

HDHC Gregg Site Walk # 2  
Thursday July 2, 2015

Attended: Joan Normington, Joanne Dickie, Wendy Williams, Frank Farmer, Jen Wiley

At 5 pm, Joan, Joanne, Jen and I walked to the rear of Joanne's property near the stonewall crossing her and her next door neighbor and Ann Newcomb's (Schoolhouse No. 5 owner) rear property boundaries. The neighbors let us cross the rear of their properties to a gap in a stone wall which was formerly Schoolhouse Road and now discontinued.

Schoolhouse Road appears to be a former dirt road very much intact, with stonewalls lining each side. We only walked east toward Castle Hill Road however Joanne said you can walk the entire length of the road and it comes out on Mammoth Road. We noted two toppled granite posts in close proximity to each other and to Castle Hill Road side. Oddly one post lay over what appeared to be a metal water pipe of some sorts which came up from the ground, went about a foot and then went beneath a toppled granite post. Perhaps it is an old well?

We walked along the driveway of the former Schoolhouse No. 5 now a private home onto Castle Hill Road and proceeded to the right (south) noting the stone walls along both sides of Castle Hill Road. At this point Frank Farmer joined us. A short distance on the left is a home which the resident on site told us was built upon an old foundation. She said in their basement you can see the old stone foundation. Resident further noted that a discontinued road (possibly Bridle Bridge Road which connected to London Bridge Road) runs from the wood rail fence along the road next to her property and they walk it however it gets very wet in areas. Frank Farmer contacted Frank Johnson who said the road was discontinued because it was so wet during certain months it was unpassable, so London Bridge Road was created and used instead. We actually walked back to the discontinued road which is no longer visible from Castle Hill Road as it is overgrown with very tall greens. The fence is the only marker where the two roads once met.

We continued past this house to an old foundation that Jen and Joanne noted. It may be the former A. Harmon or H.C. Russell property as noted on a commemorative map from 1992 Friends of Windham Historic Comm. It is on a hill along Castle Hill Road at a slight bend in the road that has been built up with road fill. The foundation is large pieces of stone mostly intact on three sides with the wall toward the stream in the low area below partially fallen. Jen and I noticed a ~5 foot wide circular concrete structure. Water could be seen from a ~6 inch hole located at west edge of unit and ran through top with a matching hole in side directly beneath it. The center of the top had a depression in which a heavy rock was placed. Perhaps this is where a hand pump once was, or a cistern? It could be a cap for an old well for safety reasons.

We walked back and ventured onto Schoolhouse Road to show Frank. He thought the toppled granite posts might be original due to their construction. We returned to our cars and departed.

Note: Several emails with photos of site and maps and research were sent between committee members regarding this walk.

Notes recorded by Wendy M. Williams