



# Historic and Archeological Resources Chapter

## Comprehensive Plan Inventory & Analysis

**November 6, 2007**

**Planning Board of York, Maine**

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**ENACTMENT BY THE LEGISLATIVE BODY**

**Date of Town vote to enact this Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Certified by the Town Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_ **on** \_\_\_\_\_.  
(signature) (date)

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## A. INTRODUCTION

This Chapter is a portion of the Inventory and Analysis section of the York Comprehensive Plan. Its purpose is to provide information about York's historic and archeological resources, which forms the basis for municipal policies elsewhere in the Plan.

The remainder of this Chapter is organized into 5 sections: the historic character of York; archeological and historic institutions; inventory of resources; designated resources; and analysis.

Some of the information presented in this Chapter is best accomplished with maps. Some of the maps are historic, and others new. A complete citation, with map title and date of preparation, is provided in the appropriate section of the text, and these maps are incorporated into the Chapter by reference. The maps can be viewed at the Town Hall during normal business hours. To the extent digital images of these maps can be maintained on the Town's web site, copies will be made available there for viewing and downloading.

Comprehensive Plans in Maine must comply with the legal requirements of state law, specifically Title 30-A §4326. The law establishes that land use policy must be based on information and analysis, and accordingly the law establishes that comprehensive plans must contain an Inventory and Analysis section. This Chapter is one part of the Inventory and Analysis section of the York Comprehensive Plan. This Chapter, and others adopted since November 2004, follows a new format for the Plan. The Inventory and Analysis section is being converted to a series of technical reports on individual subjects (population, housing, land use, natural resources, etc.). Each is complete as a stand-alone report on its specific subject, but taken as a set they comprise the complete Inventory and Analysis section. This new format should encourage the Town to keep its Plan up to date, and should increase public access to information contained in the Inventory and Analysis. Especially during the transition from a single Inventory and Analysis section to a series of single-subject reports, some degree of overlap of content and information is expected. For purposes of interpretation, the most current document shall supersede any earlier version or chapter of the Inventory and Analysis section.

Before moving on to the core of the chapter, it is important to ensure readers are familiar with the technical language used by historians and archeologists. The meaning of certain terms is not necessarily apparent to a casual reader, so several key terms are defined in Appendix A.

## **B. THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF YORK**

York has a rich archeological, cultural and historical heritage, dating back to the early 1600s. York was first settled by Edward Godfrey in 1630, and grew to a town of about 200 people by 1650.

York was one of many settlements attempted by the English and French along the Atlantic Coast in the early 1600s. The earliest settlement was the short-lived French settlement on St. Croix Island, on the Maine side of the St. Croix River, in 1604. After one year, the settlement was moved to Port Royal, Nova Scotia, but this colony was abandoned in 1607. This same year, English colonies were established in Jamestown, Virginia and Popham, Maine. The Popham colony was abandoned in 1608, but Jamestown survived and is now considered the oldest permanent European settlement in the country. The French established a colony on Mount Desert Island in 1613, but were driven away by the British that same year. The Pilgrims landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. The Dutch settled in New Amsterdam, now New York, in 1624. The Puritans settled in Boston in 1630.

In this region in the early 1600s, York was one among a group of small communities. Among these were the Isles of Shoals, Kittery, Dover, Portsmouth, Exeter, Portland (then Falmouth), Wells, and Biddeford. Among the early Maine communities, York was arguably the largest and most important during its first century. Today, historic buildings and sites are tangible links with the Town's past and contribute to the Town's special character. There are few physical remains of the first settlements, but York retains a rich architectural heritage from later periods of development. Within York there are 3 local historic districts, 17 local historic landmarks, 2 national historic districts, and 15 individual sites on the National Register of Historic Places, two of which are National Historic Landmarks.

York's history of development began as a fishing village and as an early center of the lumber industry. The Town was originally called Agamenticus, which was derived from the Native American name for what is now the York River. The name was formalized in the Charter of 1641, making Agamenticus the first town chartered in Maine (Banks, Vol.1, p.83). The Town was renamed Gorgeana in the subsequent Charter of 1642. The name was derived from the name of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, the original proprietor of the Province of Maine. As was then the practice in England, the land of the province was owned by a noble, and Sir Gorges was Maine's noble. Included in the second Charter were provisions for the City of Bristol. Though Bristol never developed as a city, this is the oldest city charter in New England (Banks, Vol.1, p.126). Albany, New York, has the honor of being the oldest city in the United States, having been incorporated as a city in 1652, 10 years after York's second charter. Finally, the Town was re-incorporated as York in 1652, when the Province of Maine was annexed by the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

York served as the county seat for York County in the early days. There was some contention about this, but it apparently was affirmed by a court decision in 1718.

## Comprehensive Plan – York, Maine

York County in those days included the entire Province of Maine (until 1760), so this was an important status for the Town. In 1735 the county seat was shared by York and Portland (then known as Falmouth), and this lasted until 1760 when Cumberland and Lincoln Counties were split from York County. York remained the sole county seat from 1760 through 1802, when York and Alfred shared the seat. The county seat was gradually transitioned to Alfred between the years of 1813 through 1832. The reason for the sharing and moving of county seats was for the convenience of remote communities. Given the difficulties of travel in the early years, a central location was important. In an apparent attempt to prevent or delay the shift of the county seat to Alfred, York expanded the Gaol and constructed the new County Courthouse (York's current Town Hall, constructed in 1811).

Early on, York was a very important community. It can be argued that Gorges chartered the City of Gorgeana in an attempt to establish a capital city for England's new territory – a city conceivably on par with London. His grand plans never played out in this manner, but certainly York was the major community in Maine in its early years. It was a center of government and the economy, and was relatively prosperous until the beginning of the nineteenth century. Around 1807, the American embargo along the Atlantic coast stifled coastal trade and severely curtailed shipping from York. The forests at the headwaters of the York River had been cleared, and a heavy silt load was being dumped into the River. The extended trade embargo prevented the use of the harbor by larger ships for about half a decade, and during that period the harbor silted in. After the embargo was lifted, the harbor was no longer in condition suitable for use of large ships – trading in York never fully recovered. By the end of the War of 1812, the local economy had collapsed, and didn't start to recover for many decades. During this same period, the county seat was being pulled away to Alfred. York's prosperity and high status dissipated.

York remained a small farming and fishing community until the post-Civil War period, when summer tourism began to broaden York's economy. During the late 1800s, as cities in the northeast industrialized and rail transportation made the area accessible, tourism became a major industry and York had become a fashionable summer resort by the early 1900s. Visitors to York appreciated the community's coastal location, its historic nature, and the beauty of both the coastal and riverine areas. York continues to this day to be a haven for summer tourists.

What was once largely a summer colony has evolved into a year-round community, with tourism remaining as a prominent economic sector. Significant population growth began in York following World War II, and it continues to affect the Town today. Employment of residents has shifted away from traditional industries, and today the major economic sectors for York include: education and health services; leisure and hospitality; and trade, transportation and utilities. These 3 sectors now account for 75% of the jobs in York.

**An abbreviated timeline of major events in York’s history:**

- Paleoindians believed to arrive in this region about 11,000 years ago
- Maine coast visited by Europeans – late 1500s to early 1600s
- First European Settler in York – 1630
- Agamenticus Charter – 1641
- Gorgeana Charter – 1642
- York Charter, following the Massachusetts takeover – 1652
- Candlemas Raid – 1692
- American Revolution – 1775 to 1783
- British coastal embargo cripples local economy - 1807
- Maine becomes a State – 1820
- County Seat completely shifted to Alfred - 1832
- Establishment of York Harbor Village Corporation – 1901
- Establishment of York Beach Village Corporation – 1901
- York Harbor Village Corporation enacts zoning – 1926
- Establishment of York Water District – 1929
- York Beach Village Corporation enacts zoning – 1939
- Opening of the Maine Turnpike through York – 1947
- Establishment of York Sewer District – 1951
- Town of York enacts zoning – 1962
- Termination of York Harbor Village Corporation – 1975
- Termination of York Beach Village Corporation – 1977

York’s settlement patterns have shifted over time. Originally the town developed on the banks of the York River, and later settlement occurred at the mouth of the Cape Neddick River. The York River settlement remained the primary area of the Town until the 1700s, when farming became a more active pursuit and residents started moving inland. The settlement patterns shifted again towards the coast in the early 1900s with the rise in tourism. Major residential concentrations on and near the coast and along the York River are the prevalent settlement pattern today, with the most heavily developed area of York occurring east of Route One between the York and Cape Neddick rivers. Scattered development has occurred throughout the remainder of York as well, with the exception of the area around Mount Agamenticus and the Kittery and York water supply watersheds.

## **C. ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC INSTITUTIONS**

There are three organizations which have been dealing with historic and archeological resource issues in York.

### **1. Historic District Commission**

York’s Historic District Commission (HDC) was created in March, 1985, when citizens at Town Meeting enacted the Historic District Ordinance. The purpose of the Ordinance, now an article of the Zoning Ordinance, is to provide a legal framework within which York’s residents can protect the historic, architectural, and cultural heritage of historically significant areas, landmarks, and sites in the community. It is the Commission’s responsibility to carry out this purpose, and it functions as both a regulatory and an educational body.

In its capacity as a regulatory body, the HDC has authority over the local historic districts and designated landmark properties. At this time there are 3 local historic districts (Village Center, Lindsay Road, and York Harbor) with 60 properties, and 17 designated historic sites and landmarks. A total of 76 properties are regulated under this system.

Under the leadership of the Commission, York is one of only 9 communities in Maine to be designated as a Certified Local Government (CLG). This program permits communities to participate in a nation-wide system utilizing consistent standards under the National Historic Preservation Act. It forms the basis for local-state-federal partnerships, and provides access to federal funding for related work. CLG status imposes requirements on the Town's ordinances, operations and procedures beyond those required for non-CLG communities, so significant amendments to the Ordinance should be completed in consultation with MHPC's CLG staff.

## 2. York Historic Markers Committee

This Committee was initially appointed by the Board of Selectmen on May 10, 1994, to increase public awareness and appreciation of historic places in York. To accomplish its mission, the Committee has placed interpretive displays at key locations, focusing primarily on sites of interest from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. With the exception of \$2,500 received from the Town in 1995, all funding for these markers has been raised by private contributions. The Committee has undertaken all tasks associated with creation of the markers, from research, graphic layout, fundraising, contracting, installing, and maintaining.

The Committee has placed historic markers at the following locations:

- York Street, across from Town Hall.
- Fleet Bank at the Town Square in York Village.
- York Street at the James Erwin Building in York Village.
- Barrell Mill Pond near Wiggly Bridge.
- Long Beach along Route 1A at the Sun & Surf Restaurant.
- Sayward-Wheeler House.
- Moulton Park in York Harbor.
- Hartley Mason Reservation in York Harbor.
- Harbor Hill in front of the York Harbor Inn.

The Committee is currently developing two additional markers. The first will be about Hartley Mason and the story of the Hartley Mason Reservation. The second will be about York's Cliff Walk.

## 3. Old York Historical Society

The Old York Historical Society is a private, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to preserve and promote the history of York, Maine, for the education and enjoyment of the public. Old York maintains ten historic museum buildings

on six properties in York Village, open to the public for tours from June through mid October. These buildings are furnished with items from Old York's deep and nationally recognized collections of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century artifacts, most of which have been donated by local families. Old York's library and archives offer rich resources for historical and genealogical research to the town's residents and visitors. Old York offers a wide range of educational programs for people of all ages. These include hands-on lessons enjoyed by over 3,500 schoolchildren annually from southern Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, as well as adults.

Old York began in 1896 with the formation of the Old York Historical and Improvement Society, a group of volunteers aiming to beautify the town and preserve its heritage. Their first major project was saving the Old Gaol (jail), built in stages between 1719 and 1807 to house criminals in Massachusetts' northern province, Maine. After successful fundraising efforts, the OYHS opened the Old Gaol as a museum on July 4, 1900. One of its leaders, Elizabeth Perkins, created a second organization, the Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks in York County in 1941, when she could not convince the Old York Historic and Improvement Society to acquire two historic buildings she wanted to save. Under its auspices, she moved a 1750s tavern from Wells, Maine, to York. She had previously acquired and moved York's oldest schoolhouse to the same site, a few hundred yards west of the Old Gaol in York Village. In 1952, the Old Gaol Committee became a separate legal entity. That same year, Elizabeth Perkins died, leaving her home to the Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks in York County and substantial endowments to it and the Old Gaol Committee.

In 1953, the Old Gaol Committee used part of Elizabeth Perkins' bequest to purchase the Emerson-Wilcox House, a structure with components spanning 1710 to 1832, which stands across the street from the jail. In 1960, the Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks in York County obtained the 19<sup>th</sup>-century George Marshall Store and the 18<sup>th</sup>-century John Hancock Warehouse and Wharf, both properties situated on the York River. Also in 1978, a local landowner deeded the Historical and Improvement Society a 17-acre nature preserve along the York River. The Society hired its first professional director in 1980 to oversee museum properties, conduct architectural surveys, and present outreach educational programs. By the early 1980s, York's three historical organizations concluded that they were duplicating efforts and confusing area residents over their different purposes and identities. In 1984, they consolidated to form the Old York Historical Society. Old York now employs 8 full-time staff.

#### 4. Maine Historic Preservation Commission

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) is the state agency responsible for historic and archeological resource issues. It was created in 1971 pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. As described on their web page, the MHPC has the following overall responsibilities: "oversees the statewide survey program, nominates properties to the National Register of

Historic Places, reviews development activities for their effect on cultural resources, co-ordinates rehabilitation projects under the Preservation Tax Incentives Program, assists local governments in survey work and the design of preservation guidelines, and is involved in a variety of public education activities.”

## D. INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

This section of the text provides an overview of the archeological and historic resources in York.

### 1. Historic Maps

To help develop an understanding of the early development of York, there are six early maps which show the progression of development. These maps include:

- “Province of Mayne” Map, circa 1652. A tracing of the original map is located in the Baxter Rare Map Collection of the Maine State Archives. This map shows the Atlantic coast from Cape Ann, Massachusetts northeast to the Kennebec River. A few details about York are shown on the map. York is one of only 6 towns named on the map, the others being Wells, Straberr Banck (Portsmouth), Dover, Hampton Harbor, and Salsberg (Seabrook). The “Agquementicus Hills” are shown at the headwaters of the York River, and these are the only hills depicted on this map. Brave Boat Harbor, York River, and Cape Neddick River are shown. Cape Neddick is labeled as, “C. Nedeck.” Nine homes and another building (perhaps the meeting house) are shown along the York River, and 4 homes are shown along the Cape Neddick River.
- “Pascatway River in New England,” by John Scott, circa 1665. A tracing of the original map is located in the Baxter Rare Map Collection of the Maine State Archives. This map focuses on the Piscataqua River and Great Bay, but extends north to show “York Town.” The map shows Brave Boat Harbor, Godfrey Cove and Agamenticus [York] River. It also depicts two dozen houses and the meeting house in York.
- Map of the Piscataqua, from the Atlantic Neptune Atlas, circa 1775. A framed copy of this map, a page from an atlas, is located at the Old York Historical Society. The map focuses on the Piscataqua River, but extends north to show “York Harbour” and the vicinity of York Village. Along the coast, only Godfrey Cove and Seals Head are labeled. The map clearly depicts roads and the location of over 100 buildings, including the meeting house. This is the first of these older maps to show roads.
- Map of the Town of York, by Daniel Sewall, 1794. A copy of this map is located at the Old York Historical Society. The legend reads as follows, “This map of the Town of York, in the County of York, is taken by actual

survey and laid down by a scale of two hundred rods to an inch, agreeably to a Resolve of the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, passed June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1794 – at the request of the Selectmen of the said Town of York. By Daniel Sewall, Surveyor.” This map shows the Town in detail at a time when it was bordered only by Kittery, Berwick and Wells. This is a much more detailed map than the earlier maps, showing and labeling geographic features, roads, homes, public buildings, and information about the Town’s boundaries.

- York County Cadastral Map, 1857. An enlarged copy of the Town of York portion of this map is located at the Old York Historical Society. This is another detailed map of the community showing roads and homes. The geography does not appear to be as accurate as that of Sewall’s map of 1794. Being a cadastral map, the primary purpose of the map is to identify buildings and their owners.
- York County Atlas, 1872. A copy is located at the Old York Historical Society. This map is similar to the Cadastral Map of 1857, showing roads and buildings with owners’ names. However, it also shows 15 school districts in York, along with the location of the schoolhouse in each.

## 2. Archeological Resources

Archeological resources are those buried in the ground. These resources are classified as either prehistoric or historic (see Appendix A for definitions of these terms) depending upon their age. The MHPC has prepared geographic data for York regarding its archeological sites. For both prehistoric and historic resources, MHPC identified both known sites and areas in which other sites are thought most likely to exist. The specific locations of known sites are shown as generalized blocks, 500 meters by 500 meters, arranged randomly over one or more sites to mask actual locations. The map entitled, “**Prehistoric Archeology**, York Comprehensive Plan, Inventory and Analysis, Historic and Archeological Resources Chapter, November 6, 2007,” is hereby incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference. The map entitled, “**Historic Archeology**, York Comprehensive Plan, Inventory and Analysis, Historic and Archeological Resources Chapter, November 6, 2007,” is hereby incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference.

By their very nature, they are susceptible to theft, vandalism (accidental or intentional), and unintentional destruction (construction on the site). In this regard, these resources are quite different than historic buildings. One of the primary means of protecting archeological resources is to keep site locations confidential. It is same approach used by the Natural Areas Program to mask the location of rare plants and animals. This leaves the Town in an awkward position. Its Comprehensive Plan and land use codes must be prepared in full view of the public. The Legislature created the inventory and analysis requirements to increase public understanding of resources and issues. The Town

is expressly forbidden from keeping such information confidential, including archeological records. This runs contrary to the concept of protecting sites by keeping their locations confidential. To resolve this dilemma – increasing local awareness while protecting the resources – the archeological records are not in the possession of Town government. MHPC has the actual data and maps, and has statutory rights to maintain that information outside the realm of the right-to-know law. Any inquiries about specific sites or resources must be directed to MHPC in Augusta.

**a. Prehistoric Archeological Resources**

It is believed that Paleoindians first arrived in Maine about 11,000 years ago. There are no known sites in York associated with these first people, but sites have been found in Eliot and Wells so it is highly likely they were in York, too. To date, no major settlements or villages have been found in York.

The MHPC has a record of 20 known prehistoric archeological sites in York. All known sites in York have been found along the shores of tidal waters, or along the shoreline of ponds. Some of the sites were found a century ago and may have been damaged or destroyed since. Each of these known sites appear to be located within the Shoreland Overlay District’s 100-foot structure setback along these waterbodies, so the known sites are likely safe from new construction impacts.

The MHPC also has identified areas in which additional prehistoric archeological resources are most likely to be located. All such areas are located on the shores of streams, rivers, ponds and tidal waters.

**b. Historic Archeological Resources**

The MHPC has recorded 199 historic archeological sites in York to date. This is based on historical information, information generated by projects which require archeological evaluations as a component of their environmental impact statement (such as turnpike widening), and information developed by a dozen or more local archeological surveys funded by the MHPC, Old York Historical Society and the Town. It should in no way be viewed as a complete list of historic archeological sites, for York has a rich history and many sites await discovery and cataloging.

About one third of the total historical archeological sites identified by the MHPC are shipwrecks. There are 67 shipwrecks in York’s waters. There are known locations for 28 of these, and the remaining 39 have not been located. The 1998 report entitled, “An Intertidal Archaeological Survey of the Cape Neddick River in Cape Neddick, Maine,” by Stefan Claesson located several shipwrecks in the intertidal area. This report went on to recommend that, “the tidal river basin should be considered a critical cultural resource zone,” and that the area, “warrants careful management with increasing waterfront development, particularly in the form of piers or wharves, moorings, and

riverbank landscaping” (p.38). Policies for management and protection of archeological resources should be developed with consideration for the recommendations of this report for the Town’s intertidal areas.

The remaining 132 sites represent a wide variety of resources, including homes, wells, wharfs, mills, garrisons, dumps, dams, and commercial buildings.

The Town’s historic and historic archeological sites tend to be grouped according to the historic village communities of York:

1. York Village
2. Lower Town (York Harbor)
3. Cape Neddick and York Cliffs
4. York Beach
5. The Town Commons and Mount Agamenticus
6. Cider Hill and Scotland
7. Brixham and Partings
8. South Side

The general area for each of the above-referenced village communities is shown on the Historic Archeology Map.

Each village area has its own history, settlement pattern, and set of archeological and historic resources. Further study of these areas could provide useful discoveries and artifacts for which preservation planning could proceed. However, it is already clear that a number of very significant historical archeological sites have been discovered.

Studies conducted between 1985 and 1986 uncovered a number of significant seventeenth century archeological sites. A substantial proportion of the early Anglo-American sites in Maine are located in York, and these are rare and significant. Few towns in the whole northeast can boast such a rich archeological legacy, for urbanization of the northeast corridor has destroyed the majority of seventeenth century settlements. Unfortunately, the recent rapid growth and development of York poses a substantial threat to the preservation of these sites. One site of significance, discovered in 1985, was destroyed one year later by development. It was the home of Edward Rishworth (ca 1660) who was the Recorder for York County and the most prominent politician in seventeenth century Maine.

In the York Harbor and York Village area, three important seventeenth century sites were discovered. One is an early cellar that may prove to be the home of the first permanent European settler of both York and Maine. A second site is that of the Henry Donnell residence of about 1640. Donnell was

a leading fish merchant and one of the first residents of York Harbor. The final site in this area is the Second Meetinghouse (1667-1712).

In the Cider Hill and Scotland area, there is a major seventeenth century site, Point Christian Manor. It was the seat of government for York and the whole province of Maine during the 1630s and early 1640s. Excavations in 1985 and 1986 indicate it has rich archeological potential. Many of the artifacts have revealed much about life a Point Christian and, by extension, other sites in York.

Little remains of buildings from the early settlement days of the seventeenth century, although there are a number of potentially good historical archeological sites that reveal the type and style of structure built during that period. Seventeenth century homes for which remains have been claimed are the Abraham Preble House (1692), the Joseph Banks House (1698), the Samuel Moody Parsonage (1699), and the Robert Rose Tavern (1680). However, no definitive documentation can be supplied to justify the survival of these sites. The McIntire Garrison, an excellent structure that still remains, was thought to have been built prior to 1676 as a defense against Indian raids. However, current research dates the Garrison at 1707.

York Village contains the greatest concentration of eighteenth century homes in the Town. Most of these structures are of the “colonial” (First Period) or Georgian style. After the Revolution the Federal style appeared. This style was popularized by the Federalist Party whose membership tended to be wealthy self-made merchants, bankers, and shipbuilders. However, from after the Revolution until the 1870s, York was not a prosperous Town. In fact, the Judge David Sewall House (Coventry Hall, 1794) is virtually the only Federal period house of note in York.

York Harbor contains an unusual concentration of late nineteenth century architecture. There are a variety of large “cottages” built as summer retreats by wealthy families from Boston and New York. These visitors also built institutions such as churches, clubs, and libraries, many of which still remain. Often, these structures were designed by nationally known architects such as William Dabney and housed such famous people as William Dean Howells.

### 3. Historic Resources

#### a. Cemeteries and Burial Grounds.

There are many cemeteries and family burial grounds in York. The map entitled, “**Cemeteries and Family Burial Grounds, York Comprehensive Plan, Inventory and Analysis, Historic and Archeological Resources Chapter, November 6, 2007,**” is hereby incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference. This map shows the location of 219 known cemeteries and family burial grounds. Information came from several sources, but the primary

reference was the book entitled, Maine Cemetery Inscriptions, York County Volume (Maine Old Cemeteries Association, 1995). In this book each cemetery is assigned a reference number, and this numbering system is used on the above-referenced map. Where new sites have been locally identified, they have not been assigned a number to prevent conflicts with future editions of the book.

The Planning Department has been working to field-locate each of these cemetery and burial ground sites. Most have been easy to locate, but some are obscure. At the time of writing, 160 of the 219 have been located using a global positioning system (GPS) or by identification on high-resolution aerial photographs. The Department would eventually like to have a positive location for each site to help ensure its protection in perpetuity. Some of the smaller family burial grounds in remote locations are difficult to locate.

Once this data is collected, a practical solution will need to be developed to address conflicting needs. On one hand, there are concerns about vandalism of remote cemeteries if the location data are widely available, so archiving the data with the MHPC may be appropriate. On the other hand, quick, easy access to the locations is useful for Town permit-review staff and boards and for builders in order to comply with the earth-disturbance setback requirements specified in M.R.S.A. Title 13 §1371-A.

**b. Buildings**

With funding from MHPC, the Historic District Commission has completed 8 architectural surveys at varying levels of detail and in different parts of York. There have been studies in York Village, York Harbor, York Beach, Cape Neddick and Cider Hill/Western York. This work was undertaken between 1986 and 2001. The results of these architectural surveys have been archived at MHPC and the library of OYHS. These surveys have shown that York is unique in the New England region because of the large concentration of historic buildings which still exist.

**c. Transportation Systems.**

Certain features of the transportation infrastructure are significant in developing an understanding of the history of York.

**1) Roads.** Historic development of the road network is of interest in tracking the evolution of the community, and to help pinpoint areas of possible archeological interest. It would be a useful project to systematically track the evolution of the road network through York's history, but it is unfortunately beyond the scope of work for preparing this Chapter. York Street, Lindsay Road, Cider Hill Road, and roads to Kittery and Cape Neddick were all developed early in the Town's history. The general pattern of older roads can be seen as "areas of historic sensitivity" on the Historic Archeology Map. Additional inferences can be drawn

based on the locations of other known transportation features such as bridges and ferries.

The single most significant road construction project was the Maine Turnpike, which began following World War II and opened from Kittery to Portland in December 1947. The Turnpike is now a prominent geographic feature, and effectively divides the Town. There are only 5 roads which cross the Turnpike (Beech Ridge, Cider Hill, Spur, Mountain, and Clay Hill roads). It is difficult to envision the circulation patterns prior to the construction of the Turnpike, but there were a number of roads re-routed or cut off as a result of this project.

- 2) **Ferries.** Per Banks' History of York, Maine, there were 6 ferry sites in York through the early years:
- Brave Boat Harbor. The first ferry in York, authorized by the Provincial Court in 1647, to be operated by Thomas Crockett. It is believe that this ferry was operated only briefly and was soon replaced by a bridge over the tidal creek at the head of the harbor.
  - Hilton's Ferry on the York River at Stage Neck. First licensed by the Town in 1652, this ferry was operated by William Hilton. Before this, it may have been operated by Henry Donnell who owned a tavern on Stage Neck.
  - Stover's Ferry on the Cape Neddick River. The first licensed ferry was operated by Sylvester Stover in 1652.
  - Stover's Ferry on the York River. This ferry site was located about 1 mile downstream from the current site of Rice's Bridge on Route One, this ferry operated from 1679 to 1688. It was initially operated by John Stover, and subsequently by William Freethy.
  - Trafton's Ferry on the York River. This ferry operated at the site of the present Rice's Bridge on Route One, and replaced the Stover ferry because a new road to Kittery and Portsmouth had been created at this location. It began operations in 1688 by the Freethy family, and was subsequently operated by the Trafton family.
  - Middle Ferry on the York River. This ferry operated at what is now Sewall's Bridge. Service began in 1730 by Thomas Donnell and after 1748 by Samuel Sewall.
- 3) **Sewall's Bridge.** This bridge is historically significant because of its pioneering design and method of construction, and because it was the first major bridge across the York River. It was a 270' long pile bridge spanning a wide tidal river, with a drawbridge on the northern side. It was designed by Major Samuel Sewall of York, and was opened for traffic in 1757. Its design influenced later bridges in Boston, Paris, France, and Moscow, Russia.

4) Trolleys. There were two trolley systems in York:

- Portsmouth, Kittery & York Street Railway. This was an electric trolley line that ran from Badger’s Island in Kittery to York Beach (crossing York River at the location of the current Route 103 bridge). Presumably, this is the rail line labeled, *York Harbor and Beach Railroad* on the 1893 and 1920 USGS Quadrangles, and referenced as “Old Railroad Grade” on the 1956 quadrangles. In an article about this trolley service published in the York Weekly (December 15, 2004, p. B10), it was stated that service began on August 11, 1897 and ended on March 17, 1923.
- Atlantic Shore Electric Railroad. This was an electric trolley line that connected York Harbor to Dover, New Hampshire to the west (crossing York River at Rice’s Bridge), Kennebunk to the north (crossing the Cape Neddick River where the pilings are still visible just west of the Shore Road bridge), and Kittery to the south (crossing York River on Sewall’s Bridge). The routes are clearly identified on USGS Quadrangles dating to 1920.

5) Airfields. There have been two airfields in York, neither of which remains in existence.

- The first airfield was located on the Nubble, located on what is now Airport Drive. This was operated by the Turner brothers after WWII.
- The second airfield was located atop Groundnut Hill on what is now Algonquin Drive. This was developed by Thurston Briley in the 1960s, and operated into the 1970s.

6) Paths and Trails

In and around York Village and York Harbor, there were a series of paths which connected the various residential areas. Today only the Fisherman’s Walk and the Cliff Path remain readily accessible. Fisherman’s Walk begins in Steedman Woods, crosses Wiggly Bridge and Route 103, and continues along the shore of the York River to the vicinity of Stage Neck and Harbor Beach. The Cliff Path follows the Atlantic shore from Harbor Beach to Cow Beach, although the path is difficult to follow in certain places.

d. Connections to Historically Important People

- John Hancock, merchant and politician from Boston, signer of the Declaration of Independence, owned a warehouse and wharf on the York River, which is currently owned by OYHS and is part of their museum.
- President James Madison, 4<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, visited York in 1817 at the home of Judge Sewall, now known as Coventry Hall.
- Handkerchief Moody, the person on whom Nathaniel Hawthorne based the protagonist of the short story, “The Minister’s Black Veil,” was born and lived his life in York in the Cider Hill and Scotland areas.

- William Dean Howells, author and editor of Atlantic Monthly, had a summer home, “Shagbark,” located on Eastern Point.
- Mark Twain, author and public figure, lived in York from 1901 to 1902 in a house located on the north bank of the York River near Sewall’s Bridge.
- May Sarton, poet and author, lived in York from 1973 until her death in 1995. She lived at a home, “Wild Knoll,” located near Raynes Neck.

## E. DESIGNATED RESOURCES

Both government and private entities have a role in inventorying and designating historic and archeological resources.

### 1. National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation’s presently recognized resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support efforts to identify, evaluate and protect historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the National Register includes districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. There are 2 National Historic Districts and 15 individual listings on the National Register in York.

Listing on the National Register affords no protection against alteration or demolition by the owner of the property. It does place limits on such actions, however, if state or federal funds are involved.

The map entitled, “**National Register Districts and Individual Listings**, York Comprehensive Plan, Inventory and Analysis, Historic and Archeological Resources Chapter” with a date of November 6, 2007, is hereby incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference.

#### a. National Historic Districts

York has 2 National Historic Districts. The first, known as the York Historic District, encompasses the Village and Harbor areas. The second, known as the York Cliffs Historic District, is located along Agamenticus Avenue just north of the Cape Neddick River. The Federal Government is currently scrutinizing historic districts such as York’s and is requesting redefinition and documentation by current standards. These newer standards are much more stringent than those required in the 1970s. This issue should be addressed in the Policy Section of the Comprehensive Plan.

#### 1) York National Historic District

The York National Historic District is situated along the banks of the York River. It was established in 1973. The district actually comprises 3

distinct village areas: York Corner, York Village and York Harbor. According to the National Register inventory, these 3 tightly knit communities form an architectural and chronological history of York. Each area could stand by itself as a district, but together, “they form a sweeping panorama of one of the most historically significant areas in our nation.”

York Village is the oldest of the three, its history being that of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. York Corner is situated on U.S. Route 1 and its history is primarily eighteenth century. York Harbor is architecturally an eighteenth and nineteenth century area, when it became a fashionable place for wealthy families to construct large summer homes, often of the shingle style of architecture.

The Village consists of 2 distinct areas – the Town Center and Lindsay Road. The Town Center area of York Village served as the site of local government since the seventeenth century and the county seat until 1830. The Town Hall, the Old Gaol, Nicholas Sewall House, Emerson Wilcox House, and the Burying Ground are all located in the Village area. Lindsay Road, part of the Old Post Road between Boston and Portland, travels south from the Village towards the York River. In the eighteenth century the road was the major connection between the Town center and the wharves on the York River. Lining this road are structures built throughout York’s development, representing an excellent visual portrayal of the area’s history.

York Harbor was one of the first areas settled in York in the seventeenth century. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it was an active fishing village with many buildings located on the River. Little remains from this period, having been displaced a century ago by the buildings seen today.

## 2) York Cliffs NHD

The York Cliffs National Historic District is the smaller of the Town’s two National Historic Districts. It was established in 1984. The district consists of a 25 acre seashore property containing 8 of the original 13 large summer houses built at York Cliffs. With the exception of one, the houses were built between 1892 and 1901. According to the national Register inventory, these large residences clearly represent the kind of affluence which was lavished upon selected and exclusive enclaves along the Maine coast at the turn of the nineteenth century. All but 2 are executed in the then popular shingle style. This tract, developed by the York Cliffs Improvement Company, also contained a large, beautiful summer hotel. The hotel, known as the Passaconaway Inn, is now gone.

**b. National Register of Historic Places**

In York there are 15 individual listings on the National Register. Individual listings in York include the following properties, with the name, address and building number of each:

- Old York Gaol (National Historic Landmark)  
193 York Street, #68000016
- McIntire Garrison  
280 Cider Hill Road, #68000017
- John Hancock Warehouse  
136 Lindsay Road, #69000029
- Old Schoolhouse  
3 Lindsay Road, #73000247
- Robert Rose Tavern, aka John Banks House  
298 Long Sands Road, #75000206
- Moody Homestead  
100 Ridge Road, #75000209
- John Sedgley Homestead  
44 Chases Pond Road, #76000192
- Barrell Homestead  
71 Beech Ridge Road, #76000195
- Isabella Breckenridge House  
201 U.S. Route One, #83000480
- Cape Neddick Light Station (National Historic Landmark)  
Cape Neddick, #85000844
- Boon Island Light Station  
Boon Island, #88000153
- Conant-Sawyer Cottage, aka Summersong  
14 Kendall Road, #92000279
- Pebbledene, aka Rose Cliff  
99 Freeman Street, #93001110
- Hawkes Pharmacy, aka The Rockaway Hotel  
6 Main Street, #93001111
- St. Peter’s By-The-Sea Protestant Episcopal Church  
535 Shore Road, #99000773

**2. Locally Designated Resources**

The primary means of protecting historic and archeological resources is through local designation. In York this is accomplished with the Zoning Ordinance, which establishes local historic districts, historic landmarks and historic sites. Designation requires approval of the voters in the form of an ordinance amendment. Resources so listed are afforded regulatory protection by the Town. The map entitled, “**Locally Designated Historic Resources**, York Comprehensive Plan, Inventory and Analysis, Historic and Archeological Resources Chapter” with a date of November 6, 2007, is hereby incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference.

Two points should be made about the shapes of the local historic districts, which may appear somewhat irregular. First, the Town has included in these districts only those properties agreed to by the property owners. Second, portions of streets have been included so that all road work within the district boundaries will be reviewed in advance by the Historic District Commission to ensure protection of the historic integrity of the streetscape.

**a. York Village Local Historic District**

This was the first Local Historic District in York, originally established in May 1991. This district comprises the heart of the early colonial settlement of York. Not only is this one of the earliest settlements in New England, but it also was one of the most important. The community was the capitol of the Province of Maine, and subsequently the county seat – the administrative center of Maine throughout the colonial era. Reflective of this importance is the Old Gaol (1719), the oldest surviving jail in the United States, and the Town hall (1811). It was also one of the largest settlements in early Maine, a vibrant economic center. Despite some modern intrusions, it is arguably the best preserved colonial and federal era village in all of Maine.

The building which houses the OYHS offices was added to the District in November 2001. The District delineation was changed to a map-based system in May 2003, which was important because the District expanded to include not only the historic properties but also the adjacent streets. This District currently includes 10 properties, and portions of York Street and Lindsay Road.

**b. Lindsay Road Local Historic District**

This district was established in May 2003. It encompasses the vicinity of two of York’s original homestead sites dating back to the early 1630s – those of Edward Godfrey (1630) and Edward Johnson (1632). The area was then known as Point Bolleyne. None of the original structures survive, but it does contain an impressive series of buildings constructed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is a well preserved historic streetscape, with minimal modern intrusion. The Lindsay Road Local Historic District includes 10 properties, and parts of Lindsay and Mill Dam roads.

**c. York Harbor Local Historic District**

Originally established as the Harmon Park Local Historic District in May 2003, the District was significantly enlarged and renamed the York Harbor Local Historic District in November 2003. This part of Town was originally settled in the 1640s, and was known as Lower Town. Newer construction has replaced all of the original structures, none of which survive today, though it does include several impressive buildings from the eighteenth century, most notably the impressive Sayward-Wheeler House (ca. 1718), and early capes built by Daniel Dill and Job Welles. New construction has even covered the area of the Old Burying Ground – the first cemetery in York – located on the

eastern side of Clark’s Lane. Despite its colonial origins, the strength of this district is the well preserved landscape of large summer homes of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This district contains many fine examples of the Colonial Revival and Shingle styles. Within the District at this time there are 40 properties, portions of York Street, and all of Barrell Lane, Barrell Lane Extension, Clarks Lane, Clarks Court, Harmon Park Road, Varrell Lane, and Simpson Lane.

#### d. Historic Sites and Landmarks

There are currently 18 designated locally designated historic landmarks. At this time there are no designated historic sites. These landmarks include:

- Cape Neddick Lighthouse, 13 Sohier Park Road
- District Nine Schoolhouse, 301A Mountain Road
- Joseph Banks House, 112 York St. (site of Richard Banks house)
- Contributing Property, 70 Clark Road
- Contributing Property, 83 Clark Road
- Contributing Property, 77 Clark Road
- Contributing Property, 31 Long Sands Road
- Contributing Property, 25 Sentry Hill Road
- Contributing Property, 17 Sentry Hill Road
- Contributing Property, 11 Sentry Hill Road
- Contributing Property, 2 Norwood Farms Road
- Contributing Property, 16 Simpson Lane
- Contributing Property, 416 York Street
- Contributing Property, 16 Sentry Hill Road
- Contributing Property, 450 York Street
- Contributing Property, 5 Orchard Lane
- Grant House, 200 U.S. Route One
- Trinity Church, 546 York Street

The HDC should maintain documentation of the significance of each property designated as an historic site or landmark.

### 3. Privately Protected Resources

York is fortunate to have a series of historic properties which have been privately protected. The map entitled, “**Privately Protected Historic Resources**, York Comprehensive Plan, Inventory and Analysis, Historic and Archeological Resources Chapter” with a date of November 6, 2007, is hereby incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan by reference. Each of these properties is owned and managed by either the Old York Historical Society or Historic New England (formerly known as the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities).

The properties of the Old York Historical Society include many of the important resources in the Village Center Local Historic District, as well as several other properties adjacent to this District and the Lindsay Road Local Historic District. The Historic New England property, the Sayward-Wheeler House, is located in

the York Harbor Local Historic District. All privately protected historic resources are located in the York National Historic District.

## F. ANALYSIS

### 1. Important Resources

As recognized and appreciated by many residents, York's wealth of archeological, cultural, historical and architectural resources plays a significant role in shaping the character of the Town. The importance of historic and archeological resources is not simply a function of age, but of significance and rarity. York's history is significant in several respects. In the 1600s, York was the first town incorporated in Maine. Early on it was the largest community, and was the shire town (county seat) when the one county encompassed the entire Province. York was heavily dependent upon fishing and maritime trade in the early days, and later on farming. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, York Harbor developed as an upscale summer community, with exemplary shingle-style architecture. Also during this time period, York Beach developed as a tourist Mecca, with access to population centers to the south by rail initially, then by automobile.

York's pre-historic archeological resources are concentrated along water bodies, with most known sites along the York River. The early historic development of Town also occurred in this same area, in the Village, Lower Town, Southside, Scotland and the Partings. Subsequent development in the late 1800s and early 1900s has probably resulted in the loss of most historic archeological resources in the vicinity of York Harbor, but important sites remain in the less-disturbed areas upstream. The tidal reaches of the Cape Neddick River, along with the surrounding uplands, also have a rich potential for archeological resources.

With respect to architectural resources, York Village, York Harbor, and Lindsay Road areas have a remarkable concentration of significant buildings, with hundreds potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register. These buildings range in age from late 1600s through the 1950s. York Harbor contains the most significant and best preserved architectural resources from the nineteenth century. The York Cliffs area also has a significant concentration of well preserved buildings. Although many of these structures already have National Register designations, additional work could be done to include structures for nomination that are currently excluded. The "Greystone" cottage in York Cliffs, would be an example. According to the Historic District Commission, "Greystone" cottage is one of the most important examples of "cottage" architecture in the state.

### 2. Threats

Protection of archeological and historic resources is in the public interest, but the continuing existence of many resources is threatened. The potential threats to

York's historic properties and archeological sites exist in most other communities in Maine.

Archeological sites are at risk from several types of impacts. First, a site could be lost to new construction. Second, a site could be intentionally looted. Third, a site could be unintentionally disturbed by unknowing site disturbance (kids digging up old bottles and such). A site designated in an Historic District or as an Historic Site may be better protected from development impacts, but may thus become increasingly at risk to vandalism and theft. The more the public knows, the more that site security of some form is required. The balance between public knowledge and site protection is a difficult balance.

With respect to development impacts on archeological sites, large scale developments are reviewed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection under the Site Location of Development Act. This process will often require protection of archeologically significant sites. Archeological resources on small development sites, however, usually will not be detected and protected, especially when the location of specific archeological sites are not known by local officials. Construction that does not undergo state or Planning Board review, but instead only requires the issuance of a staff-issued building permit, may unwittingly damage sites with archeological significance. Critically important resources could be lost without anyone ever knowing.

Historic buildings are at risk as well, although York has been fortunate that private owners have protected so many historic buildings so well for so long. As to risks, some of York's historic structures may be situated in locations that are viewed as desirable sites for new development. This situation could lead to the demolition or inappropriate alteration of an historic building. Where people want to retain the historic building and intend to renovate it, the cost of rehabilitation is another potential obstacle. Often the expense of sensitively renovating a historic structure is more than a property owner is willing or able to absorb. The result of this situation is either an inexpensive renovation that destroys the integrity of the historic property or demolition of the older building to make way for something new.

Related problems arise in Town regulations. The Residential Growth Ordinance creates an incentive to tear down older buildings to allow quick permitting of new homes. This is an unintended consequence. The building codes require compliance with standards which dictate design features such as ceiling height, stairway width, stairway rise and run, number of exterior accesses, insulation, and so forth. Renovation of buildings built centuries before the establishment of building codes can't possibly comply with those codes and still be sensitive to the historic character of the building. Some codes, such as the BOCA, IBC and IRC codes do have provisions to permit flexibility for historic buildings, but CABO does not have these provisions. CABO is the code currently utilized in York for single-family and duplex residences, which include the majority of historic

buildings in York. Not only do these code requirements limit the ability to renovate an existing historic building, they likely have the effect of preventing someone from salvaging an historic house frame and re-constructing it in an historically correct manner in York. The result, over time, is a lost opportunity for York to have some new construction which is truly in character with York's history. The Residential Growth Ordinance also provides an incentive to tear down smaller, older home to make way for new homes. These code issues should be addressed in the Policy Section of the Comprehensive Plan.

### 3. Resource Protection

Resources can be protected through public policy, or by private action. Local, state and federal policies offer varying degrees of protection to archeological and historic resources. There is a unified system of policies and controls which is based on federal policy that is implemented through the states and communities which are Certified Local Governments such as York. With regard to private protection, there is no substitute for a property owner whose actions directly protect resources.

Local control is exercised primarily through two means: local designation and protection of resources by ordinance (historic districts and landmarks); and by local review of all larger development projects for potential impacts on resources. Of the many hundreds of significant historic buildings and sites, less than 100 are protected by local historic designation. The percentage is small, but this number has increased dramatically in the past few years, particularly in 2003 when 2 additional local historic districts and 13 additional landmarks were designated. The protection afforded by inclusion of a property in a district or as a landmark is significant. Major exterior changes to the building or to the property are subject to review, and the review is based on a rational set of standards established by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

The Town has standards in its Site Plan & Subdivision Regulations which require properties to be evaluated for the presence of archeological or historic resources. Applicants are required to obtain an opinion from the HDC, MHPC, or other experts as to the likely presence of significant resources on the development site, and where significant resources are present or are highly likely, the Planning Board is empowered to act to help conserve those resources. The ability to protect resources in this manner is less forceful than by local designation, but it is more flexible for property owners and it allows the Town to extend protection to as-yet unidentified resources.

Another level of local resource protection comes from implementation of the State law (Title 13 §1371-A) which prevents ground disturbance within 25 feet of cemeteries and burial grounds. The Planning Department's on-going efforts to locate each of these cemeteries and burial grounds greatly simplifies local enforcement of this law. Additional local policies, such as the requirement in the Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations to identify any such resources within close

proximity to a development site, also help. To date, the Town has not taken action to acquire any of the abandoned cemeteries to ensure their preservation in perpetuity, but this is permitted through Title 30-A §3107. The requirement for municipal action to care for veterans' graves per Title 13 §1101 will be addressed in the Municipal Capacity Chapter of the Inventory & Analysis Section of the Comprehensive Plan.

Local protection of resources is virtually non-existent for most small projects, such as construction of single-family homes. These projects are permitted by the Code Enforcement Officer, and unless they are located in a local historic district or are a designated historic landmark, the issue of archeological or historic resources never arises. This poses a significant risk especially to some of the very early historic archeological sites – sites which are of great importance to the Town and State but are virtually unprotected at this time.

The State's role in resource protection comes in many forms. Primarily, the MHPC does not regulate but is positioned to empower others. They provide guidance, assistance and funding to the community. The progress made locally has been greatly facilitated by MHPC. They have helped York become one of only 9 certified local governments in Maine. They have funded the 20 archeological and architectural inventories completed in York over the past 2 decades. MHPC staff also field inquiries from development applicants about the presence of known archeological resources on a site, and participate in State permitting of major development projects. MHPC is a vital partner in the Town's efforts to identify and protect important resources.

Federal participation comes in two basic forms: in the support of state historic preservation offices; and through designations of the National Register. Much of the money York has received from MHPC is actually federal money passed through the State. As the MHPC is a vital partner, so too is the U.S. Department of the Interior in this respect. Inclusion of properties in national historic districts or on the National Register of Historic Places offers these properties a degree of protection, but only from state or federal government-funded actions. National listing imparts no protection from locally-funded government or private action.

Private protection by historic organizations accounts for 9 historic buildings at this time. These organizations have been established to protect these resources, so private ownership equates directly with resource protection. The majority of archeological sites and historic buildings are in private ownership, and *most* have been well cared for through the years. The past practice of 'laissez faire' has been largely successful, but this does not ensure it will continue to be successful in the future. Here is the critical policy challenge for the Town – what degree of public policy control is necessary and appropriate to ensure the long-term conservation of important resources.

## **G. SUMMARY**

Conservation of the Town's historic and archeological resources has long been an important value in York. These resources are an integral part of the community fabric and they contribute to York's position as a unique community in southern Maine. Despite the Town's recognition of the significance of its historic buildings and archeological sites, some are still being lost to development. One reason for this situation is that the Town lacks adequate mechanisms that would ensure the long term preservation of its historic resources. Ensuring that new development is compatible with York's existing historic resources will be important to the preservation of York's historic character. Additional public knowledge and education about the Town's historic and archeological resources, created through such steps as increased historic site designations, the development of brochures, and public presentations, may increase the appreciation and ultimate preservation of these significant resources in York. The York Historic District Commission and the Old York Historical Society could be instrumental in establishing a historic resource education and protection program in York.

## APPENDICES

### A: TERMINOLOGY

This Chapter deals with a specialized subject matter, and the meaning of certain terms is explained to help clarify the text.

#### **Timeframes**

- Prehistoric. Of or pertaining to the time before written history of the inhabitants. In the case of York, this is generally the time before the arrival of the European settler in 1630.
- Historic. Of or pertaining to the time of original exploration by the Europeans in this area, understood to be in the early 1600s. This encompasses everything through 1957, which is 50 years ago at the time of writing this Chapter. A 50-year horizon is used because this is a cut-off for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.
- Archeological. Of or pertaining to historic or prehistoric resources that are in the ground. This would not include, for instance, a house built in 1700, but it would include the artifacts associated with that house if those artifacts are buried in the adjacent site. Note: in this Chapter the spelling of “archeology” is used instead of the more common “archaeology” to be consistent with relevant State laws such as M.R.S.A Title 30-A §4326(1)(I).

#### **Resource Designations**

- Historic District. An historic district is an area which contains a grouping or concentration of buildings, sites, landmarks, streets and/or other resources which together form a unified resource. The basis for the district may relate to: historic events; significance to the history of the Town, state or nation; historic people; great ideas or ideals; building architecture; or buildings which contribute to the visual continuity of the district. A district may include “noncontributing” resources if these are interspersed among the significant resources in the district.
- Historic Site. As defined in the Zoning Ordinance, Historic Site means, “Any parcel of land of special significance in the history of the Town of York and its inhabitants, including archaeological site(s) containing important prehistoric or historic artifacts and/or structural remains, or upon which an historic event has occurred, and which has been designated as such in accordance with the Local Historic District Regulations.”
- Historic Landmark. As defined in the Zoning Ordinance, Historic Landmark means, “Any improvement, building or structure of unique historic or architectural significance to the Town of York, relating to its heritage,

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cultural, social, economic, or political history, or which exemplify historic personages or important events in local, state, or national history as may be designated in accordance with the Local Historic District Regulations.”

- National Historic Landmark. As described on the National Park Service’s web page, “National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States.” At this time there are less than 2,500 designated national historic landmarks in the nation.

## B: POPULATION OF YORK, 1650 – 2004

Year	Population	Type	Source
1650	200	estimate	Banks History
1675	480	estimate	Banks History
1711	548	count	Banks History
1735	1,300	estimate	Banks History
1743	1,392	estimate	Banks History
1750	2,511	estimate	Banks History
1754	1,656	count	Banks History
1764	2,220	count	Banks History
1765	2,277	count	Banks History
1776	2,804	count	Banks History
1783	2,619	count	Banks History
1785	2,644	count	Banks History
1790	2,900	count	US Census
1800	2,776	count	US Census
1810	2,846	count	US Census
1820	3,287	count	US Census
1830	3,485	count	US Census
1840	3,100	count	US Census
1850	2,976	count	US Census
1860	2,823	count	US Census
1870	2,654	count	US Census
1880	2,463	count	US Census
1890	2,440	count	US Census
1900	2,668	count	US Census
1910	2,802	count	US Census
1920	2,727	count	US Census
1930	2,532	count	US Census
1940	3,283	count	US Census
1950	3,256	count	US Census
1960	4,663	count	US Census
1970	5,690	count	US Census
1980	8,465	count	US Census
1990	9,818	count	US Census
2000	12,854	count	US Census
2004	13,500	estimate	Comp Plan