

Acknowledgements

Successful completion of this project and report would not have been possible without the assistance of the following organizations and individuals. I would like to thank the Descendants of Leonard Weeks in America, Inc., and its members for their generous financial support of this research project and access to the wealth of material in the Weeks Brick House archives. Particular mention should be made of the efforts of Katharine MacPhail, president of the association, and Kenneth Weeks, association treasurer, for keeping me abreast of association plans and promoting the project. I also owe Ken and his wife, Sally, a heartfelt thank-you for making the initial contact. Without their early interest, the project would probably never have taken place.

I would like to extend special thanks to Paul Hughes, the unofficial historian of Greenland. He has provided me with a wealth of information on local history, source material, and sites. I owe a debt of gratitude to Tara Webber of Strawberry Banke. She allowed me to reproduce several late 19th century photographs of the Weeks Brick House farmstead from the collections of the Portsmouth-based museum. I would also like to acknowledge the staffs of the New Hampshire State Archives, the Greenland Town Office, and the Dover, Greenland, and Portsmouth Public Libraries for assisting me in locating 18th- and 19th-century documents pertinent to the Weeks Brick House farmstead. Lastly, Shannon Fernald and Dan Elliot should be recognized for willingly opening up their home to my frequent visits to the Weeks Brick House archives.

Introduction

This project grew out of a chance encounter I had with Ken and Sally Weeks in Pemaquid, Maine, in the summer of 2001. I rapidly became aware of the historic and archaeological significance of the Weeks Brick House property, thanks to the information Ken and Sally, Katharine MacPhail, and others provided me with over the months that followed. The following report summarizes the results of the last two years of research. In that time, I have focused on establishing a detailed picture of property ownership and layout, house occupants, and land use of the last 340 years. This information is critical to preparing the goals of any archaeological investigation of the Weeks Brick House property.

The Weeks Brick House is situated in Greenland on a two-acre lot that abuts the northern edge of the Weeks Road and Route 101 (Figure 1, 2). The homestead lot is roughly 400 yards southwest of the junction of the Weeks Road/Route 101 and the Tide Mill Road (Figures 3, 4). The two-and-a-half story brick dwelling dates to c. 1710, reputedly built by its first owner and occupant Samuel Weeks. The building has been the focus of a great deal of

interest over the last century or so, due to its antiquity and material construction.

The Weeks House property has a great deal of potential as the site of a historic and archaeological study that could benefit not only the Weeks Family Association but the larger world: Greenland and New Hampshire. The property, as part of the original home lot of Leonard Weeks, is the site of one of the earliest homes in New Hampshire. The current lot may contain archeological remains of the home of Leonard Weeks. Locating his home would provide insight into a facet of early New Hampshire history that remains poorly understood. Second, the Weeks property as the site of the Weeks Brick House represents one of the earliest brick residences in New Hampshire and northern New England. That reality, combined with the possibility that the work crew may have constructed the dwelling from local brick, makes the property even more unique. The potential for comparing the house and property and its occupants with similarly constructed dwellings in the more densely populated New Hampshire and elsewhere in New England, for that matter, is exciting. Finally, the fact that the Weeks house lot appears to be so rich archeologically bodes well for an extensive multi-year archeological investigation of the property.