

HDHC Gregg Site Walk #1
Saturday June 27, 2015

Attended: Joan Normington, Joanne Dickie, Wendy Williams

An update on our walk. Thank you to Joan and Joanne for being great adventurers!

We walked Johnny Hill Road from Bennington Road access point. This section of Johnny Hill Road is very pleasant to walk and almost entirely intact. The abutters use it for passive recreation. We found an interesting tree with old stair climbing boards to nowhere, and beneath same tree an old stone culvert to allow the water to pass through. Trillium wildflower leaves abound.

The path led out onto London Bridge Road. We walked a short way left to the junction of Timberline, Castle Hill, and London Bridge roads. We explored Castle Hill Road that runs in-line with London Bridge Road. While there were interesting stonewalls and piles of stones, we did not see any depressions like cellar holes. A 1928 map at the town museum shows this area as the location of the Gregg Cellar Hole. This part of Castle Hill is developed. If cellar holes lie there they might be filled.

We returned to our cars via Johnny Hill Road and attempted to venture further on the other side of Bennington Road. We didn't get far as a recent property's septic mound spreads across the old road blocking further access to Johnny Hill Road from the Bennington side. We were in search of any remains from the J. LAMB property that appears on some older Windham historic maps. Johnny Hill Road is likely to still be accessible near the Bear Hill Road area so a future walk could be planned to try to find the Lamb lot or cellar.

The walk today did help shed some light on the Gregg search. It would seem far more likely that the location of the Gregg cellar would be on the part of Castle Hill Road between the old school house and London Bridge Road. There is accessible water there that the first settlers would likely settle near. This location is written in on a property map Joan had that was made by the Windham town surveyor Thornton. Two other historic maps seem to be inaccurate in their indication of where the Gregg site lies.

I would like to explore the area around the stream and ponds on Castle Hill Road between the old school house and London Bridge Road as indicated on the Thornton property map. The summer plant growth is high right now so an autumn, early winter, or spring walk might be best for this pursuit.

While we didn't find the definitive location of the Gregg cellar or land, I think we did gain some solid facts. Like the location on some historic maps misnames Johnny Hill Road, and the location of the Gregg cellar may be inaccurate. I'll explain more at our next meeting as needed.

Notes recorded by Wendy M. Williams HDHC Secretary