

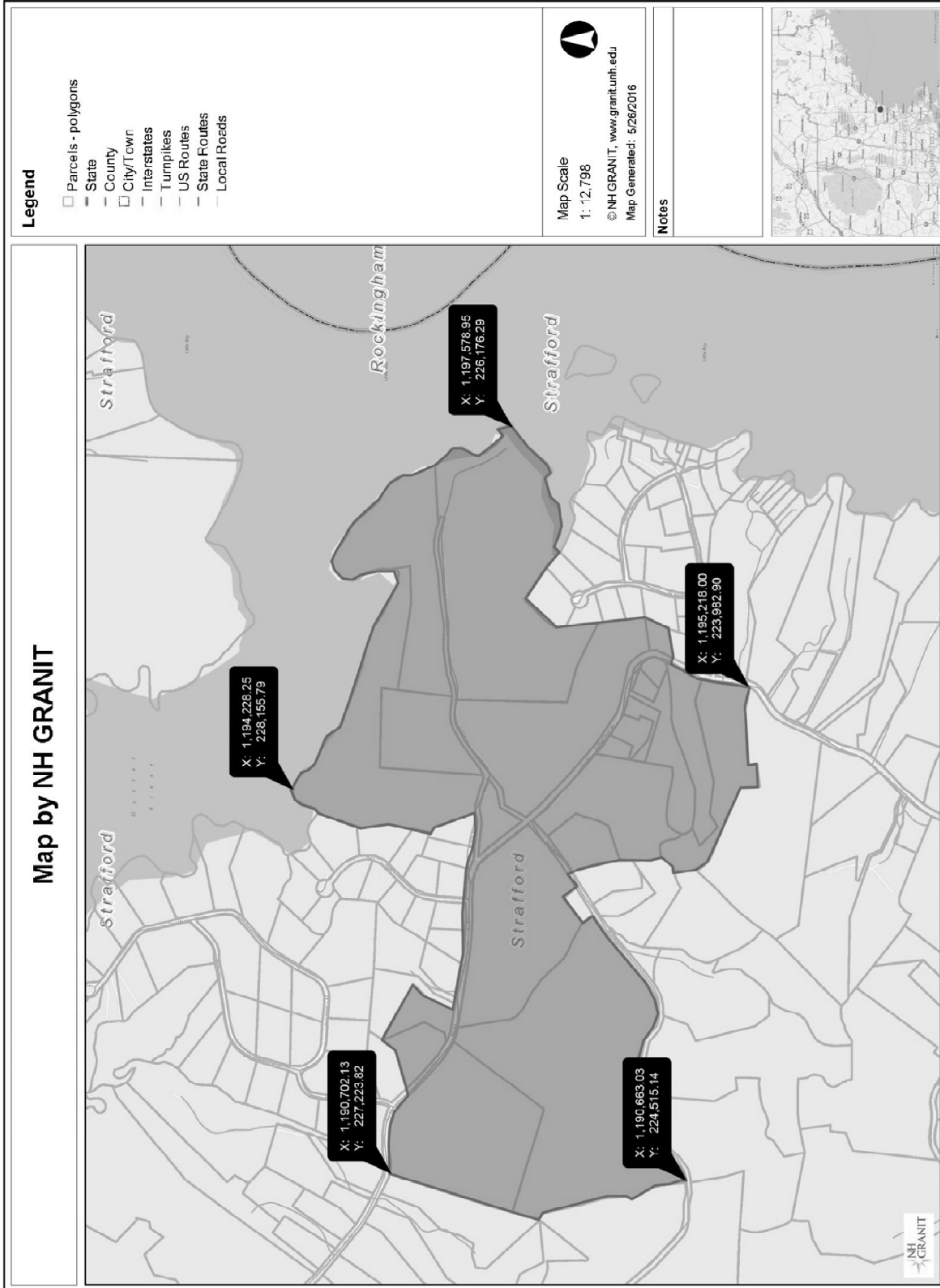
AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

1. Type of Area Form
Town-wide:
Historic District:
Project Area:
2. Name of area: Durham Point Historic District
3. Location: Durham Point Road and Langley Road
4. City or town: Durham
5. County: Strafford
6. USGS quadrangle name(s): Dover, NH
7. Dataset: SP Feet, NAD83
8. SP Feet: X: 1,190,702.13; Y: 227,223.82
X: 1,194,228.25; Y: 228,155.79
X: 1,197,578.95; Y: 226,176.29
X: 1,195,218.00; Y: 223,982.90
X: 1,190,663.03; Y: 224,515.14
9. Inventory numbers in this area:
none
10. Setting: small rural neighborhood, in developing modern residential area, fields, tidal waterfront
11. Acreage: approximately 350 acres
12. Preparer(s): Kari Laprey, Lynne Monroe
13. Organization: Preservation Company, Kensington, NH
14. Date(s) of field survey: April and May 2016

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT

15. Location Map



AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT

16. Sketch Maps

Showing area overlaid on Google Earth, street addresses, bounds of district (black line), contributing (white-shaded) and noncontributing (black-shaded) buildings



AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT

Langley Road Detail



AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT

Durham Point Road Detail



AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT****17. Methods and Purpose**

This NHDHR Historic District Area Form was prepared for the Seacoast Reliability Project. A grouping of intact historic farm properties with nineteenth century houses and barns is located on Durham Point along Durham Point Road and Langley Road and forms a rural historic district on the east side of Little Bay. In contrast, on other sections of the road, historic resources are spread out, with large areas of woodland and late twentieth century subdivisions occurring between them. Two historic farm houses are set on large parcels of open fields on either side of Langley Road, which was the historic route to the end of the point. Nearby on Durham Point Road, three late nineteenth century houses and associated barns, are located at a bend in the road adjacent to the early nineteenth century brick Durham Point Schoolhouse. All properties were owned at one time by members of several interrelated local families. Land associated with these farms extends west of Durham Point Road. The electric utility ROW established in 1902 and expanded ca. 1948 crosses the western edge of the mostly wooded land. The roadsides and property boundaries, existing and historic are marked by an extensive network of stone walls.

Fieldwork was conducted in April and May of 2016. File review at NHDHR in 2015 identified no previous historic resources survey in this area. Research materials included historic maps and aerial photos, censuses, directories and vital records from Ancestry.com and published local histories. Deed research was conducted on-line. Additional deed references are provided in the bibliography for future research.

The area covered by this form lies on Langley Road extending to the shore of Little Bay and on Durham Point Road between Mathes Cove Road and Colony Cove Road, which are 1960s residential subdivisions. The district includes a number of separate parcels under related ownership. There are essentially six historic properties, some with discontinuous parcels, and the schoolhouse. The historically associated land surrounds a number of non-contributing new houses on small lots. The ca. 1834 schoolhouse at 250 Durham Point Road (tax map-parcel 16/16-00) has new houses on either side. 260 Durham Point Road, built ca. 1860(12/19-00) has an associated hay field, partially subdivided for a new house at 270 Durham Point Road (12/19-01). 253 Durham Point Road is a ca. 1885 house (12/15-00) on a small lot, with all historically associated land subdivided and developed. 247 Durham Point Road (16/14-00) built ca. 1890 has a large tract of mostly wooded land with a field on the northern edge on Langley Road. The historic buildings are clustered only a few hundred yards apart. To the west, 177 Durham Point Road is a ca. 1840 house (12-10-04 and 12-10-05) with historically associated reforested land across the road (16/07-01 and 16/07-02)

On Langley Road, 15 Langley Road includes 12/11-01 and 12/11-02 bounded on the north by the Oyster River. Under the same ownership is 16/08-00 on the opposite side of Durham Point Road, bordering Longmarsh Road. North of Langley Road, a large parcel of field and woods (12/12-00) extends to the point in the river-bay confluence. This is the location of the Mathes Cemetery and the site of houses no longer extant, but has been associated for many years with 247 Durham Point Road. The brick house at 50 Langley Road occupies the largest parcel of open land, over fifty acres, which includes other house sites and remains in agricultural use. The same family owns the parcel in the corner of Durham Point and Longmarsh Road (16/11-0 and 16/11-01) which contributes to the district although it has a new house on it. This historic district is separated from other historic resources to the west and south on Durham Point Road by areas of late twentieth century residential subdivisions on what were once farm sites.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT****18. Geographical Context**

Durham like other area towns is defined by the Great Bay. The topography includes the tidal bay and rivers which were a major natural resource historically as a mode of transportation and food source. Ledges on Durham Point were quarried for granite in the nineteenth century and bricks were manufactured locally. The land, though rocky was good for farming. As the land was cleared stone walls were built along property lines.

The name Durham Point applies to the whole southeast part of town, southeast of the Durham town center and north of Newmarket. The actual Durham Point is the point of land at the end of Langley Road in the confluence of the Oyster River and Little Bay. Historically this was known as Bickford's Point for the early land owner.

Durham Point Road was one of the first roads in Durham (then Oyster River) and developed parallel to the Oyster River and Little Bay shorelines to connect the early farms that were spread out along the waterfront. Durham Point Road begins on Newmarket Road in the Durham Historic District at the edge of the historic town center and runs roughly northwest-southeast on the south side of the Oyster River. A sharp turn in the road aligns with the river-bay confluence. Continuing south, Durham Point Road becomes Bay Road, which connects to downtown Newmarket. Durham Point Road is sometimes called Bay Road but technically this is only the name of the southern end, below Crommett Creek.

A series of inlets and points of land named for early property owners defines the topography and provided landing places historically. Bickford Point was a ferry landing from the mid-1600s until the late 1700s. The south side of the point is defined by Willey's Creek named for the settler who lived north of it (Thompson 1892). Langley Road, now a dead end off of Durham Point Road, was the terminus of the route to the ferry. It is named for the owners of the large farm there from the late 1800s to the present. Longmarsh Road was once a through road across Durham Point and onto the ferry road. The triangular Durham Point Road, Langley and Longmarsh intersection was reconfigured in the early twentieth century. Long discontinued in the middle, Longmarsh Road winds east-west through wooded land and marshes. Inland, Durham Point is defined by large areas of wetlands and numerous small streams that drain into the tidal creeks. Plumb Swamp Brook is the southern edge of land historically associated with 260 Durham Point Road.

The first settlement along the river and bay was oriented toward the water, with buildings set up on the high points and tracts of land extending down to the shore. The houses built before Durham Point Road existed were connected to it by driveways and dead-end roads some of which remain in use and define the present road patterns. One such road passed through 253 Durham Point and connected that property with its associated waterfront landing place and cabins at "Colony Cove," until it was discontinued in the 1960s when Colony Cove Road was built. Mathes Cove Road and Deer Meadow Road are more recent roads that replaced historic drives.

The electric utility ROW established in 1902 passes diagonally southeast-northwest through now wooded land and crosses Longmarsh Road. The original line continued straight across Durham Point Road and the Oyster River. The east-west ROW from a point just south of Durham Point Road was installed ca. 1948. Within the ROW are remnants of stone walls marking the edges of the historic properties it crosses.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT****19. Historical Background**

The tip of Durham Point in the Oyster River--Little Bay Confluence was one of the first sites of settlement in the region. It was an important river landing and water crossing connecting the Oyster River Plantation with the rest of Dover. The land in this part of town has been farmed for over 350 years and remains in agricultural use as hay fields. A small rural neighborhood developed in the early 1800s near the Durham Point Schoolhouse. The existing late nineteenth century farmhouses replaced the older buildings (the dates, appearance and specific location of which are not known). Large fashionable homes and barns and surrounding tracts of land reflect the prosperity of the area farmers. Other historic properties to the north and south on Durham Point Road are gone or were replaced in the twentieth century.

Settlement and French and Indian Wars

Settlement along the tidal shores of the Oyster River began in the 1630s. The road between Durham Point and the mills at Oyster River Falls was laid out early on and a ferry operated between Durham and Fox Point in Newington. The first homes were sited near the water, connected to the main road by long driveways.

The land on the tip of Durham Point (now included in 12/12-00) was occupied and improved before 1638 by Darby Field who was licensed to keep an ordinary (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I:49). Darby Field (1610-1649) became famous in New Hampshire history for being the first European to climb Mount Washington in 1642. In 1645, he sold the Durham property to John Bickford whose family owned it for many years. Bickford established the first ferry between the point that came to bear his name and Fox Point in Newington. Langley Road and Durham Point Road were part of the main overland route from Portsmouth to points inland for about 150 years.

Several early homes were located in this prime location. Francis Mathes or Matthews occupied one of the best and attractive locations, now the site of 15 Langley Road, from ca. 1640 (Stackpole and Meserve 1913 II:263). Charles Adams settled on the south side of the road to the point, where there was a house standing until the early 1900s across the road from 15 Langley Road (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I:50). Thomas Willey lived south of 50 Langley Road near the creek that bore his name. There was also an early farm east of Durham Point Road in the vicinity of the Edgerly-Garrison Road subdivision. The Langley family settled upriver to the west on Durham Point Road in the area now the modern Deer Meadow Road subdivision.(Thompson 1892; Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I:52).

Due to threat of attack during the French and Indian Wars period, many Durham buildings were fortified in the late 1600s. There were four or five garrisons within the bounds of this historic district (see historic map). After attacks in Dover and Newington in previous decades, the Oyster River Massacre of 1694 was one of the most deadly. About a hundred people were killed or taken captive and fifteen houses and five garrisons destroyed, including the Adams and Willy garrisons. Fourteen members of the Adams family were killed (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I:50). Thomas Bickford (1660-1706) was able to send his family to his wife's relatives across the water in Newington and successfully defended his garrison (north of 50 Langley Road). The Mathes garrison also withstood the attack. The victims are said to be buried in a mass grave east of the Mathes Cemetery (12-12-00) (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I:50).

Eighteenth Century

The original grants of land were relatively small parcels, combined over time and exchanged between family members, creating a complex land ownership history and resulting in irregular parcel shapes and sizes. The Mathes family and the Bickford family accumulated much of the land in this

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

area. Francis Mathes who lived north of Langley Road also acquired the property south of the road from the Adams family in 1711 (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I:50). Land on the point (12/12-00) was owned by the Bickford family through the eighteenth century and the old garrison stood into the early 1800s.

Multiple generations of families settled in the area. Settlement patterns shifted as new homes were built on the main road and many of the original house sites abandoned. Over time, all of the seventeenth and eighteenth century houses were replaced so that the oldest extant buildings anywhere on Durham Point Road now date from the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Federal Period 1790s-1830s

After 1794, the Piscataqua Bridge rerouted traffic away from the old ferry crossing. The First New Hampshire Turnpike built in the early 1800s bypassed Durham Point and influenced the development of the present town center and Piscataqua Road on the north side of the Oyster River. Durham Point Road and Bay Road to the south in Newmarket remained an important agricultural area and residents had ties to both communities. Durham Village developed during this period and Newmarket became a textile mill town.

The brick schoolhouse at 250 Durham Point Road, which was erected ca. 1834 and was in use for a century, was at least the second Durham Point School. The location of the earlier schoolhouse has not been identified. The town was first divided into school districts in the 1760s and school was probably kept in private homes. In 1797 a committee was appointed to build schoolhouses in each district. The Point was District 5 and later No. 7 (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I:259; Sanford & Everts 1871). The location is central within the Durham Point region of town.

The several brick buildings erected here in the 1830s suggest a brickyard may have been in operation in the area, possibly where a later brickyard was located south of Langley Road on 12-13-01. Washington Mathes (1810-1884) built a brick house that stood into the early 1900s at the northwest corner of that parcel (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I:49; Stackpole and Meserve 1913 II:268). He was son of Abraham and Lovey Mathes who also lived in the area. The house was acquired by his sister Elizabeth and her husband Thomas C. Clark according to the maps (Chace 1856; Sanford and Everts 1871).

Valentine Mathes (1779-1850) and Sarah Crommett lived on his family homestead near the site of 15 Langley Road. Their sons Valentine, John, Jacob and Clark all settled in this neighborhood. John Mathes (1808-1888) built a new brick house at 50 Langley Road in the 1830s sometime after his marriage of 1832 to his neighbor Pamela Mathes, daughter of Benjamin and Comfort Mathes, who lived on the site of the Mathes Cove Road subdivision. They had six sons and a daughter and employed several farm laborers and a domestic on a large farm (Census 1860).

During this period, there were many more houses in the area than survive today, roughly 25-30 farmhouses within a mile radius of the Durham Point Schoolhouse. There were eighteenth and early nineteenth century houses near the school on Durham Point Road where the late nineteenth century dwellings are now. By the 1850s, houses stood in the vicinity of 247 Durham Point Road and 260 Durham Point Road and to the south about where the driveway to 267 Durham Point Road and more recent houses at 280 and 275 Durham Point Road are now. There was a house on the south side of Langley Road owned by T.C. Clark (Chace 1856).

Mid-1800s

Land was divided and combined over time. Most of the existing property lines were in place by this period. New houses were erected to replace earlier ones. Jacob Mathes (1815-1872) and his wife

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Mehitable erected a new house on his family homestead at 15 Langley Road ca. 1861 according to the tax card date. The historic maps and censuses suggest there were two houses on the property through the end of the nineteenth century, the existing house and one nearer the road. Jacob Mathes was a prosperous farmer, who served terms as selectman, representative and tax collector (Stackpole and Meserve 1913 II:271). The house at 177 Durham Point Road dates from ca. 1840 and was also in the Mathes family (Chace 1856, Sanford and Everts 1871). The Stevens farm to the north along the river is now a residential subdivision.

Homeowners in this area owned varying amounts of land according to the agricultural census. Some had as many as 100 acres of improved land. Current property acreage indicates that perhaps half of the land was contiguous with the historic farmhouse and buildings and the rest was in various discontinuous parcels. Most land in this area was improved as fields or pasture and the census recorded little woodland. Most farmers owned one horse, a pair of oxen, as many as five or six milk cows and several other cattle and two to three swine. Crops were corn, rye, barley, potatoes, apples and hay. At one time, Jacob Mathes (15 Langley) had a large flock of sheep (Census 1860). John Mathes (50 Langley) enlarged his land holdings and produced fifty tons of hay in a year (Census 1870). Granite quarrying was an important theme on Durham Point Road about which little has been written. In 1850, Jacob Mathes quarried from the farm in his family since 1640 and cut a stone marked Durham, N.H. 1850 to be used in building the Washington monument (Stackpole and Meserve 1913 II:271).

On the site of 260 Durham Point Road was the house of Clark Mathes (1819-1889) and his wife Susan Drew who later moved elsewhere. His brothers and father lived nearby on Langley Road. Farmer Joshua Emerson lived to the south near 275 Durham Point Road. In 1863, his daughter Sarah E. Emerson married Stephen Rand and Emily F. Emerson married Jeremiah Langley and both couples settled in this area (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I; Sanford & Everts 1871).

Deeds suggest that Jeremiah Langley (1841-1921) who built 253 Durham Point Road in the 1880s first purchased property in 1866 (Deed 239:217) and had an earlier house in the vicinity. Langley was recorded in the census as a shoemaker and the number of other area residents employed in that trade suggests an outwork system in place at that time (Census 1870; Sanford & Everts 1871). Beginning with a small farm, a cow and a pig, crops of potatoes and hay, Jeremiah Langley acquired additional land over time. He bought six acres south and east of his house from Samuel Emerson in 1871 (Deed 250:206). He owned another 68 acres between the road and bay (now subdivided) as well as several separate parcels of pasture and woodland, locations unknown. Jeremiah and Emily Langley's sons, Edward and Charles, were born in 1864 and 1868.

The 260 Durham Point Road property was acquired by Stephen and Sarah Rand in 1868. The style and form of the house suggests it was built around this time. It was the long-time home of the Rands and their three children born in the 1860s-70s (Census 1870, 1880, 1900; Hurd 1892). The buildings were located on a twenty-six acre parcel, while other parcels were discontinuous (Deed 539:258).

Area farmers prospered through the nineteenth century. John Mathes of 50 Langley Road owned 10,000 worth of property by 1870 (Census 1870). His sons established various businesses and all moved away from Durham. One of them, Valentine Mathes (born 1846) entered the river freighting business in the 1860s and went on to become a prominent business owner in Durham and then Dover where he dealt in groceries, hay, coal and grain and later lumber (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I:326).

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**1880s-1890s

Jeremiah Langley became a successful farmer, hay and lumber dealer locally and in the 1880s, he erected a new fashionable house at 253 Durham Point Road. The homestead included waterfront land where Colony Cove Road and Willey Creek Road were later developed. In 1890, Langley and his sons bought a line of barges for river freighting of coal, bricks, etc. between Durham, Dover, Newmarket and Exeter (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I: 319; Durham Historic Association 1985:161). The family also acquired the Mathes farm around the corner on the point and the brick house at 50 Langley Road became the residence of Edward Langley who married in 1894. A new house was built at 247 Durham Point Road, ca. 1890 according to the tax assessment. It became the home of Carrie A. Langley (1871-1946) who was married in 1894 to her cousin Andrew J. Langley (1869-1947), a farmer and river boatman (Census 1900). Charles S. Langley (1867- 1946) and his wife Mary E. Adams lived with his parents at 253 Durham Point Road after they married in 1892. The Langley family apparently engaged in manufacturing their own bricks (Durham Historic Association 1985:161). The 1900 census records one of the houses in this neighborhood as a boardinghouse occupied by young French-Canadian brickyard laborers. The recent plan of the property associated with 50 Langley Road (12-13-01) shows the location of a brick kiln in the southwest corner of the parcel (Plan 88-16).

Mark H. Mathes (1840-1911) acquired his father's property (15 Langley Road) (Hurd 1892). He married Emma Clark adopted daughter of Elizabeth Mathes Clark and Thomas C. Clark who lived across the road (not extant). Mark Mathes married his second wife Zella Stevens in 1878 and they had two sons Charles E.P. Mathes and Albert H. Mathes (Stackpole and Meserve 1913 II:271).

Elmer and Harry Rand farmed 260 Durham Point Road for their mother after Stephen Rand died in 1890. Other farmhouses in the surrounding area remained in place through this period (Hurd 1892).

1900s-1930s

When the first electrical transmission line was built through the region in 1902, a ROW was laid out across Durham Point passing through the back of land associated with 260 Durham Point Road, and the pasture land between Longmarsh Road and Durham Point Road. The original line crossed Durham Point Road west of 177 and continued in a straight line. New easements were granted to the Rockingham County Light and Power Company in 1916.

Farming on Durham Point continued in the twentieth century, but area residents also turned to other sources of income. The pastoral Great Bay shores became popular with summer visitors. The Mathes farm, now Mathes Cove Road, was the site of a short-lived girl's summer camp operated by Miss Fannie P. Mathes from 1911 to 1914 known as Camp Comfort (Ross and House 1996:57-58). Charles and Mary Langley ran a boardinghouse, the Colony Cove House at 253 Durham Point Road, where Jeremiah Langley lived until his death in 1921. The farmhouse was surrounded by fields and pasture and had water views. There was a platform in the rear, a tennis court and a boat dock on the shore. Rental cottages were planned but not built (Durham Historic Association 1985:161). The automobile influenced the area from the early 1900s. Charles S. Langley commuted to the village where he had a hay, grain, and lumber business near the depot in Durham, dealt in automobiles and planned and built several houses (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 I: 329).

Andrew and Carrie Langley of 247 Durham Point Road had five children (Census 1930) and farmed several parcels that the Langley family acquired at various times (Deed 1559:391); including the land north of their house to Langley Road (12/14-00) and 22-acre field north of Langley Road (12/12-00), as well as discontinuous parcels off Longmarsh Road to the west. They also had a gas station on Dover Road in Durham's "gasoline alley" in the 1930s-50s according to leases recorded in

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

the deed registry. Farming continued on a reduced scale at 260 Durham Point Road by Elmer Rand who lived there alone into the 1940s (Census 1930, 1940). Edward Langley continued in maritime trades as a marine engineer and tug boat company proprietor (Census 1900, 1910). He also farmed at 50 Langley Road with his sons (Census 1920, 1930). On that property, a seasonal waterfront cabin was built in the 1930s. Sidney Langley remained on the farm. Directories indicate his brothers relocated to Concord, New Hampshire, during this period. Harold Langley (1896-1991) was State Bridge Engineer and Marland the proprietor of a Langley's Garage.

The automobile made the region accessible to summer home owners and old homesteads were adapted as gentleman's farms. Mark and Zella Mathes moved elsewhere (Census 1900) and their farm at 15 Langley Road was purchased ca. 1917 by Horace and Elsie Poynter of Andover, Massachusetts. He was a professor of Classical languages at Phillips Andover Academy and it was their summer home until retirement (Durham Historic Association 1985:161).

Malcolm and Charlotte Chase purchased 177 Durham Point from the Stevens family in 1938 and lived there throughout their lives. He was a recent UNH graduate and commuted to work as a civil engineer for the State Highway Department according to city directories. Another summer home property to the north on the riverfront is now surrounded by a new residential subdivision on Deer Meadow Road.

Overall, Durham Point was affected by farm abandonment. Historic USGS maps indicate there were about half as many homes within a mile of the district schoolhouse in the early twentieth century as there had been a hundred years before. Due to their remote locations, the Durham Point Schoolhouse and the Packers Falls School remained in use during the early 1900s, while most of the districts were consolidated in the Village School. They closed when a new central elementary school opened 1936 (Durham Historic Association 1985).

1940s-1950s

The brick schoolhouse was sold by the Town of Durham in 1949 (Deed 689:6). It became a residence at 250 Durham Point Road and changed hands several times. Historic aerial photos and USGS maps show the schoolhouse was located at the edge of a large wooded tract that extended to the west on both sides of the road.

Stanley and Wyman Langley took over their father's property and lived at 247 Durham Point Road throughout their lives. The Bickford Garrison historic marker was placed at the end of Langley Road in 1956 by a descendant of Capt. Thomas Bickford, Gershon Bickford of Maryland.

In 1946, the Rand family sold 260 Durham Point Road to Jeremiah and Jane Chase who lived there in the 1950s. The outlying parcels to the west were sold. The buildings remained on 26 acres and haying of the field continued (Deed 539:258; Deed 609:126). Historic aerials indicate pasturing of livestock continued on Longmarsh Road. In 1948 the electric utility ROW was widened through the area and a new line installed running west toward Packer's Falls crossing land associated at that time with 177 Durham Point Road.

Cottage lots on the waterfront of 253 Durham Point Road were sold off by the Langley family in the 1940s. The former "Jeremiah Langley homestead" included the three-quarter-acre house lot, adjoining six acres, and the sixty-eight acres minus land deeded to others (Deed 516:409). In 1952, Stella Langley sold all of the remaining land and buildings (Deed 606:482). Historic aerials indicate that reforestation of the field south of the house and the pasture to the east began during this period. The 40 acre Comfort Mathes farm (site of Mathes Cove Road) was owned by Fannie P. Mathes of Dover until 1965, but the house came down in the 1950s according to USGS maps (Deed 797:333).

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**1960s-Present

The land on Durham Point Road was a popular location for new home construction in the late twentieth century. All of the land formerly associated with 253 Durham Point Road and extending east toward the bay was subdivided and developed. Colony Cove Road was built in the 1960s as access to waterfront properties and newly subdivided land. In 1969, the “garrison site” subdivision was laid out east of 253 Durham Point Road (Plan 9-2-15) and Willey Creek Road was built in the 1970s. Mathes Cove Road was laid out in the late 1960s on reforested land of the Comfort Mathes farm and houses were built in the 1970s. Deer Meadow Road is a more recent subdivision of an early home site and twentieth century summer home.

House lots on Durham Point Road near the brick school were subdivided in 1968, though not developed until later (Plan 12-1-9). The buildings west of the school date from the 1970s-90s and a house was built to the east of the school at 252 Durham Point Road ca. 2002. The Rand House at 260 Durham Point Road changed hands multiple times, but retained the twenty-six acres including mown field until recently. In 2012, it was subdivided into parcels of eleven acres with the historic buildings (16/19-00) and fifteen plus acres (16/19-01) on which a new house was built in 2014 at the front edge of the field, 270 Durham Point Road (Plan 103-57).

Several properties in the district remain in long-time family ownership. Nancy Sandberg acquired 15 Langley Road from her family and has continued to raise fruit and vegetables on the farm to the present day. 247 Durham Point Road passed from Stanley and Wyman Langley to Helen M. Langley and Pamela Langley who own it now according to the tax assessment (Deed 1559:391). Agricultural use has continued on their land through the haying of field on Langley Road.

The Langley family continues to occupy 50 Langley Road, owned by Barbara Langley, widow of Harold Langley. All of the land on Langley Road land was leased to Green Dream Farm of Lee during the 1970s-80s (Durham Historic Association 1985:163). In the 1980s, the Langley family erected new outbuildings and established the Little Bay Buffalo Farm, which operated for 10-15 years. Continued haying of the land on both sides of the road keeps it open now. The 50+ acres of land around 50 Langley Road were placed under a conservation easement with the Nature Conservancy in 2006. Alongside ongoing subdivision there has been a trend toward land conservation in recent years. The large wooded tracts across the road from 177 Durham Point Road are also now owned by the Nature Conservancy.

20. Applicable NHDHR Historic Context(s)

2. First settlements on the NH seacoast, 1623-1660.
5. The French and Indian Wars in NH.
30. Granite quarrying and stone cutting, 1790-present.
39. Brick making for local and regional markets, 1650-1920.
51. Mixed agriculture and the family farm, 1630-present.
54. Orchards and cider production, 1650-present.
56. Local-scale dairy farming, 1800-present.
72. Boarding house tourism, 1875-1920.
73. Summer and vacation home tourism, 1880-present.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

- 82. Pre-automobile land travel, 1630-1920.
- 85. River and canal navigation, 1790-1890.
- 93. Electricity generation and distribution in New Hampshire.
- 105. Elementary and secondary education, 1770-present.
- 135. The land conservation movement in New Hampshire.
- 136. Public and private cemeteries and burials.

21. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation

The Durham Point Historic District is a rural neighborhood of historic farm properties with nineteenth century buildings, located in an outlying area of town near the Little Bay waterfront. Durham Point Road was settled in the seventeenth century, developed during the eighteenth century had new houses built to replace older ones in the nineteenth century and remained relatively unchanged thorough the twentieth century until 1960s-70s residential subdivisions were built.

The numerous seventeenth and eighteenth century buildings that stood in the area are long gone. Two nineteenth century farm complexes and large parcels of open hay field are located on either side of Langley Road, bordered by the Oyster River on the north and Little Bay to the east. A cluster of nineteenth century buildings at a bend in Durham Point Road near the district school includes the brick schoolhouse and three farmhouses with barns erected in the second half of the nineteenth century. Various tracts of contiguous land are associated and still under the same family ownership. Throughout the area, stone walls border the roads and demarcate property boundaries. There are two small cemeteries and a commemorative marker. Durham Point Road follows the high ground inland from the shoreline and the existing buildings are located close on either side of it. Much of the historic field and pasture is now wooded. Open land stretches to the tidal shore on either side of Langley Road, which runs down the middle of the point.

The area evolved over time and earlier buildings were replaced. The approximate seventeenth century garrison sites are shown on a map in the town history. There are no eighteenth century buildings evident. Prosperity spurred new construction. The extant buildings date from the 1830s to the 1890s. Two buildings are brick and all other farmhouses and barns are of wood-frame construction. Granite and then brick were used as foundation materials. The architectural detailing of the houses reflects the prosperity of the property owners. Buildings are in generally good to excellent condition and have a relatively high degree of architectural integrity, some with historic siding, windows and ornamentation intact.

There are six historic residences with outbuildings and one former schoolhouse. Two houses are 1½ story in size and four are 2½ stories. There are three large New England barns, one connected and two detached, as well as two smaller carriage barns. One house has a mid-twentieth century garage. Seven non-historic dwellings are included within the district boundary and more are outside the edges. Four parcels on Langley Road have large open fields ranging from 20 to 50 acres in size. Four historically associated now wooded parcels on the western side of Durham Point Road contain from 30 to 75 acres.

The 1834 schoolhouse is a 1½-story brick building, side close to the edge of the road, the lot bordered by stone wall. A large brick house, the Mathes-Langley House constructed ca. 1836, stands at the end of Langley Road. It is 2½ stories with center hall plan and four end chimneys. It

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

had a connected New England barn until the 1950s. Another 2½-story brick house with a center chimney stood until the 1950s at the crest of the hill where the Mathes Cove Road subdivision is now. It also had a New England barn, detached. The stone gate posts marking the former entrance are extant on Langley Road in the front yards of newer homes. A third brick house apparently stood on the south side of Langley Road, west of 50 Langley Road where there is still evidence of a cellar hole according to property plans.

At the west edge of the area, 177 Durham Point Road is a 1½-story, center entry house built ca. 1840 and updated in the early twentieth century with an enclosed porch. A 1½-story side hall plan house was erected on the crest of the hill north of Langley Road ca. 1861. 15 Langley has a Greek Revival style entry, wing and attached barn, with dormers and porches added in the early 1900s. Built later in the 1860s, 260 Durham Point Road has Italianate style door hood and bay windows. It was the first of three 2½-story gable front side hall or cross-gable plan houses erected at the bend in the road during the second half of the nineteenth century. The matching houses at 253 and 247 Durham Point Road, built ca. 1885 and ca. 1890, have similar Queen Anne style gable ornament. The three barns have mixed integrity, but are an important historic resource type locally.

Open hay fields and reforested parcels are all bordered by stone walls which are a defining characteristic of Durham Point. Walls line the roads and remnants of wall remain among newer homes marking earlier land-use patterns. The walls are dry-laid, random field stone, natural faced, including boulders and fieldstones and some slabs and split stone. Walls were built over time as land was cleared and cultivated. They marked boundaries, lined roadways and contained animals. The heyday of wall building was the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Earlier farmers had fewer stones to deal with. At settlement the soil was deep, but rocks were exposed by clear-cutting and heaved up by frost, plowing and cultivation. Dumped walls were sometimes re-laid more intentionally, particularly along roadsides. Granite fence posts in the area and granite retaining walls of the local cemetery may be evidence of local granite quarrying.

Houses erected in the 1970s-2000s are wood-frame houses 1½ and 2½ stories, some with garages. They are clustered on Durham Point Road. There are several modern buildings from the 1990s farm operation on the parcel with 50 Langley Road. New houses are located north of Langley Road and Durham Point Road in the vicinity of Mathes Cove Road and to the south on Durham Point Road are mid- to late-twentieth-century houses on old house sites and subdivided lots.

The Durham Point Historic District is distinguished from its surroundings by the close positioning of the houses and the large parcels of land. There are no other known similar groupings of intact farms or late nineteenth century farmhouses in Durham and no other neighborhoods clustered around a district school. The brick schoolhouse is unique in Durham and may be the only extant one-room school.

The properties in the district are described below roughly from southeast to northwest.

*270 Durham Point Road (16/19-01), ca. 2014 non-contributing building, Photos 2-3
15+ acres*

South of 260 Durham Point Road is a new house at the front edge of the historic field. The parcel contains 15.74 acres. It is bounded on the south by tree line and stone wall. The electric utility ROW crosses the back end of the parcel in a wooded area. The new 2+ story house is sited on a knoll, set back slightly from the road behind the stonewall and tree line.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

*260 Durham Point Road (16/19-0) Rand House, ca. 1868 contributing building, Photos 5-8, 10-14
Barn, ca. 1868 contributing building
11 acres*

On the west side of Durham Point Road is a 2½-story side hall plan house with a 1½-story ell and detached barn. The house is dated ca. 1860 in the tax card, though documentary evidence suggests later in the 1860s. The façade features a two-story bay window and door hood on turned knee braces. The window trim retains molded lintels. The walls are sheathed in vinyl siding and the windows have 2/2 sash. A side porch with hip roof was enclosed in the late twentieth century with a new door and picture windows. The 1½-story kitchen ell has an original bay window on the south elevation and an original brick chimney.

The detached barn set back from the house has new vertical board siding and windows, but appears to retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the historic district along with the associated house. The barn has an off-center entry on the gable front and a replacement barn door.

This property retains open agricultural land. A narrow strip of mown field extends west from the road south of the house. Historically the property long contained twenty-six acres with a large triangular field. This was known as “the Plumb Swamp” for the brook that flowed south of it (Deed 4068:145). The parcel was marked north and south by stone walls. Other land associated with this house was in separate parcels to the west, location unidentified. In 2012, the field was divided down the middle. The existing eleven acre parcel on which the historic buildings are located was created at that time. The southern 15.74 acres became 16/19-01 and a new house was constructed at 280 Durham Point Road in 2014.

*253 Durham Point Road (12/15-00) Jeremiah Langley House, ca. 1884 contributing building,
Photos 14-19
Barn 1800s, contributing building
1.75 acres*

On the east side of the bend in the road, a large late nineteenth century house is located on a small parcel. It is a 2½-story side hall plan house with 2½-story cross gables on both side elevations and Queen Anne style architectural details. The original porch was a wraparound porch shown in the 1913 town history. The full-width one-story porch added in the 1910s-20s has a clapboard parapet and square posts and previously had a porte cochère attached to the front corner. The most distinctive feature of the house is its Queen Anne style gable ornament. The pedimented front gable is filled with stick work and contrasting blocks of decorative cut wood shingles, in fish scale, saw-tooth and scalloped patterns. The double window is topped by a cornice and pediment and has Queen Anne style stained glass. The side cross gables have similar gable ornament with bands of cut shingles and paired windows. The south elevation features a bay window and a side entry that retains a historic wood paneled door. The walls of the house retain clapboard siding. Trim includes corner boards, paneled frieze and molded cornices. The foundation is covered with concrete. Historic photographs show the house originally had a one-story ell. It was enlarged to two stories when in use as a boardinghouse and later removed. A 1½-story shed stood behind the ell alongside the barn.

The barn is a gable front New England barn with a slightly off center entry and a lean-to along the south elevation. The walls are sheathed in clapboards and the entry and window placement is the same as shown in historic views. There was once a cupola atop the ridge. This is a bank barn with an exposed basement level on the south side and ramped earth up to the rear door on the east gable end.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Historic aerial views and USGS maps show the old farm road began at the driveway, passed between the house and barn and ran along the north side of the barn and east down toward the shore. This driveway was access to the landing point and earlier twentieth century cottages. It was eliminated after Colony Cove Road was built in the 1960s.

The 253 Durham Point Road property contains just over 1¼ acres. Late twentieth century house lots are to the east and south where there was once field and pasture. There is only a small area of field south of the historic buildings, which remains semi-open but is divided among the adjacent parcels. To the south, 255 Durham Point Road (Photo 29) was built in the 1950s and 261 Durham Point Road (Photo 31) is a newer house. Houses to the east on Edgerly-Garrison Road were built in the 1970s.

252 Durham Point Road (16/17-00), ca. 2002 non-contributing building, Photos 20, 27

Set back from the road between 250 and 260 is a new house built ca. 2002 according to the tax card. Stone wall marks the front of the property. The 2½-story house has an attached 2-car garage.

250 Durham Point Road (16/16-00) Durham Point Schoolhouse, ca. 1834 contributing building, Photos 26, 28-31

The former Durham Point Schoolhouse that identifies the neighborhood is a 1½-story brick building oriented parallel to the road. There is an entry on the lateral roadside elevation, apparently added, and a door on the southeast gable end. The foundation is granite. The windows have granite sills and lintels. There are 6/6 replacement windows. An exterior brick chimney is one the west elevation. The central front entry has full length sidelights and granite lintel with changes indicated by brickwork. The side door has a new door and a different granite lintel. A dormer was added to the back roof slope. The small schoolhouse lot is indicated by the stone wall roughly parallel to the road. The building reverted to ownership with the surrounding land in the twentieth century and the present house lot was created in the 1980s. There are new houses immediate east and west of the schoolhouse. A modern shed stands in the back and is not counted as non-contributing due to its relative small size. A stone wall behind the building defines the historic school lot. Modern picket fencing encloses the side and back yards. House lots on either side of the school were subdivided in the 1960s and developed in the 1980s.

248 Durham Point Road (16/18-00), ca. 1980 non-contributing building, Photo 32

Set back from the road in the woods is a modern one-story bungalow type house built in the 1980s. Its irregular shaped parcel is defined on the south and north by stone walls. A driveway runs north of the schoolhouse lot. The wooded land extends west nearly to the PSNH ROW.

246 Durham Point Road (16/14-00), ca. 2001 non-contributing building

A small wooded parcel west of the schoolhouse, has a new house set back from the road. It is a large 2½-story house with attached 2-car garage.

*242 Durham Point Road (16/13-00), ca. 1999 non-contributing building, Photo 33
Garage, non-contributing building*

A 1½ story house and a separate 2-car garage are sited on a landscaped yard. It is set back from the road and there are remnants of stone wall in front.

238 Durham Point Road (16/12-00), ca. 1978 non-contributing building, Photo 34

House lots along the road near the schoolhouse were subdivided in the 1960s. This split level is set back from the road on a wooded parcel. The northern lot line is a historic boundary with stone wall, separating the adjacent parcel (16/11-00).

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

247 Durham Point Road, House and connected barn (12/14-00) ca. 1890 contributing building, Photos 21-25

30 acres

Garage ca. 1950 contributing building, Photos 10-14

Bickford garrison historical marker, 1956 contributing object Photo 38

The house built by the Langley family ca. 1890 is similar to the adjacent house at 253 Durham Point Road in its 2½-story cross gable form with Queen Anne style gable ornament. The foundation of this house is brick. The walls are sheathed in vinyl siding. The decorative gables are intact on the façade and projecting side gable. The pedimented gables are filled with decorative cut wood shingles in blocks of contrasting patterns. On the façade, an applied sunburst fills the peak. A pair of Queen Anne style windows has square lights surrounded by square and rectangular stained glass lights. The main windows are double-hung 2/1 sash. The entry is located on the side elevation through a porch in the angle of the cross gables. The porch has turned posts and balusters and is enclosed by screens. The door is not visible. A one-story ell projects to the rear and connects to a barn. The ell is in two sections one or both rebuilt. The windows are new or replaced. The 2½-story barn has a center entry with an overhead garage door on the south gable end, a hay loft door opening above, now with windows and several windows with 6/6 double-hung sash. A lean-to extension spans the northeast elevation.

A separate two-car garage is sited at the end of the driveway southeast of the barn. It appears to date from the 1940s-50s. The open yard of roughly two acres around the buildings contributes to their domestic setting. Woods extend to the north and west. Historic aerial photos and USGS maps indicate 247 has had a small yard and wooded setting for at least fifty years. Overall the parcel contains 31 acres. The northern part of the parcel includes an open hay field of about ten acres on the south side of Langley Road. Deeds suggest the land has been associated with the house since the early twentieth century. Formerly it may have been owned with the farm north of Langley Road. The parcel is bounded by stone walls. The northwest corner of the property in the intersection with Langley Road has the discontinued end of Longmarsh Road across it, indicated by remaining stone walls.

In the intersection is a small granite boulder with a historical plaque commemorating the Bickford garrison, which stood down the road on the point. The text reads, "Near the Bank at the left of the old ferry landing is the site of the Bickford Garrison defended single handed when attacked by Indians on July 18, 1694, by Captain Thomas Bickford." It was erected in 1956.

234 Longmarsh Road (16/11-00 and 16/11-01), ca. 2005 non-contributing building, Photo34
20+ acres

Historically this land on the corner of Durham Point and Longmarsh Road was under the same ownership as 50 Langley Road. David Langley built a new 2-story house here about ten years ago. The property was divided into two parcels under the same ownership, 5.2 acres and 15.18 acres. The land is semi-open and has boundary and internal stone walls.

177 Durham Point Road (11/10-04 and 11/10-05), ca. 1840 contributing building, Photos 45-49
Carriage barn, 19th century, contributing building

7.6 acres

Land (16/07-01 and 16/07-02) 17.98 acres and 75 acres, contributing site

177 Durham Point Road, built ca. 1840, is a representative example of a high-posted cape or cottage in the Greek Revival style, though a later enclosed porch spans the middle three bays of the façade. The southwesterly facing, clapboarded main block is augmented by a one-story, shed-roofed rear ell

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

and a shed-roofed dormer on the northeast roof slope. The windows are 6/6 window sash. The Colonial Revival-styled screened front porch includes Tuscan posts set atop an enclosed balustrade and a small gable centered above the entry.

Illustrative of its agricultural history a gable-front carriage barn with a shed addition is located just northeast of the house. Two garage bays have been added to the southeast elevation of the shed.

A dog ear picket fence, set between older granite posts runs in front of the house adjacent to the road, is flanked by stone walls. Just inside the fence and stone walls are some symmetrically placed mature trees. The property includes an open area around the house and outbuilding but mature trees are present along the side and rear perimeters. House lots to the east and north were subdivided in the 1990s.

South of Durham Point Road, a large area of wooded land was previously associated with 177 Durham Point Road and is now owned by the Nature Conservancy (16/07-01 and 16/07-02). The parcels of 17.98 acres and 75 acres extend between Durham Point Road and Longmarsh Road. Stone walls line the roads and define the west edge of the land. The electric utility ROW crosses these parcels. The southeast-northwest corridor dates from 1902, widened ca. 1948. The original line continued straight, and the east-west ROW was created at the latter date. Seacoast Reliability Project archaeologists found evidence of historic granite quarrying activity within the ROW (Victoria Bunker 2015). Historic aerials show that the land remained open into the mid-twentieth century and was apparently used as pasture (www.historicaerials.com). A spring is located south of the ROW across the road from the house and is mentioned in deeds. It is accessed by a dirt track, along the stone wall that divides this parcel from 16-08-00 to the east.

50 Langley Road (12/13-01 and 12-28-00), ca. 1836 contributing building, Photos 73-79
Cabin, ca. 1935, contributing building, not accessible
Barn, ca. 1980s, non-contributing building
Shed, ca. 1990s non-contributing building
House, ca. 1990s non-contributing building
56 acres

The Mathes-Langley House, 50 Langley Road (built ca. 1836 according to the tax card) is an example of a brick double house with Federal/Greek Revival style detailing (**Photos 3-7**). The north-facing two-and-a-half-story house is characterized by two tiers of rooms on either side of a center stair hall and bi-lateral symmetry on the façade. Pairs of end wall chimneys rise above the gabled roof. Decorative detailing includes simple contrasting granite lintels. The entry features a granite lintel above multi-light transom and three-quarter sidelights. The windows are 2/1 sash. The main block is augmented with a brick one-story wing and a late twentieth-century attached three-bay wooden garage (on a concrete foundation) with a living unit on the upper story. The wing includes a double window with 2/1 sash and a secondary entry. The side-gabled garage has steep exterior wood stairs leading to the upper story entry and a small deck. A trio of symmetrically located skylights punctuates the north roof slope; the south roof is augmented with a full-width shed dormer.

The outbuildings date from the late twentieth century. These include a gable-front barn with a metal clad, shallow-pitched gable roof and vent straddling the ridge and a small, side-gabled shed with a metal roof. The property also includes two small houses, one dating to the late twentieth century. The other is a camp located near the water (not visible from the road) and built ca. 1935 according to the tax card. The tax card photo shows a small, one-story side-gabled building clad with shingles with a wrap-around screen porch on the water-side elevation. The building has been expanded with a one-story addition.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

The main house and outbuildings are set close to the south side of Langley Road near its easterly terminus. Open fields extend to the south and west towards a creek and small wooded area. The parcel (12/13-01) contains 56 acres. The one-acre island off-shore is under the same ownership (12-28-00). On Langley Road nearly opposite 15 Langley Road, old plantings and granite fence posts indicate a former house site.

*Langley Road (12/12-00) Mathes Cemetery, 18th-19th century, contributing site, Photos 71-72
Shed, early 20th century, contributing building, Photo 68
22 acres*

This 22-acre parcel of field and wooded shoreline is under the same ownership as 247 Durham Point Road. The land was settled early on by the Bickford family and later became the site of the Mathes family burying ground. The Mathes Cemetery contains fifty or more markers, predominantly nineteenth-century but also a few twentieth-century stones. The cemetery is surrounded by a dry-laid granite wall along the street elevation and a granite post and pipes fence on the other elevations. Access is through a pair of low-height wrought or cast-iron scallop picket gates.

Located roughly 0.5 miles west of the Mathes Cemetery in a small wooded area is an unoccupied wood structure, possibly originally a small chicken coop. The low height, gable-roofed structure is set back from the road and sited parallel to it. Shingles cover the exterior; the gable roof is sheath with corrugated metal. The long elevations are punctuated with openings at ground level. There were other buildings adjacent from the early 1900s until the 1980s according to historic USGS maps.

*15 Langley Road (12/11-01 and 12/11-02), ca. 1861 contributing building, Photos 56-64
Cemetery, unknown, contributing site
12.27 acres and 31.98 acres
Land (16/08-00) 30 acres, contributing site Photos 35, 37, 39*

The Mathes-Sandburg House (15 Langley Road) is a large connected farmstead with a one-and-a-half story Greek Revival/Italianate end house, modified wing and back house, and connected New England barn. The buildings date to ca. 1861 according to the tax card. In 1917 the connected farmstead was remodeled as a summer home, but with a working farm. The clapboarded house and modified wing and back house feature a mix of 6/6 and 9/6 window sash. Decorative detailing includes some Greek Revival/Italianate elements such as thin corner pilasters and cornice returns and a frontispiece with an unornamented entablature flanking the full-length sidelights on the end house. A 1913 photo shows that the 1917 alterations included removal of a porch spanning the wing, replacement of a pair of gabled dormers on the south roof slope with a shed-roofed dormer with pairs of casement windows and conversion of the backhouse to residential use by the insertion of a pedestrian doorway and a pair of 6/6 sash windows on the south gable end, and gabled dormers on the east roof slope. Other additional massing elements from that period likely include a porch on the north elevation of the end house, gabled dormers on the west roof slope, and possibly raising the roof of the wing to a full two stories on the north side. Other modifications include replacement of the single window in the south gable end with a double window and a large, three-part oriel, possibly less than fifty years of age, also on the south elevation of the wing and modifications to the flat-roofed connection between the barn and former back house section.

The large New England or gable-front barn is clad with shingles, as is the flat-roofed connector section. Each gable end has an off-center barn door with pairs of 6/6 sash windows, illuminating the hay loft, centered above in each gable end. Smaller doorways on the south and east elevations provide access to the cow bay side. Northeast of the house is a small, side gabled building, clad with shingles.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

The buildings, accessed by a long paved driveway are located on an elevated site and oriented to the south. The property retains open fields extending to the river. In the front yard is a small unfenced cemetery with several irregularly shaped upright stone markers. Trees and stone walls line the roadway to the south of the house. The property subdivided in 1991 (Plan 38A-81) contains 12.27 acres and 31.98 acres according to the tax assessment. Historically there was orchard on the hillside north of the buildings.

Under the same family ownership since the early twentieth century is a thirty-acre parcel of former pasture across Durham Point Road (16-08-00). This was open pasture into the 1960s according to historic aerial photos. It is bounded on all sides with stone walls and has one or more internal stone walls shown in Google Earth aerials. The electric utility ROW crosses the very west edge of the parcel. The existing ROW was created in 1948-49, widening the original 1902 easement (Deed 567:489).

22. Statement of Significance

Criterion A: The Durham Point Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic district. The Durham Point Road Historic District, farmed continuously for over 375 years, has significance under Criterion A in the Area of Agriculture. The fields and reforested pastures are some of the largest parcels of intact, undeveloped historic farmland in town. The district relates to themes and patterns in the historical development of the town of Durham and the region as a whole. The vegetation, open spaces, built resources and natural features embody significant values, including the importance of agriculture and a focus on waterfront activities. The Durham Point Historic District is significant for documenting agricultural contexts and other important themes in the history of the town. The Durham Point Historic District contains early home sites and thus has importance under the Area of Settlement and relates to Maritime History and Transportation as an important landing place and ferry crossing.

The Durham Point Historic District is a significant concentration and linkage of properties, united physically, visually and by historical development. It is a concentration of related areas of land use, vegetation, buildings, roads and natural features. Landscape characteristics are the stone walls, open fields, reforested pasture, roads and driveways and nineteenth century houses and barns. The rural neighborhood includes six historic farmhouses and outbuildings, a schoolhouse, family cemeteries and land. There also may be archaeological sites. The district is a distinct grouping of intact agricultural resources on Durham Point, with modern residential developments on all sides.

The Durham Point Historic District as a rural historic landscape is a geographic area historically shaped by human activity that represents several centuries of occupation. Throughout the history of the town the land has been used for cultivating crops, livestock grazing and forestry. There is evidence of the response to the natural environment in the ongoing use of the waterfront and prime agricultural land and in the extensive network of stone walls. The spatial organization of properties evolved over time into the early twentieth century. The large expanses of open land on Langley Road convey a visual sense of the historic environment. The land continues to reflect the period of settlement along the shore when the land was first cleared. The several large New England Barns in the district have the characteristic gable front form. The size and architectural details of the houses reflect the prosperity of area farmers throughout the nineteenth century and their ties to a larger cosmopolitan area through maritime activities and freight and lumber businesses.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Criterion B: The owners of these houses were prominent Durham farmers and businesspeople, but they are not known to have played such a demonstratively important role in local history to make the properties eligible under Criterion B. Additional research would be needed to determine any role the Langley and Mathes families may have played in the development of Durham's town center through their lumber dealership and other business interests.

Criterion C: As a historic district, the Durham Point Historic District qualifies for the National Register under Criterion C as a significant and distinguishable entity, including components that serve as focal points others that lack individual distinction. The architectural significance of the district was not established for the purposes of this project, because only Criterion A resources would have the potential for effect and because comparative analysis of architecture in Durham is outside the scope.

Criterion D: The Durham Point Historic District was occupied from Durham's first settlement period and has the potential for archaeological sites that would contribute to the district. There may be evidence of early house sites, waterfront activities, brickmaking and granite quarrying. Further investigation to determine significance under Criterion D may be warranted in the future. Phase I-A archaeological survey in 2015 identified areas of potential sensitivity within the Seacoast Reliability Project right-of-way.

23. Periods(s) of Significance

1638-1966: As a rural historic district, the Durham Point Historic District has significance from the original settlement of Durham to the fifty year cut-off for National Register eligibility. The extant buildings in the district represent the 1830s to the 1890s.

24. Statement of Integrity

This group of historic resources retains integrity as a whole and the components retain sufficient integrity to contribute to a district. The land conveys early settlement patterns although no buildings from the settlement period remain. The landscape retains integrity of location in the relationship between early roads and the waterfront. The extant buildings all have integrity of location, as do the landscape characteristics such as stone walls and fields. The setting and feeling is rural and open land contributes to the agricultural character. Much of the land is reforested but retains stone walls and variations in vegetation patterns. The general character and feeling of the historic period is retained. The surrounding setting of Durham Point Road is wooded with twentieth century residential subdivisions.

The Durham Point Historic District has integrity of association with agriculture and waterfront activities along Langley Road, although reforestation and subdivision has affected these associations on Durham Point Road, where stone walls remain to convey historic boundary and field demarcations. Reforestation of once open pasture land was underway by the mid-twentieth century. The area has a direct line to the past through continued ownership of large tracts of land by longtime families. Some has been conserved. Five of the houses have associated acreage. Large tracts of land remain undivided or subdivided on paper only. 15 Langley Road conveys its associations as a summer residence. The Colony Cove House is of interest for its use as a boardinghouse, although the property no longer has the characteristic features of that type, such as the waterfront and pastoral

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

setting or the farm that provided the products that were served, because the shoreline was subdivided and the old landing road eliminated in the mid-twentieth century.

Integrity of design is affected by changes in land use such as reforestation, but the historic boundary demarcations remain evident. Compared with other historically agricultural properties in Durham, reforestation is typical. The area has integrity of materials and workmanship in the walls of native stone, brick and wood-framed buildings. The spatial relationships between the houses within this neighborhood remain essentially unchanged, while the overall pattern of historic farms elsewhere along Durham Point Road was altered by the removal or replacement of other eighteenth and nineteenth century houses. The layout and placement of the buildings within the district in relation to each other is unchanged, except for the construction of new houses around 250 and 260 Durham Point Road and north of the Langley Road intersection.

The individual properties retain integrity. The Mathes-Langley House at 50 Langley Road has architectural integrity of design, materials and workmanship, except for the rebuilt wing and loss of the barn in the 1950s. The land conveys agricultural associations and provides the setting that defines the district. 15 Langley Road retains a high degree of integrity; the mid-nineteenth century buildings are intact with early 1900s summer home updates. Associated land includes fields and reforested pasture. 177 Durham Point Road is also a nineteenth century house updated in the early twentieth century. It has a small carriage barn and stone walls contribute to the setting. Associated land across the road is now wooded but retains evidence of historic land use. The three Victorian-era farmhouses on Durham Point Road have integrity of feeling, though the surrounding wooded and developed landscape does not. The houses and barns retain their original designs and moderate integrity of materials and workmanship. The layout and plans of the houses and their ornamental architectural features are largely intact. Siding and many windows have been replaced, but porches, entries and window trim remain. Only the rear ells have been removed or remodeled. The barns retain their historic forms and fenestration patterns, though siding and doors have been replaced. 260 and 247 Durham Point Road have associated tracts of land. Behind 253 Durham Point Road, the shoreline has been subdivided and the roads reconfigured, obscuring evidence of historic waterfront activities. The Durham Point Schoolhouse is the most altered building in the district, but due to the rarity and importance of the property type it is considered a contributing resource.

25. Boundary Justification

The Durham Point Historic District is an identifiable location with a grouping of historically associated properties distinct from its surroundings. The recommended boundary for the National Register eligible agricultural district significant under Criterion A includes all of the adjoining land on parcels presently owned in common with the historic buildings as shown in Durham tax records. The land has both significance and integrity, with land ownership and land-use patterns remaining evident in the parcels, walls, roads and fields. The concentration of significant characteristics and evidence of the historic period differentiate this rural historic district from its surroundings. The edges are defined by historic and current legal boundaries of the group of related properties, indicated by stone walls, roads and natural features. Other outlying discontinuous parcels of pasture and woodlot were integral to these historic farms, but no longer convey any associations with them due to intervening subdivision and new construction. Non-historic resources surrounded by contributing parcels of land are included in the district as non-contributing. There are six non-contributing houses within the boundary.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Peripheral areas with substantial non-historic features, i.e. new houses on residential lots, are not included in the district. New construction destroys the integrity of a rural landscape, erasing or obscuring the character of the historic land parcels. The Durham Point Historic District is clearly defined on the south and southeast by residential subdivisions and new houses on Colony Cove Road. The land formerly associated with 253 Durham Point Road is now a large residential neighborhood. To the south on Durham Point Road are late twentieth century houses, some on older farm sites. The northern boundary of the historic district is defined by the change from large tracts of land to small houses lots, subdivided in the 1960s-70s. The district does not include the Mathes Cove Road subdivision, which contains about a dozen late twentieth century houses, although it does have remnants of stone walls, a small cemetery and possible house site. On Deer Meadow Road is an isolated historic property (14 Deer Meadow) but it is surrounded by a subdivision of very large houses erected in recent decades and so is not included in the district.

The district includes all land historically associated with 260 Durham Point Road on 16/19-00 and 16/19-01. The new house at 270 is non-contributing but the field remains visually intact behind it. This is a historic property, bounded on the south, west and north by stone walls. Only the existing house lot of 253 Durham Point Road is included in the boundary. The legally recorded eastern and southern lot lines of 12/15-00 were created by mid-twentieth century subdivision. The parcel includes the front yard, dooryard and barnyard and small section of semi-open field to the south. The rest of the field is shared by the house lots of 1970s homes of Edgerly-Garrison Road.

The large tracts of land between Durham Point Road and Langley Road are a focal point of the district. They are all bordered by stone walls. The eastern boundary of 12/13-01 is the shore of Little Bay. Parcels 12/12-00 and 12/11-02 north of Langley Road are also historic tracts, bordered by road, waterfront and stone walls. The west property line of 12/11-02 has a stone wall separating it from the adjacent farm, now Mathes Cove Road subdivision.

Stone walls line both sides of Durham Point Road and the boundary of the district includes the wall north of the road, but is drawn to exclude the modern houses on the lots behind it. Large parcels of land under the ownership of area farmers are located on the southwest side of Durham Point Road and on Longmarsh Road. Two parcels 16/11-01 and 16/11-00 form a historic tract still under Langley ownership and contribute to the district, despite the new house at 234 Longmarsh Road. The outer edges of this land are demarcated by stone walls. A group of subdivided lots and new houses on the south side of Longmarsh Road is the edge of the district. North of Longmarsh Road are large tracts of reforested pasture, the outer edges and roadsides lined by walls. This land was historically associated with houses in the district. The western side of the district on Durham Point Road results from the change between the large undeveloped parcels and subdivided new house lots. The house at 177 Durham Point Road is an isolated resource with significant stone walls at the edge of the district.

26. Boundary Description

The recommended boundary of the Durham Point District begins on Durham Point Road at the intersection of Langley Road. The boundary runs east on Langley Road to the southwest corner of 12/11-02. The district boundary follows the western lot line of 12/11-02 which is defined by a stone wall north to the southern bank of the Oyster River. The river shoreline defines the district on the north and is the northern property line of 12/11-02, associated with 15 Langley Road. The shoreline of 12/12-00 on the north side of Langley Road includes the point of land in the confluence of Oyster River and Little Bay. The boundary winds south along the shoreline of the bay which is the eastern

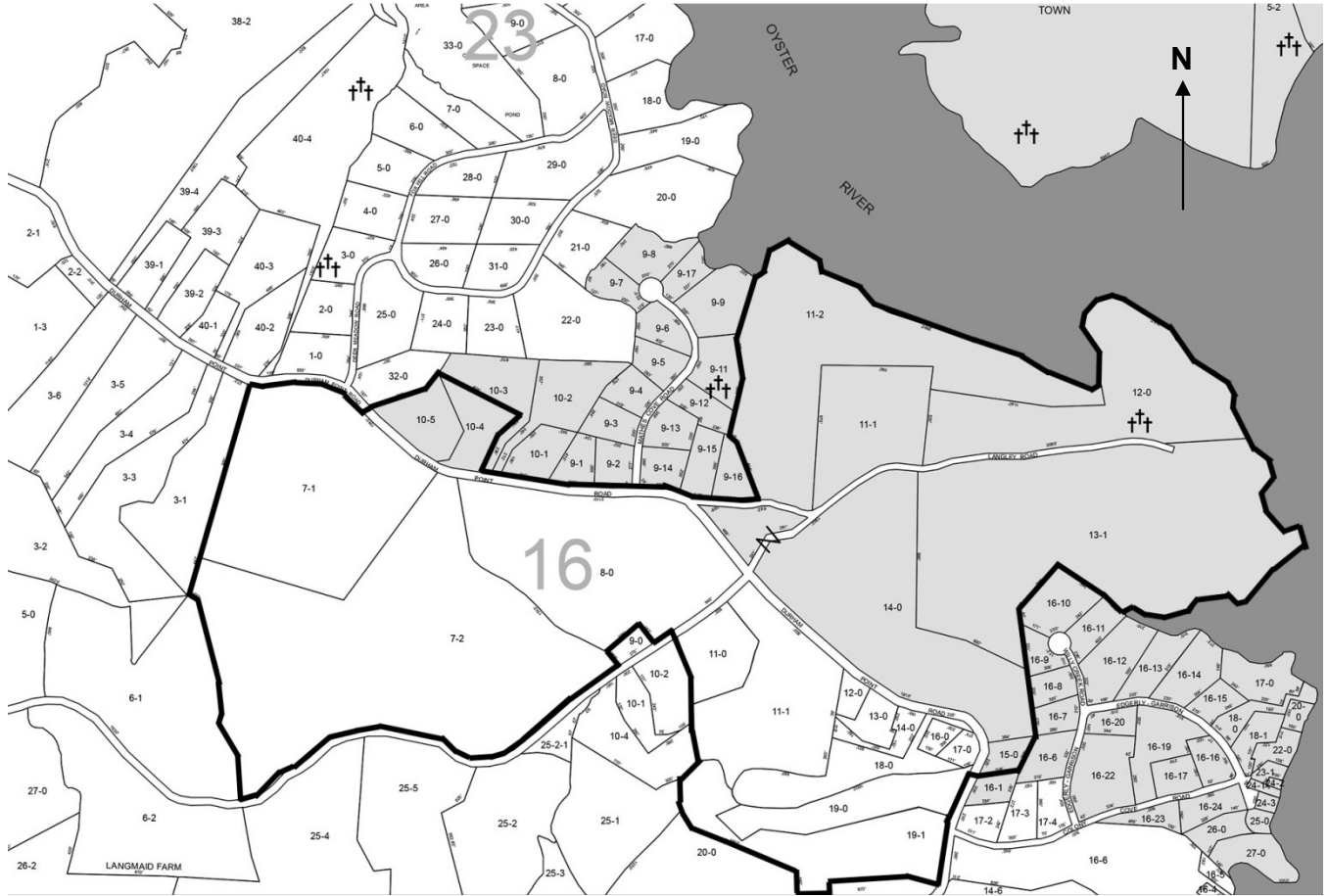
AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

edge of 12/13-01 associated with 50 Langley Road. The small offshore island 12/26-00 is also under the same ownership. The district boundary is the property line of 12/13-01, following a historic property line marked by stone walls. The boundary continues southerly on the east lot line of 12/14-00 on which 247 Durham Point Road is located, marked intermittently by stone walls on the back lot lines of houses on Edgerly Garrison Rd. The district boundary encompasses 253 Durham Point Road on 12/15-00 and turns west on the southern line of that parcel separating the historic house from subdivided house lots to the south. The district boundary turns south along Durham Point Road on the eastern frontage of 16/19-01 and 16/19-00 subdivided in 2012 and historically both part of 260 Durham Point Road. The southern property line of 16/19-01 is indicated by tree line and stone wall and now the south edge of the yard of 260 Durham Point Road. The southwest corner of the district encompasses 16/19-01 and a remnant of the boundary wall is evident within the PSNH ROW that crosses the west edge of that parcel. The curved western lot line of 16/19-01 is a historic bound. The district continues north on the west side of 16/11-01 and 16/11-00 associated with 234 Longmarsh Road and marked by a stone wall. The district boundary crosses Longmarsh Road and continues northeast around the house lot of 229 Longmarsh Rd on the western line of 16/08-00. The boundary follows the north side of Longmarsh Road west along 16-07-02 which is a large parcel historically associated with 177 Durham Point Road. The western property line is defined by a stone wall which is the recommended district boundary. The boundary continues on the west line of 16-07-01 to Durham Point Road. It turns east on Durham Point Road to 177 Durham Point Road and turns north, east and south on the outer lines of 12/10-05 and 12/10-04 on which it is located. The stone walls on the north side of Durham Point Road are recommended for inclusion in the historic district, while the late twentieth century houses and subdivided house lots are not. The boundary line runs along the wall to Langley Road.

See map on next page.

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT



AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT****27. Bibliography and/or References**

Andriote, John-Manuel

2014 "The history, science and poetry of New England's stone walls," *Earth: The Science Behind the Headlines* (<http://www.earthmagazine.org/article/history-science-and-poetry-new-englands-stone-walls>)

Brown, Craig J., Mark Greenly, Richard W. Lunt and Peter Sablock

2014 "Hard by the Water's Edge: A Preliminary Report of the Darby Field Homestead-Bickford Garrison," *The New Hampshire Archeologist*, Volume 54, No. 1.

Casella, Richard M.

2012 "Harold E. Langley Bridge Engineer, New Hampshire Highway Department Annotated Bibliography of Published Works and List of Attributed Bridge Plans," Prepared for New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

Clow, Larry

2006 "80 Historic Acres Overlooking Little Bay Conserved," *Fosters*, October 28, 2006.

Durham Historic Association

1985 *Durham, New Hampshire: A History, 1900-1985*. Canaan, NH: Phoenix Publishing for the Durham Historic Association.

Preservation Company

2015-2016 Seacoast Reliability Project Area Form. On file at NHDHR, Concord, NH.

Ross, William E. and Thomas M. House

1996 *Durham: A Century of Photographs*. Dover, NH: Arcadia Publishing.

Scales, John

1914 *History of Strafford County and Representative Citizens*. Richmon-Arnold Publishing Co., Chicago.

Stackpole, Everett S. and Lucien Thompson

1913 *History of the Town of Durham New Hampshire (Oyster River Plantation), Volume One: Narrative* (<https://archive.org/stream/historyoftownofd01stac#page/n7/mode/2up>)

Stackpole, Everett S. and Winthrop S. Meserve

1913 *History of the Town of Durham New Hampshire (Oyster River Plantation), Volume Two: Genealogical* (<https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofd02stac>)

Thompson, Mary P.

1892 *Landmarks in Ancient Dover*. Reprinted Durham Historic Association 1965.

U.S. Census

1850-1880 Agricultural Schedules, microfilm collection of New Hampshire State Library, Concord.

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Victoria Bunker, Inc.

2015 "Phase I-A Preliminary Archeological Survey Seacoast Reliability Project Madbury, Durham, Newington and Portsmouth, NH," Prepared for Normandeau Associates, Inc.

Historic Maps

Chace, J. Jr.

1856 Map of Strafford County, New Hampshire. Philadelphia: Smith & Coffin
(<http://www.loc.gov/item/2006626003>)

Hurd, D.H.

1892 Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire. Boston: D.H. Hurd & Co.
(<http://www.davidrumsey.com/>)

NETROnline, <http://www.historicaerials.com/>

Sanford & Everts

1871 Atlas of Strafford County, New Hampshire. Philadelphia: Sanford & Everts.

Smith, D.

1805 "Durham: A Plan taken by D. Smith." Microfilm collection of New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

1893, 1916, 1918, 1941, 1956 Dover, NH-ME Quadrangle (<http://usgs.gov>)

Ancestry.com (<http://search.ancestry.com/>)

N.H. Death and Burial Records

Portsmouth Herald

Public Member Trees

U.S. City Directories

U.S. Federal Census Collection

U.S. Find a Grave Index

Strafford County Registry of Deeds (<http://www.nhdeeds.com/strafford/StIndex.html>)

1868	Book 243, Page 79	1955	Book 654, Page 333
1871	Book 250, Page 206	1961	Book 733, Page 188
1902	Book 331, Page 190	1963	Book 771, Page 112
1933	Book 455, Page 458	1958	Book 805, Page 369
1943	Book 516, Page 409	1958	Plan 698098
1946	Book 539, Page 258	1961	Plan 1929-83
1949	Book 567, Page 489	1965	Book 797, Page 333
1949	Book 577, Page 462	1968	Plan 12-1-9
1949	Book 689, Page 6	1969	Plan 9-2-15
1952	Book 606, Page 482	1988	Book 1405, Page 710
1952	Book 609, Page 126	1989	Book 1438, Page 335
1953	Book 619, Page 2719	1991	Book 1559, Page 391
1955	Book 653, Page 402	1991	Plan 38A-81

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT

1996	Book 1848, Page 422	2012	Book 4081, Page 464
2004	Book 3017, page 452	2012	Plan 103-57
2006	Plans 88-15 and 88-16	2012	Plan 104-14
2012	Book 4068, Page 145	2013	Plans 106-73 and 106-74

28. Surveyor's Evaluation

NR listed: district	<input type="checkbox"/>	NR eligible: district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NR Criteria: A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
individuals		not eligible	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/>
within district	<input type="checkbox"/>	more info needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Integrity: yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			D	<input type="checkbox"/>
no	<input type="checkbox"/>			E	<input type="checkbox"/>

If this Area Form is for a Historic District:

of contributing resources: 16 (8 primary buildings, 5 outbuildings, 2 sites/cemeteries, 1 object/marker)

of noncontributing resources: 11 (7 primary buildings, 4 outbuildings)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA

Historic Images

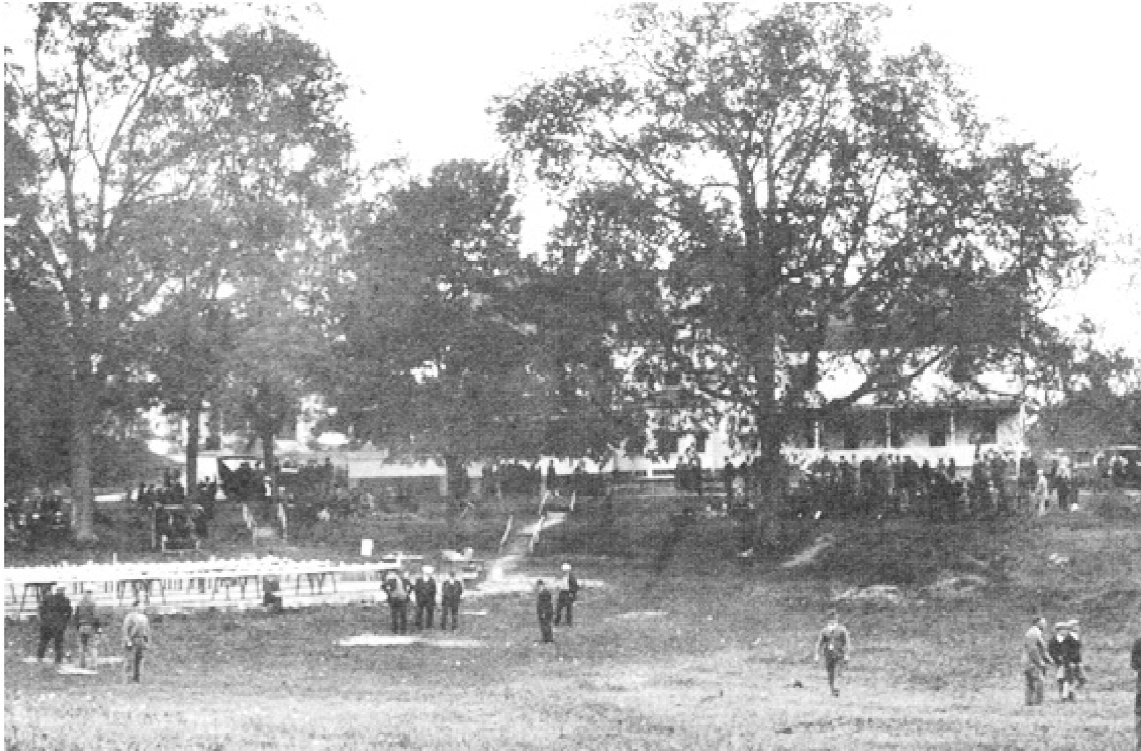


RESIDENCE OF HON. JEREMIAH LANGLEY, DURHAM POINT

253 Durham Point Road shows original porch, ell and shed. "Residence of Hon. Jeremiah Langley, Durham Point" (Stackpole and Thompson 1913 vol. II: 250)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



253 Durham Point Road photo of clambake on grounds of Colony Cove House shows enlarged ell with porch (Ross and House 1996: 56)



253 Durham Point Road, shows porte-cochère, 2½ story ell and shed (not extant) (Ross and House 1996: 56)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA

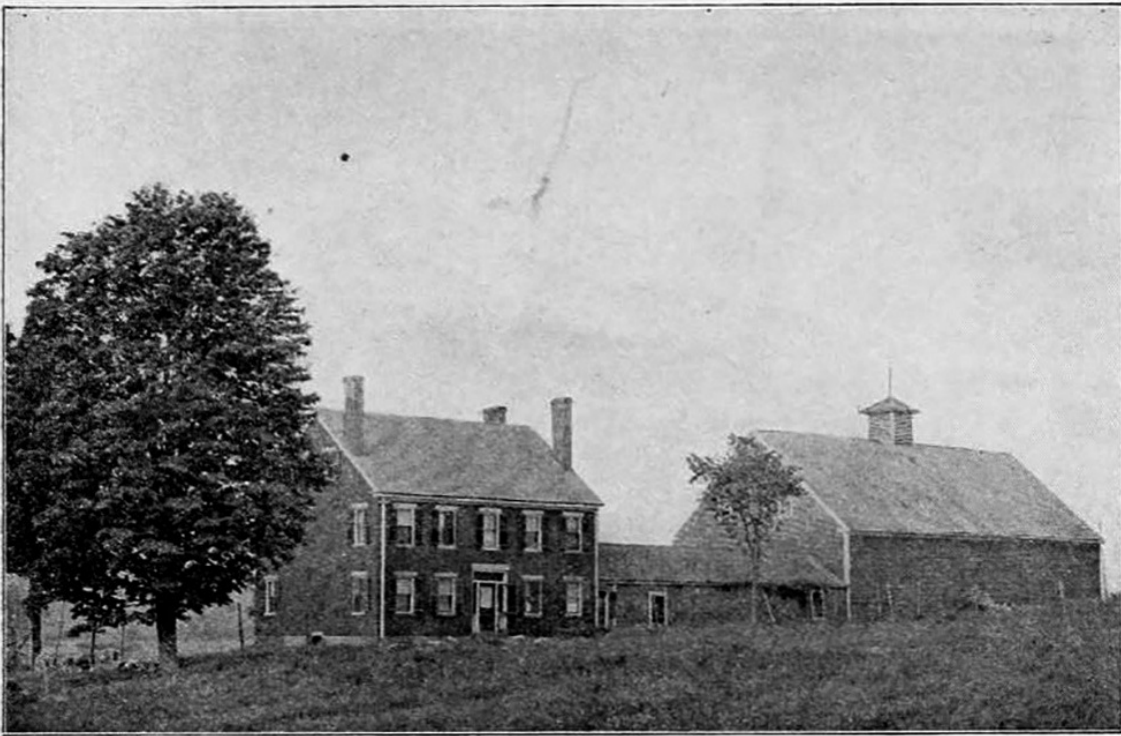


RESIDENCE OF MRS. ZILLA A. MATHES, DURHAM POINT

15 Langley Road (Stackpole and Meserve 1913 vol. II, 272)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



BIRTHPLACE OF VALENTINE MATHES, DURHAM POINT

50 Langley Road (Stackpole and Meserve 1913 vol. II, 273)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



Comfort Mathes House, no longer extant, site of Mathes Cove Road (Ross and House 1996, 58)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA

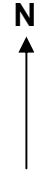
Historic Maps



Early house sites from Scales and Thompson 1913

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



[A.M.]

Map of Durham, Smith 1805

AREA FORM

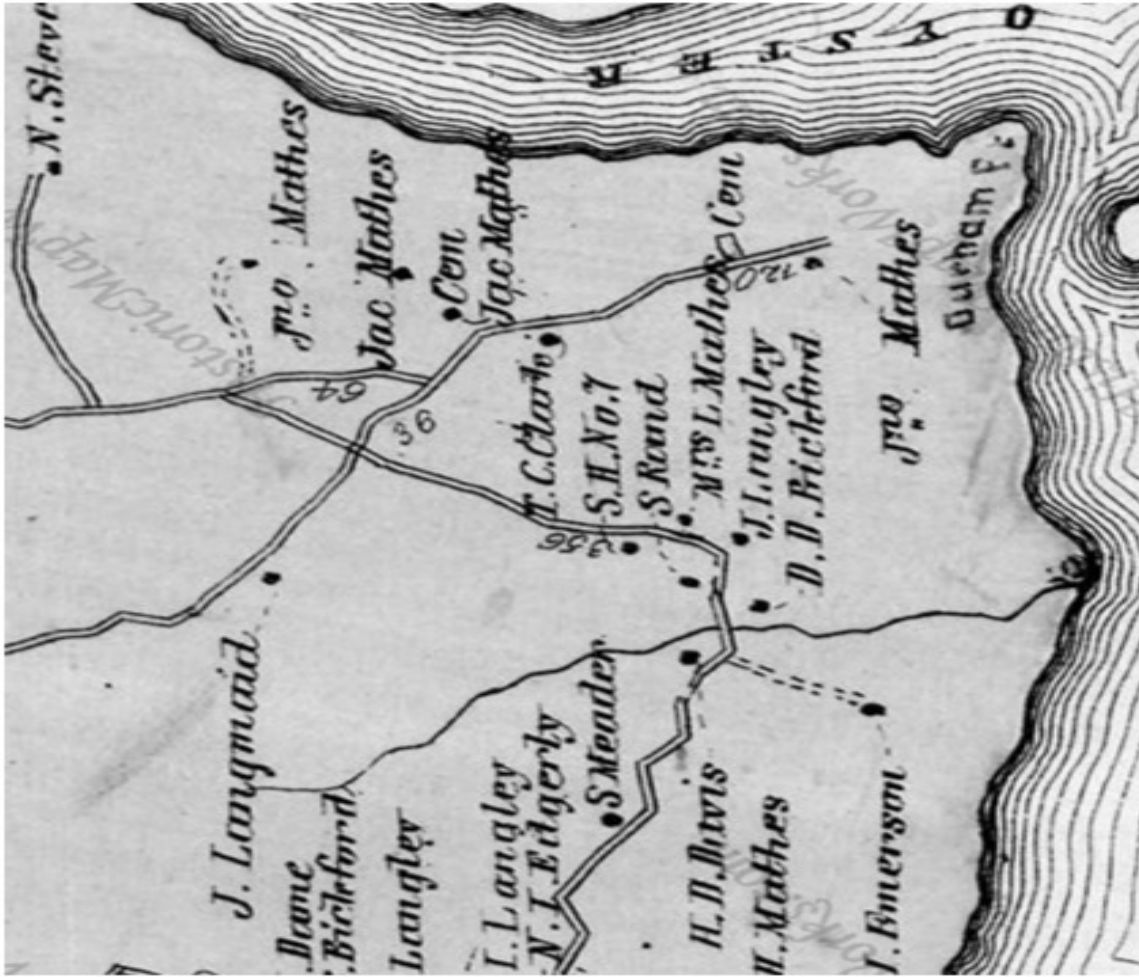
DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



Chace 1856 shows schoolhouse, earlier houses in vicinity of 247 and 260 Durham Point Road. Bickford House not marked was north of the brook, Davis site of 280, Emerson site of 275. J. Mathes site of 15 Langley Rd, T.C. Clark not extant and J. Mathes 50 Langley Rd (<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3743s.la000435/>)

AREA FORM

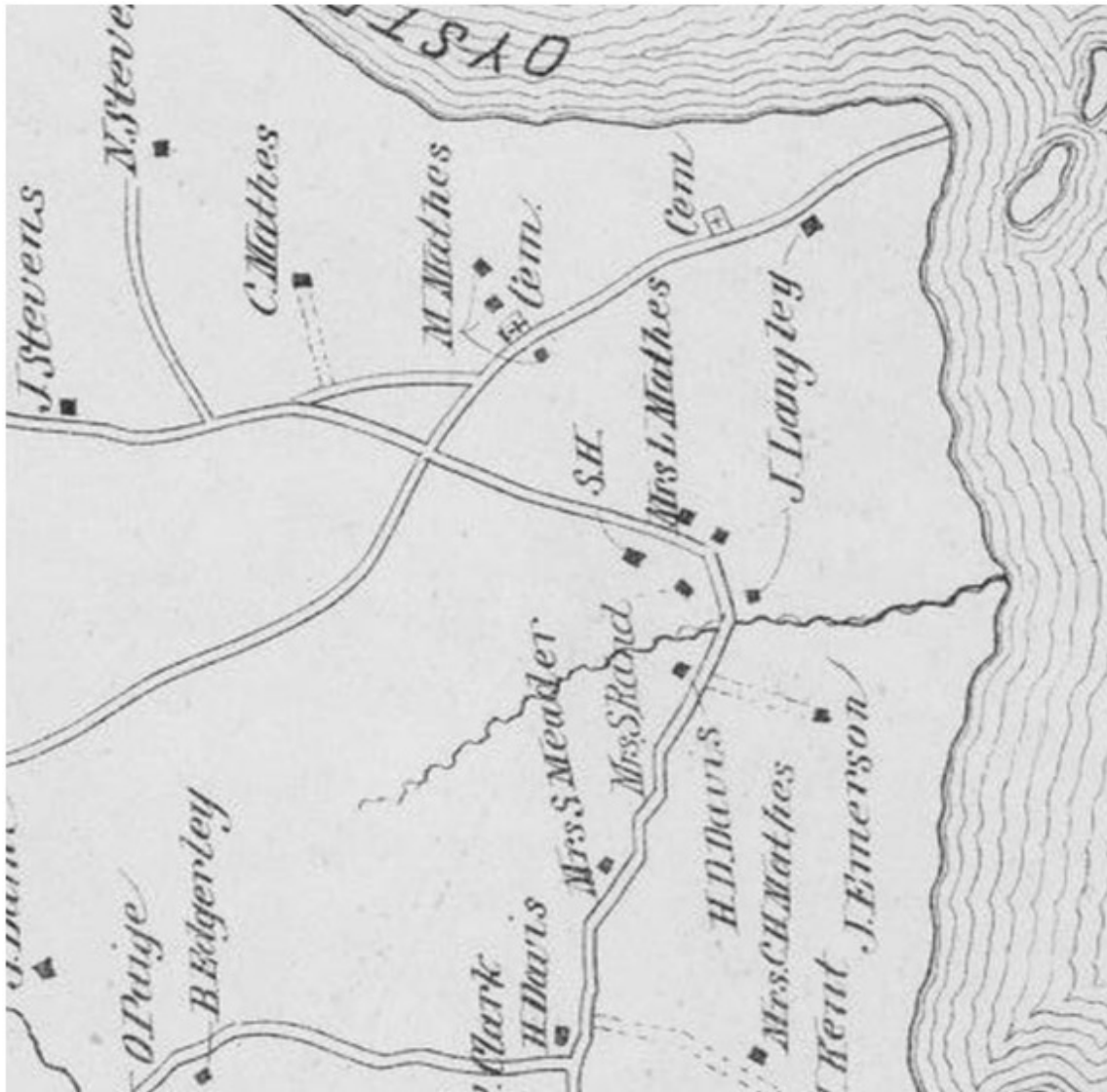
DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



Sanford and Everts 1871 shows Rand House 260 Durham Point, J. Langley site of 253?, Mrs. L. Mathes site of 247, Jacob Mathes 2 houses at 15 Langley, John Mathes 50 Langley (<https://archive.org/stream/atlasofstraftord00sanf#page/8/mode/2up>)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



Hurd 1892 shows C. Mathes site of Mathes Cove Rd, M. Mathes 15 Langley and 2 houses not extant, J. Langley 50 Langley Rd, schoolhouse, Mrs. L. Mathes not extant, J. Langley 247 and 253 Durham Point Rd, Mrs. S. Rand 260 Durham Point Road, H.D. Davis, J. Emerson not extant (<http://www.davidrumsey.com/maps1150990-31056.html>)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



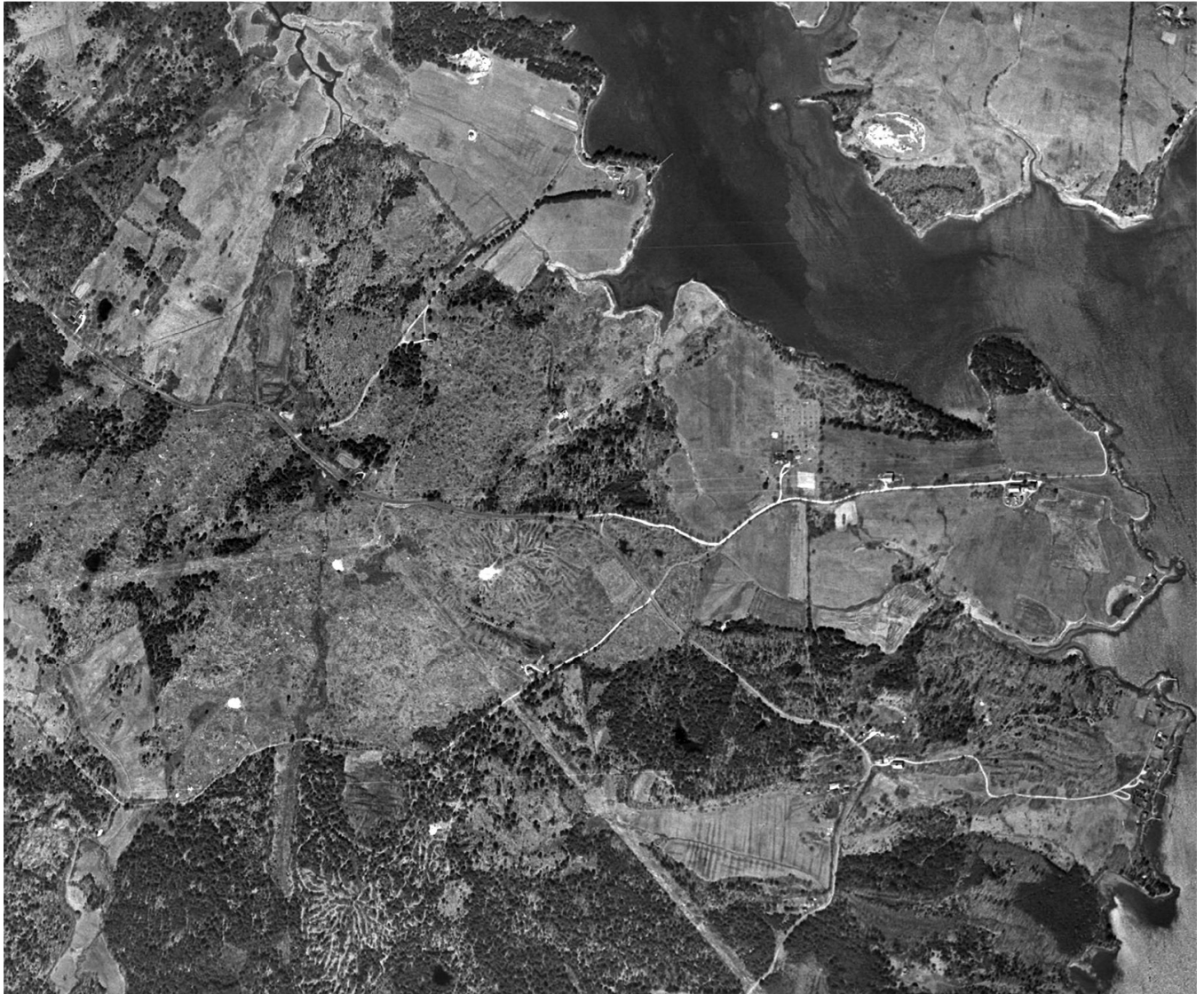
USGS 1918 (<http://docs.unh.edu/NH/dovr18sw.jpg>)



USGS 1941 shows old road to waterfront (<http://docs.unh.edu/NH/dovr41sw.jpg>)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



Aerial photograph, 1951 (www.historicaerials.com)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA

Additional Images



Google Earth with area outlined and labeled

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



Durham Point and Langley Roads, Google Earth satellite image, 2008



Durham Point and Langley Roads, Google Earth satellite image, 2015

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



Durham Point Road, Google Earth 2015



Durham Point Road, facing North, Bing Maps Birds-eye, pre-2014 view

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



Durham Point Road, facing North (new house at 270 Durham Point Road not yet shown) (Bing Maps Birds-eye)



Durham Point Road, facing west (Bing Maps Birds-eye)

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



15 Langley Road, facing South (Bing Maps Birds-eye)



50 Langley Road, facing North (Bing Maps Birds-eye)

AREA FORM

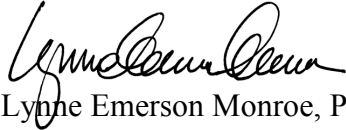
DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC AREA



50 Langley Road, facing West (Bing Maps Birds-eye)

AREA FORM**DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT****Digital Photography Statement**

I, the undersigned, confirm that the photos in this inventory form have not been digitally manipulated and that they conform to the standards set forth in the NHDHR Photo Policy. My camera was set to the following specifications: "fine" image quality (compression ratio 1:4) and "large" image size (3008 x 2000 pixels). These photos were printed using the following: Epson SureColor P600 photo printer on Epson Ultra Premium Photo Paper, glossy. The digital files are housed with Preservation Company in Kensington, NH.



Lynne Emerson Monroe, Preservation Company

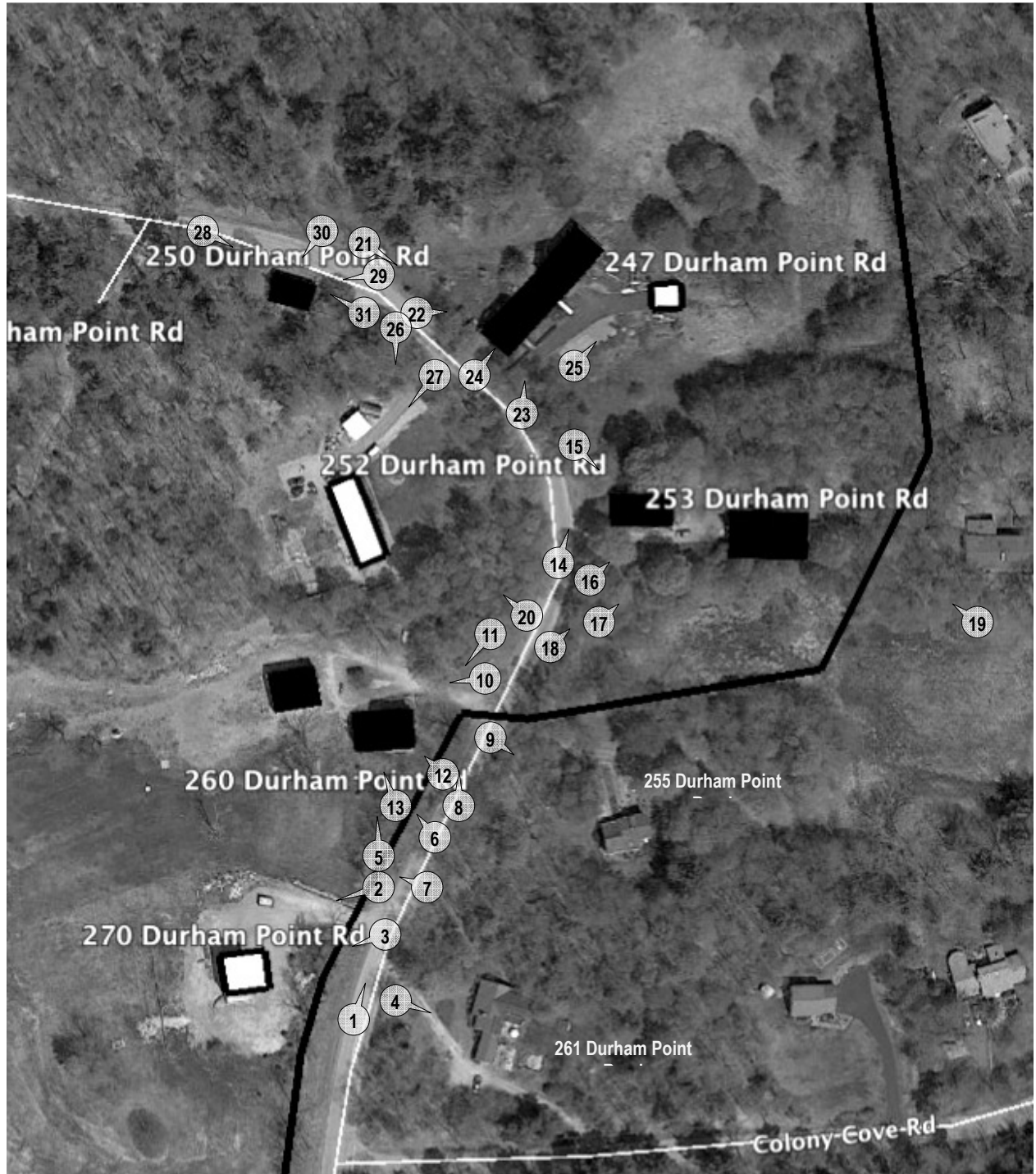
Digital Photo Log

The photos for this project are named: DurhamPtRd_01 through DurhamPtRd_79 where the last two digits are the photo number.

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

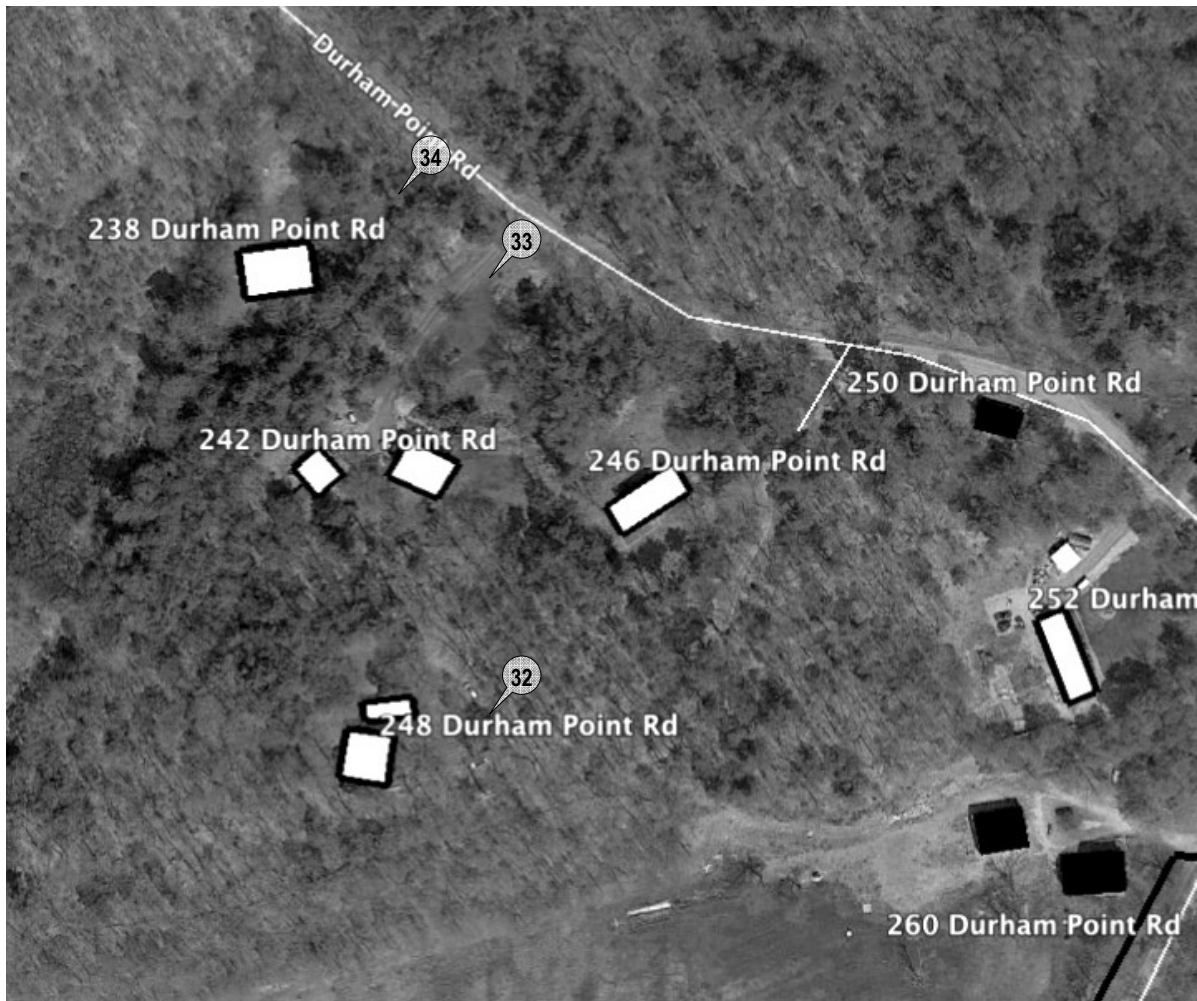
Photo Keys



Photos 1-31

AREA FORM

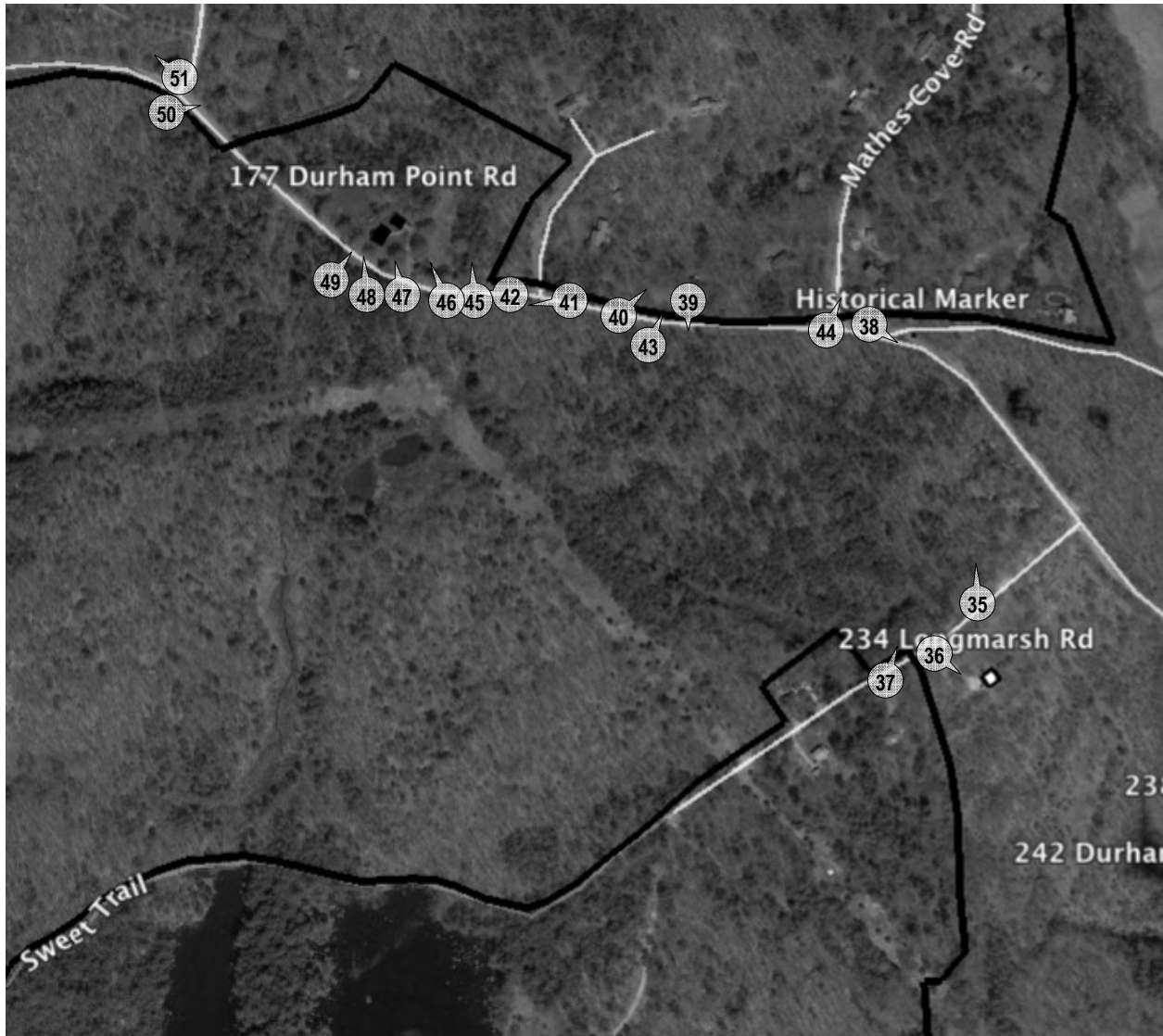
DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT



Photos 32-34

AREA FORM

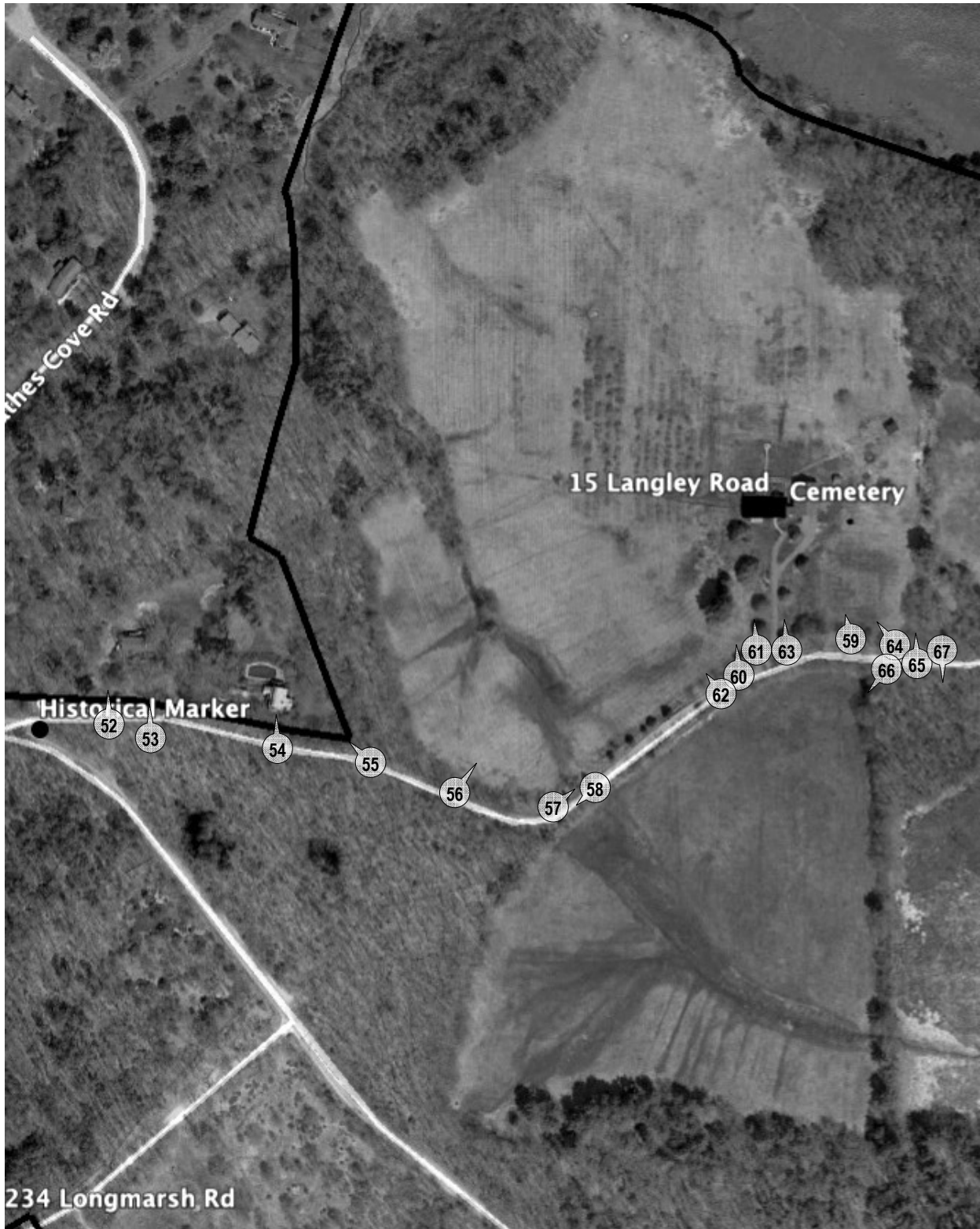
DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT



Photos 35-51

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT



Photos 52-67

AREA FORM

DURHAM POINT ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT



Photos 68-79