

To: Todd Selig and members of the Town Council,
From: Andrea Bodo and Steve Burns

I really hope that we do not dredge up the issue of dam removal again.....

The Mill Pond has been dammed up for over 350 years. Its ecology has long been established. The Winnicut Dam might serve as an example of dam removal. That dam removal was to cost around \$1.3 million..... and ended up costing substantially more . . . as much as \$2.5 million. Their state of the art fish ladder (which was designed by our F&G) didn't work because the alewife couldn't jump high enough. An abutter now has flooding in her back yard.

The Great Dam in Exeter has just been removed. Will it be a disaster down the road ? It stabilized the water table for the surrounding buildings. Will its removal now save the American eel.....?

The Edwards dam removed in Augusta, Me cost over \$25 million about 10 years ago. The unknowns from dam removals in these areas where people value the water feature are very scary. Can you imagine the lawsuits in Durham from some of the families who surround the Mill Pond ?

There is another big issue which the Town should be pursuing with the University and that is the drainage pipe from UNH going into the Pond. What happens to the pond water when the kids come back in September ? The University and the town get a substantial amount of their drinking water from the Oyster River. They keep it in another dam less than a mile further up the river.

New Hampshire Fish and Game (F&G) originally said the dam was blocking salmon flow up the River. Salmon have not been in New England streams since 1750. Then F&G said the dam was barring andromedous (alewife) species. Now F&G says it is for "protein production" which is "bait" for recreational fishermen. The State of New Hampshire thinks F&G ought to focus on recreation. The Mill Pond is recreation for swimming, boating, skating etc

In 1649 the King granted Valentine Hill the right to dam the river and build a mill. It was the damming of the river that allowed for mills. The dam created the pond which accumulated enough water for reliable hydropower. This meant jobs. Men were drawn to the area and they could afford to have wives and children once they had jobs. In 1732, Durham was incorporated. Without the dam, the vibrant downtown of Durham would not have been created on the River.

Edith Onderdonk gave the Town of Durham a gift of money to pay for the Ambersen Dam in 1913 to preserve the beauty of the Mill Pond - which was part of their 80 acre estate.

To think that there is some major river here, or to think that the health of the Oyster River will be dramatically improved by dam removal is naïve.

Where will funding come for river restoration ? This is from the NHDES dam removal site:

Q. Who will pay for the dam's removal?

A. This varies with the site, the potential for ecological restoration, and the financial ability of the dam owner. DES's River Restoration Co-ordinator at (603) 271-3406 may be able to help identify public and private funding sources to offset the costs of the project.

The dam removed in Merrimac is testimony to promises left unkept.

For years, the gates were closed to create the impoundment which then provided the water power to run the Jenkins Mill. Hydropower is the legacy of NH (and Durham). The Mill operators let the water out as needed to power the mill. In the winter time the vegetation froze when the water was

released. Eutrication didn't plague ponds because vegetation froze every winter. As for harming wildlife today..... THERE IS NO WILDLIFE. We have chosen NOT to drain the Pond in the Fall after the first hard freeze because some residents felt it was unkind to the animals. The heron were eating the frogs! I no longer hear frogs in the spring. Maybe the heron ate them all. Now, we have 2 families of mallards, a few turtles ,one heron and NO swans.... and lots of Canadian geese that are pooping on the front lawn of Church Hill housing, where apparently some dogs have contracted giardia (spread by geese poop).

As for dredging..... Portsmouth has had a regular schedule of dredging for navigation. The Oyster River used to be dredged regularly.....the bottom is filled with wood debris from shipbuilding

the State said that the amount of silt in the Pond is normal since the Pond is surrounded by trees and vegetation which fall into the River. Since the Town has no maintenance program for the Pond, vegetation is allowed to grow in the Pond. About 20 yrs ago, the Pond was dredged with some homemade contraption and they put mats down to control the vegetation and the maintenance of those mats was to be turned every year. They have never been turned and now they have firmly anchored the vegetation to the bottom of the Pond. The only way to get them up is with machinery.

There is so much more but I know your eyes are glazed over by now.

The Mill Pond is extremely historic, the dam is the earliest and only Ambursen dam that is intact in NH (listed on the State Registry of Historic Places).

Many people live around the Pond and I believe pay waterfront taxes. The new Town Hall, the Milne Park, the vista for senior housing all surround the Pond. Many people do quiet recreation on the Pond, whether it be art classes from UNH, or canoeing, kayaking, cross country skiing.....nature lovers.... Peoples ashes are in the Pond..... first steps have been taken by the pond.

The Pond is very significant to many more people than we will ever know.

Andrea Bodo and Steve Burns
September 10, 2016

April Talon

From: Anne Knight <ahknight@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 10:40 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: support dam

I support the resolution about the Mill Pond Dam.

Anne

=====

Anne Knight
ahknight@comcast.net
603-868-5801 (h)
603-969-8743 (c)
603-279-5019 (summer)

April Talon

From: nhgrantwriter@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 5:02 PM
To: Jen Berry; afbodo@comcast.net; afbodo@gmail.com
Subject: Mill Pond Dam

Hi,

I am not sure the Town of Durham has always had a grasp of the structures in town that have historical significance, why they have historical significance, or the fact we should be actively preserving what few historic structures we have left in town. However, the Mill Pond Dam is a wonderful feature - and the town should be doing whatever it can to preserve it.

Little by little, much of the historical character of the town is eroding. Please retain the historical integrity of the Mill Pond Dam as well as THE COURT HOUSE.

With a 30+ year career as a history museum professional, I assure you that maintaining the historical character of a town is vital to maintaining its identity - and ultimately, is key to economic development. It is not by accident Newburyport and Portsmouth are booming tourist areas. And, while Durham does not have a large core of historic buildings, what we do have is what makes Durham unique. Protect what we have.

Thanks,
Carolyn Singer
5 Woodridge Road
Durham, NH

Durham Town Council
Town of Durham
15 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824-2898

June 30, 2013

RE: Proposed Resolution 2013-20

Dear Durham Town Councilors,

Since I am unable to attend the July 1st Town Council meeting, please accept this letter as public comment on proposed resolution 2013-20, with respect to the Mill Pond Dam. I am strongly opposed to the passage of this resolution for the following reasons:

1. It is unclear why the resolution is needed, yet it is likely to be used to constrain future management options with respect to the dam.

The timing of this resolution seems to be premature, given that the town is currently paying a consultant to conduct a meaningful analysis of how the water quality in Mill Pond relates to the town's larger work on an Integrated Watershed Management Approach for the Oyster River. If this work informs citizens that the water quality and ecological health of the Oyster River and/or Great Bay could be improved via removal of the dam, this resolution would seem to suggest that the Council should ignore this information and the option of dam removal.

Instead of a careful step-wise decision making process that balances pros and cons of a variety of options for the dam (which should strive to balance the shared interests of improved environmental health and historical preservation), the resolution proclaims that the Council has already made up its mind about what to do without a justification that addresses the long-term costs of the dam, the water quality problems associated with the pond, or dam safety deficiencies. Due to these issues, I don't think a vaguely defined resolution helps to build community unity that the best solution is being made with respect to this controversial issue.

The resolution states that "the Town shall take steps needed to preserve it for the duration of its useful life." This implies an obligation on the town which one Council cannot bind another future Council to implement. Which again raises the question, if this resolution has no legal meaning why is it needed?

2. The resolution proposes a major policy direction which lacks an objective explanation of associated costs to taxpayers.

\$1.4 million was the latest cost estimate from the 2010 Stephens Associates report "Concrete Evaluation Report Oyster River Dam" on repairing and maintaining the dam for the next 30

years. Stephens Associates further concluded “after 30 years, we anticipate the Town would need to perform further repairs of similar or greater magnitude, demolish and reconstruct the Dam, or decommission it.” While resolution 2013-20 does not propose to fund a full renovation, it is not clear what cost the implied commitment to preserving the dam is likely to be, nor does it define a time horizon for when a short term fix becomes a long term major rehabilitation. What repairs are needed to address the NHDES Dam Bureau’s public safety deficiencies, and how long until we must spend additional funds to meet safety requirements? Owning and maintaining a dam is expensive and the Council has a responsibility to be clear with citizens about these costs and its intentions prior to simply making an undefined commitment.

As with any expensive town-owned infrastructure, there should be an objective assessment of how much money is being spent to maintain it, what is its lifespan, what purpose does it serve, and are cost/benefit decisions strategic and transparent? Rebuilding the dam is not in the Capital Improvement Plan nor up for a bonding discussion, yet incrementally, substantial funds are being spent over the years on temporary patches. Stating that the “Town shall take steps needed to preserve it for the duration of its useful life” logically begs the questions “How long is its useful life?” and “how much will it cost (current and future citizens) to preserve?”

3. The resolution does not acknowledge the long term challenges to dam rehabilitation or the negative environmental impacts of the dam on the Oyster River.

Page 47 of Dr. David Gress’ 2010 report “Evaluation of the Concrete of the Oyster River Durham Falls Dam” states “The petrographic analysis showed beyond doubt that the concrete has ASR and extensive microcracking and macrocracking has occurred throughout the concrete matrix as well as within the reactive aggregate. Expansion of the old concrete relative to the newer 1974 repair concrete would be expected to cause the bond to fail and/or tensile cracks to occur.” The same challenges would almost certainly face future dam repair efforts. Gress goes on to state that if the ASR reaction continues “then a conventional rehabilitation, bonding new concrete to the existing, will not be possible.” If a similarly cautionary diagnosis was given to you by your auto mechanic, you might conclude that your car had indeed reached the end of its useful life – and opt to not spend additional money on cosmetic or short term repairs.

The NH Department of Environmental Services currently lists the Mill Pond impoundment as failing to meet several water quality standards as established under the federal Clean Water Act. Mill Pond’s severe water quality problems include very low dissolved oxygen levels that threaten aquatic life, and chlorophyll and bacteria concentrations that pose a risk to human health from primary contact with the water. These water quality impairments frequently occur behind dam impoundments with little flushing and significant loading of stormwater runoff from developed areas. Without addressing the stagnant conditions created by the Oyster River Dam, it is very unlikely the town can effectively improve water quality at Mill Pond through other measures alone.

Please ask yourselves what is the real need for this resolution, and is this the right process by which the Council wishes to make important infrastructure decisions?

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derek Sowers".

Derek Sowers
32 Oyster River Road
Durham, NH 03824

April Talon

From: Freedman, Diane <Diane.Freedman@unh.edu>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 11:12 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: addenda

Hi, Jenny,

Thank you for forwarding this email or summarizing its contents for those taking up the resolution on the Mill Pond/Dam.

The pond and dam have more than the categories of value cited in the resolution and if it is not too late for friendly amendments and so the following is also on the record, I would love to see some language (not necessarily precisely what follows) that suggests the Mill Pond/dam/impoundment engendered by the dam and because of the inflow from various streams and not only the Oyster River has economic value beyond the dam's possible capacity for hydropower. That is, list economic value as a separate attribute. Here I am thinking that the scenic, historic, and recreational value means that homeowners throughout Durham and those enjoying a balanced ecosystem behind their homes--rather than tick and mosquito breeding ground in a shrubby forest of glossy buckthorn, poison ivy, and berry brambles that no longer accommodates views, navigation on foot or boat, and that would displace turtles, heron, kingfishers, and other life thriving in the current waterscape (which is what the elimination of the dam would create)--have homes that will thus hold their economic value and thus produce reliable tax-revenue and a healthy and happy populace in Durham as well as attract future residents and visitors!

Furthermore, "recreation" should be coupled with "health" (for humans who use the impoundment to kayak and boat in and of themselves and use boats and kayaks to access the running and hiking trails of the Foss Farm Woods and MacDonald land.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

April Talon

From: Freedman, Diane <Diane.Freedman@unh.edu>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 10:32 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: Mill Pond

I support this resolution.

Diane P. Freedman

Sent from my iPad

April Talon

From: Freedman, Diane <Diane.Freedman@unh.edu>
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 4:32 PM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: Mill Pond Dam

I write to applaud the recent activity around, commemoration of, and renewed respect for the historic, culturally, recreationally, and environmentally valuable Mill Pond Dam/damsite. I encourage continued support, preservation, and restoration if and when needed to be provided for by Town efforts and coffers. It is a central and significant resource for the Town and helps the Town and local properties hold value.

Many thanks,

Diane Freedman
Sent from my iPad

April Talon

From: Diane Woods <dianewoods21@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2013 8:27 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: Support of the Mill Pond Dam

IO hereby support the preservation of the Mill Pond Dam per the Resolution that will be voted on tonight, I believe.

Diane Woods
21 Garden Lane

April Talon

From: Doris Irwin <dorisirwin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 10:20 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: Resolution# 2013

I support this resolution#2013 in regard to the Mill Pond Dam.

Doris Irwin

April Talon

From: Doug Karo <dkaro@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2013 9:06 AM
To: Todd Selig
Cc: Jen Berry
Subject: Mill Pond Dam Resolution

Todd,

I have been able to review what must be close to the final form of a proposed resolution recognizing the historical and cultural significance of the Mill Pond Dam, and its current structural soundness, and stating Council support for the Dam. I think the evidence is compelling and I hope the Council agrees with the resolution. The Dam and mill pond are deserving of continued support. Thanks to you and Diana for your efforts.

Doug Karo
95 Wiswall Road
Durham

April Talon

Subject: FW: Dam resolution

From: Dudley Dudley <dudleydudley@comcast.net>

Date: Saturday, June 29, 2013 5:18 PM

To: Todd Selig <tselig@ci.durham.nh.us>

Subject: Dam resolution

Dear Todd,

I am writing to enthusiastically support Councilor Carroll's Resolution documenting the historical and cultural significance of the Mill Pond Dam, and noting the many benefits it offers to our town. I am so very pleased that the latest research shows the dam to be in a good enough condition to last another 10 to 20 years with little maintenance. I urge the Town Council to go on record as supporting the Dam's preservation for the duration of its useful life. It is one of Durham's iconic treasures!

Best regards,

Dudley

April Talon

From: Edward K Tillinghast <ekt@cisunix.unh.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2013 10:18 AM
To: Jen Berry

Dear Mr. Berry, I enthusiastically support this resolution. Thank you for your review of the history of the dam. Ed Tillinghast

April Talon

From: Ellen Karelitz <ellenkare51@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 4:39 PM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: Mill Pond Dam

To Whom It May Concern,

I support the resolution concerning the Mill Pond Dam. It is a historical landmark and should be maintained and preserved.

I would hope that some work could also be done about dredging the Pond to restore it to a pond instead of the marsh it has become.

Sincerely', Ellen Karelitz, 113 Madbruy Rd.

April Talon

From: Henry M Smith <hmsmith@cisunix.unh.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2013 5:55 AM
To: Jen Berry

Jenny,

I support the petition on Mill Pond DAM for tonight at TC meet.
Return home tomorrow eve. 2 July.

Merci!

-Henry

April Talon

From: Houle, James <James.Houle@unh.edu>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2013 11:19 AM
To: Jen Berry
Cc: Todd Selig
Subject: Comments on Mill Pond Dam Resolution

Hello Jennie

Please forward my comments to Todd and the council for their consideration.

Dear Councilors

I acknowledge that the Mill Pond Dam is a very emotional issue and believe that any discussions about next steps would greatly benefit from a more complete deliberation of the facts. There have been many partial studies of the Dam and the costs both economic and ecological of the various next step scenarios. It is generally hard to evaluate ecological, social, historic and financial issues associated with dam removal and dam repair, and realize there is no easy decision. Ultimately, what the council is considering is decision to adopt a time frame of service for the dam and accept the commensurate costs associated with managing the infrastructure over that time period. Neither of these are adequately defined in this resolution. We have heard of various cost estimates for repair and various estimates of the life expectancy of the infrastructure. These expectations should be clarified in order to make a commitment such as this. As it stands this resolution commits the town to paying whatever it takes to repair and maintain the dam for an undefined length of time. I am not sure how councilors can vote for this resolution and commit taxpayers to paying the bill for such an open ended project. The resolution omits much of the good information that has been collected regarding the options that the town and the taxpayers have. Not including facts that do not directly support the resolution is unsettling to me. Some may not require additional facts, some may have already made their decision which is fine, however democracy depends on a careful weighing of the evidence and I wanted to take this opportunity to quickly make mention of some of the facts that were not discussed in the resolution so that a more informed decision can be made.

Water Quality: Dissolved oxygen is low in all tributaries to Mill Pond especially during the summer months, the dam creates ponded backwater that further reduces oxygen levels threatening many aquatic species that would otherwise migrate or spawn in the Oyster River. The Oyster River has high nitrogen levels, classified as "excessive" by NHDES, the eutrophic state of the Mill Pond and the elimination of tidal flushing and dilution controls further elevate nitrogen levels. At a time when the town is facing compliance with strict water quality discharge standards, especially with respect to stormwater and nitrogen limits, not considering alternatives to the head of tide impoundment may be shortsighted.

Costs: The most recent cost estimate for repair of the dam was \$1.4 million from the 2010 Stephens Associates report "Concrete Evaluation Report Oyster River Dam", this is expected to cover the dam for the next 30 years. The most recent estimates for dam removal and restoration of the Oyster River ranged from \$330,000 to \$410,000 from the 2012 UNH study under Tom Ballesterio, a renowned stream restoration expert. This would serve the town in perpetuity. It is likely that the town of Durham could receive pollutant load reduction credits that govern impending permits and future total maximum daily load allocations associated with the impaired waters as there will be defendable pollutant reductions associated with the restoration activity.

Changing Weather Patterns: Looking forward, the liability associated with the protection of health and human safety associated with the Mill Pond Dam should be considered carefully. If the town council votes to keep the dam, implicit in that vote is acceptance of the repair and maintenance costs associated with protecting human safety and complying

with the water quality discharge limits that protect human health. The life expectancy estimates for the dam are simply estimates. Currently all levels of government are facing increased investments in more robust infrastructure because of floods like the ones that hit upstate New York over the past few days. Not only are floods like these more likely to recur as rainfall patterns change but over the past 10 years the seacoast region has faced more extreme weather events. This is not a projection, it is an empirical reality that gaging on the lamprey river has illustrated in previous studies; of the 15 largest flow events since 1934, 11 have occurred in last 25 years, 10 have occurred in last 15 years, and 7 have occurred in last 5 years.

Infrastructure has a design life. The Mill Pond Dam has exceeded its design life due to the innovative construction approach and skilled craftsmanship of the area. It is understandable why there would be an attachment to a structure that has served the town so well for so long. These structures can not and will not last forever and get increasingly expensive to repair and maintain as the infrastructures useful life goes into overtime. Please be sure that this resolution is necessary and what the adoption of it means in terms of fiscal management and public health and safety over the years.

Sincerely

James Houle

*James Houle, M.A., CPSWQ.
PhD Candidate
Program Manager
The UNH Stormwater Center
Environmental Research Group
Dept of Civil Engineering
35 Colovos Road
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824
Phone: 603-862-1445 Fax: 603-862-3957
web: <http://www.unh.edu/unhsc/>*

April Talon

From: Jane Cauchon <janeleoc@aim.com>
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 9:14 PM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: dam

The dam is worth saving, don't we all glance at it as we drive past on 108. And the view from across the street is so nice. It says Durham so let's keep it at any cost. Thanks for caring....

Jane Cauchon, Ambler Way

April Talon

From: Jean Olson <jbolson1@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2013 10:07 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: Mill Pond Dam Resolution

We wholeheartedly endorse the Mill Pond Dam Resolution #2013. The Mill Pond Dam is the cultural and historical living icon in Durham as well as the in town recreational center piece. Many people observe the wildlife, picnic along the bank, and in the winter play hockey, ice skate, and snowshoe. The Mill Pond Dam is quintessentially Durham and deserves to be preserved for the duration of its natural life. We would be speaking in support of this resolution, but we are vacationing in Michigan.

We thank Diana Carroll and Todd Selig for bringing this resolution to the Town Council.

Sincerely,
Jean and Jerry Olson

Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad

April Talon

From: Jane Grota <janegrota@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 1:11 PM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: DAM

I support resolution 2013. Jane Grota

April Talon

From: Kathryn Firczuk <2kt1@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2013 8:15 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: Resolution 2013

This email is to fully support the ADOPTION of resolution 2013...regarding the preservation of the Mill Pond Dam. Respectfully submitted by Kathryn and Michael Firczuk, 4 Daisey Drive, Durham, NH 03824-3212

April Talon

From: Mike Hoffman <mhoffman33@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 8:24 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: We Strongly Support the Preservation of the Mill Pond Dam

Hi Jennie,

Please add us to your list of those who support the Mill Pond Dam Preservation.

Mike & Cheryl Hoffman
603.817.8071

April Talon

From: Mike Pazdon <mpazdon@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2013 7:07 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: Mill Pond Dam

Jenny,

I hope all is well with you.

I would like this comment added to the record on the current resolution to keep the Mill Pond Dam in place.

Although the Mill Pond has been a fixture in Durham for many years, it was constructed to be of service to a mill and perhaps supply ice. The use of the water to drive a mill has long past and I would ask the Council and all of the citizens of Durham to consider the following.

Long before there was a dam, the Oyster River ran without hindrance down to the Little Bay. The dam was placed there to support an industry and is artificial to the environment. The changes this made to the estuary are unknown to us as the before and after is not well documented. However one looks at it, a concrete dam is not a natural occurrence. I support the efforts of the US Fish and Wildlife to return rivers to their natural state. For hundreds of thousands of years the Oyster River ran freely and in recent times has been altered for our convenience. The evidence presented to keep the dam overlooks the fact that the dam is not natural and alters the river for no practical reason at this point in time. The use of sentiment to justify this resolution or quasi historical reasons (the dam has been there for a speck of time in the large picture), makes little sense in the face of the environmental impact.

I do not support such a resolution as it overlooks the natural state of the rivers we are entrusted to protect.

I hope you have a good July 4th holiday, Mike

Mike Pazdon

866-824-9960

163 Dame Road

Former Town Council Member

April Talon

From: Nancy Sandberg <nancy.sandberg@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2013 1:42 PM
To: Jen Berry
Cc: Todd Selig; Michael Behrendt
Subject: Public Comments Regarding Current Durham Town Hall's unique architectural design/creative use

Dear Jenny,

On Tuesday morning would you be able to distribute these comments and historical photos to the members of the Town Council?

Thanks so much,

Nancy Sandberg

Comments by Nancy Sandberg Regarding Current Town Hall July 1, 2013

I've been thinking about what might happen to the current town hall and I've just discovered a little known fact that I want to share with the Council and townspeople because I think it should be considered in determining the future of this building.

In 1979 at a ceremony at Faneuil Hall in Boston the current town hall was honored with the American Institute of Architects Award for Excellence. The AIA judges writing for the New England Regional Council emphasized that,

“Someone had the brilliant idea that two identical, two family houses Town Center could be connected and used for housing the town offices.”

The recognition by this prestigious organization is evidence that this building's exterior is worthy of preservation, no matter who reuses this site.

Background information regarding this property:

Sometime before 1893: Joseph Burnham builds twin houses.

1924: Harrie Rand buys houses as two single family rental properties.

1972: town buys house nearest the old brick town hall for space.

1976: town buys identical house to the south.

1976-77: John Benson, architect and Whitcher Builders connect twin buildings with 2 story contemporary but sympathetic ell.

1978: American Institute of Architecture New England Regional Council Award of Excellence in Extended Use.

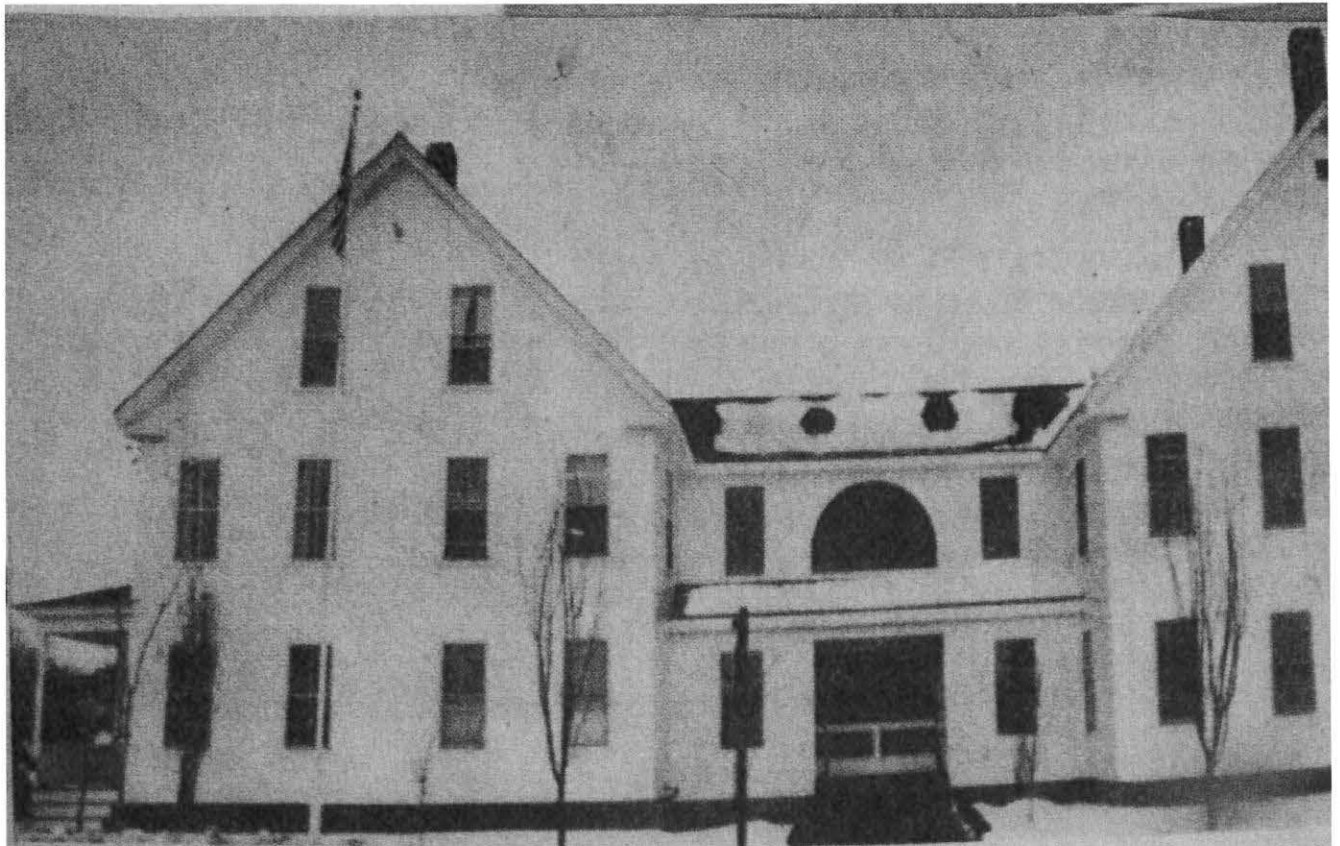
1980: Durham's Historic District put on National Register of Historic Places.

1978



1978



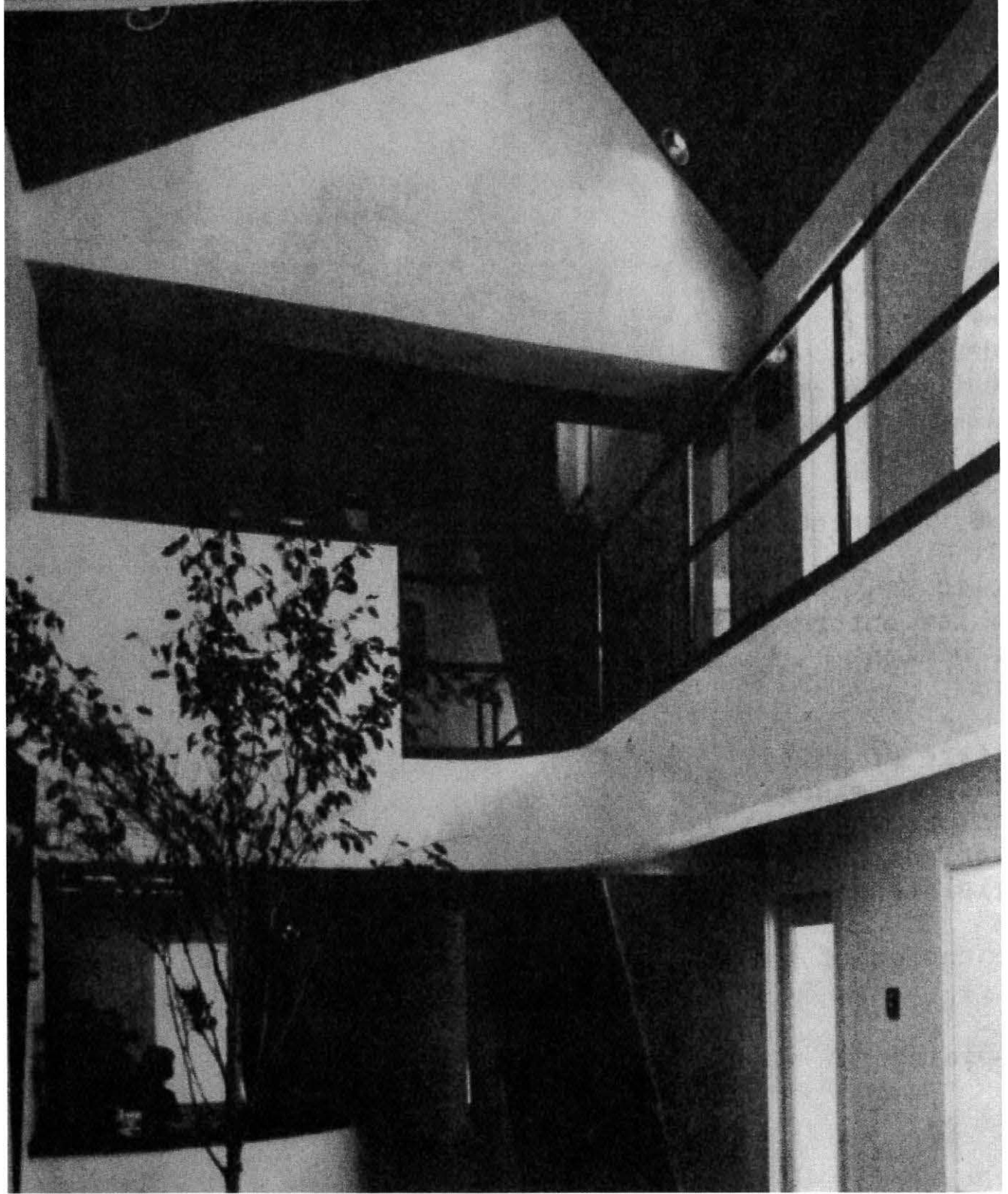


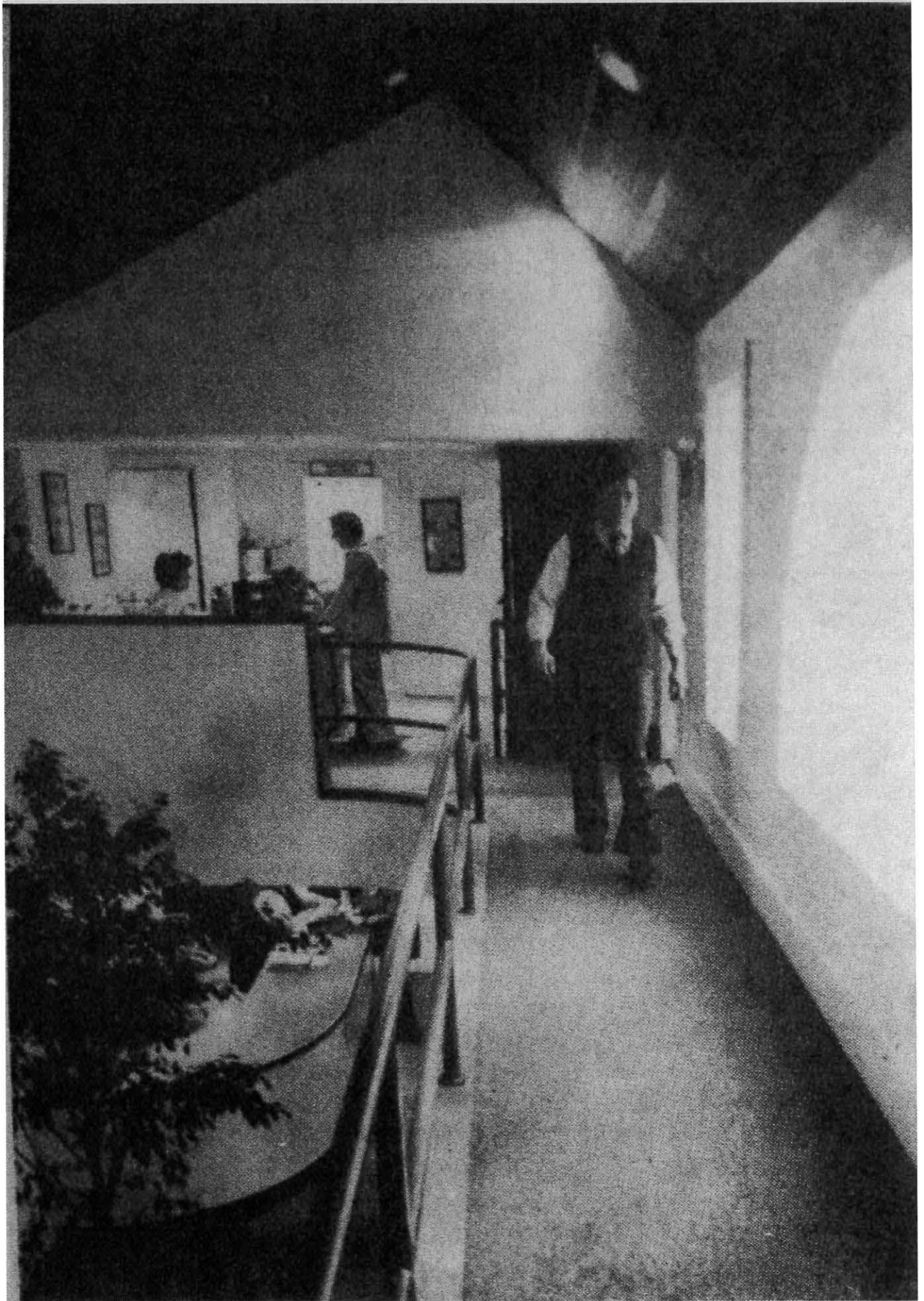
1978

Symmetrically designed, the Durham town office building was completed just last week

when painters put the last offices.

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e office building cost more
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onomic Development Ad-
tion and revenue-sharing



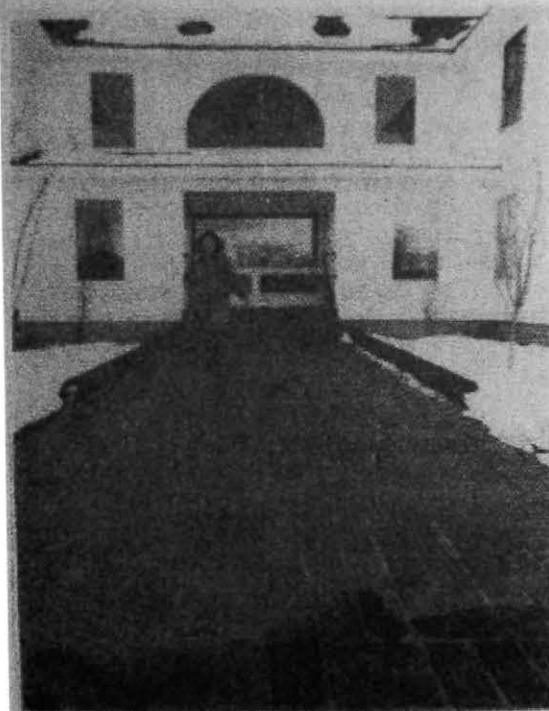


Durham Opens Airy New Offices

1978

By JIM SLOAN
Democrat Staff Writer

DURHAM — Last year at this time, Durham's town officers had cold feet. They had to squeeze past each other's desks, and when they wanted to file something, they had to go to the porch where the files were stored in cardboard cartons. And it was even chillier out there than it was in their own drafty, cramped offices.



The main entrance to the new Durham town office building is actually the link between two houses that the town purchased in 1973 and 1977.

But things have changed. The new Durham town office building, completed last week when workmen smoothed the last coat of paint over the upstairs office walls, houses the town's administrative officers in warm, spacious and functional quarters which most feel are an improvement over their old offices in the town hall.

The structural work on the building was completed earlier this fall, but the offices have been occupied since last spring. The building houses most of Durham's full-time administrators, including the public works director and his assistant, the town clerk, the town's clerical staff, the administrative assistant, the parks and recreation director and the planning assistant. Many part-timers, including the building inspector and the town historian, have office space for the first time. The building will also house Lamprey Regional Solid Waste administrators and the Oyster River Home Health Assn., a visiting nurse service.

The town's administrative boards, which used to meet in the courtroom in the town hall, have their own meeting room, with separate smaller rooms they will use for executive sessions and storing records.

Most town records, though, are being stored in a fire-resistant room behind the tax collector's office. Lined with fireproof sheetrock, the room is also equipped with an elaborate fire detection system that "makes sounds like a ship sinking when it goes off," administrative assistant Alan Edmonds says.

According to Edmonds, the town bought the first house on Route 108 in 1973 and the second in 1977. The construction and renovation of the office building cost more than \$190,000 much of the cost was absorbed by grants from the federal Economic Development Administration and revenue-sharing fund.

Durham Holds Dedication Ceremony

by Ann Dahl 1978
DURHAM - A large turnout of Durham residents, elected and appointed town officials gathered in the center wing of the town office building on Friday afternoon, Nov. 17, for a brief dedication ceremony of Durham's newly renovated town office building located on Newmarket Road.

The recently completed project, done with monies from an EDA grant, tied together two buildings with a central core and entrance lobby. Architect for the project was John

Benson of Boston and David Whitcher of Bow Lake, was the builder.

Lawrence O'Connell, chairman of the board of selectmen, welcomed

guests and thanked everyone for 'the enormous amount of cooperation that prevailed during renovations.'

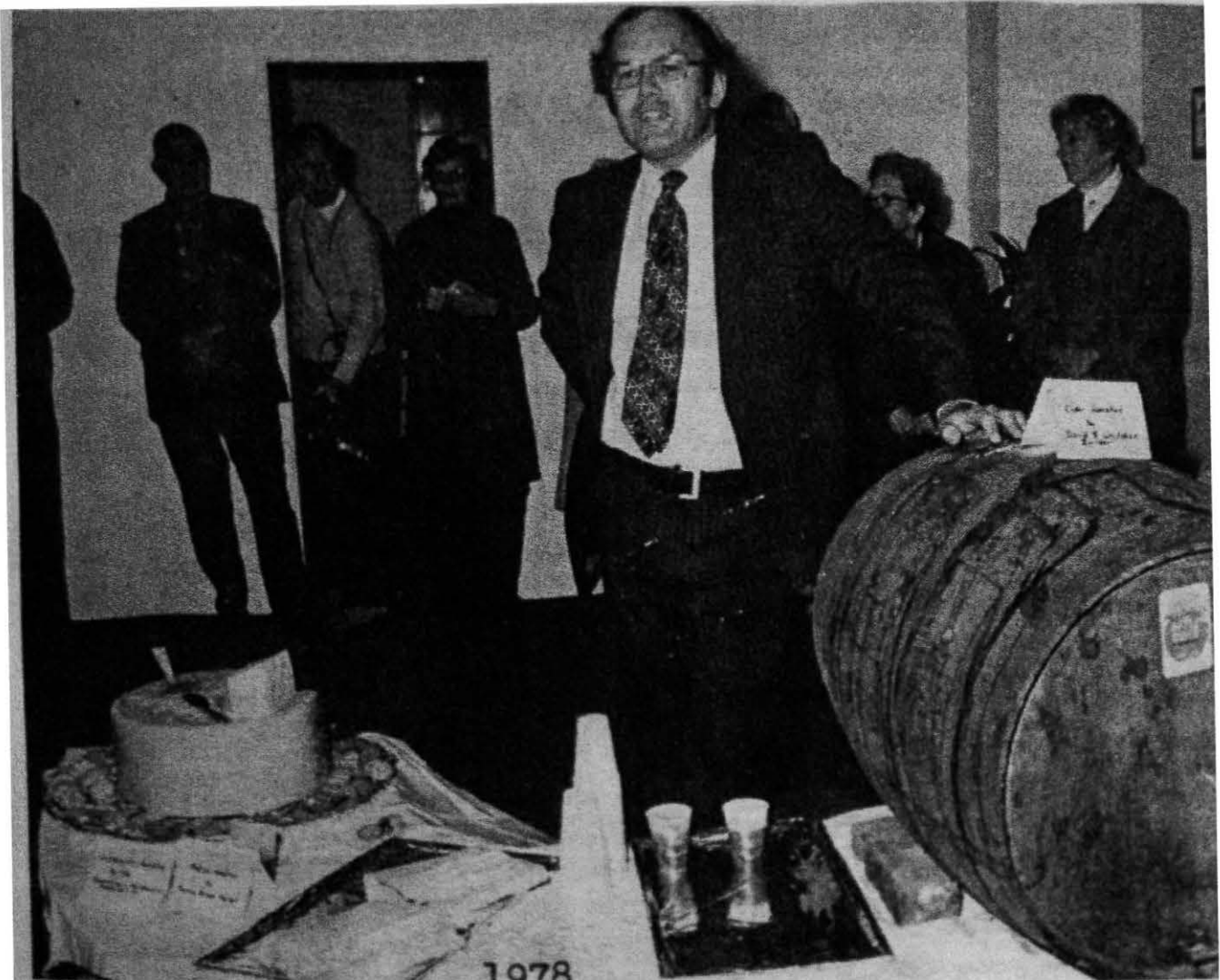
O'Connell also thanked

the elected and appointed officials who provide many services to the community and the town office staff for their patience during the renovation work which has been going on for nearly eight months.

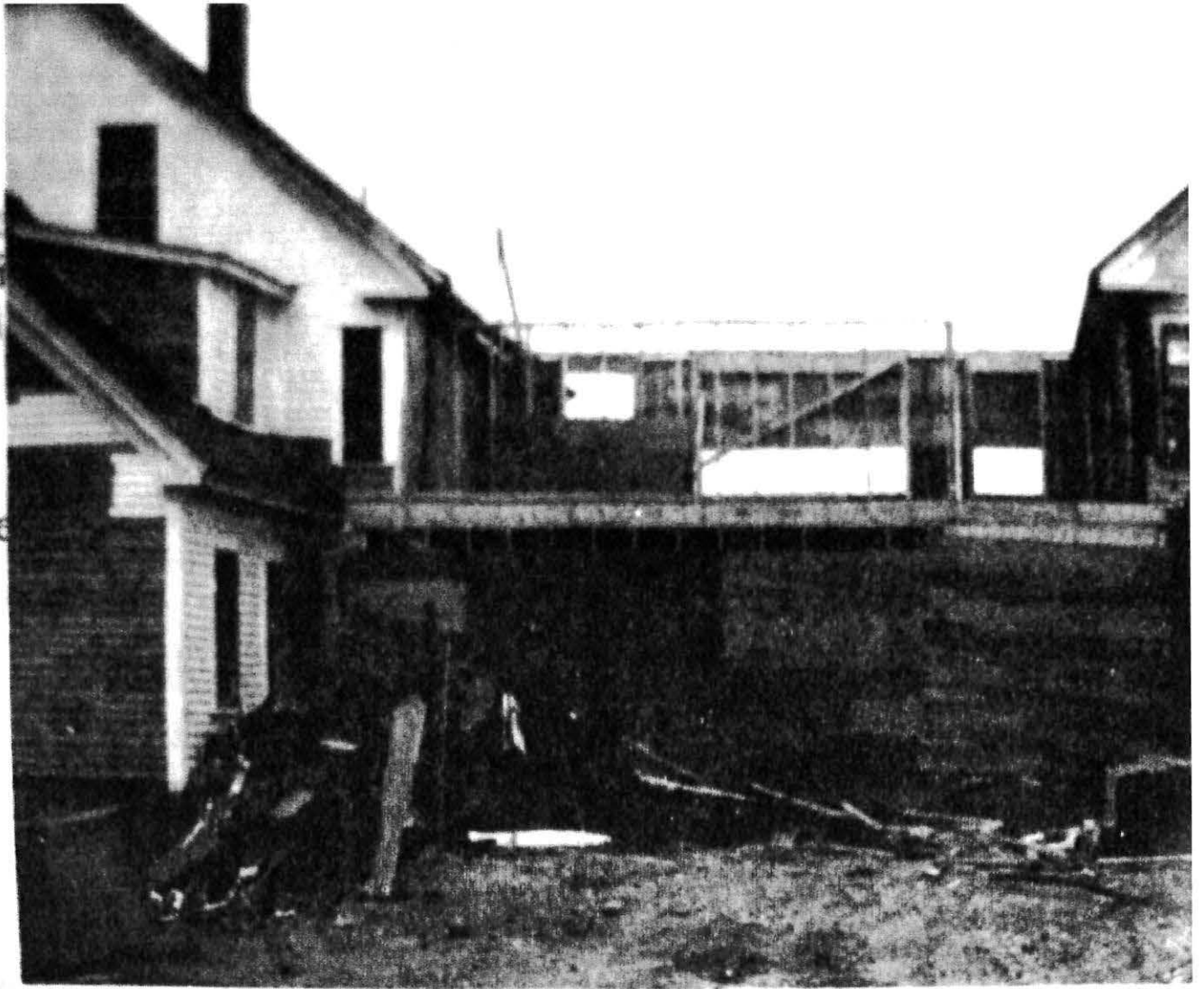
Besides town offices, the building houses offices of the Oyster River Home Health Association. Bill Prince, president of the Health Association Board of Directors said 'we are delighted with the space we have in the building.' The Health Association occupies offices in the rear of the

building on the first floor and has its own entrance.

The prevailing color of the walls throughout the building is white. A large window at the balcony walkway on the second floor provides much light to illuminate the entrance way. A large map of Durham hangs on the center wall. Several paintings of scenic scenes - one of St. and one of the town landing are



FROM BESIDE A LARGE BARREL OF CIDER, donated by the builder David Whitcher, John O'Connell, chairman of the board of selectmen, addresses the gathering townspeople at the grand opening last Friday of the renovated town office building in Durham. Residents were given an opportunity to view the area where their elected and appointed town government will be working.







Scenes at the Dedication



Durham Work Gets 1979 Architecture Award

DURHAM - Citing the concept which has allowed two colonial houses to be combined to form the Durham Town Office complex while retaining the traditional design of both buildings, the New England Regional Council American Institute of Architects will honor the

designers of the complex at ceremonies in Boston on Sept. 9.

Beckstoffer and Associates along with architect John R. Benson will be honored for 'Excellence in Architecture Involving Extended Use'.

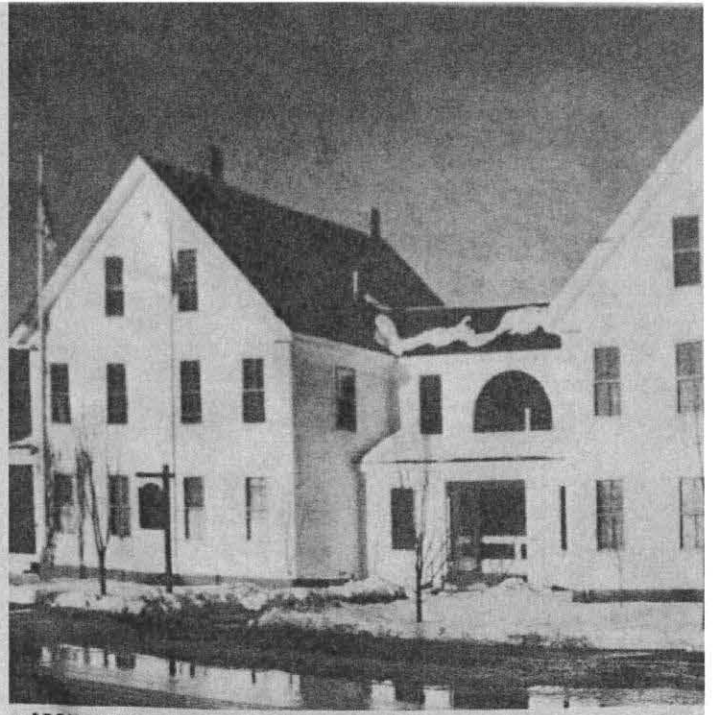
The firm will be one of six from New England to be recognized under the category of 'Excellence in Architecture' in ceremonies at the Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

In deciding on the design of the Durham Town Offices for one of the awards, the judges wrote that, 'Someone had the brilliant idea that two identical two-family houses in the Town Center could be connected and used for housing the town offices.'

Although the report points out that the two

houses are not of great distinction, 'the important fact is that almost no changes were made within the houses.'

The new connection that unites them is primarily a lobby, carrying a new arched window on axis, the whole thing in wood and adding just enough new material to change private non-entity to a public complex.



ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF BECKSTOFFER and Associates will be the recipient of the 'Excellence in Architecture' award as the result of its design work for the new Durham town offices in Boston at the annual meeting of the New England Regional Council American Institute of Architects. The project was John R. Benson.

April Talon

From: Phil Ginsburg <Phil.Ginsburg@leg.state.nh.us>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 4:55 PM
To: Jen Berry
Cc: Andrea Bodo
Subject: Mill Pond Dam Resolution

Ms. Berry:

Please record me as supporting the resolution concerning the Mill Pond Dam that will be presented to the Town Council Monday night.

Thank you.

Phil Ginsburg
151 Durham Point Road
Durham

April Talon

From: Sally Ford <Sally.Ford@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 1:09 PM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: resolution regarding the dam

By all means, please add our names to the Resolution regarding the dam.

Thanks,

Sally and Dan Ford

433 Bay Road

April Talon

From: Susie Renner <srenner44@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 6:55 PM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: In support of dam resolution

Susan and Richard Renner, of 28 Newmarket Rd., Durham, NH support the Mill Pond Dam Resolution.

April Talon

From: Sylvia Foster <sylviajfooster@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 8:52 AM
To: Jen Berry
Subject: support for Mill Pond Dam

Hello,

I write in support of the preservation of the Mill Pond Dam and thank you for including me on the list of supporters.

Sylvia J. Foster
24 Woodridge Road