



## NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources 603-271-3483  
19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03301-3570 603-271-3558  
TDD Access Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 FAX 603-271-3433  
[www.nh.gov/nhdhr](http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr) [preservation@nh.gov](mailto:preservation@nh.gov)

December 11, 2017

Pamela Monroe  
Ms. Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator  
NH Site Evaluation Committee  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord NH 03301-2429

Subject: Northern Pass Transmission, LLC & Public Service of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy –  
Docket No. 2015-06 (RPR # 1448)

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR) is providing an update on the status of cultural landscape studies relevant to the above-referenced project.

As part of the effort to identify historic resources in the above referenced project's area of potential effect (APE) for the project's Section 106 review, the applicant contracted with a multi-disciplinary team to identify and evaluate cultural landscapes throughout the entire corridor. A cultural landscape is a reflection of human adaptation and use of natural resources and is often expressed in the way land is organized and divided, patterns of settlement, land use, systems of circulation, and the types of structures that are built. The character of a cultural landscape is defined both by physical materials, such as roads, historic buildings, walls, objects, and vegetation, and by use reflecting cultural values and traditions. In New Hampshire, cultural landscapes combine both historic and natural resources and often cover large acreages.

The consulting team first identified five broad study areas: the Suncook River Valley, Deerfield Study Area, the Pemigewasset River Valley, the Ammonoosuc River Valley, and the Great North Woods. These study areas were initially identified as potential locations for cultural landscapes through consultation with the DHR and the Northern Pass Project Section 106 Consulting Parties. The goals were to determine whether one or more cultural landscapes exists in each study area, to evaluate the significance of the landscapes that are within or immediately proximate to the APE for the proposed Northern Pass Project, and to identify the nature and the extent of component landscape features within the Zone of Visual Influence in the APE.



For each study area, the team produced an overview report (Volume 1), which provides an introduction, methodology, description of the study area, historical overview of the study area and cultural landscape recommendations. Cultural landscapes that were recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the consultant and located either in or proximate to the APE are outlined in subsequent volumes for each study area as follows:

Suncook River Valley:	Short Falls, Buck Street-Bachelder Road
Deerfield Study Area:	Previous identification efforts in this study area identified three large historic districts: Deerfield Center Historic District, Nottingham Road Historic District, Bear Brook State Park.
Pemigewasset:	Franklin Falls-Hill Village, Franconia Notch, Route 3 Tourism Development
Ammonoosuc:	Ham Branch River, Gale River
Great North Woods:	Mount Prospect-Martin Meadow Pond, North Road-Lost Nation Road, Upper Ammonoosuc River, and Harvey Swell

The following section summarizes the significance of each of the ten cultural landscapes identified. For more detailed information, please see attached written Determinations of Eligibility, prepared by the NH Division of Historical Resources and in concurrence with the US Department of Energy, the lead federal agency for this project's Section 106 review.

**Short Falls Cultural Landscape:** The Short Falls Cultural Landscape comprises 648 acres in the southwest corner of Epsom. The landscape is characterized by a collection of natural and cultural resources oriented along the river that embody the rural agricultural history of the Suncook River Valley from the end of the 18th century to the present. Most of the landscape is situated along Short Falls, Mill House, and River roads and Route 28, and is made up of sprawling farmsteads with connected farm buildings, agricultural fields, wooded floodplain, stone walls, and known and potential archaeological sites associated with historic river crossings and milling operations. The 19<sup>th</sup> century village of Short Falls is located within the landscape and includes Greek Revival and Italianate style residences, an Odd Fellows Hall and Grange, a depot, a creamery, and two small family cemeteries. The combination of these elements conveys the community's agricultural past and its relationship to the natural environment. The area is notable for the lack of modern intrusions and the presence of distant views across open fields, contrasting with narrowly-framed views along the tree-lined winding river. The Short Falls Cultural Landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a rare intact local example of a compact farming village and as an assemblage of resources that represent Epsom's 19th century settlement patterns and building types.

**Buck Street-Bachelder Road Cultural Landscape:** The Buck Street-Bachelder Road Cultural Landscape is characterized by a collection of natural and cultural resources that are oriented along the west side of the Suncook River and embody early settlement patterns, rural agricultural development, and the industrial history of the Suncook River Valley from the colonial period to the present. It comprises 1,853 acres in Pembroke. The combination of dispersed farmsteads and fields, wooded floodplain, boundary vegetation, village residences, and cemeteries within the Buck Street-Bachelder Road Cultural Landscape evokes Pembroke's agrarian past. The resources convey patterns of settlement and community development, as well as the way that natural resources in the Suncook River Valley shaped land use along Buck Street and the westerly portion of the landscape within the range road system. Early transportation and industrial remnants (Buck Street Dam Site) are notable in the landscape.

The Buck Street-Bachelor Road Cultural Landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of Agriculture, Community Planning and Development, Commerce, Exploration and Settlement, Industry, Architecture and Transportation. The Buck Street Dam Site has been identified as a complex assemblage of ruins associated with the site's development and evolving industrial use over time. Additional areas of the landscape may also provide information important to the understanding of former 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century farm complexes, historical circulation networks, residences, small mills, and dams. Large, open agricultural fields highlight the area's setting, which has high integrity and has not been substantially disturbed by modern development

**Franklin Falls-Hill Village Cultural Landscape:** The Franklin Falls Dam-Hill Village Cultural Landscape (3,483 acres) is in the Towns of Franklin, Sanbornton, Hill, New Hampton and Bristol. The Landscape is characterized by a collection of natural and cultural resources along both sides of the Pemigewasset River that are associated with the mid-20th-century relocation of several communities for flood-control purposes and the planning and development activities associated with displacement and relocation. The Cultural Landscape includes natural and cultural characteristics of the ca. 1940 Franklin Falls Dam and associated buildings and structures, old and relocated Hill Villages, the river, open meadows and wooded areas along the floodplain, historic circulation networks including roads and railroad corridor, objects such as street lights, road gates, and flood markings, and known and potential ruins and sites associated with farmsteads, villages, individual sites and river crossings. Two former village sites – Old Hill Village (ruins of 75-100 buildings including industrial buildings associated with water power, roads, sidewalks, historic plantings, walls, steps, wells, railroad corridor) and Profile Falls Village (old hamlet of Smith's Mill, industrial ruins associated with water power and residential buildings) – have been identified in the Landscape. In addition, approximately 145 archaeological sites have been identified. The setting is characterized by a wooded and cleared floodplain along the winding course of the Pemigewasset River. The Landscape's visual and scenic qualities heighten its historical significance. Natural elevation changes work in tandem with cleared fields, picnic areas, historic roadways, and other sightlines to afford viewers multiple vantage points where the relationship of the built and natural landscape can be understood.

Franklin Falls-Hill Village Cultural Landscape is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of Settlement, Community Planning and Development, Social History, Transportation, Engineering and Architecture. DHR archeologists also concurred that this Cultural Landscape is eligible for its rich and varied archaeological sites.

**Franconia Notch Cultural Landscape and Route 3 Tourism Development Cultural Landscape:** The Franconia Notch Cultural Landscape was originally proposed as one large landscape by the consultant team. During DHR review, it was determined that the area was better understood as two distinct cultural landscapes and an Addendum was provided. This Addendum covers the area of Franconia State Park and the lands along the Pemigewasset River within the towns of Franconia, Lincoln and Woodstock. The Franconia Notch Cultural Landscape (15,880 acres) includes the publically-managed resources (State Park and White Mountain National Forest) in the north that center around natural features. Recreational areas in the Landscape are for active or passive recreational activities and land management purposes, including large-scale natural elements; small-scale features (e.g. picnic benches, kiosks, and canoe launches); circulation routes (roads, trails, parking and turn outs), and designed or volunteer natural vegetation (forests, meadows, flower beds, hedges, and tree groves). Scenic views and vistas and designated viewpoints for experiencing the highly intact cultural landscape are also present. The Landscape reflects 200 million years of geologic time and more than 12,000 years of human history, joined through the interplay of natural and cultural elements. The remoteness, natural beauty,

ruggedness, and fresh mountain air of Franconia Notch have drawn visitors, artists and outdoor enthusiasts for generations and have established the Notch as a place imbued with deep cultural meaning.

The Route 3 Tourism Development Cultural Landscape (570 acres) comprises attractions as well as the commercial development in the south that includes motels, cabin courts and human-made tourist attractions. Some well-known historic resources located in the Route 3 Tourism Development Cultural Landscape are Clark's Trading Post, Indian Head Resort, and Montaup Cabins in Woodstock.

As noted above and for purposes of this review, DHR agreed that the area represents two distinct landscapes. The Franconia Notch area is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for Conservation, Recreation, Social History, Engineering, Architecture and Transportation. The development of the two lane I-93 highway through the Notch is significant at the National Level. The Route 3 Tourism Development Cultural Landscape (ZMT-RTCL) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for Recreation, Social History and Architecture. While no archeological sites have been identified within either Cultural Landscape, the DHR agreed that the area has potential to possess archaeological significance; ruins and archaeological sites many exist within the landscape, but they have not yet been investigated.

**Ham Branch River Cultural Landscape:** The Ham Branch River Cultural Landscape encompasses 2,690 acres within the Towns of Franconia and Easton. The Landscape's most important aspects are its linear arrangement and setting along Route 116 and the Ham Branch River valley, flanked by the adjacent steep slopes of the Cannon-Kinsman Range on the east and the lower elevations of the Cole and Cooley hills on the west. This configuration conveys a sense of enclosure and place set within the larger mountainous landscape. The boundary of the Ham Branch River Cultural Landscape encompasses the agricultural resources and landscapes, rural residences, recreational and civic properties, circulation features, cemeteries, and industrial sites associated with the historical development of the Easton Valley in Easton and Franconia. Views of the mountains from within the river valley are integral to the landscape's setting and character. The historical settlement pattern of dispersed farms and woodlots, with buildings spaced far apart and set close to the road, remains highly intact. Alterations on the Landscape's integrity are minimal and do not detract from its overall capacity to convey its historic character and significance.

The Ham Branch River Cultural Landscape is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a rural agricultural landscape. It is significant as an intact example of late 18th through early 20th century rural development along a narrow river valley. It conveys its historical associations with the settlement and occupation through the arrangement of open farms fields and dispersed resources along the Ham Branch River and Route 116 that are clearly distinguishable from the surrounding area. The Ham Branch River Cultural Landscape is also significant as a collection of vernacular examples of mid- to late-19th century farmhouses, barns, and civic buildings. Several properties demonstrate the transition from agricultural use to tourism through their conversion to inns that are currently in operation. Numerous additional potential resources, such as the remains of sawmills, starch mills, brickyards, schools, houses, and farms shown on historic maps, may be identified in the future with archaeological investigation.

**Gale River Cultural Landscape:** The Gale River Cultural Landscape is located in the Towns of Franconia and Sugar Hill (previously part of Lisbon until 1962) and encompasses 1,345 acres of land. The area began as an agricultural landscape. When the Lower Works location of the New Hampshire Iron Factory was established in the first decade of the 19th century, Franconia Village grew as a village hub, while the

Lisbon portion of the cultural landscape remained agricultural. The area is characterized by early road development, economic diversification, evolving agriculture, 19th century tourism, ironworking, 20th century tourism, the construction of I-93, and the 1962 split of Sugar Hill from the Town of Lisbon. Post WWII saw some development in Franconia, while Sugar Hill remained agrarian with an emphasis on the importance of scenic views. The Landscape includes the Gale River and floodplain with mountain views; late 18th-19th century farmsteads and fields with stone walls and fences; forest lands; Franconia Village; historic circulation networks with two historic bridges; cemeteries, and known and potential ruins and sites associated with industrial activities along the river and its tributaries, including an ironworks. The river valley along the Route 118 corridor is flanked by mountain and hill ridges. The Landscape's most important aspects are its linear arrangement and intact setting along the Gale River valley at the base of Garnet Hill with clear views southeast toward Franconia Notch, Cannon Mountain and Mount Lafayette.

The Gale River Cultural Landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance in Agriculture, Community Planning and Development, Commerce, Settlement, Transportation, Archaeology and Architecture. It represents a significant grouping of vernacular agricultural properties and village development from mid-19th through mid-20th century; resources together convey a distinct and coherent sense of time and place.

**Mount Prospect-Martin Meadow Pond Cultural Landscape:** The Mount Prospect-Martin Meadow Pond Cultural Landscape (2,635 acres), located entirely in Lancaster, is a vernacular rural and designed landscape consisting of the buildings and fields at the core of the Weeks family's early 19th century homestead at Prospect Farm, substantial portions of the adjoining farms historically associated with Senator John Wingate Weeks's early 20<sup>th</sup> century purchase and assemblage of farms, conservation land around Martin Meadow Pond currently held by the Weeks-Lancaster Trust, and Weeks State Park, given to the State by the children of John Wingate Weeks in 1941. The Landscape's extant resources reflect the area's important historical themes of settlement and subsistence and market-based farming from the 1810s to the mid-20th century, recreation and tourism from the late 19th to the mid-20th century, and land conservation from the early 20th century to the present. It is characterized by its combination of valley and mountain elevations; dispersed 19<sup>th</sup> century farmsteads with large barns, open fields, and tree lines; and summer mansions, houses, and cottages in open areas that take advantage of the spectacular views. The extant historic and natural resources within the Landscape retain historic integrity.

The Landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of Settlement, Agriculture, Recreation, Architecture, Archaeology and Conservation. The arrangement of open farm fields, dispersed resources, and wooded slopes not only conveys the Landscape's historical associations with Lancaster's early settlement and agricultural development, but also reflects conservation efforts implemented by the John Wingate Weeks family since the early 20th century. The Landscape is also eligible for its association with Senator John Wingate Weeks, a major national figure in American land conservation through his sponsorship of the influential Weeks Act of 1911 and for its architectural associations as a grouping of vernacular early to mid-19th century farmsteads and architect-designed early to mid-20th century summer estates. The DHR has also determined that the Landscape may rise to a National Level of Significance for its association with John Wingate Weeks, with further study and evaluation.

**North Road-Lost Nation Road Cultural Landscape:** The North Road-Lost Nation Road Cultural Landscape (4,430 acres) presents a distinct and nearly continuous agrarian landscape incorporating a succession of farmsteads with vernacular 19th and early 20th century residences, barns, fields and pasture, associated



villages, a religious building and small-scale agricultural features. These cultural features are framed and interspersed with wooded floodplain, marsh and river channels within the setting of the Israel River and Otter Creek valleys and with surrounding forested mountains and upland areas. The DHR had already determined that the North Road Agricultural Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This Cultural Landscape report expands that historic agricultural area north into Northumberland to include additional farmlands. The Landscape's most important aspects are its location on the intervals of the Israel River and Otter Brook, where pastoral farmsteads contrast with the Landscape's mountainous setting. The setting is highly intact, retaining its overall character and feeling.

The North Road-Lost National Road Cultural Landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic district, primarily significant for its farming history. By the 19th century, the landscape's pattern of dispersed farmsteads was established, and the villages of Grange and Lost National had developed around schools and mills. The Landscape is also eligible as a grouping of vernacular residences employing the Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, and Italianate styles; barns demonstrating typical design characteristics of the 19<sup>th</sup> century English and gable front barns; early 20th century dairy barns, and a Gothic Revival church. While no archeological sites have been identified within the boundary of the cultural landscape, the area has potential to possess significance; ruins and archaeological sites many exist within the landscape, but they have not yet been investigated. Subsurface remains of former farm complexes, residences, mills and dams may survive. These resources have the potential to provide information about the organization of farm complexes as they evolved to meet the changing demands of the dairy industry and about how the construction and configuration of mill sites as a secondary economic focus to agriculture may differ from mill sites built as the primary economic engine for a town or region.

**Upper Ammonoosuc River Cultural Landscape:** Upper Ammonoosuc River Cultural Landscape (1,053 acres) is located within the Towns of Stark and Dummer. Surviving resources include villages and hamlets with agricultural and lumber-related resources that follow along the historic Route 110 corridor and the Atlantic & St. Lawrence Railroad. The area follows along a river valley floor and includes Stark Village as well as the hamlets of Percy, Crystal, and West Dummer. The area also includes the Percy Summer Club and the Pike Pond summer camps, which strongly relate to historic recreation in the area. The combination of the winding river course, railroad right of way, small rural settlement nodes, wooded and farmed floodplain, farmstead and fields, boundary vegetation, residences, and cemeteries within the Landscape demonstrates the agricultural, industrial, transportation, and summer recreation and tourism history of the area.

The character of the Landscape is defined by the Upper Ammonoosuc River flowing east to west through the area's center in a lush narrow valley, contrasting starkly with the high hills and mountains to the north and south and the rugged terrain epitomized by the steep precipice known as the Devil's Slide. The views from the forested heights of Devil's Slide Trail towering above the village of Stark and from Northside Road, particularly of the twin Percy Peaks to the north, are integral components of the Landscape's character. The Landscape's most important aspects are embodied in its response to the topography and geology. The Cultural Landscape is highly intact. There are very few resources built after 1970 in the Landscape, and many of these possess setbacks or vegetative screening that reduces their visibility.

The Upper Ammonoosuc River Cultural Landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of Agriculture, Community Planning and Development, Recreation, Architecture and

Transportation. While no recorded archeological sites have been identified within the boundary of the Cultural Landscape, the area has potential to possess archaeological significance; ruins and archaeological sites many exist, but they have not yet been investigated.

**Harvey Swell Cultural Landscape:** The Harvey Swell Cultural Landscape (1,053 acres), located in northeast Colebrook with a small portion extending north into Stewartstown, is a collection of geographically proximate, late 19th and early 20th century agricultural resources. The Landscape contains a combination of dispersed farmsteads with large barns, open fields and tree lines extending over the curve of Harvey Swell, a White Mountain foothill, and the wooded valleys of the East and West branches of the Mohawk River. With early settlement beginning about ca. 1840, mixed family farming was the primary activity, which later shifted to potato and then dairy farming. In addition to the approximately ten working farms included in the Landscape, the area's former schoolhouse also survives and is now used as a residence. The area's elevated setting affords long-distance views of properties within the Landscape and the surrounding countryside of the Great North Woods region. The pattern of settlement is readily understandable and heightens the visual contrast of the farm buildings – particularly the massive barns – with their surrounding landscape.

The Harvey Swell Cultural Landscape is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of Agriculture and Settlement as a rural landscape that represents an intact 19th- and early 20th-century agricultural community, which includes mid-to-late 19th century farmsteads, a schoolhouse, and early to mid-20th century agricultural buildings. The spatial arrangement of the buildings, the associated road network, and the cultivated and cleared agricultural lands appear to remain largely as they were in the late 19th century, with little modern intrusion. While no archeological sites have been identified in the boundary of the Cultural Landscape, the area has potential to possess archaeological significance; ruins and archaeological sites many exist within the landscape, but they have not yet been investigated.

#### **Conclusion:**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this summary of the historic Cultural Landscapes potentially affected by the proposed Northern Pass project. For more detailed information, the Cultural Landscape reports submitted to the Site Evaluation Committee provide additional narrative, historic and current photos, and extensive mapping that delineates the boundaries of the Cultural Landscapes and their proximity to the proposed Northern Pass Transmission project. The DHR anticipates receiving additional information from the applicant in the near future regarding the project's potential effects on these resources. Following our review of this information, the DHR will forward its recommendations to the SEC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nadine Miller".

Nadine Miller  
Preservation Project Reviewer