

# HISTORIC DISTRICT and HERITAGE COMMISSION



Town of Durham, New Hampshire



# WHY A CHAPTER ON HISTORIC RESOURCES in the MASTER PLAN ?

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- ∞ A Master Plan is the foundation of the Zoning Ordinance
- ∞ A Historic Resources Chapter aids the Planning Board and Town Council in planning and crafting ordinances to preserve and enhance the culture and unique quality of life in New Hampshire



# FEDERAL LEVEL

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- ∞ In 1916, the National Park Service was created
- ∞ In 1966, Congress passed the **National Historic Preservation Act**
- ∞ The National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places supports public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.



# NATIONAL REGISTER

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- ❧ **The National Register of Historic Places** is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation.
- ❧ The owner retains control over what is done with the property.
- ❧ It confers honorific status.
- ❧ The owner is eligible for the 20% Investment Tax Credit for a certified rehabilitation on investment property.



# NH STATE LEVEL

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- ↻ The New Hampshire legislature determined that the historical, archeological, architectural, engineering, and cultural heritage of New Hampshire is a critically important asset of the state and that extensive development potentially threatens the remaining vestiges of this heritage;
- ↻ It is declared to be public policy of the state to engage in a comprehensive program of historic preservation to promote the conservation of historic and architecturally significant property for the education, inspiration, pleasure, and enrichment of the citizens of New Hampshire. (RSA 227-C)



# STATE LEVEL

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∞ 1974 — State Historic Preservation Office was established as the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR)

∞ DHR is a resource for the Town

∞ The NH Preservation Alliance is a non-profit advocacy organization.






# Town Level

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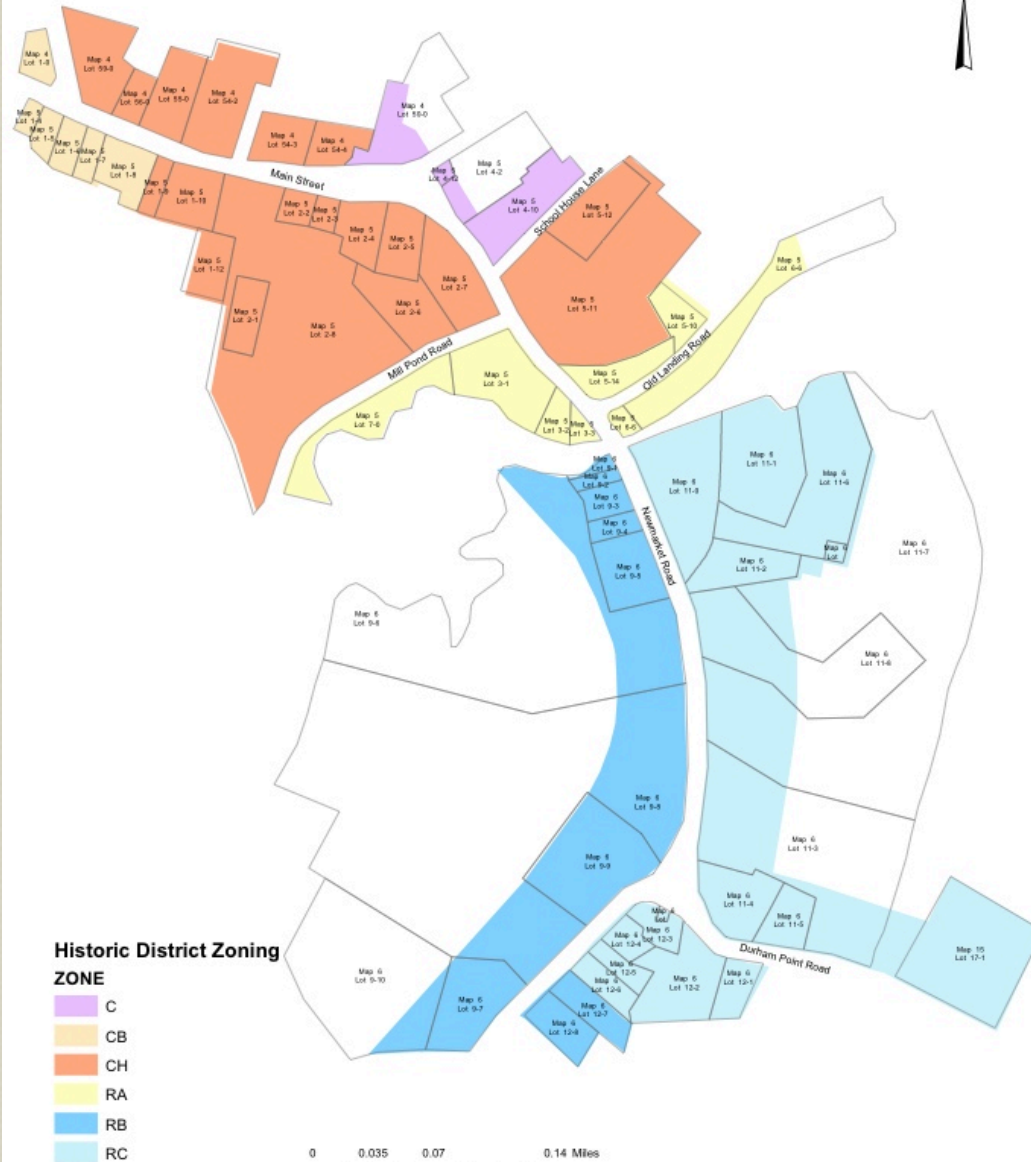
- ∞ **Historic District Commission (HDC) and Historic District created under zoning (1975)**
- ∞ **Heritage Commission (2006)**
- ∞ **Certified Local Government (1995)**

# 1980 National Register survey

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- ∞ Composed of 35 architecturally significant buildings that are representative of the growth of the Town from its origins in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century to the height of its prosperity as a shipbuilding and trading center in the 1830's and beyond.
  - ∞ The district starts at Madbury Road/Main Street, goes down Newmarket Road as far as Laurel Lane, and includes a section of Durham Point Road



# Durham Historic Overlay District



Map created July 2006 by the Town of Durham and updated May 2008 using ArcGIS 9.0.

THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY. IT IS NOT INTENDED FOR LEGAL DESCRIPTION OR CONVEYANCE.



# Historic District Commission

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- ❧ The HDC is a quasi judicial land use Commission made up of 7 members that oversees development in the Historic District.
- ❧ Owners of property in the District are required to obtain a Certificate of Approval from the HDC for new construction and additions, demolitions, alterations, and relocations to/of any property.
- ❧ The Commission's review of proposed changes ensures that the special character of the district is maintained.
- ❧ The HDC's purview includes exterior architectural features, driveways, pavement, fences, walls, signage, lighting fixtures, and removal of any tree with a diameter of 12" or greater.
- ❧ This local historic district follows virtually the same boundaries as the National Register District. It is the local district that requires review, not the NR District.



# HERITAGE COMMISSION

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**2006** HERITAGE COMMISSION was formed

- ∞ The Heritage Commission is combined with the HDC including the same 7 members
- ∞ It is an advisory Commission to other land use Boards regarding historic properties both within the historic district and beyond.
- ∞ It serves to promote historic preservation in numerous ways.



# CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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- ∞ 1996 the Town achieved Certified Local Government status, which recognizes the importance of Durham's resources and its excellent work in preserving those resources.
- ∞ This is a partnership between the municipality and the State Historic Preservation program, to encourage and expand local involvement in preservation-related activities
- ∞ We have favored status for obtaining grants



# Preservation Grants

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- ∞ Durham obtained grants from the NHDHR and CLG for restoration of the Smith Chapel and its listing on the National Register.
- ∞ Durham obtained a grant from NHDHR to help write the HISTORICAL RESOURCES CHAPTER of the Master Plan.



∞ Prepared by Andrea Bodo

∞ HDC/Heritage Commission

∞ May 8, 2014 Historic Resources Chapter

∞ Master Plan Forum