

**From:** [Michael Behrendt](#)  
**Subject:** Mill Pond dam - statement of advocacy from Andrea Bodo  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 05, 2021 12:25:08 PM

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To the HDC,

Please see the email from Andrea Bodo below. The Mill Pond Dam is on the HDC's agenda this Thursday. Carolyn told me she will send something more about this probably tomorrow.

**Michael Behrendt**

Durham Town Planner  
Town of Durham  
8 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
(603) 868-8064  
[www.ci.durham.nh.us](http://www.ci.durham.nh.us)

**From:** Andrea Bodo <[afbodo@comcast.net](mailto:afbodo@comcast.net)>  
**Subject:** statement of advocacy for the Mill Pond dam  
**Date:** January 4, 2021 at 7:30:07 PM EST  
**To:** Carolyn Singer <[nhgrantwriter@aol.com](mailto:nhgrantwriter@aol.com)>

The Mill Pond Dam is one of Durham's most visible and iconic historic resources worthy of preservation. Historically it brought industry and transportation to the Oyster River. The Mill Pond and the dam that creates it, continue to provide beauty and recreation and serve as a living remembrance of why we are here.

Saving the MILL POND DAM preserves the character of one of Durham's most beautiful and cherished viewsapes. Advocating for Durham history is very important, as it enriches our quality of life making for a more livable community.

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**2010 - NH Preservation Alliance listed the Mill Pond dam on SEVEN TO SAVE (most important NH historic resources)**

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**RECOGNITION OF WORTH TO THE STATE AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN**

## AMERICA

The Durham Falls Dam is the earliest concrete buttress-type or Ambursen dam yet identified in New Hampshire, and is one of seven known examples of the type in intact condition in the state. The current dam was built in 1913 with funds provided by Mrs. Edith Angela Congreve Onderdonk, a local philanthropist, to honor the memory of her step-father, Hamilton Smith, to maintain the beauty of the millpond by which her family chapel and cemetery stood, and also to continue to supply water power to the adjacent Jenkins Mill, which continued in operation for a variety of uses through the early twentieth century. The present dam was built by Daniel Chesley of Durham, a noted stonemason and contractor, who pioneered in the use of concrete in this area. The dam is therefore eligible for the State and National Registers of Historic Places under Criterion A for industry and Criterion C for its significance in engineering.

*from the NHDHR Inventory of Mill Pond Dam.....* **item 44. National or State Register Criteria Statement of Significance**

**2013 - listed on the NH State Register of Historic Places and determined to be ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER.**

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## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DAM TO NH HISTORY** (*a copy of each essay is being sent to each member*)

1) NH's WATER POWER LEGACY (by James Garvin)

[http://www.james-garvin.com/images/Dam\\_Preservation\\_Handout2.pdf](http://www.james-garvin.com/images/Dam_Preservation_Handout2.pdf)

2) CONTRIBUTION TO NH's INDUSTRIAL LEGACY (by James Garvin)

[https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/publications/documents/nh\\_industrial\\_legacy\\_handout.pdf](https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/publications/documents/nh_industrial_legacy_handout.pdf)