

## **Chapter II Historic and Cultural Resources**

### **Introduction**

Daniel Webster once said: “A person who does not respect the past is not performing his duty to the future.” It is a community’s responsibility to plan a program of historical and cultural preservation and protection, and in Henniker this is a feeling voiced by a majority of the citizens in the Master Plan Community Survey and through individual community actions.

There are many reasons for preserving historically significant resources and their surroundings. Among the most compelling are psychological ones, reasons that are associated with the continuity and quality of life. Older buildings provide us with tangible links with the past; they give us a sense of the continuity of time and place. Just as important, they become part of our own lives. These historic, cultural, and architectural riches frequently bear a relation to events, eras, or persons in history which help to define us as a cultural group.

Gradual and pervasive erosion of the historical character can happen with the accumulation of incremental changes to buildings and places. It is our challenge to ensure that this does not happen in Henniker. Preservation should not be a reaction to a crisis, but part of the planning process. Preservation does not and should not be thought of as prevention.

This Chapter looks to highlight local historic and cultural resources, describes why they are significant, and looks to provide the resources, recommendations, and tools to plan for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of those resources.

### **Goals and Objectives**

Goals and objectives in any plan are intended to provide a policy framework and direction to the plan. Goals are general statements of ideal conditions. Objectives describe desirable projects and programs that will help to achieve the goals. Strategies are steps that need to be taken in order to reach an objective.

**Goal: To protect and preserve the historical and cultural resources located in Henniker for future generations to enjoy and learn from.**

Objective: To ensure cooperation among the various committees and organizations involved with historic preservation and cultural resources in Henniker.

Strategies:

1. Review the various organizations and committees within the community and see where their roles overlap and where there are gaps. Try to reduce the overlap and fill the areas where there are gaps.

2. Create specific roles, guidelines, budgets, and rules of procedure for all Town committees and organizations that deal with historic preservation and cultural resources.

Objective: To ensure that there are adequate resources made available for historic preservation and education.

Strategies:

1. Set aside money for local historic sites that are currently or could potentially be on the National Register or State Register of Historic Places for maintenance, educational purposes, and research.
2. Provide financial support to organizations and committees that are maintaining historic resources and properties and providing education on behalf of the Town.

Objective: To ensure that the Town's Zoning, Site Plan, and Subdivision Regulations do not negatively impact Henniker's historical resources.

Strategies:

1. Review all zoning, site plan, and subdivision regulations periodically for potential points of conflict between the regulations and historic preservation. Once these points of conflict are identified, work to make them compatible.
2. Include the already established Historic District in the Henniker Zoning Ordinance as an Overlay District.

### **Community Survey Results**

A Master Plan Community Survey was distributed to all residential households and non-residential landowners in October 2000. Approximately 1,500 surveys were mailed out with 495 surveys being returned, resulting in a 33% response rate. The following four survey questions relate to the Historic and Cultural Resources Chapter.

*How would you rate the current adequacy of the following services?*

<b>Municipal Services</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Cemetery Care	303	59	1	91
Historical Preservation	304	111	18	27
Library	351	72	18	20

*How important is each of the following to your choice to live in Henniker?*

	<b>Very Important</b>	<b>Somewhat Important</b>	<b>Not Important</b>
Rural Quality	384	66	8
Small New England Village	378	63	19
College Town	107	179	161
Born and/or Raised Here	87	42	281
Farming Opportunity	56	109	264

As can be seen above, the most important reasons people gave for living in Henniker are the rural quality and the fact that is considered a small New England Village. These points have been repeated many times throughout the Master Plan process.

*Which of the following methods would you support to balance growth with the preservation of sensitive areas? Please check all that apply.*

<b>#</b>	<b>Method</b>
295	Encourage private donation of land and/or development rights
208	Current use assessment
207	Town purchase of land
204	Land Trusts
157	Town purchase of development rights
145	Re-zoning
70	No opinion

*Are you aware of the following programs and services offered by or through New England College? If so, please respond to each with a check in the appropriate box.*

	<b>Unaware</b>	<b>Have Used</b>	<b>Might Use</b>
Art Gallery and Related Activities	77	199	148
Film Series	185	85	135
Lecture Series	123	106	172
Library	56	248	120
Theatre	111	145	144
WNEC (college radio station)	140	144	90

### **History of Henniker**

The Only Henniker on Earth is a rural town located along the Contoocook River in central New Hampshire. In the settlement of the land dispute between New Hampshire and the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1740, Henniker was allotted Township number 6 in the line of towns between the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers. In the Charter of 1768, Governor

Wentworth named the town of Henniker in honor of his friend, John Henniker, Esq., a wealthy London merchant.

History states that a few settlers arrived in Henniker in the early 1730's but none stayed due to some Penacook Indian harassment and the French and Indian War. The first permanent settler arrived and settled in Henniker in 1761. A town meeting was held on November 25, 1768, and Rev. Jacob Rice was hired as the first "gospel minister."

The Contoocook River was spanned in 1782. The river's scenic beauty attracted a profitable tourist business in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Water power supported mills and manufacturing until they were closed due to the 1959 Federal Flood Control Project.

Henniker has been home to several interesting and outstanding people: Ocean Born Mary, whose birth saved a boatload of colonists from a pirate's wrath; Edna Dean Proctor, a nationally-known poet; Amy Cheney Beach, a pianist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and composer; James W. Patterson, an educator; and Ted Williams, baseball player with the Boston Red Sox.

## **Historical Resources**

### **National Register of Historic Places**

Under the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the U.S. Department of Interior's National Park Service maintains the National Register, which lists the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register is the Nation's roster of properties that are important in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture. Properties may be nominated individually, in groups, or by Districts. The nomination process requires careful documentation as to a site's historical significance. In addition to buildings and bridges, other categories - such as Main Streets and roads, villages, parks, and monuments - can be listed.

There are a number of benefits for properties listed on the National Register. These include the provision for special review and mitigation if a road widening, or other project using Federal funds, is undertaken in the vicinity, and the possible eligibility for Federal benefits. These include charitable deductions for donations and easements, grants for preservation, and investment tax credits for the rehabilitation of income-producing buildings.

No additional regulative restrictions are placed upon those properties that are listed on the National Register; but instead, a listing in the Register recognizes the property's significance, encourages the stewardship of the property or resource, and stimulates local pride, appreciation, and commitment to preservation. Henniker currently has two sites located on the National Register: the Henniker Town Hall, which was added in January 1981, and the Bennett Farm, which was added on September 14, 2002.

The Town Hall is significant as one of New Hampshire's few remaining 18<sup>th</sup> century meeting houses. It is also significant as an example of 18<sup>th</sup> century town planning; as the oldest remaining public building in Henniker; and as the focus of two successful preservation campaigns - the earlier, in 1887, gave it a new but compatible Queen Anne appearance while

expanding its functions as a meeting place, and the later, in 1973-1976, reactivated the then-vacant building for daily use as town offices. Thus the Henniker Town Hall, which is located in the geographic center of the community, has served as a focal point for town government and community affairs for over 200 years.

The Town Hall, in addition to being on the National Register of Historic Places, is part of the Henniker Historical District, which encompasses the land bounded by Grove Street to Circle Street and the common bounded by Depot Hill Road, Circle Street, and Route 114. See the Historic District section of this Chapter for more detail.

The Bennett Farm is significant in Agriculture, as a fine representation of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century diversified farm. The main house dates from c1780 and was operated as a tavern until 1848. The barn, originally constructed as a church in 1834, was moved to the farm and converted for use as a barn c1860. There are also a number of agricultural and service outbuildings along with pasture and woodland.

In agriculture use since 1848, the farm was actively operated until the 1960s when some activities were reduced or curtailed. During its period of historical significance, Bennett Farm produced dairy, beef, poultry, eggs, hay, corn, grain, firewood, produce, tree fruits, small fruits, honey, and maple syrup. Its buildings, structures, and land use characterize the diversified farm of the period. It is an important reminder of the type of agriculture that was ubiquitous in this region into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The farm continues in agricultural use and remains in the Bennett family.

Three other known potential National Register sites are Henniker Village, West Henniker Village, and the Quaker District. The historic significance of the Henniker Village is derived from its role as the commercial and political center of the town since the early nineteenth century. The potential District's approximately 200 buildings clearly convey the evolution of the Village as the commercial, residential, and institutional heart of the surrounding town. The Village's architectural significance stems from its range of building types and architectural styles, as well as its high retention of the settlement patterns and spatial relationships that define the historic landscape of a Village center. Overall, the buildings within the Village, particularly the residential structures, have a high degree of architectural integrity. Preliminary research has already been done for the application for National Register designation and is on file with the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.

The West Henniker Village is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a "significant and distinguishable" historic district; its built landscape and resources illustrate the town's earliest water-powered industry and the accompanying village development throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The recent loss of the mill, although historically unfortunate, does not negate the village's abilities to portray historical associations. All buildings, sites, landscapes, structures and objects within the district's period of significance (c.1780-1952), with integrity, are eligible for the National Register as contributing elements to the district. As well, the Patterson Hill Road bridge and the Western Avenue bridge area also eligible for the National Register because of their engineering significance.

The other potential National Register location is the Henniker Quaker District. Quakers first came in New England in 1650 and arrived in Henniker in 1799. The Henniker Quakers had moved from the Town of Weare, where there was already a large Quaker community. The historical buildings remaining in the District include private homes, the Quaker school, a graveyard, and a meeting house. Inside the school hangs a mural depicting rural life and some of the homes in the District at the time when it was painted in 1980. The Quaker School was accepted as a historic site at the 1979 annual Town Meeting, thus acknowledging its significance. The Quaker District, its buildings and resources, are currently maintained by the Quaker District Historical Society, which is a voluntary organization. The buildings and the area itself contain historical, cultural, and religious importance that are worthy of National Register designation.

The locations mentioned can be seen on the **National Register and State Register of Historic Places and Local Historical Marker Location Map**.

#### Issues, Goals, Recommendations

Issue: Many historic and cultural resources within Town are of national importance and should be protected and preserved.

Goal: To protect and highlight buildings and areas within Town with national historical and cultural significance by having them listed on the National Register.

#### Recommendations:

- Investigate whether or not the Town should move forward for National Register designation for Henniker Village or West Henniker Village, they are eligible and the preliminary research and applications have been completed.
- Research other sites, including the Quaker District or individual buildings within the District, for potential National Register designation and apply for such designation.
- Educate the public on the one National Register site currently in Town and what such designation means.
- Support individuals and organizations that are proposing sites in Town to be placed on the National Register by providing applicable information and resources.

#### **State Register of Historic Places**

The New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places is one part of the state's efforts to recognize and encourage the identification and protection of historical, architectural, archeological and cultural resources. These irreplaceable resources may be buildings, districts, sites, landscapes, structures or objects that are meaningful in the history, architecture, archeology, engineering or traditions of New Hampshire residents and communities. The State Register is administered by the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR), which is the state's Historic Preservation Office.

Listing in the State Register can contribute to the preservation of historic properties in a number of ways, which include:

- Public recognition that a property is significant to a community;
- Consideration and advocacy in the planning of local and state funded or otherwise assisted projects;
- Qualification for state financial assistance for preservation projects, when funds are available;
- Special consideration or relief in the application of some access, building and safety code regulations; and
- A complimentary one-year membership to the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

Property owners can nominate properties to the State Register by submitting a completed inventory form for the resource to the Division of Historical Resources. These forms can be prepared by property owners or by a consulting architectural historian or archeologist at the owner's request. NHDHR staff then review the nominations and make suggestions for editorial changes or additional research. If the property meets the State Register criteria and the inventory form is complete, the NHDHR recommends the property for listing to the State Historical Resources Council. The Council, composed of professionals in the fields of American history, architectural history, architecture, prehistoric and historic archeology and other related disciplines, meets quarterly and gives final approval to all nominations.

Following Council approval, NHDHR will present property owners with a letter and certificate confirming that their property is listed on the State Register of Historic Places. Information on the property will be entered into NHDHR's database and files, and the owners can sign up for a mailing list to receive the Division's newsletter and pertinent information on workshops, publications and other preservation events and topics.

Inventory forms are also completed as part of many state and local planning processes, such as environmental review for transportation projects, and through the efforts of town heritage or historical commissions. Owners of private property listed on the State Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose, without oversight or comment from the NHDHR, provided that no state monies or permits are involved.

All properties listed on the State Register are documented and evaluated against the following criteria. These broad criteria are designed to guide individuals, local governments and others in evaluating potential entries in the State Register. Properties not specifically described in the text below may still be eligible.

- Properties may be listed on the State Register for the story they tell.
- Properties may also be meaningful for their associations with people who made important contributions to a community, profession or local tradition.
- Properties may also be listed on the State Register for their tangible merit, either as a well-preserved example of local architecture, design, construction or engineering, or as long-standing focal point in a neighborhood or community. These types of resources need not be extraordinary or the best example in town; they often can be a common, although irreplaceable, feature on the New Hampshire landscape.

- Identified, but unexcavated and unevaluated archeological sites may also be listed on the State Register of Historic Places.

As noted above, historic resources listed on the State Register can be buildings, districts, sites, landscapes, structures and objects. Examples of these types of resources include, but are not limited to:

- Buildings: houses, stores, barns, garages, boathouses
- Districts: downtown's, mill complexes, railroad corridors, neighborhoods, agricultural properties
- Sites: mill or building foundations, parade grounds, the location of a Native American Indian camp
- Landscapes: cemeteries, parks, town forests
- Structures: bridges, stone walls, fire towers, dams
- Objects: watering troughs, signs, light posts, boats, fountains.

Henniker currently has one site on the State Register of Historic Places: New England College Covered Bridge. The covered bridge, built in 1972 by Arnold Graton, was built as a pedestrian crossing for the College to connect the campus across the Contoocook River and to celebrate its twenty-fifty anniversary. The Town lattice truss span was designed as a full-scale single-lane highway bridge, capable of carrying a fifteen-ton live load. Recognizing that the span was the progenitor of a series of new covered bridges built in New Hampshire, mostly by the Graton family, the Division of Historical Resources declared the New England College Covered Bridge eligible for the State Register of Historic Places on October 9, 2002.

This location can be seen on the **National Register and State Register of Historic Places and Local Historical Marker Location Map**.

#### Issues, Goals, Recommendations

Issue: Many historic and cultural resources within Town are of national importance and should be protected and preserved.

Goal: To protect and highlight buildings and areas within Town with national historical and cultural significance by having them listed on the State Register.

#### Recommendations:

- Research sites within town for potential State Register designation and apply for such designation.
- Educate the public on the one State Register site currently in Town and what such designation means.
- Support individuals and organizations that are proposing sites in Town to be placed on the State Register by providing applicable information and resources.

### **Local Historic Markers**

There are nineteen local historic markers located in town that are maintained by the Henniker Historical Society. The locations of the markers are of significant historical events within Town. At the annual Town meeting in 1893, the town voted to raise \$100 to mark the historic sites at that time. Two years later, a committee was appointed and three years after that the original fifteen markers were in place. In 1963, the Town voted to restore existing markers and erect four additional ones.

Henniker's nineteen historical markers are all very similar and consist of rough granite posts with cast iron plaques. The plaques are painted black and the raised lettering is painted white. The list of local historic markers can be seen below.

- 1) Site of First Post Office in Henniker 1812 – In 1811, the town successfully petitioned the authorities in Washington, D.C. for a Post Office. In February 1812, the office was established and Judge Joshua Darling was appointed postmaster. He declined the position and recommended Isaac Rice to fill the position, who located the Post Office in Judge Darling's store.
- 2) Site of First Two-Story House in Henniker 1771 – The original house stood where the ell of the present house is located.
- 3) Birthplace of Composer Amy Cheney Beach 1867 – Amy Cheney Beach became one of the most outstanding women pianists and composers of her time.
- 4) Site of First Grist Mill in Henniker 1770 – This property was owned by Uriah Amsden, who built a house and gristmill on the site.
- 5) Site of First Hat Factory in Henniker – Charles Pingree made felt hats for about 2-3 years around the time of 1815.
- 6) Site of First Saw Mill in Henniker 1766 – Benjamin Hale set up a saw mill here in 1766, went home and never returned. Jonathan Temple completed the saw mill and was given the land for his efforts.
- 7) Site First Settler Resided in Henniker 1761 – James Peters built a log cabin here and brought his family from Hopkinton in 1761.
- 8) Site of First Blacksmith Shop in Henniker – The first blacksmith shop was built of logs at some point before the Revolutionary War.
- 9) Site of First Public Pound in Henniker 1808 – This is actually the site of the second public pound in town, which was used until 1899. The first town pound was by the meeting house on Flanders Road. This second pound was built better and was encircled by stone.

- 10) Site of First Bridge in Henniker 1780 – For the first 12 years after the town was incorporated, the river was crossed by either ford or ferry. In 1780 it was voted to build a bridge in the “Senter or nearest convenient place...when the Senter is found.” The “Middle Place” was voted the most convenient and the bridge was placed a little upstream of the present stone arch bridge. A stone abutment was built in the middle of the river; stone piers on each end of which heavy pine stringers were placed, which were 3 to 4 feet in width. After the bridge was damaged and swept away by floods it was replaced by the current bridge in 1835.
- 11) Site of the First School House in Henniker – The exact date is unknown but thought to be built during the “Revolution.”
- 12) First Framed House and First Child Born in Henniker 1763 – This is the site of the dwelling of Captain Eliakim Howe, who was the second settler in town, arriving in June 1763 with his wife and seven children. The eighth child, and first child to be born in Henniker, arrived in December 1763.
- 13) Site Where First Physician Lived in Henniker – The exact date is unknown. Doctor Hunter came to Henniker around 1775 and bought the land in 1785.
- 14) Site of First Store in Henniker – The date is not known but it was probably in the early 1780’s.
- 15) Site of First Rope Walk in Henniker – All that remains is a very small and deep foundation (a cellar hole). Joseph Whittier lived here from 1801-1821 and had a shed in which he made twine, bed cord, and the like.
- 16) Site of First Log Meeting House in Henniker 1770 – At a town meeting held in March 1770, it was voted to build a meeting house. The first meeting was held in June with no roof on the building, as the roof was to be added later. All meetings, both town and religious, took place here for ten years until a fire destroyed the building.
- 17) Homestead of Rev. Jacob Rice, First Minister in Henniker 1770 – The Rev. Jacob Rice purchased this land in August 26, 1769. Many places that are visible in the cape portion of the house indicate that it dates back to the 1770’s. The house was sold to the first Cogswell family to come to Henniker and became part of a large and prosperous farm.
- 18) Site of First Burial Yard in Henniker 1770 – It is not known who was the first person buried here. The oldest stone with an inscription on it is dated 1775. The Yard was used for many years until 1809, when it was voted to establish a new yard near the meeting house.

- 19) First Railroad Station in Henniker 1849 – This is the date and site of the first station, which was moved in 1900 to its present location on Pike Street (now a private dwelling). The building now on this site was built in 1900 and used as the railroad station until traffic ceased in the early 1960's.

The location of these markers can be seen on the **National Register and State Register of Historic Places and Local Historic Marker Location Map**.

#### Issues, Goals, Recommendations

Issue: Many historic and cultural resources within the Town deserve to be highlighted and identified through local historic markers for the purpose of public education.

Goal: Educate the public about the local historic marker sites within the Town.

#### Recommendations:

- Increase public education regarding the location and significance of local historic markers.
- Investigate the designation and placement of additional local historic markers at sites within Town.
- Establish a permanent source of funding for the maintenance of the existing, and the establishment of new, local historic markers, as well as the printing and distribution of educational material about the markers.

#### **Cemeteries**

Cemeteries - both Town-owned and small private family plots - are an important and personal link to the past. The Town is very fortunate to have ten attractive country cemeteries, four of which are Town-owned. The Henniker Cemetery Trustees, which is an elected Town board; the Abandoned Cemeteries Committee, which is an appointed committee; and the Henniker Historical Society all play a role in the maintenance and care of these older cemeteries. The Henniker Cemetery Association owns the Highland Cemetery (New Cemetery) on Old Concord Road, which is a private cemetery. The list below outlines the known historic cemeteries located and marked within the Town.

- 1) The First Burial Yard (Old Burying Ground or Connor Yard) – the oldest public burial place in Henniker. It was laid out by Town Meeting in 1770. It is four acres in size and is one half mile south of Town Hall on Depot Hill Road. The oldest inscription is July 5, 1775. There are 100 headstones located here.
- 2) The Plummer Cemetery – this is a small plot of about two acres that was laid out during the Revolution for the use of nearby residents. It is in the southeast portion of Town on College Hill Road. The oldest inscription is March 13, 1790. There are 220 headstones located here.

- 3) The Harriman Yard (Harriman and Huse Cemetery) – this is a small plot of a quarter of an acre that was laid out in the 1780’s for use of the settlers in the southeast part of town. It is located on private property on a lane leading south from Baker Road, east of the present farmhouse. The oldest inscription is March 15, 1812. There are 8 headstones located here.
- 4) The Colby Cemetery – this is a quarter acre site that is located in the northeast part of town, down a lane on the west side of Dodge Hill Road just south of Bound Tree Road. The oldest inscription is March 30, 1836. There are 17 headstones located here.
- 5) The Friends’ Cemetery (Quaker Cemetery) – this was laid out by the Society of Friends for their own use around 1800. It is located on the east side of Quaker Street, about a quarter of a mile south of the Friends’ Meeting House. Until 1852, the erection of memorials to the dead were forbidden by a rule of discipline of the Society of Friends, therefore the older graves in this cemetery are marked only by uninscribed field stones. The stones with dates earlier than 1852 were erected by descendants at a later date. The oldest inscription is January 4, 1813. There are 90 headstones located here.
- 6) The Old Cemetery (Center Cemetery) – this is located in the original center lot of the Town and consists of approximately two acres. It was laid out by vote at Town Meeting in 1809 and is located on the west side of the town common, directly behind the Town Hall. The oldest inscription is May 3, 1810. There are 730 headstones located here.
- 7) The Patten Family Yard – this is a private, granite-walled burial yard on the old Patten farm, which is located on Lyman Road. There are 6 headstones located here.
- 8) The Chase Cemetery – this is a small, granite-walled enclosure to the north of the top of Corbin Road, toward the Craney Hill Lookout Tower, on the former Harvey Chase farm.
- 9) The Gordon Cemetery – there are two inscribed stones in this cemetery, which is located under a large pine tree at 18 Hemlock Corner Loop.
- 10) Roy Cemetery – there are two headstone located here. The location of the cemetery is on the south side of Bear Hill Road, just east of the Ocean Born Mary house, on a knoll in the woods.

The location of these cemeteries can be seen on the **Cemetery and Historic Structure Location Map**.

### Issues, Goals, Recommendations

Issue: Cemeteries, whether they are historic family plots or larger and newly established, play an important and visible role in the history of Henniker.

Goal: To ensure that all cemeteries within Town are well maintained and protected to preserve their historic characteristics.

#### Recommendations:

- Create a permanent funding source for the repair and maintenance of headstones and cemeteries located in town.
- Ensure that the historic importance of established cemeteries are taken into consideration when any type of development is proposed that may impact the cemeteries and that appropriate precautions are taken.
- Establish specific roles, responsibilities, as well as associated funding, for the Cemetery Trustees, Historical Society, Historic District Commission, and the Abandoned Cemeteries Committee to ensure that all of the needs of the cemeteries located in town are being met.

### **Railroads, Bridges, and Historic Roads**

#### Railroads

Railroads were one of the strongest forces that helped to convert America from a primarily agricultural country to a primarily industrial nation. In the 1840's, railroad fever hit New Hampshire and Henniker was no exception.

On June 24, 1848, the New Hampshire General Court chartered the New Hampshire Central Railroad to run from Manchester, via Henniker and Bradford, to Claremont Junction, where it would connect with the Sullivan to White River Junction. The Contoocook Valley Railroad was also chartered to run from Concord, via Henniker and Hillsborough, to Peterborough. Henniker would be the crossing point for these two lines. The place where the lines crossed was called Henniker Junction, which was near the old McGregor house on Weare Road.

There were originally five railroad stations in four locations in Henniker. Today four of the stations are still standing, three of which are private homes and one is a business. The location of these stations can be seen on the **Cemetery and Historic Structures Location Map**.

#### Covered Bridges

Covered bridges once played an integral part of the transportation network in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Today, they are recognized for their beauty and uniqueness. Unfortunately, none of the three original covered bridges are still standing today. There is one covered bridge located in Henniker, which was built by New England College on their campus in 1972 and is now on the State Register of Historic Places.

<b>Covered Bridge Name</b>	<b>Date Built</b>	<b>Date Removed</b>	<b>Location</b>
Lower Howes Mill	1843	1900	Near Leatherboard Bridge
Upper Amsden Mill	1834	1915	W. Henniker by paper mill
RR #186	1871	1921	Off Ramesdell Road
NEC Covered Bridge	1972	Standing	NEC Campus, over Contoocook River

Old Stone Bridge (Edna Dean Proctor Memorial Bridge)

From 1780-1835, wooden bridges spanned the Contoocook River at the site of the current stone bridge. Because of repeated repairs to the bridge by the Town, it was decided to build a more permanent structure. In November 1832, the Selectmen were instructed “to make such an inquiry and obtain such information in regard to building a stone arch (bridge) over the river, as will enable them to report to the town at the next annual meeting, the expediency of building the same with stone.”

The stone for the bridge was brought to the site by oxen teams from a quarry in the east part of Town, off of Stone Falls Road. This was the first stone bridge built in the state with two arches. The bridge was finished in November 1835.

In 1923 the Town was left an endowment of \$20,000 by Edna Dean Proctor in memory of her father, John Proctor. The endowment was to be used to replace the iron drinking fountain in the square and to keep the stone bridge in good repair. During the 1938 hurricane, the bridge was destroyed but it was rebuilt using some of the endowment money.

In 1996, the bridge was deemed too narrow to carry its daily traffic of motor vehicles and pedestrians. Since the area where the bridge is located is a National Register-eligible district, impacts on the historic character of the bridge had to be minimized. The bridge was widened from thirty to forty-six feet, while the stonework of 1939 was replicated. This reconstruction was completed in 2001.

Gravel and Scenic Roads

A major component of a Town’s rural character is its gravel and scenic roads. These roads help to retain a sense of history and rural quality that residents have indicated a strong desire to maintain in Henniker. A special attribute that the Town of Henniker has is the mix of paved and gravel roads on which to travel. This diversity allows Henniker to retain its historic past while, to some extent, acknowledging growth and infrastructure needs. Henniker, unlike many communities, has both Class V and Class VI gravel roads. The preservation of gravel roads will help to ensure that the Town honors its history and original design.

In New Hampshire, communities have the ability to protect the character of specific scenic roads by enacting the provisions of RSA 231:157 at annual Town Meeting. Any Class IV, V, or VI highway can be designated a Scenic Road using the procedure in RSA 231:157. The effect that

Scenic Road designation does have is to legally require a hearing, review, and written permission by the Planning Board before the Town, or a public utility, can remove (or agree to the removal of) stone walls, or can cut and remove trees with a circumference of 15 inches, at 4 feet from the ground. The Town of Henniker, although it contains many roads with scenic attributes that would be good candidates for Scenic Road designation, does not currently have any designated Scenic Roads.

See the Transportation Chapter of the Master Plan for more information on gravel roads and Scenic Roads.

#### Class VI Roads

Class VI roads are roads that are not maintained by the Town, may be subject to gates and bars, and are almost always gravel. A Class V road can become a Class VI road if the Town has not maintained it for five years or more. Class VI roads are an important component of a Town's transportation infrastructure because they personify the community's rural character and provide vast recreational opportunities, including horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and hiking.

See the Transportation Chapter of the Master Plan for more information on Class VI roads.

#### Issues, Goals, Recommendations

Issue: The diversity of historic transportation methods, routes, and structures still evident in Henniker contributes to the Town's unique and historic atmosphere.

Goal: Protect and preserve gravel and scenic roads, the old stone bridge, and the railroad stations as historic transportation facilities.

#### Recommendations:

- Educate the public about the Town's historic roads, bridges, and railroads by republishing and displaying historic maps.
- Research roads in town that could be nominated for New Hampshire Scenic Road designation, based on cultural and historic attributes.
- Protect and preserve the existing gravel roads within Town from being paved or widened. Changes in these roads should not be made without considering the historic evidence that these roads provide.

#### **Historic Structures**

##### Town-Owned Historic Structures

The Town of Henniker currently owns four buildings of historic significance. These buildings, many of which house municipal Departments and services, are key locations in Town. The Town-owned buildings are listed below with descriptions of their historic significance.

Academy Hall – The Academy opened their new building in the spring of 1837 to further the education of town youth. The location of the building was influenced by the fact that the land where the building stands was donated by Horace Childs. From 1837-1929 the Academy Trustees maintained the Hall for school and public functions. At the 1929 Town Meeting, the Town voted to accept the building, used for public events, meeting, and functions until 1951. From 1951-1995, the building was deeded to New England College for use as classrooms. Since 1996, the town has leased Academy Hall to the Henniker Historical Society for their use as office, storage, archive, and museum space.

Town Hall – The Town Hall is the only property in Henniker listed on the National Register of Historic Places, in January 1981. For more information on this property, see the National Register of Historic Places section of this Chapter.

Grange – The Universalist Church erected this building in 1882. As membership declined over the years, the Church decided to sell the building in 1920. Leander Cogswell purchased it and then sold it to the Town for \$1 to benefit the school system. It was leased by the Knights of Pythias and then by the Bear Hill Grange for several decades. More recently, it served as the Town’s kindergarten building from 1968-1996 and is now used for public meetings.

Methodist Church (Masonic Hall) – This church was built in 1834 by the Baptists of Henniker. They sold the building to the Methodists in 1856 and it remained their church until 1967. Shortly after it closed in 1967, it was sold to the Masonic Association. In 2001, the building was donated to the Town of Henniker.

### One-Room Schoolhouses

At the first town meeting held in Henniker in 1769, \$20 was voted for the building of a school. The first school was located in the southeast part of town, on the north side of River Road and was called the Plummer District. In March 1800, the town was divided into ten districts, with the taxpayers funding and building a schoolhouse for each district.

Most of the schoolhouses were one-room schools. The teacher’s desk sat at the front of the building facing the student’s desks, which were in straight rows and bolted to the floor. A wood stove provided heat. Toilet facilities were primitive. Water came from a well and everyone drank from a common dipper. The school districts were scattered throughout town to allow children to walk to and from school easily.

In 1805, a state law was passed and the Town was organized into eight school districts were formed. In 1809 District No. 9 was established in the northwest corner of town because of population growth. In 1867, a new Quaker or Friends school was officially relocated and called No. 10. In 1823 District No. 8 became so crowded that voters established a new school at the corner of Prospect Street and Rush Road to be known as No. 11. The Eastman School, No. 12, was purchased in 1853. The Plummer School became overcrowded so the district was divided in half and a new brick schoolhouse was built, making No. 13.

For several years the system of one-room schoolhouses remained unchanged. The following is a list of the thirteen schoolhouses in Henniker. The historic locations of these schoolhouses can be seen on the **Cemetery and Historic Structures Location Map**.

District #1	Plummer School, Route 114, near Carl Bennet's farmhouse
District #2	Craney Hill Road
District #3	Bear Hill Road
District #4	Westboro Corner, corner of Old Hillsboro Rd. and Freeman Colby Rd.
District #5	West Henniker, foot of Liberty Hill
District #6	Hemlock Corner, opposite Ray Road
District #7	Dodge School, at the intersection with Foster Hill Road
District #8	Town Common
District #9	Colby Hill Road, closed in 1867
District #10	Friends (Quaker) School
District #11	Moved from Prospect Street and a new brick school built on Crescent Street, now St. Theresa's Catholic Church
District #12	Flanders Road, near foot of Craney Hill
District #13	Southeast corner of town, close to Plummer School

### Churches

The current Congregational Church of Henniker, Inc. was built in 1834. Except for the front three doors being replaced by one main door, the outside façade is substantially the same as it was when first built. One historically significant aspect of the church is that it contains a Paul Revere bell in the steeple.

### Issues, Goals, Recommendations

Issue: Many historic structures fall into disrepair because of neglect or are altered over the years, thus diminishing their historic significance.

Goal: To ensure that the historic structures located in Henniker are properly maintained in order to educate the public about the Town's history.

### Recommendations:

- Increase education about the importance of historic buildings through the use of historic photographs and brochures to be displayed at the various historic buildings and in other public places.
- Create a management plan for all town-owned historic buildings that includes scheduled maintenance and rehabilitation, proposed uses, and funding sources for the preservation of these buildings.
- Support individuals and businesses that may want to purchase historic structures and make changes to them to be compatible with the building's historic nature.
- Make architectural and historical resource materials available to property owners who are interested in historic preservation to help them understand the historic and long-range value to the Town by protecting and preserving such pieces of property.

## **Historic District**

Historic Districts are designed to protect and enhance significant areas of a community, preserving “streetscapes” rather than individual buildings. Generally a Historic District will be characterized by a grouping of structures and/or sites that physically and spatially comprise a specific environment.

A Historic District is created through the passage of a Historic District Ordinance at Town Meeting and has two basic functions. The first function is to define the geographic limits of the District. The second function is to specify what restrictions are to exist in the District. As a general rule, a Historic District ordinance will “overlay” the provisions of other Zoning Districts. That is, the provisions of existing Zoning Districts will control most uses. Provisions of the Historic District will then be “superimposed” on the other restrictions on uses. Within the District, a municipality may be empowered to regulate the construction, alteration, repair, moving, demolition, or use of such structures and places.

In 1963, the New Hampshire Legislature created Historic District enabling legislation (RSA 674:45), which said:

*The preservation of structures and places of historic and architectural value is hereby declared to be a public purpose. The heritage of the municipality will be safeguarded by:*

- *Preserving a district in the municipality which reflects elements of its cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history*
- *Conserving property values in such districts*
- *Fostering civic beauty*
- *Strengthening the local economy*
- *Promoting the use of an historic district for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the citizens of the municipality*

In 1992, these purposes were broadened to include cultural resources and community history, and to recognize multiple Districts within a community.

The Historic District Ordinance should provide the broad guidelines for administering the Historic District, while detailed design criteria and regulations should be developed by the Historic District Commission and adopted as regulations much in the same way as the Planning Board adopts Site Plan and Subdivision Regulations. It is important that the Ordinance be tailored to the particular community and that it specify the factors which must be given consideration by the Commission. In reviewing any application, the Historic District Commission should consider the standards spelled out in the Ordinance when making its decision and the record must show that evidence was considered on these various points.

At the 1975 annual Town Meeting, Henniker residents adopted Article 22, which stated: “Voted, that the Town designate the Old Town Hall as an Historic Building and the area bounded by Circle Street and Route 114 an Historic District.” This area was expanded at the 1976 Town Meeting when Article 32 was adopted, which stated: “Voted, that the cemetery area behind the Town Hall be incorporated into the Historic District.” As can be seen, the adopted ordinances did not provide the broad guidelines for administering the Historic District as they should have.

The establishment of a Historic District Commission is created through a vote at Town Meeting, much like the District itself was created. Commissions can be made up of seven members or five members, with three appointments or two appointments, respectively, made annually. One of the members is to be a Selectmen and one may be a Planning Board Member. There can be up to five alternate Commission members. The current Commission has five members and no alternative members appointed to it.

When the Commission develops proposed regulations, it must hold a public hearing prior to the adoption or amendment. The Commission must provide notice of its hearings as required by RSA 675:7. The Commission may adopt or amend the regulations upon completion of the public hearing by an affirmative vote of the majority of its members, but they will have no legal effect until copies are filed with the Town Clerk. New Hampshire state law requires that “all Districts and regulations shall be compatible with the Master Plan and zoning ordinance of the city, town, or county in which they exist.” Historic District regulations are important to the successful administration of the District.

The Historic District Commission is required to adopt rules of procedure concerning the method of conducting its business. The Commission must hold its meetings and maintain its record in accordance with the New Hampshire Right To Know Law. Any decision made by the Commission may be appealed to the Zoning Board of Appeals, just as Planning Board decisions may be appealed.

Historic Districts have the virtues of stability and flexibility. They encourage continuity and the care of the existing properties, while respecting changes over time that add architectural richness and visual variety to townscapes.

#### Issues, Goals, Recommendations

Issue: Henniker has an established Historic District, which is bounded by Grove Street, Circle Street and Route 114 and encompasses the Town Hall and cemetery.

Goal: To ensure that the current Historic District and Historic District Commission are meeting the goals and needs of the community.

#### Recommendations:

- Ensure that the Historic District Commission meetings comply with the Right to Know Law.
- The Historic District Commissioners need to propose and adopt clear regulations for the District.
- The Historic District Commissioners need to develop and adopt rules of procedure for their management and oversight of the District.
- Include the Historic District as an Overlay District in the Zoning Ordinance.
- Increase public education about the Historic District – its location, purpose, and significance – in town.
- Investigate the legal status and creation of the Historic District Commission to ensure compliance with state statutes.

## **Historic Preservation and Information Resources**

There are many sources of historical information available about the Town of Henniker, both in the Town itself and in outside repositories. The following is a partial list of available organizations and their resources, as they relate to the historical resources of Henniker.

### Henniker Historical Society

The Society's purpose is to obtain, compile, and maintain records and objects related to the History of Henniker, to make such information available to the public, and to support education about the history of Henniker. The Society is located at Academy Hall and houses a museum, archives, and research facilities. The Society has maps, town reports, newspaper clippings, obituary files, cemetery records, genealogies, and an extensive library of written work about Henniker's history.

### Henniker Town Hall Records

The Henniker Town Hall contains many historical documents and records. These records include: the Town Charter, aerial maps of Henniker, a 1889 view of the town, old maps, deeds and property sales information, Town reports from 1839-present, Town Clerk records beginning in the early 1700's, meeting minutes from various boards, vital records and statistics, invoice records beginning in the 1800s (these list property owners, number of livestock, and the taxes owed), original water and sewer plans and information, and much more. All of this information is available to the public for research and review.

### Tucker Free Library

The Henniker library contains many historical documents that pertain to the Town of Henniker and the surrounding area. Some of these items include: the Town Grant, school yearbooks, Town reports, Town histories – both of Henniker and surrounding towns, pictures, artwork, artifacts, family genealogy, and historic research and reference books.

### New Hampshire Historical Society

The New Hampshire Historical Society, in Concord, is an independent, nonprofit organization and is accredited by the American Association of Museums. The services and resources the New Hampshire Historical Society provides include the Museum of New Hampshire History, the Tuck Library, a museum store, a newsletter and quarterly calendar, and technical assistance to local libraries, historical organizations, and citizens.

### New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources in Concord was established in 1974 as the "State Historic Preservation Office." The resources and materials available at the NHDHR include National Register of Historic Places criteria; New Hampshire historical marker programs; the offices of the State Architectural Historian, State Curator, State Archeologist; preservation tax incentive programs; historical survey programs; and grant programs.

### New Hampshire State Library

The New Hampshire State Library houses approximately 2,400 titles of published family histories for New Hampshire and New England. This collection is enhanced by the unique name index to early town records on microfilm. The town records, ranging in years for each town, but

falling roughly between the years 1640-1830/1840, can provide birth, death, and marriage dates, as well as a listing of such items as tax inventories. Other major resources available include town and county histories, annual town reports, Federal Census records for New Hampshire (1790-1920), local newspapers on microfilm, the genealogical column of the "Boston Transcript," legislative biographies (1890 +), city and county directories, and military records.

### Issues, Goals, and Recommendations

Issue: Maintaining a historical record of Henniker will help to maintain the sense of community that residents enjoy and cherish.

Goal: To ensure that all historic resources about the Town of Henniker, its residents, or events are preserved and protected.

Recommendations:

- Create a database of all information available on the Town's history that is held by various organizations and Departments, both within the Town and at other State locations, and make it available to the public.
- Henniker should provide funding, support, and resources to the various organizations within the community for the maintenance of these historic resources.
- Ensure that all historical information located in town – books, papers, artifacts, etc. – are stored using the best preservation and conservation practices, are properly catalogued and accounted for, and are accessible to the public.

### Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are difficult to isolate from historical resources because one is often, particularly in a Town like Henniker, part of the other. The following list highlights some of the Town's resources, which are often described as being cultural. Some are functions specifically of the Town, while others have benefited from an association with the Town but are privately directed.

#### Tucker Free Library

The goal of the Tucker Free Library is to balance the library needs of all segments of the community by providing traditional services, along with the information services that meet the requirements of today's society. In addition to fulfilling the conventional role of Town Library, the Tucker Free Library accommodates visits from elementary school classes and also works in cooperation with the New England College Library.

The Library presents a variety of programs for both children and adults. Children's regularly scheduled programs include summer story times, reading initiatives, and a weekly Toddler Tales. Throughout the year, other programs focus on promoting reading and listening skills. The most popular adult programs are the book discussion groups, held in cooperation with the New Hampshire Humanities Council. The Library also supports private discussion groups by supplying the requisite books through the Inter-Library Loan System.

### White Birch Community Center

White Birch Community Center has been serving the Town of Henniker for more than 26 years. The agency is committed to providing members of the Henniker community with programs to meet the needs of all generations. White Birch is a private, nonprofit organization that focuses on the educational, social, and recreational needs of the community so as to enable people to create a balance between work and leisure. Although the Center is not a town-owned or run program, the services it provides are of great benefit to the community. The Center provides the following programs: Nursery School, Youth Programs, Senior Adult Activities, Community Programs, and Child Care.

### Summer Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series began in 1999 and has grown into an annual event anticipated by many. There are eight summer concerts presented over three months (June – August). These concerts are held outside and are free and open to the public. The musical selection ranges from jazz, swing, big band, classical, new age, and pop. Two additional concerts have been added as part of this program: a formal, indoor concert in the Spring and a Holiday concert. The Town appropriates funds for the continuation of this program annually.

### Henniker Historical Society

The Society provides many opportunities for a cultural learning experience. The Society has a museum and shop that are open two days per week, year-round. The Society also hosts lectures on topics of historical interest four times per year and does three programs per year for the Henniker School system.

### John Stark Regional High School

The John Stark High School has a full schedule of sports every season, from soccer, field hockey, lacrosse, and softball to ice hockey and wrestling. The Theater Department has numerous production throughout the year and has won sever national awards for high school theater. All events are open to the public and the community is encouraged to attend and participate.

### Henniker Lions Club

Lions are men and women who volunteer their time to humanitarian causes in their local and world communities. By conducting service projects and raising funds, Lions strive to help those in need, wherever need exists. The Lion's motto is "We Serve."

### Henniker Rotary Club

The Henniker Rotary Club is one of 29,000 Rotary clubs in 163 countries with 1.2 million members that is dedicated to providing humanitarian services and promoting high ethical business and professional standards that help build understanding, goodwill and peace worldwide. Locally chartered in 1984, the club meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 AM at the Henniker Congregational Church Parish Hall for breakfast, fellowship and to pursue its community service and international project agenda

The Club is a great example of Robert Putnam's description of building strong communities through "social capital". Thirty members strong, members volunteer their time, talents and treasure to help improve the communities of Henniker and Hillsboro, as well as to tackle statewide and international projects of substance. Annually, the Club awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors, makes grants to local non-profit organizations, supports youth leadership development activities at the middle schools, maintains Rotary Park at Amey Brook, conducts four trash pick-ups along Rt 114, south of the village, conducts a Rabies Clinic, hangs holiday decorations in the central business area of Henniker, hosts a Fishing Derby for children ages 6- 16, and responds to community crises as needed. Internationally, the Club has sponsored both Youth and Adult Exchange programs, a humanitarian service project called Hands to Honduras and its own international project with Shenyang Orphanage, Shenyang China.

### New England College

The College supports twelve intercollegiate men's and women's athletic teams, including lacrosse, soccer, ice hockey, field hockey, softball, baseball, and basketball. More than two dozen student organizations are available, which hold educational and social events. Students publish a campus newspaper (the New Englander) and operate a campus radio station (WNEC). The College has a theater and art gallery that are open to the community as well. Cultural events, social events, and other co-curricular experiences are regularly scheduled by the Campus Activities Board (CAB) in collaboration with various Departments.

### Issues, Goals, Recommendations

Issue: Providing community services and events that attract and encourage civic participation.

Goal: To continue to support new and emerging cultural organizations and events.

Recommendations:

- Work with cultural organizations to locate presentation and display spaces within the Town to highlight their work and/or programs.
- Work with cultural organizations to explore ways to meet the needs of residents not currently being served.

### Strategies to Meet Historic and Cultural Resource Needs

Henniker has a rich historical legacy that is evident in its buildings, landscapes, and patterns of development. These resources contribute to the quality of life in the community and provide a sense of identity that many residents enjoy and find important to them. The strategies listed below can help ensure that these resources are protected and preserved for future generations to enjoy and learn from.

Barn Owner Tax Relief: RSA 79-D authorizes municipalities to grant property tax relief to barn owners who can demonstrate the public benefit of preserving their building and who also agree to maintain their structure throughout a minimum 10-year preservation easement. The law encourages barn owners to maintain and repair their buildings by granting them specific tax relief and assuring them that tax assessments will not be increased as a result of new repair work.

Certified Local Governments Program: The “Certified Local Governments” (CLG) program, enacted by the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980, is a partnership between municipal governments and the State historic preservation program, to encourage and expand local involvement in preservation-related activities. To be certified, a town must:

- 1) Enforce appropriate state or local legislation for designation and protection of historic properties (this means that the community must have a legally-adopted Historic District, and adequate regulations for administering the District Ordinance);
- 2) Establish an adequate and qualified Historic Preservation Review Commission (Historic District Commission or Heritage Commission, with Historic District responsibilities) under state law and local ordinance;
- 3) Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties;
- 4) Provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program, including the process of recommending properties for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places; and,
- 5) Satisfactorily perform the responsibilities delegated to it by the State of Historic Preservation Officer under P.L. 96-515.

Local governments that are certified have specific responsibilities for review of National Register of Historic Places nominations for all properties within their community, not just within a historic district; they participate in the development of regional and statewide historic preservation goals; and they are eligible to apply for federal matching grants from a special “pass-through” fund set aside for the exclusive use of CLGs.

Citizens for New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage: A coalition of organizations that are working to protect the special places that define our state. Technical assistance, outreach, and education are available to communities.

Cooperative Ventures with Private Organizations: When the interests of the Town to conserve historic or cultural resources match with the interests of a private organization, the potential for a cooperative partnership exists. This tactic will require some creative thinking and introductory discussions by Town officials with area organizations that have, or could develop, an interest in conserving such resources.

Grants from Foundations: The Town should research available grants and develop proposals to seek funding to conserve particular pieces of property or types of historic resources within Town. Funding could be sought from foundations at the local, state, regional, and national level.

Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP): This State fund is designed to assist communities that want to conserve outstanding natural, historic, and cultural resources. There will be the requirement that the Towns match the State money from this fund with a 50% match from other sources, some of which can be an "in kind" match, as well as funds from other sources.

Land Trust: The Town should support non-profit land trusts that accept and pursue property and easements for land of local historic and cultural concern.

New Hampshire Main Street Center: Dedicated specifically to maintaining, strengthening, and revitalizing the physical, economic, and cultural characteristics of the state's traditional and historic downtown urban and village centers by supporting and working with Main Street programs. The Center provides technical assistance, education, and outreach to interested communities.

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance: The Alliance was founded in 1985 and works to preserve New Hampshire's historic buildings, landscapes, and communities through leadership, advocacy, and education.

Preservation Easements: Preservation easements are initiated by landowners who wish to protect their land from future development, while still retaining owner's rights. Farms, buildings and scenic and historic areas all have the right to be protected by an easement. Perpetual easements protect the land or structure through subsequent owners, while term easements have a set time period agreed to by the town and current owner. Perpetual easements often reduce the estate tax on large amounts of property, though the decision to award tax relief is officially decided by State Law, local officials, and town assessors.

Revolving Funds: Revolving funds help protect and preserve publicly significant historic properties by using options of purchase, direct acquisitions, or deeds of gift to acquire threatened or endangered properties. Profit from the sales are rolled back into the fund to help save other endangered properties and perpetuate the fund. The National Preservation Loan provides loans to establish or expand local and statewide preservation revolving funds.

State Historic Markers: The Historical Marker Program is one way that New Hampshire remembers its past. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is responsible for approving the subject, location, wording, and accuracy of the state markers. The authorizing official of the historical marker program is the Commissioner of Transportation, who has the power to erect up to ten markers per year. The only way a marker can be placed in a Town is in response to a proposal and petition of twenty signatures from concerned citizens. These markers can be erected on State and local roads. However, the initial costs of the markers and on-going maintenance are local responsibilities.

Tax Rehabilitation Credits and Incentives: Income tax deductions may be granted for two types of historic properties, a historically important area, or a certified historic structure. A twenty percent tax credit is given by the government for rehabilitation of certified historic structures. The Bank of America Historic Tax Credit Fund grants equity investments for the rehabilitation of historic commercial and residential properties eligible for the federal and state historic tax credit, as well as the 10% non-historic federal tax credit.

Transportation Enhancement Funds (TE): Funding for the TE program is slightly more than \$3 million dollars annually. These funds are provided in an 80/20 match, with the State paying for the majority of the project cost. Typical examples of projects eligible for TE funds include:

- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
- Scenic or historic highway programs
- Historic preservation
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, facilities
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors
- Archaeological planning and research
- Establishment of transportation museums

## **Summary**

The purpose of historic preservation is to enrich contemporary life by retaining historical assets and safeguarding them for the future. Often when people think of historic resources they think of one handsome old house, a cemetery, or site of a famous event. The historic resources of Henniker are much broader than individual buildings or sites. “Historic” encompasses space as well as buildings. The term includes farms and barns, churches and town greens, streetscapes, bridges, streets, stonewalls - in short, the architectural, cultural, and aesthetic heritage of the community.

Historic resources are among a community's most significant and fragile assets. They give character and memory to a place. They are easily violated, blighted, or destroyed by intensive development. Henniker must be an advocate to ensure that its historic and cultural resources are protected, enhanced, maintained, and preserved. This Chapter is a first step in that process by outlining what resources currently exist in Town and what steps could be taken to enhance those resources for the future. Historic and cultural preservation is part of an overall plan to promote a sense of community and general welfare in Henniker.