

## 4. The Historic Landscapes Preservation Strategy

The coordination of planning between this Preservation Plan and the Bolton Open Space and Recreation Plan has provided an opportunity to broaden the perspective for preservation planning and to look at the “larger picture.” Historic resources can be protected one structure at a time, or they can be preserved within the context of the broader landscape that surrounds them. Coordination with the preparation of the Open Space and Recreation Plan has allowed the Historical Commission to take a broader view of what “context” means in historic preservation.

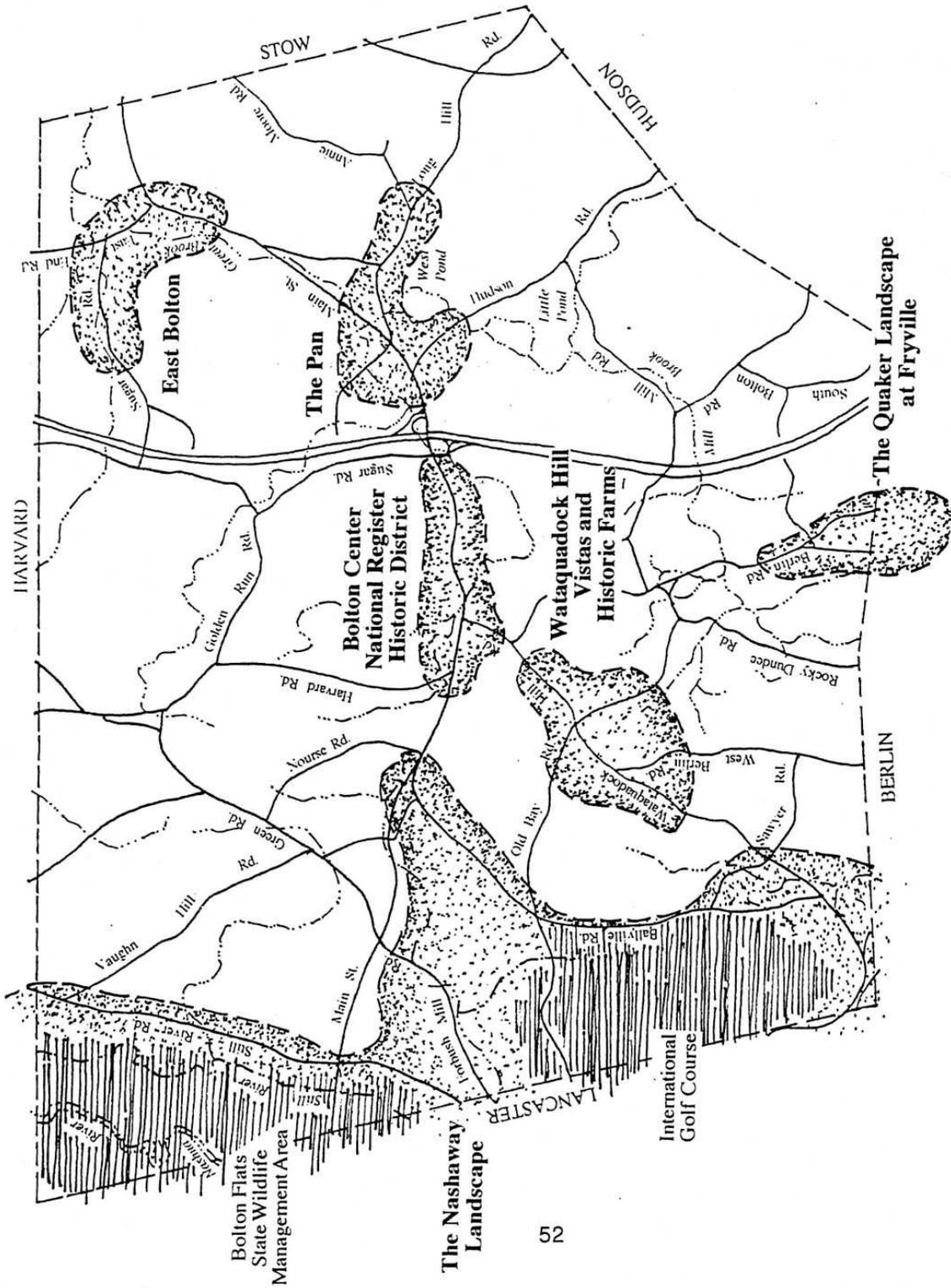
One of the more interesting aspects of looking at the larger context of historic properties is that doing so assists in connecting individual properties and Bolton’s larger history. It helps us to understand why this particular place happened.

Taking the wider perspective also assists in developing a vision for a place. It helps us to see the interconnectedness of houses and landscape, between the characteristics of the land and the economic and social relationships that resulted in a neighborhood or a village. From this perspective, historic preservation becomes not just the saving of isolated structures but the basis for sound town planning.

Since the preparation of the last draft of the Preservation Plan, the Conservation Commission has requested that the Historical Commission submit recommendations for historic landscapes that could be considered for incorporation into the Open Space Plan. That process is just beginning; however, in reviewing the excellent recommendations in the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan and, as a result of early meetings between members of the two commissions, the beginnings of an historic landscapes preservation strategy is being proposed in this plan for further review and comment.

The historic landscapes strategy, shown on Map 12, focuses on six areas in Bolton that have particular significance because they contain a concentration of historic resources. Each of these areas is quite distinct in how they developed and in the historic resources that each contains and therefore each area requires its own strategy to preserve its historic heritage. The six historic landscapes are:

1. East Bolton
2. The Pan
3. Bolton Center National Register Historic District
4. Wataquadock Hill Vistas and Historic Farms
5. The Quaker Heritage at Fryville
6. The Nashaway Landscape



**Map 12: Historic Landscapes Preservation Strategy**

Bolton Preservation Plan • Bolton Historical Commission • Alfred J. Lima, Planning Consultant

1. Bolton Flats -- 630-acre State Wildlife Refuge between the Nashua and the Still Rivers. Canoeing, hiking, fishing, hunting in season, wildlife study, and cross-country skiing. Parking at red barn on Still River Road.
2. Vaughn Hills -- 100 acres of conservation land featuring the north peak of Vaughn Hills, among the highest in eastern Massachusetts and cross-country skiing. Parking on Woodstock Drive.
3. Bower Springs -- 91 acres containing two large ponds, fields, and woods. Site of the annual Winter Carnival. Skiing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Parking off Flanagan Road.
4. Powderhouse Hill -- 5 acres behind Town Hall with self-guided, historic land use trail. Bolton Powderhouse dates back to early 1800's and stands atop a rocky outcrop. Hiking, wildlife study, historic information, picnic tables. Parking at Town Hall.
- 4a. Goodrich / Phibbin Conservation Area -- Two adjoining parcels totaling 74 acres of woodland that link with Powderhouse area. Hiking, wildlife study. Park as for Powderhouse and follow cart path (Old Town Road).
5. Rattlesnake Hill -- 10 remote acres encompassing Rattlesnake Hill. Peak provides eastern views in fall and winter. Hiking, cross-country skiing. Access from adjoining Lime Kin or Hanna Farm conservation lands. Owned by Conservation Trust.
6. Lime Kin and Quarry Areas -- 40 acres containing historic lime kiln and quarries dating to 1730's. Bob Horton Memorial Trail highlights local plantlife. Hiking, cross-country skiing. Parking off Main Street (Route 117).
7. Harris Gift Conservation Area -- 55 wooded acres connecting Lime Kin and Rattlesnake Hill donated in 1988. Access through adjoining conservation areas or at trainhead of Sugar Road.
8. Philip Phillips and Family Gift Conservation Area -- 75 acres of fields and rolling woodlands donated to the Conservation Trust in 1988. Hiking, cross-country skiing. Parking off Sugar Road.
9. Delaney Pond Wildlife Management Area -- 560-acre State Wildlife Refuge (primarily in Slow and Harvard). Boating (raim in Slow on Harvard Road), fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Snow mobbing on marked trails only.
10. Welch Pond -- Marsh pond off Wataquoock Hill. Wildlife study, cross-country skiing. Parking on Wataquoock Hill Road.
11. Fyfehshire & Haynes / Wheeler -- 38-acre wooded conservation area containing 2 ponds. Skiing, hiking, wildlife study, cross-country skiing. Parking on Wataquoock Hill Road.
12. Derby / Fittler Field / Sawyer Gift / Memorial Field -- Over 100 acres of fields and trails surrounding Emerson School. Site of Bolton Fair. Hiking, fishing, field sports, and cross-country skiing.
13. Annie Moore Land -- 90 acres in Bolton and Slow containing trails, old cart paths, and old apple orchard. Hiking, cross-country skiing.
14. Gould Purchase -- 2 trail easements from West Berlin and Randall Roads, donated by H. Mitchell Gould. Lead to pond within an 8-acre conservation area.
15. Dummell's Gift -- Open field area at intersection of Routes 117 and 110.
16. Vinger Gift -- 21 acres comprised of meadow, stream, marsh, and an old Quaker cemetery off Berlin Road. 7 acres of upland woods are accessible from far side of marsh.
17. Hansen Purchase -- 17 acres of mixed forest and wetlands. Trail runs along stream, then ascends to Vaughn Hills, and returns past large swamp. Parking off Green Road.
18. Wilder Pond -- 5.6 acres containing small pond (ice skating, no swimming) with access from Wilder Road and Main Street.
19. Member Conservation Land -- 22 wooded acres located on Main Street (Route 117). Gift to Conservation Trust in 1995 as part of Town's FOSPRD bylaw.
20. White -- 18-acre property containing woodlands and a stream located off Randall / Rocky Durdale Road.
21. Wallis -- 10 acres with old cart path. Hill terrain includes rocky outcroppings and hemlock groves. Owned jointly by Town and Conservation Trust. Access off Sawyer Road.
22. McCourtney -- 3.2-acre property known as "Hirdale". Short cart path to stream, granite outcropping. Picnic table in hardwood grove. 1994 gift to the Conservation Trust.
23. Cranberry Meadow -- A 1-acre meadow that thrived as a cranberry bog as late as 1940. Located off Burnham Road.
24. Whitcomb Garrison Foundation -- Small parcel at junction of Sugar and Golden Run Roads containing the foundation of the Josiah Whitcomb Garrison house, built in 1681.
25. Persons Park -- 5.5 wooded acres and lakeside cottage on Little Pond off Hudson Road. The cottage houses the Bolton Conservation Trust and is available for Town functions.



-- map updated by

## Map 13: Protected Open Space Areas in Bolton

## 4.1 East Bolton

### Historical Overview

This is one of Bolton's earliest settlements and includes the landscape along Sugar Road and Main Street on the eastern part of town.

A major part of the area is still in agriculture and is characterized by open fields and orchards. The homesteads and the histories of the families that lived here, for example the Whitcombs and the Longleys, provide an excellent opportunity to explore the role of Bolton's families in the history of the nation's development, including King Philips War, the French and Indian Wars and the Revolutionary War.

One of the fascinating stories with a base in East Bolton is that of Mary Fairbank, whose husband and two children were killed in an Indian raid on the early Lancaster settlement in 1697. After her two-year captivity in Canada, she returned to Bolton, married David Whitcomb, and was known as "Doctress" Mary for her knowledge of herbal medicine. She was the first doctor in Bolton, the only one closer than Concord. The Whitcomb residence still stands and is the oldest extant building in Bolton at 43 Old Sugar Road.

John Whitcomb, whose homestead was at 149 Main Street, is the model of the farmer/patriot/soldier that has become an essential part of American folklore. Whitcomb fought in the French and Indian Wars as a lieutenant colonel in the battles of Crown Point, Lake George and Ticonderoga, accompanied by his brother Asa, who served under him as a captain. In the early days of the revolution, the Provincial Congress commissioned him a general, one of five Massachusetts generals appointed at this time. On April 19, 1775, General Whitcomb answered the alarm from Concord, leading his men in battle there and then following the British into Cambridge. In June, 1775, he was again in command of his troops at the Battle of Bunker Hill. George Washington appointed him to command the Massachusetts forces, but he declined because of age. He returned to Bolton to continue the operation of his lime quarry and his farm.

The nearby lime kiln and the fulling mill site are a few of the places where the complex economic history of Bolton can be told. In 1736, a lime deposit was discovered at Rattlesnake Hill. It yielded 15,000 to 20,000 bushels of lime annually and remained in operation for over 100 years. The lime kiln is still intact and is one of the town's most important early industrial sites. This site provides an opportunity for exploring how early manufacturing occurred in town and the importance to Colonial America of discovering and developing its own sources of raw materials. This lime quarry was only the second to be discovered in all of New England, the first discovered in Newbury in 1697.

One of East Bolton's historic properties, the double forge blacksmith shop once located at 185 Main Street below the lime quarry, was moved to Old Sturbridge Village, restored and is now again in operation as a blacksmith shop. While the removal of the blacksmith shop from Bolton is unfortunate, nonetheless its relocation to Sturbridge Village allows Bolton residents to observe how the shop operated when it was at its Main Street location. This and other blacksmith shops in Bolton were the town's iron works, producing not only horseshoes but all of the iron components used for local economic activity (farming and manufacturing) and for domestic implements.

The only recorded fulling mill in town was located in East Bolton because of the maximum amount of flow from the Great Brook in the town occurred there as the brook passed under East End Road. Fulling mills required substantial amounts of process water for the working of woolen fabric that was spun and weaved at home. Before the advent of inexpensive domestic cotton textile cloth in the early 1800's, every home had a spinning wheel, flax wheel, clock reel, cards and looms for the weaving of woolen and linen cloth. The fulling mill worked the home-woven woolen cloth to make it more durable.

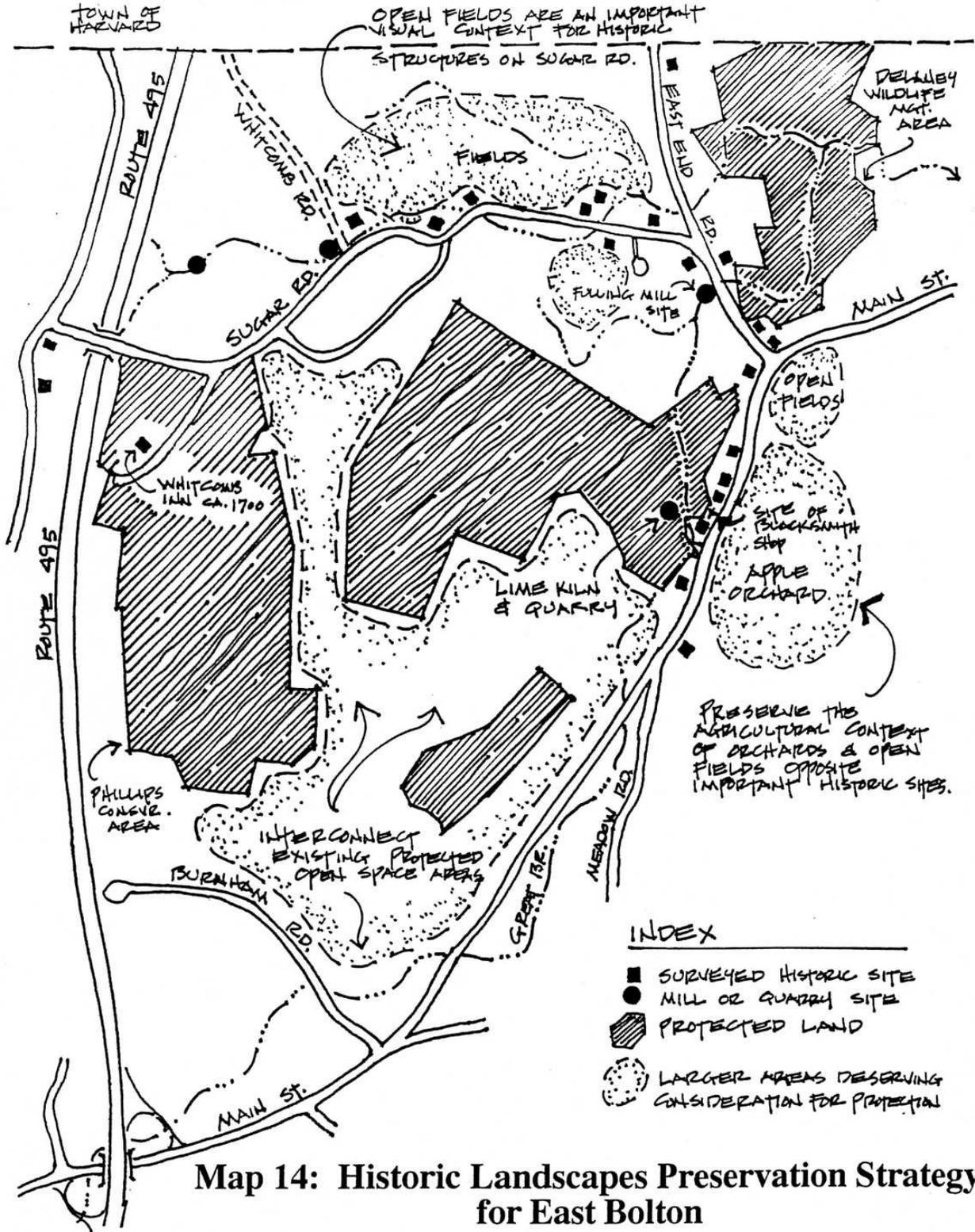
Bolton's longest operating inn and tavern was also located in East Bolton, at 225 Main Street. This inn, built by Abraham Holman, was in business for almost 100 years, from 1756 to 1844. It closed and subsequently demolished when railroads reached the region, making stagecoaches obsolete.

East Bolton, therefore, presents a strong theme of Lancaster during the earliest settlement and the succession of struggles to carve out a new community and a new nation. It is also the story of one family, the Whitcombs, that provide the human details and richness to an exciting epic. There are many "stories" to be told here: of Colonial and Revolutionary wars; lime production; blacksmith shops as local ironworks; and the evolution of agriculture from subsistence farming. The opportunity exists to develop these themes using the wealth of historical resources that exist in East Bolton, including the Whitcomb Inn, the lime quarry, the residences of such illustrious residents as Robert Longley. The existence of the Wilder blacksmith shop at Old Sturbridge Village provides an opportunity to tell the story of Bolton using the educational resources of that institution.

## **Protection Strategy**

There are several existing protected open space areas in this neighborhood, shown on Map 14, that could form the basis of a larger interconnected pattern. Because of this possibility, the Bolton Open Space Plan gives this area priority as one of its Core Conservation Areas. These existing protected sites include The Phillips Conservation Area, The Lime Kiln and Quarry Conservation Area, The Harris Gift Conservation Area, the Mentzer Conservation Land and the Delaney Pond Conservation Area, part of the larger state-owned 580-acre Delaney Pond Wildlife Management Area that extends into Harvard and Stow. The plan also recommends that the Whitcomb Road area be preserved for its scenic, buffer and trail potential.

The protection of open fields that surround the historic farmhouses north of Sugar Road should be given priority as part of any preservation effort for this neighborhood. This landscape is an example of the importance of preserving the larger "context" of historic structures by protecting the land around them. This area still preserves its historical integrity as a farming landscape, but that situation cannot be expected to remain as the pressures from development continue to occur. Given the



importance to the town of the 18th century farmhouses on this part of Sugar Road, these fields should be given immediate attention for protection.

Another site that deserves priority for protection is the field at Brockway's Corner, opposite the intersection of Main Street and East End Road, where the Nathan Brooks House and barns (ca. 1830) stands at 3 East End Road. This field, the apple orchard to the south of it and the historic structures opposite on Main Street provide a pleasant entranceway into Bolton. The field, orchard and structures have an historical and aesthetic unity and integrity to them that should be preserved.

East Bolton is the site of the town's earliest and most successful historic preservation efforts, the first being the preservation and restoration of the Whitcomb Inn on Old Sugar Road by Philip Phillips, including the later protection of the land surrounding the inn through a conservation restriction. The other accomplishment is the placing of a preservation restriction on the Moses Wilder House at 185 Main Street (ca. 1795). The Bolton Conservation Trust was instrumental in realizing both of these initiatives.

The strategy for protecting the architectural heritage of East Bolton should begin with developing an awareness among owners of the significance of their properties and their relationship within the context and history of East Bolton. This should begin with the distribution of the historic surveys to owners, the preparation and placement of historic house plaques on surveyed residences, and the opening of a dialogue on placing a preservation restriction on the exterior of these architectural resources. Owner and resident awareness will also be heightened by the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places that were recommended for submission in the Bolton Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources.

Because of the historical importance of East Bolton and the vulnerability of the landscape context to intrusive development, consideration should be given to designating this area as a "Neighborhood Conservation Area."

Because this area has such a unified landscape and an interesting history of the families who lived here and of the economic activities that occurred in the area, it would be useful to the preservation effort to have a history of East Bolton compiled from existing town histories, from information found in the Bolton Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources, from information in the archives of the Bolton Historical Society and from oral histories. This effort would help to provide a unity to the story of East Bolton and would be a catalyst in historic preservation efforts.

The history of East Bolton provides a rich resource for the development of public educational programs, including those for school children. The strong relationship between Bolton architecture and Old Sturbridge Village is potentially important for developing interesting educational programming.

The preservation of East Bolton would also benefit from the development of a walking, hiking or bicycle tour of the area that would explain the evolution of the area as a distinct neighborhood.

The significant historic residential structures, outbuildings and sites that exist in East Bolton include the following:

Address	Historic Name	Date	
3	East End Road	Nathan Brooks House	ca. 1830
19	East End Road	Europe Wetherbee House	ca. 1835
49	East End Road	Old East End Schoolhouse	1880
---	East End Road	Site of the fulling mill at Great Brook	
58	East End Road	Moses Howe House	ca. 1840
125	East End Road	Rankin/Glynn/Cochrane Farm	ca. 1866
149	Main Street	Site of Gen. John Whitcomb Homestead	1710
175	Main Street	Edwin A. Whitcomb House	1827-30
179	Main Street	Abraham Wilder House	1827-30
183	Main Street	Site of the double forge blacksmith shop (now at Sturbridge Village)	ca. 1810
185	Main Street	Moses Wilder House	ca. 1795
---	Main Street	Site of the Whitcomb lime quarry and kiln	early 1730's
225	Main Street	Site of the Abraham Holman Inn	ca. 1756
---	Sugar Road	Whitcomb Garrison site	ca. 1680
43	Old Sugar Road	Whitcomb Inn	ca. 1700
218	Sugar Road	JP Houghton House	1795
496	Sugar Road	Sites of the Whitcomb saw and grist mills; dam and pond remains; stone bridge	
496	Sugar Road	David and Abel Whitcomb House	ca. 1730
536	Sugar Road	Joshua Sawyer House	ca. 1810
550	Sugar Road	Reuben Wetherbee House	ca. 1855
584	Sugar Road	Joel Whitcomb House	1792
588	Sugar Road	Richard Whitcomb House	1791
610	Sugar Road	Col. Robert Longley House	ca. 1756
610	Sugar Road	Site of the Longley brickyard	



**Site of the Josiah Whitcomb Garrison (1680)**

Corner of Sugar and Green Roads

The rudimentary fieldstone foundation here is the earliest known remains of any building in Bolton. The remains are from a house built by Josiah Whitcomb, Bolton's first European settler. It is believed that in this house the first recorded birth of a baby in Bolton occurred. Following King Philip's War, unrest by local tribes resulted in the Town in 1704 designating three houses as garrisons, one of which was the Whitcomb house.

**David Whitcomb Inn (ca. 1700)**

43 Old Sugar Road

This is Bolton's oldest extant house and the town's only remaining example of a 2 1/2 story center chimney saltbox with a rear leanto. In the mid-twentieth century, it was authentically restored by its owner, Philip Phillips. David Whitcomb married Mary Fairbank, whose husband and children were killed in a 1697 Indian raid and she captured. During her two years captivity in Canada, she gained a knowledge of herbal medicine which she applied as "Doctress" Mary, the only physician closer than Concord.



**Joshua Sawyer House (1810)**

536 Sugar Road

The form and style of this house is very characteristic of the first two decades of the nineteenth century in this area. Joshua Sawyer was a carpenter who may have been involved in building the house. His carpenter's shop, where he also made bellows, was located nearby. He was one of the few men from Bolton who participated in the War of 1812.

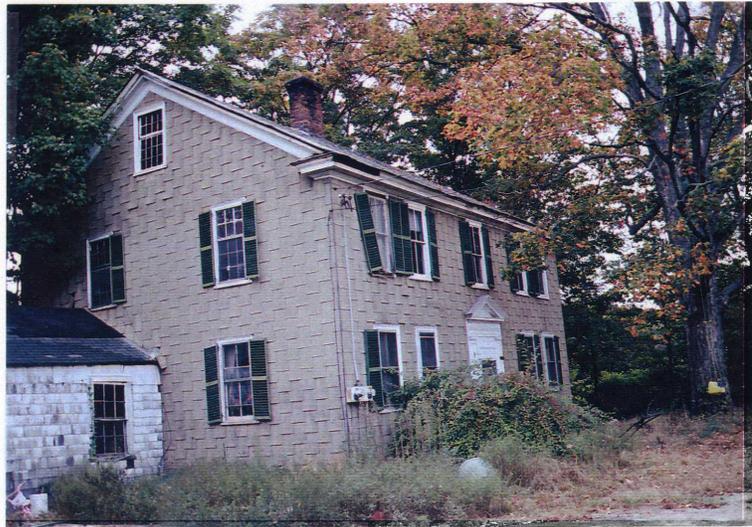


**David and Abel Whitcomb House (ca. 1730)**  
496 Sugar Road

This house was originally a center chimney 2 1/2 story farmhouse familiar in the eighteenth century. A millpond and dam remain from a grist mill that once existed on the site in the early nineteenth century. David Whitcomb had 11 children, four of whom were in the Revolutionary War.

**Joel Whitcomb House (1792)**  
584 Sugar Road

Joel Whitcomb was a Bolton housewright who is known to have built several houses in the area. This house, which originally had its center chimney, and the one to the rear at #588 are significant as examples of a known housewright. Joel Whitcomb was one of the more prolific carpenters and house builders of his generation.



**Col. Robert Longley House (ca. 1756)**  
610 Sugar Road

It is likely that this building was originally a classic 2 1/2 story center chimney farmhouse, with the center chimney removed in later years. East of the house is a well-preserved vertical-board New England barn. Col. Longley, a farmer, raised a company that fought at Bunker Hill in the Revolutionary War. He operated one of Bolton's smaller brickyards on this property, supplying nearly half of the bricks for the chimney of the new northeast schoolhouse.



### **Whitcomb Lime Kiln**

(ca. 1736)

To the rear of 185 Main Street

This kiln, part of the quarry that operated here for approximately 100 years, has circular fieldstone walls that are five feet thick. This 250-year-old structure may have been originally cone shaped. The kiln was part of the Whitcomb Lime Quarry, probably Bolton's first true industry and the second lime quarry in New England. Discovered in 1736, the Whitcomb Lime Quarry produced 15,000 to 20,000 bushels of lime annually and was in demand for its use in mortar and plaster.



### **Moses Wilder Blacksmith Shop (ca.1810)**

185 Main Street

Blacksmith Moses Wilder built his blacksmith shop east of his home at 185 Main Street. Moses trained his eldest son Abraham to join him in the blacksmith trade, with Moses adding a second forge so both could work simultaneously. In the 1940's, the building had been filled with sawdust and used as an icehouse. In 1957, the building, shown here at its original location, was moved to Old Sturbridge Village, where it has assumed a new life and is being operated daily as an 1830's New England blacksmith shop.

### **Jonas Whitcomb/Moses Wilder House (1795)**

185 Main Street

This is the last surviving structure of what were once several 18th and early 19th century farmhouses along Main Street in East Bolton. It still has an intact fieldstone well that occupies the first floor of its two-story shed-roofed east wing, probably one of the only houses in Bolton to do so. The house was formerly a saltbox, whose leanto was later raised to two stories. Moses Wilder built his stone blacksmith shop to the east of his residence. This house is the only structure in Bolton with a preservation restriction. The lime quarry is to the rear of the house.



## 4.2 The Pan

### Historical Overview

This is another of Bolton's important villages and, because of the coursing of the Great Brook through the area, it has played a significant role in the economic history of the town. The economic activities that occurred here included tanning, shoe making, comb making, brick making, barrel making, tool manufacturing (in blacksmith shops), the manufacture of straw, beaver and silk hats and growing cranberries. These were in addition to the common economic activities of farming, sawing lumber and grinding grains at the gristmill, and cutting ice at West and Little Ponds.

The Pan was one of Bolton's earliest settlements and contains several of the town's most significant historic homesteads. These include the:

Address	Historic Name	Date
81 Burnham Road	Percey Phinney House	1885
121 Burnham Road	Coolidge/Burnham House,	1822
48 Hudson Road	Elnathan Polly/Oliver Sawyer House	1730
96 Long Hill Road	Osborne/Whitcomb House/Long Hill Farm	ca. 1815
154 Long Hill Road	Bacon/Bagley/Dakin House	ca. 1785
392 Main Street	Captain Samuel Baker-Benjamin Sawyer Hse.	ca. 1750
401 Main Street	John Sawyer House	ca. 1827
412 Main Street	Hildredth/Whitney House	ca. 1828
418 Main Street	Patrick/Brown House	ca. 1840
443 Main Street	Miles/Caswell Shop	ca. 1805
447 Main Street	Oaks-Osborne House	pre-1768

In addition, The Pan includes other historic resources of the European settlement era, including the Pan Burying Ground (1822), the "Settlers Tomb" near 30 Long Hill Road, and mill sites and dams.

The Pan is situated between Bolton Center and East Bolton and its boundaries approximate the extent of a smaller glacial lake (see Map 4) that, when it drained, left flat deposits of silty sand that were ideal for agriculture and therefore settlement by Puritan families. The historic landscape for The Pan logically extends up Long Hill Road to include the agricultural landscape around Long Hill Farm, the site of Oliver Barrett's brickyard on Long Hill Road and the Bacon-Bagley-Dankin House (ca. 1785). While the landscape of The Pan was affected by the construction of Route 495, which cut a swath through the village, the integrity of this historic neighborhood is still intact.

The economic and social history of the Town of Bolton can be told through the historic homesteads in The Pan. One example is the Captain Samuel Baker/Benjamin Sawyer House at 392 Main Street (ca. 1750). As related by preservation consultant Anne McCarthy Forbes in the Bolton Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources, this house is associated with the first known tannery in Bolton, established about 1750 by Captain Baker, and with the mill complex that he started and which

operated for over a century on Great Brook north of Main Street. Since tanning was water-intensive, tanneries were always located near adequate water sources. The house is ideally situated adjoining a stream that flows out of West Pond and across from the Great Brook. Captain Samuel Baker is believed to have received his military title from service in the French and Indian Wars of the 1750's and 1760's. Benjamin Sawyer continued operation of the saw mill, adding a grist mill on Great Brook, and also fought in the Revolutionary War. A later occupant, Willie Bryant, also had a seasonal business cutting ice on nearby West and Little Ponds.

The seasonal and complementary nature of economic activity in Bolton---with agricultural activity during the growing season and industrial activity in the wintertime---is told in an interesting anecdote about The Pan on page 13 of his report.

The Pan also contains one of the few remaining structures in Bolton that were used exclusively for manufacturing activity in the early 19th Century. This building is the Miles/Caswell Shop at 443 Main Street (ca. 1805). As described in the Forbes survey of Bolton's historic resources, this utilitarian building is one of the earliest of the few remaining and identifiable examples of a "ten footer." This structure is one form of the many small workshops that were constructed by Bolton farmers for their seasonal occupations, such as shoe or comb making.

This ten footer was built by Thomas Miles as a shoemaker's shop that produced "sale shoes" for the local, newly urbanizing markets. Calvin Wheeler, William Thurston and Elkanah Caswell later made combs there. Mr. Wheeler was one of Bolton's first comb makers (1824) and also used the building for his other trade as a wheelwright. Elkanah Caswell later mechanized the comb manufacturing process and moved the operation to the nearby grist mill on Burnham Road owned by John Sawyer.

The ten footer was attached to the original house, a Cape Cod cottage, for over 100 years. The women of the house made straw hats for the nearby growing towns of Leominster, Clinton and Fitchburg. The cottage was later demolished and replaced with the current Dutch Colonial residence.

This ten footer also has important links to the present. In the early 1970's, the Caswell ten footer became the first location for an antique business that was to grow into the world-famous Skinner Auction Galleries, now located nearby at 357 Main Street. This tiny, unassuming structure has had a remarkably rich history.

In addition to the Miles/Caswell Shop, Shoes were also made by Reuben Newton and his sons at their homestead at 442 Main Street, opposite the Miles/Caswell shoe shop. The Newton shoe manufacturing operation employed five or six men.

Because it was on the Old Bay Road that connected Boston, Concord and Lancaster, and because it was at the crossroads of additional well-travelled routes of Long Hill Road and the Hudson Road, The Pan experienced the varied and heavy traffic of wagons, stage coaches, mail coaches, cattle and turkey drives and the general din that accompanied the wide range of economic activity of the 18th and 19th centuries. However, The Pan's economic base was still agricultural in nature. In addition to the raising of cattle and field crops associated with subsistence agriculture, The Pan also grew 27 acres of cranberries above Burnham Road on the Great Brook.

The Pan has many “themes” that identify it as a distinctive area, themes that could be integrated into educational and public awareness programs. One of these themes could be the role of various “cottage industries” in the development of Bolton and their seasonal complementarity with agriculture, the town’s main economic activity. West and Little Ponds also provide an opportunity to rediscover the process of ice harvesting for nearby Hudson and other urban markets. The Pan is also a varied laboratory for discovering the geologic history of the neighborhood. It provides examples of kettle holes, kame terraces and eskers and, with proper interpretation, can help to explain why the village developed and why economic uses located where they did.

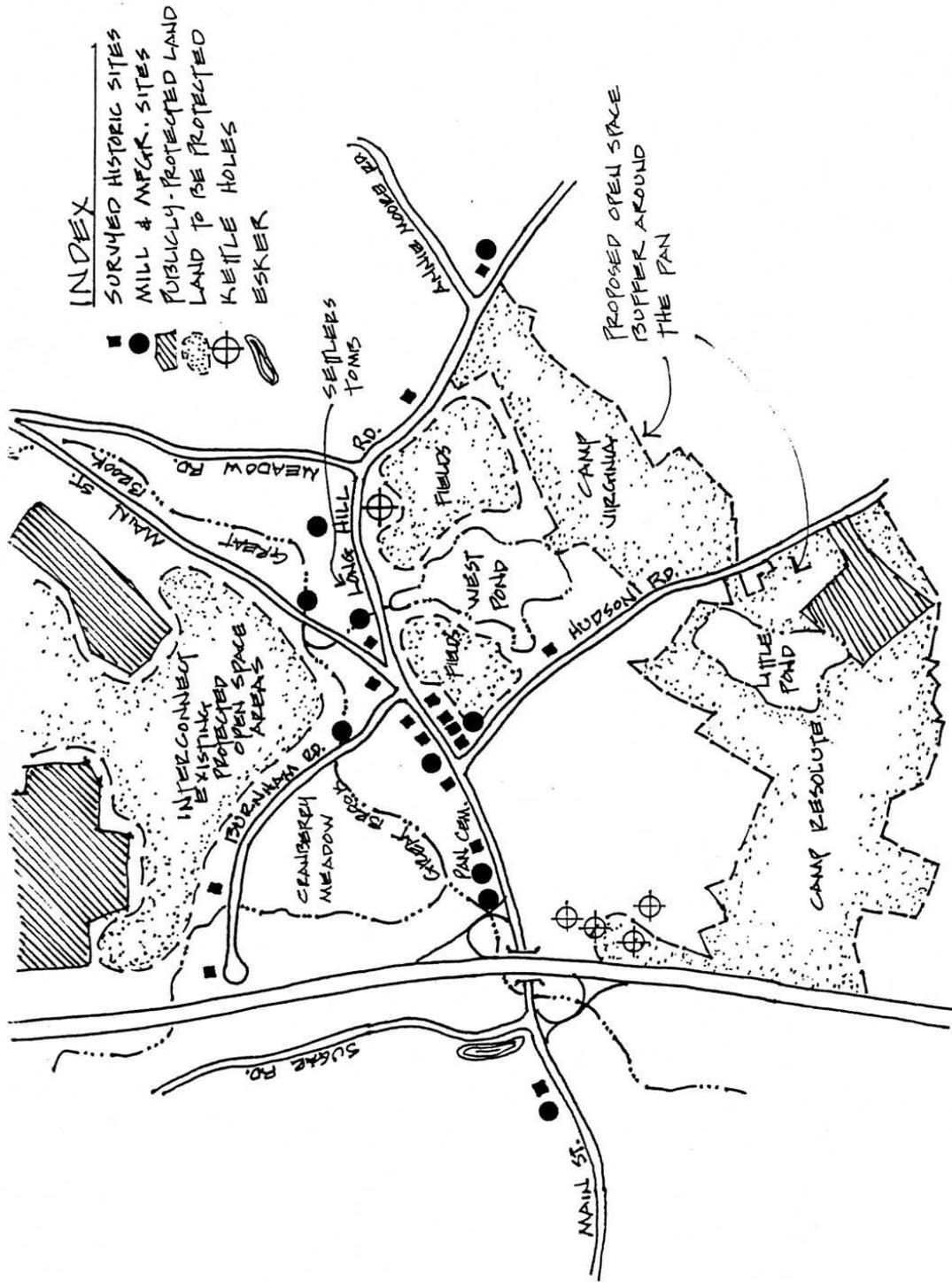
### **Protection Strategy**

The landscape protection strategy for The Pan is indicated by the accompanying map of the neighborhood. There exists an opportunity to “surround” The Pan with a frame of open space by interconnecting existing protected land to the north and by having as a long-term goal the protection of the two scout camps to the south. The farm fields off of Long Hill Road should also be preserved as economic, visual and historic resources and for their role in protecting the shoreline of West Pond (see Map 15).

The Bolton Open Space Plan identifies both West and Little Ponds as areas of high priority for protection because of their function in protecting water resources, for their natural beauty, for their historic values and because of their recreational potential. The plan notes the importance of the scout lands in any long-term protection strategy and the need to preserve the beautiful agricultural landscape on Long Hill Road. It also recommends that a buffer be initiated along the Great Brook to preserve its natural resource and historical values, extending the protection of the brook beyond sections of the brook that are already protected as conservation land.

Preserving the integrity and scale of the streetscape of Main Street should be a principal goal for the Pan, particularly since Route 117 is not a town scenic road and because of the commercial zoning that exists near the Route 495 interchange. Consideration should also be given to defining the area between the Pan Burying Ground and Long Hill Road with a specific road edge treatment, such as street trees, walkways and “traffic calming” devices. Pedestrian safety from the large volumes of traffic needs to be considered in the edge treatment. The street edge on either side of Main Street at the Pan Burying Ground also needs to be softened with plantings and with a treatment that respects this historic cemetery.

The Bolton Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources recommends several properties in The Pan for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.



**Map 15: Historic Landscapes Preservation Strategy for The Pan**

Bolton Preservation Plan • Bolton Historical Commission • Alfred J. Lima, Planning Consultant

The clustering of these and other historic properties lends itself to the consideration of The Pan as a "Neighborhood Conservation Area." This designation would provide an additional layer of review to development proposals in the area and help to build an awareness of this place as a distinct village.

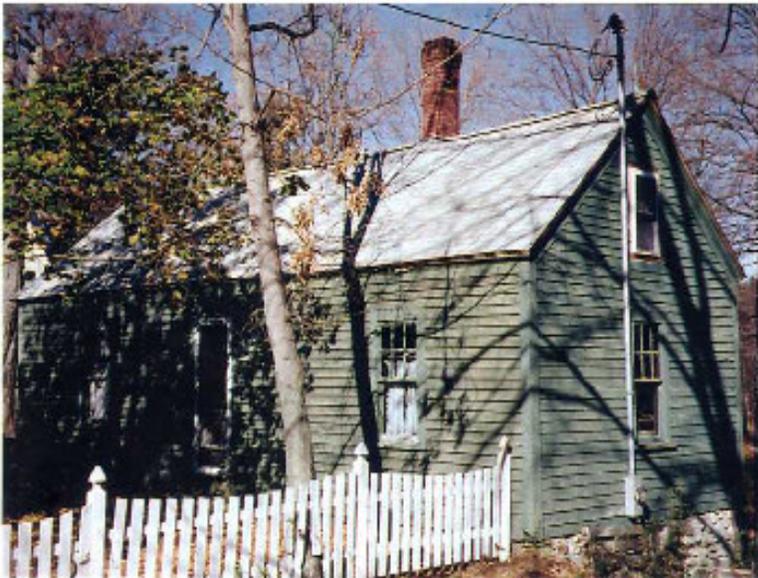
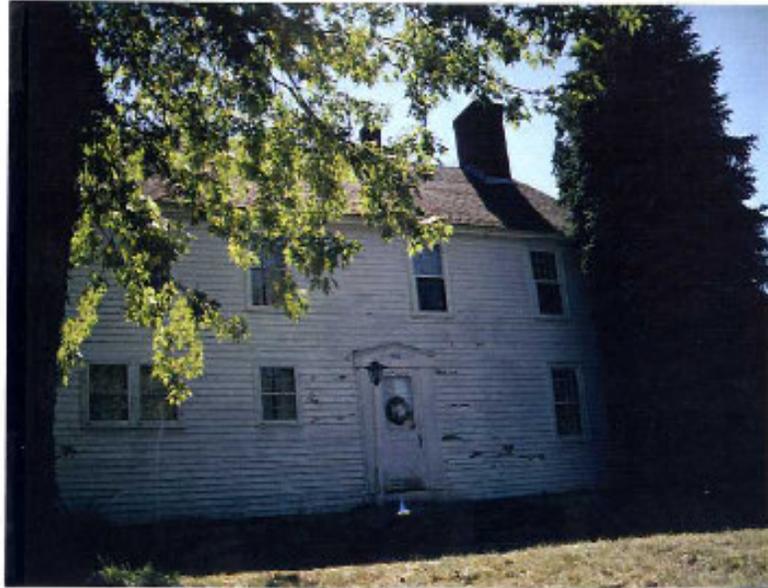
The preservation of specific properties should begin with an educational and awareness initiative, followed by the placement of house plaques on historic residences and interpretative plaques on former mill and manufacturing sites. The Sawyer and other mill sites on Burnham Road and Main Street need to be adequately located and the areas surrounding the sites targeted for protection. Special priority should be given to protecting the "Settlers Tomb" site with a preservation or conservation restriction or some other appropriate protection.

Finally, the rich information on individual properties contained in the Bolton Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources---coupled with information in the town's histories, in the archives of the Bolton Historical Society and from new oral history sources---could be compiled by a local amateur historian so that the story of The Pan can be told with more completeness and coherence. Whether before or after this history is compiled, a walking or bicycle tour of The Pan could also be prepared as a volunteer project to assist residents of the neighborhood and the larger public in appreciating the historical heritage that exists here.

**Captain Samuel  
Baker/Benjamin Sawyer  
House (ca. 1750)**

392 Main Street, at Long Hill Rd.

This house is associated with the first known tannery in Bolton (started about 1750) and with the mill complex that Samuel Baker constructed nearby on the Great Brook. Captain Baker served in the French and Indian Wars. Benjamin Sawyer, who fought in the Revolutionary War, continued the operation of the saw mill and added a grist mill at the Great Brook location.



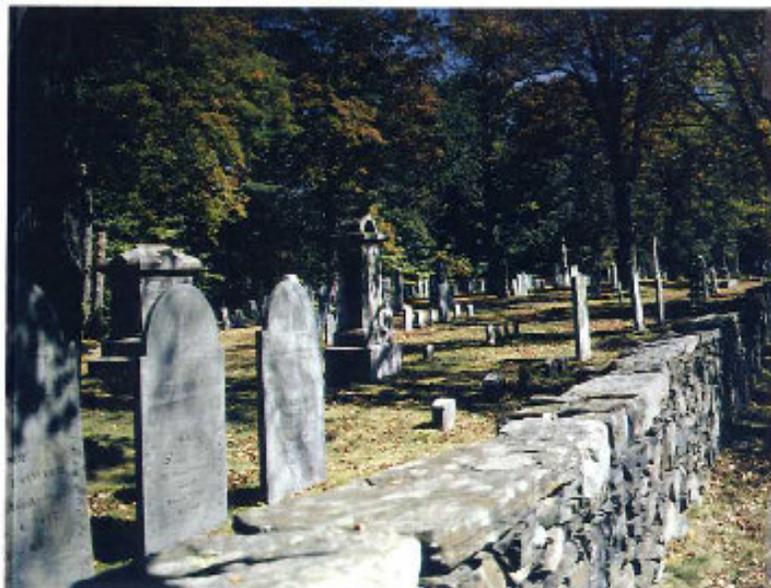
**Miles/Caswell Shop  
(ca. 1805)**

443 Main Street

This unassuming building is one of the few remaining examples of a "ten footer," structures that were constructed by Bolton farmers for their seasonal manufacturing occupations in the early 19th century. This ten footer was used for making shoes, combs and wagon wheels. The building was once attached to the original house (now demolished), where women made straw hats. In the 1970's, it became an antique shop that later grew to be the Skinner Auction Galleries.

**Pan Burying Ground (1822)**  
Main Street

The Pan and West Burying Grounds were created by the Town as the Old South Burying Ground became filled. Originally called the East Burying Ground, its predominately slate and marble markers reflect the use of this cemetery principally from the mid-1820's through the late 1800's. Its central wrought iron double gate was made in 1823 by Captain Oliver Sawyer, a Bolton blacksmith.



**Elnathan Polly/Oliver  
Sawyer House (1730)**  
48 Hudson Road

This "three quarters" house, with its long, two part side wing and attached barn/garage, was once located at a site between the Pan Burying Ground and Sugar Road. It was threatened with demolition by the construction of Route 495, but was moved to its present site in 1963 and restored.



**Osborne/Whitcomb  
House/Long Hill Farm**  
(ca. 1815)  
96 Long Hill Road

This is one of Bolton's outstanding examples of its Federal high style, hip-roofed brick farm houses, constructed of bricks made from Bolton brickyards. All of these impressive brick residences were constructed between 1796 and 1821. The farm's barns and outbuildings are excellent compositions of vernacular historic architecture that were once found extensively in Bolton and are still quite prevalent.

**Bacon/Bagley/Dakin House**  
(ca. 1785)  
154 Long Hill Road

This center chimney farmhouse was part of a prosperous farm that was first owned by Noah Bacon, who had formerly operated a blacksmith shop on Main Street west of the Pan Burying Ground. It is believed that he built another blacksmith shop here. While at this location in 1788, Bacon made the irons for the new town stocks. A blacksmith and a wheelwright were subsequent owners.



## 4.3 Bolton Center National Register Historic District

### Historical Overview

The Bolton Center National Register Historic District has retained an architectural and historical integrity as the town's center for over two centuries. Even though the center has included many stores and manufacturing activities over its history, they have been of the same scale and materials as the residences and barns in the district. Over two-thirds of the 30 buildings existing in the center in 1831 are still standing. In architectural style, it is predominately Federal and Greek Revival in character.

The many and varied historic structures in the Bolton Center National Register Historic District are listed at the end of this section.

The linear pattern of development of Bolton Center is the result of the allocation of 20-acre house lots to the original settlers. The early settlement was therefore more open and agricultural. It later obtained its more clustered village feeling when farmers sold off smaller lots on the street for the building of homes for their children or for persons in other occupations.

Bolton Center was at a crossroads on the Post Road from Boston to Lancaster, and derived its early importance and development impetus from its location on this major east/west transportation route. The center was a major stagecoach and mail stop for many years, particularly after the Revolutionary War and before the coming of the railroads. An average of 40 loaded wagons passed through Bolton every day to and from the western towns. This resulted in the location here of many travel-related uses, including two inns, a stagecoach company, harness and blacksmith shops, and related uses. The Holman Inn was located between 711 and 715 Main Street. The Holman Inn had an enormous barn, located near 730 Main Street, that contained up to 90 horses. The barn was also used by the Bolton and Lancaster Stage Company that was based at the Holman Inn and that operated beginning in 1827. The second inn in Bolton Center, the Woodbury Inn, was located at 670 Main Street. Among the businesses servicing the inns were the Gutterson Harness Shop located at 714 Main Street and the Holman Inn Harness Shop at 727 Main Street that was converted to a residence in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

General stores in the center included the Old Brick Store (ca. 1820) at 718 Main Street, the center's longest-operating enterprise, the Joseph Sawyer store at 702 Main Street (ca. 1810) and the former Center School, moved from the intersection of Wataquadock and Manor Roads to 689 Main Street and converted to a general store about 1865.

Bolton Center was also the location of many early cottage industries. These included the jewelry and watch making business of Joel and Nathan Sawyer at 694 Main Street, the small cluster of mechanics shops built by Joel Sawyer in the early 1830's, at the site of his dam and sawmill on the Great Brook (now Pond Park), the Haven Newton tailor shop at 683 Main Street and the Ebenezer Towne tailor shop at 711 Main Street. Beaver and later silk hats were made at the Blood Hat Shop at 579

Main Street at the east end of the district and, at the western end of the center, the Cunningham tannery operated from ca. 1806 through the 1850's on a stream north of the intersection of Main and Harvard Streets. The Bolton Shoe Company, whose building still stands at 664 Main Street, was formed in the late 1830's and constituted an evolution from the traditional cottage-industry craftsmanship of making shoes in Bolton to the more advanced technology and methods of the industrial revolution.

Once the General Court gave its permission to incorporate the Town of Bolton in 1738, the first task of the new community was to build its first meetinghouse, which was erected in 1740 at a site near the intersection of Wataquadock and Manor Roads. That meetinghouse was replaced by a larger structure in 1793 at the site of the Federated Church. That second meetinghouse stood on this site for 130 years, when it burned down in 1926 and was replaced by the present Federated Church building in 1928.

Like most Massachusetts towns, the meetinghouse and parish house in Bolton were one and the same until the full separation of church and state occurred in Massachusetts in 1833. Bolton's architectural history reflects this evolution. In 1834, a separate building for conducting the secular affairs of the town, the "Town House," was built at the site of the current town hall. That building burned and was replaced by the existing Greco-Italianate building in 1853.

As a precaution against fire and explosions, the General Court in 1812 directed the towns to build separate buildings for the storage of town ammunition. Bolton subsequently built its brick powderhouse on top of powderhouse hill to the rear of the meetinghouse. Prior to that, the ammunition had been stored under the pulpit inside the meetinghouse and later in the garret. The site of the powderhouse is interesting as an historic site not only because of the existence of the powderhouse but because the southeastern face of the hill shows the effects of scouring of the bedrock by glacial ice as the glaciers receded northward.

Bolton's first schoolhouse was built in the town center in 1744 in proximity to the first meetinghouse near the intersection of Wataquadock and Manor Roads. Later, a new schoolhouse was built near the new meetinghouse. Both of these buildings are gone; however, two of their successor nineteenth century school buildings are in existence, one of which was built in 1825 on the site of the very first school building at the intersection of Wataquadock and Manor Roads. In 1865, it was moved by George and Henry Newton, later owners of the brick store, to 689 Main Street and converted to a small general store; in 1925, it was moved back on the lot and converted to a residence.

The replacement for this school is also still in existence at 9 Wataquadock Road. It was originally built in 1841 in the Greek Revival style as the first Baptist Meeting House in Bolton. Since 1828, Baptists had been arriving in Bolton and, as their numbers grew, they built a second, larger church in 1866 on Main Street. That building was badly damaged in the 1938 hurricane and subsequently demolished. The town purchased the vacated meeting house and converted it into a school. It remained in that use until the 1890's, when all the lower grades were consolidated in old schoolhouses that were moved to a central location south of the millpond.

This modest, unassuming building has a noble history that belies its simple appearance. Properly restored, it could have something to say to this and future generations about the role of the Baptists, along with the Quakers, in winning the struggle for religious freedom and the separation of church and state in America. Its simple Greek Revival architecture also reflects the desire on the part of the founding fathers to be that ideal republic, a beacon to the rest of the world. It would also be a proper place to relate the story of early education in the town.

The “theme” of the Bolton Center area could be any of several possible topics. The role of self-government in a democracy, in Colonial times as well in the new Republic, could be one theme. This would be especially interesting in terms of the evolution of the New England mindset and self-image from Englishmen to Americans. The center is also an appropriate place to explore the role of education in a democracy and how education has changed over time. Another theme could be transportation in the early years of the town, including the transportation-related uses and manufacturing that grew along transportation routes. Architectural styles could be another theme. The possibilities are many.

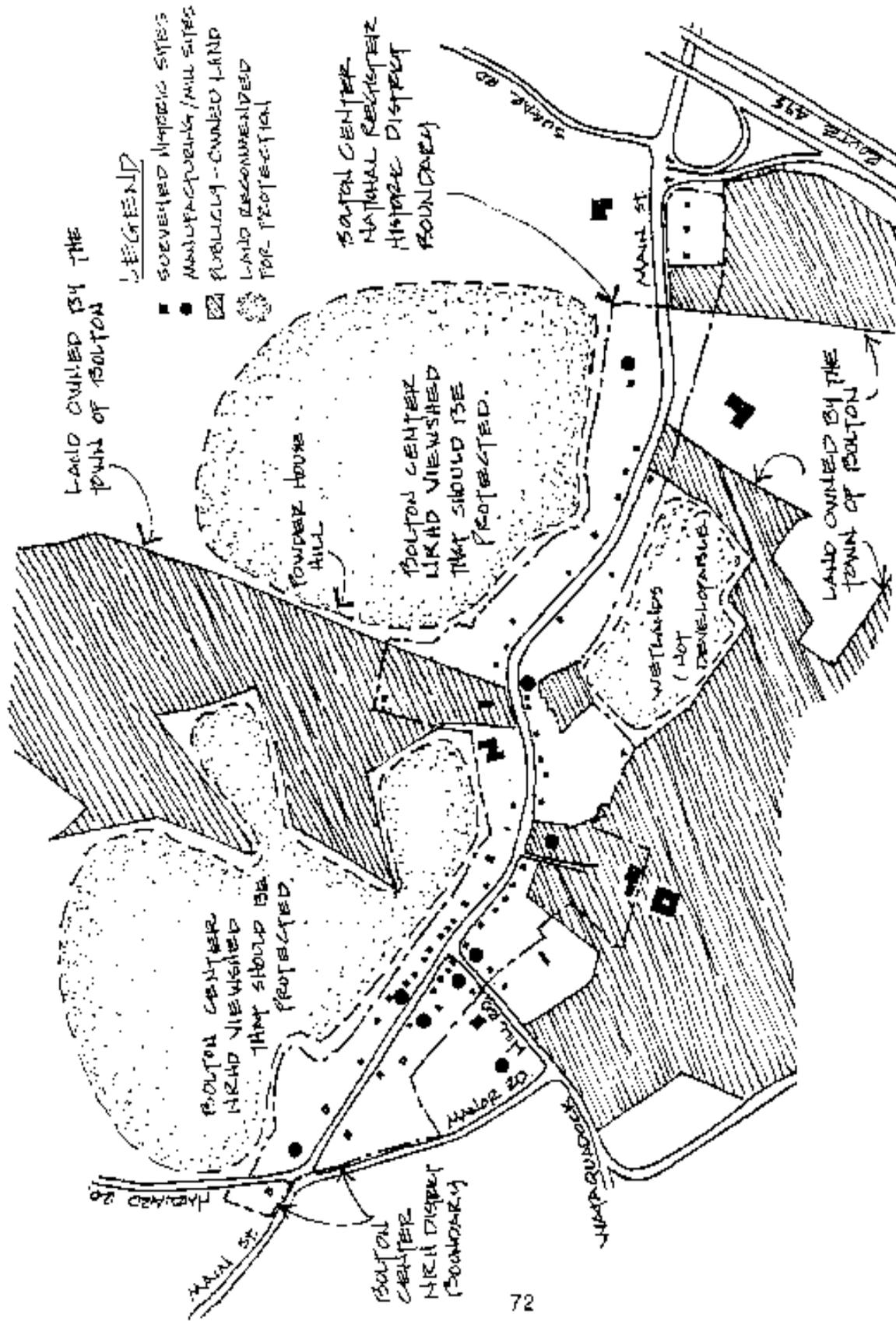
### **Preservation Strategy**

The major significance of Bolton Center’s historic resources has been confirmed by its nomination as a National Register Historic District. However, the context and backdrop of these significant structures needs to be protected. The historic landscape in Bolton Center includes its viewshed, or the area that is visible from Main Street . Since the topography surrounding the Center is steep, any development occurring there will be very intrusive on the character of the town’s center. Consideration should be given to protecting this viewshed through various open space planning strategies (see Map 16).

Existing publicly-owned open space (the Powderhouse Hill/Goodrich/Philbin Conservation Areas totaling 79 acres and the Derby/Flatley Field/Sawyer Gift/ Memorial Field areas totaling over 100 acres) could provide the basis for a viewshed protection strategy. This area is also mentioned in the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan as a high priority Core Conservation Area. An historical-interpretive trail, the Bolton Historical Land-Use Trail, was recently built on part of the Old Town House Road, the 1764 path that connected East Bolton with the Parish and Meeting House. The Open Space Plan also mentions the significance of protecting a 76-acre parcel northwest of the center that has two ponds and a stream but would also have significant additional value in protecting the historic viewshed of the National Register District.

Bolton Center also provides an excellent opportunity for educational initiatives. Existing activities such as house tours can be supplemented by walking tour brochures and slide programs. The center also lends itself to the preparation of a summary of the rich and interesting history of the neighborhood.

The quality, amount, and compactness of historic resources in Bolton Center deserves consideration as a local 40C historic district. While the owners of historic



**Map 16: Historic Landscapes Preservation Strategy for the Bolton Center National Register Historic District**

Bolton Preservation Plan • Bolton Historical Commission • Alfred J. Lima, Planning Consultant

properties in the center have been excellent stewards of their properties, the uncertainties of the future warrant a closer look at the 40C option.

In the interim, individual property options include working with owners to achieve the voluntary placing of preservation restrictions on historic structures, the preservation of Robinson Hall, and the conversion of the Town-owned Baptist Meetinghouse/District #1 Schoolhouse building at 9 Wataquaddock Road to a period model Town district school as it would have looked in the 19th century.

The many and varied historic resources included within the area of the Bolton Center National Register Historic District include:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Architectural Style</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Main St.</u>			
550	Atwood Farm Cottage	Colonial Revival	1918-1919
556	Atwood Farm Cottage	Craftsman Cottage	1918-1919
562	Atwood Farm Cottage	Dutch Colonial Revival	1918-1919
579	Samuel Blood House	Federal	1793
579	Cottage/summer house	Greek Revival	late 19th C.
601	Hyde/Townsend Cottage	astylistic	ca. 1790's
603	Cottage (converted barn)	astylistic	ca. 1900
607	Gardner Cottage	Greek Revival	ca. 1831
608	Edwin Pardee House	Craftsman Bungalow	1916
615	John Powers House	Colonial Revival	1942
621	Otis Pollard House	Greek Revival	1850-1852
631	Brurgess/Howe House	Greek Revival	ca. 1851
642	Gen. Stephen Gardner House	late Georgian	1798
649	Theodore Gardner House	Greek Revival	1830-1831
651	A. Proctor/Powers House	Victorian vernacular	1890's
655	Withington House	Greek Revival	1831
662	Warren Houghton House	Italianate vernacular	ca. 1869
663	Bolton Town House	Greco-Italianate	1853
----	Powder House	utilitarian	1812
----	Old Town House Road		19th C.
664	Robinson Hall	Greek Revival/late	ca. 1829
670	Thomas Wetherbee House	late Queen Anne vernac.	1912-1913
673	First Parish/Federated Church	Colonial Revival	1928
674	Jacob/Benjamin Houghton Hse.	Greek Revival	18th C.
676	Rich/Sawyer House (Holman Inn wing)	Federal	1810-1819
676	Atwood Blacksmith Shop	utilitarian	early 20th C.
----	Bridge over Great Brook	fieldstone bridge	pre-1800
683	Horatio Newton House	Greek Revival	1842
689	Center School	astylistic	1825
----	Pond Park (Sawyer's dam & mill)		ca. 1831
694	Joseph & Nathan Sawyer Hse.	late Federal	ca. 1830
697	Houghton School	Greek Revival	1849

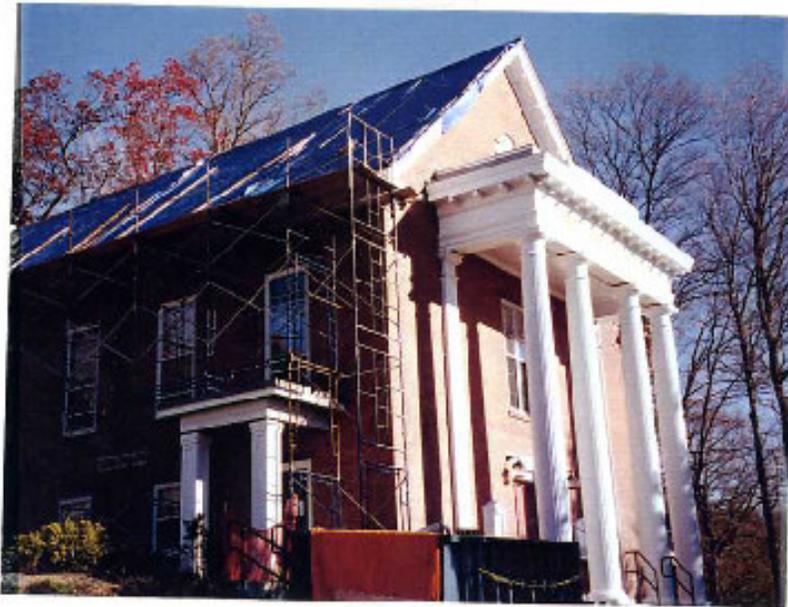
698	Joseph Sawyer House	Georgian	ca. 1760
702	Joseph Sawyer House and store	Federal	1810 & earlier
703	John Smith House	Craftsman Cottage	ca.
1932			
704	Dr. Amos Parker House	center chimney Federal	ca. 1800
707	William Chaplin House	Federal	1817-1822
708	S.K. Sawyer House	Greek Revival	ca. 1855
711	Towne Tailor Shop/ Old Post Office	Greek Revival vernacular	1839
713	Towne/Bigelow/Everett House	Greek Revival	1839
714	Phineas Fairbanks House	Federal	1826-1827 and earlier
715	C. Houghton House	Greek Revival	ca. 1830's
718	"Old Brick Store"	Federal	ca. 1820
720	Woodbury & Holman rental hse.	Greek Revival	1830's
----	Path to first meetinghouse		18th C.
723	Harry Sutton House	astylistic gable-end	ca. 1918-20
725	W. W. Robinson House	gable-end cottage	ca. 1872
726/728	"Corporation House"	Greek Revival	1840's
727	Holman Harness Shop	Greco-Italianate	ca. 1800
730	"Corporation House"	Greek Revival vernacular	1840's
733	Ellen Winde House	Italianate vernacular	1880
738	Bolton Public Library	English Revival	1903
746	Holman Inn Annex	Greek Revival	1830's
749	Elizabeth Osborne House	Greek Revival	1849
752	Thomas Goss-Silas Holman Hse.	Georgian/Federal	
	1741/ca.1790		
763	Wright/Allen/Edes House	Late Georgian	ca. 1785
777	Simeon Cunningham House	Federal/Greek Revival	1831

Mechanic St.

50	Emerson School	Colonial Revival	1923 & later
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Wataquadock Rd.

8	Jacob & Levi Houghton House	Federal	1811
9	Baptist Church/Dist. #1 School	Greek Revival	1841
----	Site of the first meetinghouse		1740



**Town House (1853)**  
663 Main Street

This Greco-Italianate building replaced the original Town House that was built on this site in 1834 and later destroyed by fire. The portico was added in 1910. The Town House was used for a wide variety of events and meetings, including balls, concerts, lectures and the home of the local "singing school."

The repairs being made to the original slate roof of the building are being funded by Town funds and by a matching grant from The Preservation Projects Fund Program, administered by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

**Joseph Sawyer Jr. House  
and store**  
(1810 and earlier)  
702 Main Street.

Joseph Sawyer, Jr. operated a general store here that was located next to his residence. The store, one of the several general stores that once served residents and travellers in various sections of town, was later incorporated into the house under one roof.



**Houghton School (1849)**  
697 Main Street.

Named in honor of its donor, Joseph Houghton, this building was Bolton's first High School, from at least 1899 to 1917, when students began being transferred to high schools in area towns because of the few numbers of seniors to support a local high school. It is a two-story version of Greek Revival gable-end schoolhouse design common in Bolton at that time. In 1917, it became the Town's Junior High School. It is currently the Bolton Police Station.



**Withington House (1831)**  
655 Main Street

In 1830-31, Gen. Steven Gardner built two nearly-identical Greek Revival residences near his home for his son and daughter, at 649 and 655 Main Street. Both are excellent examples of a variant of the Greek Revival style and both include Gothic-inspired pointed-arch windows under each side-gable peak.

**Pond Park at Main Street**

The small building to the left at 689 Main Street is the **Center School (1825)**, moved to this location from the corner of Wataquodock and Manor Roads about 1865 and converted to a general store by George and Henry Newton, later owners of the brick store. In 1925, it was converted to a residence. The blue building in the center is the **Horatio Newton House (1842)** at 683 Main Street and its rear barn/workshop. Haven Newton had a tailor shop in his son's house in the era when clothes were tailor-made. To the right is the **Federated Church (1928)**, which was built on the foundation of the 1793 First Parish, which burned in 1926. **Pond Park** incorporated the remains of the foundations of the Sawyer mill and mechanics' workshops that existed at the pond's spillway.



**Rich/Sawyer House (1810-19)**  
676 Main Street

This building was originally the ballroom wing of the Holman Inn. In 1874, when the inn was about to be demolished, the wing was moved by Charles Rich from the inn's location at 737-739 Main Street to its current site. The building to the rear of the house is the former Atwood blacksmith shop, which was also moved to this location. The residence is now the home of the Bolton Historical Society.



**Samuel Blood House**  
(ca. 1793)  
579 Main Street

This handsome composition of Federal farmhouse, barns and outbuildings creates an impressive entrance into Bolton and its National Register district. In addition to farming, for over 30 years the Blood family operated a shop here that manufactured beaver and later silk hats. A later owner, Howard Atwood, converted the property into a gentlemen's farm and constructed three cottages in 1918 for farm workers across the street at 550, 556, and 562 Main Street, known collectively as the Atwood Farm Cottages.

**Old Brick Store (ca. 1820)**  
718 Main street

The largest of the several general stores that once existed in Bolton, this store continues in operation and is still known as the brick store. The old mail coach is shown at the left.



**Baptist Meetinghouse/  
District #1 School (1841)**  
9 Wataquodock Road.

Built in 1841 in the Greek Revival style, this building was the first house of worship for Baptists in Bolton. When the Baptists moved to their new church in 1866, it became the new District #1 schoolhouse. It was used briefly as an intermediate school in the 1890's, and later for the storage of the town hearse and the center fire engine.

## 4.4 Wataquaddock Hill Vistas and Historic Farms

### Historical Overview

The vistas on Wataquaddock Hill define the character of Bolton. This landscape is significant to many of the town's citizens, and it was mentioned frequently in the public forums as an area that should be given priority for protection as an historic landscape. This area is also identified in the draft Bolton Open Space and Recreation Plan as a Core Conservation Area that deserves priority consideration in the Town's open space protection strategy.

The historic resources of the area include:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	
82	Old Bay Road	Moore House	ca. 1800
123	Old Bay Road	Greenleaf House	ca. 1814
225	Old Bay Road	Asa Holman House	1800-1825
267	Old Bay Road	Hammond House	1876
92	Wataquaddock Road	Clemens House	ca. 1929
180	Wataquaddock Road	Howe Farm Manager's House	ca. 1860
200/202	Wataquaddock Road	Wheeler/Holman House	ca. 1740/1805
200	Wataquaddock Road	Holman Comb Factory	early 19th C.
22	West Berlin Road	Pollard House	ca. 1800 or earlier
58	West Berlin Road	S.C. Pollard House	ca. 1805/1847

This area reflects Bolton's historic economic base, which is agriculture. The vernacular historic features of the Townshend Farm and Prospect Farm fields, in continuous cultivation for 300 years, have been part of what has defined Bolton as a community. The apple orchards that cover the northern and eastern slopes of Wataquaddock Hill are a reminder of the importance that apple and peach growing has been in the history of the town. Apples that were once grown principally for cider and other domestic uses in the town in the 17th and 18th centuries later became improved in quality and grown as a cash crop for urban populations. The Nashoba Valley Winery, located on the east slope at 92 Wataquaddock Road, has expanded the uses and market for apples and other fruits through its fruit wines and direct retailing.

The landscape of the area includes some of the remaining sugar maple trees along the southern part of Old Bay Road. In the spring, these trees are tapped for maple sugar.

This landscape includes one of the two known and extant comb factories in Bolton, the Holman comb shop at 200 Wataquaddock Road, now part of the Townshend Farm. Prospect Farm on West Berlin Road was also the site of the Pollard wheel manufacturing and whip making business. The southwest school also located on this farm as early as 1831.

On the north side of Wataquodock Hill, Solomon Howe's observatory once stood. An inn owned by Thomas Ball operated in the area from 1738 to 1749, probably on the southeastern corner of Wataquodock and Old Bay Roads.

Dr. Daniel Greenleaf, Jr. studied medicine with his father, who moved to Bolton (then Lancaster) from Hingham and settled on a farm on the Old Bay Road in the early 1730's, and continued his studies in England. He returned to Bolton with his wife, Anna Burrell, and, when the Revolutionary War began, entered service as a surgeon. During the war, he was either wounded or contracted a disease and died on returning to Bolton. He is buried at Old South Burying Ground.

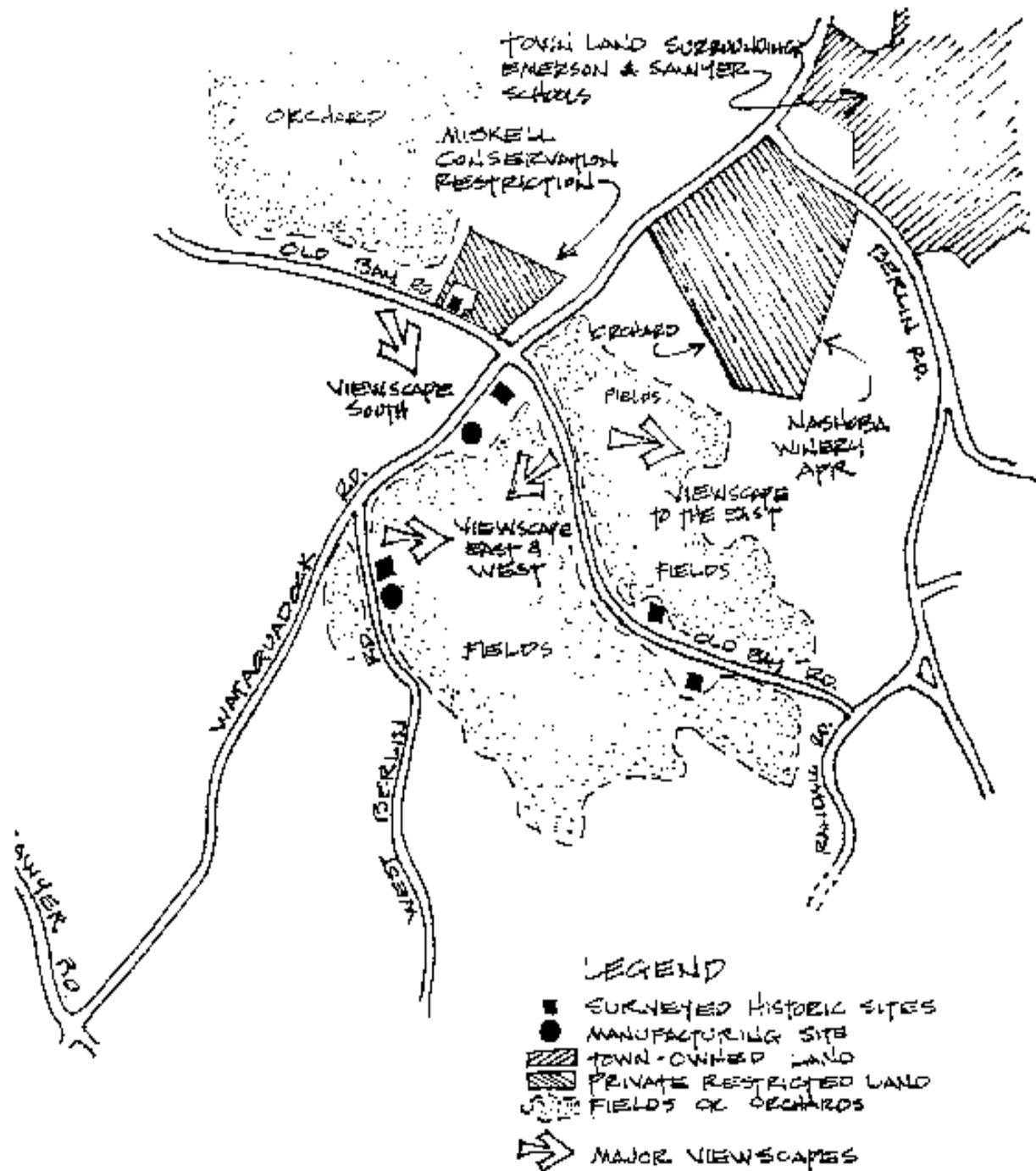
Among the themes that are possible for the Wataquodock Hill Historic Landscape is the historical role that apples have played in the life of New England communities and Bolton in particular, from its importance as a source of hard cider to its refinement for urban consumption. Another theme could be the role and prevalence of gentlemen's farms in the 19th and 20th centuries in preserving an idealized agricultural landscape intact. The Philbin Salmon Trail on Prospect Farm could provide other thematic opportunities.

### **Preservation Strategy**

Even though Bolton is experiencing development pressures, the Wataquodock Hill environment has remained remarkably untouched by modern intrusions. There are encouraging indications that this area may keep its historical integrity. For example, the Nashoba Valley Winery has sold its development rights to the Commonwealth and the Town through the assignment of an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on the property. In addition, the Miskell family has recently donated a conservation restriction on approximately 13 acres of land at the northeastern intersection of Wataquodock and Old Bay Road, surrounding the historic Asa Holman House (see Map 17).

The long-term protection of this area will in part be determined by the viability of local apple production. Growers have been resourceful in creating local retail markets for their products. In addition, the preservation of the historic fields and the views that they provide will also depend on the economics of raising horses in the area. Local property owners have taken advantage of the provisions of Chapter 61A, which reduces the property tax burden on active farms and therefore reduces pressures to sell agricultural land for development.

The future protection of this area would ideally be through the continuing use of these historic farm structures and landscapes for private agricultural use. Fortunately for the town, owners in this area have shown an active interest in protecting their land through Agricultural Preservation Restrictions or the gifting of conservation restrictions. The importance of this landscape to the community---its views help to define the town---will only increase as Bolton continues to grow. The best strategy here, therefore, is to encourage the continuing viability of private agricultural uses in this area and work with the Bolton Conservation Trust in their continuing efforts to assure the long-term preservation of the Wataquodock landscape through the gifting or purchase of conservation restrictions.



## Map 17: Historic Landscapes Preservation Strategy for Wataquodock Hill Vistas and Historic Farms

Bolton Preservation Plan • Bolton Historical Commission • Alfred J. Lima, Planning Consultant

**"Prospect Farm"**  
(18th to 20th C)  
22-58 West Berlin Road

This beautiful landscape of farm buildings and fields includes the Pollard House (ca. 1800 or earlier), the S.C. Pollard House (ca. 1805/1847) and connected barns and out-buildings. Capt. Curtis Pollard was one of Bolton's many farmer-artisans, who was a wheelwright and also made whiplashes. The southwest district school was located here in the 1830's. One of the farm's owners was US Rep. Philip Philbin, who served in Congress from 1942-1971. He raised a herd of prize dairy cattle here.



**View from West Berlin Road**

A winter scene at the top of Wataquodock Hill looking east from West Berlin Road, near the intersection of Wataquodock Road. The smooth, dark (pine-covered) and elongated hill of a drumlin is in the right background.



**Townshend Farm**  
(18th through 20th C.)  
200 Wataquodock Road

This farm includes the Wheeler/Holman House (ca. 1740/1805), a Georgian "double-pile" house, the Greek Revival Howe Farm Managers House (ca. 1862) and several 19th and 20th C. barns and outbuildings. One of these buildings is the former Holman comb factory, which stands opposite the farmhouse, one of the two known and still-extant buildings in town that were used for this purpose. One of the owners, Solomon Howe, built an observatory at the top of Wataquodock Hill.





**View west from the top of  
Wataquodock Hill**

From Old Bay Road. These Townshend Farm fields have been in continuous agricultural use for over 250 years. They are an example of a vernacular historic landscape seen throughout Bolton.

**View from Old Bay Road**

This view is from the top Wataquodock Hill from Old Bay Road looking east. Note the dark, elongated hill at the left in the distance, one of a "field" of pine-covered drumlins that exist in the area around the intersection of the town boundaries of Bolton, Hudson and Stow.



**Tapping sugar maples on  
Old Bay Road**

These sugar maple shade trees cooperate in the annual ritual that has occurred in New England for centuries. In the background is the Moore House (ca. 1800), a Cape Cod Cottage at 82 Old Bay Road. The Moore homestead still retains the character of a working 19th century farm.

## 4.5 The Quaker Landscape at Fryville

### Historical Overview

The Society of Friends or Quakers were an important part of Bolton's history. The neighborhood where the Quakers settled, now known as Fryville, includes some of the town's major historic resources. These resources include the following historic structures and sites:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
228 Berlin Road	Wheeler Evans House	1819
276 Berlin Road	Amos Wheeler, Jr. House	ca. 1819
283 Berlin Road	Fairbank/Longley/Fry House	pre 1738
-- Berlin Road	Friends Burying Ground	1844
313 Berlin Road	Longley/Wheeler House	ca. 1808
-- Berlin Road	Quaker Park (Meeting House site)	
-- Berlin Road	Old Fry Burying Ground	1767
385 Berlin Road	John Fry House	ca. 1757
390 Berlin Road	Lewis E. Day House	ca. 1890
401 Berlin Road	Fry/Wheeler House	1810
165 Century Mill Road	Clifford Walcott House	1872
197 Century Mill Road	Capt. Amory Pollard House	ca. 1811
-- Century Mill Road	Century Mill Pond	
---- Farm Road	Poor Farm	
18 Fry Road	Holder Hall	1902
72 Randall Road	Frederick Wheeler House	ca. 1869
92 Randall Road	Joseph Randall House	ca. 1810
-- South Bolton Road	Old South Burying Ground	1739
96 South Bolton Road	Steven Pope/Joseph Holder House	ca. 1809
118 South Bolton Road	Philip Coolidge/David Holder House	ca. 1760
127 South Bolton Road	Wheeler/Jacobs House	ca. 1850
299 South Bolton Road	Caro Newton House	early 19th C.
302 South Bolton Road	N.A. Newton House	1870-75
7 Wheeler Road	Ray House	ca. 1800
47 Wheeler Road	Abel and Thomas Wheeler House	ca.
1800-10		

One of the areas major historic structures, the two-story Quaker Meeting House, was moved to Old Sturbridge Village and restored.

The landscape of Fryville was formed by a minor glacial lake that existed in this area (see map 4 in Appendix A). When the lake drained, it left the sandy/silty soils that were later to be productive for agriculture and also extensive wetlands. On the 1830

map of the town, the wetlands in this area are identified as fresh meadow or intervalle. This probably indicates that the grasses in these open wet meadows, some now succeeded to wooded wetlands, were harvested for winter forage for livestock and burned each year to encourage maximum new growth, in the manner practiced by the native tribes and continued by European settlers.

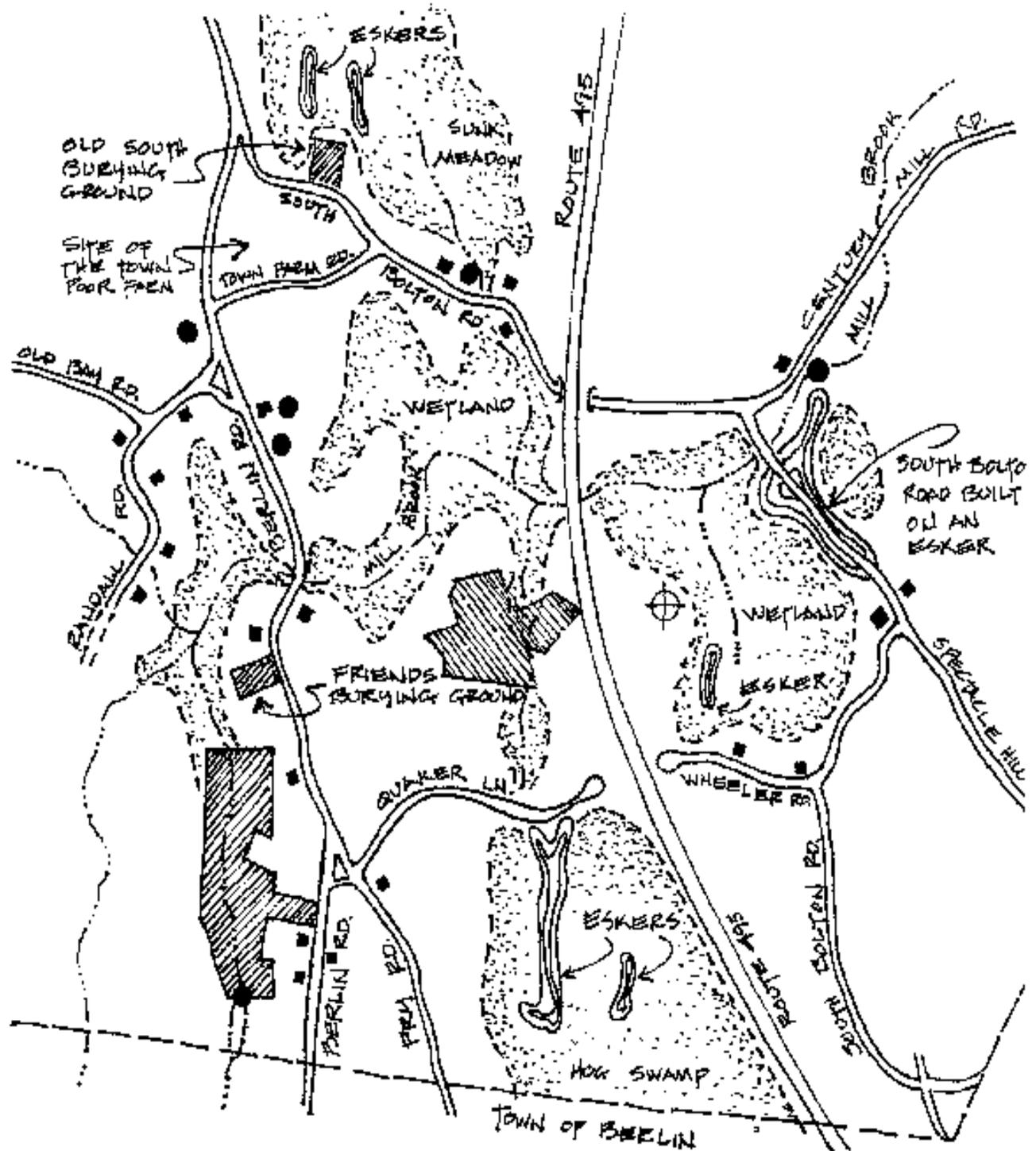
The area also has at least six eskers in its wetlands. One of the most visible of these is the esker on which a part of South Bolton Road was built, just south of the intersection with Century Mill Road. How these eskers were formed is shown in Illustration 3 in Appendix A.

Economic activity in Fryville among the Quaker community consisted principally of farming. The farm at the Berlin town boundary at 401 Berlin Road was once called "Fryville Farm." It was transformed into a progressive farm that, in the second half of the nineteenth century was considered a model of the application of the most advanced agricultural methods. With its farmhouse and many barns and outbuildings (and the last remaining windmill in town) the property today presents a fuller picture of a typical farmstead at the turn of the century than almost any other farm in Bolton. The neighborhood's general store was housed in a small building opposite this farm.

The John Fry homestead at 385 Berlin Road, one of the most pivotal sites in the history of the Bolton Quaker community, includes a two-story complex barn/henhouse that is one of the most distinctive outbuildings in Bolton. A later owner, Homer Wheeler, converted the dairy farm to a model chicken farm, adding the large henneries at the western end of the barn.

Other economic activities by Quaker residents of Fryville included furniture making by Amos Evans in a two-story shop that once stood north of the "Cape Cod" cottage at 228 Berlin Road. Cordwainers Joseph and David Holder manufactured high-quality hand-made shoes at their shop that once existed immediately west of 96 South Bolton Road, the residence of Joseph Holder. The Holder's shoes were highly sought after and were made for customers in destinations as distant as Cuba and Paris. The leather for producing these shoes was made at the tannery that was situated at the pond east of the Joseph Holder residence. Josiah Babcock also operated a tannery on Berlin Road, near Old Bay Road beginning in 1802. Jonathan Fry also operated a card manufacturing shop near the Bolton/Berlin border, where he is also said to have manufactured curry combs. In 1836, he shipped 2,750 pairs of cards to textile firms in the larger towns in the region.

At the edge of the Fryville area is the site of the former Town Poor Farm. All of the buildings of the farm are now gone; however, remains of foundations still exist on the site. Poor Farms were common to early Massachusetts communities and are an expression of how the Puritans and other early settlers strived to assist the less fortunate in their community within the context of that time. They were one of the physical manifestations of Winthrop's Puritan ideal of caring Christian communities that remained long after that ideal yielded to individualism.



**LEGEND**

- SURVEYED HISTORIC SITE
- MANUFACTURING OR MILL SITE
- ▨ PUBLICLY-OWNED SITE
- ☉ WETLAND
- ESKER
- ▨ CONSERVATION RESTRICTION
- ⊕ KETTLE HOLE

**Map 18: Historic Landscapes Preservation Strategy for the Quaker Landscape at Fryville**

Bolton Preservation Plan • Bolton Historical Commission • Alfred J. Uirra, Planning Consultant

In the early 19th Century, publicly-supported education generally extended only to the primary or elementary grades. Secondary schooling usually had to continue in private academies that proliferated in the rapidly-growing towns and cities of New England. In Bolton, one of these academies was established by Thomas Fry in 1823. The Fry School, a Quaker preparatory school that also accepted non-Quakers, was situated where the commemorative marker is now located north of the Fry residence at 385 Berlin Road. The school, which operated from 1823 to 1845, also included boarding students; the student dormitory, since demolished, was located at the rear of the Fry home.

The Friends Burying Ground, resting place for many of the areas Quaker residents, is now in Town ownership. The Old South Burying Ground, at the edge of Fryville, is the town's oldest and largest burying place, dating from 1739. The oldest marker identifies the grave of William Sawyer, who donated the land for the burying ground and who died in February, 1741. Many of the town's Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in the Old South Burying Ground. The Fry Burying Ground, in use by Quakers since the 1770's, was succeeded by the Friends Burying Ground after 1844.

The Quaker presence in Bolton provides an opportunity to explore some of the most important issues that shaped the United States. The Society of Friends were at the forefront in the struggle to obtain the separation of church and state, religious freedom, the abolition of slavery and many other issues related to social justice. Their story, which could be the "theme" of this neighborhood, is one of idealism put into practice. For example, John E. Fry of 385 Berlin Road, a staunch abolitionist, emigrated with his younger brother Thomas to Kansas for at least a few years when the issue of whether the Kansas Territory would be a free or a slave state was to be decided by its residents. Old Sturbridge Village, where the Bolton Friends Meetinghouse is now located, provides a readily accessible location where issues of religious and political tolerance are explored within the context of a reassembled New England village.

## **Protection Strategy**

The threats to the historic resources of Fryville is illustrated by the Fairbank/Longley/Fry House at 283 Berlin Road, one of Bolton's earliest extant houses (pre-1738). This structure was built by Jabez Fairbank, one of the founders of the Town of Bolton and a signer of the first Covenant in 1739. He had two sons who fought in the Revolutionary War. New residential development is encroaching around this dwelling, affecting its historical context. The nearby Gates House was demolished in recent years to make way for a subdivision. The barn on the Fairbank lot recently burned, further reducing the historical context of the site.

While the substantial wetlands in this part of town limits the size of subdivisions that can be built here, there is ample road frontage that, if developed in house lots and small subdivisions, will adversely affect the visual integrity of Fryville. As shown on the map of Historic Landscapes Preservation Strategy for the Fryville Area, there is little road frontage that is protected through public ownership or private conservation restrictions.

An important archaeological site such as the Town Poor Farm site is especially

vulnerable because they it is easily developable and because it appears to have no visible historical significance. Sites such as these should have high priority for documenting the significance of the location in the overall history of the town. Vulnerable sites such as this should be given priority for protection.

The preservation strategy for this Quaker landscape should have the following focus:

- (1) give priority to obtaining conservation restrictions on the open fields that surround historic properties;
- (2) protect as many historic residences as possible through preservation restrictions;
- (3) purchase or otherwise protect through conservation restrictions as much frontage as possible along town roads in the Fryville area;
- (4) encourage new development to cluster away from road frontage to minimize visual intrusions;
- (5) give special attention to vulnerable archaeological sites that may not be readily recognizable as historic, such as the Town Poor Farm;
- (6) build on the recommendations of the Bolton Open Space and Recreation Plan for this area by designating a greenway system along Fryville's wetlands and streams;
- (6) develop an educational initiative that acquaints property owners with the historical significance of their properties and that also informs neighborhood residents about the significance of the area; and
- (7) cooperate with the Town of Berlin in preserving the Quaker landscape that both towns share in common in this general area.

The Town of Berlin has no current plans to provide their Quaker landscape with special emphasis or protection; however, the Berlin Historical Commission has expressed an interest in entering into a dialogue with Bolton on initiating a coordinated protection effort in both towns.

The Bolton Open Space and Recreation Plan identifies as Areas of Conservation Interest the protection of the Great Brook and Hog Swamp environments. The Open Space Plan recommends that an intensive effort be made to establish a buffer along this scenic and historic stream. Mill Brook, a tributary of the Great Brook, would logically be included in this buffer concept. The plan also recommends that Hog Swamp's wetlands and aquifer resources receive increased protection. The Bolton Preservation Plan suggests that these recommendations be expanded to form a greenways system that would have the multiple functions of protecting the town's water resources; protecting sensitive geologic formations such as eskers (which are part of wetlands systems in the Fryville area); protecting water-related historic sites such as

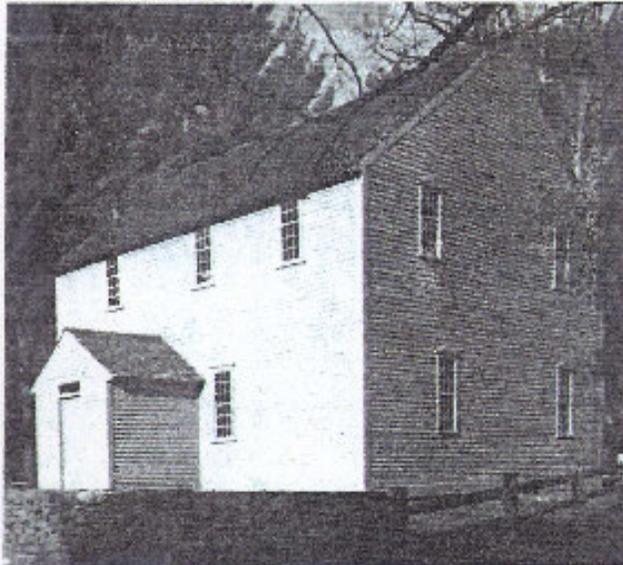
fresh water meadows, dam, mill and ponds sites; for buffering and protecting wetlands wildlife habitats; and for trail corridors for passive recreational use. Map 18 shows how the existing extensive pattern of wetlands and streams in Fryville could be the basis for such a greenway.

As with the other historic landscapes in Bolton, the preservation effort for Fryville can begin with the dissemination of information on historic sites to property owners that is included in the Bolton Survey of Historic, Architectural and Cultural Resources, including the Narrative History of the town prepared as part of the survey. This should be followed by the placement of historic house plaques on significant properties, leading to a dialogue with owners on the possibility of assuring long-term protection of their property through conservation or preservation restrictions.

In addition to the Historical Commission, implementing this strategy will require the active participation of the Bolton Conservation Trust, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Historical Society.

**Longley/Wheeler House**  
(ca. 1808)  
313 Berlin Road

This is one of several excellent examples in Bolton of the wide, high, Federal period house with twin rear chimneys. The builder of the house, Nathaniel Longley, Jr., was a soldier in the Revolutionary War as a young man. He was a part-time surveyor and, with Silas Holman, prepared the 1794 map of Bolton.



**Friends Meetinghouse**  
(1795)

When the Bolton Preparative Meeting requested that the Uxbridge Friends approve that they become a monthly meeting in 1798, the Bolton Friends had grown to 130 members in 22 families. This second Quaker Meetinghouse in Bolton was disassembled in 1954 and moved to Old Sturbridge Village, where it was restored to its 1795 appearance. A commemorative marker at "Quaker Park" at Berlin and Fry Roads identifies where the meetinghouses once stood.

**John Fry House (ca. 1757)**  
385 Berlin Road

This residence is believed to be one of Bolton's best examples of a 2 1/2 story center chimney house of the vernacular Georgian or "second" period in NE colonial architecture. John Fry is acknowledged to be the leader in the establishment of the Quaker community in Bolton. John's son Thomas founded the Fry School, a Quaker preparatory school that was located just east of the Fry residence.



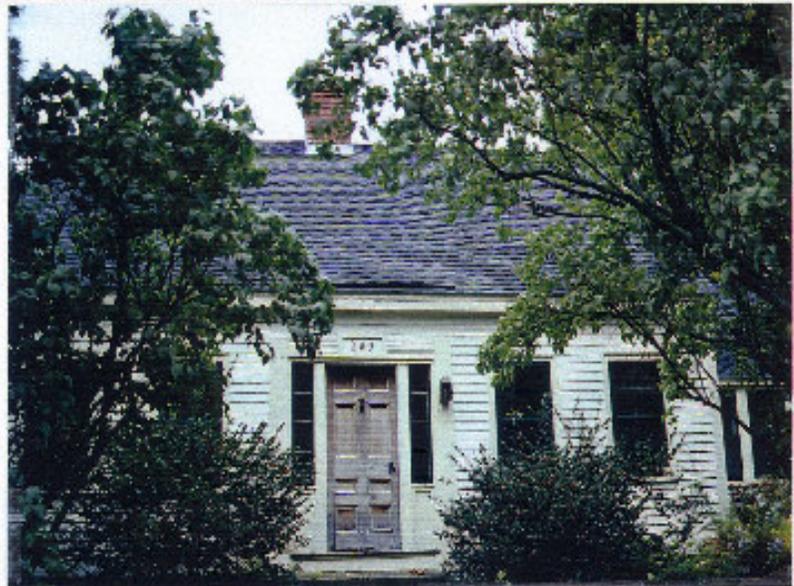


**Steven Pope/Joseph Holder House (ca. 1809)**  
96 South Bolton Road

One of Bolton's many large center chimney farmhouses, it is believed to have been built by Steven Pope, Jr., a Quaker and probably the first resident in this area of Bolton to practice tanning and shoemaking. The next owners, Joseph and David Holder, were also tanners and shoemakers, whose products were highly prized.

**Caro Newton House (Early 19th C.)**  
299 South Bolton Road

One of the distinctive Cape Cod cottages in the area, this residence was later owned by Nathaniel A. Newton, a major land owner in the area and a selectman following the Civil War. In 1877, one of his children, Caroline, became the first woman to be elected to the Bolton School Committee.



**Abel and Thomas Wheeler House (ca. 1800-1810)**  
47 Wheeler Road

Parts of this center chimney farmhouse may date to as early as 1740. Abraham Moor, its builder, was instrumental in the founding of Bolton and in the establishment of the First Parish in 1740. Abel Wheeler, a Quaker, married Nancy Watson, a daughter of one of the founders of the Quaker community.

## **4.6 The Nashaway Landscape**

### **Historical Context**

This large area is an extraordinary combination of historic European settlement sites, Nashaway settlement areas, significant geologic formations left by Glacial Lake Nashua, and beautiful vistas. The original focus for this area was a series of disconnected sites: the views along Wilder Road along historic farmsteads, the important and unspoiled geologic formations on Forbush Mill Road, and the Native American settlement sites on Still River Road. However, when mapping these areas, it became apparent that they were not that separate and that it was logical to attempt to connect them together.

The Nashaway Landscape abounds with potential environmental subjects and historical human interest stories. One of these could be told through the Wilder Mansion (ca. 1738 and ca. 1814) which dates from the founding of Bolton. This building is probably the town's only remaining inn/tavern from the several that existed in the 1700's. It later became the expanded residence of SVS Wilder, who led a colorful career that began with a modest apprenticeship and led him as a merchant to France and the court of Napoleon. He represented the United States at the marriage of Napoleon to Marie Louise of Austria and carried diplomatic missions for President Madison. In his trading and diplomatic years, he crossed the Atlantic 16 times. His life provides an opportunity to explore the broad currents of political and economic history during the Napoleonic era.

The educational "theme" for this area can be "the sweep of history." So much of the Nashaway Landscape is large: the expanse of views from both Wilder Road and Kettle Hole Road; the great fresh water marshes of the intervale; and the tremendous expanse of Glacial Lake Nashua. This is an excellent area to assist young and adult residents of Bolton in understanding how the landscape was formed, how it has influenced human activity on the land throughout history, and what of this landscape is appropriate to pass on to future generations. This landscape is a tremendously rich educational laboratory that has something of interest for everyone.

### **Protection Strategy**

The Nashaway Landscape is framed at either end by major protected open space areas: the Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area on the north and the International Golf Course on the south. The landscape also includes the historic Schultz farm, the Ballville settlement, and the historic area around Fyfeshire, including the 38-acre Fyfeshire Conservation Area, with its dams and mill sites. The combined landscape includes a rich combination of history and landscape, much of it currently protected.

The Bolton Open Space and Recreation Plan targets the area between Forbush Mill Road to Wilder Road as one of its "Areas of Conservation Interest" because of its two historic dams, the foundation of an old ice house, the remains of Colonial-era water-powered mill sites, and several scenic fields and wetland areas. The Bolton

Preservation Plan concurs with this assessment for the above reasons and because the Forbush Mill Road area has major and significant geologic formations that should be protected in perpetuity.

As shown on Map 19, “Historic Landscapes Preservation Strategy for the Nashaway Landscape,” protecting the area between Wilder Road and Still River Road would in effect join the major public land holding of the Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area and the privately-held but protected (with a conservation restriction) International Golf Course and Schultz Farm and the Fyfeshire Conservation Area. The recent and dramatic success of the Town and the Bolton Conservation Trust in protecting the expansive landscape of the golf course and the farm through a negotiated conservation restriction and rezoning will make this strategy possible.

Protecting the Forbush Mill Road environment would therefore have the effect of creating a major greenbelt swath on the western part of town that would extend from the town’s northern line to its southern boundary. It would integrate beautiful vistas (the view west from Wilder Road is shown on the cover of this report); historic farms and working fields; historic residences; old dam, manufacturing and mill sites; natural resources such as streams, ponds and wetlands; Native American sites that may be 10,000 years old; and very significant but very fragile geologic formations left by Glacial Lake Nashua approximately 100,000 years ago.

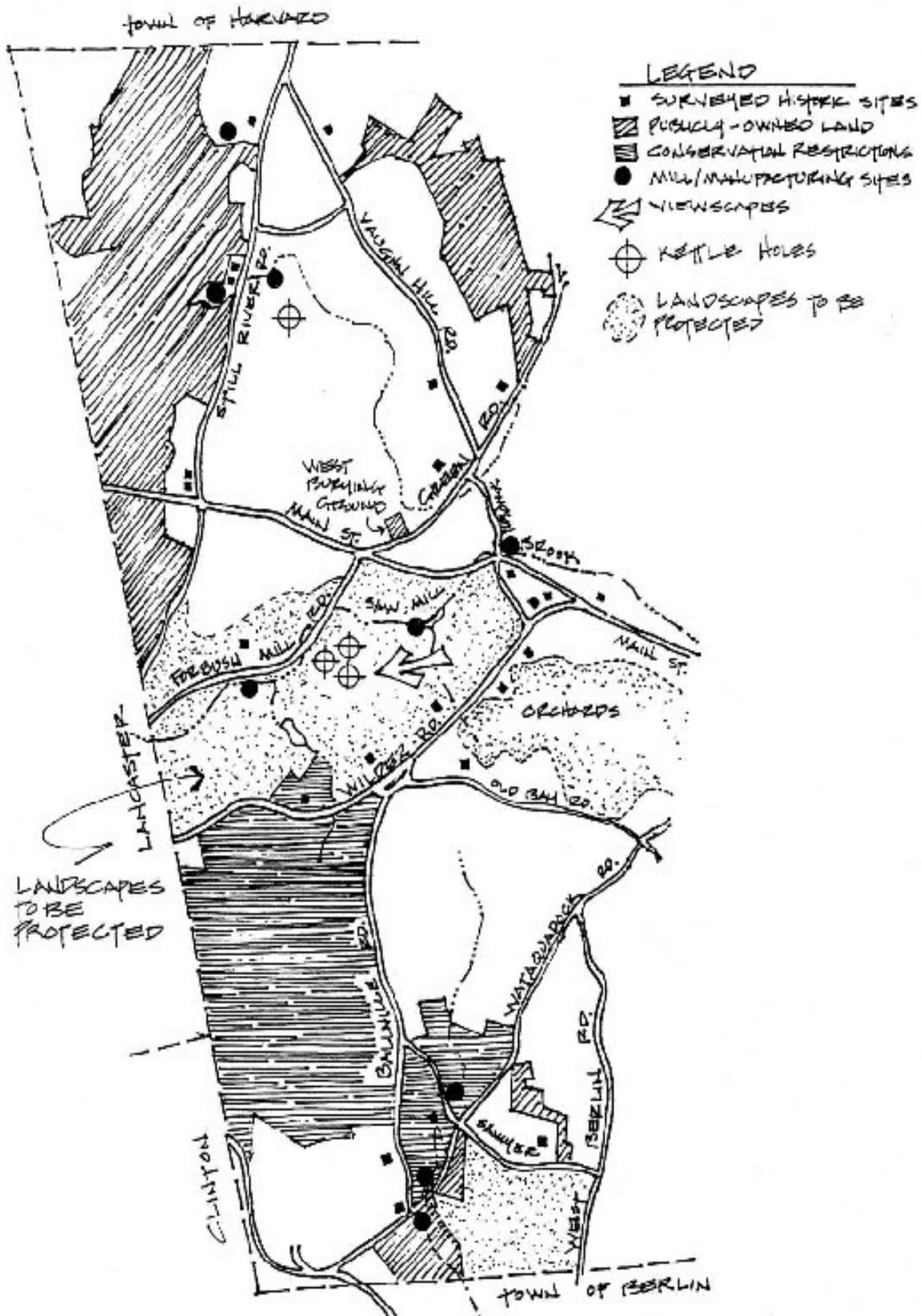
One of the most vulnerable landscapes in this area that need priority for protection is the frontage on Forbush Mill Road and Wilder Road that, if developed, could foreclose the protection of important views and the preservation of significant geologic features.

In addition, this historic greenbelt could extend further south in Bolton and into the Town of Berlin with the protection of the farms south of Sawyer Road. The owners of these farms have expressed an interest in placing Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on their properties and the Bolton Conservation Trust is working with the owners to make this a reality. The Town of Berlin has also expressed an interest in protecting contiguous farm land and open space in that area, further extending the greenbelt concept into that town.

The historic resources of this landscape include:

<u>Address</u>	<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
283 Ballville Road	Jonathan Ball House	mid-18th C. & later
----- Forbush Mill Road	Sawmill Brook dams, ponds & mill sites	18th & mid-19th C.
131 Forbush Mill Road	Benjamin Billings House	mid-19th C.
----- Forbush Mill Road area	Significant geologic formations left by Glacial Lake Nashua	100,000 B.C.
--- Green Road	West Burial Ground	1822
96 Green Road	Capt. Jonas Houghton House	ca. 1760
156 Green Road	L. Nourse House	ca. 1845-50

962	Main Street	Joel and Joab Barnard House	ca. 1818
369	Old Bay Road	Hillside Parsonage	18th C.
84	Sampson Road	Charles White House	mid-19th C.
119	Sampson Road	Houghton/Sampson House	ca. 1835
49	Sawyer Road	Haynes/Wheeler House	ca. 1790
50	Sawyer Road	Site of Samuel Haynes comb shop	ca. 1820 to ca.
1850			
50	Sawyer Road	Site of comb shop/gristmill dam	ca. 1800
116	Sawyer Road	Houghton/Hastings/Sawyer Farm	pre-1773/ca. 1839
138	Still River Road	Whitney/Nourse House	ca. 1810-25
146	Still River Road	Whitney tenant house	ca. 1860
----	Still River Road	Nashaway Tribe settlement sites	ca. 8,000 B.C. to ca. 1617
----	Still River Road	Silas Haynes brickyard site	ca. 1790 to
ca. 1830			
----	Still River Road	Site of comb factory	ca. 1826 to 1830
298	Still River Road	Sawyer/Haynes House	ca. 1735
304	Still River Road	Francis and Silas Haynes, Jr. House	ca. 1815-20
396	Still River Road	Job Howard House	1783-88
----	Still River Road	Job Howard brickyard	ca. 1790 to ca.
1830			
38	Vaughn Hill Road	Nourse/Robinson House	ca. 1815
271	Vaughn Hill Road	Jonas Houghton House	ca. 1785-1815
-----	Wataquadock Rd.	Site of Fyfe comb & button shop/dam	19th C.
505	Wataquadock Rd.	William Fyfe House	ca. 1740
33	Wilder Road	Fairbanks/Clapp House	ca. 1820
41	Wilder Road	Moore Store	ca. 1795
52	Wilder Road	Moore/Emerson House	ca. 1795
101	Wilder Road	Wilder Mansion.	1738 and ca. 1814
225	Wilder Road	Butler House .	1909-1910
295	Wilder Road	Site of the Townsend House, a way station on the Underground Railroad.	ca. 1738 (recently demolished and reconstructed)
----	Wilder Road	Site of the Bolton Airport.	mid-1930's
----	Wilder Road	Major geologic formations left by Glacial Lake Nashua.	100,000 B.C.
----	Wilder Road	Eastwood Cemetery.	1876



**Map 19: Historic Landscapes Preservation Strategy  
for the Nashaway Landscape**



**Moore Store (ca. 1795)**  
41 Wilder Road

This was one of several general stores in various parts of Bolton in the 19th century that served their own sections of town. This store was built by Capt. Caleb Moore to take advantage of the construction of the Lancaster and Bolton Turnpike. Capt. Moore's residence, the impressive brick house at 52 Wilder Road, is nearby.

**Wilder Mansion**  
(ca.1738 and ca.1814)  
101 Wilder Road

One of Bolton's most architecturally-significant and historically-interesting residences, the Wilder Mansion is the earliest of the town's many two-storied hip-roofed houses, retaining many of its heavy Georgian proportions and steeply sloped roofs despite many later stylistic changes. This building also reflects the history of Bolton for the last 250 years, including its use as an inn and tavern in the 1700's. The Marquis de Lafayette spent a night at the Wilder home in 1824.



**Dam at Saw Mill Brook**  
Located opposite 131 Forbush  
Mill Road

This is one of the many significant engineered structures that remain from Bolton's era of varied mill and manufacturing enterprises. The dam is situated in an especially beautiful landscape setting that has striking geologic formations remaining from Glacial Lake Nashua. The dam and its extensive retaining wall include large examples of flat field stones that were derived from the crystalline slate-like bedrock of the Nashua River Valley region.

**Nourse/Robinson House**  
(ca. 1815)  
38 Vaughn Hill Road

This is one of the most stylish examples of the two-story, hip-roofed houses of the Federal Period in Bolton. It is a beautiful example of the composition of farm residence, barns and outbuildings that has been so prevalent in the town. It also has one of the largest and best-preserved set of agricultural outbuildings in Bolton.



**Jonathan Ball House**  
(mid 18th C. and later)  
283 Ballville Road

Typical for many NE farmhouses, this house began as a small Cape Cod cottage and, over two centuries, grew as a composite house, incorporating Greek Revival and Victorian elements. Jonathan and Mary Ball purchased this house in 1782, the first of generations of the family that remained in the area that was to be given the name of Ballville, as did the road that led to the Ball farm.

**William Fyfe House**  
(ca. 1795)  
505 Wataquodock Road

The Fyfe House is believed to be the oldest building in this section of Bolton. The oldest part of the house, the three bay Cape Cod cottage, was built by William Fyfe, an immigrant from Fyfe, Scotland. His son William, Jr. fought in the Revolution and his grandson William III, operated the comb shop, later a button shop, on what is now the Fyfe Conservation Land.



### Historical Geologic Features

This view south from Wilder Road over the International Golf Course shows the flat landscape left by the high stage of Glacial Lake Nashua in the western section of Bolton. In the mid-1930's this was the site of the Bolton Airport. These thick deposits of fine sand are over 150 feet above the final stage of the lake at Bolton Flats. Because of their dry characteristics, they were generally avoided for agriculture. The 1831 map of Bolton shows this dry landscape remaining in woodland. Further north, this flat terrain was chosen as the site of the Nashoba Regional High School.



### Historical Geologic Features

In the foreground is the flat, fertile landscape remaining from the low stage of Glacial Lake Nashua south of Forbush Mill Road near the Lancaster town line. In the background is a kame terrace remaining from the high stage of that glacial lake, with its steep ice contact slopes.

### Historic Geologic Features

A view from Still River Road of the soil deposits left by the low stage of Glacial Lake Nashua. Archeological evidence suggests that the Still River Road area was the site of Native American settlements. In addition to being near to fishing sites, this area had soils that could be easily worked with simple stone implements, yet was fertile and sufficiently moist for cultivation in corn, beans and squash.

