

DANVERS RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

ESSEX COUNTY LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

MASSACHUSETTS HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY PROGRAM



Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Essex National Heritage Commission

PROJECT TEAM

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Jessica Rowcroft, Preservation Planner
Division of Planning and Engineering

Essex National Heritage Commission

Bill Steelman, Director of Heritage Preservation

Project Consultants

Shary Page Berg
Gretchen G. Schuler
Virginia Adams, PAL

Local Project Coordinator

Susan Fletcher

Heritage Landscape Participants

Miriam Cooper
Wayne Eisenhauer
Ed Ferguson
Susan Fletcher
Elizabeth Klemm
Jean Marshall
Dave McKenna
Bob Osgood
George Saluto
Dave Townley
Joan Townley
Richard Trask
Charles Wilson
Joe Younger

May 2005

INTRODUCTION

Essex County is known for its unusually rich and varied landscapes, which are represented in each of its 34 municipalities. Heritage landscapes are places that are created by human interaction with the natural environment. They are dynamic and evolving; they reflect the history of a community and provide a sense of place; they show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns; and they often have scenic qualities. This wealth of landscapes is central to each community's character; yet heritage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing. For this reason it is important to take the first steps towards their preservation by identifying those landscapes that are particularly valued by the community – a favorite local farm, a distinctive neighborhood or mill village, a unique natural feature, an inland river corridor or the rocky coast. To this end, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) have collaborated to bring the Heritage Landscape Inventory program (HLI) to communities in Essex County. The primary goal of the program is to help communities identify a wide range of landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected. The focus is on landscapes that have not been identified in previous survey efforts in a given community. Another important goal of the program is to provide communities with strategies for preserving heritage landscapes.

The methodology for the Heritage Landscape Inventory program was developed in a Pilot Project conducted in southeast Massachusetts. It is outlined in the DCR publication *Reading the Land* which has provided guidance for the program in Essex County. In short, each participating community appoints a Local Project Coordinator (LPC) to assist the DCR-ENHC consulting team. The LPC organizes a heritage landscape identification meeting at which interested residents and town officials offer community input by identifying potential heritage landscapes. This meeting is followed by a fieldwork session including the consulting team and the LPC, usually accompanied by other community members. This group visits the priority landscapes identified in the meeting and gathers information about the community. The final product is the Reconnaissance Report, prepared for each participating community. It outlines the history of the community; identifies the resources and documentation that provide background information; provides a short description of the priority heritage landscapes visited; discusses planning issues identified by the community; and concludes with a brief discussion of survey and planning recommendations. A list of all of the heritage landscapes identified by the community is included in the Appendix.

DANVERS HISTORY

Danvers's inland location and its distinctive landscape features — rivers, hills and ponds — were instrumental in shaping the history of the community from the earliest Native American use of the land to the present.

Prior to European settlement, Danvers was inhabited by members of the Pawtucket group, also known as Penacook. Primary transportation routes during this period were probably along the major rivers with secondary trails along other waterways and inland. These early routes later formed the basis of many present-day roads.

The area known today as Danvers was settled as part of Salem in the 1630s. Initially there were a number of large land grants, including that of Governor John Endecott, which was about 1,000 acres. English settlement remained scattered through the Plantation period (1620-1675), but eventually evolved into several village neighborhoods. In 1752 Salem Village (Danvers) and the Middle Precinct (Peabody) were set apart as the district of Danvers, which was made a township in 1757. Agriculture and animal husbandry continued to provide the primary economic base for the town.

Danvers played an active role in the Revolutionary War. Danvers resident Dr. Samuel Holten was President of the Continental Congress and a signer of the Articles of Confederation, while Israel Putnam became a Brigadier General. At the time of the Revolution, the Danversport area became a shipping and shipbuilding center whose tidal mills provided power for a number of small enterprises. The community was known for its bricks and its leather tanning industry. Danvers grew rapidly during the Federal period (1775-1830), reaching a population of 4,228 in 1830. By the 1830s the Tapleyville section of Danvers became a center for the production of woven carpets made by English and Scottish weavers. In 1855 the two parishes, Danvers and South Parish, split into the independent townships of Danvers and Peabody.

The convenient location between Salem and Boston, and the arrival of the railroad in the 1840s, allowed Danvers to emerge as a prominent 19th century commercial center. The community also maintained an industrial base that relied heavily on carpet making and shoe manufacture. While Danvers became an active commercial center, outlying areas remained rural. Local farms provided produce for nearby cities well into the 20th century and there were many country estates, such as Glen Magna which has been preserved by the town.

Today Danvers is a community of approximately 25,000 with a diversified economy that includes both commercial and industrial activities, as well as limited agricultural areas. It also functions as a bedroom community for the surrounding area. Danvers is home to regionally important civic institutions such as the Peabody Institute Library and Essex Agricultural School. Until it closed in 1982, the Danvers State Hospital was among these institutions.

RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTATION

This section of the Reconnaissance Report identifies planning documents and tools that provide information relevant to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program.

Inventory of Historic Assets

The Massachusetts Historical Commission's (MHC) Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets is a statewide list that identifies significant historic resources throughout the Commonwealth. In order to be included in the inventory, a property must be documented on an MHC inventory form, which is then entered into the MHC database. This searchable database, known as MACRIS, is now available on line at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc>.

According to the MHC, the Danvers inventory includes 635 survey forms documenting properties that date from 1650 to 1992. The inventory was begun informally in the 1960s by town archivist Richard Trask and was updated in the 1980s with additional work, including a detailed survey of Danversport completed in the 1990s.

State and National Registers of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that have been determined significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. Danvers has two National Register districts: the Salem Village Historic District (established in 1974 with 136 resources) and the State Lunatic Hospital at Danvers (established in 1984 with 40 resources). There are 12 properties individually listed in the National Register, including four that are part of the thematic nomination of First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts. The Derby Summer House on the Glen Magna Estate is the town's only National Historic Landmark. All National Register properties also are listed in the State Register of Historic Places.

Also listed in the State Register are those properties protected by a preservation restriction, drawn up in accordance with MGL Chapter 183, Sections 31-33. A preservation restriction runs with the deed and is one of the strongest preservation strategies available. Seven Danvers properties: Fowler House, Glen Magna Mansion, Holten House, Parsonage Archaeological Site, Peabody Institute Library, Rebecca Nurse Homestead and Wadsworth School, are protected by preservation restrictions.

Local Historic District

Danvers has one local historic district; the Salem Village Historic District, established in 1974 with 136 resources. It encompasses portions of Centre, Collins, Hobart, Ingersoll, Holten and Forests Streets and its boundaries are the same as those of the Salem Village National Register District. The district includes important properties such as Glen Magna, Holten House, Rebecca Nurse Homestead, Parsonage Archaeological Site and Wadsworth School. All local historic district properties are also listed in the State Register of Historic Places.

Planning Documents

The Danvers Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was last updated in 2001. The plan highlights the important natural features of the community: drumlin hills rising above the surrounding landscape; flat lands that have traditionally been used for agriculture; wetlands scattered throughout the town; and the coastline, which includes three tidal rivers — the Crane, the Porter and the Waters — which offer recreational opportunities and dramatic regional views. The plan places priority on protecting these important natural features and providing public access to the waterfront and other scenic areas, as well as protecting existing open space and creating new recreational opportunities. Many of the heritage landscapes identified in this Reconnaissance Report are also included in the OSRP inventory.

Planning Bylaws and Other Tools

Danvers has a demolition delay bylaw that allows the Preservation Commission to impose a six-month delay on demolition or relocation of buildings and structures that are listed in the National Register or that were built before 1915. Buildings and structures located in local historic districts are excluded from the demolition delay bylaw, because they are regulated more restrictively by the District Bylaw.

PRIORITY HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

The Danvers Heritage Landscape Identification meeting, attended by approximately 14 residents, some representing town boards and local non-profit organizations, was held on June 23, 2004. During the meeting residents compiled a lengthy list of the town's heritage landscapes, which is included in the Appendix. Once the comprehensive list was created, attendees were asked to articulate the value of each landscape and to identify issues relating to its preservation. Based on the information gathered, community members identified a group of priority heritage landscapes to be visited by the consulting team during the fieldwork. Each of the priority landscapes is highly valued, contributes to community character and is not permanently protected or preserved.

This section describes the priority landscapes that are the focus of the reconnaissance work in Danvers. In most instances intensive survey work will be needed to fully document the physical characteristics and the historical development of the landscape. These heritage landscapes, which are listed alphabetically, represent a range of scales and types of resources.

Choate Farm

The Choate Farm at 407 Locust Street, historically known as Robin Hill Farm, was established as a gentleman's farm in the early 20th century by Robert B. Choate, member of a prominent local family. The 66-acre property includes a house and cluster of historic farm buildings, as well as a small cemetery. The

land, which is no longer farmed, includes a historic drive, an orchard, remnants of ornamental plantings and farm fields in the early stages of succession. Two-thirds of the property has recently been sold to a developer. The town is hoping that a cluster development will allow re-use of some historic buildings and will preserve as much open space as possible. The remaining third of the property, mostly wetland, is town-owned and is considered key open space in the Putnamville neighborhood, with links to other open space parcels. This property, with significant historical and natural resources, is considered one of the town's highest priorities and was mentioned in the Heritage Landscape Inventory application.

Danvers State Hospital Campus

Danvers State Hospital at 450 Maple Street in the western part of Danvers was established in 1874. It remained an active institution until June 1992 when the main complex was closed. Some auxiliary parts of the facility are still being used by social service organizations and much of the outlying land is leased to Richardson Dairy. The core of the 600-acre campus, which includes the dramatically sited Kirkbride Building, was listed on the National Register in 1984 as “State Lunatic Hospital at Danvers” with 40 resources. Proposed redevelopment of the state hospital site has been controversial with strong feelings on all sides of the issue. A final development plan has recently been accepted. Concerns of local residents include documentation of Native American sites in the fields behind the Clark Conservation area; identification of poorly documented historic cemeteries; preservation and reuse of historic buildings; and preservation of agricultural use, key vistas and open space.



Danversport Neighborhood and Riverfront

The Danversport neighborhood, which lies in the southeastern part of the community, consists of three peninsulas formed by the Waters, Crane and Porter Rivers, all of which flow into the Danvers River. By the time of the Revolution the area was an active port that included water-based activities such as shipbuilding, as well as other industries that relied on the tidal waterpower of the area. Today Danversport includes a mix of primarily 19th and 20th century buildings that support diversified residential and industrial uses. Local residents value the eclectic character of the neighborhood, with a mix of high style

buildings, small-scale housing and water-related features such as shipyards, marinas, bridges and public landings. Issues include public access to the water, preserving neighborhood character and continuation of water-dependent uses.

Essex Agricultural School

Essex Agricultural School is located at 562 Maple Street in the Hathorne neighborhood of Danvers. It was established in 1913 on the site of the former Maplewood Estate and since that time has offered secondary education in traditional agriculture. The curriculum emphasizes a hands-on approach, with students engaged in various agricultural activities such as growing fruits and vegetables, raising bees and poultry, and caring for the school's dairy herd. Historic resources include the school buildings, which consist of a Colonial Revival administration and classroom building, as well as various dairy barns and other agricultural buildings. The adjacent fields are still farmed and some of the orchards remain. The campus is prominently sited on a hill northwest of Danvers State Hospital and is valued by the community because of its highly visible location with regional views to and from the site, its continued agricultural use, and its importance as part of the regional open space network. A proposal to merge Essex Agricultural School with the North Shore Technical School on the Hathorne site has been accepted by the state and could dramatically change the character of the campus.

Lebel's Crescent

Lebel's Crescent is a large area of linked open space in the southwestern part of town that includes the town forest and adjacent wetlands and fields extending north along the Ipswich River. The area adjacent to the town forest, known as Lebel's Grove, is a private recreation area established in the 19th century that is now partially owned by a trust. The Crescent also includes the town-owned Ipswich River Canoe Launch and agricultural areas along Dayton Street. At its northern end it links with Danvers State Hospital, Essex Agricultural School and Ferncroft Pond. The unprotected open space is more vulnerable to development now that the area is sewered. This area has been identified as a priority by the Conservation Commission and a five-year action plan has been prepared.

Muddy Boo

The Muddy Boo is a wetland area located north of Andover Street (Route 114) and east of Route 95 that is important for drainage, water quality and wildlife. It is also adjacent to the Salem Village National Register District. The former agricultural area is in private ownership and is under intense pressure for development by adjacent commercial and residential users. Immediately to the south is a commercial area with large parking lots that occupies former swampland. Open vistas have already been lost and the ecosystem is threatened by pollution and invasive species. This area has been identified as a priority by the Conservation Commission and a five-year action plan has been prepared. Potential cultural resources have not been documented.

Nike Command Center

The Nike Command Center at 72 North Street was established in the 1950s as part of a regional missile defense system. The complex is located at the top of Putnam Hill, a drumlin in the Putnamville neighborhood. The center, which is reached by a paved driveway, includes a cluster of mid-20th century military buildings at the top of the hill. Historic resources have recently been documented by PAL Inc., a firm specializing in cultural resource management. The complex is now used by the Army Reserve but may soon be declared surplus federal property. It is valued by the community as prime open space because of its panoramic vistas.

Putnamville Neighborhood

The Putnamville neighborhood in the northern part of Danvers is one of the few areas in town to retain a somewhat rural character with large land holdings and several active farms. The center of Putnamville at Wenham and Locust Streets is an important crossroads. Significant resources include Choate Farm, Putnamville Cemetery, Putnamville School, Salem Beverly Reservoir and many historic houses.

Rebecca Nurse Homestead

This 27-acre site located just north of the Tapleyville neighborhood is owned by the Danvers Alarm List Company and operated as a historical museum. It is in the Salem Village Historic District, which is both a National Register district and a local historic district. The property consists of the Rebecca Nurse (sometimes spelled Nourse) house, related outbuildings, a reconstructed Colonial kitchen garden, a small burial ground and surrounding farm land. The land was granted to Townsend Bishop in the 17th century and the house was restored in 1909. Crops were raised for market into the 1960s; part of the land is still leased for farming. The historic barn burned in 1964; a building clad to resemble a circa 1681 barn has been built from the frame of the second Endecott house which was relocated to this site. Restrictive covenants are kept by SPNEA (now known as Historic New England) which owned the property from 1924 to 1981.

St. John's Preparatory School

St. John's Preparatory School on Spring and Summer Streets includes several late 19th century buildings associated with the former estate of Jacob Spring as well as a range of 20th century campus buildings and surrounding open space. The property was purchased by the Xaverian Brothers in 1891 who established St. John's Normal College, which later became St. John's Prep. Significant buildings include: the circa 1880 polychrome main building which was part of the Spring estate; Xavier Hall, built circa 1910; Ryken Hall built in 1916; and Memorial Hall built in 1925 in the Gothic Revival style. The campus also includes College Pond, a portion of the Bishop's Meadow wetland and a historic burial ground used by the Xaverian brothers.

PLANNING

Preservation Strategies

Danvers's rich and varied natural features played a critical role in the settlement and historical development of the community and remain among the town's most important assets. Danvers is also fortunate to have a rich collection of historic resources. The town has already taken important steps to preserve its most significant buildings and natural areas. It holds agricultural preservation restrictions on two farms and has recently acquired several important open space parcels. Danvers is now looking beyond these resources to the other natural and cultural assets that define the overall fabric of the community. Like most Essex County municipalities, Danvers is under intense pressure for development. Special places such as farms, scenic roads, vistas and historic neighborhoods that were once taken for granted are now more vulnerable than ever to change.

Planning Issues

In addition to the priority landscapes listed in the previous section, residents identified general issues related to heritage landscapes and community character. Each of the critical planning issues affects at least one of the priority landscapes. The issues are arranged in alphabetical order. Community members also expressed interest in learning about preservation tools and strategies that have been effective in other Massachusetts communities and in identifying sources for preservation funding.



Agricultural Land

Many of the farms in Danvers have already been subdivided or converted to other uses. Farms that remain are highly valued by the community, especially those that retain active agricultural use, have significant historic structures or are visible from public ways. The list of heritage landscapes includes two active farms, Clark Farm and Connors Farm, both of which are under town-held agricultural preservation restrictions. Choate Farm in Putnamville was identified as a priority landscape because it is no longer actively farmed, contains

significant historic and natural resources, and is in the process of transition with the central portion of the property currently proposed for development.

Burial Grounds and Cemeteries

Danvers has an unusually large number of burial grounds and cemeteries scattered throughout the community, most of which have been documented but are now abandoned. Over 20 burial grounds were identified as heritage landscapes but it is likely that there are others as well. Thirteen have been documented on MHC inventory forms and one, High Street Cemetery, has recently been listed in the National Register. Most are small and date to the Colonial period. Later cemeteries include Walnut Grove, established in 1845 in the rural cemetery tradition, as well as two Catholic cemeteries, Annunciation and St. Mary's, and the Associated Jewish Cemeteries.

Institutions

Danvers residents identified four important institutions with large land holdings that contribute significantly to the character of the community: Danvers State Hospital, Essex Agricultural School, Nike Command Center, and St. John's Preparatory School. The first three are all facing potential changes in use and management that are of concern to local residents. Danvers State Hospital is the largest and most significant institution and faces the greatest potential changes. Essex Agricultural School, long valued for its open space and rural character, is facing a merger with major expansion of the campus that could threaten its rural character. The Nike Command Center, now obsolete and used by the Army Reserve, is a spectacular site that has potential as public open space. St. John's Prep, while not currently threatened, has extensive land holdings that contribute to regional open space, including College Pond and part of Bishop's Meadow.

Natural Areas including Hilltops and Waterfront

Danvers is fortunate to have rich natural resources that include dramatic hilltops, extensive wetlands and riverbanks, and a variety of ponds and open fields. As large properties are subdivided and development expands over more of the town, natural areas become increasingly fragmented and their ecosystems threatened. The town has been proactive in its efforts to acquire important open space but the window of opportunity for critical parcels is narrowing and once developed they cannot be regained. Danvers residents placed particular emphasis on protecting hilltops and riverbanks, both for their open space and recreational potential and for their value as natural resources.

Neighborhood Character

Danvers neighborhoods are rich in historic resources and essential to community vitality. Preserving neighborhood character was a central theme of the landscape identification meeting. Ten neighborhoods were identified as heritage landscapes. They ranged from the downtown civic and commercial districts to residential neighborhoods to outlying village centers. While Salem Village is listed on the National Register and included in a local historic district, other

neighborhoods have no protection mechanisms for historic resources. Many neighborhoods are facing changes that threaten community character; the Danversport and Putnamville neighborhoods were identified as being of particular concern. Both neighborhoods have been discussed as potential local historic districts in the past but no action has been taken.

Scenic Roads

Several Danvers roads retain scenic qualities such as narrow road width, meandering alignment, stone walls, mature trees and scenic vistas of agricultural landscapes and historic homesteads. Centre and Forest Streets have been called scenic roads but not formally designated as such. Pope's Lane and the Road to Edward Putnam's were also identified by community residents as having scenic and historic value. In some instances these qualities are being compromised either by changes to the road right-of-way itself through widening, straightening or increased curb cuts or by changes to adjacent features such as breaks in stone walls or loss of scenic vistas or trees. Detrimental impacts of traffic were also mentioned as a concern.

PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation planning is a three-step process: identification, evaluation and protection. Four useful documents to consult before beginning to implement preservation strategies are the Massachusetts Historical Commission's *Survey Manual* and *Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances*; the Department of Conservation and Recreation's *Reading the Land*; and the Essex National Heritage Commission's *Essex National Heritage Area Plan*. Each publication provides necessary information for the identification, evaluation and protection of the rich cultural heritage of Massachusetts communities. The recommendations that follow are in two parts. General recommendations are listed first, followed by more specific recommendations.

Each community will have to determine the best way to implement the recommendations discussed below. One approach that might help Danvers begin the process is to form a Heritage Landscape Committee, as described in *Reading the Land*.

General Recommendations

Recommendations that apply to a broad range of resources are discussed below. The general recommendations are listed in the order in which they are most logically addressed when applying the three-step preservation planning process as described above. Thus the goal will be to (1) identify, (2) evaluate and (3) protect.

Inventory of Heritage Landscapes and Other Historic Assets

The vital first step in developing preservation strategies for heritage landscapes is to record information about the resources on an MHC inventory form. One cannot advocate for something unless one knows precisely what it is – the physical characteristics and historical development. Although Danvers has already done extensive survey work, many of the town's heritage landscapes have not been documented, and some of the older inventory forms may be incomplete. All resources that have been recorded in the past should be reviewed, particularly those documented in the 1960s because survey methodology has changed since that time. New procedures are more comprehensive and link properties in a more coherent way than in the past. Thus, using the Massachusetts Historical Commission survey methodology, record Danvers's heritage landscapes beginning with the priority landscapes listed in this report:

- Compile a list of resources that are under-represented or not sufficiently documented including heritage landscapes, such as waterfronts and residential neighborhoods.
- Document unprotected resources first, beginning with threatened areas.
- Make sure to document secondary features on residential properties, such as outbuildings, garages and stone walls.
- Record histories for the First Period dwellings, the 1985 documentation focuses on structural analysis only.

National Register Program

A critical step in the inventory process is the evaluation of each resource for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. In all likelihood, the documentation provided by the survey will yield information to support additional National Register listings in Danvers.

- Develop a National Register listing plan taking into consideration a property's significance, integrity and vulnerability. Properties that are in need of recognition in order to advance preservation strategies should be given priority.

Burial Grounds and Cemeteries

Danvers has many small, early burial grounds, most of which are privately owned and in deteriorated condition with little public awareness of their plight. Each poses a unique challenge.

- Update MHC inventory form as needed where a form exists. Include history and full description of existing conditions. Prepare MHC form where no documentation exists.

-
- Identify legal owner of burial grounds, as well as other stakeholders (such as abutters, descendants of those buried there, neighborhood groups) who may have an interest in preservation of the burial ground.
 - Prepare National Register nomination form for burial grounds that have been determined eligible for listing.
 - Gather support for preservation of burying grounds through publicity such as newspaper articles or including them on a list of "Most Threatened Historic Resources" such as that prepared by other municipalities or Preservation Mass.
 - Prepare preservation and management plan for burying grounds, taking into consideration repair of stone markers, stone walls and fencing, removal of invasive growth and ongoing maintenance of plant materials.



Neighborhood Character

Nearly all preservation strategies address neighborhood character in some manner. As described above, thorough documentation on MHC inventory forms is an important first step in the preservation planning process, followed by National Register listing where appropriate. The town already has adopted a demolition delay bylaw. Two preservation tools that may be particularly applicable to Danvers's historic neighborhoods are local historic district designation (MGL Chapter 40C) and neighborhood conservation district designation. Both types of districts recognize special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected. Each type of district is a local initiative, adopted by a 2/3 vote of Town Meeting, and administered by a district commission, appointed by the Selectmen. Local historic districting is the strongest form of protection for the preservation of historic resources, while neighborhood conservation districts are less restrictive but still embrace neighborhood character.

-
- Extend the demolition delay bylaw to one year and review the standards indicating which properties are subject to a delay of demolition. In addition publication of demolition requests reminds residents of historic resources and reinforces the value of local historic resources; therefore add a notification requirement to the demolition delay bylaw.
 - Appoint a local historic district study committee to consider adopting a local historic district bylaw and define appropriate districts.
 - Designate historically significant neighborhoods as local historic districts to preserve neighborhood character.
 - Alternatively, pass a neighborhood conservation district bylaw. Such districts may be the most appropriate way to preserve certain land use patterns where there already are changes in materials but the overall size, scale and orientation of structures of the heritage landscape are retained.

River Banks

The rivers that run through Danvers are regional resources with multiple values including industry, open space and transportation.

- Identify land use and landowners of parcels that border the banks of the rivers.
- Develop prioritized plan to purchase access points or to enhance existing access points.
- Work with adjacent communities to enhance water quality and improve riverbanks.

Scenic Roads

In the past Danvers has identified several scenic roads but has not established a mechanism to protect them. A scenic roads bylaw would address the removal of trees and stone walls that are within the right-of-way. Yet, in addition to roadway issues, much of what we value about scenic roads — the stone walls, views across open fields — is not within the public right-of-way. This is an important distinction and requires more than one approach.

- Complete an inventory with descriptions and photo documentation of each of the rural roads in Danvers including the character defining features that should be retained.
- Adopt a scenic roads bylaw consistent with MGL Chapter 40-15C and designate certain roads as scenic roads. Examples may include Pope's Lane and the Road to Edward Putnam's. Numbered routes cannot be scenic roads under Chapter 40-15C. Include in a bylaw

design criteria to be considered when approving removal of trees and stone walls. Add other design criteria such as a provision allowing only one driveway cut per property on scenic roads. Coordinate procedures between Highway Department and Planning Board.

- Develop policies and implementation standards for road maintenance and reconstruction, including bridge reconstruction, which address the scenic and historic characteristics while also addressing safety. This is an important public process in which the community may have to accept responsibility for some costs to implement certain standards that are not acceptable to projects funded by Mass. Highway Department. Such standards should have a section addressing the way in which the local Highway Department maintains roads, for example requiring a public hearing if any additional pavement is to be added to a town road during reconstruction or repair. Policies can be adopted by local boards having jurisdiction over roads, or can be adopted at Town Meeting through a bylaw. In developing policies consider factors such as road width, clearing of shoulders, walking paths, posted speeds. A delicate balance is required.

Funding of Preservation Projects

Funding for preservation projects is an important aspect of implementing preservation strategies. In recent years, the ENHC has maintained a small grants program for Essex County communities. In addition, both the MHC and the DCR have had funding programs to assist communities in preservation related issues including:

- Survey and Planning Grants, administered by the MHC, support survey, National Register and preservation planning work.
- The Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF), administered by the MHC, funds restoration and rehabilitation projects.
- The Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program (HLPGP) administered by DCR funds planning, rehabilitation, education and stewardship projects focused on historic landscapes, including cemeteries.

Funding for state programs varies from year to year. When planning Danvers's heritage landscape inventory program, contact relevant agencies to determine whether funding is currently available.

Cities and towns that have adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) find it to be an excellent funding source for many heritage landscape projects; however Danvers would first have to adopt the Act. While tricky to pass in lean economic times, the number and types of projects that are benefiting across the Commonwealth are worthy of consideration. The CPA (MGL Chapter 44B) establishes a mechanism by which municipalities can develop a fund dedicated to

historic preservation, open space and affordable housing. Funds are collected through a .5% to 3% surcharge on each annual real estate tax bill. The Commonwealth has established a dedicated fund which is used to match the municipality's collections under the CPA.

Adoption of the Community Preservation Act, by a majority vote on a ballot question, fosters partnerships among historic preservationists, conservationists and affordable housing advocates. At least 10% of the funds must be used to preserve historic resources. At least 10% must be used to protect open space. And at least 10% must be used to advance affordable housing. The remaining 70% must be used for one of these three uses as well as recreational needs and can be distributed in varying proportions depending upon the projects that the city believes are appropriate and beneficial to the municipality. Information about the CPA can be found at www.communitypreservation.org.

Towns like Danvers, which have a local historic district bylaw, may apply for Certified Local Government (CLG) status which is granted by the National Park Service through the MHC. After a community completes an application and is accepted as a CLG, it files a report yearly on the status of applications, meetings and decisions. In return the town is eligible for federal funding that is distributed by the MHC. The matching funds are competitive; however the MHC must pass along a proportion of its federally allocated annual funding to CLGs through its Survey and Planning Grant program.

Specific Recommendations

Danversport

Danversport is a diverse waterfront neighborhood in the southeastern part of Danvers that includes a mix of residential, commercial, industrial and river-related uses.

- Review survey for Danversport neighborhood.
- List neighborhood on National Register.
- Adopt a local historic district or neighborhood conservation district for Danversport.

Putnamville

Putnamville, located in the northern part of Danvers, retains some of its former rural village character but that is rapidly changing.

- Complete survey for Putnamville neighborhood.
- List neighborhood on National Register if determined eligible.
- Adopt a local historic district or neighborhood conservation district for Putnamville.

CONCLUSION

The Danvers Reconnaissance Report is a critical tool in starting to identify the rich and diverse heritage landscapes in Danvers and in beginning to think about preservation strategies. However, it is only the first step in the planning process. Landscapes identified in this report, especially the priority landscapes, will typically need further documentation on MHC inventory forms. The documentation in turn can be used to build consensus and gather public support for their preservation. Implementation of recommendations will require a concerted effort of and partnerships with municipal boards and agencies, local non-profits, and state agencies and commissions.

Distribution of this Reconnaissance Report to the municipal land use boards and commissions will assist in making this one of the planning documents that guides Danvers in preserving important features of the community's character. The tasks that are recommended will require cooperation and coordination among boards and commissions, particularly the Danvers Preservation Commission, Planning Department and Conservation Commission. It also is advisable to present this information to the Board of Selectmen the applicant to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program on behalf of the town. Finally, distribution of the report to neighborhood associations and any other preservation minded organizations will broaden the audience and assist in gathering interest and support for Danvers's heritage landscapes.

APPENDIX: HERITAGE LANDSCAPES IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY

This list was prepared as a summary of the Heritage Landscape Identification meeting held in Danvers on June 23 and follow-up fieldwork on August 2, 2004. This is a working list and can be updated by the community. **There may be other heritage landscapes that were not identified at the HLI meeting noted above.** The chart has two columns, the name and location of the resource are in the first, notes about the resource are in the second. Landscapes are grouped by land use category. Abbreviations used are listed below.

APR = Agricultural Preservation Restriction
CR = Conservation Restriction
LHD = Local Historic District

NR = National Register
PR = Preservation Restriction
* = Priority Landscape

Agriculture	
<i>Choate Farm *</i> 407 Locust Street	66-acre farm, 1/3 town-owned. Cluster development proposed. No longer working farm but critical part of larger town open space system.
<i>Clark Farm</i> 163 Hobart Street	In NR district, APR, recreation easement. 17 th /18 th century farm.
<i>Connors Farm</i> Valley Road north of Locust Street	APR, included in 1982 DEM landscape inventory. About 100 acres, working farm with llamas, a farmstand, and pick-your-own blueberries, Remains of Porter Cemetery located in woods behind. Across river from Choate Farm and Great Wenham Swamp.
<i>Folly Hill Farm</i> Elliott Street	Used to be cattle farm, 20 th century house.
Archaeology	
<i>Hutchinson, Col. Israel Site</i> 33 Water St	18 th century archaeological site, includes monument to Revolutionary War dead.
<i>Parsonage Archaeological Site</i> 67 Centre Street	NR District, LHD, PR. Also known as Paris Archaeological site. 1681, town-owned archaeological site, site of Tituba's homestead, foundation excavated 1970s.
<i>Witchcraft Memorial & Gates Field Site</i> 176 Hobart Street	1993, contemporary memorial to witchcraft era. Site also has archaeological remains.
Burial Grounds and Cemeteries	
<i>Annunciation Cemetery</i> 155 Hobart Street	Established 19 th century, second Catholic cemetery in Danvers.

<i>Associated Jewish Cemeteries</i> Buxton Lane	Group of 13 cemeteries near town forest, totaling about 30 acres.
<i>Buxton Cemetery</i> Buxton Lane	Established 18 th century, next to Goodale Cemetery.
<i>Danvers Cemetery</i> 47 Adams Street	Established 19 th century, last burial circa 1960. Many indigents buried here. In 1870s there was a hearse house. Adjacent to Saint Mary's Cemetery. Part has been regraded, several buried headstones.
<i>E. Danvers Cemetery</i> 128 Elliott St.	Established 18 th century.
<i>Endicott/Russell Cemeteries</i> off Clinton Ave	Established 17 th century, two small adjacent burial grounds, graves of Revolutionary War soldiers.
<i>Goodale Cemetery</i> In Town Forest	Established 19 th century, graves of Revolutionary War soldiers. Next to Buxton Cemetery.
<i>High Street Cemetery</i> 45 High Street	Owned by Page family, publicly maintained, includes graves from Revolutionary War, War of 1812, also Spanish American War memorial. Listed on NR.
<i>Holten Cemetery</i> 131 Holten Street	Established 18 th century, still active. Burial place of Dr. Samuel Holten, famous in Revolutionary War and President of the Continental Congress.
<i>Hutchinson Cemetery</i> Route 1 North	Established 19 th century, behind trailer park and storage facility near Old Pope's Lane.
<i>Nurse Cemetery</i> off Collins St.	Established 17 th century, part of Rebecca Nurse homestead. Includes graves of two witchcraft victims. Burial markers were added in 20 th century.
<i>Old Settlers Cemetery</i> Pat Drive	Established 18 th century, near Green Street. Revolutionary War veterans buried here, no public right-of-way.
<i>Porter Cemetery</i> off Valley Road	Established 17 th century. 15 unmarked fieldstones indicate burial locations in the woods at Connors Farm. Neglected.
<i>Preston Cemetery</i> 57 Preston St	Established 18 th century. Located behind Putnam Burial Ground.
<i>Prince Cemetery</i> Off Spring Street	Established 18 th century. Access only through private property.
<i>Putnam Cemetery</i> 485 Maple Street	Established 17 th century, most stones are 18 th century or later, last burial is late 20 th century. Anne Putnam, chief accuser in the Salem witch trials, is buried here, no headstone, although her tomb is marked by a mound. Needs upkeep.
<i>Putnamville Cemetery</i> 240 Locust Street	Established 18 th century.

<i>Small Cemeteries</i>	In wooded areas (Spring Street, Dayton Street).
<i>St. Mary's Cemetery</i> 65 Sylvan Street	Established 19 th century, first Catholic cemetery in Danvers.
<i>Swinerton Cemetery</i> 38 Garden Street	Established 18 th century, only two extant stones, although other graves were documented by WPA.
<i>Wadsworth Cemetery</i> 18 Summer Street	17 th century, earliest stone is 1682. Was village cemetery, active into 20 th century, may be expanded. Managed by a corporation.
<i>Walnut Grove Cemetery</i> Sylvan St.	Established 1845, 19 th century rural cemetery, 20-30 acres, earlier stones moved here. Extant pond, used to be an adjacent ice house. Cemetery is still active.
Civic / Building	
<i>Peabody Institute Library & Park</i> 15 Sylvan Street	NR, PR. 19 th building set in landscaped grounds. Surrounding area includes town hall, 19 th century houses and Walnut Grove Cemetery.
<i>Town Hall</i> Sylvan and Holten Streets	1855 town hall is oldest town-owned building, was initially a school. Is important feature in downtown area, which also includes millpond, streetscape, historic residential development along Elm Street and at village center, also known as Danvers Plains.
Institution	
<i>Danvers State Hospital *</i> 450 Maple Street	NR. 1874, part is being developed, will be surrounded by greenbelt, 50-year agricultural lease on part of it. In addition to historic buildings, there are 700-1300 burials, may also be other archaeological resources.
<i>Essex Agricultural School *</i> 562 Maple St.	1913, former Massey estate. Proposed merger with North Shore Technical School on Essex Agricultural campus could mean changes to farmland and historic buildings.
<i>Holten-Richmond Middle School</i> in Plains Park	Historic school is being reconstructed. Plains Park is located behind it. Park is former muster field and trotting park purchased ca. 1900 by Danvers Improvement Society.
<i>Putnamville School</i> 224 Locust Street	1852. One of two remaining older schools in Danvers, important to Putnamville neighborhood.
<i>St. John's Preparatory School *</i> 72 Spring Street	1881, 1891. Former Spring house and barn adaptively reused. Core campus with Victorian High style buildings, large peripheral acreage, includes College Pond and Bishop's Meadow (seasonal swamp). Cemetery on site for brothers.
<i>Williams School</i> 105 Elliott Street	1916. In East Danvers, rehabbed and leased to art association.

Military	
<i>NIKE Command Center *</i> 72 North St.	1950s, 12 acres, federally owned, great views, no public access. Highest point in Danvers, town would like to acquire. PAL has documented.
Natural Feature	
<i>College Pond</i> Greenleaf Drive	21-acre conservation area behind St. John's Prep, links with Bishop's Meadow and Lebel's Grove.
<i>Crane River Basin</i>	Sysypko Bridge area.
<i>Danvers River *</i>	Three other rivers flow into it, each has different character. Section from Conant Street to Spike Bridge is considered important, especially vistas. Larger area is known as Four Rivers Estuary.
<i>Endecott Pear Tree</i> Behind 100 Endicott St	Planted circa 1632, on estate of Colonial Governor John Endecott, reputed to be oldest cultivated fruit tree in North America. Land owned by Endicott family into the 1920s, good historic photos available. Located behind Osram Sylvania property overlooking Waters River. Adjacent construction is changing context and could threaten tree.
<i>Ferncroft Pond</i> off Ferncroft Rd	8.5 acre conservation area near Putnam Reservoir, popular fishing area.
<i>Folly Hill</i> off Route 128	Was Browne estate in 1700s. Now owned by Salem-Beverly Water Board, includes viewing place and water tank.
<i>Frost Fish Brook</i>	Located in eastern part of town, partially realigned in 1960s.
<i>Ipswich River</i>	Canoe launch at West Street, 18.5 acres, town-owned, part of Lebel's Grove.
<i>Muddy Boo *</i> off Route 114	Between Andover and Centre Streets behind commercial area. Wetlands important for drainage and wildlife, also functions as buffer and filter.
<i>Porter's River Area</i>	Clay deposits, from Conant Street to Spite Bridge.
<i>Putnamville Reservoir</i> off Locust Street	1950s, man-made lake, formerly Blind Hole Swamp, owned by Salem-Beverly Water Board. Opposite Choate Farm, dike built parallel to Locust Street.
<i>Skating Pond</i>	"The Meadow" across from DPW garage, town maintains.
<i>Waters River</i>	Site of early estates, including Endicott estate where pear tree is located.
Open Space	
<i>Endicott Park</i> off Forest Street	Former 17 th century estate, now town-owned 140-acre park. Includes Whipple Hill, a drumlin with great views.

Lebel's Grove * Ipswich River to Route 114	Open fields on river, part was private recreation area now partially owned by trust, adjacent area includes town dump, town forest and riverfront corridor, easy to develop now that there is sewer.
Plains Park off Conant Street	19 th century. Holten Richmond Middle School is adjacent to park.
Proctor Farm off Conant Street	41 acres of town-owned field, forest, marsh and meadow, no longer actively farmed, although fields are leased for hay. Historic house and barns are privately owned.
Sandy Beach/ John George Park River St	Public beach, park and town marina. Part of Danversport area, needs better access.
Town Forest off Route 114	52 acres, wooded area with trails, includes gristmill site and Indian campsite, potential pre-historic and historic archaeological sites.
Training Field 85 Centre Street	Established 1671, used during Revolutionary War. Other important features in this area include Ferncroft Pond, Ipswich River canoe ramp and Choate Farm.
Residential / Property	
Adams (King) Estate/Cheever House 67-69 Pine Street	1842/1828. Former Adams and Cheever estates have been subdivided, two houses and barn will be saved, as will some ornamental trees, but new house lots will change character of property.
Amos Prince Jr. Home 83 Centre St.	1854. Property at corner of Centre and Ingersoll adjacent to town park includes restored house and barn. Adjacent to 1671 former village training field with remnants of animal pound, now a town park.
Burley Farm House 44 Burley Street	1793. Federal style house in Woodvale neighborhood, remains of 100-acre farm also includes large front area with ornamental trees, some outbuildings.
Glen Magna Estate off Ingersoll Street	NR, LHD, PR on house. 11-acre former Peabody-Endicott Estate owned by Danvers Historical Society includes Derby Summer House (NHL) and gardens, large European Beech. Surrounded by 140-acre town-owned Endicott Park which includes children's barnyard and jerkinhead barn.
Goodale House 50 Buxton Lane	ca. 1806, home of important Danvers family. Jewish cemeteries are adjacent to house.
Guilford House 23 Nichols Street	First Period house, not well-documented. Rural setting, adjacent to stream.
Holten, Samuel House 171 Holten St.	NR, LHD and PR. 1670. First Period house with outbuildings in rear including privy and workshop.
Hutchinson House 183 Centre Street	Ca.1726, Israel Hutchinson birthplace, 1/2 house, facing south.

<i>Hutchinson-Kimball House</i> 84 Forest St.	Ca. 1700, First Period house surrounded by open space.
<i>Nurse, Rebecca Homestead *</i> 149 Pine Street	NR District, LHD, PR. 1678. 27-acre site owned by Danvers Alarm List Company includes Rebecca Nurse house, related outbuildings, reconstructed Colonial kitchen garden and surrounding farmland.
<i>Porter House/Clark School</i> 487 Locust St.	1664. Adjacent to Connors farm, rural character.
<i>Proctor Homestead</i> 180 Conant St	18 th century. Home of Timothy Pickering, Quartermaster General in the Revolutionary War. Used as demonstration farm, well documented, house being restored.
<i>Putnam, General Israel Birthplace</i> 431 Maple Street	NR. 17 th /18 th century. Well-preserved house with large land area.
<i>Putnam House</i> 156 Locust Street	Ca. 1715. Well-preserved house with large land area.
<i>Putnam House</i> 160 Locust Street	Ca. 1844. Well-preserved house with large land area.
<i>Putnam/Perry House</i> 42 Summer Street	Ca. 1715. Timothy Pickering, a colonel during the Revolutionary War and later a United States Senator, lived here.
<i>Putnam House/Sylvester House</i> 7-11 Peabody Ave	1858/1857. Two houses across from library, Sylvester house is concrete with octagon addition.
<i>Rea-Pedrick House</i> 159 Locust Street	ca. 1756. Gambrel house, summer residence of Charles W. Fairbanks who served as Teddy Roosevelt's Vice President from 1905 to 1910.
<i>Riverbank</i> 154 Water Street	1853. Former Hussey estate, Italian villa style house with stained glass, ornamental ironwork, huge stone barns. Now an institution for the deaf. Property being sold off as area is developed. Equestrian statue across the street.
<i>Tapley Memorial Hall /Page House</i> 11-13 Page Street	1930/1754. Home of Captain Jeremiah Page. Owned by Danvers Historical Society. House has been moved, property is protected.
<i>Watts/Cook House</i> 139-141 Locust St.	Early 20 th century structures, property is being developed.
<i>White-Preston House</i> 592 Maple Street	NR. Large property adjacent to Essex Agricultural School, with ca. 1700 First Period house.

Residential / Neighborhood	
<i>Danversport *</i> Water Street	Early 20 th c. neighborhood. Site of early industry, archaeological potential. Less built up than some waterfront areas, has marinas and water dependent resources including Pope's Landing. Buildings have been documented.
<i>East Danvers</i>	Neighborhood on east side of Danvers River across from Danversport, used to be summer camps, now year-round houses.
<i>Elm Street</i>	Historic houses and commercial related historic structures.
<i>Hathorne</i> near Maple Street	Area west of Route 1 which includes Essex Agricultural School and Danvers State Hospital.
<i>Maple/Poplar Street</i>	North side of street at foot of Lindall Hill, 19 th century houses.
<i>Old Maple Street</i>	416, 417, 428 Maple Street.
<i>Putnamville *</i> Upper Locust Street	Center of Putnamville is at Wenham and Locust Streets. Includes Choate Farm and surroundings, along Locust St., Worthington, Neal Rd., Putnamville School, Putnamville Cemetery at North and Locust streets. Putnamville Reservoir opposite Choate Farm.
<i>Salem Village Historic District</i>	NR District and LHD. 17 th century, village center bounded by Collins, Centre, Hobart and Ingersoll Streets.
<i>Tannery/Brick Manufacturing Area</i> Needham Road	Part of Endicott grant, cluster of 19 th century houses, includes Sprague House/Porter House, remnants of industrial use, Endicott and Russell cemeteries. Soil is contaminated from tannery use.
<i>Tapleville</i>	Portion is NR district. Neighborhood south of downtown with 19 th century worker housing.
Transportation	
<i>Centre & Forest Streets</i>	Scenic roads, declared but not designated through a scenic roads bylaw.
<i>Pope's Lane</i>	Old cart path remnant off Route 1 near Veronica Drive. Upper end is one of the few intact rural roads in Danvers.
<i>Railroad depot and right-of-way</i>	Relocation of depot pending, r-o-w is controversial but has potential for trail use.
<i>Road to Edward Putnam's</i>	17 th century Indian path with adjacent archaeological sites in cornfields. Extends from Dayton to Gregory Streets. Elms along part of roadway.

DANVERS OPENSOURCE & HISTORIC RESOURCES

