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# New Hamps...

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## PROJECT: NH Town Pounds



**StarrGazr** PRO 2:08am, 14 June 2007

ADMIN

There was an article I read many years ago that I was reminded of today whilst browsing a contacts photos. I finally tracked down the article and am reposting it here. I think this may be a good companion to the Historic Markers. Have a read, and tell me what you think. I know we have one right here in Hudson and the oldest one is in Lyndenborough.

Reprinted from

**Telegraph, The (Nashua, NH)**

July 28, 1998

Page: 7

*Memo: We will keep at it forever, or until we visit or contact all 259 towns and cities in the state It's a labor of love. We just love them.'*

*Louise Frank of Barnstead speaking for herself and husband themselves the Stone Pound Seekers Pounds*



### ' down old pounds

JESSIE SALISBURY Telegraph Correspondent

Amherst's town pound was lost to development, and Mont Vernon never had one.

Wilton's is on private property, while Lyn deborough's is one of several lis ted on the National Register of Historic Places.

Town pounds, those old fieldstone enclosures with or without gates for keeping livestock, area generally misunderstood relic of local history."

They are a piece of history in danger of being lost," Louise Frank said recently during a stop in Wilton. "A town is fortunate to have one." Wilton's is behind the Unitarian Church in Wilton Center, and it took awhile to find someone who could direct her to

it.

Frank and her husband, Tom, residents of Barnstead for the past 30 years, call themselves the Stone Pound Seekers. They are looking for the old stone structures, documenting their finds with notes and pictures. So far they have visited or contacted 88 towns, mainly in the southern part of the state. Of those, Louise said, "Fifty-five have pounds, four have markers where the pounds used to be, and 29 never had one."

Area towns they had not yet visited include Merrimack, Brook line, Nashua, Pelham and Litchfield.

She was intrigued by a visit to Hollis, where they found a Pound Road, but not yet a pound. There was one, however, she said, in the former town of Monson, and wondered if it was in what is now Hollis.

People who think of pounds at all usually think they were for holding lost or strayed cattle, as indeed they may have on occasion. However, most of the pounds were built before 1800, and they were for impounding livestock taken by the town in lieu of property taxes.

The laws of the Royal Province of New Hampshire, until 1686, authorized the town constable to imprison a person who could not pay his taxes. In 1868, the law was amended to allow seizure of property or land.

In 1791, the new state of New Hampshire allowed the tax collector "upon neglect or refusal to pay taxes, and after a notice of 14 days, to distrain the goods, or chattels" of the person so neglecting his duties. Goods were kept four days, during which time the owner could redeem them. After that, the goods were sold at auction. In many cases, the most valuable property a person owned was his livestock, and the town needed a place to hold it.

The pounds were all similar to this description in the 1906 Lyn deborough history: "In 1774 the town voted to build a pound, 25 by 30 feet, the wall to be six feet high, faced on the inside, three feet thick at the bottom and one and half feet at the top, and to be capped with a timber-frame. It was to have a convenient gate with a lock."

Newer towns don't have them. Greenville separated from Mason 125 years ago. Mason has the pound. Mont Vernon was formed from a section of Amherst and a piece of Lyndeborough. Both parent towns had one, but Amherst's was lost to a development."

It's amazing they have survived all these years as dry stone construction," Tom Frank said. He is the more history-oriented of the pair, while Louse takes the pictures. She also has a file on each town they have visited. But many they have found are in poor condition with brush growing inside them and walls tumbling. In such cases, they write to the local historical society trying to stir up some interest.

Finding some pounds has been an adventure, they agreed, and said Sutton's was the hardest so far to find.

It was "up on a mountain," she said, "and we walked up in the rain. When we found it, there was a sign on it naming the pound keepers."

They started their quest last year after they had driven by the pound in Atkinson

many times. "Atkinson has a nice historical society and they keep it up. In some towns it's been neglected," Louise said.

They wondered if their own town, Hampstead, had a pound. Tom, a member of the Historic District Commission, didn't know. "The town office didn't know," he said, "but we found someone who did. Now an article is being proposed for the Town Warrant to deed it as part of the Historic District." They are also discussing the care of the site with the local Boy Scout troop who are taking it on as a troop project.

Louise stresses that they are not authorities on town pounds, nor even proper historians. "We are just interested people, doing what we like to do."

Both Franks are retired, Tom from a position with AT&T and Louise from selling real estate. "It is a lot more fun doing this," Tom said. They usually cover four towns on a day trip, he added. That keeps it in the fun category."

We will keep at it forever, or until we visit or contact all 259 towns and cities in the state," Louise said. After that, she hopes to organize all of the information into a directory. "It's a labor of love. We just love them."

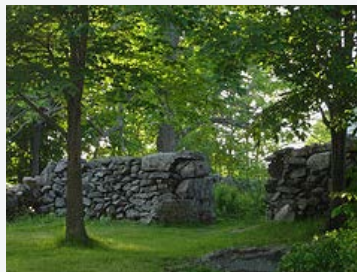
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Please tag photos "NH Town Pound"



ADMIN

[StarrGazr](#) PRO Posted 8 years ago. Edited by [StarrGazr](#) (admin) 8 years ago



-- from [Karlacita](#) - (?)

Lyndenborough, NH



ADMIN

[StarrGazr](#) PRO Posted 8 years ago. Edited by [StarrGazr](#) (admin) 8 years ago



-- from [Mama Jackie](#) - (?)

Hudson, NH



[Winged Foot](#) PRO 8 years ago



Mason, NH



MOD

jlbruno 8 years ago

that's pretty cool - i'll be interested to see how many of these are around.

how does one go about finding if one's town has a pound?



juliaf PRO 8 years ago

Here's Pembroke's:



To find one, you could check with that town's town hall or historical society.



ADMIN

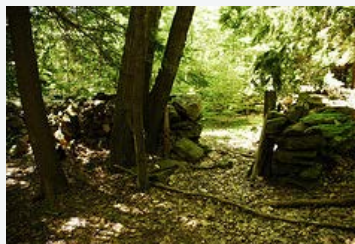
StarrGazr PRO Posted 8 years ago. Edited by StarrGazr (admin) 8 years ago

Jeff, I don't have the time right now for further research, but try some of [these links](#). One of the things I hope we can accomplish is creating a map of these places for our state for historical records. I am going to try and get in touch with Louise and Tom Frank and see if I can get some information from them. Perhaps we can join efforts with them.



MOD

Tim Somero 8 years ago



New Ipswich, NH



StarrGazr PRO 8 years ago

I am SO excited! After doing some research, I finally got in touch with Louise Frank

ADMIN

(referenced in the article above). I was hoping that she and her husband had put together some sort of booklet or something highlighting their research that we could use as a guideline to help find and document these places.

Turns out, it was her and her husband's dream to publish some sort of booklet for the state using their research. Unfortunately, her husband died about eight years ago and nothing was ever done with what they had collected together.

When I explained to her who we are and what I was proposing we do, she was excited and is willing to work with us. Hopefully we can photo document enough of these and put together some sort of documentation or booklet that can be given to the state's Division of Historical Research.

I have a phone call set up with her for next Monday when we can begin to get started on figuring out the best way to go about this. She was very excited to hear that others were interested in documenting something that she and her husband were so passionate about.

I'll keep you posted.



MOD

Tim Somero 8 years ago

That is very exciting! As I commented under my photo's page, I'll return to the New Ipswich Town Pound at sunrise when I can get more interesting lighting. I'll have to play with different perspectives, too.

Unfortunately, the pound is in sad disrepair and we could use a local effort to restore the pound similar to what someone did in Mason, NH.

Keep me posted and I'll do what I can on the project.



MOD

jlbruno 8 years ago

Londonderry Town Pound





**jlbruno** 8 years ago

MOD

I hope everyone is mapping their photos!

[www.flickr.com/map/?&q=NH Town](http://www.flickr.com/map/?&q=NH Town)

[Pound&group\\_id=65944040@N00&fLat=43.165698&fLon=-71.47705&zl=9](http://www.flickr.com/map/?&q=NH Town)



**Winged Foot** PRO 8 years ago

Nice work everyone. Jeff - I just updated my photo's location; thks for the reminder! -Mike



**jlbruno** 8 years ago

MOD

here's some more i found referenced online...

Durham:

[www.goseacoast.com/detail.ihtml?lid=160&catID=70](http://www.goseacoast.com/detail.ihtml?lid=160&catID=70)

Madison:

[ci.madison.nh.us/historical/new\\_page\\_1.htm](http://ci.madison.nh.us/historical/new_page_1.htm)

Farmington:

[www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/NH/Strafford/vac...](http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/NH/Strafford/vac...)



**StarrGazr** PRO 8 years ago

ADMIN

Thanks Jeff!



**StarrGazr** PRO 8 years ago

ADMIN



Hudson, NH (mapped)



**Wanderin'EYE [deleted]** 8 years ago



This photo is no longer available

Durham, NH (mapped)



[Dave Delay](#) PRO 8 years ago

Here's another one of the Lyndeborough town pound:



[LisaNH](#) PRO 8 years ago



The Marlow Historical Society cleaned up and restored our town pound a few years ago. I will try to capture it in better light, but I always remember to do it when I'm coming home in the evening. It's a pretty little spot just on the outskirts of the village.



[LisaNH](#) PRO 8 years ago

I drove by the Alstead Town Pound today and stopped for a few shots:



They've done a really nice job of keeping it in shape.



ed\_bltm PRO 7 years ago

Durham:



(It's a wall around somebody's yard now).

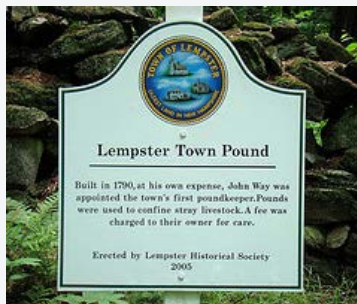


ed\_bltm PRO 7 years ago

Danville. Back in 1802, it was called Hawke.



azuleito 7 years ago



-- from azuleito - (?)

Lempster, NH



azuleito 7 years ago





-- from [azuleito](#) - (?)

Lempster, NH

Best shot I can get of the pound with my son in the picture



MOD

[Tim Somero](#) 7 years ago

Great additions! Thank you...



[ed\\_bltm](#) PRO 7 years ago

I was out for a walk in the woods near my house over the weekend, in an area I don't usually go in, and came across some ruins of an old farm. Since it was obviously very, very old, quite large, and pretty deep in the woods but all by itself, it got me a little curious, which motivated me to do a little research. Didn't find out much about the old farm. It seemed to have 'fell off the map', but in the course of my investigations I found this site, which has pictures of a few NH and MA pounds and some interesting technical information about pounds and New England stone works in general.

[www.stonestructures.org/html/town\\_pounds.html](http://www.stonestructures.org/html/town_pounds.html)



[woodfin](#) PRO Posted 7 years ago. Edited by woodfin (member) 7 years ago

Here' s the marker at the site of the Hopkinton Town Pound



[PoplinNH](#) 4 years ago

Fremont, NH - formerly called POPLIN between 1764 & 1854, reconstructed the former 1802 Poplin Town Pound located next to the 1800 Fremont/Poplin Meetinghouse located on Route 107 (Main Street) during Sept. & Oct. 2011. It was rebuilt on the exact same spot as where the 1802 pound originally stood by volunteers of the Fremont 250th Anniversary Committee & Fremont Historical Society in observance of the towns' upcoming 250th Anniversary in 2014. The rectangular stone Town Pound measures 28' X 24' with four feet high walls. It is now New Hampshire's newest historic landmark and it replaces the old 1819 / 1820 town pound that replaced the 1802 town pound. The 1820 pound stood on Sandown

Road and was maliciously destroyed by a landowner who bulldozed it apart back in 1973 after winning a lawsuit against the town which thought the town owned it and the land it sat upon.

Fremont Town Historian, Matthew E. Thomas is compiling a book on all the existing NH Town Pounds which will be published in the very near future. Mr. Thomas coordinated the reconstruction of the Fremont Town Pound and is especially proud of the many volunteers who came together to restore an important part of Fremont's colorful and historic past. Anyone with information on any existing NH Town Pound is welcome to email Mr. Thomas at... [spiritof1776mt@msn.com](mailto:spiritof1776mt@msn.com)

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