

HISTORIC, CULTURAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

1

This chapter identifies and describes Kittery's historic and cultural resources and past efforts to preserve, promote and enhance them. Historic and cultural features include both physical resources [buildings, landscape features, landscapes, and archaeological sites (both historic and pre-historic)], as well as non-physical resources (organizations, clubs, programs and events), both of which contribute to the quality of life in the town. The chapter includes:

- A brief history of Kittery and an overview of the town's extant historic resources;
- A synopsis of past efforts to preserve historic and cultural resources; and
- A description of the historical and cultural organizations based in Kittery.

The chapter concludes with a compilation of issues, challenges and opportunities surrounding Kittery's historic and cultural resources to be considered by the town in shaping the Comprehensive Plan.

KITTERY'S HISTORY AND SURVIVING HISTORIC RESOURCES

CONTACT AND FIRST PERIODS (BEFORE 1675)

The Piscataqua Region of southern Maine and the seacoast of New Hampshire have attracted humans for centuries. Native peoples of the Abenaki tribe came to the area to collect shellfish



The Lady Pepperrell House, built in 1760, is a National Historic Landmark and one of the most treasured historic properties in the Town of Kittery.

and hunt game. While physical evidence of the Abenakis is not visible in Kittery, the town retains several place names stemming from this time of Native American settlement.¹ Piscataqua, for

¹ In 2014, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC) released inventory data about prehistoric archaeological sites in Kittery. The report recorded eight known archaeological sites in the Kittery, six on the Shipyard property, one on tidal water, and an eighth on well-drained soils in the interior northeastern part of town. State historic preservation offices typically do not publish precise locations of prehistoric archaeological sites, as a means of securing their protection from vandalism and looting. However, maps showing general locations are available from the MHPC.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- Humans have inhabited the Kittery area for centuries, beginning with Native peoples, the Abenakis, who sought shellfish along the coast, and Europeans who came in the early 1600s, establishing the Town of Kittery in 1647 making it the oldest incorporated town in the State of Maine.
- Shipbuilding dominated the Kittery economy beginning in the mid-1600s, and continues today in the form of submarine repair and retrofitting at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, established in 1800.
- Forts have stood in Kittery near the mouth of the Piscataqua River since the early 1700s, established first to protect from British invasion, and later domestic and foreign wars. Both remaining forts, McClary and Foster, are now prominent historic and recreation sites.
- Beginning in the mid-1800s, Kittery became a tourist destination, with several large hotels built along the coast and one at Appledore Island in the Isles of Shoals.
- In the late-20th century Kittery became a regional shopping destination, with the addition of the Kittery Outlets along Route 1.
- While Kittery retains many historic buildings and landscapes, others have been severely compromised or altogether lost.

example is believed to be derived from Abenaki words for branch (peske) and strong-current-ed river (tegwe).²

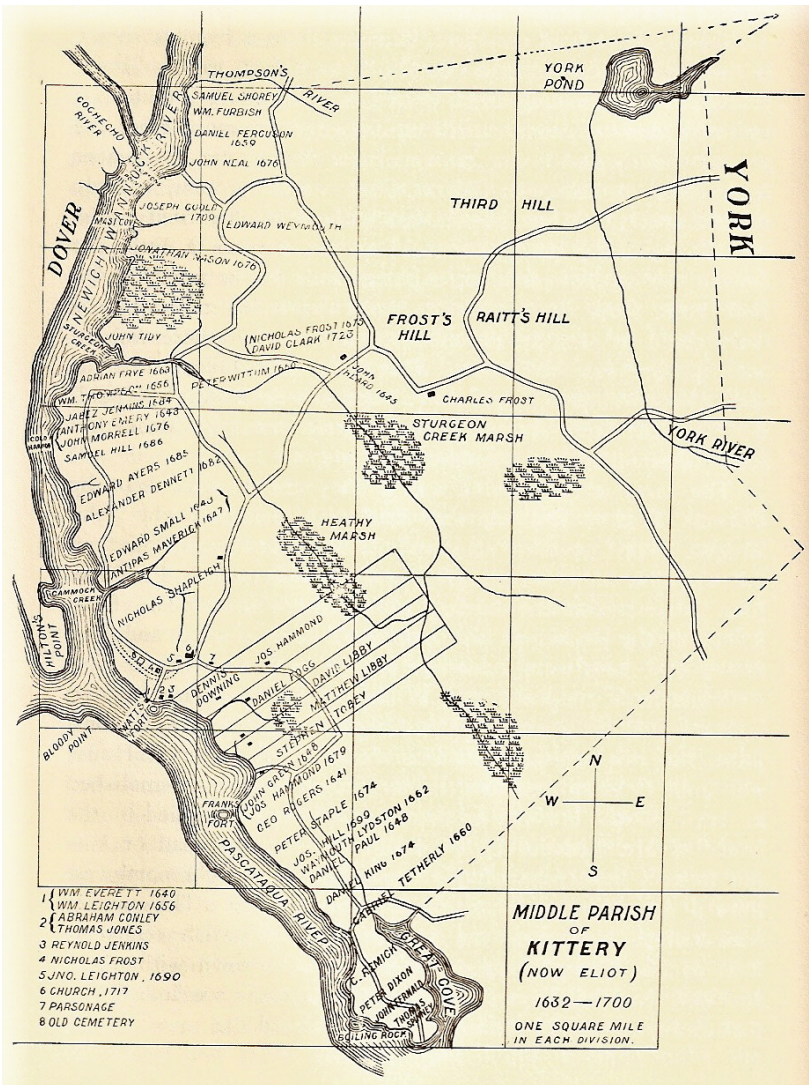
The first known Europeans to explore the area were from Devon, England. Martin Pring sailed up the Piscataqua in 1603, describing the river as “a notable sheet of water, and of great depth, with beautiful islands and heavy forests along its banks.”³ Captain John Smith, discovered the Isles of Shoals in 1614, also remarked about the river’s attributes. The first settlement did not form until 1623, with incorporation following in 1647, making Kittery the oldest incorporated town in Maine.⁴ Originally, the town extended from the Atlantic Ocean inland including the towns of Eliot, South Berwick, Berwick and North Berwick. Early settlers engaged in the fishing and timber industries, as well as hunting and trapping, and as early as 1650, the British government selected the area as a spot to build ships for the Royal Navy, hoping to capitalize on its river and oceanfront location, as well as the abundant supply of native timber.

The names of early settlers appear on natural features and streets throughout Kittery. Shapleigh Road, for example, is named for Alexander Shapleigh, who came to the area in 1635. Pepperrell Road honors the Pepperrell family, who came to Kittery around

² <http://www.seacoastnh.com/Places-&-Events/NH-History/The-Meaning-of-Piscataqua>)

³ Bardwell, John D., *Old Kittery*, 7

⁴ Kittery was so named for one of the early settlers, Alexander Shapleigh, who came from the manor of Kittery Court, Kingswear, Devon, England. Captain Francis Champernowne, another pioneer, also came from the same region of Devon. (Bardwell, 7)



This map of Kittery in the 17th century shows settlement along the Piscataqua River (referred to as Pascataqua at the time). (Stackpole, *Old Kittery and Her Families*)



The Piscataqua River was first explored in 1603 by an Englishman, Martin Pring, who described it as "a notable sheet of water, and of great depth, with beautiful islands and heavy forests along its banks." (Library of Congress)

the same time, establishing fisheries off the Isles of Shoals. Two notable extant structures date to the Pre-Contact Period. The Bray House was constructed in 1662 on Kittery Point by John Bray, a shipwright.⁵ Many early houses in Kittery reflected the garrison style with an overhanging second story to provide a clear view of the surrounding area. The Whipple Garrison, constructed in 1665

⁵ The Bray House is believed to be the oldest extant house in the State of Maine.



Fortifications stood at Kittery near the mouth of the Piscataqua River beginning in the early 1700s. Fort McClary (originally named for William) protected the coastline through several wars.

on Whipple Road, exemplifies this type of structure. The First Congregational Church of Kittery, located on Pepperrell Road in Kittery Point, was organized in 1653, however the original church structure no longer stands (replaced four times). Kittery also retains 288 historic architectural sites, documented by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Of these, three date to the First Period, including several shipwrecks and a fishing station.

COLONIAL PERIOD (1675-1775)

Fishing and shipbuilding continued to fuel the Kittery economy into the Colonial Period. Kittery's location at the mouth of the Piscataqua made it vulnerable to maritime invasions, and as early as 1715, the area that would become Fort McClary (originally named Fort William after William Pepperrell) was fortified, in order to protect the coast from attacks by the British. The shipbuilding industry burgeoned, eventually forming the base for American naval shipbuilding.

Several structures from the Colonial Period remain in Kittery. Significant among them are the William Pepperrell House (built in 1682, Pepperrell Cove), the Dodovah Curtis House (built before 1700), and the Lady Pepperrell House, built in 1760 (Kittery Point) and now a National Historic Landmark. The First Congregational Church of Kittery was constructed in 1730, and across Pepperrell Road is the parish's burial ground, holding the graves of many early settlers. In addition to these visible resources, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission has identified historic archaeological sites dating to the Colonial period, including shipwrecks, a farmstead, and domestic properties.

FEDERAL PERIOD (1775-1830)

The naval shipbuilding industry was officially established in the Federal period, making an imprint on Kittery that remains to this day. The United States Navy developed its first yard in 1800 on Seavey Island at the mouth of the Piscataqua, and the "Portsmouth Naval Shipyard" began producing warships in 1815. Early buildings on the Shipyard included Greek Revival style



The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard was established in 1800 and continues to serve the US Navy's maritime needs to this day. (Library of Congress)

officers' quarters (built in 1828), a marine barracks (built in 1822), a Shipyard Commander's quarters (1814), all sited along the main Charles Morris and Burrows Avenues. The Shipyard would continue to expand throughout the 19th century and into the 20th century, annexing and merging Seavey's Island with four others -- Pumpkin, Fernald, Jamaica and Clark's, and eventually growing to 288 acres with dozens of buildings.

EARLY AND LATE INDUSTRIAL PERIODS (1830-1915)

In 1842, the Portland, Saco and Portsmouth Railroad came to Kittery linking the town to points north and south, and fostering a



The Champernowne Hotel, constructed in 1890, was one of several resorts along Kittery's coast in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (www.digitalmaine.com)

resort community. Following the Civil War, Kittery's economy shifted towards the tourism industry. Businessmen constructed large hotels and resorts on the Isles of Shoals and along the coast on Kittery Point, among these the Appledore House Hotel (1847)⁶, the Pepperrell Hotel (1873) the Pocahontas Hotel (1885)⁷, and the Hotel Champernowne (1890). Writers, poets, musicians, including Childe Hassam, William Morris Hunt, John Greenleaf Whittier,

⁶ The Appledore House Hotel was one of the first resort hotels built on the New England coast, constructed in 1847 by Celia Loughton Thaxter's father. (<http://www.shoalsmarinelaboratory.org/celia-thaxters-garden>)

⁷ "Welcome to Fort Foster, Kittery Point, Maine." (Town of Kittery brochure)



The Isles of Shoals was an early site of fisheries, operated by some of Kittery's first settlers. Two centuries later, it would become the site of a thriving summer tourist industry. (Library of Congress)

Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau, came to the area, bemused by its natural beauty. The 1887 opening of the York Harbor Beach Railway, with its expanded passenger service stretching from Kittery Junction to York Beach, bolstered this local tourism economy.⁸

The resort hotels have disappeared, but many Greek Revival and Victorian style buildings still remain in Kittery, providing a snapshot of how the town appeared in the 19th century. Among these are the Robert and Louisa Traip house (ca. 1839), built in

⁸ Friends of the Rice Public Library, Kittery, Gateway to Maine, 31



The Rice Public Library, constructed in the Romanesque Revival style and located in the Foreside, is considered to be the most outstanding library structure in the State of Maine (www.digitalmaine.com)

Kittery Foreside in the Greek Revival style;⁹ The Mark and Eliza Wentworth House, located on Wentworth Road and built ca. 1830 in the Greek Revival style with Italianate details; and the William Dean Howells house (ca. 1870) built at Kittery Point in the Second Empire style. The Safford School, a one-room Gothic style vernacular structure still standing on Brave Boat Road, was constructed in 1871. Perhaps the most striking of Kittery's

⁹ Early images of the Traip house show the front door facing Wallingford Square, indicating that the house was turned. (Bardwell, 66)

buildings from the Industrial Periods is the Rice Public Library, constructed in 1889 in the Romanesque Revival style with Queen Anne influences. This imposing two-story structure, designed by Boston architect Shepherd S. Woodcock, is known as the most outstanding library building in the State of Maine. Finally, the Whaleback Light Station, located in the Piscataqua River at the entrance to Portsmouth Harbor, was constructed in 1872 to replace an early lighthouse (built in 1829). It consists of an ashlar granite tower, standing 59 feet above the mean high tide level, with an octagonal lantern.¹⁰

Historic archaeological resources documented by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission from the Industrial Periods include several domestic structures, storehouses, and workshops, as well several additional shipwrecks.

EARLY MODERN & MODERN PERIODS (1915-TODAY)

In 1917, the US government authorized the Shipyard to build a submarine, and since that year, the facility has devoted itself to the construction, retrofit and repair of submarines. In 1958, nuclear energy was introduced as a means of powering the vessels, and the Shipyard pivoted to adopt the new technology. In 1969, the facility shifted its focus again to be responsible for overhauling the US Navy's submarine fleet.

¹⁰ <http://focus.nps.gov> (Whaleback Light Station National Register Nomination)



The original Kittery Trading Post was established in the 1930s and operated out of a one-room store on Route 1.

With the advent of the automobile in the early 20th century, bridging of the Piscataqua in the early 1920s, and development of US Route 1, travelers' services emerged, including filling stations, cabins, and snack bars. In the 1930s, the Kittery Trading Post opened along Route 1, originally operating out of a one-room store, and growing to become a full service recreation equipment and apparel store.¹¹ Warren's Lobster House, located at Memorial Bridge, opened in 1940 as a shack with six stools, constructed on pilings in the Piscataqua River.¹² Bob's Clam Hut, a popular Route

¹¹ Waters, Erika J., *Kittery to Bar Harbor, Touring Coastal Maine*, 13.

¹² Waters, 12.

(This page reserved for historic resources map)



Bob's Clam Hut, established in 1956, has stood at the same site along Route 1 and is a regional dining destination.

eatery, opened in 1956. Construction of Interstate 95 later in the 20th century allowed residents to commute out of town for work, and Kittery became somewhat of a bedroom community for Portsmouth, Durham, and later, Boston. In the 1970s, work began on development of a retail center along Route 1 close to the York line. The Kittery Outlets gave the town a national reputation as a shopping destination.

Many homes were constructed in Kittery in the 20th century, including the large housing development known as Admiralty Village, built to accommodate military personnel. In 1946, Hazel

and Clayton Sinclair constructed Rock Rest, a small cottage on Brave Boat Harbor Road, and operated a guest house for African-American tourists to the Kittery area for nearly 31 years.¹³

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission's list of historic archaeological sites contains additional resources from the 20th century, including wrecked vessels as well as some structures at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

PAST EFFORTS TO PRESERVE HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

National Register of Historic Places. According to the Maine State Preservation Commission's inventory data, the Town of Kittery has listed three districts (First Congregational Church, Isles of Shoals and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard) on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as the following individual properties¹⁴:

- Lady Pepperrell House, Route 103
- William Pepperrell House, Route 103
- Dennett Garrison, 100 Dennett Road
- Rice Public Library, 8 Wentworth Street

¹³ <http://focus.nps.gov>. (Rock Rest National Register Nomination)

¹⁴ The 1999/2002 Comprehensive Plan provides a description of each of the National Register properties, and also suggests other locally-significant properties to be considered for listing on the register. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission's 2014 list of properties on the register, as well as those that are or may be considered eligible, appears in this section.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- While Kittery has listed several properties and districts to the National Register of Historic Places, many more historic buildings and landscapes have not been recognized as such. The town also lacks a comprehensive inventory of historic resources, or a plan for preserving them.

- Bray House, Pepperrell Road
- William Dean Howells House, Pepperrell Road
- Whaleback Light Station, Piscataqua River
- Fort McClary, Route 103
- Samuel Badger Monument, behind 16 Otis Avenue
- John Paul Jones Memorial Park, Newmarch Street and Hunter Avenue
- Robert and Louisa Traip House, 2 Wentworth Street
- Mark and Eliza Wentworth House, 9 Wentworth Street
- Rock Rest, Brave Boat Harbor Road
- Frank C. Frisbee Elementary School, Rogers Road

The bulk of the designations occurred from the 1960s through the 1990s, with only two listings secured after 2000. In addition, the Maine State Historic Preservation Commission has designated several other properties and features have been or may be determined eligible for listing:

- Kittery Town Pound, Haley Road
- 16 Trefethen Avenue
- 14 Stimson Street

- US Route 1 Bypass
- 124 Whipple Road
- Kittery Fraternal Hall, Wallingford Square
- Wood Island Life Saving Station

While inclusion on the National Register is largely honorary, listed properties are potentially protected from negative impacts of federally-funded projects (such as proposed highway expansions that infringe on the National Register property).

Lady Pepperrell House, National Historic Landmark. Listed as a landmark in 1966, this High-Georgian style home in the heart of Kittery Point was built in 1759 by Lady Mary Hirst Pepperrell, following the death of her husband, Sir William Pepperrell. The home is privately owned. National Historic Landmark status is a more stringent form of historic resource protection.

Kittery Comprehensive Plan, 1999 (adopted in 2002). The 1999/2002 Comprehensive Plan noted that the town provided “very weak protection for historic and archaeological resources beyond that provided by state and federal requirements”. Local protection was limited to a requirement in the town’s land use regulations that the planning board review subdivisions and other development proposals to ensure that they do not have an undue adverse impact on historic sites before the project is approved. Furthermore, regulations did not assure protection of the town’s archaeological resources. The plan identified several policies that would advance these goals, including organizing volunteers to document historic properties, educating owners of historic

properties about the importance of maintenance, and establishing an historic commission.

Shoreline Overlay Zone (Section 16.3.2.17 of the Kittery Town Code). Kittery has incorporated this code into the development review process for the purposes of protecting archaeological and historic resources, as well as scenic beauty (among many other resources) along the town’s coastline from the impact of development.

Kittery Foreside Restoration. The Kittery Foreside, a small mixed commercial, civic, and residential district, evolved in the 19th century around Gate 1 of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Wallingford Square, an open space named for a local World War I soldier, stands at the heart of the Foreside. Over the past decade, this area has seen a rebirth, with several restaurants, galleries and shops opening along its main streets and making it a vibrant place to visit, work, and live. In 2014, the town held the *Foreside Forums*, a series of listening sessions designed to gather public opinion about the restoration, and guide future development in the area. Participants articulated the need to support “organic” growth and protect against “overgrowth. They expressed desire to keep the area walkable and affordable, and to retain its authentic character, while enhancing gateways, park spaces, and connections to the waterfront.¹⁵

Safford School Redevelopment. Constructed in 1871-1872 at the corner of Brave Boat Harbor Road and Cutts Island Lane, this one-story wood-frame structure was the last remaining one-room

neighborhood school in the town, operating until the 1940s. As of the writing of this inventory chapter, town officials were deliberating over its future use.

EXISTING HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

- Two historical institutions -- the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum and the Kittery Historical and Naval Museum -- serve as the main repository for artifacts pertaining to the history of the town. The Maine Room at the Rice Public Library holds additional historic books, maps, and genealogical information.
- Several of Kittery’s historical organizations are outdoor sites, including two historic forts (McClary and Foster), the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, John Paul Jones Memorial Park, Celia Thaxter’s garden, and over 130 cemeteries and burial sites.
- Kittery’s historical organizations and sites help fuel its economy, as they draw tourists interested in military and naval history from across the country.

¹⁵ “The Foreside Forums, Listening Sessions on the Future of Kittery Foreside, 2014”

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Shipyard Museum (public-federal). The Shipyard, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was established in 1800 as a ship-building facility for the US Navy. During World War I, it began constructing submarines, and continued to do so through the 1960s. Today, visitors (with clearance from the US government) can take a walking historical tour of the facility, passing barracks, the US Naval Cemetery, the Thresher Memorial Chapel, the Portsmouth Naval Prison, and several other historic sites (20 in total). The **Shipyard Museum** is located near Gate 1 and housed in a former gunpowder magazine-turned-commissary built in 1859. The museum retains artifacts pertaining to Seacoast maritime heritage, as well as the Shipyard itself, dating back to the early 1800s. The institution lends to other museums, but is only open to the public by appointment, and visitors must be accompanied by the curator (or docent).

Town of Kittery Archives. Kittery's Town Clerk maintains an archive historic town documents, including town reports, financial statements, birth, death and marriage records, within the Town Hall building. Older documents are stored in a locked safe, located in the Town Hall basement, while more recent information is available in the Town Clerk's office. The existing storage facilities adequately accommodate existing documents, with extra space for additional materials.

Fort McClary (public-state). Owned, operated and maintained by the State of Maine through its State Park system¹⁶, Fort McClary is both an historic site and a recreation facility located at the mouth of the Piscataqua River. Fortification existed in this area as early

¹⁶ The Town of Kittery Department of Public Works maintains a portion of Fort McClary.

as 1715, to protect the merchants of Massachusetts from duties placed on them by the colony of New Hampshire (Maine was part of Massachusetts at the time). The early fort, known as Fort William (named for William Pepperrell), also served to protect Kittery and Portsmouth from the attacking British during the Revolutionary War. The U. S. government built Fort McClary upon acquiring the site in 1803 before the War of 1812, and expanded it prior to the Civil War. No longer an active fort, the property retains several of its 19th century structures, including a blockhouse, rifleman's house, powder magazine, and many granite walls.

Restoration efforts at the fort have been fueled, in part, by the **Friends of Fort McClary**, a non-profit, volunteer organization that hosts musical events, encampments and reenactments, as well as raising restoration funds. Admission to the fort is voluntary, and about 30,000 to 35,000 visitors come each year, largely to experience history, but also to take in the "million dollar view" of Pepperrell Cove and Portsmouth Harbor, flanked by Whaleback Light in Kittery and Fort Point Light in Newcastle, New Hampshire.

John Paul Jones Memorial Park/World War I Memorial (public-state).¹⁷ An open space located on U. S. Route 1 at the approach to Memorial Bridge, John Paul Jones Park was developed by the State of Maine and dedicated in 1924 as the principal gateway to

¹⁷ In 2014, a bill was passed by the Maine Legislature to transfer ownership of the park to the Town of Kittery, but the bill was not signed by the Governor. The town has managed the property through a maintenance agreement with the State of Maine, however as of the writing of this inventory, the agreement has lapsed.

Maine. It serves as both a passive recreation space and the repository for “Sacrifices of War,” a bronze bas relief sculpture commissioned by the State of Maine following World War I.¹⁸ Created by female sculptor Bashka Paeff, the 13’ by 18’ panel depicts a woman protecting her child and two deceased youths.

Fort Foster (public-town). This town-owned property located along the Piscataqua River in Kittery Point dates to the early 1900s.¹⁹ It was named for Major-General John G. Foster, a New Hampshire native who served in the Civil War. Designed to house a full company of officers and enlisted personnel, it was never occupied as such. In the 1940s, the US government updated the fort in preparation for WWII, adding new bunkers, observation towers and guns, but shortly after the war, the fort closed. Originally a recreation area for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, it is now a popular Town of Kittery recreation site. (For more information about Fort Foster’s recreation facilities, see the *Recreation and Public Services & Facilities* chapters of the plan’s inventory.)

Wood Island Life-Saving Station (public-town and private non-profit). Owned by the Town of Kittery, the Wood Island Life Saving Station was built in 1908 to accommodate men of the US Life Saving Service (forerunner of the US Coast Guard) who performed rescue missions, via small rowing boats, to mariners in distress. It stands near the entrance to the Piscataqua River and consists of an old structure, two sea walls, and marine railway. A private, non-profit organization, the **Wood Island Life Saving**

¹⁸ The memorial is also known as the Maine Sailors’ and Soldiers’ Memorial.

¹⁹ In the 19th century, it was site of the Pocahontas Hotel.

Station Association (WILSSA) has spearheaded efforts to restore the building, seawalls and railway and to build a new pier, with the goal of creating a maritime museum, accessible via tour boats leaving from Portsmouth. Over \$750,000 in federal and state funds has been raised to support this effort, and the site is now part of an EPA Brownfield and MDEP/EDC grant to fund a remediation cleanup project in coordination with WILSSA’s historic restoration project. It was recently determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Kittery History and Naval Museum (private). This non-profit repository of historic Kittery artifacts is located in a former Department of Public Works garage within the Town Municipal Complex (the organization holds a 100-year lease on the property). The goal of the museum is to collect and exhibit both naval history (51% of the collection) and Kittery history (49% of the collection). Open from April through Columbus Day, the museum attracts visitors largely interested in naval history who come to see ship models, a diver’s suit, and a model of the “Boon Island Lens,” an historic 6’ - 1” tall lighthouse lens once fueled by whale oil. The organization also exhibits material pertaining to the 300+ year history of the town, including images and artifacts from the grand hotels. The ca. 1700 Andrews Mitchell Garrison, was gifted to the museum by its owners, Captain Sidney and Beatrice Helliwell, and is housed within the rear of the building. The museum also maintains a small garden on the grounds, dedicated to Celia Thaxter, as well as cemetery records for many of Kittery’s 132 burial sites.

USS Thresher Memorial Project Group (private). Established in 2011, this non-profit organization aims to raise and maintain public awareness of the personnel lost with the USS Thresher (SSN 593).



Kittery contains over 130 burial sites and cemeteries, scattered throughout the town. Many contain just a few graves.

Comprised of local civic leaders, Thresher family and crew members, submarine veterans, and other individuals, the group worked with the Kittery Maine Improvement Foundation to develop the memorial (focal point) to the vessel and events surrounding its demise. The memorial includes a 129' flagpole, located within the Kittery traffic circle (renamed "Memorial Circle"). Each foot of flagpole commemorates a soldier lost in the disaster.

Kittery Cemeteries (public and private). One hundred and thirty-two burial sites have been located within the Town of Kittery,

ranging in size from a few graves to many acres. The Orchard Grove/Highland Cemeteries, located at the junction of Rogers and Shapleigh Roads, is the town's largest and features a Civil War monument atop its highest point. Many of the sites bear the names of the families interred within and/or the individuals who originally owned the surrounding properties. A Town Farm cemetery, located in the woods to the east of Haley Road, contains paupers' burials. The First Congregational Church Cemetery, located across Route 103 from the church, was included in the First Congregational Church and Parsonage National Register Historic District in 1997. A complete listing of the cemeteries, with the sites keyed to a map, appears in a finding aid, *Kittery Cemeteries*, compiled by the Kittery Historical and Naval Museum.

ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

Kittery Community Center: STAR Theatre and Morgan Gallery (public). Located in the Kittery Community Center²⁰, the STAR Theatre is a 171-seat venue that hosts live theatre, performance events, lectures, trainings, workshops, and movies. It features state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems and a 20' x 30' movie screen with HD projector. Patrick Dorow Productions, Inc., an in-residence company, produces many theatre events at the STAR, including a youth series. The ***Morgan Gallery*** is an exhibit space

²⁰ The Kittery Community Center is located in the former Frank C. Frisbee Elementary School, which, as noted earlier in this inventory chapter, has been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

located adjacent to the STAR, and host to curated shows featuring work of local and regional painters, sculptors, print-makers and mixed media artists. (For more information about the Kittery Community Center, refer to the *Public Facilities and Services* and *Natural Resources, Open Space and Recreation* chapters of this inventory.)

Rice Public Library (private). Founded by Arabella Rice through a bequest, the Rice Public Library is a private organization overseen by a board of trustees. Its two-story Romanesque Revival style main building, regarded as the most outstanding library structure in Maine, was designed by Boston architect Shepherd S. Woodcock. In 1988, the library purchased the former Southern York County District Courthouse, located diagonally across the street and renovated the building to house the expanding collections. It is known as the Taylor Building annex. Today, the complex retains over 50,000 items, including books, magazines, newspapers, audio books, and a “Maine Room” collection of local and state genealogy and history resources. The library offers public programs to both children and adults, including family movie nights, musical performances, book discussions, and computer help programs. (For more information about the library facilities and plans the future, refer to the *Public Facilities and Services* chapter of the plan inventory.)

Celia Thaxter’s Garden, Shoals Marine Laboratory (private). Located on Appledore Island, this historic garden commemorates Celia Loughton Thaxter, a 19th century poet a native of Appledore Island. Her father built and operated the Appledore Hotel where many 19th century poets, writers and artists visited and drew inspiration for their work. Celia established and maintained a cutting garden, providing flowers to the hotel. She also published



The Morgen Gallery, located outside the STAR Theatre in the Kittery Community Center showcases the work of local artists.

“An Island Garden,” chronicling her work. Visitors may see the garden in the summer months, when Appledore is accessible via tour boats, leaving from Portsmouth. Staff of the Shoals Marine Laboratory, a station co-managed by the University of New Hampshire and Cornell Universities, maintains the garden.

Kittery Art Association (private). This non-profit, volunteer-run organization was established in 1958 to “promote knowledge of the arts, stimulate interest in the work of local artists, and express appreciation for the abundant creativity in the seacoast area.” The organization operates an exhibition space on Coleman



Inspiration Park, located at the corner of State Road and Government Street was restored in 2014 by garden club members.

Avenue in Kittery Point where non-juried shows are held throughout the year, and offers classes for adults and children. The KAA also administers the *Marsha Abigail Ryder Scholarship Fund*, established in the early 2000s to support students from Traip Academy wishing to pursue studies and careers in the arts.

The Dance Hall Kittery (private). Located on Walker Street (Kittery Foreside) in the former Kittery Grange building, the Dance Hall hosts music and dance performances from artists around the world. In addition to live events, the non-profit organization offers cross-generational classes and artist residencies and engages in community-based projects.

Harbourside Garden Club (private). Established in 1930, the volunteer-run, membership-driven Harbourside Garden Club is a member of the Garden Club Federation of Maine, Piscataqua District. The club members meet regularly to exchange information about techniques and plant materials, visit gardens, hold and attend workshops, and work in the community to help beautify the town. In the 1950s, the club restored the gardens at the Lady Pepperrell house, and in the 1960s, members planted many flowering crabapple trees throughout the town. In 2014, the club restored a derelict garden located at the corner of State Road and Government, known as “Inspiration Park.”

Wentworth Dennett Studios (private). Located at 78 Government Street in the former Wentworth Dennett Elementary School provides studio space to musicians, painters, potters, print-makers, and jewelry artists. It also houses a yoga studio. In 2015, the studios hosted “Art on the Hill,” a holiday season-long open studio event, exhibiting the work of artists on three floors of the building.

Private Galleries. Several privately owned and operated galleries provide additional exhibition space for visual artists. **Buoy Gallery**, located on Government Street in the Foreside, offers visual and performance art space. **Just Us Chickens Gallery** is an artists’ cooperative located on Shapleigh Road offering space for members to market their work. Other private galleries include the **Red Door Pottery Studio** (Government Street) and **Folk** (Wallingford Square).

Other Civic Organizations and Clubs. Kittery is home several organizations and clubs that sponsor and carry out community-based activities. Included in this group are **Cub Scouts** (Pack 316),

Boy Scouts (Troop 307), the **Rotary Club** of Kittery, the Kittery **Lions Club**, and the **Knights of Columbus** of Kittery, Maine.

IDENTIFICATION OF PRELIMINARY ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following is a preliminary list of issues, challenges and opportunities posed by the findings of the inventory of existing conditions of Kittery's historic and cultural resources. Please note that these are subject to change with the preparation of goals and objectives, not yet drafted (at the time the inventory was prepared)

- The town has no official single repository for historical materials. Currently, this responsibility is split between the Kittery Historical and Naval Museum and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum, with town documents held by the Kittery Town Clerk.
- The town has no comprehensive inventory of historic and cultural resources. Such an inventory would help educate residents and newcomers to the town about the significance of the historic buildings and landscapes, and encourage property owners to protect and preserve them.
- The town's ordinances do not include provisions for preventing loss of historic buildings (such as demolition delay). The oldest house in Maine, the Bray House, has recently lost much of its historic fabric through a house renovation project. An exception to this is the Shoreline

Overlay Zone Code which protects archaeological and historic resources and scenic beauty along the coastline from the negative impacts of development within shoreline areas.

- The town has not taken advantages of state-sponsored programs (such as the Certified Local Government Program) that promote and fund preservation of historic and cultural resource.
- The town currently has no historical commission or entity to serve as steward of Kittery's historic properties (buildings, landscapes and other historic features). Such an entity would oversee completion of an inventory of historic and cultural resources, and advocate for protection of these resources through National Register designations and amendments to the existing development bylaws.
- The town's ordinances do not regulate fence height and placement. Of particular concern is the placement of fences along sections of roadway rimming the water, where passersby can take in picturesque views.
- The town's military history, a significant part of its past, is not being utilized to its full potential to attract tourists.
- The town's youth are largely uninvolved in efforts to preserve Kittery's historic and cultural resources.
- The Friends of Fort McClary have expressed concern about looting of granite pieces from Fort McClary and would like to

see the town become more of a watchdog over this type of illegal activity.

- Large traffic volumes at the entrances to Fort McClary and Fort Foster in summer negatively impact travel along Route 103.

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INTERVIEWS

Kim Driscoll, Kittery History & Naval Museum
Dean Gallant, president, Board of Trustees, Kittery Art Association
Gary Hildreth, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Joe Gluckert, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum
Gary Best, Maine State Parks and Historic Sites
Glenn Dochtermann, Fort McClary
Dane Parker, Friends of Fort McClary