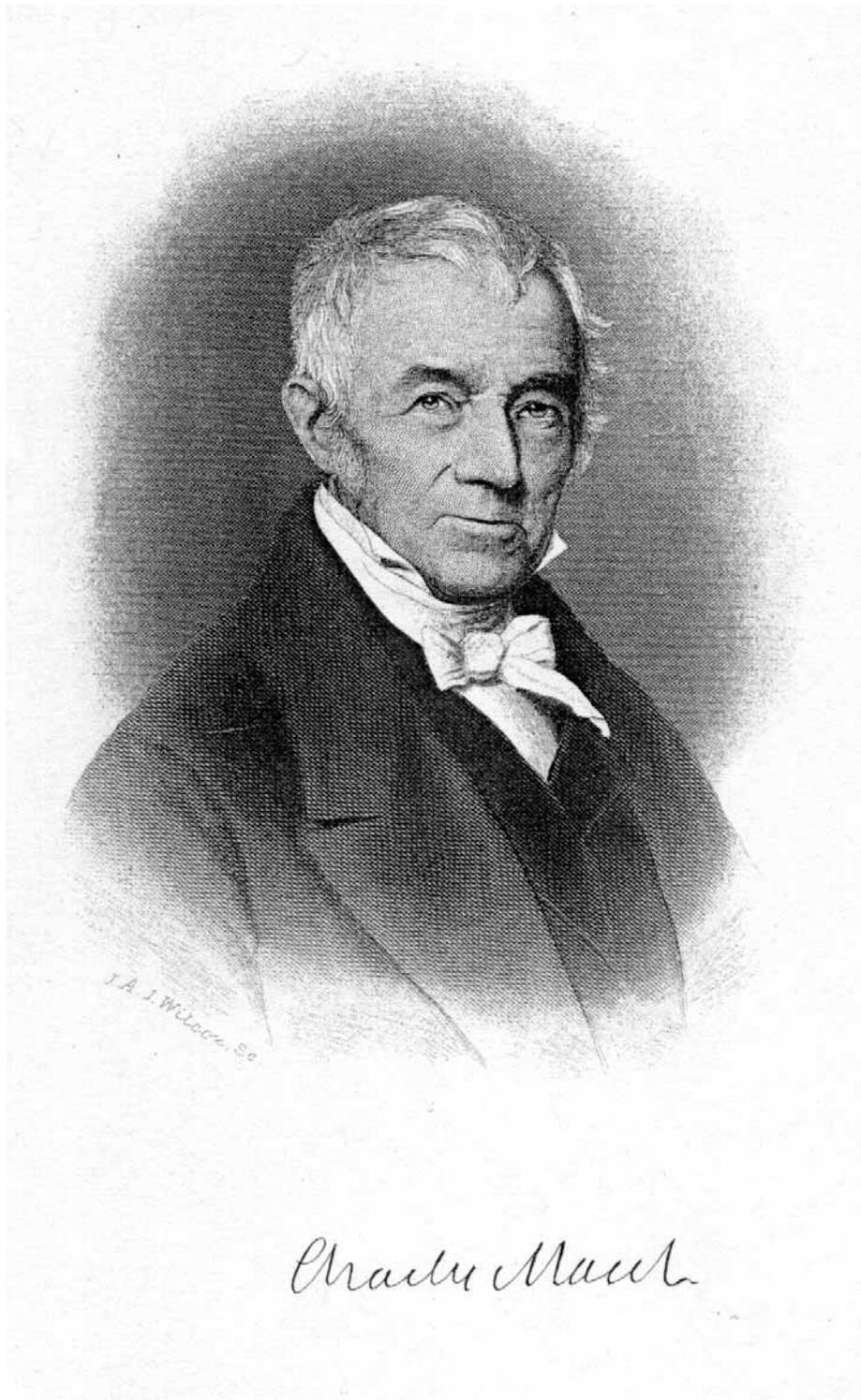


Figure 5. Charles Marsh (senior) (from Dana 1889).

Soon after graduating from college, Charles Marsh (senior) married his first wife, Nancy Collins, of Litchfield, Connecticut. In 1789, Charles Marsh (senior) moved to Woodstock where he was admitted to the Vermont bar by a “special act of legislature, there being a rule prohibiting the admission of attorneys unless they had studied two years with some Vermont lawyer” (*Vermont Standard* October 20, 1870 3:6-7). In 1790, Charles Marsh (senior) bought 50 acres in Woodstock just six miles up the Ottauqueche River from his father’s estate and built a frame house within the Historic Zone of the Park (Marsh 1895:154; WLR 2:51).

Charles Marsh (senior) and Nancy Collins had two children: Charles Marsh (1790-1818) and Anne Collins Marsh (1793-1855) but tragically Mrs. Marsh died on June 18, 1793 just eight days after the birth of her daughter (Dana 1889:193, 468; Marsh 1895:155). Several years later, on June 3, 1798, Charles Marsh (senior) married a “very elegant” young widow named Susan (Perkins) Arnold of St. Johnsbury, Vermont (Marsh 1895:155). Susan Perkins had been married to Josiah Lyndon Arnold (1768-1796), son of the noted and influential Dr. Jonathan Arnold, from February 8, 1795 to his untimely death on July 7, 1796 (International Genealogical Index [IGI] 2005; Marsh 1895:155). Charles and Susan Marsh had five children including; Lyndon Arnold Marsh (1799-1829, a lawyer), George Perkins Marsh (1801-1882, a lawyer, diplomat, and conservationist), Joseph Marsh (1807-1841, a doctor and University of Vermont professor), Sarah Marsh (1809-1841, who married Wyllys Lyman, a lawyer), and Charles Marsh (junior 1821-1873, a farmer) (Figure 6) (Dana 1889:469-470).

Charles Marsh (senior) proved to be a talented and successful lawyer. He rose quickly in his profession and remained in practice for many years winning his last case, a slander suit, at the age of 74 (*Vermont Standard* October 20, 1870 3:6-7). In his spare time, Charles Marsh was active member of the Vermont Bible Society, an officer of the Colonization Society, a member of the fifth Council of Censors, a member of the United States Congress from 1815 to 1817, and for 40 years a trustee of Dartmouth College (Marsh 1895:154; *Vermont Standard* October 20, 1870 3:6-7).

Between 1805 and 1807, Charles Marsh (senior) oversaw the construction of a new brick Mansion on the hill (Figure 7) (Dana 1889:193). This “baronial family home was the resort of cultivated guests from all parts of the land” (*Vermont Standard* October 20, 1870 3:6-7). “Ministers of the gospel, lawyers, doctors, schoolmasters, strangers from abroad, all put up at Mr. Marsh’s house, and found a ready welcome” (Dana 1889:193). For example, William Raymond Jr., a local merchant and his wife, Orpah Cobb (daughter of James Cobb settler of the Hilltop Farm), among several children, had two daughters Sally (1802-1884) and Lovisa (1804-1897) who were born deaf “but were bright and intelligent” (Haslam 2001:328; *Vermont Standard* July 7, 1870 2:4). In September of 1823, the Rev. Thomas Gallaudet “founder of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb” (now Gallaudet University) visited Woodstock on his way to lobby the Vermont legislature to fund his work. It so happened that “one of the Miss Raymonds was then at Mr. Marsh’s” when Gallaudet was brought to meet Mr. Marsh and “subsequently the two sisters went to the American Asylum, where they were good scholars” (*Vermont Standard* July 7, 1870 2:4).

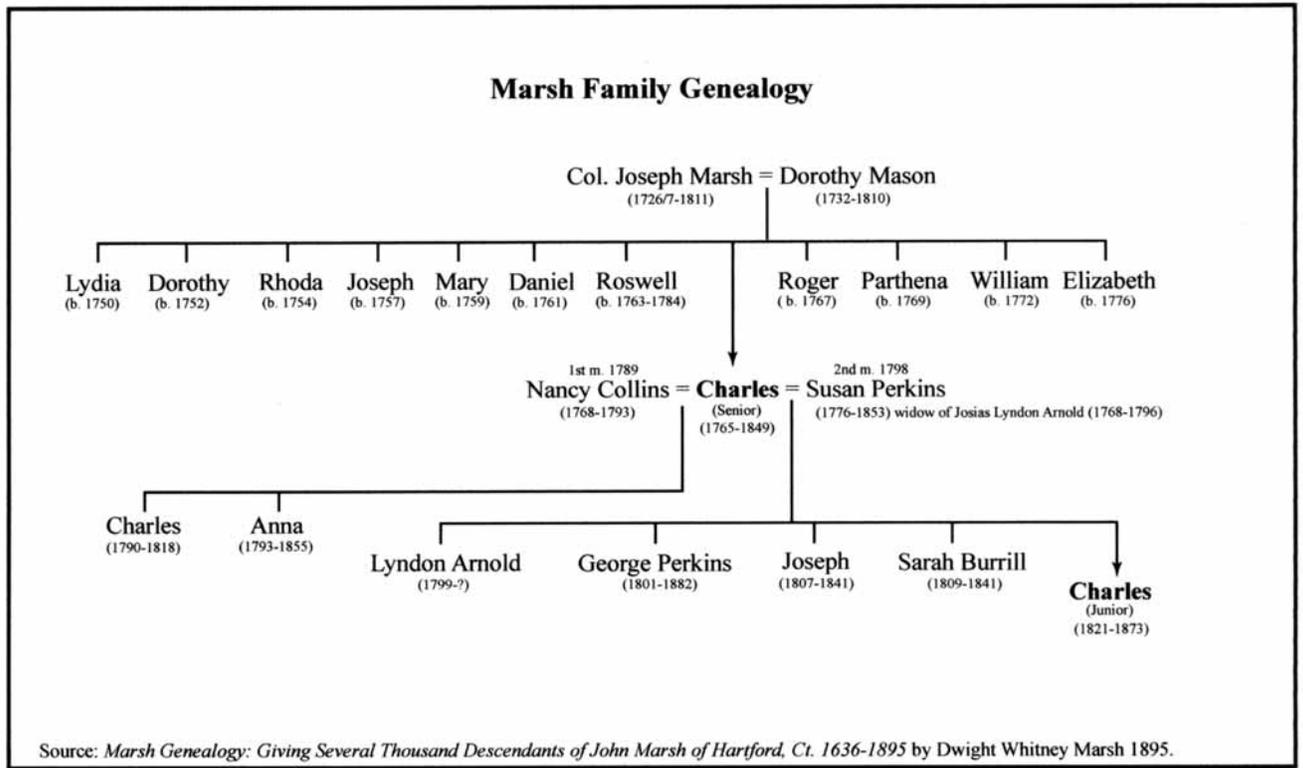


Figure 6. Genealogy of the Marsh Family.

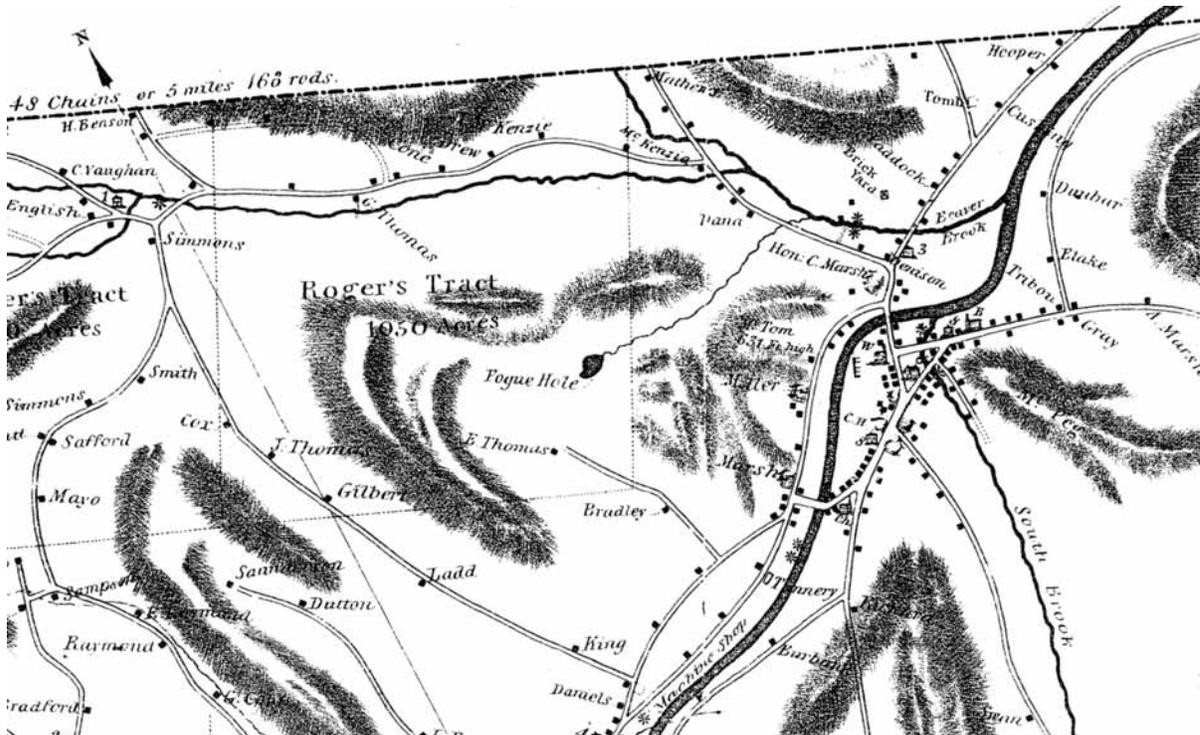


Figure 7. Detail of the Woodstock Institute's *Map of Woodstock, Vermont* (1832).

In addition to being a successful lawyer, Charles Marsh (senior) also owned a large and successful farm. Throughout the early 1800s, he continued to expand his land holdings. According to town land and tax records, by 1808 Charles Marsh had amassed about 425 acres, stretching from the Ottauquechee River to the West Ridge. Charles Marsh also sold several parcels within the study area during his lifetime including his first house in 1829, another house lot north of the old house in 1834, and some woodland near the Pogue in the 1830s (WLR 9:352, 10:361, and 10:43).

In May 1847, Charles Marsh (senior) transferred all of his land, about 300 acres, along with all houses, barns, storehouses, livestock, and tools to Charles Marsh (junior) in exchange for a life lease with joint ownership and right of survivorship (WLR 15:18-21). Charles Marsh (junior), born on May 10, 1821, was the youngest of the family. Reportedly, he loved science and travel but “was devoted to his parents and gave up a liberal education” to care for his mother and father in their old age (Marsh 1895:155). Charles Marsh (senior) died on January 11, 1849 at 83 years of age less than two years after transferring his farm to his son (Dana 1889:468). Charles Marsh (junior) carried on the farm for 22 years.

Although Charles Marsh (junior) never married, his house was always full. The 1850 census lists Charles Marsh’s household as himself (29), a farmer, his widowed mother, Susan (73), and several employees and staff including Frances (40) and Asenethe Hooper (35), Felix Luara (22), Lynus Bachelidor (16), Albert Fuller (14), and Eunice Lawphiey (15). Susan Marsh died on January 31, 1853 (Dana 1889:469). According to the 1860 census, Charles Marsh’s (39) household consisted of three farm laborers namely Phillip Duphing (Dupheny/Dupheny) (32) of Canada, Owen Raymond (28), and John McMellian (21) both of Ireland as well as two servants,

Esseneth Hooper (45) and Matildia Wallace (23).

During Charles Marsh (junior)’s tenure, several land transactions redefined the farms’ boundary. The most important to this study include sale of a small parcel of land for a school, the repurchase of the two house lots west of Elm Street, the sale of the northern part of the Meadow to the Windsor County Agricultural Society for a fairground in 1855, and the sale of about 68 acres off the western end of the farm (excepting the Pogue) in 1865 (WLR 15:552, 19:421, 17:214, and 22:1-2).

On March 16, 1869, Charles Marsh (junior) sold the rest of the farm, then consisting of about 246.6 acres to Frederick Billings (Wilcke et al. 2000:31). Anything on the farm Mr. Billings did not want, including farm implements, sugar tools, plows, a sleigh, and livestock, was sold at public auction (Pendery and Griswold 1997:4). After the sale, Charles Marsh (junior) moved to Burlington, Vermont. Then late in 1872, his health failing, he decided to travel west for a better climate but died soon afterwards in San Diego, California, on May 13, 1873 at the age of 52 (Marsh 1895:155; Pendery and Griswold 1997:4; *Vermont Standard* May 15, 1873 2:1).

Frederick Billings Era (1869-1890)

After a precipitous drop during the decade between 1860 and 1870, Woodstock’s population stabilized and remained at about the same level through 1970 (Arnold 1981:28). Although the overall population of Woodstock during the late 1800s was steady, there was, by the last quarter of the century, a noticeable decline in the rural population. In the 1880s, the *Vermont Standard* noted that within Woodstock “our own hillsides have become deserted, and empty houses and abandoned farms mark the places where once was the site of a thriving population” (*Vermont Standard* August 22, 1889 4:2).

This apparent exodus had many causes, among which were dramatic changes in agriculture that were taking place. Sheep husbandry may have persisted in this area a little longer than in other places in Vermont due to a demand for wool from local mills in Woodstock, Ludlow, and Bridgewater; but even this industry began to fail as the century wore on. For example, the Woodstock Woolen Mills, located in the southwestern part of the Village, closed ca. 1877-1879 (Child 1889:288(4)). Between 1880 and 1890, the production of wool declined rapidly in this region (Harris 1904; Kerr and Jones 1918:9). Simply put, the grazing season of Windsor County was simply too short to compete with places like California, Mexico, and Australia where the season “occupied the entire year allowing two clippings of longer staple and finer growth to be taken each year” (Harris 1904). One historian estimated that in the late 1800s five or six large coarse-wooled sheep in Vermont were equal to one cow “in the expense of keeping” but the sheep only realized six pounds per fleece at “from twelve to twenty cents per pound” or only three to six cents a pound live weight if slaughtered (Harris 1904). Compounding the problem for Vermont woolgrowers was the fact that the remaining Vermont woolen manufactures no longer bought locally. Instead they purchased wool from large city markets “and in many cases the same fleeces are shipped back to our Vermont manufacturers, lessening the profits” (Harris 1904; Kerr and Jones 1918:9).

In addition to the change in the focus of the farm away from sheep and more toward large-scale dairy, farm machinery and mechanization was becoming increasingly important. Smaller inefficient farms with rocky soils, which could not adapt to dairy, poultry, or truck (garden) agriculture, were often abandoned and their good land leased and/or their woodland stripped of timber (Kerr and Jones 1918:9-10).

Despite the changes in the rural population

the overall population of Woodstock held steady. In the years between the Civil War and the Spanish American War, Woodstock began to take its first steps away from industry and agriculture towards tourism. The key to getting this industry off the ground turned out to be the completion of the Woodstock Railroad. Although work on the 14-mile long railroad connecting Woodstock to White River Junction was begun in 1869, it was not completed until six years later. Financial and technical difficulties, not the least of which was spanning Quechee Gorge, had to be overcome. With the help of Frederick Billings, the trains began running on September 29, 1875. The arrival of the railroad triggered a tourist boom that has continued to this day. This railroad was particularly prosperous between 1890 and 1915 (Dana 1889:543-544; Jones 1993:336-348).

Study Area

Frederick Billings (1823-1890) bought the Marsh farm in 1869. Billings was one of nine children born to Oel (1788-1871) and Sophia (Wetherbee) (1796-1870) Billings (IGI 2005; *Vermont Standard* December 7, 1871 2:2-3). Oel Billings was a merchant, a registrar of probate, and a pension agent (*Vermont Standard* December 7, 1871 2:2-3). Oel Billings moved his family from Royalton to Woodstock about 1835 (*Vermont Standard* December 7, 1871 2:2-3). Frederick Billings grew from these modest beginnings to become a wealthy California Gold Rush lawyer, banker, and president of the Northern Pacific Railroad (GMP1999:36; *Vermont Standard* December 7, 1871 2:2-3). At the time Billings bought the Marsh place, the local paper commented, “the Charles Marsh farm on the northerly outskirts of this village, which is justly celebrated for the imposing view from its stately dwelling, has been purchased by Frederick Billings Esq. for the round sum of \$27,500 . . . The farm contains some 270 acres, divided into river meadow

and upland, and has upon it a large quantity of wood and timber” (*Vermont Standard* March 4, 1869 3:1). The paper also forecasted “Mr. Billings will make additions to and improvements in the building and grounds” (*Vermont Standard* March 4, 1869 3:1).

Soon after purchasing the property, Frederick Billings hired Boston landscape architect Robert Morris Copeland to completely redesign the grounds into a formal estate (GMP 1999:43). Following this plan, Billings removed all of the buildings from the Mansion Grounds, except for the brick house (Mansion), which he enlarged and extensively remodeled twice; once in ca. 1869-1870 and again ca. 1885-1886 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.27). Billings also established a Kitchen Garden in the Upper Meadow and built several new structures on the Mansion Grounds including a Laundry, a stable, a coachman’s house (Double Cottage), four Greenhouses, the Belvedere, two summerhouses (gazebo-like structures), the Woodshed, a garden shed, and a bowling alley (Auwaerter 2002:2.10; 3:12; 4A 5-6).

Billings also initiated a spirited reforestation program “to stabilize eroded slopes” as well as to serve as a model of sustainable timber culture (GMP 1999:443; Wilcke et al 2000:40-44). It was estimated that Billings had “added fifteen or twenty thousand young trees of various kinds set out from season to season” to the property by ca. 1886 (Dana 1889:553). Through the woodlands west of the Mansion, Billings created a network of carriage paths, which he opened to the public. Across the road from the Mansion, Billings created a model farm ca. 1871 stocked by Southdown sheep,

Berkshire hogs, Morgan horses, and registered Jerseys and improved by new buildings (for managers and employees) and new or expanded barns (GMP 1999:443).

Between 1869 and 1900, the estate was expanded from 247 to 2000 acres (GMP 1999:42). Much of the land acquired during this time period currently lies outside of the Park’s boundaries. However, at least two purchases important to the history of the Park were made during this time. The first was that of the 227-acre Dana farm (Hilltop Farm) on October 25, 1884 (*Vermont Standard* October 16, 1884 3:2; WLR 30:368-370). The other was that of 33-acres lying west of the Pogue, which included much of McKenzie Hill (West Ridge) in 1887 (WLR 30:130).

For about 21 years, the estate was a summer retreat for the Billings Family (Figure 8). Frederick Billings and his wife, Julia Parmly (1835-1914), had seven children including Parmly (1863-1888); Laura (1864-1938); Frederick “Fritz” Jr. (1866-1890); Mary Montague (1869-1951); Elizabeth (1871-1944); Ehrick (1872-1889); and Richard (1875-1931) (IGI 2005 Wilcke et al.. 2000:31, 37, 38, 49, 51). The 1880 federal population census lists the family in Woodstock as including Frederick (56), Julia (44), Parmly (17), Laura (15), Frederick (13), Mary (11), Elizabeth (9), Ehrick (7), and Richard (5). The census also lists Laura Wheeler (27) governess, Susie L. Guild (30), Anna R. Guild (29), Ella Guild (26), Margaret Brady (29), and Hester Holt (48). Tragically Ehrick Billings died at the estate on October 7, 1889 at only 17 years of age.

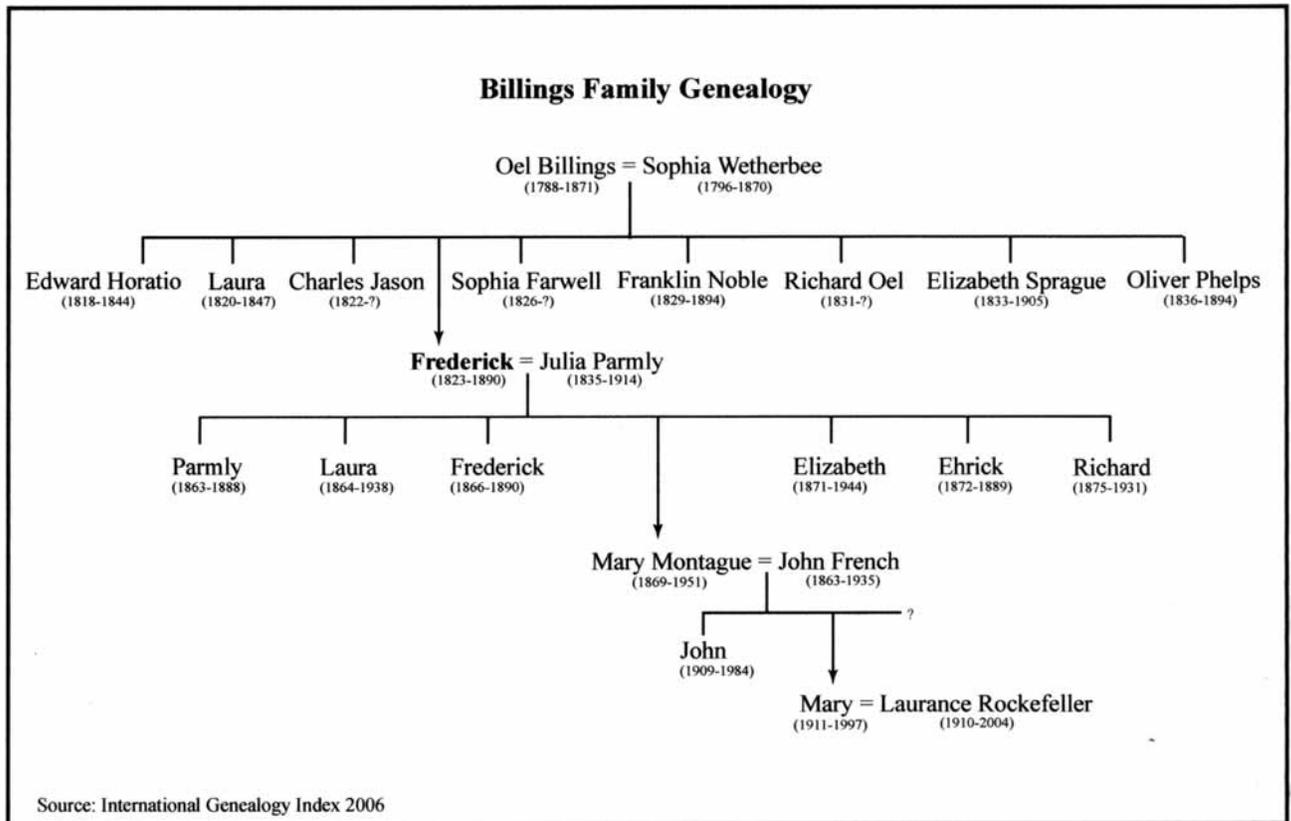


Figure 8. Genealogy of the Billings Family.

He had been “for several years a sufferer from heart disease, the sequel to a severe attack of scarlet fever in childhood” (*Vermont Standard* October 17, 1889 4:5). Ehrick Billings died a little more than a year after the family’s oldest son, Parmly, died suddenly in Chicago on May 7, 1888 of acute nephritis while on his way home (*Vermont Standard* October 17, 1889 4:5; Woodstock Vital Records). It is possible that these losses prompted Billings to have the Upper Meadow-Cemetery Road (no longer used), an old Marsh farm road, rebuilt into a graded carriage drive in 1890, to connect the estate to River Street Cemetery, where the Billings Family plot was located (Auwaerter 2002:4C.5; Forest CLR 2004:61). In late July or early June of 1890 Frederick Billings suffered “a partial stroke of paralysis” at his New York City residence on Madison Avenue. At the time, a New York newspaper reporter wrote that

Billings’ “country place at Woodstock, Vt, is one of the finest summer residences in America, and he is said to have determined if he is well enough to go there this spring not to leave it again for the rest of his lifetime” (*Vermont Standard* June 5, 1890 1:2). Frederick Billings died at his estate on September 30, 1890, just days after his 67th birthday.

Billings Estate Era (1890-1914)

At the beginning of twentieth century, farming and tourism both summer and winter were the leading economic pursuits in Woodstock (Vermont Publicity Service 1914:175; Kerr and Jones 1918:7). The major industries of Woodstock had for the most part faded, although there were still a few lumber mills, gristmills, a foundry, and a basket shop in town (Vermont Publicity Service 1914:175). Dairying was the

leading branch of agriculture with most of the product (increasingly fluid milk) sold to the local market or sent to local creameries (Kerr and Jones 1918:10). Aside from dairy, the principal agricultural products of Woodstock were hay, corn, oats, potatoes, and garden vegetables (Vermont Publicity Service 1914:174).

Study Area

With the death of Frederick Billings, the estate transferred to his designated trustees and subsequently to his children. Projects undertaken by the Estate or Billings' children included the construction of the Carriage Barn on the site of the old stable in 1895, the reconstruction of the Greenhouses ca. 1900-1903, and the addition of an automobile garage (now known as the Generator Garage) in 1908 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.27,29 and 4B.19). Frederick Billings' daughters, Laura, Mary, and Elizabeth, also made additions and improvements to the gardens. Mary Billings hired Martha Brookes Brown Hutcheson in 1902 to redesign the approach to the Mansion (Auwaerter 2002:2.6-7).

During this period, additional land was added to the Estate. In the most significant transaction for this report, Frederick Billings' heirs bought 100 acres being that part of the McKenzie farm lying east of Prosper Road including the homestead buildings on January 4, 1894 (WLR 33:222). The structures and a 10-acre parcel belonging to this farm were sold off in 1918 (WLR 40:22). However, most of the old McKenzie farm was retained and many of its acres were reforested in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

French-Billings Era (1914-1954)

In the twentieth century, the history of Woodstock became closely tied with national and international events, including World War I, the influenza pandemic of 1918, the stock market crash of 1929, the

Great Depression, and World War II.

Study Area

During World War I, fuel shortages forced the Estate to close three of the Greenhouses to conserve coal as the local paper observed "the plants in the large house and the lower long house are being moved into the grapery, so that only that house need be heated" (*Vermont Standard* January 10, 1918 8:2). In 1917, Mary M. Billings and her husband, John French, built an "elaborate bungalow" on "the knoll beyond the house garden" (Auwaerter 2002:2.7; *Vermont Standard* January 10, 1918 8:3). During the Depression, most of the dairy herd was sold off (GMP 1999:43). Three of the greenhouses were demolished in 1930 and the foundations of two of them were transformed into a swimming pool (Auwaerter 2002:2.7 and 4B. 19-20, 22-23). On September 2, 1933, the heirs of Frederick Billings, Mr. and Mrs. John French, and Miss Elizabeth Billings re-acquired the site of the McKenzie farmstead after its destruction by fire (WLR 44:158-159; 45:266). In 1935, several structures at the Hilltop Farm were burned to the ground (*Vermont Standard* December 19, 1935 10:4). During World War II, Woodstock residents "planted Victory gardens on some of the best farmland" belonging to the estate (GMP 1999:43). At the end of the war, the dairy herd was reestablished and the dairy operations expanded (GMP 1999:43). At this time, bottling equipment was bought and installed and the barns located in the Protection Zone enlarged and improved (GMP 1999:43).

Rockefeller Era (1954-1997)

By the end of the Rockefeller Era, Woodstock had completed the economic transition that it had begun in the mid-1870s. In 1990, nearly 75% of the town's population worked in tourism related industries, while only two percent were employed in agriculture (GMP 1999:55). In

1989, there was only one manufacturing enterprise left in Woodstock (GMP 1999:56). But in many ways, Woodstock's new life suits it. The town has a growing population, (3,212 in 1990) and a well-deserved reputation for its natural and architectural beauty (GMP1999:55).

Study Area

During their tenure, Laurance S. Rockefeller, distinguished American

philanthropist and conservationist, and Mary (French) Rockefeller, a granddaughter of Frederick Billings, renovated the mansion grounds ca. 1954-1961 (Auwaerter 2002:2.5). They removed the Laundry, Garden Shed, paths from the Mansion lawn, and the portable sawmill from the Woodshed lot while adding another automobile garage (Mansion Garage), a Horse Shed, a bomb shelter, a Garden Workshop, and new entry drive through the swale (Auwaerter 2002:2.7 and 3.12, 17).

COMPLIANCE HISTORY AND PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

To date, very little compliance based archaeology and no research based archaeology has been conducted within the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.

Carriage Barn Area (1997)

From May 12 to May 14, 1997 the Archaeology Branch of the Northeast Cultural Resources Center (NPS) conducted limited subsurface testing in the vicinity of the Carriage Barn prior to the renovation of that structure into a visitors' center, administrative office, and curatorial storage facility. The archaeological investigations consisted of ten 50 x 50 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in) shovel test pits placed along the preferred alternative for a sewer connection leading from the Carriage Barn and Double Cottage eastward, under Route 12 (Elm Street), and extending 5 m (16.4 ft) onto the Billings Farm and Museum grounds (Pendery and Griswold 1997:1). The stratigraphic profiles of the test pits revealed considerable "evidence for intensive landscaping throughout the project area" (Pendery and Griswold 1997:1). Although some late 18th- and early 19th century artifacts were recovered, these were found re-deposited within late 19th-century landscape deposits (Pendery and Griswold 1997:1). Therefore, it was concluded that no significant archaeological resources were within the immediate area of the proposed sewer connection (Pendery and Griswold 1997:1). It was also concluded that there was probably little undisturbed land between Carriage Barn and Elm Street due to intensive the 19th and 20th century landscaping first in association with the creation of the Mansion Lawn, Tennis Court, and Perimeter Wall by Frederick Billings and more recently with the construction of a new driveway and irrigation system by Laurance Rockefeller

(Pendery and Griswold 1997:8). However, the archaeologists conducting this investigation also concluded that deeply buried cultural resources that may be located between the Mansion and the Carriage Barn may retain significant archaeological integrity and that some evidence of first Marsh House and other buildings related to Benjamin Parker may still exist (Pendery and Griswold 1997:8).

Woodshed Area

Woodshed Renovation Project (2004)

The Archaeological Resource Assessment (ARA) for the Woodshed Renovation Project conducted by John Crock of the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM CAP) in 2004 concluded, based on sediment core testing and documentary evidence, that much of the central area of the clearing east of the Woodshed had been previously disturbed and was not archaeologically sensitive. A narrow area along the edge of the terrace overlooking the Bernard Brook was considered sensitive, however.

Mill Building Project (2004)

On July 13 and 14, 2004, the UVM CAP conducted a limited Phase I archaeological reconnaissance survey in the vicinity of the Woodshed. This survey tested three different design alternatives for the Mill Building, a proposed structure intended to house NPS archives, offices, meeting space, and exhibits. Although the ARA conducted for the Woodshed Renovation Project concluded that the area immediately east of the existing Woodshed had been disturbed historically and was not archaeologically sensitive, the margins of the space, included the more intact terrace edge, previously considered sensitive for precontact Native American sites. A total of twenty-four 50 x 50 cm (19.7 x 19.7 in) test pits, arranged in five linear transects, were excavated within the proposed Mill Buildings Area of

Potential Effects (APE).

Transects 1 and 2, with a combined total of eight test pits, were located within Site Plan-Option 2 (SDL-2) on and parallel to the terrace edge in the eastern section of the Woodshed lot. The stratigraphic soil profiles of the three easternmost test pits on both of these transects showed evidence of historic disturbance probably due to filling and/or grading. Two late 19th -20th century artifacts, specifically a piece of aluminum foil and a wire nail, were recovered from disturbed contexts in this area. The stratigraphic soil profiles of the remaining test pits on Transects 1 and 2 were found to be fairly intact, with a relatively shallow upper disturbed horizon (Ap) over undisturbed subsoil horizons comprised of glacial related sand and rock deposits.

Transects 3 and 4, with a combined total of 10 test pits, were located within the

proposed Site Plan-Option 1 (SDL-1). These transects were placed to test the north central and western sections (respectively) of the terrace edge within the project area. The stratigraphic soil profiles of these test pits revealed an upper disturbed horizon (Ap) situated on weathered undisturbed subsoils. No cultural material was recovered in this area. Transect 5, with six test pits, was oriented north to south, parallel with the rear wall of the Woodshed. Several incised green plastic plant labels on metal stakes, remnants of the Woodland Garden ca. 1980-1993 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.20), were observed in the vicinity of this transect. The stratigraphic soil profiles on Transect 5 were similar to Transects 3 and 4. Eleven glass fragments were recovered from the upper disturbed horizon (Ap).

Overall, no significant archaeological resources were identified and no further work was recommended.

**INVENTORY OF KNOWN AND
POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESOURCES WITHIN THE MARSH-
BILLINGS-ROCKEFELLER
NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
HISTORIC ZONE**

The archaeological resources at the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park fall into two categories: known archaeological resources, which have been located and documented at a basic level and potential archaeological resources whose precise locations are unknown and whose existence is either suggested by predictive models, as in the case of precontact Native American sites, or by documentary sources such as land records, town histories and/or historical maps. Historic background information, assessments of existing conditions and brief evaluations of each site or potential site are presented in this section.

Precontact Native American Resources

There are no known precontact Native American sites within the limits of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. However, several areas within the Historic Zone, especially along streams or drainages, near springs, on saddles between hills, on terrace edges, and the in area around the Pogue are all considered to be archaeologically sensitive for precontact Native American sites. Native American components in the Historic Zone, if present, could span thousands of

years and may include evidence of habitation and subsistence activities including hunting, food gathering or preparation, tool manufacture and use, and refuse disposal, as well as activities related to raw material procurement, and/or ritual.

The field inspection conducted in conjunction with the preparation of this report concentrated largely on the land around the Pogue. The area around this upland wetland may contain precontact Native American sites. Some of the land around the Pogue has been disturbed historically by inundation, the installation of subsurface drainage tiles, the laying of water pipes, the construction and razing of a boathouse, and the construction of the carriage road around the margin of the water body. However, other areas appear to be intact, particularly near the springs at the southwestern corner of the pond and on a few slight knolls on the northern and eastern side. A total of seven areas considered particularly sensitive for precontact Native American sites were identified near the Pogue. These areas, designated Areas A, B, C, D, H, I, and J, were recorded for mapping purposes using a handheld GeoExplorer III Global Positioning System (GPS) unit (Figures 9 and 10). Three potentially sensitive areas in level places on the margins of Pogue Hole Brook and/or near springs, designated Areas E, F, and G, were also identified.

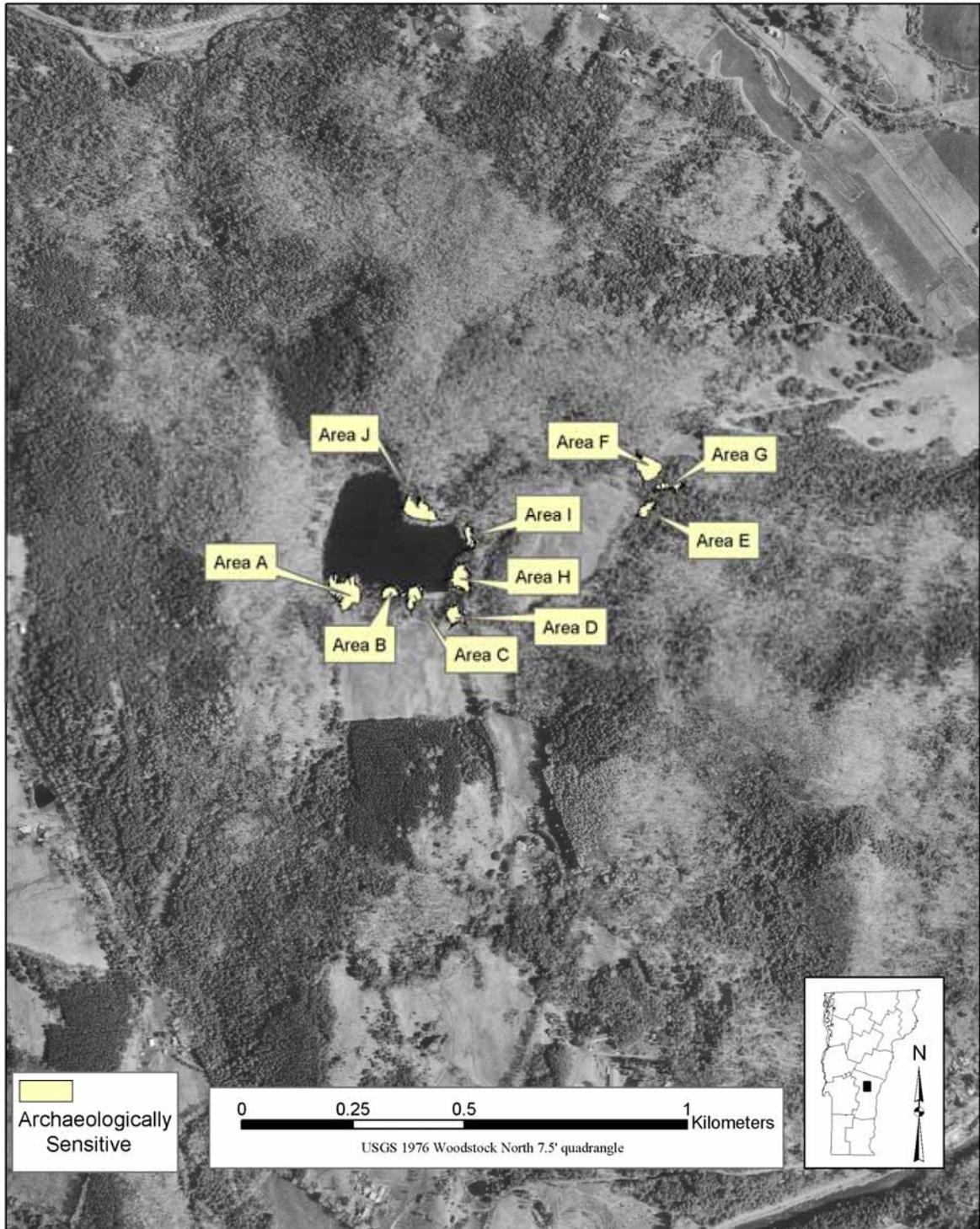


Figure 9. Areas identified as archaeologically sensitive for Precontact Native American sites within the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park.



Figure 10. View of the Pogue looking northwest from the dam.

Generally speaking, areas relatively far from water sources or drainages and areas with excessive slope or ground moisture are considered to be less sensitive for precontact Native American sites. However, an extensive area surrounding the Pogue may have served as a hunting ground and/or temporally occupied on a seasonal basis. As a result, the area may contain small camp sites and/or may have been isolated finds (e.g. projectile points). Furthermore, additional areas may be considered archaeologically sensitive in the future following more detailed field research.

While most of the known or potential sites in the Mansion area of the Historic Zone are from the historic period, the presence of precontact Native American sites there cannot be discounted. As reported elsewhere, the state archaeologist opined that the Mansion area has a “moderate to high sensitivity for the presence of precontact remains due to its location at the eastern foot of Mt. Tom overlooking the Ottaquechee intervale and close to the

purported precontact site recorded by Dana” (Auwaerter 2002:3.17). Precontact sites may still exist in this portion of the Historic Zone, especially near springs, on level areas, near terrace edges, or in places with good vistas. Although locally intense historic disturbances (e.g. buildings) as well as more generalized disturbances (e.g. landscaping activities) may have impacted the integrity and therefore the overall significance of sites that may have originally existed in this portion of the property, their location, identification, and assessment is still important.

If precontact Native American sites are present within the Historic Zone, deposits are expected to be identified at shallow depths below ground surface, approximately 0-60 cm (0-23.6 in). As a result of the shallow context of potentially present precontact sites, any ground disturbing activity in archaeologically sensitive areas has the potential to disturb as yet unidentified significant resources.

The McKenzie Farmstead and Associated Features

McKenzie Farmstead: Residence (MABI00016.000); Barn (MABI00016.001); and Outbuilding (MABI00016.002)

This site, generally known as the J. C. McKenzie farm, is located on the western side of the Park on Prosper Road. Formerly designated AS-7, this site is a historic farmstead, consisting of the ruins of a house, barn, shed, and garage, occupied from ca. 1778 to 1932 (Figure 11).

Historic Background

George Thomas of Middleboro, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, settled the “McKenzie Farm” in ca. 1777-1778 (Child 1884:288-9; Dana 1889:64; Goodrich 1904:285,432; WLR:3:62). George Thomas was born on October 22, 1752, the son of John Thomas (1728-1793) and Mercy (Shaw) Thomas (1733-1823) (Figure 12) (IGI 2005; Pedigree Resource File [PRF] 2005; Weston 1906:667). He lived in Middleboro with his parents and siblings including: Hannah (1757), Nathaniel (1763), and Azubah (1784) until the beginning of the Revolutionary War (IGI 2005; PRF 2005). George Thomas, his father and his brother all served during the war (Woodstock Vital Records). Massachusetts military records confirm that George Thomas, then about 23 years old, spent a few months in a militia company commanded by Capt. Wood in 1775 and

again in 1777 attaining the rank of corporal (Fisher and Fisher 1992:518; Massachusetts Commonwealth 1907:590). A family anecdote relates “when George Thomas volunteered for the service of his country he found himself minus suitable clothing, and his mother, after the custom of those times, set about making them. In a wonderfully short time she gathered her flax, bleached and dried it, wove it into cloth, and fashioned a suit for him to stand the hard usage of army life” (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4).

Another family story states that “at his discharge” [1777], George Thomas “received the balance of his pay in depreciated colonial currency. He returned to Boston, and his first venture was to enter a restaurant to secure a hearty meal. He found, however, that this luxury would cost him a hundred dollars of his money, and he turned away. Just then Mr. Thomas met a real estate agent who was selling land on the Rogers Tract, in Woodstock, Vermont. Straightaway he purchased the farm, which has since remained in the family” (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4). Although there are some minor discrepancies between the land records and the family history, the story may be substantially true if what George Thomas bought was a contract for a deed. Family history further indicates that George Thomas began to clear land and built a log house on the west side of Prosper Road (opposite the visible ruins and outside the Park boundaries) to “make a home for the wife whom he married in Middleboro”

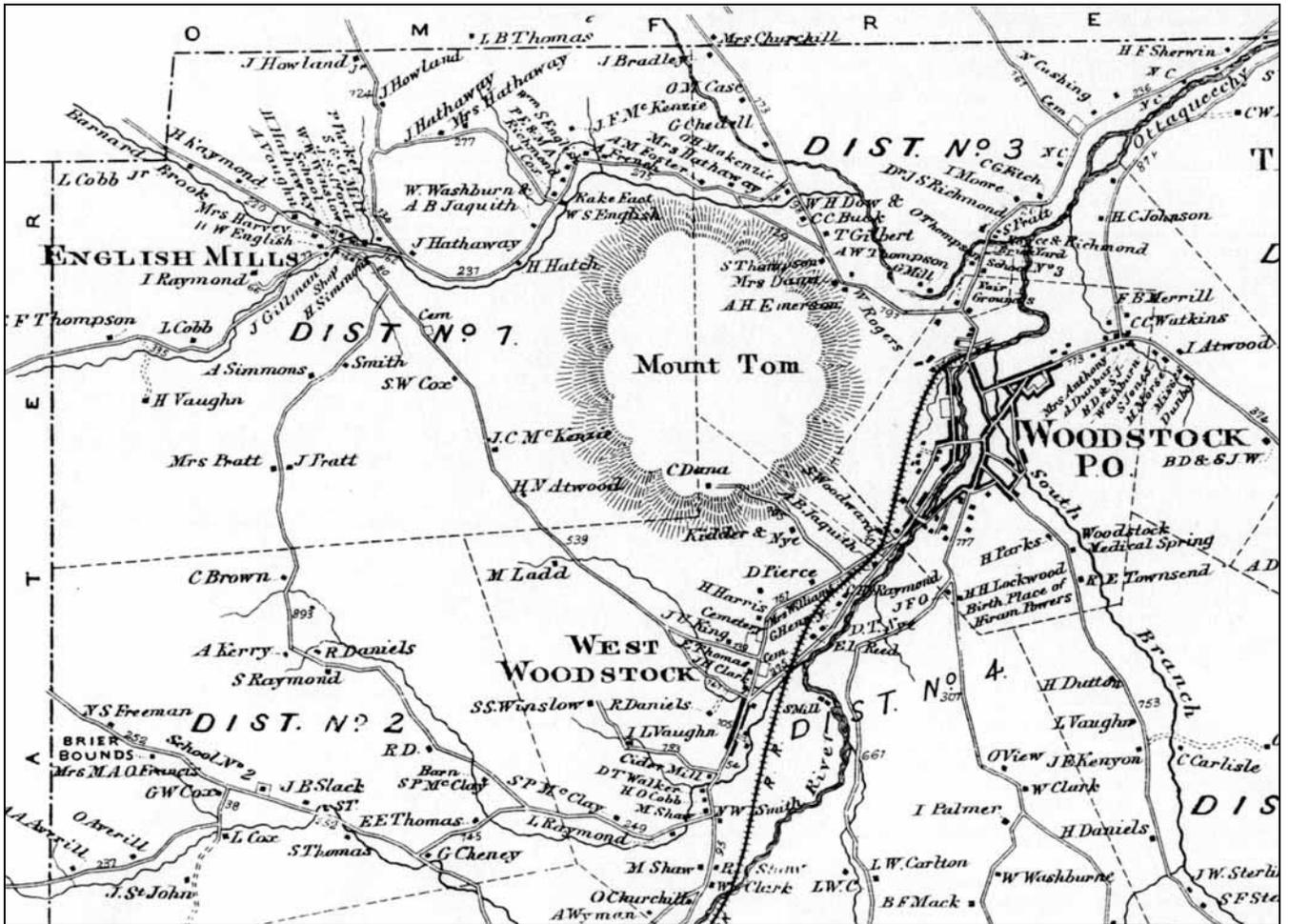


Figure 11. Detail of F.W. Beers' map of the township of Woodstock (1869). Note the McKenzie farmstead southwest of Mount Tom, on Prosper Road, connecting west Woodstock and English Mills.

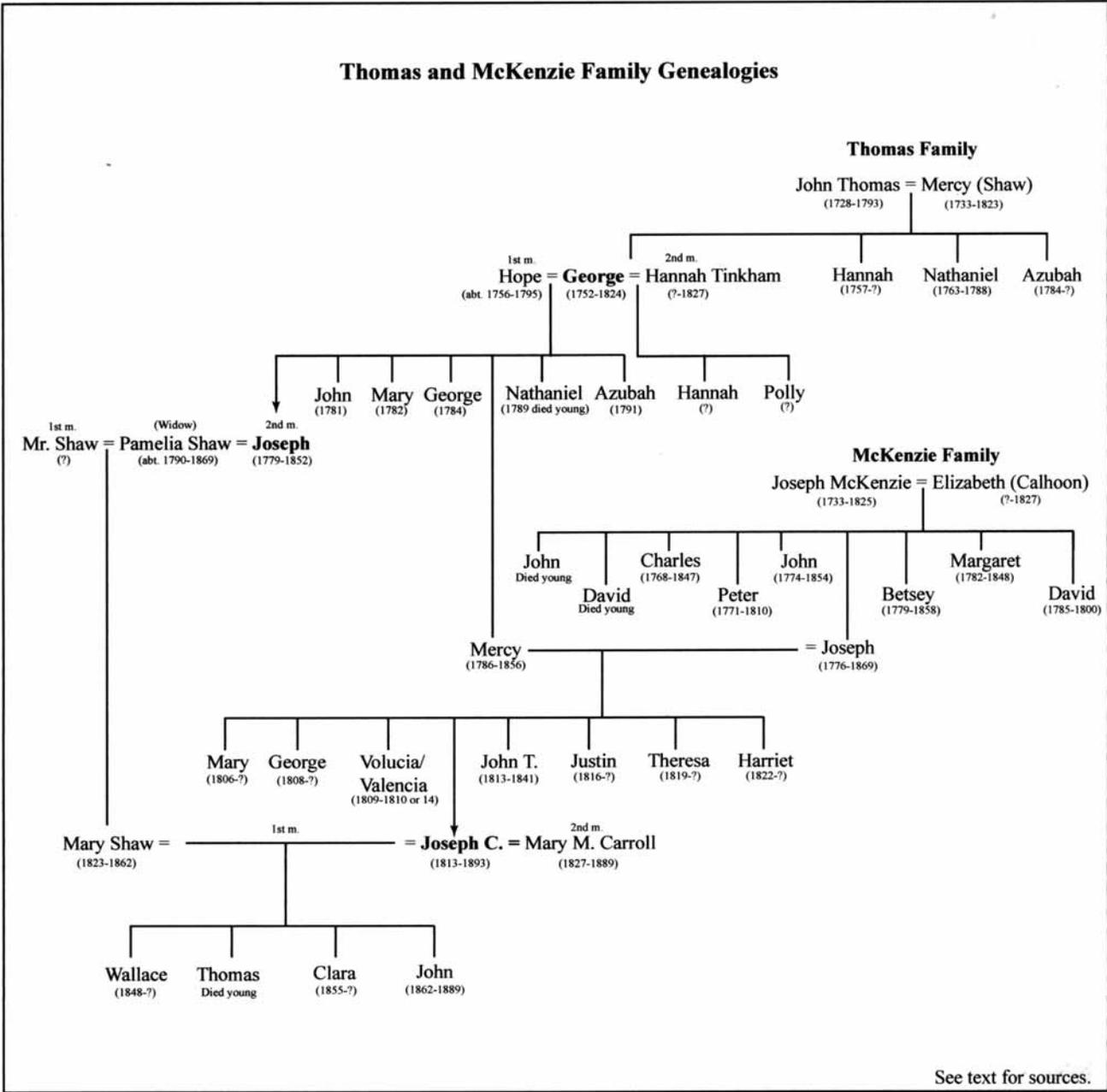


Figure 12. Genealogy of the Thomas and McKenzie Families.

the year after his discharge (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4). Genealogical records indicate that George Thomas married his first wife, Hope Thomas, on January 24, 1778 (Merrick and Williams 1990:92, 141). Vermont Militia records confirm that George Thomas lived in Woodstock by 1780. In October 1780, he served three days as a sergeant in Capt. John Hawkins' Company of Woodstock Minute Men called out in response to the Royalton Raid (Goodrich 1904:285). The following year, in August 1781, George Thomas served four days as a sergeant in Capt. Jesse Safford's Company of Militia (also mostly from Woodstock) (Goodrich 1904:432).

George Thomas apparently began to acquire warranty deeds for his land in 1787. On August 5, 1787, Oliver Willard of Hartford, Vermont, issued George Thomas a deed for 110 acres, which included the land on which the farmstead was built (WLR 3:62).

Thomas augmented his first purchase with two 50 acre lots lying north of his original purchase, one on July 2, 1793 and the other on November 20, 1795 from John Rogers of New York City, the original grantee of a 1000-acre lot located in the northwest section of Woodstock (WLR 3:63 and 3:333). George Thomas' farm eventually consisted of about 260 acres and lay on both sides of Prosper Road. It is not known exactly when George Thomas began work on the house within the Park boundaries.

Town history relates that in his personal life, "George Thomas was a shrewd and knowing old gentleman as well as a careful and thrifty farmer, and was held in good repute throughout the community" (Dana 1889:65). His time in Woodstock was filled with the ordinary joys and sorrows of 19th century life. At the same time that he was building his farm, George Thomas was building his family. George and Hope Thomas had seven children including Joseph (1779), John (1781), Mary (1782), George (1784-1856), Mercy (1786), Nathaniel (1789 died

young), and Azubah or Aruba (1791) (Child 1884:288[9]; Woodstock Vital Records). There were also losses. George Thomas' 25 year old brother, Nathaniel Thomas, was killed in Woodstock by a falling tree on May 1, 1788 leaving at least a widow, Rebecca (PRF 2005; Woodstock Vital Records). George Thomas' infant son, Nathaniel, possibly named in honor of his brother, died on May 1, 1789 (Woodstock Vital Records). Although George Thomas' mother, Mercy, nearly outlived him (she died July 30, 1823 at 90 years of age), his father, John Thomas, died on December 2, 1793 at 64 years of age (PRF 2005; Weston 1906:667; Woodstock Vital Records). George Thomas' first wife, Hope, died on July 22, 1795 at the age of 39 (Woodstock Vital Records). On November 11, 1795 (or October 29, 1795), George Thomas married his second wife, Hannah Tinkham (or Pinkham ?-1827) of Middleboro, Massachusetts, and had two more children namely, Hannah and Polly (Child 1884:288[9]; Fisher and Fisher 1992:518; IGI 2005; Merrick and Williams 1990:125; Vermont Vital Records; Woodstock Cemetery Records; WLR 8:417-418).

George Thomas died on July 5, 1824 at the age of 72 and was buried in Prosper Cemetery, which opened ca. 1811 a short distance north of Thomas' home (Hyde and Hyde 1991:483; Woodstock Cemetery Records). After George Thomas's death, the farm passed to his oldest son, Joseph Thomas. Joseph acquired quitclaims for the farm from the other heirs, specifically, John Thomas of Pembroke, Genesee County, New York, Robert and Polly Cone, Joseph and Mercy McKenzie, George and Clarissa Thomas, Elisia and Hannah Cox and Hopy [sic possibly Mary] Thomas all of Woodstock, Darius and Aruba Sessions of Pomfret, Vermont, and George Thomas' widow, Hannah Thomas, on November 25, 1824 (WLR 8:417-418). Unfortunately, little is currently known about Joseph Thomas' life and family. He was born on November 7, 1779 and "married a widow

lady, Mrs. Pamela Shaw of Woodstock, who had a daughter, Mary, by her former husband” (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4; Vermont Vital Records). In 1840, Joseph Thomas’ household consisted of seven people including; one male 10-15 years old, one male 15-20, one male 20-30, one male 60-70, one female 15-20, one female 20-30, and one female 50-60. One of these individuals may have been his nephew, Joseph C. McKenzie, who Joseph Thomas took on to help operate the farm “at an early age” (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4). Joseph C. McKenzie was George Thomas’ grandson through his daughter, Mercy (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4).

Joseph C. McKenzie’s grandfather on his father’s side, Joseph McKenzie (senior 1733-1825), had been a weaver by trade in his native Scotland. He and his wife, Elizabeth Calhoun, emigrated from Paisley around 1775. They lived at Marblehead, Massachusetts, Londonderry, and New Boston New Hampshire before joining their oldest son, Charles, in Hartland, Vermont, about 1795 (Dana 1886: 611; *Vermont Standard* February 24, 1870 2:1-2 and November 16, 1893 4:4). Joseph C. McKenzie’s father, Joseph McKenzie (junior 1776-1869), was one of six children. He was born either at Londonderry or New Boston, New Hampshire, on August 11, 1776. He moved with his father to Hartland ca. 1795 and in 1799 went to Woodstock as an apprentice to his older brother, John (1774-1854), a blacksmith (Dana 1889:611; *Vermont Standard* February 24, 1870 2:1-2 and November 16, 1893 4:4; Woodstock Vital Records). Joseph McKenzie (junior) married Mercy Thomas on September 5, 1805 in Woodstock and they were “blessed” with a “numerous family” (*Vermont Standard* February 24, 1870 2:1-2). Together, Mercy and Joseph McKenzie (junior) had eight children born between 1806 and 1822 including Mary (who married Bela Simmons of Woodstock), George T. (who married Angeline Comstock

and settled in Michigan), Volucia/Valencia (1809 or 1810-1814); twins Joseph C. (1813-1893) and John T. (1813-1841); Justin F. (who became a woolen manufacturer in Queechee); Harriet (who married R.C.M. Howe and lived St. Johnsbury); and Theresa (who married Ransom M. Rowsell or Russell of Woodstock) (Dana 1889:612; *Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4; Woodstock Cemetery Records).

Joseph C. McKenzie was born on April 11, 1813 in Woodstock (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4). In 1844, he married Mary Shaw (1823-1862) the daughter of his uncle’s wife by her first marriage (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4). Joseph C. and Mary McKenzie had four children including: Wallace (1848-? who became a businessman in Herkimer, New York), Thomas (who died at an early age), Clara (1855-? who married W.E. Mack of Woodstock), and John (1862-1889) (Dana 1889:612; *Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4). As mentioned earlier, Joseph C. McKenzie went to live on his maternal uncle, Joseph Thomas’, farm at an early age. By 1850, the 37 year old Joseph C. McKenzie was identified as the head of the household. At the time, he lived with his wife, Mary (33); his son, Wallace (3); his aunt and uncle, Joseph (73) and Pamela (60) Thomas, and a farm laborer named Norman Smith (27). Following Joseph Thomas’s death on June 11, 1852 at 72 years of age, the farm passed to Joseph C. McKenzie (Dana 1889:65; Woodstock Cemetery Records). The 1860 census lists the household as Joseph C. McKenzie (46), his wife, Mary (42), his son, Wallace (12), his daughter, Clara M. (5), his widowed aunt, Parmelia Thomas (70), and three employees including Sabin Doyle (25) and his wife, Delia Doyle (21) of Canada, and Hiram Miller (18).

Mary (Shaw) McKenzie, Joseph C. McKenzie’s first wife, died in 1862 shortly after the birth of her son, John (Dana

1889:612; *Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4). Pamela Thomas, widow of Joseph Thomas, died on March 24, 1869 at the age of 79 (Woodstock Cemetery Records). In 1871, Joseph C. McKenzie, married his second wife, Mary M. Carroll (1827-1889), a native of Croydon, New Hampshire (Dana 1889:612; *Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4; Vermont Vital Records; Woodstock Vital Records). In 1880, the federal population census noted, that the household consisted of Joseph (68), his wife, Mary (53), his daughter, Clara (25), and his son, John T. (18), as well as George C. Thomas (23), possibly a relative, working on the farm as a laborer.

Throughout Joseph C. McKenzie's life, the farm exemplified the New England mixed farming tradition and he was fairly successful. The Agricultural Census of 1880 only lists 22 farms in Woodstock that were equal to or more valuable than the McKenzie farm. By the 1880s, the farm encompassed of about 220 acres in Woodstock of which 75 acres were tilled or fallow, 125 acres of meadow and orchards, and 20 acres of woodland including a sugarbush of about 400 trees (Child 1884:580; U.S. Agricultural Census 1880; WLR 33:219). McKenzie also owned an additional 150-190 acres of pasture in the neighboring town of Bridgewater (Child 1884:580; WLR 33:219). The McKenzie farm produced wool (into the 1880s), maple sugar, apples, pears, butter, corn, oats, potatoes, buckwheat, hay, beeswax, honey, barnyard poultry, wood, and grapes (Child 1884:580; U.S. Agricultural Census 1860-1880). Joseph C. McKenzie was considered by his contemporaries to be "an intelligent, progressive agriculturist" (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4). For example, in 1868, McKenzie experimented with a new variety of potato. The local newspaper reported that he had raised 84 pounds of Early Rose potato from one pound of seed potato (*Vermont Standard* September 17, 1868 2:1). "His success with this potato," they noted, "tends to confirm

all that its admirers claim for it" (*Vermont Standard* September 17, 1868 2:1). In this trial, McKenzie found the new potato "out performed" a field of Early Goodrich potatoes "planted at the same time" and he believed that if the crop had not been damaged by a "heavy storm in July" the pound of Early Rose seed potato may have "yielded 100 pounds" (*Vermont Standard* September 17, 1868 2:1).

Joseph McKenzie took pride in his farm and in its long history. In 1884, a history of the town remarked "George Thomas's descendants on the old homestead have now [ca. 1884] many articles of furniture and other relics that they prize highly, which he [George Thomas] brought with him to town" (Child 1884:288[9]). In 1888, McKenzie wrote to the local newspaper giving the history of his honeybees. He wrote, "about 1797, more than ninety years ago, my grandfather, George Thomas, took a swarm of bees (as by ancient superstition they would not amount to anything if they were bought or sold) of his brother-in-law, Jonathan Thomas, who lived where Levi Carlton now lives. The same hive of bees have remained on the farm during all the years since then up to the 12th of March blizzard, when the last of them perished. Since they came on the farm there has never been a day that we did not have honey in the house, a part of the time in great abundance. They never had any patent hives or other patent arrangement, but were permitted to be governed mostly by their own laws. Although many swarms have been given away none were ever sold. It was custom with the old people if there was a death in the family to inform the bees at once, and drape their hives in mourning, as by another superstition if the bees were not told they would leave their hives and seek a new home. I have had care of them for about 50 years, and would like to know if there is any other place where the same hive of bees have remained continuously for so long a time" (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4).

In 1889, tragedy befell Joseph C. McKenzie with the death of his 27 year old son, John T. McKenzie, on the 25th or 26th of December, followed the next day by the death of his wife, Mary, “who was his cherished companion for eighteen years” (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4; Vermont Vital Records). Both died of pneumonia and both “were buried under one funeral service and were laid to rest in the same grave” in Prosper Cemetery (*Vermont Standard* November 16, 1893 4:4; Vermont Vital Records). Joseph C. McKenzie continued to live at the old farmstead until his own death, due to heart failure, on November 4, 1893, at the age of 80 years, 7 months, and 23 days (Woodstock Vital Records).

On January 4, 1894, Charles H. Maxhouse, administrator of Joseph C. McKenzie’s estate, broke up the farm. That part of the McKenzie Farm lying west of Prosper Road, about 75 acres, was sold to Charles W. Cox (WLR 33:224). The homestead buildings and about 118.4 acres lying east of Prosper Road were sold to the trustees of Frederick Billings, specifically Franklin Billings, Oliver Billings, and Samuel Kilder (Wilcke et al. 2000:51; WLR 33:222). The Billings Estate rented the McKenzie house and woodshed to various tenants from 1894 to 1918 (Wilcke et al. 2000:51). However, the Billings Estate continued to keep livestock, including horses, at the McKenzie place into the late 1890s (Wilcke et al. 2000:51). In the meantime, much of the farm was allowed to return to forest (Stands #11, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 23, 30, and 31). The Billings’ Estate also established several tree plantations covering about 64 acres between 1905 and 1950, where the McKenzie’s meadows, pasture, sugarbush, and orchards once were. These stands included: #18 and 27 of white pine (planted 1905 and 1896 respectively); Stands #17, 25, and 26 of red pine (1917); Stands #16 and 22 of Scotch pine (1917 and 1930), and Stand #13 of Norway spruce (1950).

On August 17, 1918, heirs of Frederick Billings, Mary and John French of New York City and Elizabeth Billings sold the McKenzie house, outbuildings, and the 9.66 acres immediately around them to Harold and Lila Turner; reserving only the carriage road, which ran through the farmstead (WLR 40:22). The Turners bought another adjacent parcel of land from the Billings Estate on June 9, 1920, which rounded off the property at ten acres (WLR 40:638). The Turners then sold the homestead to Leon E. and Jeanette Gilbert, formerly of North Hartland, Vermont, on July 30, 1920 (*Vermont Journal* May 6, 1932 1:3; WLR 41:81). The Gilberts lived at the site for about twelve years.

At about 4 p.m. on Friday April 29, 1932, Leon Gilbert “was burning some raspberry canes about 500 feet from the house” when “a sudden wind swept the flames toward the buildings” (*Vermont Journal* May 6, 1932 1:3). The fire completely destroyed the fine big brick house, barn, shed, garage, five tons of hay and an automobile belonging to Justin Osmer (*Vermont Journal* May 6, 1932 1:3; *Vermont Standard* May 5, 1932 6:5). The fire continued to spread and “burned a patch a half mile wide” including about thirty acres of grass and timberland on an adjacent farm belonging to George Atwood and about a tenth of a “valuable” white pine grove on the Billings Estate, probably Stand #18 planted in 1905, before Arthur Snyder (the Billings farm manager) and “a gang of men” along with local firemen stopped the blaze despite being hampered by insufficient water (*Vermont Journal* May 6, 1932 1:3; *Vermont Standard* May 5, 1932 6:5). Although most of the household goods were saved, the loss of the homestead was “estimated at about \$3000” (*Vermont Journal* May 6, 1932 1:3). “Gilbert fought desperately burning his hand severely and also his head and face” (*Vermont Journal* May 6, 1932 1:3; *Vermont Standard* May 5, 1932 6:5). On September 2, 1933 Leon E. Gilbert, then of Pomfret, Vermont, sold the property to Elizabeth Billings of Woodstock

and Mary French of Greenwich, Connecticut (WLR 44:158-159; 45:266)

Archaeological Remains

The ruins of the McKenzie Farm lie on both sides (north and south) of the carriage road, known as the McKenzie Road (built ca.1890) near its intersection with Prosper Road. The site's above-ground remains were sketch mapped with a Brunton Compass and tape measure in the Fall, 2004 (Figure 13). The site is located in a natural black locust and black cherry stand that dates to ca. 1920 (Stand #14). In looking at the ruins it is not hard to imagine that this farmstead was once "one of the show places of the town" (*Vermont Journal* May 6, 1932 1:3). The ruins of the McKenzie residence suggest that it consisted of a large eaves front brick house orientated with its gable ends perpendicular with Prosper Road and a long wooden frame ell (or two) extending to the east and connecting to the barn. The layout of these structures created a dooryard or workspace on the south side of the building. South of the carriage road stood a large shed, probably the woodshed, was partially built into the hillside that rises to the south. The last structure, possibly an automobile garage, stood just west of the woodshed.

Robert Cairns' map of the Billings' Estate (1901) as well as evidence in the field indicates that this farmstead was, in plan and layout, an example of a New England connected farmstead. The New England connected farmstead is a distinctive building plan "that joins the main house to the barn by a string of ells" housing one or more of the following: kitchens, dairy, woodshed, wagon sheds, workshops, farm laborers' quarters, or storage space (Lenney 2003:231). In Vermont, connected farmsteads are generally found on the eastern side of the Green Mountains and were once fairly common in Windsor County (Lenney 2003:231; Kerr and Jones 1918:10). These building complexes usually

developed over time from ca. 1830 to 1880 by either new construction or moving old buildings into new locations (Hubka 2004: Lenney 2003:231).

The remains of a large dry-laid field stone cellar approximately 4.7 by 12.2 m (15.4 by 40 ft) mark the location of the main part of house (Figure 14). The structure appears to have been built into the landform, which grades slightly upwards to the east. Some of the ground along the north side, especially the northeast corner of the house, appears to have been artificially built up with a stone retaining wall and fill. There is another area that is built up with very large stones and possibly some fill on the southern side of the cellar hole, which measures approximately 3.5 by 3 m (11.5 by 9.8 ft) and may be part of an entryway. The western side of the cellar appears to be largely missing. A number of scenarios could account for this. For example, the foundation stones could have been taken and reused elsewhere, the house was originally designed to have the brick extend further down on that side, or the foundation could have been damaged if the building had to be pulled down after the fire. There is a large brick scatter covering the ground surface to the west of the house foundation. Several samples of brick were examined. All appear to have been handmade and probably date to before ca. 1860. Few structural elements remain associated with the cellar hole. There is a small diameter pipe in the center of eastern wall and there is a rectangular brick structure approximately 3 by 1.4 m (9.8 by 4.6 ft) in the northeast corner of the cellar, which may be furnace/heating related and probably dates to late 19th or early 20th century.

Extending eastward off the main cellar is the surficial stone foundation for a 12.5 by 6.5 m (41 by 21.3 ft) ell. The ell's southern foundation is difficult to discern. A lone flagstone near the center of what may have been the southern wall suggests the location

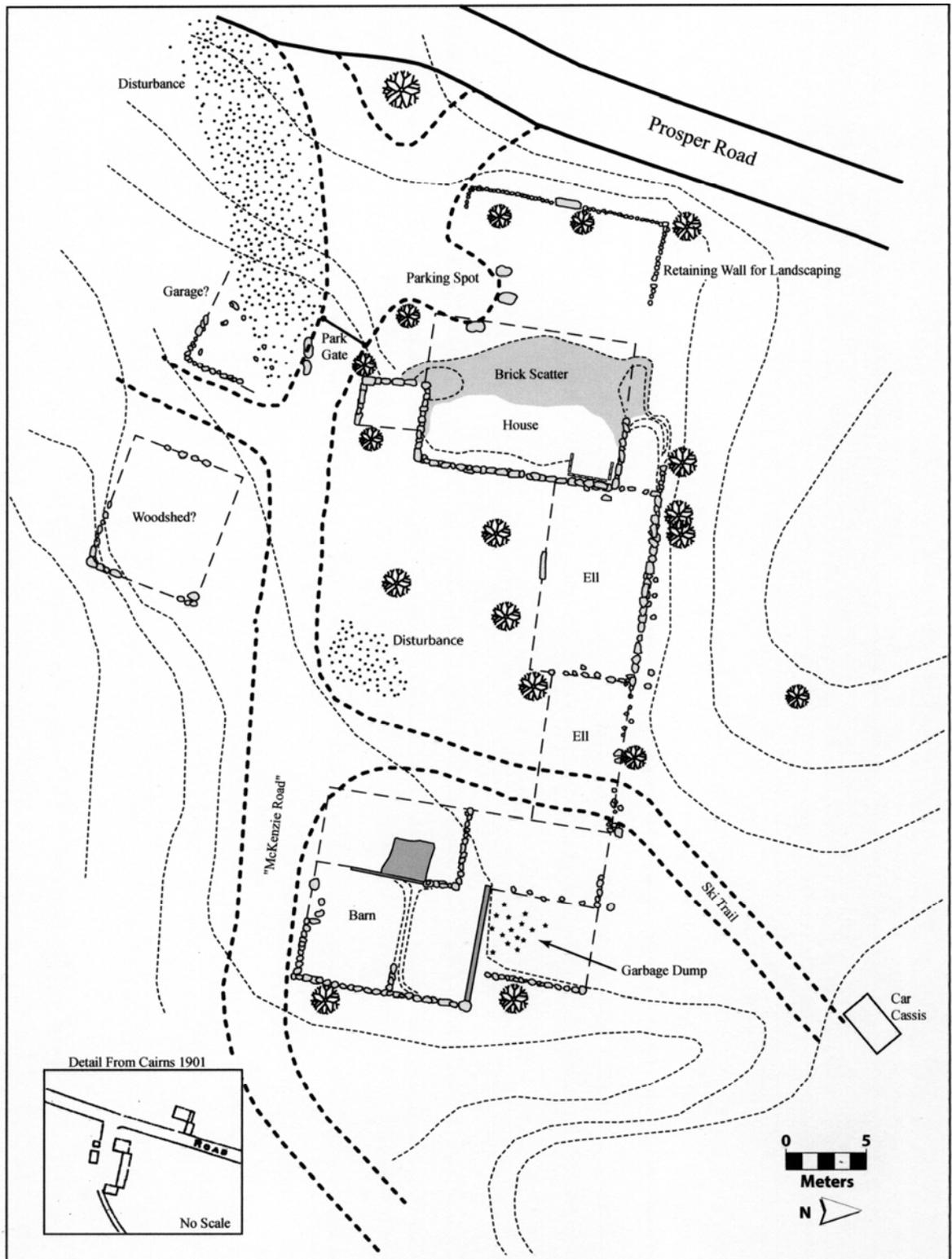


Figure 13. Schematic map of the Thomas-McKenzie Farmstead site on Prosper Road.



Figure 14. View of the ruins of the Thomas-McKenzie house, looking southeast.

of an entrance. Another, more indistinct, ell appears to have extended 9.75 m (32 ft) farther east from the first and connected to the barn. The southern sides of these ells may be indistinct if there were large openings along the wall of the structures.

The barn foundation, which appears to extend eastward of the ells, is approximately 17.5 by 11.75 (57.4 by 38.5 ft). The barn was built into the eastern trending hillside. Its eastern and southern walls as well as its southeast corner were flush to the ground surface, but it probably had an exposed or partially exposed foundation along its north wall and northwest corner. The barn has several interior walls. These provided support and divided the interior space within in the barn. It appears that this barn was repaired, expanded, and/or altered several times throughout its history. Archaeology may help to determine if the barn evolved from an early English barn into a banked barn with an excavated cellar (a change commonly made after the 1850s). The barn was clearly altered by the addition of a large Portland cement wall in the barn and a

concrete pad or drive in the southwestern section of the building (Figure 15). Although Portland cement was introduced in the 1880s, it was not widely used until the beginning of the 20th century.

South of the carriage road are the partial foundations believed to have been for the woodshed and the garage mentioned in the newspaper article describing the destruction of the farmstead (Figure 16). These buildings are also shown on Cairns map (1901). The possible woodshed was built into a hillside that rises quickly to the south and was approximately 9 by 6.6 m (29.5 by 21.7 ft). This foundation is very indistinct and appears to be lacking much of its foundation stone (if it indeed had many to begin with). This structure may have been mostly open along its northern side. The exact dimensions of the possible garage, located west of the woodshed, cannot be ascertained from the visible remains. Nearly the whole western end and much of the southern wall has been disturbed by earth



Figure 15. View of the McKenzie barn, looking northwest from southeast corner. Note the early 20th century concrete wall.



Figure 16. View of the McKenzie outbuildings, looking east.

moving activity possibly related to the construction of the “Y” shaped intersection of the carriage road and Prosper Road. The “Y” intersection is cut deeply into the land and soil appears to have been mounded up in the area between the possible garage and Prosper Road. Only 3.9 m (12.8 ft) of the east wall and about 4.3 m (14.1 ft) of the north wall remain intact.

There is evidence of earlier historic landscaping at the McKenzie farmstead. There is a low dry laid field stone retaining wall running from a spot along Prosper Road east toward the residence in line with the north line of the ell. The area south of this wall appears to have been filled to create a level yard. There is another retaining wall that runs parallel with the presently steep drop off to Prosper Road and at a right angle southward from the first mentioned wall. The retaining wall along Prosper Road is largely made up of quartz cobbles and cement, rather than the common local fieldstones found in the other walls on site. It was probably added to the site in the early 20th century. A short set of stairs intersects this wall near its midpoint. As Prosper Road appears to have been graded down and/or ditched significantly sometime after the wall and stairs were added, they are no longer convenient.

The kitchen garden may have been located north of and slightly down slope from the residence. Joseph C. McKenzie noted in 1873 that “there is a pear tree in my garden not more than six inches through, which is fed by my house drain and has yielded as a result eight bushels of delightful Flemish Beauties in one year, some of these pears weighing fifteen ounces” (*Vermont Standard* February 20, 1873 4:1-2). There are other historic arboreal plantings on the site such as the massive maples near the road, the several cedars along the top margin of the Prosper Road retaining wall, and maybe a few of the black locusts that surround the house site. Other intentional plantings are no longer visible. For example, McKenzie

noted “there is a tree standing on the north side of my woodshed upon the body of which the sun has scarcely shone in the winter for more than thirty years; and I am confident that it has not failed to produce fruit every year” (*Vermont Standard* March 27, 1873 4:1).

Good water supply and sanitation were important to 19th century house sites. Water for the McKenzie house was probably piped in from the stone lined well located on the hillside above the house to the east (Figure 17). There is a small diameter galvanized metal pipe protruding about midway along the eastern wall of the main cellar that could have been for conveying water to the house. No obvious privy sites were noted during the field inspection. It is possible that the privy was integrated into the barn, a common practice in connected farm structures.



Figure 17. View of the McKenzie well, looking south.

There are few artifacts visible on the ground surface around the site. During the field inspection, a machine cut nail and a fragment of melted glass were noted between some of the foundation stones on the eastern wall of the residence. Some possible tinware or enameled ware was seen within in the ell foundation, and scraps of metal were noted in the southern part of the barn foundation. There is a small 20th century refuse deposit on the ground surface immediately north of the barn's large concrete wall. Here there were a number intact or partially intact automatic machine made bottles dating to after ca. 1910 scattered on the ground surface. Careful study may be needed to determine if any of the material is post-occupational which would suggest the abandoned ruins was used as a convenient dumpsite by the Estate or its neighbors. However, the limited amount of material visible seems to argue against this idea. The largest artifact in the area is the rusted remnants of an old car chassis, previously identified as SSF-51d (Forest CLR Vol. 2. 2004:123), located on the west side of the ski trail north of the barn. This chassis appears to be a very old car model and may be the remains of the vehicle destroyed in the 1932 fire.

There were some post-occupational disturbances apparent at the site. First, it is likely that there was some post-destruction clean up at the site (i.e. removal of burned wooden structural elements, brick, and/or stone) after the fire in 1932. Also, after the fire, the large "Y" shaped intersection of the carriage trail and Prosper Road, mentioned previously, adversely affected much of the possible garage site. Later disturbances include a cross-country ski trail, known as C-X1 or the "McKenzie Farm Trail," built ca. 1977 by the Woodstock Ski Touring Center, which runs about 274.3 m (900 ft) parallel to Prosper Road and connects the Trailhead Parking Area and McKenzie Road (Forest CLR Vol.2 2004: 68, 71). At the McKenzie residence, the trail crosses the rear ell near where it connects to the barn.

The construction of this trail may have affected the integrity of the above-grade walls in this area. However, the overall impact of continued pedestrian use of this trail to the archaeological resources is probably minimal. Another disturbance is located west of the residential cellar hole where there is a small parking area, delineated by three large stones, which is large enough to accommodate one vehicle.

The foundations identified and described do not represent all of the structures that once belonged to the McKenzie farm. At the very least, another barn, which was depicted on Cairns map (1901), and George Thomas's first log house, were located on the west side of Prosper Road and thus lie outside of the Park's boundaries. However, it is possible that other buildings (i.e. apple barn, corn crib, sheep barn, field barn, & etc.) that may have belonged to this farmstead are still within the Park.

Evaluation

This early historic period farmstead site served three generations of the same family from ca. 1778-1893 and was occupied by unrelated individuals until 1932. It is an example of a distinct New England architectural style known as the connected farmstead. This site is largely intact and may have undisturbed 19th century subsurface features and artifact deposits. Intact archaeological resources at this site may provide information concerning the construction sequence of the farmstead complex through architectural artifacts and datable fills, the spatial organization of work areas, the location and content of the garden, and refuse disposal patterns.

This site should be added to the Park's National Register documentation. This site is visually striking and consideration should be given to interpreting this site through guided tours and/or informative signs. However, this site does have some management issues that may need to be

addressed. Specifically, there exists the potential for vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts. This may be addressed by posting a sign indicating that unauthorized collecting of artifacts is forbidden and by including similar language in brochures offered visitors. Also, the use of a part of the front yard area of the McKenzie residence for the parking of vehicles (one or two at most) should be questioned. However, it is unlikely that the continued use of the parking area constitutes a substantial threat to sub-surface archaeological deposits. Large stones are currently placed to discourage the expansion of the small parking area. If, in the future, on site interpretation of this resource is considered, potential adaptations for handicap accessibility or general risk management issues may should incorporate archaeological review.

McKenzie Orchard (Stand #12)

This is a remnant of a late 19th century apple orchard.

Historic Background

Some of the most important parts of the McKenzie farm, according to Joseph C. McKenzie himself, were its extensive apple and pear orchards. Joseph C. McKenzie had a true love of fruit trees. He once recalled seeing a pear tree planted by Peter Stuyvesant on Manhattan Island that was still yielding fruit after more than a century amid the dust and smoke of the city and, in his own words, “could not resist the temptation to take off my hat and bow to it” (*Vermont Standard* March 27, 1873 4:1). At the Windsor County Fair in 1873 Joseph McKenzie won top honors for “best and largest number of varieties of apples, named and labeled” as well as “best and greatest variety of pears” (*Vermont Standard* September 25, 1873 3:1). In this light, it is not surprising that Joseph C. McKenzie owned the largest apple orchard in Woodstock, consisting of 13 acres and about

250 trees in 1880 (U.S. Agricultural Census 1880).

A possible remnant of one of McKenzie’s apple orchards still exists south of the house site on a west-facing slope above Prosper Road (Stand #12) (Forest CLR Vol 2. 2004:81). A previous study estimated that the trees in this stand may have been planted ca. 1880-1890s (Forest CLR Vol 2. 2004:81). Given this date, it is also possible that these trees are a legacy of the Billings Estate, which purchased the McKenzie farm in 1894 and maintained at least some part of the “McKenzie orchard” into the 20th century. According to Wilcke et al. (2000:55), “entries in the Billings Farm Memo Diary refer to the McKenzie orchard numerous times around the turn of the century.” For example, in the early 1900s, the farm manager, George Aitken, wrote to Laura Billings that he had “made arrangements to have the poorest of the trees in the McKenzie orchard grafted with better sorts, and if there is any special varieties that you would like to use please let me know soon, so I may be able to look out for [a scion] of that kind” (Wilcke et al. 2000:55). However, maintenance of the McKenzie orchard waned at some point leading to the overgrown/overtopped condition that it was lately released from.

While it is known that McKenzie raised many kinds of apples and pears, the names of most of the varieties are not yet fully known. There are, however, a few clues to the farm’s production. The town history remarked that the old George Thomas farm was famous for its “apple orchards, especially the class of trees that bore summer-sweetings” (Dana 1889:64). In 1890, Joseph C. McKenzie brought “a supply of handsome Baltimores” [Baltimore Red] along with “some fine looking pears” to the fair (*Vermont Standard* October 2, 1890 2:1). Other trees in McKenzie’s orchard may have been among those varieties popular in the region in general. According to the Windsor County

Agricultural Society in 1855, the apples “well adapted to this climate and worthy of general cultivation” for this area included: Early Harvest, Early Sweet Bough, Red Astrachan, Sopsavine (Sops of Wine), William Favorite, Duchess of Oldenburg, Rhode Island Greenings, Dexter, Sweet Russet, Baldwin, Roxbury Russet, Hubbardton, Nonsuch, Jewetts’s Red, Northern Spy, Ladies’ Sweetings, Ribstone Pippin, Westfield Seek-no-farther, Yellow Newton Pippin, Esopus Spitzenburg, Mother Apple, Yellow Belle Fleur (Belflower), Talman Sweeting, and Bethel. The Society also recognized several locally developed varieties including: Doton’s Russett, Kennedy’s, H. Thomas,’ Morgan’s Sweet, Seavy’s, and Warren’s (*Vermont Journal* December 28, 1855 2:6). Most 19th century farmers, no matter the size of their orchard, raised several different types of apples. There are many reasons for diversity including, different ripening times (summer, fall, or winter), storage capability, durability in transportation and whether they are intended for baking, eating, cider, & etc.

Apples raised in excess of a family’s needs were often used for animal fodder. A clipping from *The New England Farmer* and reprinted by the *Vermont Standard* in 1870 noted that apples, as food for stock, “are more acceptable and more nutritious than the potato. Hogs have been well fattened on apples alone. Cooked with other vegetables, and mixed with meal or corn, barley, rye or oats, they are excellent for fattening pork or beef. Fed to cows about a peck each day, they will cause an increased flow of milk and keep them in fine condition. Horses are very fond of them, and when not working hard, apples may well take the place of grain, so long as they are plenty. Boiled and mixed with corn meal or shorts, there is scarcely any food that fowls like so well and grow so fast upon” (*Vermont Standard* October 13, 1870 4:1).

By the time McKenzie was throwing himself wholeheartedly into apple culture, in the late

1850s or early 1860s, many of the orchards set out by Vermont’s earliest settlers were beginning to fail due to a combination of age and neglect. In 1869, the *Vermont Standard* printed the proceedings of the Rochester Farmer’s Club in which they remarked on the widely observed phenomenon: “nothing in Vermont’s husbandry looks so hopeless as fruit orchards. They perish year by year, without help. They have been banged with clubs and poles until their limbs are greatly broken and killed. They have stood in land from which all the soda and potash were exhausted long ago, and the trees suffered to die of starvation. The orchard has also been pastured or mowed so as more completely to rob the soil of every element of support for the tree, and little has been carried to them. Forest trees have been cut away that once defended them from cold west and north winds, and their own fallen leaves have been blown from them, so that it is a wonder they have lived as long as they have” (*Vermont Standard* June 3, 1869 2:2). Indeed, Joseph C. McKenzie’s orchards were not the first on this property. In discussing apple culture in 1873, he noted “the facts are that apple trees will live and produce good fruit on cold and bleak hills, if the soil is good; for there are trees on my farm that were planted by my grandfather more than eighty years ago, on the very top or ridge of a hill and exposed to the winds from every direction except the east, yet it is seldom that they fail to produce good fruit” (*Vermont Standard* March 27, 1873 4:1).

In 1873, McKenzie described the creation of a portion of his extensive orchard in detail. “In making my purchase of grafted trees, I selected from three or four nurseries in town” and “ordered a few trees from the celebrated nurseries of Rochester, N.Y.” (*Vermont Standard* February 20, 1873 4:1-2). “My orchard was set on old ground . . . and was in a tolerable good state of culture, having a north western slope” (*Vermont Standard* February 20, 1873 4:1-2). Such a slope he considered to be better than a southern slope so trees would not be

“damaged by sudden temperature changes and snaps” (*Vermont Standard* February 20, 1873 4:1-2). “Before digging I spaced off my field and stuck the stakes twenty feet apart each way. I then dug the holes four feet broad and eighteen inches deep. In transplanting my trees I placed each one while a man held it in place. I was on my knees adjusting all of the roots in their proper place with my hands, at the same time pressing the earth all around the roots firmly” (*Vermont Standard* February 20, 1873 4:1-2). But “they would not grow, at the end of two years they were little, sickly, lousy things appearing to be starved to death, while the ground was producing more than two tons of clover to the acre” (*Vermont Standard* February 20, 1873 4:1-2). “Endeavoring to find out ‘what was the matter’ I noticed that a little seedling which I had plowed up in the field and planted in the vegetable garden was making wonderful headway, and from that circumstance I was ready to condemn all grafted trees, but I remembered that one-third of my young orchard was set to seedlings, and these appeared just as stupid as the grafted trees. At last I concluded to try better cultivation. I put on a good coat of long manure and plowed it in thoroughly, using great care about brushing off the bark with the whiffletrees, and finishing the work about the trees with a spadling [sic] fork. I have continued this system for the past ten years, and the trees have made a wonderful growth, and for four or five years past I have had a bountiful supply of fruit; so much so that it has been quite a tax to furnish props enough to keep the branches from breaking” (*Vermont Standard* February 20, 1873 4:1-2). He remarked “in planting my orchard I was obliged to pull out two trees that died from having a cold springy bed; and as I was anxious to have a tree there, I dug a ditch some two feet and a half deep, and stoned it over, and planted the third tree on top. There is now a fine growing tree that has borne fruit four years, and has a top that covers nearly twenty feet of ground, and is

hardly ten years old” (*Vermont Standard* March 27, 1873 4:1).

Like many 19th century orchards, which were cropped or used as pasture, McKenzie’s orchards served more than one purpose. He wrote, “The ground on which my orchard stands has been cropped during most of the time between the trees with potatoes” (*Vermont Standard* February 20, 1873 4:1-2).

McKenzie was justifiably proud of his orchard. “Some of my trees would sell quick for one or two hundred dollars, if they could be moved as easy as the horse or ox” (*Vermont Standard* March 27, 1873 4:1). He also knew, that if it were lucky, his orchard would be enjoyed long after his passing. “I do not ever expect to prove the longevity of the orchard I have planted, but hope that when I am done with it, it may fall into the hands of some one who has a little respect for a fruit tree. If it does I have no doubt but that it will outlast any of the present generation” (*Vermont Standard* March 27, 1873 4:1).

Evaluation

Although the archaeological information associated with the orchard may be limited to difficult to identify soil disturbances, careful study may provide information the orchard’s layout and any extra ordinary planting procedures. More importantly perhaps, other resources reflecting use of the land prior to the creation of this orchard, possibly including precontact Native American habitation may be identified in this area.

Sugar House Ruins Number 2 (McKenzie) (mabi00015.000)

This known archaeological site, previously designated AS-6, consists of sugarhouse ruin dating to the mid-to late 19th century.

Archaeological Remains

The foundation of the McKenzie farm's sugarhouse is located on the north side of a hiking/ski trail known as C-X3 or the "North Slope Trail" that runs east west on the northern mid-slope of the West Ridge (Forest CLR Vol.2 2004:69). Although today the sugarhouse ruins are located within a red pine plantation (Stand #17) dating from ca. 1917, there are some sugar maples nearby that may or may not be part of the sugarbush this structure would have served. These sugar maples are located in a natural mixed hardwood stand to the east (Stand #20), a natural mixed hardwood and hemlock stand to the southeast (Stand #31), and a natural mixed sugar maple and hardwood stand (Stand #19) still further east.

The ruins of the sugar house are well preserved and consist of surficial dry-laid stone foundation about 7.4 by 5.1 m (24.3 by 16.7 ft) in size (Figure 18). The sugarhouse was built on a slope that trends down to the north. There are substantial dry laid field stone walls ranging from 15-70 cm (5.9-27.6 in) high on the eastern and southern side of the ruin. A light disorganized foundation makes up the western wall of the structure. There are no foundation stones visible along the south side. Either this wall was flush with the ground surface or the wall was disturbed by the construction of the trail. Within the structure, along its eastern side, are the remains of a rubble stone and brick arch approximately 2 by 1.1 m (6.6 by 3.6 ft) in size. An arch is a long and narrow furnace on which the evaporator pans holding the

sap rested (Jones 1941:11-12). A few artifacts are visible on the ground surface including bricks, a section of pipe, and a small metal kettle in the northeast corner of the structure.

Evaluation

This structure was probably built by Joseph Thomas or Joseph C. McKenzie in the mid-1800s and was probably abandoned before ca. 1894 unless the Billings Estate operated it in conjunction with another sugarhouse located closer to the Mansion. Reportedly, George Aitken purchased some sugaring tools for the McKenzie parcel in 1898, but it is not known if the old sugarhouse was used (Wilcke et al. 2000:51). Other records suggest that the primary sugar orchard for the Billings Estate was the "Kennedy Sugar Orchard" purchased in July 1887 and located on the east side of Mt. Tom (Wilcke et al. 2000:47; WLR 30:126). A sugarhouse and arch was removed from that property before possession was given over to the Estate suggesting the Estate already had a suitable sugarhouse (Wilcke et al. 2000:47; WLR 30:126). All maple sugaring activities ended on the Estate during the Depression ca. 1923 (Wilcke et al. 2000:78).

The Sugar House Ruins site is in excellent condition and should be considered for interpretation along with the other buildings of the McKenzie farmstead. Management issues at this site include the protection of visible artifacts that could be removed without authorization and the maintenance of the standing dry-laid stone walls, which should be monitored for natural or human damage.



Figure 18. View of the McKenzie sugarhouse, looking northeast. The remains of the brick and stone arch are under the birch tree at right center of image.

McKenzie Well

This dry-laid stone well is a contributing component of the McKenzie farmstead site.

Archaeological Remains

To the east and up slope from the site of the McKenzie farmstead complex is a dry-laid field stone well. This well is in excellent condition. It has an aperture of about .75 m (29.5 in), an overall diameter of about 1 m (39.4 in), and is presently about 1.8 m (6 ft) deep. The well appears to have been only partially filled and is presently obscured by leaves and forest debris.

Evaluation

It is not clear if this well was intentionally filled or not. If it was not intentionally filled, it is unlikely that it contains many artifacts. The archaeological importance of the well, however, lies in its position within the farmstead complex and in the details of its construction. Management of this site should include covering the well opening in order to prevent individuals from stumbling

upon it and possibly injuring themselves and/or damaging the well structure.

McKenzie Unidentified Feature

This potential archaeological site is an anomaly that requires further research to determine its archaeological significance. It may or may not be a contributing element of the McKenzie Farmstead site.

Archaeological Remains

A few meters north of the McKenzie well is an irregular circular depression approximately 2 m (6.6 ft) in diameter and is currently filled with broken and/or cut tree branches. The depression is ringed on three sides by mounded up earth. No artifacts were visible in its immediate vicinity.

Evaluation

This anomaly may be cultural in origin. However, archaeological testing may be the only way to confirm or reject this hypothesis.

The Marsh-Parker Residence & School Site/Tenant House Area

The area located east of the Mansion bordering on Elm Street and presently in the vicinity of the Tennis Court (MABI00008.000) was once the site of Charles Marsh's first residence, the so-called "Marsh tenant house," and their associated outbuildings (Figure 19).

Marsh House

This untested archaeological site consists of a historic period residence and its associated structures, features, and/or deposits dating from ca. 1789 to 1869.

Historic Background

Samuel Winslow built Charles Marsh (senior)'s first house ca. 1789-1790 (Dana 1889:193). It was a frame house with a "connected kitchen wing, wagon bay, and barn" extending westward and forming a dooryard to the south (Auwaerter 2002:3.4; 3.12; Dana 1889:193; Presdee and Edwards 1853). The kitchen garden was located south of the house across a lane that led from the house to Elm Street (WLR 9:352). Woodlots and enclosed pastures surrounded the house (Auwaerter 2002:3.4, 3.12). A woodshed may have been located "on the south side of the hill" (Auwaerter

2002:3.12). A barn (later known as the Lower Barn) was located to the east across Elm Street (Auwaerter 2002:3.12). The house was supplied with water piped in from a spring on the hillside to the north. According to Henry Dana, a 19th century town historian, "when Mr. Marsh first bought the Cady farm there was no well on the place. Upon moving into his first house he thought to get his supply of water from a spring [east of the house in the upper meadow], but this did not succeed. He thereupon had water brought to his house by

means of pump-logs from a spring on the north side of the hill. . . . This was the first aqueduct laid anywhere in this region" (Dana 1889:194).

Charles Marsh (senior) used this farmstead as his residence for about 17 years (ca. 1790-1807) until the completion the brick Mansion. After the completion of the new house, Charles Marsh (senior) reportedly rented the old frame house. Henry B. Brown occupied the house for four years (ca. 1808-1812) and "after a considerable interval of time," the house "became the residence of Asaph Fletcher" probably in the 1820s (Dana 1889:194; U.S. Population Census 1820 and 1830; *Vermont Standard* May 24, 1894 1:2). Asaph Fletcher (junior) was born on June 23, 1780 at Westford, Massachusetts, one of nine children (Welch 1995:154). His parents were the Hon. Dr. Asaph and Sally (Green) Fletcher (Welch 1995:152-153). They were prominent citizens of Cavendish, Vermont, having moved there in 1787 (Welch 1995:152-153). Asaph Fletcher (junior) married Sarah Wheeler, daughter of Asa and Sarah (Dutton) Wheeler, of Cavendish on December 3, 1806 and they had two daughters, Marcella L., (1810) and Sarah (1812) (*Vermont Standard* May 24, 1894 1:2; Welch 1995:154). Asaph Fletcher was a businessman, a general of the state militia, and High Sheriff of Windsor County (Welch 1995:154). Fletcher appears to have lived in the old Marsh house until ca. 1829 (Dana 1889:194). Asaph Fletcher died in Woodstock on September 22, 1842 at about 62 years of age and his wife died in town many years later on September 14, 1864 at 74 years of age (Welch 1995:154).

On August 1, 1829, Charles Marsh (senior) sold his old frame house, an associated woodshed, and about three-quarters of an acre to Bushrod W. Rice for \$1000 (WLR 9:352). The boundary of the transferred

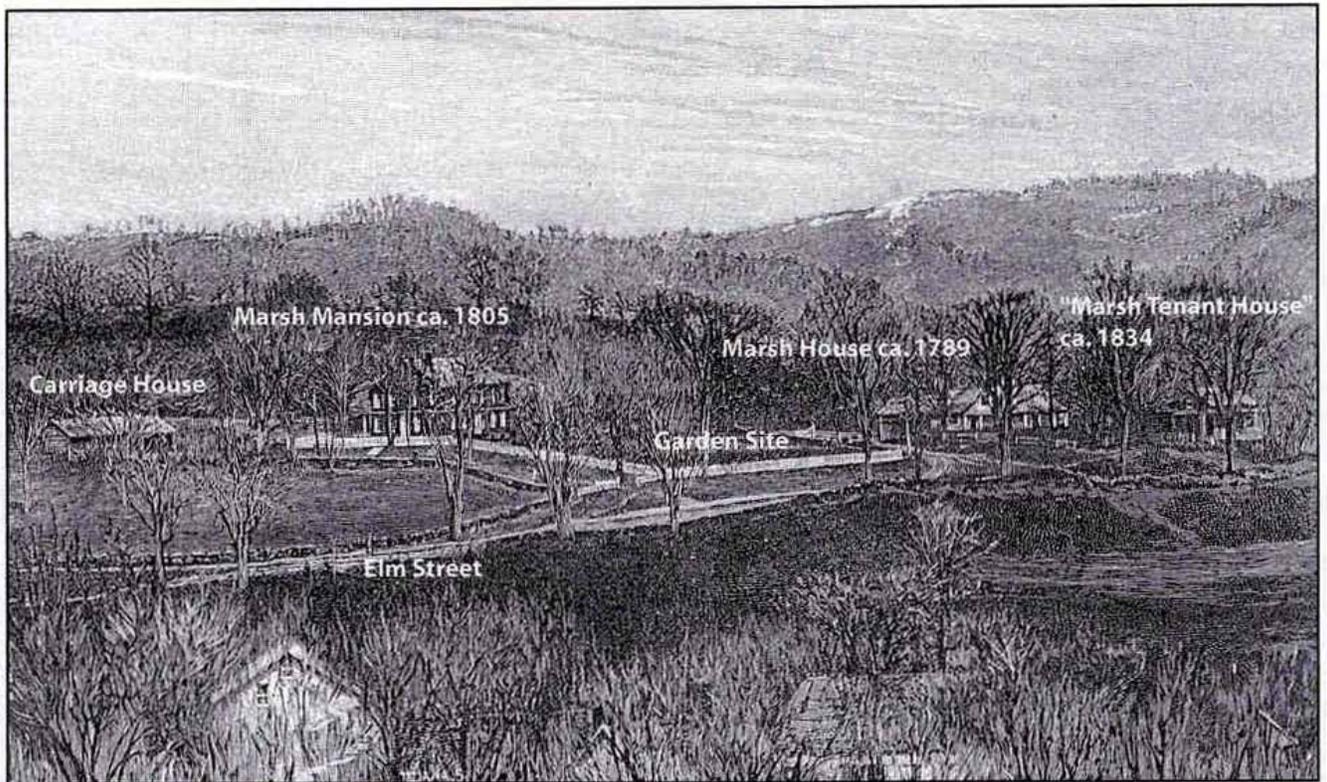


Figure 19. Woodcut made from photograph taken in the 1860s showing the Marsh Mansion, old Marsh House, and Tenant House (from Dana 1889).

property began on top of the “shelving rock” at a point about 201.2 m (660 ft) north of the Elm Street Bridge and extended north on Elm Street 41.6 m (136.6 ft) and extended back (west) about 83.3 m (273.3 ft) from the road (WLR 9:352). Bushrod Rice was born on May 4, 1801, a son of William and Sally (Stratton) Rice originally of Worcester, Massachusetts (IGI 2005; U.S. Population Census 1850; Vermont Vital Records). Bushrod Rice married Marcella Fletcher (1810-1894), daughter of Asaph Fletcher (junior), on August 12, 1830 (U.S. Population Census 1850; *Vermont Standard* May 24, 1894 1:2; Vermont Vital Records; Welch 1995:154). Bushrod Rice was a merchant and was a business partner with his father-in-law in several properties in Woodstock as well as a farm in Cavendish (U.S. Population Census 1850; Welch 1995:154). Rice was also a colonel in Woodstock’s militia artillery company for

many years (Dana 1889:294-296). According to the 1830 federal population census, Rice’s household consisted of six people including two males 15-20 years old, one male 20-30, one female 20-30, one female 30-40, and one female 50-60 while he was living in the old Marsh house. Bushrod Rice owned the Marsh house for about four years. He sold it on April 2, 1833 to the Reverend Benjamin C.C. Parker, who served as rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Woodstock from October 1833 to 1839 (Dana 1889:194, 415-416; WLR 10:190). Rice stayed in Woodstock and later owned a livery (Dana 1889:178; Woodstock Vital Records). He died on February 23, 1868 of dropsy at 66 years of age (Woodstock Vital Records; U.S. Population Census 1850). His widow also remained in Woodstock until her death in 1894 (*Vermont Standard* May 24, 1894 1:2).

Aseph Fletcher may have moved across Elm Street into a residence owned by Marsh. In the 1830 census, the residence canvassed immediately after Bushrod Rice, who owned the old Marsh house, was Rice's father-in-law, Asaph Fletcher Jr. Fletcher's household consisted of 16 individuals including one male 15-20 years of age, three males 20-30, four males 30-40, three males 40-50, two females 15-20, one female 20-30, and two females 40-50.

During his tenure, Benjamin Parker "made various extensions and additions to the old house, in different directions and in peculiar style of architecture" apparently with many angles and projections (Dana 1889:194). In 1839, Parker resigned as head of his parish and "put up in the rear of his dwelling-house a school-building, in which he opened a 'Female High School' in October of that year "for fitting young ladies to become teachers" (Dana 1889:194-195, 415-416). The school only operated about a year before closing (Dana 1889:195). Afterwards, Parker moved to New York "where he died about 1857" (Dana 1889:195). In 1840, while he lived at the site, his household consisted of six individuals: including one male 40-50 years old, one female 10-15; one female 15-20; one female 20-30; one female 40-50, and one female 50-60 (U.S. Population Census 1840). The footprint of the renovated Marsh House was clearly depicted on Presdee and Edwards' *Map of Woodstock Village* (1853). The Parkers probably used the house as a rental property between ca. 1841 and 1859.

One of the additions alluded to by Dana may have been an "office or library" built ca. 1839 by Benjamin Parker (Dana 1889:79). The Presdee and Edward's *Map of Woodstock* (1853) shows a distinct projection off the main structure to the south, which may or may not be this addition. In 1859, the addition was removed from the residence by Charles Marsh (junior) and sold to Aaron H. Emerson (Dana 1889:79). Emerson moved the

structure to a new location on Route 12 north of the study area and "put on an addition of twelve feet, and converted it into a dwelling-house, in which he lived for many years" (see Figure 11) (Beers 1869a; Dana 1889:79). In 1879, Mr. Billings converted Emerson's house into a "neat and convenient cottage" (Dana 1889:79).

On August 15, 1859, Charles Marsh (junior) purchased the Marsh House, the Tenant House (discussed below), their associated outbuildings, and one and three-quarters acre of land from Benjamin Parker's widow, Frances Parker, who was then living in Boston, Massachusetts (WLR 19:398; 19:421). Charles Marsh (junior) probably used these buildings as rental properties until ca. 1868-1869. Both of these structures appear on Beers' detailed map of the Village of Woodstock (1869b) and in historic stereographic photographs of that period (see Figure 19). Although there is no record of who lived in these two structures between 1841 and 1869, the Census of 1860 lists a few families who did not own real estate living in the immediate of the Marsh-Billings Mansion. For example, the residence surveyed immediately before Charles Marsh (junior) housed Greenbush B. Strong a 26-year-old carpenter/joiner, his wife and child and Daniel Darby a 44-year-old carpenter/joiner, his wife, and three children as well as Alvatina Frink, a 67-year-old widow. In the structure enumerated just before the one just mentioned lived James Davis a 60-year-old Irish gardener, his wife and three children and Fred Howe, a 23-year-old carpenter, and his wife.

In 1869, Frederick Billings reportedly moved the main part of the old Marsh house out of the current study area to a site on the east side of Elm Street, just north of Moore Place (Auwaerter 2002:1.3). The relocated structure was to "serve as his farm manager's residence" until the 1890 Farm House "was built for that purpose" (Auwaerter 2002:1.3). In time, the old

Marsh house was integrated into the structure now known as the Octagon Cottage (Auwaerter 2002:1.3).

Between ca. 1869 and 1872, during the landscaping of the Main Entrance Drive (to accommodate plans for a curved alignment and “Y” intersection with Elm Street), the rebuilding of the Perimeter Wall, and the creation of the Croquet Court, Frederick Billings apparently blasted and graded over much of the “shelving rock” that stood in front of the Marsh and Tennant houses and completely obscured the site of both these early historic period structures with the construction of a Croquet Court (Auwaerter 2002:4A.2 and 4A.4). Reportedly, the Croquet Court was built in 1872 in the void left by the removal of Marsh and Marsh Tenant House (Auwaerter 2002:3.9). The only visible reminders of the earlier sites was said to be the “mature sugar maple and American Elms that had surrounded to old Marsh house” that Billings retained “to frame his new croquet ground” (Auwaerter 2002:4A.3). The Croquet Court was later remodeled into a 30.5 by 16.8 m (100 by 55 ft) lawn tennis court in 1887 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.31). Still later, in 1892, the Tennis Court received a gravel surface and in 1930 the size of the court was increased to 36.6 by 17.7 m (120 by 58 ft) and updated with an asphalt/concrete surface (Auwaerter 2002:4A.31-32).

Evaluation

The Marsh House, located in the area near the southern part of the Tennis Court and the “Y” shaped intersection of the Main Entrance Drive and Elm Street, was built in ca. 1790 and was occupied by Marsh family until ca. 1807. Both renters and owners occupied the building from ca. 1807 to 1869. In 1839, it was extensively remodeled and expanded into a school that did not last more than a year. This site was initially disturbed by the removal of at least two sections including an addition known as the Parker’s office or library ca. 1859 and the main body of the house ca. 1869. The site

was then disturbed by the creation of the Croquet/Tennis Court and surrounding lawn ca. 1872. In addition to the house, this property had at least a woodshed and possibly a small barn (although no documentary evidence exists for the latter structure) associated with it. The construction of the Tennis Court may not have disturbed the entire footprint of this rambling structure suggesting that some intact cultural resources may still exist in the lawn area; especially deeply buried features (Pendery and Griswold 1997). It is also possible that early 19th century trash deposits or sheet scatter may still exist in the vicinity of the house site. Archaeological investigations at this site may provide information on the structure’s exact location, dimensions, construction sequence, and overall integrity. Presently, there are no pressing management issues involving this site.

The “Marsh Tenant House”

This potential archaeological site consists of a historic residence and any associated structures, features or cultural deposits dating from ca. 1834-1835 to ca. 1869-1872.

Historic Background

The “Marsh Tenant House” was located a short distance north of the Marsh House in an area that is now probably under the northern part of the Tennis Court. Land records suggest that this structure was built by Benjamin Parker ca. 1834-1835. Charles Marsh (senior) sold Benjamin Parker a one-acre lot immediately north of the old Marsh House that extended 67 m (219.8 ft) along Elm Street and about 62.8 m (206.25 ft) west of Elm Street on August 5, 1834 (WLR 10:361). In this deed, there was no mention of an existing structure and the price of \$150 suggests there wasn’t one (WLR 10:361). The deed reserved the spring “appearing above ground” in the northerly part of the property and the right to “stone up a well where said water first appears above ground and to dig from there a ditch and lay any

pipes . . . to conduct water off the property” for Charles Marsh (senior) (WLR 10:361). Parker was only entitled to the water that ran from the spring and appeared “above ground below the same” (WLR 10:361). The footprint of the structure on this lot was depicted on Presdee and Edwards’ *Map of Woodstock* (1853). After Benjamin Parker left Woodstock ca. 1841, it is likely that Parker and later his widow used this building as a rental property, possibly managed by a local agent. The property was purchased by Charles Marsh (junior), along with the old Marsh House from Parker’s widow in 1859 and was again, probably used as a rental property. It is not known if the tenant house was moved or razed by Frederick Billings ca. 1869-1872. However, the building site was probably disturbed by the creation of the Croquet Court (now the Tennis Court) at that time.

Evaluation

According to the documentary evidence, the “Marsh Tenant House,” located north of the old Marsh House, was built ca. 1834-1835 by Benjamin Parker and was probably occupied by various tenants from ca. 1841 to 1869. Although this historic site was probably disturbed by the removal or destruction of the structure and by the creation of the Croquet Ground (now the Tennis Court) in ca. 1869-1872, portions may be preserved. Subsurface archaeological testing should be conducted to determine the overall integrity of the site and attempt to identify exact location, dimensions, layout, construction sequence and possible undocumented associated structures. Presently, there are no pressing management issues involving this site.

Hilltop Farm

While the sites of the three homesteads associated with this farm (ca. 1778 to 1793; 1793 to 1886, and 1886 to 1935) lie outside of the Park boundaries, farm lanes, stone walls, fruit trees, rock piles, a possible field structure/animal shelter, and a 20th century

garbage dump associated with this farm are within the limits of the Park (see Figure 2).

Historic Background

The Cobb-Dana farm, also known as the Hilltop or French Farm, was first settled by Deacon James Cobb (1752-1837) a carpenter from Middleboro, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, ca. 1778-1779 (Dana 1889:58; Haslam 2001:163; WLR 1:80-81; 2:144). According to town land records, Cobb arrived in Woodstock ca. May 1777 and purchased a 120-acre farm in the southeast section of town (WLR 1:80-81). However, he sold this farm in April 1779 and moved to the southwest slope of Mt. Tom, where he had bought a 100-acre lot (actually containing 115 acres) from Oliver Willard of Hartford, Vermont, on August 6, 1778 (WLR 1:59; 2:144). This farm extended north towards but not up to the south edge of the Pogue.

To this farm James Cobb brought his young family. Deacon Cobb’s wife “was Sarah Simmons, a woman of good sense and ready wit, and a thorough housekeeper” (Dana 1889:58). Their “first house, built of logs, was placed up the hill, near where the barn now [ca. 1886] stands on the premises” (Dana 1889:58). The well dug near it could still be seen in the late 19th century (Dana 1889:58). A second residence, a “frame dwelling, put up by Mr. Cobb in 1793, was placed down the hill, a little below the log hut, and, with slight changes, served all the occupants” of the farm until the summer of 1886 (Dana 1889:58-59). Here, James and Sarah Cobb raised four children; Orpha (1776-1849), Susanna (1779-1813), James (1782-?), and Seth (1786-1863) (Dana 1889:59; Haslam 2001:163). Deacon Cobb sold his farm to his son, Seth, on November 13, 1819, but continued to live there until his son sold the farm to Eliphalet Thomas, a 30 year-old farmer from Middleboro, Massachusetts, on November 7, 1820 (WLR 3:392; 7:518). Subsequently, James and Seth Cobb moved northward to join most of

their family in Stowe, Vermont (Dana 1889:59).

Eliphalet Thomas lived on the Cobb farm for 27 years (ca. 1820-1847). Eliphalet Thomas was born on January 5, 1789, a son of Joseph and Deborah Thomas of Middleboro, Massachusetts (Smith and Smith 1993:181-182). He was one of 10 children. His siblings were Olive (1771), Lucy (1775), Elisha (1777), Andrew (1778), Sarah (1781), Deborah (1784), Hope (1787), Levina (1791), and Ethilinda (1793) (Smith and Smith 1993:181-182). Eliphalet Thomas married Betsy Rider in Middleboro on July 3, 1814 (Merrick and Williams 1990:194, 218). Within six years of their marriage, they had moved to Woodstock and had taken up residence on the Cobb farm. In 1831, Eliphalet Thomas added about nine acres of woodland to the farm (WLR 10:43). This lot, however, did not adjoin his land but was located north of the Pogue. Eliphalet Thomas's wife, Betsey, died on May 26, 1840 at the age of 51 and she was buried in the Handy Cemetery in Woodstock (Woodstock Cemetery Records). The 1840 population census indicates that Eliphalet Thomas' household consisted of eight individuals including one male 10-15 years old, one male 15-20, one male 20-30, one male 50-60 (Eliphalet Thomas) and four females 15-20. Thomas appears to have suffered the loss of at least two children while living in Woodstock; including Lucinda, who died September 24, 1840 at the age of 16 and Ethelinda who died on January 11, 1842 at the age of 20; both were buried in the Handy Cemetery (Woodstock Cemetery Records). Eliphalet Thomas mortgaged his farm heavily in the early 1840s (WLR 13:108, 321, 368, 370 and 519). He then apparently "stripped the place of much of its valuable timber" before selling the property on February 27, 1847 to Oliver P. Chandler, a lawyer, one of his creditors and owner of the farm to the east (Dana 1889:59; WLR 14:492). In 1850, Eliphalet Thomas (60), lived elsewhere in Woodstock with Abigail (42), Eliphalet Jr.

(21), and Lucinda A. Thomas (6) (U.S. Population Census 1850).

Oliver Chandler, Philo Hatch, and Hosea Benson transferred the farm to Hugh Pike Howe on February 28, 1855 (*Vermont Standard* December 15, 1870 2:4; WLR 17:527; 17:528). Hugh Howe, son of Nehemiah and Sarah Howe, was born on July 13, 1791 at Henniker, New Hampshire, and moved as a young boy with his family to Thetford, Vermont, in 1800 (*Vermont Standard* May 22, 1884 2:2; IGI:2005). He married Roxanna Lord (1795-1844) in Norwich, Vermont, in 1816 (IGI 2005; *Vermont Standard* May 22, 1884 2:2). Together, they had 11 children including: David (1817-1893), Solon (1821-1897), Henry (1844-1883), Hugh Mills (1828-1868), Nelson (1837-1883), Cynthia (1823-1899), Sarah (1825-?), Maria (1827-1902), Laura (1839-?), Ruth (1830-?), and Cornelia (1832-1883) (*Vermont Standard* May 22, 1884; IGI:2005). Hugh Howe moved his family to Woodstock in the 1830s and first lived "on the 'race ground'" (*Vermont Standard* May 22, 1884 2:2) (see Section 7.11 of this report). He then lived for a year or two on a farm belonging to General Lyman Mower, but when the General sold his farm, Howe bought the Cobb farm in 1855 (*Vermont Standard* May 22, 1884 2:2). Howe occupied the approximately 120-acre Cobb farm for about nine years. The 1860 census describes Howe as a 65-year-old framer living with three of his children; Sarah (26), Nelson (22), and Henry (16). He carried on the farm until, in his own words, "I got to be too old to farm any longer; especially as my boys were now all gone" (*Vermont Standard* May 22, 1884). He sold the farm to Edward Dana, a Boston merchant, for \$2800 on April 11, 1864 and moved down into the village of Woodstock, where his daughter, Sarah, cared for him into the early 1880s (U.S. Population Census 1880; *Vermont Standard* May 22, 1884 2:2; WLR 21:410). Hugh Howe died on May 21, 1884 in Thetford, Vermont (IGI:2005).

Although Edward Dana owned the property, it was occupied and “carried on” by his brother, Charles Dana, a local merchant (Dana 1889:59). Edward Dana increased the size of the farm to about 227 acres. In one transaction in 1865, he purchased about 68 acres from Charles Marsh (junior) (WLR 22:1-2). In this transaction, Marsh sold most of the western section of his farm except for the land around the Pogue, which he maintained the right to access by “by a road, which now leads along the northerly side of the Pogue Hole Brook” (WLR 22:1-2). Henry Swan Dana sold the farm on behalf of Edward Dana’s Estate to Frederick Billings on October 28, 1884 for \$4000 (Dana 1889:59; WLR 30:368-370). In 1886, Frederick Billings had Payson A. Pierce remove the house built by Cobb in 1793 along with an old corn barn (Dana 1889:58-59; Wilcke et al. 2000:50). In a testament to Cobb’s workmanship, “the frame was found to be composed of such solid timber and in such perfect preservation that the job of taking it down proved to Mr. Pierce anything but easy” (Dana 1889:59). In its place, Billings built a new cottage designed by architect Ferdinand Davis along with an attached carriage shed, milk room, and well house (Wilcke et al. 2000:50). Billings also had a new barn built to replace the “old one on the flat” (Dana 1889:59). The new barn had an “adjoining” hennery” (Dana 1889:59). This homestead was supplied [ca. 1885] partially by water from a spring located on the King farm to the east via a covered aqueduct (WLR 30:53). Billings maintained the farm’s small apple orchard (possibly along with 35 peach trees) to at least 1911 (Wilcke et al. 2000:55). Caretakers for the Billings’ Estate occupied the farm until 1935.

In 1935, the house, the wood shed, and a wagon shed at the Hilltop Farm were burned to the ground at an estimated loss of \$10,000 to the Billings estate (*Vermont Standard* December 19, 1935 10:4). At the time, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick P. Beebe and their children including Adine (7) and fraternal

twins William (13) and Mae (13), occupied the place. “The fire, believed to have started from sparks escaping through an open flue pipe cap-hole in the furnace was discovered at about 1:45 o’clock by William Beebe . . . who was awakened by the crackling of the flames and the dense smoke” (*Vermont Standard* December 19, 1935 10:4). “So quickly did the fire spread that Mr. and Mrs. Beebe were unable to save anything except a few pieces of furniture and clothing” (*Vermont Standard* December 19, 1935 10:4). “Although hampered by the lack of water, the Woodstock Fire Department succeeded in saving the barn, which was only 20 feet away from the burning building” (*Vermont Standard* December 19, 1935 10:4). Arthur B. Snyder, manager of Billings farm, “said he did not believe the estate would rebuild the farmhouse” (*Vermont Standard* December 19, 1935 10:4). Subsequently, part of the Hilltop farm was sold off, including the site of the old residences, where in 1951, a new house known as the French House was built. This existing structure and its expansive curved driveway may cover a good portion of the former farmstead site (Cairns 1901; United States Geological Survey [USGS] 1976).

Evaluation

Currently, there are two features within the Parks’ boundary that may have an association with the Hilltop farm.

Abandoned Dump (MABI00021.000)

Although the site of the farmsteads associated with the Hilltop farm are not within the boundaries of the Park, there is an abandoned dumpsite located at the southwest corner of the Maple Lot (Stand #3b) that may be associated with the late 19th or early 20th century occupants of the Hilltop Farm. The dump, a known archaeological site formerly designated AS-8, consists primarily of scrap metal scattered over a wide area (Figure 19). At present, a carpet of fallen leaves covers the dump and its full extent is not known. Management

efforts here should focus on preventing the unauthorized removal of artifacts. Protection of this resource may be best accomplished by general education efforts and not drawing attention to the site.

Unknown Field Structure

There is a possible field structure or animal shelter located on the south side of the “Red Pine Loop” trail in a red pine stand planted by the Billings Estate ca. 1952 (Stand #4). Several overtopped dead snags of large maples in this stand suggest this area was once open and possibly used for pasture or mowing. The possible structure/shelter consists of a 6.6 by 5.9 m (21.7 by 19.4 ft) three-sided depression about 75 cm (2.5 ft) deep built into a slight slope that trend up to the south (Figure 20). There are no apparent foundation stones. This feature may be cultural, possibly associated with animal husbandry, but its purpose cannot be determined at present.



Figure 20. View of the artifact scatter in the Maple Lot (Stand #3b), near Hilltop, looking northwest.

Marsh-Billings Mansion, Associated Outbuildings, and Features

This group of known and potential archaeological sites consists of all of the recorded and as yet undiscovered cultural deposits, structural remains, and features related to the existing Mansion ca. 1805 to the present (Figure 21).



Figure 21. View of a possible structure foundation depression in Stand #4, near Hilltop.

Billings Mansion (MABI00001.000)

This known archaeological site consists of the existing Mansion structure and any *in situ* cultural deposits related to its construction, alterations, and occupation that may date from ca. 1805 to the present.

Historic Background

The original Mansion structure, a two-story Federal style brick house with a rear kitchen wing was built for Charles Marsh (senior) by Nathaniel Smith, a local craftsman, ca. 1805-1807 (Auwaerter 2002 4A.27; Dana 1889:193). This structure was set further back from the road than the old Marsh House Auwaerter 2002 3.4; Dana 1889:193). The footprint of the house and

the location of the outbuildings associated with this structure are depicted on Presdee and Edwards' *Map of Woodstock* (1853). The appearance of the structure and its outbuildings were also recorded in stereographic photographs taken in the 1860s.

This structure provided the nucleus for the current Mansion. It was significantly enlarged, altered and updated twice in the late 19th century. About 1869-1870, Frederick Billings enlarged the building and added a new half story "French Roof" and changed the exterior to the Stick-style according to the design by William Ralph Emerson of Boston (Auwaerter 2002:4A.27; *Vermont Standard* September 3, 1885 3:3). Billings again remodeled and expanded the structure ca. 1885-1886 to its present Queen Anne style appearance designed by Henry Hudson Holly of New York City (Auwaerter 2002:4A.27). The local newspaper reported in September of 1885 that "the French roof has rendered the third story rooms exceedingly uncomfortable in the summer months and is to be replaced by a hip roof; then the portion of the L part is to be carried up three stories and as the old walls are too light for the increased height they will be taken down and built heavier" (*Vermont Standard* September 3, 1885 3:3). The verandah on the south side of the house was built ca. 1899 creating wrap around porch (Auwaerter 2002:4A.27).

Evaluation

Despite extensive changes to the Mansion over the years, the grounds immediately around this building may contain significant archaeological resources. Cultural deposits and features could include, but are not limited to, isolated dropped items, privies, trash pits, disturbances related to the construction and renovation of the building, and an icehouse mentioned in Wilcke et al. (2000:55). These deposits could provide information on the lives of the Marsh and Billings families and their employees. This site is fairly unique as an urban orientated working farm and may provide unique

artifact assemblages to compare to other sites of different socio-economic status. This site may also provide important information on 19th century water supply and sewer systems as well as evolving trash disposal patterns. Presently, there are no pressing management issues or threats involving this feature.

Mansion Well (1)

This potential archaeological resource is a well dating to ca. 1836, which may be a contributing element of the Mansion site (MABI00001.000).

Historic Background

Around 1836, a well was dug on the "west side of the brick house" which the historian Dana observed "has always thus far yielded a supply of the best pure water" ca. 1886 (Dana 1889:194). It is not known if the creation of the well near the Mansion signified the abandonment of the spring and aqueduct system or if the well was simply augmenting the previous water supply. This well appears to be indicated on Presdee and Edward's *Map of Woodstock* (1853) west of the Marsh Mansion on the north side of the rear kitchen ell. While this well may have been used to the late 1880s, as implied by Dana, it could have been replaced another well ordered built by Billings ca. 1870 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.42; Dana 1889:194). At any rate, use of the well ceased at some point and it is likely that it was "filled rather than removed" (Auwaerter 2002:4A.42).

Evaluation

There is a potential for archaeological deposits related to both the construction and the filling of the well in this area. Fills used to seal the well may contain artifacts that could provide information about the occupants of the Mansion at the time. Presently, there are no pressing management issues or threats involving this feature.

Mansion Well (2)

This potential archaeological resource (ca. 1870-1906) may be a contributing element of the Mansion site MABI00001.000.

Historic Background

Around 1870, Frederick Billings had another well placed near the Mansion. This well was located “on the south side of the kitchen wing, and was covered by a well house” (Auwaerter 2002:4A.42). “In October 1906, the well was closed, and the well house was subsequently removed. Although there is no visible trace, the well likely still remains, located beneath the lawn on the south side of the walk leading from the west entrance to the Mansion” (Auwaerter 2002:4A.42).

Evaluation

The well located on the south side of the kitchen ell served the Mansion from ca. 1870 to 1906. It is not clear if this well was filled or simply capped (if artesian) when it was abandoned. If the well was filled, it may contain artifacts associated with the occupants of the Mansion at the time unless the fill was imported from off site. Archaeological research related to this potential feature should begin with locating it and determining its construction and filling and/or capping details. Presently, there are no pressing management issues or threats involving this feature.

Marsh Outbuildings/Billings Laundry/Rockefeller Mansion Parking and Mansion Garage Area

The area, located behind the Mansion, may harbor the structural remains and/or archaeological deposits dating to ca. 1805-1976. This area includes the Contemporary Garage (MABI00003.000).

Historic Background

The outbuildings belonging to the Marsh Mansion including a barn, a storage shed, and a carriage shed were located near the

residence (Auwaerter 2002:3.4, 12; Presdee and Edwards 1853). A detailed map of the Village of Woodstock by Presdee and Edwards published in 1853 indicates an “L”-shaped outbuilding and a smaller square building in the area west of the Mansion now occupied by the Mansion Parking Lot (Auwaerter 2002:4A.30). These outbuildings may have been original Marsh structures (ca. 1798), possibly moved, or they may have been constructed in ca. 1805-1807 along with the Mansion. When the Marsh outbuildings were removed by Frederick Billings ca. 1869-1870, parts of their foundations were reportedly integrated into the curved retaining wall now seen along the northern and western edges of the Mansion Parking area (Auwaerter 2002:4A.30). This wall is set into the hillside, is about 45.7 m (150 ft) in length, and averages 1.2 to 1.5 m (4 to 5 ft) in height (Auwaerter 2002:4A.30). Presently, there is stone staircase built into the wall that leads to the Lily Pond above (Auwaerter 2002:4A.30). The wall was partially rebuilt in ca. 1958 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.1).

Within the footprint of the removed outbuildings and about five feet “in front of the south half of the wall” Frederick Billings built a Laundry ca. 1870 (Auwaerter 2002:4A. 30, 42). The Laundry was demolished by the Rockefellers in 1956 and, subsequently, a gravel parking area (approximately 20.1 by 6.1 m or 66 by 20 ft) and the Mansion Garage, a freestanding 6.7 m (22 ft) square one-bay, masonry structure, the latter built ca. 1976, took its place (Auwaerter 2002:4A.8, 30,42).

The Marsh Mansion era carriage-house, seen in a 19th century stereographic photograph of the property, was located south of and slightly west of the Mansion near the old stone wall that had been built around the south pasture in ca. 1814 (Auwaerter 2002:3.12; Dana 1889:194; Presdee and Edwards 1853). Presently, the site of the carriage-shed is probably on the west side of

the drive leading southwest from the Mansion to the Terrace Gardens.

Evaluation

The stone retaining walls located west of the Mansion may include “remnants of foundation walls from barns or other buildings extant during the Marsh Era (1798-1869)” (Auwaerter 2002:4A.42). These were removed and the walls possibly altered ca. 1869-1870. The remains of the Mansion outbuildings may have been further disturbed by the construction of the Laundry, which existed ca. 1870-1956. Although the area has been disturbed, subsurface remains that could provide information on the location and possibly the function of these buildings may still exist (Auwaerter 2002:4A.42). While, “the appearance and overall dimensions and location of the Laundry are well documented . . . information on its use during the Frederick Billings era is lacking” (Auwaerter 2002:4A.42). It is possible that the disturbances associated with the construction of the parking area and the Mansion Garage were minimal and that evidence of the Laundry remains intact (Auwaerter 2002:4A.42). While it is unlikely that trash (i.e. Clorox bottles & etc.) that may help interpret the use of this structure would have been allowed to be deposited in the immediate area of the Mansion, only archaeological testing could confirm this. Presently, there are no pressing management issues or threats involving this feature.

Grounds (MABI00001.001)

This archaeological area consists of the intervening areas between the identified sites on the Mansion Grounds and includes the formalized lawn space. This landscape has undergone several major changes and minor alterations from ca. 1789 to the present.

Historic Background

During the Marsh era, the Mansion Grounds were “used primarily for agriculture” (Auwaerter 2002:3.6). However, “due to poor soil conditions, much of the agriculture within the Mansion grounds was devoted to pasture and timber, except for a kitchen garden” (Auwaerter 2002:3.6). Charles Marsh (senior) established pastures south of the house, up the eastern slope of Mt. Tom, north towards the Woodshed lot, and around the Pogue (GMP 1999:41-42). According to an 1833 deed, the first Marsh garden was located in the area east of the Mansion and south of the lane, which led westward from the turnpike. This garden probably served the original Marsh house, which stood north of the garden, and possibly the later Mansion for a time. Prior to the last quarter of 19th century, the area immediately east of the Mansion including the garden and extending all the way to Elm Street was fenced off by white picket fence to create a formal yard. This fence can be seen in period photographs. Meanwhile, the swale space may have been used primarily for drainage. The deed transferring the old Marsh House property to Bushrod Rice reserved the right for the drains in Mansion’s kitchen and cellar kitchen to discharge onto the lower property (WLR 9:352). The swale area may have also been used as “gardens or a barnyard” for the old Marsh house and/or the “Marsh Tenant House” (Auwaerter 2002:4A.3).

After purchasing the Marsh property in 1869, Frederick Billings transformed part of the south pasture, the south lane, the old front yard, and the garden of the Marsh Era into a “uniformly sloping” lawn speckled with plantings, which reached from the Mansion towards Elm and River Streets, ca. 1869-1875 (Auwaerter 2002:1.8, 2.6, 3.9 and 4A.2-3). In this process, much of the property’s perimeter grade was raised, which required turning sections of the pasture wall into a retaining wall ca. 1869-1878 (Auwaerter 2002:3.9 and 4A.31). At about the same time, ca. 1870, the natural

drainage/swale was landscaped and planted in meadow grass (Auwaerter 2002:4A.3). Billings also established a network of paths on the Mansion terrace with “a system of drains located along the avenues, carrying drainage underground in pipes leading to two separate watersheds, one leading south to the Ottauquechee River, the other north to Beaver Brook” (Auwaerter 2002:3.3).

Most of the lawn established by Frederick Billings remains to the present day, with only some changes in plantings. However, significant changes and disturbances to this area include the installation of hydrants to water the lawn added by 1874 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.22), the creation of the roundabout in front of Mansion designed by Martha Brookes Brown Hutcheson in 1902 (Auwaerter 2002:1.8, 2.6), the creation of a pony corral in the swale in the 1950s (Auwaerter 2002:4A.3), the construction of a fallout shelter escape tunnel from the Mansion basement into the lawn (Auwaerter 2002:4A.38), the removal of the corral, and the establishment of a formal lawn in the swale ca. 1967 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.3), the creation of the Second Entrance Drive and the installation of catch basins in the swale ca. 1978 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.3), and the addition of an irrigation system for the lawn ca. in 1976 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.40, 43). In addition, sewer, electrical, municipal water (1992), and other utility lines have impacted portions of this area (Auwaerter 2002:4C.22).

Evaluation

The archaeological significance of this site lies primarily in the sequence of development and alterations from forest to formalized spaces from ca. 1789 to the present. Several of these changes are linked to important 19th and 20th century landscape designers. There is also a possibility of encountering precontact Native American sites and previously unidentified historic period archaeological remains within the lawn area. Given the Mansion lawn’s importance to the present appearance and interpretation of the Park, this area enjoys

constant maintenance and monitoring. There are no pressing management issues or threats involving the archaeological resources that may be present at this site.

Billings Kitchen Garden/Rockefeller Horse Shed Area in Upper Meadow

This archaeological resource sits in the Upper Meadow on the rise west of the Mansion may be contributing elements to Billings and Estate era’s interpretation of the Park.

Historic Background

Beginning in 1869, Frederick Billings began to implement sweeping changes to the structures and layout of the old Marsh property. Following the design of Robert Copeland, Frederick Billings created a three-acre Kitchen Garden in the Upper Meadow on the rise west of the Mansion ca. 1869-1874 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.2). Previous to this time, the Upper Meadow was a boggy pasture. In a description of the “gracefully winding” bridle path opened ca. 1890 up Mt. Tom from River Street, an observer noted that the road leads over the hill into Mr. Billings’ garden “which at this season of the year is rendered quite attractive by large beds of flowering plants in full bloom, such as the aster, phlox, lily and others. A slight effort of the imagination suffices to make this garden appear a bit of fairy land to one who recollects back fifty years or more, when it was largely a bog given up to alders and coarse grass” (*Vermont Standard* September 11, 1890 1:2-3). To make the area suitable for its new purpose as a garden Billings may have leveled off the top of the hill (Auwaerter 2002:3.9). The garden provided apples, pears, strawberries, vegetables, herbs, and flowers for the family and served as a tree nursery beginning in ca. 1874 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.2; *Forest CLR* Vol.2. 2004:54-55). The Garden was used through much of the Estate era (1890-1914) but was all but abandoned by 1910, except for a plot of corn (Auwaerter 2002:4C.2). In the 1940s, the Garden was revived

somewhat with the west half kept mostly in corn (Auwaerter 2002:4C.2). A small vegetable patch was maintained there during the Rockefeller era (Auwaerter 2002:3.6).

A framed garden shed was erected on southwest edge of the garden in ca. 1874 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.2). This structure was approximately 18.3 by 5.5 m (60 by 18 ft). In the 1890s, it was “known as the ‘Stone Shed’ because stonework for the gardens was finished there” (Auwaerter 2002:4C.2). A pile of stone debris from the Terrace Gardens were under construction ca. 1894 (previously designated AS-2) is located to the west of the existing structure (Auwaerter 2002:4C.33). The garden shed was demolished in 1956 and in 1961, when part of the garden was converted into a horse pasture, a one-story 12.2 by 5.5 m (40 by 18 ft) horse shed was built on its foundations (Auwaerter 2002:4C.23). This building is currently used for storage (Auwaerter 2002:4C.23).

Evaluation

Little additional information about the Garden/Horse Shed would be gained through archaeological excavations. However, it is theoretically possible, with intensive work, to explore the layout (i.e. seed bed and path locations) and use (i.e. types of plants) of the Garden through archaeology.

Belvedere, Greenhouse, Bowling Alley, and Garden Complex Area

A portion of the Mansion grounds developed during the Billings and Rockefeller Era including a complex of structures and gardens, specifically four Greenhouses, the Belvedere (MABI00011.00), Bowling Alley (MABI00013.000), Swimming Pool (MABI00012.000), and Terrace Gardens, has undergone dramatic alteration over the years but may still harbor archaeologically important resources.

Historic Background

South and west of the Mansion lies an area that has been significantly altered over the years. This area was originally part of Charles Marsh (seniors)’s rocky south pasture. In 1801, when the Royalton and Woodstock Turnpike Company took possession of the Elm Street Bridge “they removed the log abutments and replaced them with abutments of stone, drawing the stone from Mr. Marsh’s pasture close by. The roads which they broke out for the purpose along the hillside are still [ca. 1869] to be seen there” (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). It was also reported that “Charles Marsh (junior) “blasted the ledge near the brick house . . . a short time before he sold the premises to Mr. Billings” although the reason for this activity was not given (Dana 1889:191). In the early 1870s, ca. 1872-1873, Frederick Billings blasted away part of the ledge behind the Mansion and brought in loads of fill on which to build a “U” shaped complex of four greenhouses (known as the Grapery, Octagon, Rosary and Tropical House), a bowling alley, and the “Swiss Cottage-Style” Belvedere ca. 1872-1874 (Auwaerter 2002:3.9, 4B.6, 18-19).

In 1889, Billings’ grapery produced “luscious Black and Muscat Hamburgs, Gros Morocco, Muscat of Alexandria, White Nice, Duchess of Buccleugh” grapes (*Vermont Standard* September 26, 1889 1:1). About 1902-1903, the wooden superstructures of the four Greenhouses were replaced by metal frames (Auwaerter 2002:4B.19). Three of the Greenhouses (Octagon, Rosary and Tropical House) were demolished in 1930 and the foundation of the two greenhouses south of the Belvedere (Octagon and Tropical House) were converted into a swimming pool ca. 1930-1931 (MABI00012.000) (to replace the old swimming pool built 1913 near the Lilly Pond) (Auwaerter 2002:4B.19-20, 22-23). The new pool area was remodeled and enhanced by a terrace, retaining walls, patio, and a rock garden ca. 1959-1962 (Auwaerter

2002:4B.15-16, 20-21). A Garden Workshop was added to the west end of the surviving greenhouse (Grapery) in 1958 (Auwaerter 2002:4B.19). In ca. 1968-1969 a small putting green was created south of the existing greenhouse on the former site of the Rosary (Auwaerter 2002:4B.21-22). In 1962, part of the pool terrace (the sloping ground east of Belvedere above Terrace Garden) was re-graded into a level grassy area (Auwaerter 2002:4B.3).

Just south of the Greenhouse/Belvedere complex is another area of fill. This once broad area of sloping ground was filled in ca. 1894-1899 and became the site of the Terrace Gardens (the Flower Garden and the Long Terrace) (Auwaerter 2002:4B.1). One 18.3 m (60 ft) square section of the terrace became the neo-classical Flower Garden in ca. 1894-1896 and in 1897-1898 the slope to the west was re-graded into two 121.9 m (400 ft) long stepped terraces, known collectively as Long Terrace (Auwaerter 2002:4B.1, 6, 24). The Terrace Gardens were altered ca. 1955-1961 with the addition of stone walls and planting beds (Auwaerter 2002:4B.2, 5, 16).

Evaluation

Archaeological investigations in the area of the Belvedere could provide information on the sequence of change in the landscape as well as on structures built and used during the Frederick Billings (1869-1890) and Estate (1890-1914) eras and which were subsequently demolished including the "Potting Room, Camellia House, and cold frames" along with various plantings and paths (Auwaerter 2002:4B.27). Archaeological studies may also be able to assist in the reconstruction of garden elements by identifying walks and plant types used, especially on the Long Terrace.

Carriage Barn (MABI00004.000)

This site includes the area immediately around the Carriage Barn built ca. 1895

(now the Visitors' Center) on the site of an earlier Billings' era stable ca. 1870-1895 (Figure 22).

Historic Background

The existing one and a half story Neoclassical Revival style 20.4 m (67 ft) square Carriage Barn, designed by Erick Kensett Rossiter, was built in 1895 on the foundations of a stable built ca. 1870 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.27-28). In 1998-1999, the structure underwent major interior renovations when it was converted into the administrative offices, curatorial storage, and visitor center for the National Park Service (Auwaerter 2002:4A.27-28). During this renovation, some limited Phase I compliance orientated archaeological survey was conducted prior to the installation of underground services (see Section 5.1 of this report). The Carriage Barn visitor walkway, which leads from the stone paved terrace west of the structure to the secondary service drive, was added at the time of the renovations (Auwaerter 2002:4A.9).

Evaluation

This area may contain archaeological deposits that could shed light on the construction and use of the carriage barn as well as construction details of the previous stable structure. There are no immediate archaeological management concerns at this site, however.

Double Cottage (MABI00002.000)

This site consists of the area immediately around the existing structure known as the Double Cottage, which was built ca. 1870-1877.

Historic Background

The Double Cottage, formerly known as the Coachman's House, was built ca. 1870-1877

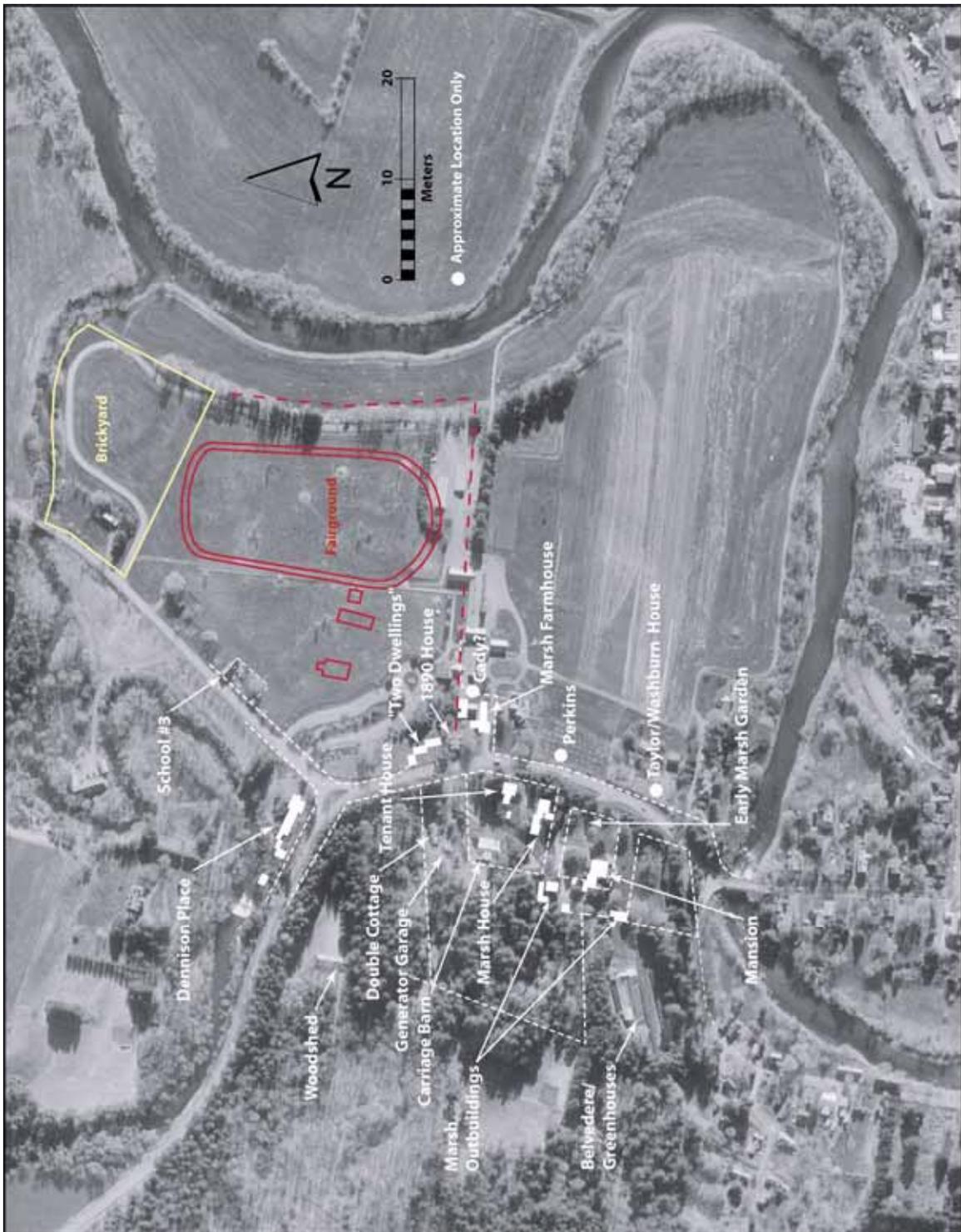


Figure 22. Known and potential historic archaeological sites in the Mansion Area and within the Protection Zone derived from historic maps (Beers 1869; Presdee and Edwards 1853).

(Auwaerter 2002:4A.28). The structure is one and a half stories and is composed of two sections each about 9.1 by 5.5 m (30 by 18 ft) and joined together (Auwaerter 2002:4A.28). In 1887, the foundation of the structure was raised four feet (Auwaerter 2002:4A.28). This structure is currently used for employee housing by the National Park Service.

Evaluation

This area may contain archaeological deposits that may shed light on the construction and occupation of the Double Cottage. These deposits may enhance the understanding of the lives of the employees of the Billings estate. There are no immediate management concerns related to this site, however.

Sugar House Ruins, Number 1 (Marsh-Billings) (MABI00014.000)

This site, formerly known as AS-4, consists of the remains of a sugar house possibly dating from ca. 1840-1850 to 1923.

Historic Background

The remains of a sugarhouse are located on a carriage path known as "Sugar House Road," which branches northerly off the Mountain Road. The date of construction for this building is not known. However, it is possible that it was built as early as the 1840s or 1850s. The U.S. agricultural census indicated that under Charles Marsh (junior) the farm produced 500 pounds of maple sugar in 1850 and 1860 (GMP 1999:41; Wilcke et al. 2000:166). Frederick Billings continued sugaring into the late 19th century. In 1870 census the farm reported producing 800 pounds of sugar (Wilcke et al. 2000:166). In 1879, the Billings farm made 100 gallons of maple syrup (U.S. Agricultural Census 1880). All maple sugaring activities ended on the Estate during the Depression ca. 1923 (Wilcke et al. 2000:78). "Julia and John McDill (daughter and son-in-law of Laura Billings Lee) reportedly removed the sugaring

equipment from the sugar house for use during World War II (Wilcke et al. 2000:78). It is believed that the sugarhouse was torn down/removed ca. 1940 (Wilcke et al. 2000:78).

Archaeological Remains

This site is a small scale maple syrup extraction/production facility located along one of the carriage roads within the park. Multiple artifact scatters through out the site area including pots, caldrons, and some pottery and glass bottle fragments.

Evaluation

This site may contain archaeological deposits that relate to the construction and use of this sugarhouse. Identifying the approximate date of construction as well as recording the internal layout (location of storage tubs, boilers/evaporators, openings & etc.) of the structure may be viable archaeological research topics. Management concerns of this archaeological resource may include unauthorized removal of artifacts and vandalism or accidental damage to the remaining structural elements.

Estate Woodshed (MABI00007.000)

This site includes the existing Woodshed building, built ca. 1876, and the open ground adjacent to it where a portable saw mill was once housed and operated.

Historic Background

As part of his forest management activities, Frederick Billings built a large Woodshed and a portable sawmill complex in a former pasture on the lower northern slope of Mt. Tom ca. 1876 (Forest CLR Vol. 2 2004:55). Presently, the woodshed stands at the west end of a triangular shaped clearing that is about 83.8 m (275 ft) long by 45.7 m (150 ft) wide and is bounded south by the Mountain Road, north by a high terrace edge overlooking Barnard Brook, east by a steep intermittent drainage, and west by the site of the Woodland Garden (Forest CLR Vol. 2 2004:55). The wooden structure, built to

store wood culled from Billings' controlled forestry program, measures by 30.3 by 7.9 m (100 by 26 ft) and has a minimal foundation. In 1900, a shed housing a portable drag saw was built just to the east of the Woodshed, as historic period photographs show. The drag saw was removed ca. 1960. The Rockefellers created the Woodland Garden to showcase understory woodland plants (i.e. ferns, trillium, & etc), ca. 1980-1993 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.20).

A limited Phase I archaeology survey conducted in 2004, revealed no significant precontact or historic period archaeological resources in this area (see section 5.2.2 of this report). Results of the Phase I survey indicated that several portions of the area had been disturbed possibly by the construction of the Woodshed, the installation of the portable mill shed, and grading as well as the construction of the Mountain Road ca. 1872, its retaining wall ca. 1876, and the access lane into the woodshed lot (Auwaerter 2002:3.9; and 4C.2-3, 5). Presently, in terms of archaeology, there are no immediate management concerns or threats related to this site.

Evaluation

Archaeological testing has shown that limited historic period archaeological resources may be found in this area. Artifacts that are likely to be recovered in this area may include those related to the construction and use of the woodshed, alteration of the landscape, or associated with the operation of the portable saw mill. Archaeological investigation could confirm the known construction date and location of the portable saw mill. There is at least one historic photograph, ca. 1905, of the Woodshed and drag sawmill available (Wilcke et al. 2000:Figure 12).

Generator Garage

This site consists of the existing Generator Garage built ca. 1908 and its immediate surroundings.

Historic Background

A one and half story 11.3 by 7.9 m (37 by 26 ft) two bay concrete automobile garage was built near the Double Cottage ca. 1908 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.29-30). This structure, which is still standing, was adapted to house an electrical generator during in the Rockefeller era (before ca. 1967) and is commonly known as the Generator Garage (Auwaerter 2002:4A.29).

Evaluation

Due to the 20th century construction date of the structure, no significant archaeological resources associated with this structure are expected in this area. However, the presence or absence of precontact Native American or previously unidentified historic period material cannot be determined at this time. There are no immediate management concerns or threats related to this site.

Bungalow (MABI00006.000)

This site consists of the area near the existing Bungalow (built in 1917) its immediate surroundings, and the associated Spring House.

Historic Background

The last residential structure built within the Historic Zone was the one story Craftsman-style cottage located on the north edge of the hill above the carriage barn in 1917 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.22). The cottage was designed for Mary (Billings) French by architect H. Van Buren Magonigle and used as "a guest house and a family retreat" into the Rockefeller era (Auwaerter 2002:4C.22). Water for the Bungalow was supplied by an artesian well located "north of the Upper Meadow and east of the old mountain road" (Auwaerter 2002:4C.26)

Evaluation

Limited archaeological deposits related to the construction and use of the Bungalow may be found in this area. There are no immediate management concerns or threats related to this site, however.

Carriage Roads (MABI00017.000)

This archaeological resource consists of approximately eight kilometers (five miles) of gravel carriage roads and their associated structures (including bridges, culverts, and retaining walls) built between ca. 1870 and 1890.

Historic Background

Frederick Billings built the more than eight kilometers (five miles) of carriage drives in the area now within the Park boundaries ca. 1870-1890 (Dana 1889:552; GMP 1999:41). Some of the carriage roads used old farm lanes and others were completely new constructions (GMP1999:41). Most of the drives required some degree of cutting, filling, and grading in their creation and several required the construction of stone retaining walls and/or culverts (Auwaerter 2002:3.9). On rare occasion, however, significant changes were made to the landscape to complete these roads. For example, while Billings' men were building a road in 1889, the local paper noted that "blasting from the mountain side still goes on a lively rate, and some of the explosions are so heavy as to shake every house in the village. The material thus collected Mr. Billings intends to use in fortifying the river bank along the line of his landed estate, and is laying the foundations of a new farm house which it is the plan to put up next spring on the Thompson place nearly opposite the school house" (*Vermont Standard* December 12, 1889 1:2).

Evaluation

A detailed history of the development of the carriage road network can be found in a Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) study (Marston et al. 2001) and

does not need to be revisited in depth in this report. The HAER report includes measured drawings (including typical cross-sections) and descriptions of construction details that may be useful for assessing the archaeological significance of and the extent of local disturbance related to the carriage road network. Some sections of the carriage road network were abandoned in the late 19th century or in the 20th century and are now faint tracks in the woods. One such abandoned route, previously designated AS-1 and known as the "Woodshed Access Road Trace," was built in 1876 and "ran under a bridge between the second floor of the Woodshed and the mountain road" (Auwaerter 2002:4C.32). This 121.9 m (400 ft) section of road was no longer maintained by the late 1880s and was no longer used as a traveled way by about 1945 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.32).

Boathouse

This potential archaeological site consists of a small boathouse built in 1894 (Forest CLR Vol. 2 2004:11).

Historic Background

Little record of this structure has yet been found. It was a small shed-like structure located on the south shore of the Pogue, near the dam, built a few years after the construction of the dam and the expansion of the Pogue to its present size. It is believed that this structure was removed in the 1930s or 1940s (Forest CLR Vol. 2. 2004:12).

Evaluation

The general location of this site is known. It is expected this structure had a minimal, possibly even post in ground, foundation. It is also expected that the artifact assemblage associated with this site would be limited to mostly construction/destruction debris or incidental dropped items. There are no immediate management concerns or threats related to this site.

**North Ridge Artifact Scatter
(MABI00020.000)**

This known archaeological site, previously known as AS-5, is a small surface scatter of late 19th early 20th century artifacts.

Historic Background

Presently, the historic association of this dump is not known. Land record research may be able to determine if this assemblage is related to the Billings Estate or the McKenzie farm.

Archaeological Remains

There is a group of miscellaneous artifacts located at the southern tip of the North

Ridge Lower Loop trail. This small trash dump contains a variety of late 19th to early 20th century artifacts including glass jars, metal vessels (including a tank), and sections of pipe (Figure 23) (Forest CLR Vol. 2. 2004:126).

Evaluation

Management of this archaeological site should focus on preventing the unauthorized removal of artifacts. This would probably be best accomplished by not drawing attention to this site, by not clearing fallen leaves from the site and by generally informing visitors of the prohibition against taking artifacts from the Park.



Figure 23. View of the North Ridge artifact scatter, looking north.

Additional Disturbances and Deposits of Archaeological Interest

There are several other minor localized disturbances that probably had limited adverse affects outside the immediate bounds of the disturbance. These disturbances include several light structures and gardens. Frederick Billings had two 3 m (10 ft) square rustic style Summerhouses (gazebos) and associated stone walls built on

the steep slope south of Mansion ca. 1874-1875 (Auwaerter 2002:4A.28-29). The Lilly Pond on the east slope of the hill behind the Mansion was built when water lines were laid between the Reservoir and the Carriage Barn ca. 1885 to which the artificially fed waterfall was added in 1901 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.3, 18-19, 24, 27). South of the Lilly Pond was a small concrete swimming pool previously designated AS-1. This feature built in 1913 was reportedly 5.5 by 10.7 m (18 by 35 ft) and 1.5 m (5 ft) deep. It was capped by cement in 1931

(Auwaerter 2002:4C.33). The Waterfall Garden began with the creation of a fernery ca. 1894, later enhanced by four artificially fed pools ca. 1897, and remodeled between 1966 and 1969 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.4, 28). There is a concrete reservoir, which was built ca. 1907 to collect water from a spring, located in the Upper Meadow (Auwaerter 2002:4C.22). The spring was first tapped for use ca. 1870-1874 during the Billings' era with an 11 m (36 ft) square structure no longer existing (Auwaerter 2002:4C.22). The water collected was used by the house and lawn hydrants until 1992 (Auwaerter 2002:4C.22). Similarly, other wells and/or improved springs are within the study area.

Finally, there are a few pet burials located on the property. The Rockefellers buried a few dogs between 1954 and ca. 1995 on the path leading up hillside from the Mansion (Auwaerter 2002:4C.31). The location of any similar burials from the Marsh or Billings Era are unknown at this time.

INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN THE MARSH-BILLINGS- ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK PROTECTION ZONE

In addition to the known and potential archaeological sites within the Historic Zone, there are a number of potential archaeological sites located in the Park's Protection Zone, also known as the Billings Farm (see Figure 22). These sites were not field inspected nor evaluated as part of this study but were identified by archival research. They are included in this report to aid planning and to guide future research.

“Native American Village”

According to Henry Dana, a 19th century town historian, the area along the Ottawaquechee River “a short distance below Mr. Billings’ present farm-house [ca. 1886]” was “occupied some time in the history of this valley as an Indian camping ground” (Dana 1889:14). The precise location of this site is not known. However, nearly all of the Protection Zone is considered sensitive for precontact Native American material and occupations from several different time periods may be present. The position of the Protection Zone on a broad area on the floor of the generally v-shaped Ottawaquechee River Valley near the confluence of two significant tributaries, Barnard and Kedron Brooks, would have been ideal for precontact settlements such as the one alluded to by Dana. Despite numerous historic disturbances including intensive agricultural use, the construction of the Billings’ Barn Complex and the leveling of land (i.e. removal of slight knolls) to create the fairground (i.e. racetrack and buildings), this area is still one of the most archaeologically sensitive areas associated with the Park. If present, precontact sites within the Protection Zone have the potential to be significant and eligible for listing on the National Register.

Pent Road

Also according to Dana, there is the possibility of several early historic period residential sites within the Protection Zone of the Park. Some of them may have been aligned with an early road that cut across the meadows of the Protection Zone leading from the north part of Woodstock Village to John Strong’s mill, built ca. 1779, which was located north of the present day intersection of Elm Street and River Road (Dana 1889:80). Like many of the earliest town roads, this road may have followed an even earlier trail or path.

“At the annual March Meeting in 1781, it was voted that there be a pent road from John Hoisington’s to John Strong’s mill. This road, as laid out, entered the meadow at the cross-roads by the old Denison Place, passed under the knoll (that once was) along the meadow and down the sag just south of an elm tree still standing (1868), then, bordering on the present race-course [1886] for a short distance, crossed the meadow a little east of the central part to the brink of the second terrace. The gap where the traveler passed down to the river may still be seen at a point a little northeast of the Brick Church [on Pleasant Street]. The ford was directly behind Henry C. Johnson’s house, and the road passed up the high bank of the river on the south side, and reached the top at a point in the rear of the meeting-house shed. Here it struck the main town road, near John Hoisington’s log house” (Dana 1889:191-192).

This trail/road was probably used from at least 1779 to about 1797, when Charles Marsh (senior) created Elm Street. Plowing and other agricultural activities as well as the building of the fairgrounds have probably obscured much of the early roadbed. However, the original road survey

should be able to identify the general path of this road through the Protection Zone. Physical features mentioned in association with the road, such as the ford or the cut in the brink of the meadow, may still be identifiable in the field. Early road construction and its affect on settlement patterns may be among the research questions this resource could address.

Smith Cabin

According to Henry Dana, the first part of the Billings estate to be settled was the lower meadow bordering on the river (Dana 1889:191). Dana noted “the land itself was owned at an early date . . . by Ebenezer Call, who may have occupied it awhile, but this is uncertain” (Dana 1889:191). Dana also wrote “on the brink of the upper terrace of the high meadow, directly in front of Mr. Billings’ mansion on the hill, once stood a house esteemed among the first erected in this neighborhood. The cellar and other relics of this house were to be traced till within a few years” (Dana 1889:191). “The people who occupied this house built in the first place on the lower meadow, but being driven out from there by the floods in the river, moved, for greater security, to this upper terrace. Their names are not known, neither is it known whether they were squatters or owners of the land” (Dana 1889:191). However, one rumor held that a family by the name of Smith once lived on Charles Marsh’s meadow (Dana 1889:191). Henry Dana speculated there may have been a connection with John Smith Hoisington “who once owned a portion of the meadow” (Dana 1889:191). However, Dana related, “It is also handed down by tradition that the first burial in the town was made on this same lower meadow, near the river bank. There was a family of Dikes living near by, but perhaps not on the meadow. An old gentleman, member of the family, died in the summer season, and they buried him here, as yet there being no burial ground set out anywhere in the town. . . . But when the next spring came, a flood in the river came

with it, and the ice tore away this grave so that not a trace of it could be seen” (Dana 1889:191).

Ebenezer Call was one of the first ten settlers of Woodstock and was counted as a resident in the census of 1771 (Dana 1889:13). He lived in Hartland and Barnard before settling in Woodstock (Fisher and Fisher 1992:93). During the Revolutionary War, he served with the Green Mountain Boys in 1777 (Fisher and Fisher 1992:93). He was married to Elizabeth Sanderson, a sister of John Sanderson, another of the first settlers of Woodstock (Dana 1889:13). Initially, Ebenezer Call settled on a farm that “bordered on Quechee River north of a ‘larg [sic] Brook Commonly Called and known by the name of Pomfret Brook’[now Barnard Brook] (Dana 1889:13). Ebenezer Call later moved to the southeast part of Woodstock (possibly around 1785) and he eventually died at Geneva, New York, in 1834 (Dana 1889:13; Fisher and Fisher 1992:93; WLR 2:195). While it does not appear that Call lived within the study area, he did own at least 75 acres on the northern part of the Meadow, which he bought from Oliver Willard, the original grantee, on June 23, 1773 (WLR 1:11). This parcel followed the course of Pomfret Brook (Barnard Brook) to the Ottauquechee River, then up the river to the south line of Lot #173 then west to the lot’s corner lot then northward in a prescribed line to the beginning. It is interesting to note that Ebenezer Call sold 10 acres of this land to Nathan Howland on September 13, 1776 (WLR 2:311). This small parcel, which was later sold to Charles Marsh (senior) on September 13, 1793, was directly east of the Marsh Mansion (WLR 2:312).

It is also interesting to note that genealogical records show a strong connection between the families of Call, Dike, Smith, and Hoisington in Woodstock. At an early date, Ebenezer Dike (junior) represented the Dike family in Woodstock. He was born ca. 1753 the son of Ebenezer Dike (senior) and

Abigail Call of Union, Tolland County, Connecticut (IGI:2005). The History of Woodstock noted that Ebenezer Dike (junior) was “rather advanced in point of education over his neighbors, and enjoyed the distinction of having been called upon under the New York government to take the first census of Woodstock, in 1771” (Dana 1889:13). The published town history also indicated that Ebenezer Dike did not settle in the project area but rather in the southeast part of town and somewhat removed from the other early settlers (Dana 1889:13; e.g. WLR 1:34 (1774)]. How long Ebenezer Dike stayed in Woodstock is not clear but there is a record of the birth of an Ebenezer Dike, possibly a son, on April 23, 1780 at Woodstock and it is known that Ebenezer Dike eventually died in Morristown, Vermont, in 1813 (IGI:2005). Not only was his mother a member of the Call family, but Ebenezer Dike also had links to the Hoisington family; he had married Diana (or Deana) “Anna” Hoisington (ca. 1760?) of Wallingford, Connecticut, in Woodstock in 1775 (or 1771) (IGI:2005). “Anna” Hoisington was a daughter of John Hoisington (1713-1797) and his second wife, Mary Smith, and her brother was John Smith Hoisington (1761-1837) who owned the farm north of James Cady (Dana 1889:192).

Based on the information currently available, there are at least two related sites on the Meadow that may have been occupied in the 1770s. The first site, the one reportedly destroyed by the flood, could be just about anywhere in the lower portions of the Meadow. However, it may be on the southern half of the Protection Zone and could be close to the site of the ford. It is possible that this site has been either destroyed by subsequent floods or, on the other hand, capped by sediments. Locating this early, short term, and possibly catastrophically destroyed or at least rapidly abandoned site should be a research priority for the Protection Zone. The second site should be on the “brink of the meadow”

directly east of the Marsh Mansion. Presently, the crest of the meadow is still largely undeveloped and it may be possible to identify the location of this site with a field walkover. According to Dana, this site was still visible into the late 19th century (Dana 1889:191). A site with a short-term occupation early within the historic period could provide valuable information on Vermont’s first settlers. In particular such a site could generate data on the architecture of the earliest structures and the special organization of their homesteads as well as provide artifact assemblages that show the nature of the material goods brought with them or were available to them at an early date.

James Cady’s Cabin

Historian Henry Dana stated that on “the brow of the meadow, where stood in 1868 Mr. Marsh’s lower barn, was a log cabin partly in ruins when Mr. Marsh came to Woodstock to live. This is supposed to have been the house in which James Cady lived, of whom Mr. Marsh made his first purchase of land” (Dana 1889:192). James Cady was variously described as a yeoman and a wheelwright (Dana 1889:192; WLR 1:135). In 1781, he was engaged to “to run out town lines, lay out roads, &c.” in the neighboring town of Bridgewater (*Vermont Standard* July 18, 1889 4:3). On March 20, 1783, he bought 50 acres of land, within the current study area, from Charles Killam Jr. (Dana 1889:192, 193; WLR 1:135). Killam was “a keen, sharp eyed businessman; a real speculator,” a native of Connecticut who settled in Woodstock ca. 1778 and lived north of the Park at a place called “Sunnyside” (Dana 1889:82; *Vermont Standard* June 23, 1870 3:3-4). Unfortunately, little else is known of Cady, except that he served as Woodstock’s Highway Surveyor in 1783 (Fisher and Fisher 1992:91). On January 5, 1790, he sold his land “on which I now live” in Woodstock to Charles Marsh and reportedly “moved to Royalton and died there” (Dana

1889:192; WLR 2:51). James Cady's cabin site was probably located on the east side of Elm Street and was occupied from ca. 1783-1790. It may have been damaged or even destroyed by the construction of the present Billings Barn Complex. If it survived, this site may provide information on the material culture of the earliest European settlers in this region.

Perkins Cabin

According to local historian, Henry Dana, "one early occupant of the hillside overlooking the meadow where the elm-trees now cast their shadow, was a Mr. Perkins, who occupied a log hut a few rods east of the spot where stood the first house built by Mr. Marsh. This must have been all of twenty years before that house was built. Mr. Perkins was a squatter . . . and very likely a shoemaker besides. When Mr. Marsh, however, came to own the farm and lands about, this log hut had disappeared and the cellar was completely overgrown with bushes" (Dana 1889:192). As of this writing, no land records concerning this property or structure have been found. Also, no personal information attributable to this "Mr. Perkins" has yet been located. The site of this early residential structure may be located in the orchard/grove presently on the east side of Elm Street between the 1890 Farmhouse and the place opposite the Main Entrance Drive to the Mansion. This site may have been occupied briefly anytime between ca. 1768 and the early 1780s. It is possible that this site may be substantially intact. It appears that there has been little disturbance in the area in the 19th or 20th century.

Taylor-Washburn House

Early in the history of Woodstock, Robert Dennison Taylor, a blacksmith, owned ten acres of land southeast of the Marsh-Billings Mansion (Dana 1889:192; WLR 2:74). On this land was a house, which "stood just above the Elm Street Bridge, on the right

hand, and a few rods up the hill" (Dana 1889:192). Unfortunately, Taylor's original deed for the land was not recorded and it not clear how far back the occupation of this site extends. However, it is known that Robert Taylor was in the area at an early date as he was a member of the Windsor County Dragoons in 1783 (Dana 1889:287-288). On January 5, 1787, Taylor sold his ten acres to James Washburn (WLR 2:74). James Washburn sold the 10 acres (described as the "land on which I now live") to Charles Marsh on February 15, 1794 (Dana 1889:192; WLR 11:179). This site appears to have been occupied from at least the 1780s to 1794. The exact location of this structure is not known. It is possible, however, that it was located near the site of the existing Octagon Cottage and outside of the current limits of the Protection Zone. Or it may be just north of that property on land within the Protection Zone. Identifying the location of this site may eliminate it from this study. However, if it remains within the study area, it is another potentially valuable early historic period site.

School #3

About 1815, Charles Marsh (junior) gave the 3rd School District some land on the Fair Ground for school purposes (Dana 1889:82). This lot was located a short distance east of the intersection of Elm Street and River Road and on the south side of River Road. The frame of a previously started building was brought to this site from another location and "finished off" as a schoolhouse (Dana 1889:82). According to Dana, "this schoolhouse was built after the fashion of the times, desks arranged on opposite sides, and an alley in the middle" (Dana 1889:82). The building was "thoroughly made over and modernized" in 1849 (Dana 1889:82). On September 1, 1849, Charles Marsh deeded a small parcel of land (21.3 by 40.2 m [70 ft by 132 ft]) on which the school stood to the district for \$22.50 but stipulated that the deed was only in force as long as a school was operated on the site (WLR

15:552). In 1883, the schoolhouse “was again repaired, and this time completely remodeled, mainly at the expense of Mr. Billings” (Dana 1889:82).

Royce and Richmond Brickyard

A lot consisting of just over five acres and located south of Barnard Brook and east of River Road was once briefly known as the “Royce and Richmond Brick-yard” (see Figure 11) (Beers 1869a). In 1857, the Woodstock Agricultural Society sold the lot to Robert French for \$358.72 (WLR 18:494). This lot was later sold to Harvey F. Royce on May 24, 1867 for \$800 (WLR 22:555). Royce and his business partner, J.S. Richardson, operated a short-lived (ca. 1867-1870) brickyard at the site until Royce sold the land to Frederick Billings on August 13, 1870 (WLR 24:173). The brickyard was active as evidenced by its presence on the 1869 Beers map of Woodstock and the record of a lien for \$46 filed against Henry G. White (Lyndon Street) of Woodstock over failure to pay for 4000 brick on January 23, 1869 (WLR 23:325). Although part of the brickyard property along River Road is not within the current study area, some evidence of the property’s former industrial history (i.e. drying yards, sheds and weathering pits as well as and plug mills or clamp sites) may still be found on the eastern section of the lot.

Marsh Farmhouse

“The farm-house that once stood on the elevation near the Fair Ground was built at an early day by Mr. Marsh, who selected this site because it gave a commanding view of all the meadow round about, and in general of the whole farm. It was built for and always occupied by tenants and was removed in recent times [ca. 1886] by Mr. Murdock”(Dana 1889:194). The Marsh farmhouse was depicted on the 1853 and 1869 historical maps (Beers 1869b; Presdee and Edwards 1853). This farmhouse had a

kitchen garden to the west of the structure, near Elm Street (WLR 17:214). It is believed, based on historic maps, that the site of this early farmstead may have been adversely impacted when the 1890 Farmhouse or certain sections of the Barn Complex were built. Archaeological testing could resolve this issue.

The Fairgrounds

Throughout much of the 19th and into the 20th century, not only did the annual agricultural fair provide an outlet for amusement, entertainment, and competition, it was also an important social and economic institution. Fairs around Vermont provided farm families with an opportunity to display homemade goods, produce, and livestock, not only in hopes of prizes and bragging rights but also to broker sales or breeding contracts for livestock. The fair also provided salesmen the chance to demonstrate new agricultural implements and machines such as cultivators and evaporators to large audiences.

The Windsor County Agricultural Association (which had charge of the event but not the property) held their first fair at Woodstock in 1846 and with the exception of 1848, 1849, 1851, and 1854, the County Fair was held in Woodstock. Before the fairgrounds on the Meadow were bought in 1855 from Charles Marsh (junior), the fair was held on Woodstock’s Village Green (*Vermont Standard* October 2, 1875 2:3). The property (excepting the school lot) bought from Marsh was bounded west on Elm Street, east by the Ottauguechee River, north by Barnard Brook, and south on a line that ran east-west beginning on Elm Street at a point about 6.4 m (21 ft) north of Marsh’s farm house’s garden and passing north of Marsh’s Farmhouse and barns (WLR 17:214).

Over the years, the Windsor Agricultural Society (which had control of the property but not the fair) made many improvements

to and built several structures on the fairgrounds. Reportedly, slight knolls were leveled to create a racetrack, which measured 2597 ft 4 in long was 42 ft 8 in short of a half mile (*Vermont Standard* May 8, 1873 3:1). Some of the earliest fairground structures are shown on Beers' detailed map of the Village of Woodstock (1869b). Many of these early structures were probably replaced or removed over time. In August 1885, the local paper reported that the Agricultural Society was improving the fair grounds with a 29.3 m (96 ft) long and 7.3 m (24 ft) wide building, "handsome in appearance and of thorough construction" for the fruit, vegetable and poultry exhibits" (*Vermont Standard* August 20, 1885 3:3). This structure stood at "a right angle to the floral hall" and made "it possible to dispense with the old vegetable shed, which so blocked the grounds" (*Vermont Standard* August 20, 1885 3:3). The local newspaper commented that the "next thing in order will be the rebuilding of the floral hall, which isn't a third large enough and is an unsightly and inconvenient structure" (*Vermont Standard* August 20, 1885 3:3). In 1887, "the work of grading the Fair Ground near the gates and making a separate entrance for carriages" was done (*Vermont Standard* September 1, 1887 3:3). Just two years later, in May 1889, the Agricultural Society again resolved to improve the fairgrounds with some new buildings and much needed repairs for which they proposed to raise money by mortgage (*Vermont Standard* May 2, 1889 4:2). By September, new buildings for "the accommodation of stock, a new ticket office" were built and "the track placed in first rate order" (*Vermont Standard* September 19, 1889 4:1).

The fairgrounds saw continued use until ca. 1932 when the Billings Estate repurchased them (Auwaerter 2002:1.6). Use of the fairgrounds was not limited to the fair. Other commercial uses included horse races, circuses, and animal menageries. When the town banned baseball on the streets and

Green of the village, the fairgrounds were rented by the village trustees and opened up to the children (*Vermont Standard* July 23, 1885 3:2).

"Two Dwelling Houses"

When Charles Marsh (junior) sold the fairgrounds to the Agricultural Society's trustees for \$3000 in 1855, the property included two "dwelling houses" (WLR 17:214). According to the deed, these structures were located on the west end of the property within 70.4 m (231 ft) of Elm Street in the area currently lying between the parking lot belonging to the Billings Farm and Elm Street (WLR 17:214). The "two dwelling houses" were probably built in the early 19th century and were removed or destroyed before ca. 1869 (Beers 1869b).

The 1832 map of Woodstock indicates that there were three separate structures on the east side of Elm Street between the Ottauquechee River and River Road (Woodstock Institute 1832). Although the cartography of this map is somewhat imprecise, these structures may include the Marsh Farmhouse, at least one of the "two dwelling houses" and either the Taylor-Washburn House (provided it had not been razed or moved by this time) or the other one of the "two dwelling houses." Other circumstantial evidence suggests that at least one of the dwelling houses on the fairground property was in existence by the 1830s. When Hugh Howe, later owner of the Hilltop Farm, first moved to Woodstock in the 1830s he lived "on the 'race ground'" (*Vermont Standard* May 22, 1884 2:2). He may have rented a farm from Charles Marsh (senior) and/or Charles Marsh (junior) possibly into the early 1850s (*Vermont Standard* May 22, 1884 2:2). Presdee and Edwards' *Map of Woodstock* (1853) shows the footprint of three adjacent structures that once stretched north-south along the east side of Elm Street in the vicinity specified in the fairground deed.

Significant archaeological evidence of two early to mid-19th century residential sites (possibly consisting of three structures) may still remain in the fenced in grassy area between Elm Street and the Billings Farm parking lot, north of the 1890 Farmhouse.

The Herdsman House

The Herdsman's House was reportedly built after 1869 and was previously referred to as the "old Farm House" (GMP 1999).

Barn Complex

This extensive group of barns probably evolved from Charles Marsh (senior)'s early "lower barn" into to the post-WWII dairy barn complex seen today.

Elm Street and Elm Street Bridge

Charles Marsh (senior) commissioned the construction of Elm Street (Vermont Route 12) as a private road (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4; and April 28, 1870 2:5-6). Oliver Williams built it along with the first bridge at the foot of the street in 1797 (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4; and April 28, 1870 2:5-6). While the first Elm Street Bridge was being built, a local teacher named Joseph Pease Palmer (1750-1797), "either by accident or design fell off the side and was killed" (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4; *Vermont Standard* April 28, 1870 2:5-6). Palmer had been a guest of Charles Marsh (senior) for about a year at the time of his death (*Vermont Standard* April 28, 1870 2:5-6). Joseph Palmer was born in Boston in 1750, graduated Harvard in 1771, and was reportedly among the 50 men involved in the Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773. After the war, however, he was a failed merchant and then a failed farmer. On the suggestion of his son-in-law, Royal Tyler, he left his family in Framingham, Massachusetts, and moved to the Marsh House in 1796 to become a tutor. On Thursday June 21, 1797, Mr. Palmer

dismissed his school at 4 o'clock and with a student went to see the new bridge. There "he stepped out on a sliding plank that reached over the north abutment, and the plank yielding under his weight let him down on the rock twenty-one feet below. The fall so fractured his forehead besides dislocating his knees that all measures taken for his relief proved abortive. The most able surgeons in this part of the country were sent for, the operation of trepanning was performed by Dr. Gates of Hanover, but to no purpose." Palmer died at the Marsh house on Monday the 25th (*Vermont Standard* April 28, 1870 2:5-6).

In 1801 the Royalton and Woodstock Turnpike Company took possession of Elm Street and the bridge. They hired Jacob Wilder, Frank Brewer and Luther Harris to remove the bridge's original log abutments and replaced them with stone, drawn from Marsh's near by pasture (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). The roads broken for this purpose along the hillside could still be seen in the 1860s (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). Reportedly "the new abutments cost the company a thousand dollars even in those days of cheap labor and abundant supply of material" (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). This bridge stood "a few years and then was carried away by a spring freshet, perhaps in April 1807 when the ice rose so high and the bridge at Taft's Mills was carried off. After this Seth Hodges put up a new one propping it up by a trestle and braces, four braces on each side; two resting in the trestle and two in the abutments and meeting above in the sleeper" (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). This bridge was lost in the flood of 1811, but was quickly replaced, as it had become a major transportation route for goods and mail (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4).

"But bridges at the foot of Elm street have been proverbial from the first for rapid decay, therefore in eight or nine years

William and Barney Raymond were called on to remove the rotten sills and bracesbut this structure was more short lived than its predecessor, and an inward wasting soon penetrated every joint. Jabez Bennett put a trestle under it, but this did not stop the decay. In the last stages it became a general nuisance from the terror that everyone felt lest the next time some poor traveler passed over it the bridge should fall with him on it. Finally two young men of the Village went out one night with minds wrought up to make an end of the matter. They calculated by means of levers to pry off some of the stones on the south abutment and make them fall on the foot of the braces so as to break those away. Having accomplished this they reckoned the rickety frame work would not be long in following. They applied the levers and tugged to dislodge the stones, but as neither of the young men happened to be Samson or a Hercules either, their efforts in this direction advanced no further” (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). “This bridge had one peculiar feature in its construction. Along the two stringer posts were set opposite each other, and these posts were fastened together in pairs by beams passes across overhead. What was the object of this cross-fastening is not known unless it was to furnish a roosting place for travel worn turkeys while on their way to market for this is the only use they were ever put to” (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4).

“About 1827 a new bridge was put up by a Mr. Woodbury” it was described as “snugly built, clapboarded and painted red on the outside and on the inside painted yellow. It

had four braces under each end,” but “it lasted not more than seven or eight years” and was replaced by a kingpost bridge built by Mr. Gay of Royalton” (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). Several years later, about 1841, a new bridge framed by Solomon Emmons under the direction of David Bosworth was built by the company (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). In 1842, the turnpike was given over to town, which soon hired Barney Thompson to cover the bridge (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). This bridge had its north abutment fixed in 1849 (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). When the south abutment was rebuilt in 1857 by Mr. Foster a whole new covered bridge built on the site by Amos White(*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). White’s bridge was destroyed in the flood of 1869 (*Vermont Standard* November 25, 1869 2:3-4). The present iron bridge was built thereafter ca. 1869-1870 (Auwaerter 2002:1.4). The bridge and road became part of the state highway system in the 1930s (Auwaerter 2002:1.2).

Elm Street Bridge Trash Dump

Only one passing reference to this potential archaeological site has been found. “The river bank adjoining the Elm Street Bridge, which has always been a rubbish deposit, has been purchased by Mr. Billings and is being beautified with a wall, terraces and a good sidewalk. Every person who looks upon this great improvement will appreciate the change and join in a vote of thanks” (*Vermont Standard* August 25, 1870 3:1).

RESEARCH AND INTERPRETIVE VALUE OF KNOWN AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND TOPICS FOR FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Interpretive Value of Resources

Documentary research and field inspections undertaken for the present and previous reports have identified a wide range of known and potential archaeological resources within the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. Most of the sites discussed in this report are historic period sites, several of which date to the earliest settlement of Woodstock. However, there is also a strong potential for precontact Native American sites, which could take the story of the Park back thousands of years into the ancient past. While the preservation of archaeological sites within the NPS system is paramount, DO #28A (2004) recognizes that “the value of these resources is enhanced when information from their study is used as a source for accurate and accessible public interpretation.”

While the interpretive focus of the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is justifiably the lives, philosophical ideas, and work of George Perkins Marsh and Frederick Billings, there is room for expanded interpretive mission into a broader time range and into the lives of lesser-known individuals. In fact, the Park’s General Management Plan (1999) states “because the buildings and cultural features of the Marsh-Billings National Historic Park reflect nearly two centuries of historically significant occupancy, no single period of history will be favored over another. Rather, the property will be managed to convey a sense of the site’s evolution.”

If research or compliance archaeology is conducted within the Park, then some consideration should be given to

presenting the archaeological process to the public along with the results of any excavations. If this is desired, then extra care should be taken during the excavations to record the activities of the archaeologists along with the sites themselves. Displays illustrating how archaeology is done can be dynamic and interactive.

Topics for Future Archaeological Research

Research orientated archaeology within the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park should initially focus on the identification, location, documentation, and/or evaluation of known and potential sites. These sites should be investigated as resources become available. Sites may be initially identified and/or evaluated by an appropriate methodology such as a pedestrian survey (field walkover) in previously plowed fields, non-invasive geophysical survey, and/or a limited hand excavation within a subsurface survey. This work should provide a solid understanding of the research potential of the sites. Additional archaeology can then be tailored to specific research questions perused to expand and improve the interpretation of the Park.

The McKenzie Farmstead

The McKenzie farmstead on Prosper Road is the most visible and accessible historic period archaeological site in the Park. The archaeological resources at this site may address several topics concerning farm life in Vermont from the late 1700s to 1932. Development of an interpretive program at this site should include a limited archaeological survey aimed at identifying early deposits or features and at determining the construction sequence of the site. In the process, information pertaining directly to the site’s inhabitants and how they interacted with regional trends or patterns (i.e. consumer choice, trade networks,

availability of produce and products, foodways, & etc) would be collected.

Even without an archaeological survey this site offers many features that can be interpreted for the public. For example, the distinct cellar hole at this site lends itself to exploring the hidden history of 19th century cellars; their construction (i.e. dry laid for flexibility), use (i.e. food storage), and “dangers” (i.e. damp dirty cellars were commonly blamed for outbreaks of fatal diseases which, in part, led to the concept of “spring cleaning”). As discussed earlier in this report, this farmstead appears to be an example of a New England Connected Farmstead, an important part of regional architecture. Furthermore, the recently released apple orchard just south of the McKenzie farmstead site may be used to open a discussion on the history of apple and/or fruit culture in Vermont (see McKenzie Orchard (Stand # 12)) section of this report). Finally, the sugarhouse could be used to explore the evolution of the maple industry in Vermont (see Sugarhouses Section of this report).

Although the site of George Thomas’ log cabin, built ca. 1778, is not within Park boundaries, archaeology at this site, if an agreement could be reached with the present landowner, could provide information on a rarely explored site type.

Precontact Native American Occupation

If present within the Park, precontact Native American sites could prove to be extremely valuable for both research and interpretive purposes in the context of the park and a broader regional context. This report identifies ten areas that may contain precontact Native American sites. To evaluate the presence and/or absence of such sites a combination of survey methods could be employed. For example pedestrian survey could be conducted near the Pogue in formerly cultivated field areas while sensitive areas in the forest would require

subsurface testing. Types of sites that could be identified include quarries, seasonal camps or hunting sites, and sites of religious significance. Depending on material recovered, the identity of cultural groups, time periods, seasonal cycles, settlement size, and specific activities are among the many research topics that could be addressed by archaeology and incorporated into various Park programs, especially displays and literature.

The Marsh House

Another research priority should be locating and evaluating the integrity of the early Marsh House (ca. 1789-1869) and its associated features. Although the general location of this potential archaeological site is known, the exact location is not and it is not known how much the site has survived and what resources it contains. Archaeological investigations conducted to answer these questions will also provide information that will lead to a better management plan for the site and probably yield artifacts, photographic images, maps, and/or illustrations suitable for public display and interpretation. An archaeological survey here should include geophysical survey (e.g. ground penetrating radar, soil resistivity or other methods appropriate for the soil matrix in this area) to identify potential cultural soil anomalies that may represent the location of structural elements of the house, outbuildings, privies, trash pits, wells, cisterns & etc. Even disturbances related to the removal of additions, the razing of the site, and the subsequent landscaping is important to record and understand (i.e. how and when each activity was accomplished).

Once this initial assessment is completed, further research project may be appropriate. The fact that so few of Vermont’s earliest structures remain visible on the landscape underscores the importance of this archaeological resource. If the site has suitable integrity and potential additional

studies concerning changing patterns in water supply, trash disposal, waste management (health and hygiene), construction methods, structural layout (architecture), spatial organization of the farmstead, garden and faunal analysis (foodways), consumer choice, etc. may be appropriate. Furthermore, this site may have a different artifact assemblage than contemporary studied sites that have been studied because of its location close to a population/trade center. It may also have discrete deposits attributable to different periods of occupation and economic status of its occupants at different times. Furthermore, its association with the Marsh family make it potentially significant under other criteria as well.

“Marsh Tenant House”

The potential archaeological site known as the Marsh Tenant House (ca. 1834-1869), like the Marsh House, should be a research priority for the Park for much the same reasons.

Mansion Grounds

The open areas stretching between the standing structures in the Mansion area are the Mansion Grounds. While the Grounds have already been identified as archaeologically sensitive, there is a need to identify and evaluate what archaeological resources are located there. Earlier reviews by the Vermont State Archaeologist suggest the grounds are sensitive for precontact Native American resources. Documentary research indicates the possibility that historic period resources may be found in the Grounds area associated with the standing structures. Types of features/deposits potentially present include wells/springs, an aqueduct system, trash deposits and privies. In addition, the evolution of the Grounds themselves may be a viable topic for archaeological study. Specifically their transformation from agricultural space to formal lawn and

gardens present a compelling theme for archaeological research. The great advances in ‘garden archaeology’ in recent years can be applied to the reconstruction of past landscapes including location of paths, planting beds, and plant species. Even deposits related solely to landscape alteration (i.e. cut and fills) are potentially significant. Related artifacts may indicate time of disturbance, sequence of changes, and possibly the source of fills. Such study may be especially informative in this situation for which there are detailed records to compare to the archaeological data.

Sugarhouses

There are the ruins of at least two sugarhouses on the Park property. While only a limited artifact assemblage is expected in the vicinity of these sites, deposits may include items related to the construction/maintenance of the building (i.e. brick, stone, glass, and nails) and the production of maple sugar and syrup (i.e. spouts, taps, parts of tubs, pails, cauldrons, evaporator or pan parts, skimmers or strainers, thermometers, and hydrometers) as well as an occasional dropped personal item (Jones 1941:13-14). However, these sites and their associated features (i.e. walls and/or arch) could provide insight on how sugarhouses were positioned on the landscape (i.e. their orientation in relation to farm residence and to the natural resources) and their structural layout (i.e. how the interiors were organized). With this information, these sites could help interpret the broader history of the maple sugar industry in Vermont. Interpretation of this topic could be enhanced by the general availability of statistical data, personal accounts, historic images, contemporary artifacts, and patent records related to this industry in Vermont.

Although the sugarhouse is an icon of the Vermont landscape today, they in fact developed relatively late in the history of the industry. Sugarhouses were introduced to

Vermont ca. 1840-1850 and were considered common on the landscape by the 1870s (Visser 1997:177). Prior to the 1830s “no sugar-house or shed of any kind was ever thought of” (Jones 1941:11). “The first boiling apparatus was a potash-kettle, hung on one end of a long pole with weights attached to the other end and the whole balanced on a post so that the kettle could be swung on or off the fire as needed. Large green logs were rolled one on each side of the kettle” (Jones 1941:11). In this system the same sap was boiled “from morning till night”

by replenishing the kettle as fast as possible, “thus wasting time and fuel and sacrificing quality” for often “cinders, smoke, and occasionally a brand of wood would fall into the boiling sap [and] discolor the product” (Jones 1941:11). “After the potash-kettle . . . came small kettles, the chaldron, holding from three to five pails, swung on a pole supported by two crotched posts. Next came the sheet-iron pans set on stone fire-places, built up in the woods with no flue or chimney” (Jones 1941:11)

Sugarhouses became important after the introduction of the arch and pan and/or the arch and evaporator ca. 1850s-1880s (Visser 1997:177). These set ups needed shelter from wind and weather, but they were more efficient and used by farmers making maple products for the market. Shallow pans set on stone and brick arches could “evaporate the sap fully twice as fast as the old kettles used to” (Jones 1941:12-13; Visser 1997:177). Evaporators were “deeply corrugated to increase the heating surface” and had dividers or chambers that “made boiling sap a continuous process” further revolutionizing the industry (Jones 1941:12-13; Visser 1997:177). In divided or chambered evaporators “the sap enters at one end and gradually flows around partitions in the pan . . . as that already in passes off in stream. Thus the liquid in the end farthest from the entering point gradually becomes thicker and is drawn off at regular intervals as syrup, while fresh sap

is continually being admitted through the automatic regulator at the opposite end” (Jones 1941:12-13).

Most sugarhouses were located some distance from the residence at the edge of a sugarbush often “nestling” against a hillside (Hubka 2004:65; Jones 1941:11). These buildings tended to be plain utilitarian structures “typically a single-story, gabled-roofed building with a large gabled-roofed vent on the roof” and a dirt floor (Visser 1997:179). At one end of the building, the “arch,” a long narrow iron or brick and mortar furnace on a stone base on which rests the evaporator pans and having either a chimney or a large steel flue pipe (Jones 1941:11-12; Visser 1997:177, 179). The trough or tub for storing fresh sap was often placed on the north side of the sugarhouse near the arch area (Jones 1941:11-12; Visser 1997:178). The tub was usually placed outside the building so it would not “be exposed to the heat of the fire, and on the shady side so they will not be warmed by the sun” (Jones 1941:11-12). There was an important reason behind this placement of the tub; “the sap must be boiled as soon after it has been gathered as possible, and meanwhile it must be kept cool else the ever present bacteria will have a chance to develop in the sweet liquid and spoil the flavor” (Jones 1941:11-12). Finally, there was usually an open woodshed or shed ell attached to the gable end closest to the arch (Jones 1941:11-12; Visser 1997:179-180).

Mansion

The imposing existing structure at the heart of the Park, known as the Mansion, may have significant archaeological resources associated with it dating from ca. 1805 to the present. It is likely that cultural deposits associated with this structure, which was for many years an urban homestead/estate, represent a unique artifact assemblage. These deposits may not reflect only on the lives of the higher status Marsh and Billings family members but also the lives of their

employees and servants, particularly given the latter were more permanent residents over large portions of the site's history. Features associated with the Mansion may also highlight changing refuse disposal patterns (on site vs. off site), the construction of privies if present (single use or regularly cleaned out vault structures), the use of yards and dooryards before the creation of the formalized lawn space, and the location and use of associated structures such as wells outbuildings, aqueduct, or drains.

Archaeological Research within the Protection Zone

The initial focus of archaeological research within the Protection Zone of the Park should also be on the location, identification, and assessment of potential historic and precontact sites. Because much of the Protection Zone is still an active farm, field walkovers (pedestrian surveys) following previously scheduled plowing and harrowing could identify sites in a non-

invasive manner. This should be considered in the future because the potential contribution that Native American material on the property could make towards understanding regional patterns (i.e. travel, trade, and subsistence) is immeasurable. The Protection Zone may also contain important historic period sites. According to archival sources there are at least four or five early cabin or house sites within this area. If located, these sites could be used to understand site selection including how factors such as slope, aspect, drainage, soil type, access to transportation routes, and local vegetation may have affected decisions; provide detailed information about the size, construction techniques, layout duration of occupation, and abandonment of sites. The potential identification of features could help interpret the spatial organization of early homesteads with reference to outbuildings, workspaces, refuse disposal, sanitation, water supply, and land use; and provide a portrait of daily domestic activities and general material culture of that period.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MARSH-BILLINGS-ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK ARCHAEOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

This section of the report contains general recommendations (subject to alterations, updates and prioritizations) for a formal Archaeological Management Plan, which should be created in conjunction with NPS archaeologists and the SHPO at a future date. Suffice to say all future archaeological surveys, investigations, and data recovery should be conducted by qualified personnel. The principal investigator responsible should be either a regional National Park Service Archaeologist or representative of a qualified consulting firm meeting the minimum professional requirements as specified in the Guidelines for Protection of Archaeological Properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as well as the Secretary of the Interior's Qualification Standards for Archaeology and NPS DO#28A (2004). Specific scopes of work and/or mitigation plans should be worked out in consultation with the SHPO and conform to SHPO Guidelines (for archaeological investigation, assessment and reporting) and conform to existing guidelines and directives including but not limited to NPS Management Policies (i.e. NPS-28 Cultural Resource Management Guideline Release No. 5; NPS Director's Order #28A (2004), the Antiquities Act of 1906, Sections 106 and 1001 of the National Historic Preservation Act (1966 as amended 1992), the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (1974), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (1979), the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (1990) and their associated regulations, standards, and guidelines. All resulting archaeological collections, including archaeological reports, graphic, written or electronic records, and published and unpublished reports about any sites as well as all the items collected during surveys or investigations should be curated in a

“suitable” institution in accordance with 36CFR Part 79 (1990).

Initial Documentation of Archaeological Sites

All archaeological sites identified within MABI, regardless of their eligibility for inclusion as part of the Park's National Register of Historic Places documentation, should be recorded at a basic level and should be included on the Park management's Base Map. This documentation may include maps, photographs, GPS coordinates, and descriptive narratives including information related to existing conditions and potential management issues. All identified sites should be entered into the NPS Archaeological Site Management Information System (ASMIS) (or most current database). Any new historic period sites should be researched through documentary sources to provide information useful in determining significance. If any site, historic or precontact, appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places, the Parks NRHP documentation should be updated to include each site as a contributing feature. A summary of the information gathered in this process should be forwarded to the SHPO office (State of Vermont Division of Historic Preservation) for inclusion on the Vermont Archaeological Inventory (VAI).

Additional Documentary Research

As this report only provides the results of initial documentary research in order to assess the archaeological significance of known and potential historical sites, it is recommended that a systematic land record search be conducted concerning Park and some adjacent properties and the information pertaining to boundaries and recorded property descriptions. The parcel boundaries should be integrated into the Park's base map. This work may help locate other potential archaeological features (such

as wells, walls, gardens, roads, sugarhouses, barns, sheds & etc.) and provide clues to historic period land use. Additionally, a survey of all late 19th and early 20th century local newspapers may uncover more articles containing references to the properties within the Park and their inhabitants.

Archaeological Stewardship

The Park should adopt policies aimed at avoiding or minimizing any threats to integrity of the cultural resources such as looting (bottle digging; robbing stone), vandalism, animal activity (i.e. beaver dams), erosion, and/or inadvertent damage by humans (i.e. motorized vehicles). To address human related threats there are two primary lines of action: monitoring and education. Regular visits to the archaeological sites by NPS personnel or its appointed representatives may deter improper activity as well as identify problems. Education of the public of the value of not taking artifacts and/or damaging sites through signs and/or brochures. The response to natural processes (such as tree growth or freeze-thaw cycles damaging stone foundations or walls, animal activity, or erosion) should conform to NPS standards and guidelines.

Generally speaking, the archaeological resources of the MABI are stable and well protected. At present, no known or potential archaeological sites require stabilization or repair. Most are hidden in the landscape and/or are in areas where Park employees live and work. Natural threats (animal or water) within the Park are limited as a result of significant gullying of streams and/or intermittent drainages following substantial rainfall/snowmelt historically. This area is generally not extremely vulnerable to forest fire (except under extreme conditions of inordinate fuel accumulation and/or drought). The McKenzie Farmstead site is the one exception, however. It is more exposed to vandalism due to its location on far side of the Park. It is readily visible and

easily accessed. Periodic monitoring of this site is recommended to help ensure its protection.

Management of Known Archaeological Sites

The presence of significant cultural resources may affect proposed development plans or other undertakings within MABI. In accordance with the Programmatic Agreement (PA) concerning archaeology in the Parks, NPS archaeologists or a qualified consultant should review any planned ground disturbance at or near any sites that are on or are potentially eligible for inclusion as part of the MABI's National Register of Historic Places documentation, even where there have been prior disturbances, in order to formulate a plan to mitigate any adverse effects. This plan may involve avoidance (usually through project redesign), archaeological monitoring, physical protection, and/or data recovery. Of these options, avoidance is preferred. If avoidance is not feasible, the Park will develop in consultation with the NPS archaeologist and/or SHPO a detailed research proposal and scope of work for site evaluation and/or data recovery before undertakings that will impact known archaeological sites. At this writing, the actual extent or boundaries and overall integrity of many the known sites are not fully understood. The determination of potential significance has been based largely on documentary evidence and visible features. Therefore, a wide area around the standing structures, ruins and/or landscape features at these sites should be considered sensitive until a systematic evaluation takes place because the sites may contain as yet unidentified associated archaeological resources (i.e. planting beds, privies, cisterns, wells, aqueducts construction/renovation/alteration evidence and/or evidence of land use (i.e. agriculture, orchard, garden, meadow, formal landscape).

Management of Potential Archaeological Sites

It is recommended that the NPS treat potentially eligible archaeological sites identified in this report or subsequent surveys as if they were eligible for inclusion on the MABI's National Register entry, until such time as they have been appropriately investigated, and a final determination of significance has been made. If at the conclusion of the preliminary study, a site is determined not to be significant under the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or that the proposed undertaking will not have an adverse affect the resource, then the proposed construction or other undertaking should proceed without further archaeological investigation. If, at the conclusion of the initial study, the site is determined be significant and that the proposed undertaking will have a substantial adverse impact on the it then the site should be avoided or the adverse affects mitigated by data recovery archaeology.

Management of Areas Not Identified as Archaeologically Sensitive

Areas not identified as archaeologically sensitive in this or subsequent surveys still have the potential to harbor significant archaeological or cultural sites. These areas should be protected from unrestricted ground disturbing activity requiring archaeological review (see Section 9.6.1 of this report). These areas may need to be subjected to additional historical research and/or preliminary survey work.

Archaeological Reviews Within the MABI/Consultation with SHPO

The 1995 Nationwide Programmatic Agreement (PA) entitled "Simultaneous Review of NPS Plans and Section 106 Compliance for Component Undertakings" made between the U.S. National Park Service and the Advisory Council on

Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers sets forth a process for consultation between the agencies. Because Section 106 requirements are already integrated into NPS policies, the PA allows for initial archaeological reviews and assessments leading to a determination of National Register eligibility within the park system to be conducted by qualified NPS staff or qualified CRM consultants without consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). However, while consultation with the SHPO is not required in the initial phase of an archaeological review, the SHPO should receive notification of all activities and copies of all final reports. Once the initial identification and evaluation process is completed, the NPS should consult with the SHPO to make a determination of effect for the undertaking.

Activities Requiring Archaeological Review

It is recommended that an archaeological review be conducted anywhere within the Park, regardless of predicted sensitivity or lack thereof and even if the area is known or believed to have been previously disturbed, prior to any ground disturbing or altering activity including but not restricted to grading, excavation, soil compaction, addition of fill, construction of new or expanded buildings or other new facilities, creating new agricultural land for crops or pasture, development of new roads, alteration or removal of stone walls, widening or re-alignment of old roads, the installation or alteration of underground services (i.e. water, sewer, communication, irrigation), tree or shrub plantings, paving (i.e. stone, asphalt, or concrete), machine assisted timber cutting, skidding, or stumping, construction of new trails, trail features (i.e. foot bridges), stabilization of a historic feature (i.e. foundation wall), installation of sidewalks, expansion of parking lots, removal of historic debris,

removal stone, blasting, sub-grade foundation repair, construction of ramps/trails or other facilities designed to comply with the American with Disabilities Act, landscape or garden restoration programs, erosion control measures (i.e. rip rap), channeling watercourses, new or significantly bigger drainage ditch, inundating, or under draining.

Activities Exempt from Archaeological Review

It is recommended that several activities, when conducted in areas not designated as archaeologically sensitive or as potentially sensitive, may be permissible without archaeological review including agriculture (i.e. plowing or harrowing) in active fields, minor disturbance of soil in existing gardens or planting beds, installation and maintenance of boundary or informational signs, animal assisted timber harvest (as presently practiced), road maintenance (i.e. spreading gravel, fill potholes, grading washboards), continued use of foot and ski trails, infrequent use of light-weight vehicles (3/4 ton pickup truck or smaller), repair and maintenance of the Pogue dam, repair of bridges, culverts, retaining walls, repair and maintenance of existing fences, clearing streams of fallen timber and debris, planting of tree seedlings, establishment of grass, nesting cover and/or wildlife food plots, or installation of artificial nesting boxes.

Inadvertent Archaeological Discoveries

Various circumstances may lead to the discovery of additional resources/material within Park boundaries by employees, contractors, or visitors such as an emergency action (disaster), plowed field, and erosion from bank, etc. If an artifact or feature is accidentally found and appears to be a spot or isolated find, the discovery should be recorded and the location added to the Park base map. An NPS archaeologist or qualified consultant should be contacted.

This individual may provide recommendations, depending on the artifact or feature, about whether it may be left *in situ* or collected. The archaeologist may also recommend further study to determine the significance of the find and if there are any associated artifact or features. Following discovery and prior to a determination of significance, the area should be treated as a potential archaeological site.

Inadvertent Archaeological Discoveries Made During an Undertaking

If any archaeological material or features are discovered during an undertaking, all ground disturbances should cease and an NPS archaeologist or qualified consultant should be contacted to conduct an archaeological review.

Inadvertent Archaeological Discoveries Made During an Emergency Action

Unexpected discoveries of archaeological deposits may be made during an emergency (i.e. flood/severe erosion, broken water, sewer, or gas line, forest fire, structural failure) that creates a threat to human safety and requires an immediate but potentially adverse action to archaeological resources. If time and the situation allows, an NPS archaeologist should be consulted. If this is not feasible, the undertaking should attempt to minimize the adverse effect. If disturbance is unavoidable, an attempt should be made to note the location, depth, and nature of the deposit (by photographs, GPS coordinates, notes, or artifacts) as possible under the circumstances. At the earliest opportunity following the emergency action an NPS archaeologist or qualified consultant should conduct an archaeological reconnaissance study to access the significance of the discovery and extent of the damage.

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 1873 March 27; 4:1 "A Plea for Fruit Trees; Location"
 1873 May 8; 3:1 "By actual measurement of our fair ground track . . ."
 1873 May 15; 2:1 "Charles Marsh".
 1873 September 25; 3:1 "Fruit"
 1873 December 18; 1:1 "A.H. Sanborn and a man with him on the Dana farm . . ."
 1875 October 2; 2:3 "The Windsor County Fair"
 1884 May 22; 2:2 "Hugh P. Howe"
 1884 October 16; 3:2 "Purchase of Dana Farm"
 1885 May 14; 3:2 "A large force . . ."
 1885 July 23; 3:2 "In compliance with the petition on citizens . . ."
 1885 August 20; 3:3 "The Agricultural Society has already begun the work of improvement"
 1885 September 3; 3:3 "Hon. Frederick Billings has begun alterations . . ."
 1885 September 10; 3:2 "At the suggestion of a friend Mr. and Mrs. Billings . . ."
 1887 September 1; 3:3 "Grading".
 1888 September 20; 2:3 "Woodstock in 1824"
 1889 May 2; 4:2 "Fair Ground Improvement".
 1889 July 4; 1:2-3 "Cloud Burst"
 1889 July 18; 4:3 "Bridgewater"
 1889 August 22; 4:2 "Building Up Waste Places"
 1889 September 19; 4:1 "Windsor County Fair"
 1889 September 26; 1:1 "Fruit"
 1889 October 17; 4:5 "Hon. and Mrs. Frederick Billings have again been sadly bereaved . . ."
 1889 December 12; 1:2 "Blasting. . ."
 1890 June 5; 1:2 "I am told the Frederick Billings . . ."
 1890 September 11; 1:2-3 "Whoever wishes to take a short and agreeable walk . . ."
 1890 October 2; 2:1 "Windsor County Fair"
 1893 November 16; 4:4 "Joseph C. MacKenzie [sic]"
 1894 May 24; 1:2 "Mrs. Marcelia L. Rice . . ."
 1918 January 10; 8:3 "It is estimated that the new building . . ."
 1918 January 10; 8:2 "The Billings Greenhouses"
 1932 May 5; 6:5 "Grass Fire Results in Destruction of House"
 1935 December 19; 10:4 "Hilltop Farm House and Shed Destroyed by Fire; \$10,000 Loss."

1938 September 29; 1:4-5 "Woodstock Hurricane Damage Less Than Other Towns in County"

1938 October 13; 1:5 "Reported Storm Damage"

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