

1790 Houses of Buxton, Maine



Buxton-Hollis Historical Society
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Brenton Hill

More Typical



Unique Resources

- 1790 Federal Census -238 Families
- 1798 Real Estate Tax List – 163 Houses
- 1800 Dennett Map – 223 Houses, also
1852 Dennett and 1872 York County map
- 2003/04 Roadside Architectural Survey

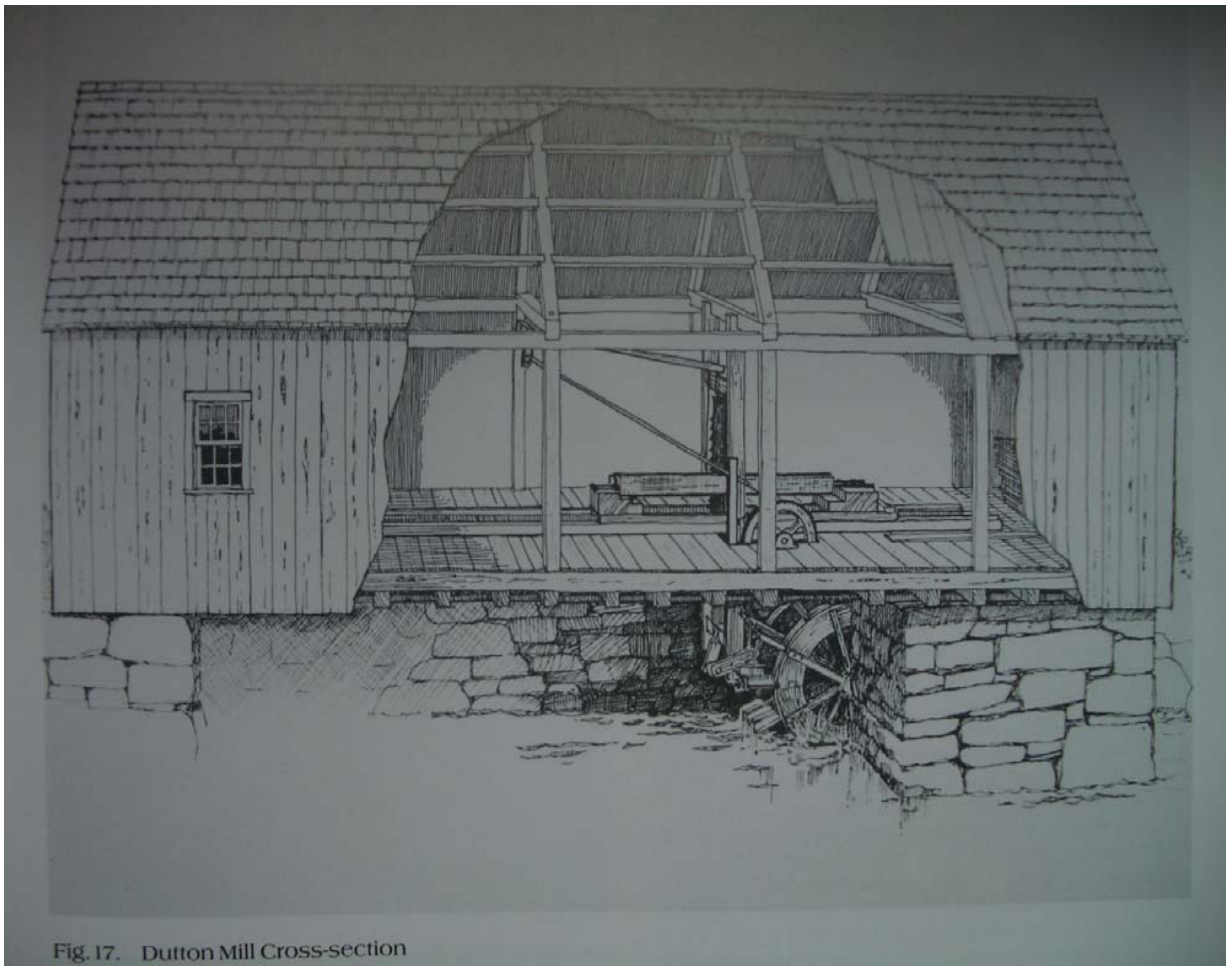
- Missing 1800 Census (“poorly done” –
Tom Hardiman), 1792 real estate list

Background

- 100 Years of farming 1750s-1855
- 1772 Buxton incorporated
- 1789 Massachusetts adopts school district plan
- 1791 Salmon Falls bridge begun, first over Saco in area
- 1791 First schoolhouse, previously school in houses
- 1795 Paul Coffin first postmaster
- 1800 Nathaniel Emery, 1802 Jos Woodman house, Elden Store, Thomas Emery, 1805 Brewster Mansion,
- 1806 First Saco River sawmill at Union Falls
- Population doubles every 20 years

Technology

- Sawmills, seasonal brooks, 10 on 1800 map, including 4 on Saco River



Styles and Materials

- The modern architectural styles were Georgian and Adam in England, called Federal in US. Only a few examples on the Buxton frontier.
- Log cabins, lean-tos, cellars, sawn like garrison houses
- Little early glass, oiled linen, paper and thin birch bark for windows, shutters
- No paint, linseed oiled clapboards, some with white lead, ochre (yellow), iron oxide red), milk paints France 1792 to New England by 1828, Greek revival and then 1893 Chicago fair made all white
- Housing materials were bulky. Timbers, boards, clapboards, shingles, stone and granite for foundations, brick for chimneys. Only moved short distances or by water until coming of the railroad in 1855. Therefore building materials were local except for nails, misc. small hardware, glass. Things were primitive until sawmills, quarries and brickyards.
- If no clapboards, 45 degree beveled lapped board siding
- Rough split granite foundations by Benjamin Simpson of Saco
- Brick chimney arched foundations saved expensive bricks. Early fieldstone and sand fill foundations did not survive.

The Missing Houses

- 1790 Census – 238 Families
- Population doubling every 20 years, 3.4% per year
- 1798 Real Estate Tax List – 163 Houses
- Only several (2 or 3) related families together
- More than 75 families missing, 31%
- “The most of the two story houses were built about 1790”
“1792 valuation for General Court, 91 dwelling houses,
66 small low buildings or camps not worth to be classed
as dwelling houses and valued at about \$25 each” -
(Buxton, Maine, by Rev. Charles Sargent, 1920).

The Lists

- 1790 Census
- 1798 Tax List
- 1800 Dennett Map

The Houses

- See Pictures
- All have Els, 1798 average size 941 square feet. They all needed els when they could afford them for specialized rooms and added bedrooms.