

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE UMBERHIND, DETWEILER AND
GALLANT PARCELS, BOWDOINHAM, MAINE



Abagadasset drainage to the west of Kennebec/Merrymeeting Bay. Red dots are GPS survey points of various sites taken during the survey.

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MANAGEMENT ABSTRACT

Staff of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission carried out a reconnaissance archaeological survey in August, 2005, on three parcels of land along the Abagadasset River in Bowdoinham. The three parcels had been purchased, in part, with funds from the Land for Maine's Future fund. The archaeological survey was carried out with volunteer help from The Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (land trust), and the results of the survey will be used in future access improvement and management planning for these parcels. Archaeological survey on all parcels considered both historic and prehistoric sites.

The Umberhind parcel is located on the upper Abagadasset River, at a bedrock-controlled falls above the head of tide. This parcel contains the location of the Carding Machine Mill (circa 1810) that gave the name to the adjacent road. The mill foundation, and foundations of an adjacent house and two barns constitute archaeological site ME 049-009. This complex of buildings is represented in a remarkable primitive painting possibly dating from the third quarter of the 19th century. Archeological testing shows that debris around the mill began accumulating before 1820, roughly confirming the date of construction inferred from historic records. The dwelling and barn(s) may be later. As a complex, site ME 049-009, is remarkably well preserved and documented, and is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. It should be protected. No prehistoric archaeological sites are associated with the Umberhind parcel.

The Detweiler Parcel is located at the head of tide on the Abagadasset River. The major mill at the head of tide is on abutting property. The Robbins farm complex (site ME 049-010), consisting of the foundations of a connected dwelling, ell and barn, is found along the northern boundary of the parcel. The site is shown as a building on the 1856 county map. A trash dump near the barn is stratified, with earlier material (pre-1830) in the lower level, and later material (1845-1900) in the upper level. There is an unidentified fieldstone foundation 500 m south-southeast of the Robbins farm complex, of unknown age (not shown on maps or mentioned in deeds). It was not tested archaeologically because of time constraints, and is filled with later (early 20th century) trash. Archaeological testing for prehistoric sites along the Abagadasset River bank on the Detweiler parcel was negative, except for the southernmost fringes of the parcel which include a portion of previously known site 25.38. The Robbins Farm complex may be eligible for listing in the National Register because of its early 19th century date and archaeologically-demonstrated separation of the earlier material in some locations. It should be protected. The unidentified fieldstone foundation is of unknown significance. Site 25.38 is not of demonstrated significance or age.

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The Gallant parcel contains the Hall family cemetery, and a cellar hole and archaeological site complex (ME 049-011) of the Hall family of several generations, beginning circa 1828. Archaeological testing of the cellar hole recovered pre-1830 material, confirming the date of construction. As an early 19th century domestic archaeological site, ME 049-011 is probably eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and should be protected. Prehistoric archaeological testing along the river bank was negative near the Hall cemetery, but located a new Ceramic period site (25.51) at the southern tip of the parcel, south of the railroad tracks. Site 25.51 may be the best-preserved prehistoric site on the Abagadasset river, and may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. As such it should be protected, and no access improvements should be allowed on the parcel south of the railroad tracks.

It would be possible to consider the three historic archaeological sites on these three parcels as a representative sample of early 19th century domestic and industrial sites on the small Abagadasset drainage. Since they are on “conservation land,” and therefore not under immediate threat from development pressure, National Register nomination should be considered as a step in long-term site protection.

INTRODUCTION

The Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB) in partnership with the Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition and with funding provided by the Land for Maine's Future Board (LMFB) acquired three parcels of land between Carding Machine Road and the Abagadasset River in the town of Bowdoinham as part of the FOMB's mission to preserve, protect and improve the unique ecosystems of Merrymeeting Bay (Figure 1). Collectively, the three parcels total 165 acres and protect 10,500 ft of waterfront in the northeastern portion of town. The Umberhind parcel of 95 acres protects 5200 ft along both sides of the Abagadasset River, and is the site of the original carding mill for which Carding Machine Road is named. The Detweiler tract of 40 acres preserves approximately 2000 feet of river and tributary margins and contains the remains of a nineteenth-century farmstead, and abuts a prehistoric archaeological site. The 30 acre Gallant parcel, protecting 3500 ft of river frontage, contains remains of the Hall family farmstead and cemetery, and a prehistoric archaeological site. The three parcels are now owned by the State of Maine and managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The legislation establishing the Land for Maine's Future program requires an assessment of archaeological and historic properties on land purchases as part of the planning for future access and use of the properties. Under an interagency agreement between the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) and the Land for Maine's Future program (State Planning Office) initial assessments are made using existing information in the Commission's archaeological and/or buildings survey records. If there is a reasonable chance for the presence of one or more significant archaeological sites on the property for which archaeological survey information is incomplete, the Commission produces a scope of work and budget for documentary and field investigation. This work serves as a reconnaissance assessment of the property and as an initial assessment of archaeological site preservation and significance (a combination of Phase I and some Phase II level work in cultural resource management terms). The results of the archaeological survey are then conveyed to the LMFB and the land managing agency with recommendations for site protection and avoidance. These comments are provided to promote consideration of archaeological remains during the planning of future improvements to the properties, and to promote a view that conceptualizes such resources as important components of the cultural landscape.

Field investigations were carried out in August 2005 by staff of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and FOMB volunteers. Visible cultural resources at each site consisting primarily of stone foundations were mapped and photographed. This work was accompanied by archaeological test excavations adjacent to the structural remains to assess the level of integrity of associated archaeological deposits, and archaeological testpit excavation at selected locations designed to detect prehistoric (Native American) sites.

Documentary research and field investigation results are presented below for each of the three properties respectively. Background deed research was conducted at the Registry of Deeds in

Archaeological Survey of the Umberhind, Detweiler and Gallant Parcels, Bowdoinham

Wiscasset for Lincoln County and in Bath for Sagadahoc County that was created in 1854. Deed references preceded by 'SD' were obtained at the Sagadahoc County registry.

The archaeological field crew was under the supervision of Arthur Spiess, Leon Cranmer and Leith Smith. Additional Maine Historic Preservation Commission paid staff who participated in the fieldwork included William Burgess, Harbour Mitchell III, Kaare Mathiasson, and Maxine Collins. Bowdoinham resident Henry Lamoreau and his daughter Cynthia Lamoreau, who have volunteered on archaeological projects for many years, provided additional experienced help. Volunteers (Figure 2) who participated in response to Friends of Merrymeeting Bay publicity included: Kent Cooper, Liza Nelson, Sharon Randall, Bob and Diane Weggel, D. J. Rogers, Linda Heller, Max, Pat and Amy Friedman, David Wall, Tielle Frazer, Ruth Innes, Robin Beltramini, Gerry LaRoche, Rocky Freeman, Josh R. Freeman, Beth Thompson, and Lisa Critchfield. We apologize if we have missed any one. We thank Ed Friedman (FOMB) and Jim Connolly (IFW) for access and assistance.

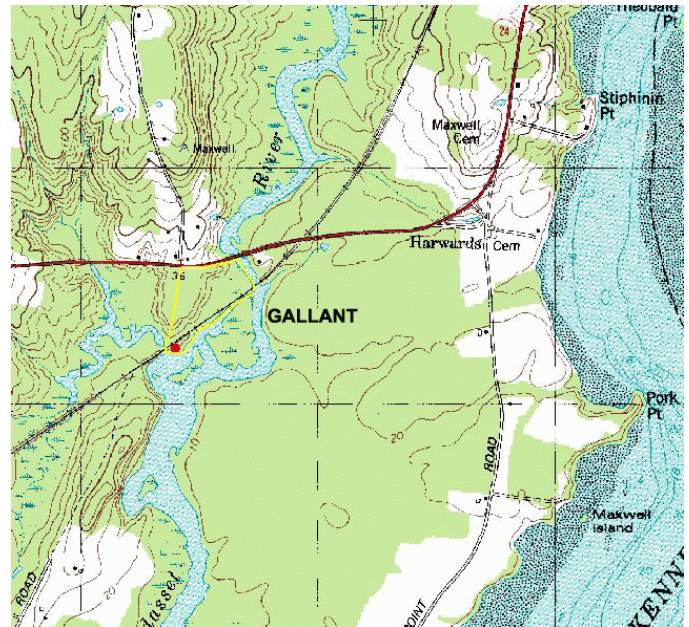
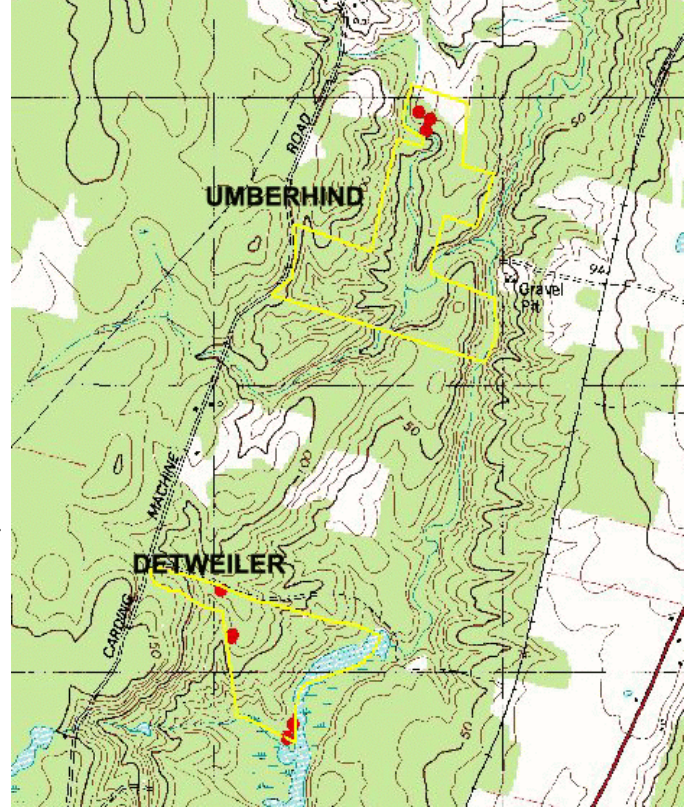


Figure 2. William Burgess and a volunteer with Friends of Merrymeeting Bay at the Robbins site on the Detweiler property.



Figures 1a (above) and b (below) showing Umberhind, Detweiler and Gallant parcels as similar scales, on UGSG Richmond 7.5' topographic sheet.

Part I: HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

Bowdoinham Historic Background

The early history of the lands that make up the town of Bowdoinham is dominated by land claim disputes and Native relations beginning in the early seventeenth century. Eight thousand acres that included the town lands were said to have been given to Sir Richard Edgecomb by Sir Ferdinando Gorges in 1637. Various Edgecomb heirs attempted to lay claim to the tract into the early eighteenth century, but never had success. Town lands were north of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's 1651 land claim, but were included in the Massachusetts Bay Colony Purchase of 1677 that was subsumed by the Great Charter of 1691 that included all of Maine. Adding to the confusion over the legitimate owner was the Plymouth proprietor's granting of 3,200 acres through the New Plymouth or Kennebec Company to William Bowdoin of Boston (Varney 1881:126). In 1714 a group of men from the Pejepscott Company argued that the northern portion of the town was included in their claim. Bowdoin's Plymouth claim, along with a written quitclaim from the Indian sachem, Abagadasset, resulted in the ruling by the Massachusetts General Court in Bowdoin's favor in 1758 and 1763. Although Europeans began to settle in the region by at least the 1620s, the land disputes and disagreements with the Native inhabitants of the region delayed the incorporation of the town until 1762. The seventeenth and early eighteenth century history of the region was, thus, closely influenced by relations between early settlers and local Native populations that were initially brought together by the establishment of trading posts on the Kennebec, east side of Merry Meeting Bay and at the mouth of the Androscoggin River. One Native settlement under the leadership of the sachem, Abagadasset, was supposedly located at present Abagadasset Point, lying between the mouth's of the Kennebec and Abagadasset Rivers. The construction of Fort Richmond on the Kennebec in 1719 was supposed to bring some stability to the region, but may have actually inflamed Native-settler relations. Bowdoinham center and the area of the Cathance River were among the earliest to be settled. Land in the project area was not surveyed and formally divided into lots by James Bowdoin until the early nineteenth century.

Umberhind Parcel (site ME049-009)

Parcel Location and Description

The Umberhind property consists of an irregularly-shaped parcel on either side of the upper Abagadasset River (Figures 1a and 3). It borders approximately 2000 m of the east side of Carding Machine Road and its north bound lies approximately 1.25 miles south of the Richmond town line. The north and western portion of the parcel consists of relatively flat to gently eastward sloped upland that has been dissected by the Abagadasset River and associated tributaries. A major fall line within the parcel contains an historic mill seat and represents the upstream extent for anadromous fish. Relatively steep river banks are present above and at the falls, while low banks associated with a lower, gently rolling topography characterize the river south of the falls. The parcel is presently wooded, with oak and pine dominating (Figure 4).

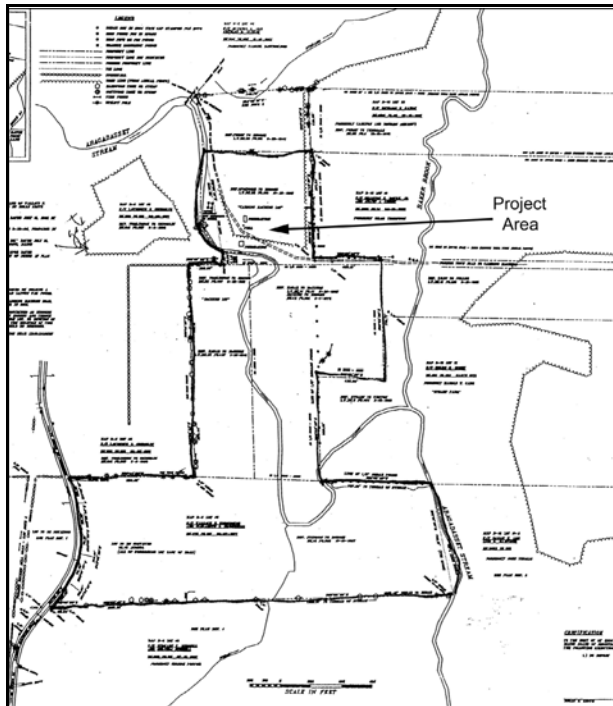


Figure 3. Detail of survey map of the Umberhind parcel (Lincoln Co. Registry of Deeds).

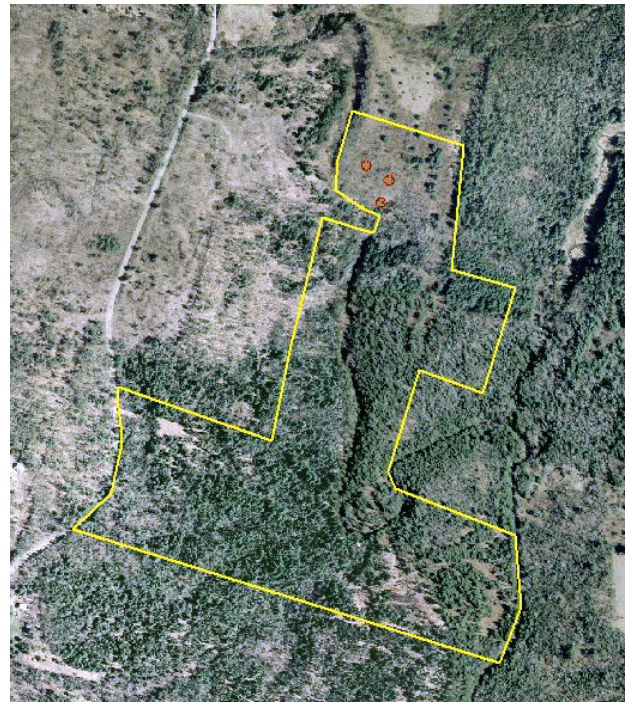


Figure 4. Aerial photograph of the Umberhind parcel with approximate boundaries in yellow. The three red dots, upper center, are the mill, dwelling and barns of site ME 049-009.

Visible cultural resources on the parcel consist of foundation remains of a mill and associated farmstead on the north (east) side of the Abagadasset River adjacent to the falls. The farmstead is composed of a dwelling house and two barns, along with two wells and a (former) cemetery site.

Historic Background and Carding Machines

The term carding refers to the process of aligning and cleaning the fibers of raw wool to prepare it for spinning. Brushing or carding of wool was a tedious task performed by hand until the second half of the eighteenth century when British inventors, namely Richard Arkwright and James Hargreaves created a machine that was capable of carding wool in a fraction of the time required by hand. The machine consists of a series of large rollers outfitted with fine iron wires or brushes. Individual fibers are aligned as the wool passes between the rotating rollers. Carding machines began to be used in America by the 1780s with intense demand coming from the clothing industry that was still based in most private homes. Within 30 years, most towns with access to water power had installed carding machines where individual farmers could have their wool processed for home cloth production or for sale. The simplification of this time-consuming process led to the development of large-scale textile mills that came to dominate the industry by the mid nineteenth century and brought about a steady decrease in home clothing production.

In 1802, Elihu Getchel purchased two lots of 80 acres (L49:14) and 6 acres (L57: 176) respectively, from Jacob (clergyman) and Elizabeth Bigelow of Sudbury, Mass., and Isaac (physician) and Polly Hurd of Concord, Mass. Both tracts were “part of the southerly part of Lot No. 5.” The fact that Elihu Getchel was interested in constructing a mill on the 6 acre tract is suggested by a 1791 purchase from Robert Patten (L27:232) of a tract on the Kennebec River that included “2/16ths and a half of a mill priviledge and falls called Abagadaset Falls and 2/16ths and a half of the iron work belonging to said priviledge and 2/16ths and a half of two acres of land...” This mill site is believed to have been located on the Abagadaset River downstream of the project area and possibly east of the Detweiller Parcel (see below) (Figure 5). It is likely that Elihu, after his 1802 purchase, constructed a mill further up river in the project area. It would appear that Elihu Getchel passed away, leaving the acreage with the new mill to his wife or daughter, Mary. On March 21st, 1809 Mary Getchel et als. convey to Elihu Hatch “a certain half of a double saw mill now standing on Abagadasset falls with the falls that the said mill now stands on, and the water that belongs to the said mill and all the irons that belong to the half of the aforesaid double saw mill” (L73:48).

Two years later (December of 1811), Elihu Hatch sold a six acre parcel representing part of the southerly part of Lot No. 5 to a cordwainer, Elisha Springer (L121:124). Elisha’s involvement with the running of the mill is unknown, but it is possible it was he who shifted the mill from sawing to industrial processing. Eli-

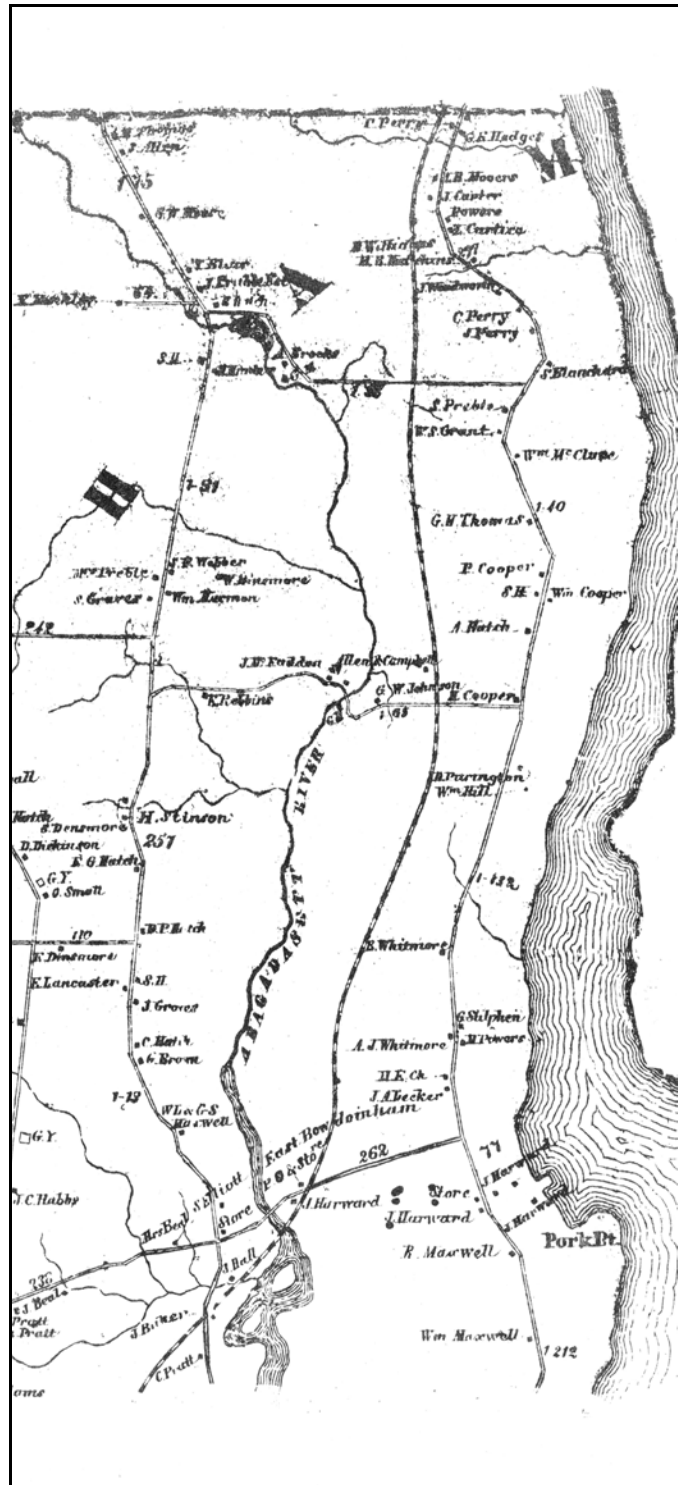


Figure 5. Section of the 1858 county map showing the Abagadaset River in Bowdoinham. Closeup sections follow elsewhere below.

sha appears to run into financial troubles for in that year he was forced to relinquish a portion of his property to creditor, William Decker (L114:52-53). The tract was surveyed and appraised by three local men at \$81.55, and as set off, included the southern third of the 'great building' (mill) including 10 feet of land to the east and a 4½ rod-wide strip that extended for 90 rods upstream of the mill. A "little adjoining building" was present, probably on the mill's north side at this time. Elisha was able to purchase this tract back from William Decker in January of 1823 for \$90.00 (L121:124-125). The purpose of regaining this portion of his land may have been because he had two buyers who wanted to invest in the property.

In May of the same year, Elisha sold for \$150.00, one undivided moiety or half of the 6-acre tract that included "one half of all the buildings and water privileges thereon" to Asa Brooks, a clothier from Bowdoinham. A ¼ share in the property was conveyed to Jonathan Kidder on the same date of May 14, 1823 (L124:74). Thus, of the three men, Springer retains ¼, Kidder ¼ and Brooks ½. Brooks' knowledge of the clothing industry was probably instrumental in conversion of part of the mill to carding and cloth finishing (see Adams 1912:32-33). A dye house was also constructed for coloring and dressing homemade cloth. Brooks appears to have enticed a group of investors to purchase one of his ¼ portions that included the "lot of land...with buildings thereon being the Carding Machine lot (so called)" (L16:113). Payments made to the group on Dec. 12, 1836 were for "¼ of the Carding Machine lot and ¼ of the Carding Machine and machinery with the water power privilege and the whole of the dwelling." Another payment was made Jan. 18th, 1840 (L13:294-295). The other ¼ owner, Jonathan Kidder, immediately conveyed his share (May 14, 1823) to Daniel Stone and Ethan Earle (traders) of Brunswick for \$500.00 (L124:174-175). A few years later (April 29, 1828), Asa appears to have paid off his investors, for he conveys one half of the six acre tract that included ½ of "a clothing mill, grist mill, and carding mill, with ½ of all carding machines and all other apparatus" to Noah Hinkley, executor of Daniel Stone's estate, for \$800.00 (SD L2:10). When Daniel died in 1831, Asa Brooks purchased Daniel's "¾ part of a tract of land...being a part of Lot No. 5," (SD L6:53) this being the ¼ purchased by Daniel from Jonathan Kidder in 1823 and the ½ that was purchased from Asa in 1828.

Elisha died in 1839 and his estate was probated and auctioned with Warren W. Springer as administrator. Elisha's probate inventory (Lincoln Probate L46:426) lists items associated with his profession including 1 grind stone, shoe bench, lasts, clamps and 1 pr looms, but no mention is made of objects directly associated with the mill. Asa Brooks, offered the highest bid of \$50.00 for Elisha's ¼ share consisting of an "undivided 1/4th part of the southerly part of Lot No. 5" (6 acres) and ¼ part of the "Carding Machine Machinery and gear and water privilege and the whole of a dwelling house and barn thereon standing" (October 26, 1839, SD L22/160-161). With this conveyance, Asa became the sole owner of the 6 acre tract. Between the 1830s and 1870s Asa purchased additional parcels of land to the north, west and south of the tract containing the mill.

According to Adams (1912:33), the demise of homemade cloth around 1845 created a loss in demand for carding, leaving the grinding of grist as the mill's primary function until around 1858 (Figure 6). In May of 1857 Asa briefly conveyed to Willis Stinson three tracts of land (6 acres and 12 acres for \$700, and an additional 50 acres for \$500.00), including the six-acre

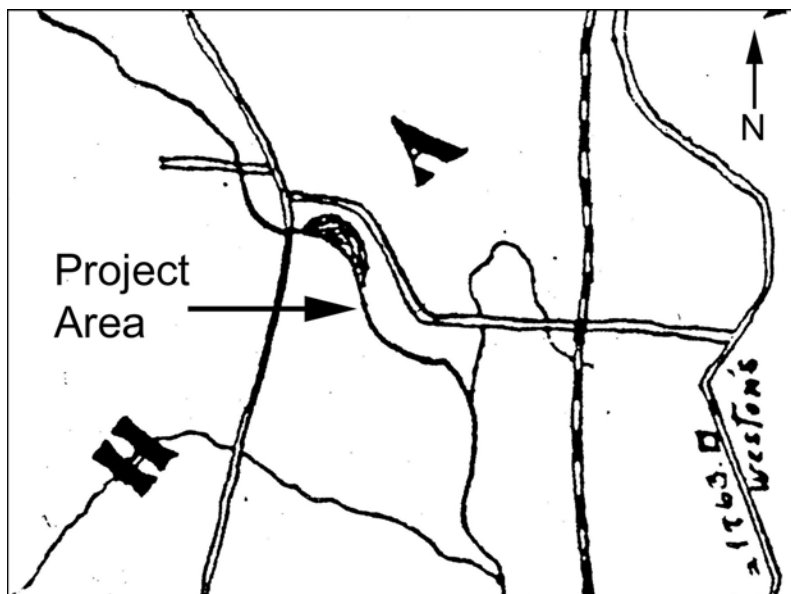


Figure 6. Detail of the 1858 county map, showing the Umberhind parcel project area. The mill (site ME 049-009) would on the east side of the stream, downstream from the pond (which was above the falls). Note the road north and east of the site, which is no longer there.

parcel that was previously described as containing the mill (SD L9:558-559). No mention is made of the mill or machinery in this transaction. In November, however, Asa retook control of the 6 and 12 acre parcels (18 total) (SD L13:227). In 1866, Asa deeded the east half of the burying ground to Joseph Eliot.

Two years later, Asa conveyed to his son, Luther S. Brooks, "all of the land he owns in Bowdoinham," consisting of the 18 acre tract and 50 acre tract, reserving the right to occupy and profit from the premises during the remainder of his and his wife, Hanna's lives (SD L34:414). This conveyance was based upon an

agreement between Luther and Asa that was not formally recorded until February 17, 1871 (SD L35:54). The condition stated that Luther had to maintain his sister, Malinda, during her natural life or so long as she remained single and unmarried, and she is to live in Luther's house and be provided with meat, drink and clothes. No mention of the mill or other buildings is made, but Adams (1912:33) claims that the mill continued to function, supporting a shingle machine until about 1880.

By 1871, Luther may have come upon financial difficulties for he mortgaged the property to his sister, Melinda, for \$375.00 (SD L44:160). The low value suggests that the property had ceased to be occupied by this time. Hattie Brooks, possibly Luther's daughter living in Portland, served as executor of Luther's estate and ended up conveying the land to George N. Libby Sr. in October of 1890, (SD L74:510). Hattie finally paid off Luther's outstanding mortgage the following November (SD L44:160, L76:349-351). According to Adams (1912:33), it was George Libby who dismantled the mill, using the lumber to construct a barn. The mill machinery was installed in the "Holbrook and Williams saw mill near the bay." Adams' (1912:33) discussion of the Williams and Holbrook mill, however, states that it was built in 1882 as a shingle and threshing mill. Thus the latter mill may have been enlarged with the addition of the machinery from the old mill. George Libby Sr. died in December 1944 and left the property to his children. It is unclear if anyone occupied the property at this time. Twenty years later (August 28, 1964, Raymond E. Libby et als. conveyed the property to William Lefko Sr. (SD L340:326). William deeded the property on May 3, 1977 to Leon O. and Fay S. Emery of Windsor (SD L461:84), and they, in turn, convey the 90 acre parcel to Wallace P. and Elizabeth R. Umberhind (SD L470:187) on August 12, 1977.

Archaeological Survey Results

A total of 19 shovel test pits (STPs) were excavated to investigate the site's archaeological remains (Figures 7 and 8). The test pits were placed at intervals of 5 m and arranged in seven transects. Results are presented separately by the mill, dwelling house and barn areas.

We found a remarkable similarity between the archaeological remains of the site and a primitive painting of unknown date, probably mid-19th century age (Figure 8). Note the open foundation end on the gable end of the cape-style house, facing the mill, which matches the archaeological remains. (See also Figure 11.)

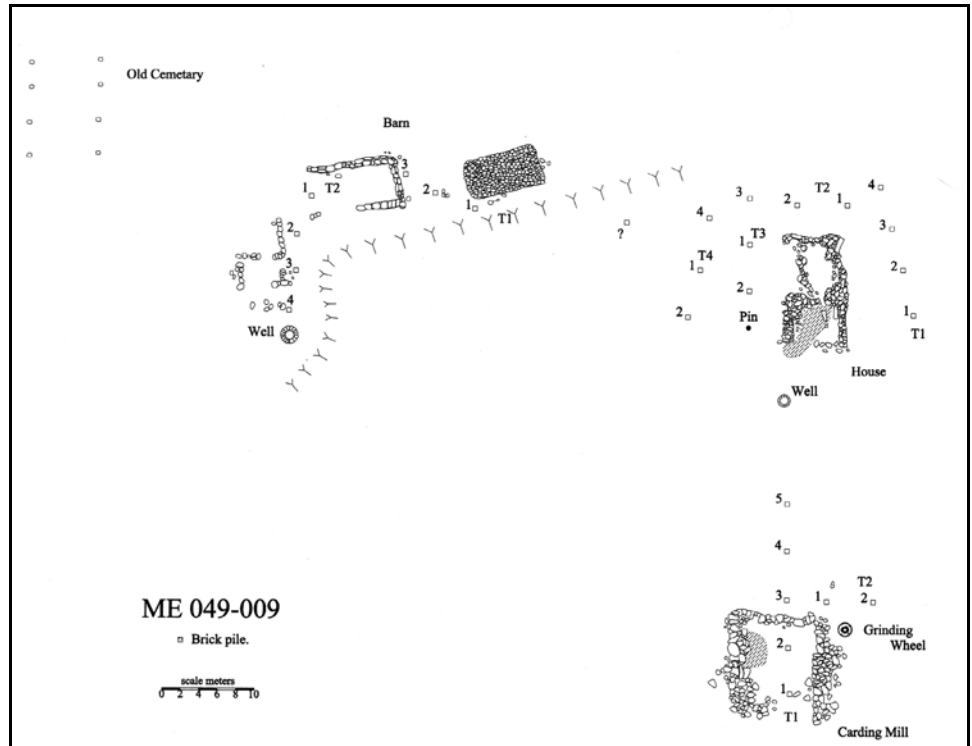


Figure 7. Archaeological survey map of the mill, house and barn area. North approximately to the left. The open end of the basement/foundation on the house is toward the mill, which is downhill.

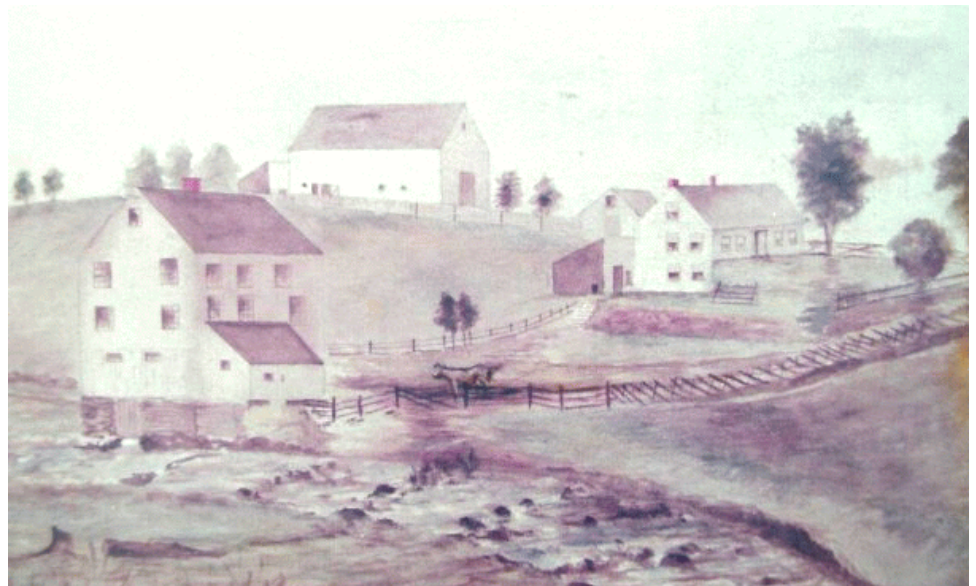


Figure 8. Mid-nineteenth century painting of the Carding Machine Mill and adjacent farmstead, by an unknown artist. The mill is the building to the left, a cape-style house built into the hill with an open foundation end, at right, and barn left background. To match the archaeological plan with the painting, the plan should be rotated about 45° clockwise.

Mill Site

The mill site consists of three stone walls that form three sides of a rectangle (Figure 9). The walls were built into the river bank, while the open side of the structure lies adjacent and parallel to the river's edge. The structure's earthen interior surface slopes gently down toward the river and contains fallen foundation stones and a brick pile representing a collapsed chimney. This area was tested by seven STPs at 5 m intervals in two transects. Transect 1, containing 5 testpits, extended from the structure's interior wheel pit (STP 1-1, 1-2) northward and upslope to test a relatively flat area north of the foundation that also may have been underneath the structure. Transect 2, consisting of 2 STPs extended eastward from STP 1-3 to explore a flat area that could have laid outside of the mill and which presently contains a partially completed millstone.

STP 1-1 within the mill and closest to the river's edge revealed two layers of gray, silty clay flood deposit below 10 cm of an organic gray-brown, sandy silt. This soil lay on the bedrock present at 40 cm below the surface (cmbs). Artifacts here were dominated by recently deposited bottle (including 'Coke') glass, window glass and aluminum foil. STP 1-2 further



Figure 9. The inland (eastern) portion of the Carding Machine Mill foundation (away from the stream, which is out of the picture to the right).



Figure 10. Artifacts from testpits in the mill area: 1. Cut nail; 2. Creamware; 3. Lead-glazed redware; 4. Printed pearlware; 5. Polychrome painted pearlware; 6. Blue-painted pearlware; 7. Wine bottle glass; 8. Glass bottle/decanter base.

from the river revealed similar olive brown to gray brown, silty clay flood deposit and alluvium. Artifacts here included brick, bottle glass and unidentified iron. Testpits 1-3, 1-4 and 1-5 revealed similar light olive brown alluvium that extended between 28 and 36 cm in depth. A large stone encountered in 1-4 may be a post support and 1-5 revealed what is likely the mill's north stone foundation wall. These units contained much earlier material including creamware (ca. 1762-1820), pearlware (ca. 1775-1830) and redware ceramics, bottle and window glass and a cut nail (Figure 10). The two STPs extending eastward from test 1-3 (2-1 and 2-2) revealed compact olive brown silty clay between 0 and 18 and 0 and 30 cmbs respectively. The soil transitioned to a gray clay subsoil. Artifacts here included brick, pearlware ceramics, bottle glass and a cut nail.

Dwelling House

The dwelling house site consists of a rectangular stone- and brick-lined cellar that was excavated into the steeply sloping bank (Figure 11, see Figs. 7 and 8). Only a low foundation wall is present at the western "open" end of the cellar. A collapsed chimney stack is present near this opening. An ell addition, possibly with a brick foundation, but not cellar, was present on the (rear) side of the house. A brick-lined well is located a few meters downslope of the house.

This area was tested with four transects of 5 m interval shovel testpits. Transect 1 extended roughly northeasterly-southwesterly across what would have been the front (northeast) yard. Testpits 1-1 through 1-3 revealed back dirt from excavation of the cellar that overlay a buried A-horizon. The redeposited fill was nearly devoid of artifacts, while the buried yard soil contained yellow ware (ca. 1830-1940) and transfer printed whiteware (ca. 1820+ and 1828+) ceramics, fragmented brick and cut nails. The profile of test 1-4 revealed a different sequence of consisting of 30 cm of medium brown, silty clay plowzone with brick fragments and nails. The truncated B-horizon was light yellow brown, silty clay that graded to a brown, silty clay B-2/C-horizon with two brick fragments.

Transect 2, consisting of 4 STPs approximately 3 m north of the cellar revealed 20–28 cm of dark brown and yellow-brown plowzone. A truncated orangy brown B-horizon lay below and this graded to a light olive brown, silty clay B-2/C-horizon. Cultural material in the plow zone consisted of a low density of fragmented brick, window and bottle glass and cut nails. Transect 3, extending southward from STP 2-3 and on the west side of the cellar consisted of two STPs placed within the ell or shed addition. Test 3-1 revealed a mortared brick wall fall below a thin layer of topsoil. Remains of degraded plaster was adhering to the underside of the wall. The wall and plaster overlay a medium brown, silty clay with artifacts that include a milkglass lamp globe, window and bottle glass, cut nails, ironstone ceramic and fragmented brick and plaster (Figure 12). Some of this material may represent accumulation under the original floor of the ell. A layer of orangy-brown silt loam between 9 and 14 cmbs lay below, and this was above a gray silty clay B2/C-horizon.

STP 3-2 revealed 10 cm of dark brown sandy loam overlying the same gray, silty clay that contained porcelain, whiteware and stoneware ceramics, cut nails, window and bottle glass, and a clock gear and button. Transect 4 containing 2 STPs was located 5 m west of T-3. Both testpits revealed what appeared to be a light brown fine silt plow zone that extended between 27 and 30 cmbs. Below the plowzone was a compact light olive-brown silt. A possible stone and brick



Figure 11. Panoramic view, looking eastward into the open end of the foundation of the dwelling structure at ME 049-009. Note pile of chimney brick left foreground from a collapsed chimney.

pavement or structure footing was present in 4-1 between 8 and 12 cmbs. Artifacts from the plow zone included brick, nails and bottle glass. Material below the brick and stone pavement was similar, but included fragmented glass tableware and window glass.

Barn Area

What may be the foundations of two barns are located north of the dwelling. These foundations were tested with three, 4 m - interval shovel testpits in



Figure 12. Artifacts from testpits T3 tp 1 and T3 tp 2, west of the dwelling house. 1. Milk glass lamp globe; 2. Pig (ham) bone; 3. Cuprous clothing buckle; 4. Bottle glass; 5. Wrought ferrous door latch; 6. Ferrous knife blade.

joined by wood screws, wire, a hinge, as well as redware and stoneware ceramic and some bottle glass.

The Carding Machine Mill, Site Summary and Conclusion

Archaeological findings suggest the earliest period of occupation at the site was associated with the mill constructed ca. 1805. It is probable that living quarters were located on the north side of the mill where domestic ceramics and glassware were found. Construction of the dwelling up the hill from the mill likely occurred after Asa Brooks became half owner of the site in 1823. Later construction of the dwelling is supported by the presence of whiteware and yellow ware ceramics in the surrounding yard and a complete absence of earlier creamware and pearlware, which is found only at the mill. Increased space created by removal of domestic activities at the mill may have paralleled the shift or expansion from sawing to cloth production including installation of the carding machine. The finding of some wrought nails in Transect 2 in the barn area suggests that the barn structure located furthest west may have been constructed earlier (at the time of the mill), while the second barn may have been erected at the time of house construction. Occupation of the site appears to have ceased in the 1870s or 80s. There is no evidence that the dwelling burned, so it is possible that it was moved or was taken down at the time that the mill was dismantled.

Detweiler Parcel (ME049-010)

Parcel Location and Description

The Detweiler parcel is located approximately 1640 ft. (500 m) east of Carding Machine Road and is bounded on the north by the old mill road (old dump road), east by the Abagadasset River and on the south and west by a tributary stream of the Abagadasset River (see Figure 1a). The site's topography is generally flat, with steep to moderate south slopes bordering the tributary, and much of the parcel is forested (Figure 13). The area of archaeological investigation lies at the northwest edge of the parcel and contains the structural remains of an extended dwelling, outbuilding and barn (Figure 14). The main dwelling is identified by a stone-lined cellar with stone chimney base. Cellar foundations for an ell addition extend south of the dwelling and form the foundation of a shed or barn at the rear of the structure that has collapsed structural roof and timber remains associated with it. The total length of the extended building is approximately 104 ft (32 m) with a width of approximately 46 ft (14 m). A stone-lined well is located approximately 12 m south and downslope of the rear shed.

A separate outbuilding, likely a small barn measuring 20 ft x 26 ft (6 m x 8 m) was located slightly down slope to the structure's southwest and is evidenced on the surface by foundation stones and a row of central post and/or joist supports and an iron rail for a rolling door. Approximately 4 m north of this structure is a stone-lined well that appears to have been covered by a frame structure on a stone foundation. Low stone walls in a flat area to the east, southeast of the dwelling indicate the presence of a medium to large sized barn in this area. The farm was accessed via the present track that was formerly known as the dump road and earlier as the old

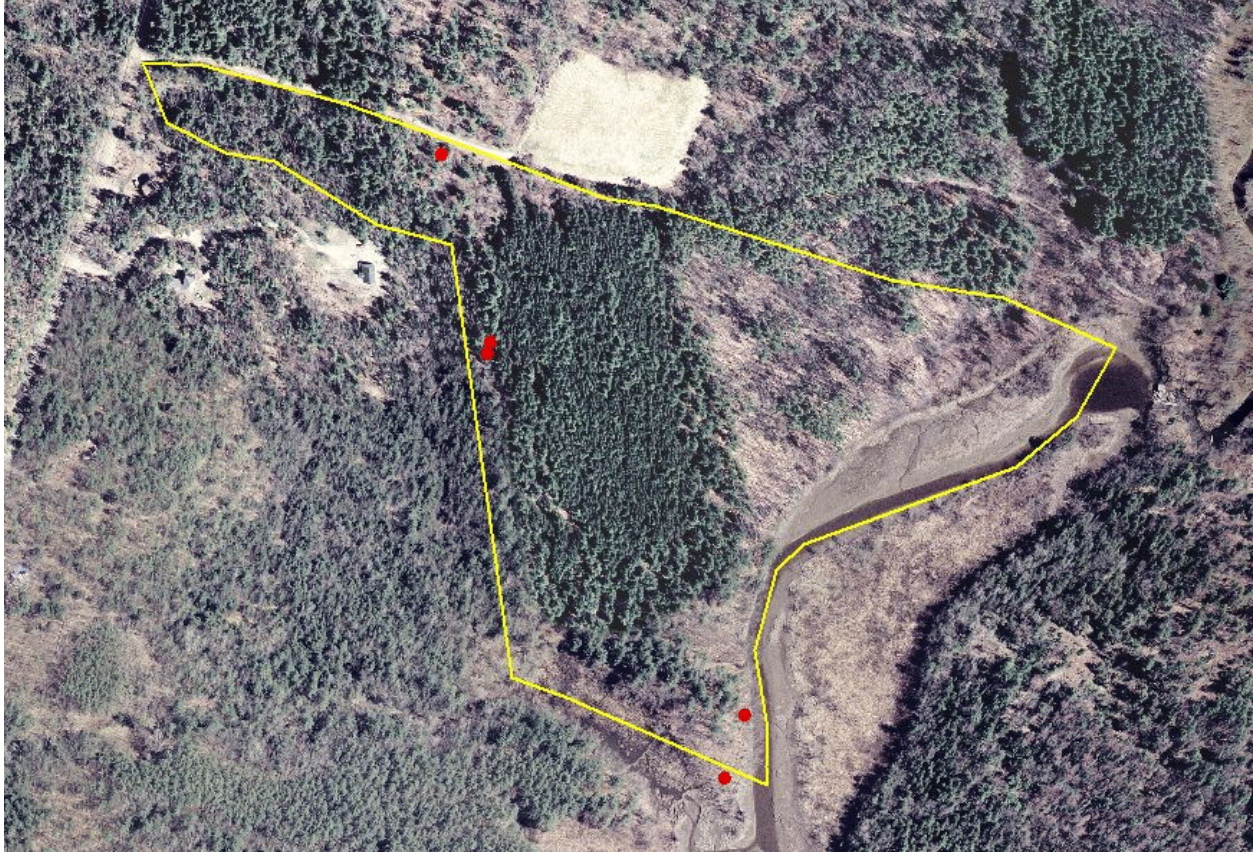


Figure 13. Aerial photograph showing the Detweiler parcel with approximate property boundaries in yellow. The white square upper center is the closed Richmond dump and the access road is a remnant of the mid-1800s road. The red dot just southwest of the dump is the Robbins site. The two close red dots south of that are the corners of a fieldstone foundation. The widely separate red dots in the southeast corner of the property are prehistoric archaeological tests. The northern one is T1 tp6, and the southern one marks a large square dug a decade or more ago in site 25.38.

mill road that extends eastward from Carding Machine Road to a mill site on the Abagadasset River.

Remains of a separate structure were identified approximately 1640 ft (500 m) south-southeast of the Robbins farm complex. These remains consists of a rectangular fieldstone foundation that also is situated on the terrace overlooking the tributary stream valley. The structure's long axis measures approximately 30 ft (9 m) SE-NW and is 15 ft (4.5 m) in width. A portion of the foundation wall has been pushed in, possibly by machinery used to clear and level the adjacent landscape prior to tree planting. Access is provided by a track that branches southeastward off the old mill (dump) road. The foundation is noteworthy for its fieldstone construction and for the large quantity of glass and ceramic refuse it contains. This material appears to be of greater quantity than what would have accumulated during occupation, suggesting this to have functioned as a dump, conceivably used by occupants of the adjacent farm from the mid nineteenth through early twentieth centuries.

Historic Background

On February 17th of 1813, Joseph Gammon conveyed for \$500.00 a 93 acre tract to James Temple Bowdoin and James Bowdoin (a minor). This tract was “part of 5 mile lot No. 4 [that contained] a divisional lot of No. 7 on a plan and survey made by Philip Bullen adjoining the west side of Abagadasset Stream...” (L81:246) (Figure 15). A few days later, James Bowdoin and James T. Bowdoin convey the property to Elias Robbins and William Dinsmore (L75:221). The two men appear to have held the property jointly until Dinsmore sold his share to Robbins in April of 1826 (Figure 16).

Robbins was required to pay Dinsmore \$300.00 and two notes by October 15, 1827 or otherwise lose the property. Robbins is depicted as occupant on the 1858 town map (Figure 17), and continued to live there until his death in 1884. In an extract of his will (L68:351), Elias gave to his daughter, Minerva J. Sparks (wife of W. W. Sparks) the lot that is bounded north by the mill road and mill lot, east by the Abagadasset River, south by the land of Hiram Stinson and west by the Carding Machine Road along with “all the buildings and appurtenances thereto belonging.” He gives his son, Lincoln, a parcel on the west side of Carding Machine Road (L68:351; L65:397). Minerva apparently had no interest in the property for on the same day (July 16, 1884), she conveyed the

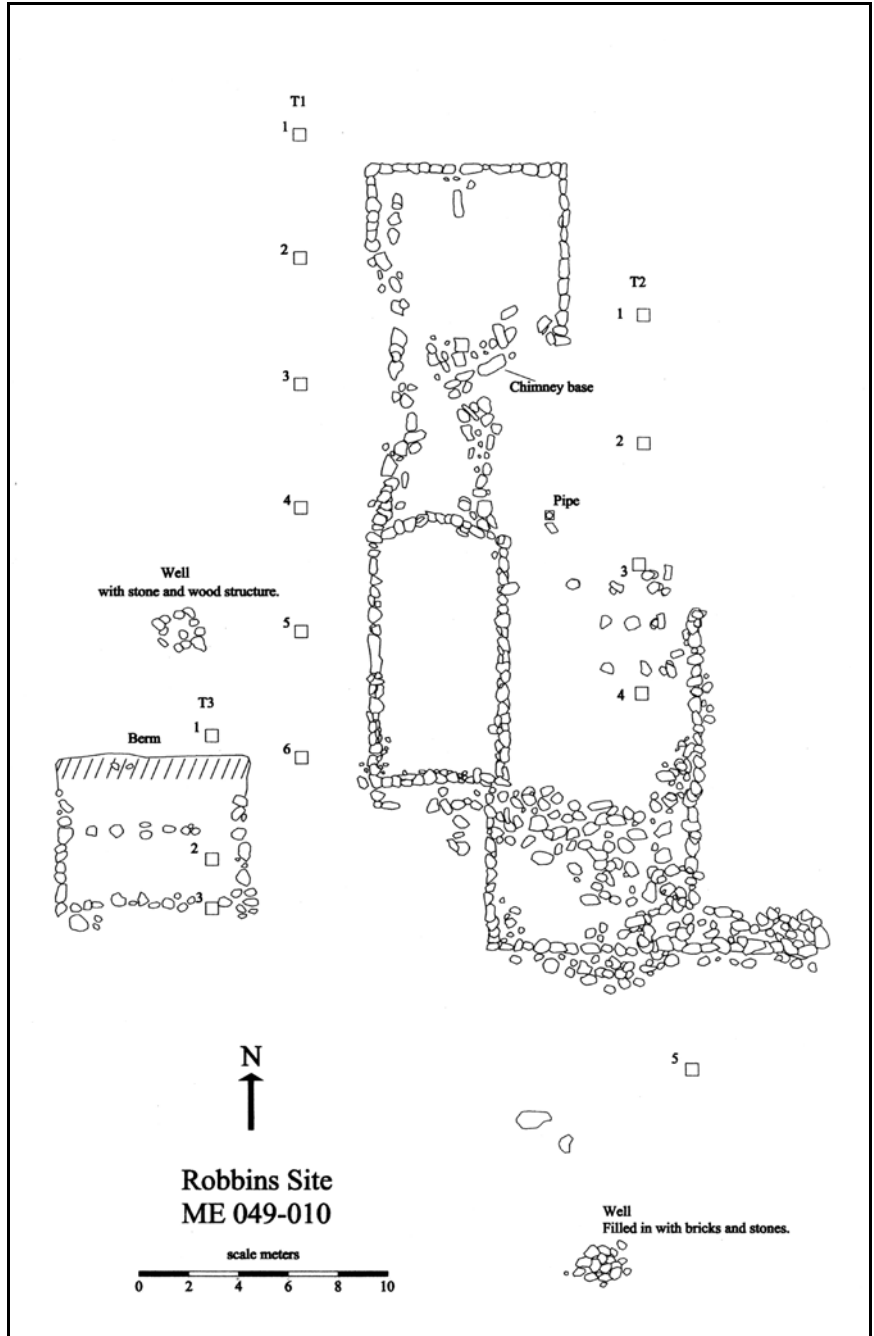


Figure 14. Foundation features and test pit locations on the Robbins site, ME 049-010, Detweiler parcel.

Archaeological Survey of the Umberhind, Detweiler and Gallant Parcels, Bowdoinham

60 acre parcel containing the buildings thereon to Albertus D. Hathaway for \$1500.00 (L106: 338).

Hathaway held on to the property for twenty years, after which time he conveyed the 60 acres to James R. Pineo (April 1904, L106: 338). Less than a year later (March 1905), Pineo conveyed the tract to Garret D. Sears (L117:431). Sears lived on the property for 15 years until he conveyed it to Walter S. Tripp (June 1920, L145:252). The parcel passes next to Benjamin B. Douglass who sold the parcel consisting of 70 acres to Alton G. Leonard in January of 1926 (SD L160:226). This sale included a parcel on the north side of Mill Road, and the entire parcel was referred to as the "Sear's Place." Leonard sold his land with the 'buildings thereon' to Rotheus Douglas in September 1934 (SD L187/429). Douglas appears to have been a land shark of sorts, buying up tracts of land and farms during the 1930s and 40s as owners went bankrupt, forcing sale through auction. He then maximized his profits by renting or selling to the properties, always insisting that renters take out insurance policies.

Rotheus Douglass sold part of the 70 acre property to Elwin A. Cooley (SD L234/62) and the two men then conveyed the two lots along with the "buildings

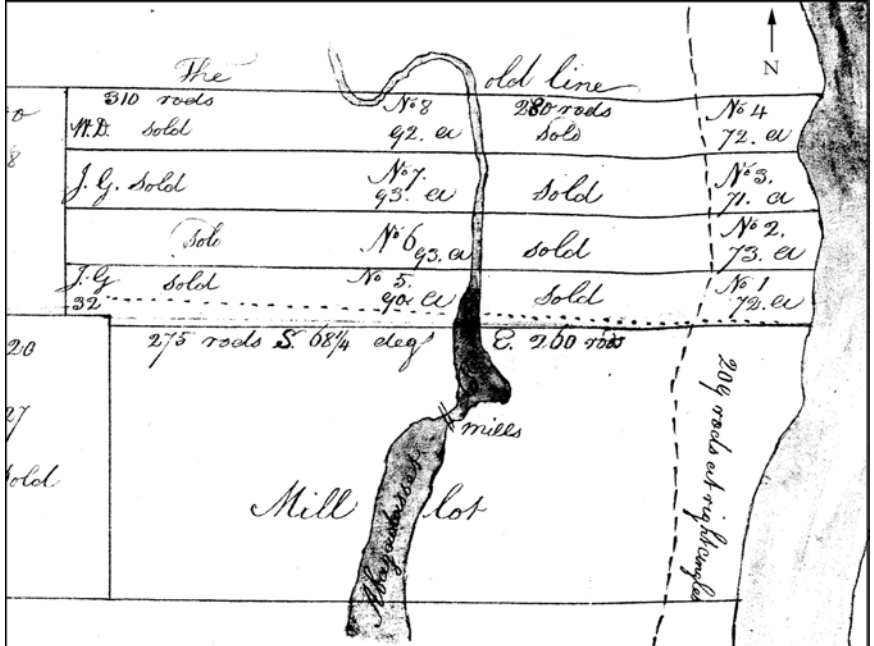


Figure 15. Detail of 5-Mile Lot Number 4 depicting divisional Lot No. 7 purchased by Robbins and Dinsmore in 1813. Detweiler property is near "No 7." (Lincoln Co. Deeds L81:246.)

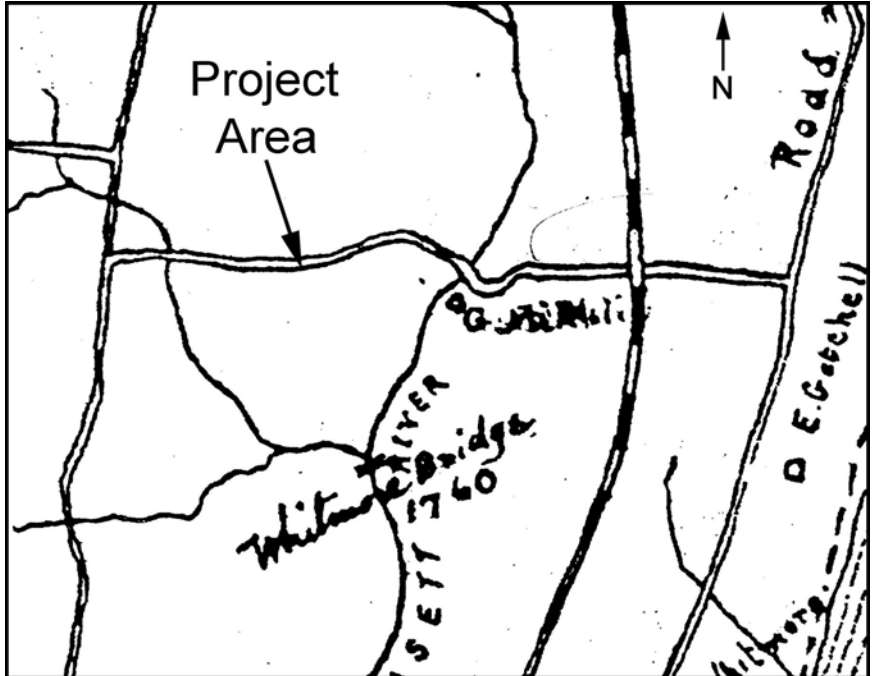


Figure 16. Project area on detail of 1821 map of Bowdoinham.

thereon” to Charles Verburt on April 1, 1947 (SD L253:60). Charles held on to the 46 acre parcel for approximately seven years before conveying it to Chester R. Burleigh on September 6, 1954 (SD L283:428). Terms of the sale reserved Chester’s right to the wood and lumber for a period of two years. Chester sold the 46 acre property to a group of investors consisting of Robert C. Lane, Alonzo H. Garcelon and H. Robert Heneage, and they, in turn, passed it on to Terry, Alice, and Danny Brooks on May 5th, 1972 (SD L382: 554). A year later (May 30th, 1973, the Brooks conveyed 41 acres to John Nolan and Edward Giacobbe (SD L391: 701).

Nolan sold the tract to John S. Detweiler in May of 1978 (SD L488: 147). An additional parcel was purchased by Detweiler from Ronald and Barbara Franklin in September of 1983. An additional two acres of Abagadasset River shoreline were secured from Alma Bishop (SD L391: 700). The Friends of Merrymeeting Bay received the 41 acre parcel from Detweiler in December of 1997 (SD L154: 15) (Figure 18).

Archaeological Survey Results

Archaeological investigations consisted of 4 transects of shovel test pits (STPs) spaced at intervals of 5 m (see Figure 14). Transect 1, containing 6 testpits extended N-S adjacent to the west side of the structure, while Transect 2 with 4 testpits was parallel to the structure’s east side. STP 1-1 was located 5 m northwest of the northwest corner of the main cellar hole (Figures 19 and 20). Soil in all six testpits consisted of a light olive brown to medium brown, hard, peddy clay that ranged in depth between 28 and 40 cm.

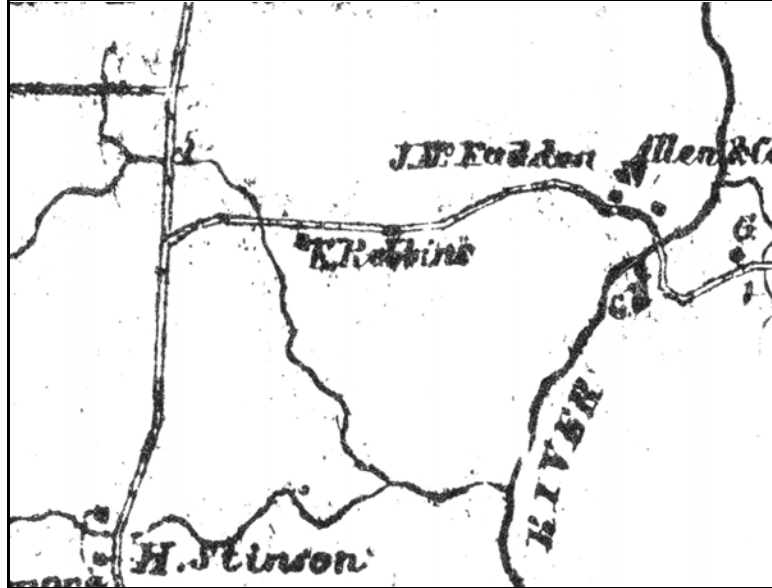


Figure 17. Robbins house and farmstead shown on the 1858 county map. Note the road, which has been discontinued, except as access to the former Richmond dump.

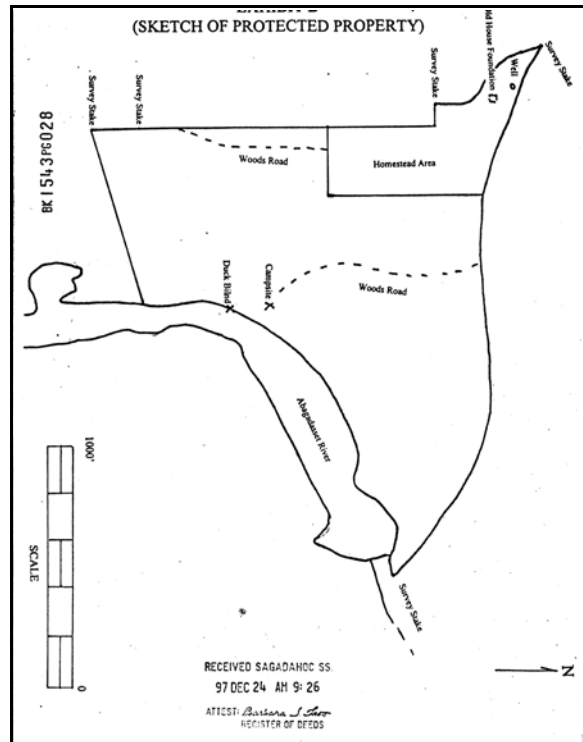


Figure 18. Sketch of Detweiler property from the Sagadahoc Deeds. Note: North to the right.

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Figure 19. Robbins site, northern end of the stone-lined cellar hole, facing northeast. After brush cutting by archaeological crew.

Figure 20. Robbins site, southern end of stone-lined cellar complex looking north.



This soil contained a mixture of architectural artifacts including fragmented window glass, brick and cut nails. Domestic artifacts included bone, printed (1820+) and annular (ca. 1820-1865) whiteware, stoneware and Rockingham (ca. 1845-1900) ceramics, coal and oxidized tinware. Below this was a light brown, fine silty clay that extended to 50 cm+. This layer was sterile in all but STP 4. Artifacts from this lower level appeared to be chronologically differentiated from the level above due to the presence of pearlware (ca. 1775-1830) and lead glazed redware ceramics and brick fragments in the lower or earlier level (Figure 21).



Figure 21. Artifacts from Robbins site dwelling area, with upper stratum ceramics on left and lower stratum ceramics on right. 1. Whiteware wheat pattern plate; 2. Annular whiteware bowl; 3. Black printed whiteware plate; 4. Ironstone plate; 5. Pearlware plate; 6. Lead-glazed redware.

Artifacts and brick fragments in the lower or earlier level (Figure 21). Artifact density was low in the more northern testpits and steadily increased toward the south. The earlier artifacts were concentrated in the lower level of STP 1-4 off the southwest corner of the cellar. Material from test 1-6 derives from activities associated with the rear shed/barn.

The east side of the house was tested by four STPs spaced at 5 m intervals in Transect 2. STP 2-1 was located east of the north cellar and STP 2-4 was east of the barn ell. Testpits 2-1 and 2-2 revealed soil profiles similar to those in Transect 1, and consisted of light olive brown clay that extended between 18 and 21 cm in depth and contained an assortment of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century artifacts including brick, window glass and cut and wire nails and coal as well as late creamware (ca. 1775-1820), factory slip pearlware (ca. 1780-1830), chrome colored whiteware (ca. 1830+), plain and brown printed whiteware (ca. 1820+) and redware ceramics, bottle glass, clay tobacco pipe stem, glass button, rubber comb and bone. Subsoil in these testpits consisted of a light olive, silty clay that was not as compacted, but was devoid of artifacts. Shovel testpits 2-3 and 2-4 further south revealed light brown fine silt and light yellow brown fine silt respectively, that extended to a consistent depth of 25 cm. Similar artifacts consisting of cut and wire nails, brick, window glass, coal redware and whiteware (1820+) ceramics, and bottle glass. Subsoil here consisted of light orange or yellow silty clay containing no cultural material.

The southern extent of the structure was tested with a single testpit placed at the base of the slope below the barn ell. The test was prompted by the presence of surface artifacts including

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stoneware, brick and oxidized tin. Soil here was medium brown, silty clay that extended to a depth of 38 cmbs and contained fragments of Albany slipped stoneware (ca. 1805-1920) and Rockingham type (ca. 1830-1900) ceramics, nails, brick and window glass.

The three shovel testpits composing Transect 3 were placed across the long axis of the small outbuilding southwest of the dwelling. All three testpits revealed similar profiles composed of olive brown, silty clay (between 12 and 20 cm in depth) over a light olive or gray clay subsoil. Artifacts encountered in this area derived only from testpits 3-1 and 3-3 and included fragmented brick, window glass, cement, cut and wire nails, door handle with latch, coal, cinder, and slag, and a small number of redware and whiteware (1820+) ceramics.

Transect 4, consisting of three testpits, was located in the area of the low barn foundation east of the dwelling area. Only one of the testpits (STP 4-1) was excavated due to time limitations. The soil profile here consisted of what appeared to be 30 cm of a light yellowish brown, fine silt plowzone overlying light olive brown fine silt. Artifacts derived only from the upper soil and were limited to cut nails and a fragment of lead.

Summary and Conclusion

The earliest evidence of occupation at this site derives from testpits 1-4 and 2-2, both of which contained creamware and pearlware ceramics. Interestingly, both of these testpits are situated adjacent to the central or ell portion of the structure, indicating that this may represent an earlier structural component. This portion of the structure also may have functioned as a kitchen as higher densities of refuse is frequently associated with such functions. The earlier ceramics in test 1-4 clearly occurred in a compacted soil that is stratigraphically below cultural material of later date. In addition, the concentration of this material differs significantly from that of the mid to later nineteenth century, which is spread fairly uniformly around the grounds of the extended dwelling structure. These findings may indicate a break in occupation of the property or may reflect a period of change. It is possible that Dinsmore and/or Brooks occupied a single structure until ca. 1826, at which time Brooks took ownership of the property and may have enlarged or improved the existing structure. The date or reason of abandonment of the dwelling is not known, although this may have occurred in the late 1940s or early 1950s under the ownership of Charles Verburgt. There is no archaeological evidence of a major fire and the existing remains of the rear shed suggest the main structure and ell were taken down or moved.

Gallant Parcel (site ME049-011)

Parcel Location and Description

The Gallant parcel is located at the very south end of Carding Machine Road where it is located south of Route 24 (see Figure 1b). Specifically the parcel is bounded by Route 24 on the north, the Abagadasset River on the east and south, and the extension of Carding Mill Road (also known as the Town Road or Abagadasset Road) that is no longer used on the west. The property is relatively flat along its elevated west and north boundaries, while the remainder of the parcel slopes gently eastward and southward toward the Abagadasset River shore. It is presently wood-



Figure 22. Gallant property aerial photograph. The Hall Cemetery and house foundation are labeled. The red dot in the southwest corner of the property is a prehistoric site.

ed, primarily with forty to fifty years growth of pine and oak (Figure 22). The south portion of the property is partially defined by the Maine Eastern Rail Road that links Brunswick and Augusta. Historic cultural resources present on the property include a stone-lined cellar measuring approximately 31 x 17 ft (9.5 m x 5.1 m) on the southwestern portion of the parcel and a small cemetery that overlooks both Route 24 and the Abagadasset River in the parcel’s northeast corner.

Historic Background

In March of 1828, Alexander Campbell, Benjamin Pratt, Joshua Beal and Josiah Beal and Joseph Applebee conveyed for \$100.00 to Ebenezer Beal “a lot of land bounded east by the channel of abagadasset, north by William Decker’s land and the county road, west by a lot of land on which Zacheus Beal lives, and south by Beal’s creek, containing 20 acres more or less together with the buildings thereon” (L3:510) (Figure 23). A few months later Ebenezer Beal conveyed the property along with an additional 10 acres to Joseph Hall for \$250.00 “containing 30 acres more or less with the buildings thereon and being the same lot of land on which Elanor Beal formerly lived and died” (L5:6) (Figure 24). After 28 years of living on the property, a

boundary dispute arose between Joseph Hall and his neighbor Joseph Beals. The dispute was resolved by Joseph Hall paying Joseph Beals for the disputed land (L8:189). Joseph, in 1861, after 33 years of living on the property, conveys to Jeremiah M. and Jane Hall two parcels of land (L18: 53, 54). Jeremiah quickly conveyed these first to his mother Mary Hall (1861, L18:12) and then to his father, Joseph Hall (1862, L18:311).

Joseph Hall passed away in 1887. In his will (extract, L72:119+ 142) Joseph set apart “1 square acre of land in the corner of my field where my farm buildings are and where my family grave yard now is for a family grave yard to be used to that end and for that purpose forever...” The executor of Joseph’s estate was to “have the graveyard grounds to be well laid out and fenced and have suitable trees set out and plowed in and about.” Although family members had been buried at this location as early as 1856, Joseph clearly felt it important to make the cemetery a permanent feature on the landscape. In addition, his wife (second wife), “Rachel A. Hall, shall have the right to live upon my farm and in the house thereon so long as she shall live or wish and desire to live.” He left the house and homestead farm to George J. Hall who had to pay each of his siblings \$100.00 to become owner of the property.

It was not until 1893-94 that George J. Hall was able to pay his siblings their inheritance of \$100.00 to formally receive the “homestead farm where my father and mother last dwelt” (L85:2 31). The siblings included Jeremiah W. and Sarah R. Patten, Eliza Denlaw, Joseph W. Hall, James W. Hall, Rebecca A Card and John Hall II. At the same time, William T. Hall, executor of the estate, was granted by the heirs the “graveyard on the homestead farm of our late father

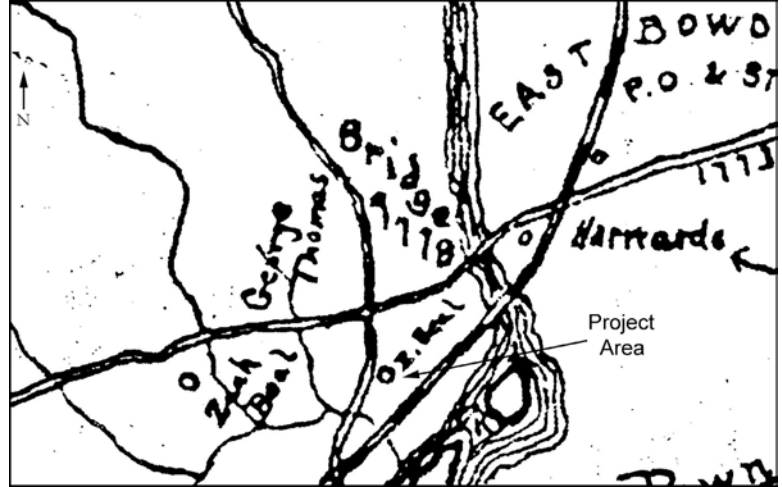


Figure 23. The Gallant parcel on the 1821 map of Bowdoinham.



Figure 24. Gallant parcel on 1858 map of Bowdoinham. Note the J. Hall residence just north of a “road” is the railroad line.

Archaeological Survey of the Umberhind, Detweiler and Gallant Parcels, Bowdoinham

and mother Joseph and Mary Hall and the grave where Elvira C. Hall, wife of said William T. Hall is buried.” (May 1894, L85: 232).

George J. and Lydia A Hall conveyed in January 1897 to John Hall II and Joseph Hall a tract of land that included a section on the west side of the Carding Machine Road and north of Route 24. The purchase included “all the buildings thereon” and George reserved his claim in the “Hall” graveyard (L108:175) (Figures 25 and 26). Ernest Goodspeed, guardian of John Hall conveyed the property with the buildings thereon, including “that part of the ‘Old Hall Place’ so called which lies southerly of the road” on Sept. 2, 1936 to Leonard and Alma Bishop (L199: 266). Leonard Bishop granted to John Gallant Jr. and Vera F. Gallant the 14.25 acre parcel bordered on the northwest by Route 24 (River Rd.), northeast, south and southwest by the Abagadasset River, south by Beal’s Stream, and west by the old Carding Machine Road.

Archaeological Survey Results

Examination of the cemetery revealed it to be roughly square in shape, demarcated by an iron fence and gate. Twelve grave markers were present and inscriptions read as follows:

1. George F., son of George J. & Lydia O. Hall, Died Aug. 19, 1866, Aged 5 mo. 9 days;
2. (Staler(?)) Hattie V., Daughter of George J. & Lydia O. Hall, Died Jan. 19, 1890, Aged 39 years, 6 mos, 26 days;
3. Marker base only;
4. Central Oblisk with inscriptions on three sides:
 - Mary Jane, Died Feb. 19, 1856, Aged 37 years.
 - Martin P. Died Feb. 8, 1866, Aged 37 years, Children of Capt. Jos. & Mary M. Hall.



Figures 25 and 26. Views of the Hall Cemetery in 2005.



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Capt. Joseph Hall, Died Nov. 26, 1886, Aged 90 years, Mary M. His wife, Died May 14, 1865, Aged 67 years, Rachel A., Wife of Capt. Joseph Hall, Died Nov. 17, 1890, Aged 80 years, 2 months;

5. Martin P. Hall, Died Feb. 8, 1866, Aged 37 years;
6. Mary J. Beal, daughter of Capt. Joseph & Mary Hall, Died March 19, 1852, Aged 39 years, 3 months;
7. Mother, Mary M.;
8. Rachel A.;
9. Father, Joseph Hall;
10. Mother, Jennie M. Hall;
11. Little, Mary Linda;
12. JER. M. Hall, Jennie M. his wife, Died Nov. 19, 1886, Aged 48 years, 9 months.

Archaeological investigation of the cellar was performed by the excavation of two shovel test pits located off the northeast corner of the cellar. Both STPs revealed 10 cm of gray-brown, silty clay overlying brown fine sandy silt that extended to between 20 and 30 cm due to a sloped base to the level in STP1. The underlying compact gray clay that covered a possible stone and brick pavement in STP1 extended to at least 40 cmbs. Architectural artifacts encountered in these testpits included brick, window glass and cut nails. Domestic objects included fragmented creamware (ca. 1775-1820), pearlware (ca. 1775-1830), plain whiteware (1820+) and chrome colored whiteware (ca. 1830+) and redware ceramics (Figure 27).

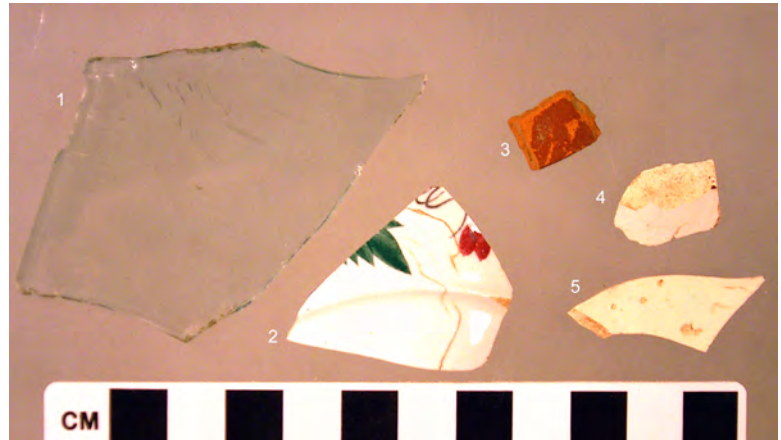


Figure 27. Artifacts from shovel test pits adjacent to the Hall cellar. 1. Window glass; 2. Painted chrome colors whiteware bowl; 3. Lead-glazed redware; 4. Pearlware; 5. Creamware.

Summary and Conclusion

Archaeological investigation of the Hall cellar indicates that the archaeological component of the site is relatively undisturbed. The presence of creamware and pearlware suggest that the tested area represents a locality of early occupation, potentially dating to the 1820s or earlier. It is not known when the house site was abandoned, but title records suggest that at least some buildings were still standing well into the 1930s.

Part II: PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Project Area Prehistoric Background

The Abagadasset River is one of several smaller tributaries of Merrymeeting Bay (also Eastern River, Muddy River and Cathance River). The Bay, in turn, is a complex of marshes formed by the confluence of the Androscoggin and Kennebec rivers, and subject to the influence of the tide through a narrow outlet at The Chops. Water in the bay is slightly saline, so the system can be characterized as a tidal fresh water embayment, rather than a fully mixed, tidal estuary. The lower reaches of the smaller tributary rivers, including the Abagadasset, are tidal, with a range of several meters.

Because the coast of Maine has been subsiding geologically, and for other reasons, tidal amplitude around the Gulf of Maine has been increasing for the last several millennia, and the influence of the tide has been moving “inland.” The influence of the tide first reached The Chops and Merrymeeting Bay about 6000 years ago. Prior to the arrival of tidal influence, the Bay was a marshy, freshwater confluence with extensive marshes, probably flooded by seasonal runoff. The Chops was the location of a spectacular waterfall, which may have impeded the migration of some weaker species of anadromous fish. Prior to the arrival of tidal influence, the lower reaches of the smaller river tributaries may have flooded seasonally with runoff, but otherwise would have flowed with fresh water. Since the arrival of tidal influence, tidal marsh has moved “upstream” and the mudflats associated would have spread “laterally” away from the former river bed. Any prehistoric archaeological sites associated with the banks of the smaller tributary rivers of Merrymeeting Bay on their tidal portions are thus probably relatively recent in age (Ceramic period or younger), assuming that the banks have not been in place in their present form for much longer.

Approximately 50 prehistoric archaeological sites are known around the margins of Merrymeeting Bay and its smaller river tributaries. Many of these sites, in the Bowdoinham and Topsham area, were found by the efforts of Henry Lamoreau, surface searching, inspecting earth exposures, and finding rock concentrations with a steel probe. Mr. Lamoreau has been working with professional archaeologists in the region for over 30 years.

A substantial number of sites have been tested or excavated by professional archaeologists, and we provide a synopsis rather than an exhaustive review here. Many of the sites are Archaic in age. Perhaps the oldest are the Ormsby site (15.51 and 15.52) and Simpson Farm site (15.53) on the south bank of the Androscoggin river portion of the bay. Radiocarbon dates over 8000 years on pit features at the Ormsby site, and Middle Archaic (circa 7000 BP) material have been found at Simpson site. Allies Field site, located near Swan Island, has plentiful evidence of occupation around 8000 to 6000 years ago, apparently associated with a fresh-water falls that was located in a constriction between Swan Island and the mainland at the time, before the influence of the tide had reached this location. (All of these sites are unpublished at present.)

The Choice View Farm site in Dresden, located on the main bank of the Kennebec River near the outlet of the Eastern River, is about 6000 years old. It may be a small camp site of the Laurentian tradition people who made Otter Creek points (Spiess, unpublished). Late Archaic occupations in the 4000 - 5000 year range include the Hunter Farm site (15.110) and the Rosie

and Mugford sites (15.223 and 15.238). The latter two are buried in stratified river alluvium (Cox and Wilson 1991), and the former occupies an erosional terrace on the Androscoggin river portion of the bay in Topsham. The Hunter Farm site contains calcined bone, proving that the residents were harvesting immature striped bass and sturgeon about 4500 years ago. Site 15.135 and 15.369, on the river side of the Cooks Corner interchange, seem to date about 5000 years. They are perched on the high, sandy bank of the Androscoggin.

Sites of the Susquehanna tradition are more common around the Bay (circa 3700 to 3000 years old). A large Susquehanna campsite is located at Carey's Garden site (15.57), associated with a complex of infilled river channels and swamps made by the confluence of the Muddy River with Merrymeeting Bay at about the time of site occupation (Wilson et al 1990). This is the oldest site associated with a smaller river tributary of the Bay, and it is instructive that it is associated with the complex re-ordering of the river mouth, probably as the influence of tide increased at the spot. Other Susquehanna sites include one under what is now a shopping mall at Cooks Corner (Bourque and Wilson 1992).

Many sites around the Bay record the transition from the Susquehanna tradition to the Early Ceramic, the latter marked by Vinette I ceramics. Site 15.233 contains a dense layer of Vinette I occupation over a late Susquehanna tradition occupation (Bourque, personal communication). The Purinton House site contained a small, late Susquehanna tradition camp site about 3000 - 3100 years of age. The oldest site on the Abagadasset River may be Early Ceramic, with Vinette I ceramics (site 25.27, H. Lamoreau). There are many sites with later Ceramic period occupations, such as 15.112, the Dead Pine site, and 15.111, the Old Stone Bridge site. A complete review of the culture history around Merrymeeting Bay is beyond the scope of this paper, but it includes all time periods except Paleoindian.

Archaeological survey of the smaller drainages tributary to Merrymeeting Bay has been limited. We have already mentioned the work around the Muddy River mouth (Carey's Garden and associated sites). An archaeological survey of the Cathance River was completed in 1980, finding two small sites (Will and Cole-Will 1980). Both are about 25 square meters in extent, and contain mostly quartz flakes (no diagnostic artifacts). An archaeological survey of the Abagadasset River has, until this report, been limited to site searching by Henry Lamoreau (and whatever professional work is represented by a 2 x 2 m square dug in site 25.38, see below). Two sites were known on the Abagadasset River from Henry Lamoreau's work: 25.38 (this report) and 25.27. Site 25.27 was reported (1983) to have widely scattered fire-cracked rock concentrations on slightly raised places in otherwise low, swampy terrain. Some of those fire-cracked rock concentrations yielded Vinette I (Early Ceramic period, 2800 to 2200 years) pot sherds to limited testing. This location is 1 km downstream from site 25.38, and it appears to have been inundated by the rise in the highest tides since it was inhabited over 2000 years ago.

Three sites are known on the shore of Brown Point and Abagadasset Point, just outside of the Abagadasset River mouth on Merrymeeting Bay: 25.24, 25.25, and 25.43. All three sites have yielded stone tools to surface collection, as they erode from the sediments of the shore. Late Archaic (adze/gouge), Susquehanna Tradition (striped rhyolite biface fragment) and later Ceramic period (Levanna point, end scrapers) stone tools have been recovered.

Umberhind Parcel

Parcel Location and Prehistoric Site Potential

The Umberhind property consists of an irregularly-shaped parcel on either side of the upper Abagadasset River. The north and western portion of the parcel consists of upland that has been dissected by the Abagadasset River and associated tributaries. A major fall line within the parcel contains an historic mill seat and represents the upstream extent for anadromous fish. Relatively steep river banks are present above and at the falls, while low banks associated with a lower, gently rolling topography characterize the river south of (downstream from) the falls. The parcel is presently wooded, with oak and pine dominating. Walkover survey of the parcel indicated that the uplands are covered with Presumpscot formation silty surficial deposits, sometime shallow over bedrock. The lower (downstream) topography is flood plain dissected by overflow channels with some recent alluvial deposition.

The lower, flood plain and dissected topography does not contain any land suitable for prehistoric habitation. The stream is not canoe-navigable for several kilometers downstream from the Umberhind Falls.

Normally, the falls area on a substantial stream might have attracted prehistoric habitation associated with harvesting fish runs. However, the river upstream from the falls does not have a substantial lake (no alewife spawning habitat), and is not suitable salmon or shad habitat. Thus, it is likely that the falls were not a major attraction for fishing. (The pool at the head of tide downstream, near the Detweiler property, might have been much more attractive for fishing.)

Archaeological Testing Strategy

Walkover survey of the parcel while planning for access to and the archaeological testing of the mill complex showed that the only land on the parcel that (marginally) met the attributes predicting prehistoric site locations (level, well drained, near water) was the high ground around the house and barn above the mill complex on the east side of the stream. Much of this land had been landscaped for a cemetery, barns, and other features associated with the historic occupation. We did not, therefore, plan any specific testing for prehistoric material on the property. If a prehistoric site had been present, we assume that evidence would have been found mixed in with historic material around the barns and house.

Summary and Conclusion

There is no prehistoric archaeological site potential requiring management consideration on the Umberhind parcel.



Figure 28. Prehistoric archaeological testpit transects at the southern tip of the Detweiler parcel. Yellow line is approximate property boundary. A 2 x 2 m square dug by an unknown archaeologist about 10 years ago or more is just south of the boundary.

Detweiler Parcel (site 25.38)

Parcel Location, Prehistoric Site Potential, and Site 25.38

The Detweiler parcel is located approximately 1640 ft. (500 m) east of Carding Machine Road and is bounded on the north by the old mill road (old dump road), east by the Abagadasset River and on the south and west by a tributary stream of the Abagadasset River. The site's topography is generally flat, with steep to moderate south slopes bordering a tributary stream in the western portion of the property, and much of the parcel is forested (Figure 28).

Walkover survey indicated that much of the property is covered with soils derived from Presumpscot formation silt, as exposed in woods roads and tree roots. The central portion of the property is a pine plantation (regularly spaced trees, about 30 years old) planted on a level landscape that is evidently an old field. The only location on this property that has a high probability of prehistoric site presence is the Abagadasset River shoreline itself.

In fact, the southern limit of the Detweiler parcel along the Abagadasset River stops just north of a known prehistoric site location, site 25.38. Just south of the Detweiler property

boundary a small marsh and stream drains into the Abagadasset River from the west, forming a peninsula, which narrows to a point in the marsh. In fact, site 25.38 was named the “Duck Blind site” by its discoverer, Henry Lamoreau, in 1985 because of the use made of the point by local residents. The peninsula is composed of silty soil, and is bordered by erosion faces up to 1 m high. Fire-cracked rock can be observed occasionally along this erosion face. Previous testing of the site by Lamoreau recovered flakes (debitage) and fire-cracked rock, but no ceramics. When we returned to the site in 2005, we observed a 2 x 2 m testpit on the point of land south of the Detweiler parcel that had been excavated (with backdirt pile adjacent) but not filled in. It had been excavated several years to a decade or more before based on the thickness of the leaf litter in the testpit and on the adjacent backdirt. Henry Lamoreau observed this excavation in 2005, which had obviously been made by someone with professional archaeological training, and stated that it was not his work from 20 years before. Thus, someone else had tested site 25.38 in the meantime. Checking with the State Museum (Robert Lewis, personal communication 8/1/05) failed to find any record of MSM testing on the location, however.

Archaeological Testing Strategy

The Detweiler parcel has one area of prehistoric archaeological site potential, the bank of the Abagadasset River, with demonstrated presence of site 25.38 just south of the property boundary. We therefore determined to test from the property boundary north along the river bank, and across the peninsular land form (generally east-west) just inside the Detweiler property. This testing would determine the upstream extent and intensity of site 25.38, as well as testing for (unlikely) inland extensions of the site away from the river bank.

Using a tape and Brunton compass we laid out Transect 1 consisting of 10 testpits (50 x 50 cm) at 10 m intervals, about 2 to 3 meters from the edge of the bank of the Abagadasset River. Testpit 1 was at the northern end of the transect on a slight downslope into a small erosional gully cut in the river bank. Transect 2 was a line of 5 testpits at 10 m intervals across the peninsula, at 2820 magnetic from T1 tp 6 (Figure 29). Transect 3 was a line of 4 testpits at 10 m intervals located about 3 m inland from the eastern shore of the point on the Detweiler property, 3400 magnetic from testpit 1. T 3 tp 1 was located 2m 60 cm SW of the SW corner of the unfilled 2 x 2 m excavation unit from the unknown previous excavation. Testpits were excavated to a depth of between 25 and 55 cm.

Results

Two brick fragments were recovered, one each, in T1 tp 1 and T2 tp 5, and a redware sherd was picked up in a soil exposure. These items probably originated in broadcast trash or manure spread on a field, and the soil had been plowed as we discovered in the testpits.

Surface collection near the property line recovered one rhyolite flake and one piece of fire-cracked rock, confirming the presence of site 25.38. One piece of fire-cracked rock was recovered from T3 tp 1 (near the previously excavated 2 x 2 m square), and one possible piece of quartz debitage (flake) was recovered in the same testpit. Fire cracked rocks were recovered from T 1 tp 8, tp 9, and tp 10. With the absence of fire-cracked rock and debitage in T1 tp 1 through 7, we confirmed that site 25.38 as represented by the distribution of fire-cracked rock



Figure 29. Henry and Cynthia Lamoreau excavating Transect 1, testpit 6 on the Detweiler property, looking north. Note the other figure at a testpit along the river bank in the background. The Abagadasset River is to the right.

and debitage, barely extends onto a portion of the Detweiler property. The northern boundary of the site along the bank of the Abagadasset River (Transect 1) lies between T1 tp 7 and 8.

Testpit excavation determined that the soils on the point were formed from a fine silt base. This material appears to be reworked and redeposited Presumpscot silt. Stratigraphy in most testpits included a 5 to 8 cm thick organic mat (O or A horizon) overlying a light orange brown fine silt, which in turn overlay a tan/buff or light gray compact silt beginning at 28 or 30 cm and extending to the limit of excavation. Cobbles and rocks are very rare or absent, unless fire-cracked. The base of the light brown/orange silt is abrupt and level at about 28 to 30 cm depth below the surface. We interpret this lower boundary as the base of a plowzone. The light orange/brown tinge to the second horizon we interpret as the beginning of a B soil horizon chemical deposition. The plowzone must have been very old (more than 100 years) with no disturbance since to allow for the initiation of B horizon soil chemistry.

The field must have been plowed by a horse-drawn plow (limited to 18 or 20 cm depth), and the current depth of 28 to 30 cm might be the result of alluvial silt buildup on top of the “abandoned” plowzone. Thus, the forest cover on the river bank has developed after field abandonment.

Summary and Conclusion

The northern, or “upstream” fringes of site 25.38 extend onto the Detweiler property as shown by a thin scatter of flakes and fire-cracked rock. However, the landform appears to have

been plowed, and site 25.38 is of unknown age. (Absent ceramics, we can not attribute it to an Archaic occupation without a radiocarbon date or other diagnostic material.) Thus, site 25.38 is not eligible for listing in the National Register, at present, and the portions of the site that extend onto the Detweiler property are not worthy of special protection.

Gallant Parcel (site 25.51)

Parcel Location and Prehistoric Site Potential

The Gallant parcel is located at the very south end of Carding Machine Road where it is located south of Route 24. The property is relatively level flat along its elevated west and north boundaries, while the remainder of the parcel slopes gently eastward and southward toward the Abagadasset River shore. It is presently wooded, primarily with forty to fifty years growth of pine and oak. The south portion of the property is partially defined by the Maine Eastern Rail Road that links Brunswick and Augusta.

The upland portion of the property (north and west) is bedrock controlled, with generally NE-SW trending rock exposures draped with soft sediment. The southwestern tip of the property is formed by the confluence of a stream with the Abagadasset River. The southeastern corner of the property is low, wet and grades into a swamp in part created by the railroad bed. Walkover survey of the site indicated that the banks of the Abagadasset River along the northeast corner of the property, near the Hall cemetery, we elevated and afforded good river access, and that the southern peninsula south of the tracks at the stream-river confluence shared these characteristics. These two areas were the most likely to contain prehistoric sites.

The small portion of the Gallant parcel south of the tracks exhibits some prior land modification. The railroad cut goes through bedrock, and topsoil from the cut has been thrown up onto the land surface to the south and north. There is a remnant dirt road that may have been used to access the river that runs along the base of slope on the edge of the marsh along the south tip of the parcel. Several meters of the lowest portion of the peninsula south of the tracks have therefore been disturbed. There is no evidence that these sources of historic disturbance impacted the prehistoric archaeological site located between them.

Archaeological Testing Strategy

Using a tape we laid out a transect of 7 testpit locations at 10 m intervals along the uneroded edge of the river bank, beginning 20 m south of the Route 24 pavement and extending southward (Figure 30). During this process we were working around the margins of the Hall Cemetery, and noticed a series of 1" iron pins set in granite (?) foundation pieces arrayed in a large rectangle around the Hall Cemetery. Henry Lamoreau stated that these pins were for wooden posts that probably once held a wooden fence several yards outside the iron fence of the cemetery. The granite foundation pieces would help keep the wooden posts off the ground and thus resist rot for longer times between replacement. Our testpits did not encounter any ground disturbance that could be attributed to the cemetery. Testpits were 50 x 50 cm in size, and the soil was screened through 1/4" mesh hardware cloth.

T 1 testpit 8 was located on the height of a knoll-like landform extending southward from the Hall cemetery, 20 m inland from T1 tp 7. Testpit 8 was 1 x 1 m in size.

On the peninsula south of the tracks we located three testpits in a L-shaped array, designated Transect 2, testpits 1 through 3. T 2 tp 2 was located 4 m north (and uphill a meter or so in elevation) from the erosion edge at the tip of the point. T 2 tp1 was located 10 m north, and T2 tp 3 located 16 m east. It was 17 m north from T2 tp 1 to the southern edge of the railroad tracks.

Results

All eight testpits in T1 were sterile for both historic and prehistoric material. Soils were developed in gravelly silt, apparently a Presumpscot formation silt with bedrock clasts added. Soil stratigraphy was variable, but generally consisted of a 3 cm thick O or A forest duff horizon overlying 30 cm or so of light yellow brown gravelly silt. At about 30 cm depth the soil color changed to a buff or tan gravelly silt, evidently a "C" horizon below the soil development. We interpret the yellow brown silt layer up to 30 cm depth as a developing "B" soil horizon of a poorly developed forest podsol. In all testpits there was a poorly visible, lighter or darker tan layers between 5 and 10 cm deep just below the A/O horizon, with a gradual and irregular transition to the better-defined B soil horizon below. We interpret this upper soil layer as a trample zone or "plowzone" from pasture usage or other shallow and irregular disturbance. This soil indicates probable light agricultural use of the area surrounding the cemetery. The current forest cover must therefore be secondary growth.

The three testpits of Transect 2, south of the railroad tracks, recovered fire cracked rock and small pieces of Native American ceramic. This is a previously unknown prehistoric site, newly designated 25.51 (Figure 31). Soil levels in these three testpits include a 5 to 7 cm O horizon forest duff (needles and leaves), a 5 cm thick A horizon (mineral soil with high organic content), and from 10 to 23 cm depth a light yellow brown silty B soil horizon. The C soil horizon, that begins at 23 to 25 cm depth, is buff colored silt with rare pebbles.

T2 tp 1 contained rare pebbles in the soil, and most of them were small pieces of burnt rock (bedrock clasts used in firehearth construction). One piece of fire-cracked rock was securely imbedded in the B horizon below the A/B interface, indicating that it had not been moved by

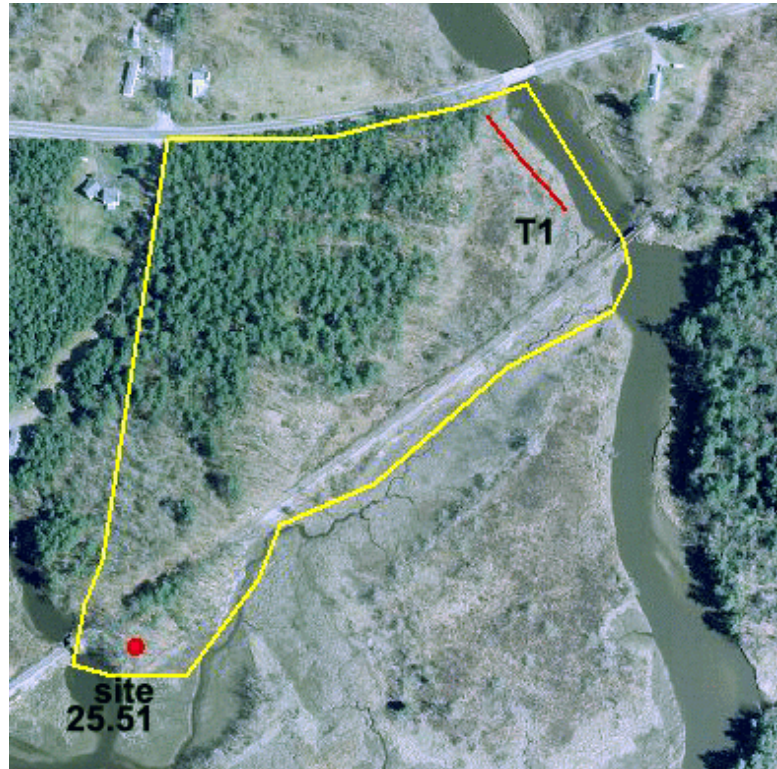


Figure 30. Gallant parcel prehistoric testing. Transect 1 in the northeast corner, and site 25.51 in the southwest corner.

surface soil movement or disturbance. T2 tp 2 again yielded mainly small pieces of fire-cracked rock, and three small pieces of prehistoric ceramic. These small sherds (crumbs) weight 2.5 grams total, and do not preserve and exterior surface; so thickness and exterior surface decoration is not preserved. T2 tp 3, 16 meters to the east, also contained fire cracked rock, but no prehistoric ceramics. A few small fragments of creamware (European, 19th century) and brick were recovered from the A horizon.



Figure 31. Looking southwest from the railroad bridge just west of site 25.51 toward the site, which occupies the sloping landform under the trees just to the right of photo center.

Summary and Conclusion

The Gallant parcel contains one new prehistoric archaeological site, site 25.51. The site contains concentrations of fire-cracked rock in intact soils, and holds the potential for intact fire hearth features. Ceramics fragments are too small for identification to sub-period of the Ceramic period. The site is at least 10 m in dimension N-S and 16 m in dimension E-W. This site has the potential to contain intact remains of a small camp site that would inform us of the activities of Ceramic period people on the Abagadasset River. It is possibly eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The portion of the Gallant parcel south of the railroad tracks should be off-limits for access development, and monitored for future impact.

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Archaeological Survey of the Umberhind, Detweiler and Gallant Parcels, Bowdoinham

Appendix 1. FOMB Bowdoinham GPS data
 August 2005
 Collected by Spiess
 data differentially corrected, UTM NAD 83

Location	E	N	error (m)	# of points	Date	Comment
25.51 Gallant T2 tp3	432443.8	4875459.0	± 1.3	31	8/13/05	new prehistoric site south of tracks
25.38 2 X 2	433300.6	4877993.6	± 1.1	46	8/13/05	2 x 2 excavation done years ago, not back-filled
25.38 T1 tp6	433317.3	4878045.7	± 1.5	23	8/9/05	2005 tp location
DETWI-2 SE	433105.5	4878345.7	± 2.1	15	8/13/05	Detweiler 2 site, SE corner of cellar hole
DETWI-2	433107.8	4878355.5	± 1.4	5	8/13/05	Detweiler 2 site, cellar hole, near NE edge?
ME049-009	433066.4	4878509.0	± 1.3	41	8/10/05	Detweiler 1, general loc.
DETW 1 Cellar Mid	433067.1	4878511.1	± 1.9	25	8/13/05	Detweiler 1, middle of cellar hole
UMBER MILL SE	433779.5	4880106.1	± 1.6	43	8/13/05	Mill, SE corner
UMBER HOUSE SW	433794.5	4880145.6	± 1.2	27	8/13/05	House in hill
BARN?WELL UMB	433754.8	4880170.8	± 1.4	20	8/13/05	Well near barn

APPENDIX 2. FRIENDS OF MERRYMEETING BAY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT FLIER

APPENDIX 3. ARTIFACT CATALOGUES AND SITE FORMS

APPENDIX 4. TESTPIT PROFILES AND DRAWINGS