

The Russell Garrison



Holly Herbster, Senior Archaeologist

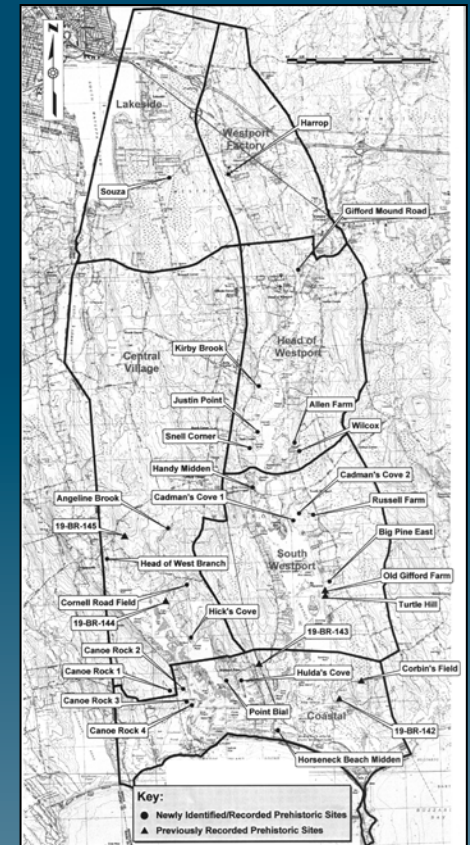
November 18, 2018

Why is the Russell Garrison Site so Important?

- Homestead of Dartmouth leader;
- Specific location connected to King Philip's War;
- Site remembered locally and preserved for more than 300 years;
- Reconstruction was one of earliest historical archaeological projects in New England.

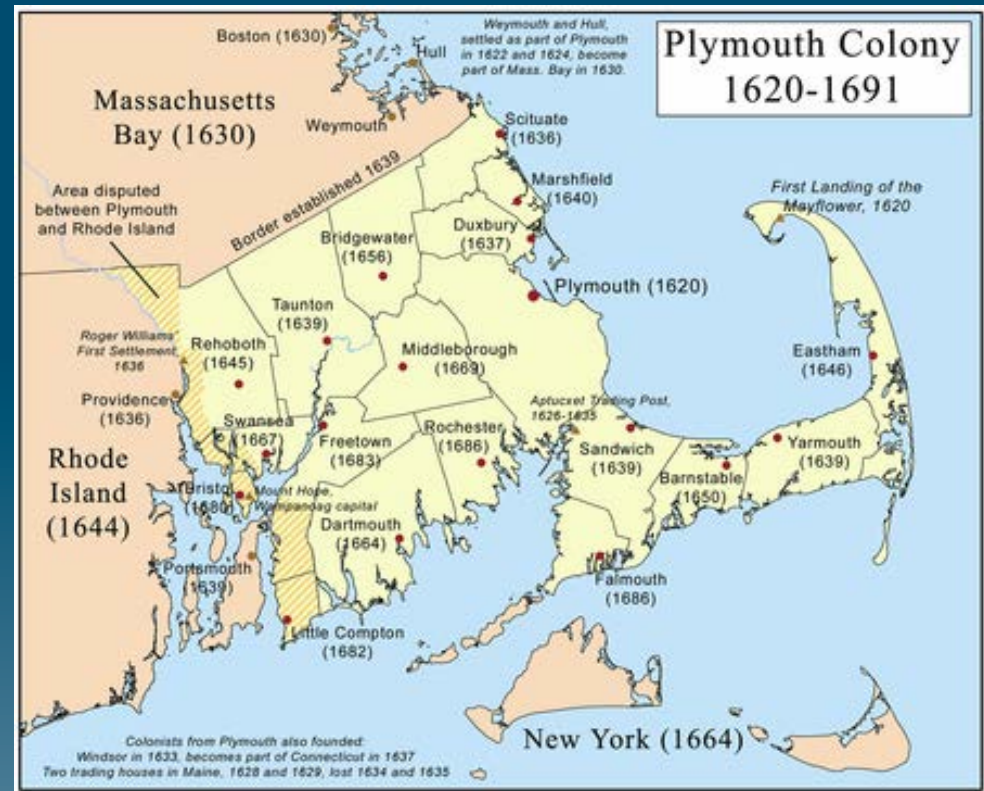


Dartmouth's Native American History



Early Colonial History

- Bartholomew Gosnold at Round Hill 1602;
- Plymouth Colony purchased "Old Dartmouth" from Sachem Massasoit in 1652 (Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Acushnet, Dartmouth, Westport, parts of Little Compton & Tiverton) ± 75,000 acres;
- 36 proprietors allotted 2,000 acres each- few settled;
- By 1670 only about 30 homesteads in present-day Dartmouth;
- Earliest town records lost in 1725 fire.



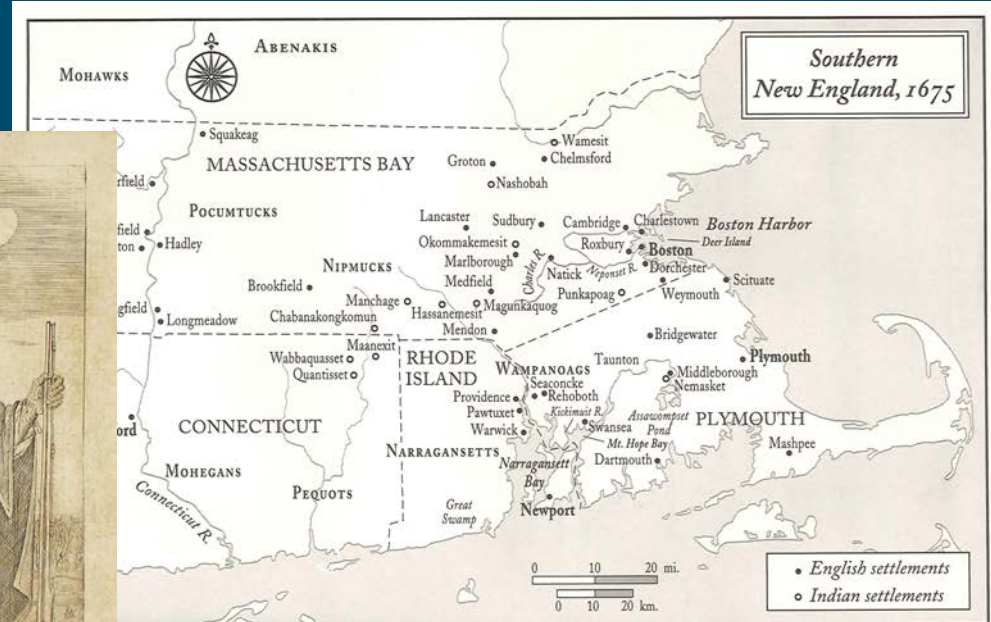
John Russell

- Purchased "Ponagansett" from Myles Standish in 1662-1664, homestead built near "old Fort Brook";
- Dartmouth representative to Plymouth General Court, deputy, constable, selectman;
- 1665 appointed "...to make enquiry concerning some damage done to some Indians without the bounds of Acushenah by the horses of the English...and to settle the [controversy] by taking course for the satisfying of such damage..."
- 1671 to "view the Damage done to the Indians by the Horses and Hogs of the English"



ca. 1678 Thomas Taber House (collection of New Bedford Whaling Museum)

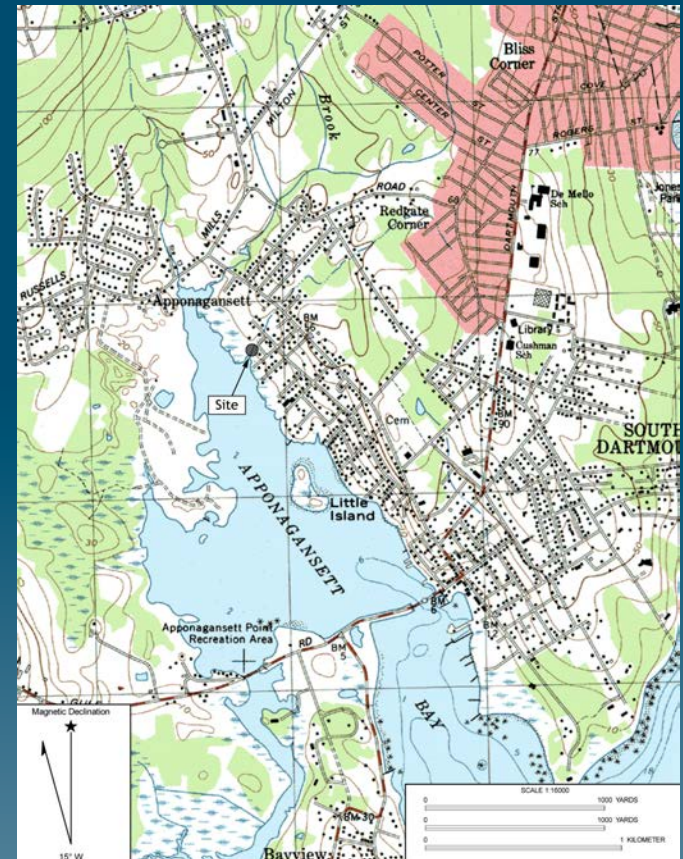
King Philip's War 1675-1676



King Philip's War- Russell Garrison

"On the 29th day landed here one hundred men to relieve Dartmouth being reported in some distress. At break Mr. Amie bro't word from Dartmouth that several parties of Indians with their arms to the number of four score gave themselves to the garrison for mercy, who set them on an island"

July 31, 1675 letter, Capt. Daniel HENCHMAN



King Philip's War- Russell Garrison

"And coming to Russels Garrison at Poneganset, they met with a Number of the Enemy that had surrendered themselves Prisoners on terms promised by Capt. Eels of the Garrison; and Ralph Earl had perswaded them (by a friend Indian he had employed) to come in. And had their promises to the Indians been kept, and the Indians farely treated, 'tis probable that most if not all the Indians in those Parts, had soon followed the Example of those that had now surrendred themselves; which would have been a good step towards finishing the War. But in spite of all that Capt. Eels, Church, or Earl could say, argue, plead, or beg, some body else that had more Power in their hands improv'd it... and without any regard to the promises made them on their surrendering themselves they were carry'd away to Plymouth."

Benjamin Church's The History of King Philip's War

"In reference to a companie of natives now in custody, brought in to Plymouth, being men, women, and children, in number one hundred and twelve...the conclusion is...that several of them have bine actors in the late rising and warr of the Indians against us, and the rest complyers with them therein...the counsel adjudged them to be sold, and denoted into servitude."

Plymouth Colony Court Records, August 4, 1675



18th – 19th C.: The Garrison Site Remembered

"...a gun which killed an Indian across 'Ponagansett River from ye olde castle on Russell's land to Heathen Neck"

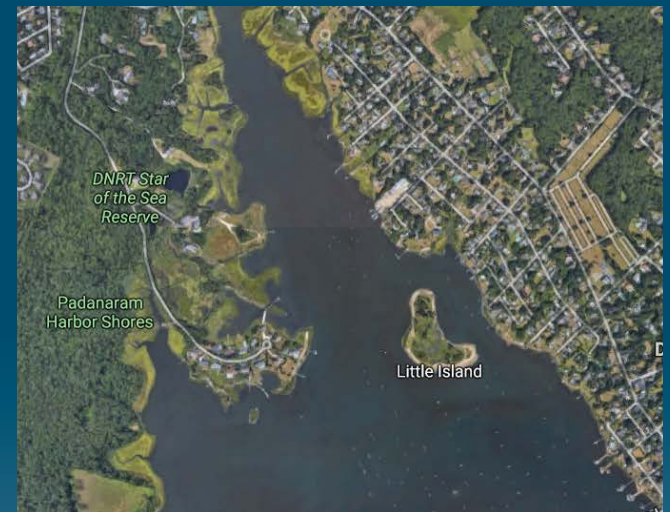
1773

inventory of Dartmouth resident Abraham Sherman's possessions

"...on the north side of this river, about a mile from its mouth, is to be seen the cellars of the old garrison; opposite to which was an Indian fort" The History of King Philip's War (Drake 1825)

"The cellars of Russell's Garrison are still to be seen" The History and Antiquities of Every Town in Massachusetts (Barber 1839)

"The cellars are still as clearly defined as when visited by Drake... The space indicates that the house was about 20 feet square, with an ell on the south of about ten feet square. Years ago there were walls of rude masonry about four feet high, with an exit on the northeast corner, leading to a brook near by. On the opposite side of the river, and a little to the southward, is Heath's Neck, where were located an Indian fort and settlement"
History of New Bedford (Bolles 1892)

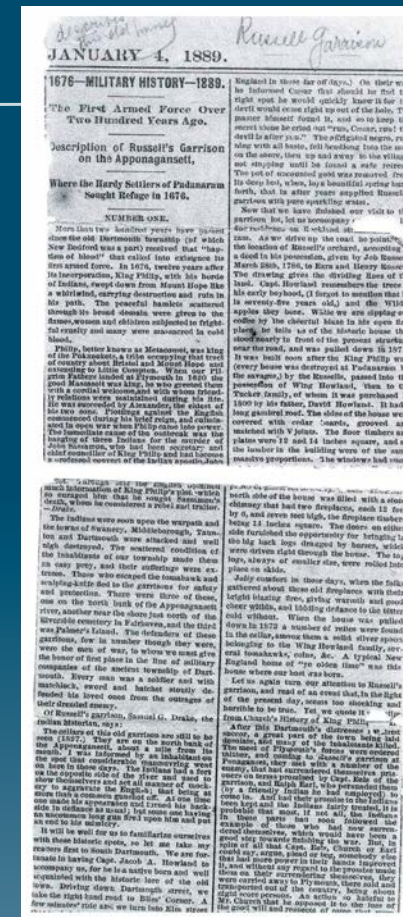


The Garrison Site Remembered

"Leaving our carriage near the rail fence, we cross the running brook at the south, twenty feet away and we stand by the ruins of Russell's [sic] garrison. Walking up the slight elevation our feet are on the edge of a cellar, the outline of which is as clearly defined, evidently, as when seen by Drake in 1827 [sic]. The space indicates that the house was about twenty feet square with an ell on the south side about ten feet square. Capt. Howland tells us that in his boyhood [he was 75 when interviewed] the walls of rude mason-work were about four feet high, with an entrance, at the northeast corner, leading directly to the running brook. These walls have been depleted from time to time, so that little remains in sight; but enough, however, to mark the original outline."

On the south side and adjoining is the similar excavation that undoubtedly was directly connected with the other. From the center of this cellar a lone tree has grown... This, too, has its wall outline, and the captain tells us that 60 years ago he assisted his father, Mr. David Howland, in moving the door or entrance stone from its position, and placed it in the wall as a stepping stone. One hundred feet south of the garrison, after a long and diligent search, we find it; and he recognizes it as the identical stone. His enthusiasm finds expression in a vigorous leap over the wall to examine it more closely and to chip off a bit for a memento."

January 4, 1889 newspaper article

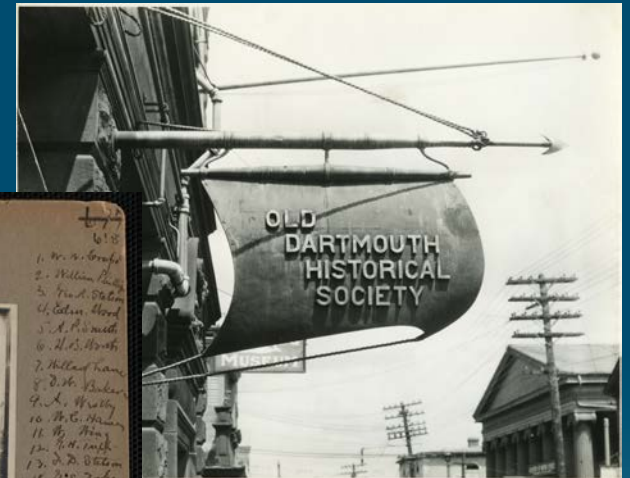
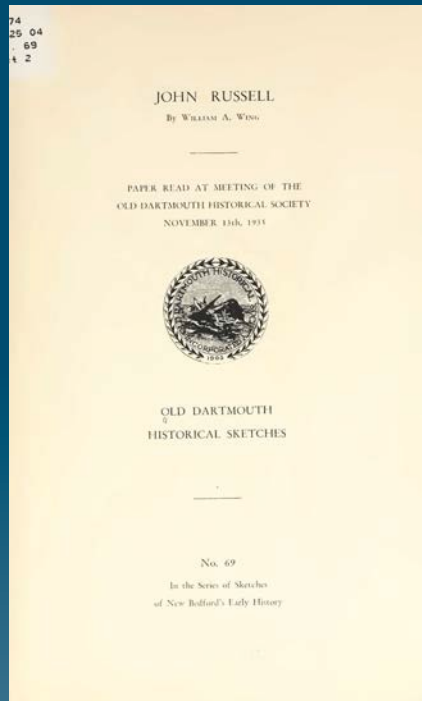


Fred Palmer- 1905



Images courtesy of New Bedford Whaling Museum

William A. Wing, Old Dartmouth Historical Society (1935)



"Seemingly nothing to look at, yet much to remember"

"...to get there one must first seek permission from Mrs. Mary Kirby, daughter of the late Charles Gifford...who bought the land... Then one must walk through some high grass...and across a little brook." "There, in a little mound, are two holes in the ground: one measures about 20 feet square, the other is less than half that size. In one corner of the larger hole there are some stones and rocks, making a high step. This, Mrs. Kirby will tell you, is the original step leading to the door of the stockade. The step was reconstructed from old records, a number of years ago."

1939 Dartmouth News article

"The two cellars of the house are to be seen today, one only a hole in the ground, the second with some stone remaining which indicate that the dwelling was about twenty feet square with a smaller ell."

1948 History of Town of Dartmouth Addendum #1: The Russell Garrison (Milliken)



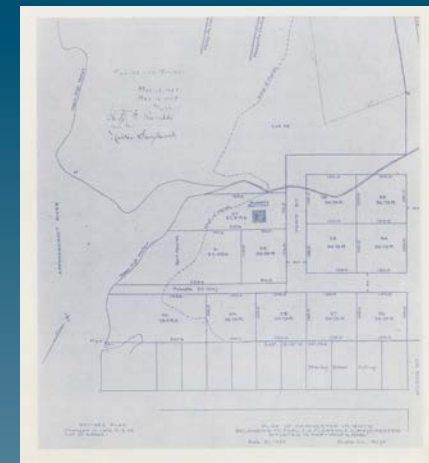
1951: ODHS Purchases Site

"...Brought to a head by the expansion of residential Dartmouth, one of the long-time ambitions of many society members seems about to be fulfilled. Directors have voted to purchase and [preserve the site of Russell's garrison...]"

"Until the site was partially excavated a few weeks ago...on behalf of the society, little appeared to remain of the old garrison, though the fact its foundation still existed was common knowledge..."

"It is part of the property being developed as a building site by Carl E. Manchester, from whom the society proposes to buy the portion including the old garrison...Directors viewed the site at a special meeting before voting to attempt to buy the property "

New Bedford Standard-Times September 9, 1951



Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Jr.



Oliver G. Ricketson, archaeologist under whose supervision the old Indian fort was excavated and rebuilt, points to the oven recessed into the back of the wall-in fireplace.

OLIVER GARRISON RICKETSON, JR.—1894-1952

OLIVER RICKETSON was born on September 19, 1894, in Pittsburgh, Pa., and died at Bar Harbor, Maine, on October 17, 1952. His parents were Oliver Garrison Ricketson, Senior, and Margaret Carnegie.

At the age of five, Oliver was taken to Cumberland Island, Ga., which is still owned by the heirs of his great uncle, Andrew Carnegie. Here he spent most of the next eight years in an isolated world of forests, wild animals, cattle, horses, and colored field hands—an admirable background for his future work in the jungles of Central America.

In 1907, Ricketson entered Middlesboro School, where he became captain of the football team, graduating in 1912. At Harvard, he developed an interest in anthropology and was one of the first four students to take Professor Hooton's course in physical anthropology but, after graduating in 1916, he entered the Harvard Medical School.

Upon the declaration of war in April, 1917, Ricketson immediately enlisted in the navy as machinist mate. He served on the patrol ship *Scoter* which saw no action. After the war, he returned to the Medical School and completed the first year's work, but then decided that he did not want to be a doctor. Yet his medical training later proved most useful in Central America where he was called on to deliver babies and set broken bones.

In 1920, Ricketson went west to live with the Wetheralls who then ran trading posts at Flagstaff and Kayenta. With them he cruised the Navajo reservation and was on the second expedition to reach the Rainbow Natural Bridge. Later he worked with Samuel Guernsey for the Peabody Museum, Harvard University, at Marsh Pass, Arizona, and with the Carter expedition from the American Museum of Natural History in Arizona and Utah.

During this period, Ricketson met the late Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. He accompanied Morley to Central America in 1921 as a mule skinner, thus becoming the first and only relative who has worked for any Carnegie foundation. Their journey across the Yucatan was long and arduous. Afterwards Ricketson returned mer, swearing never to set foot in the tropics again.

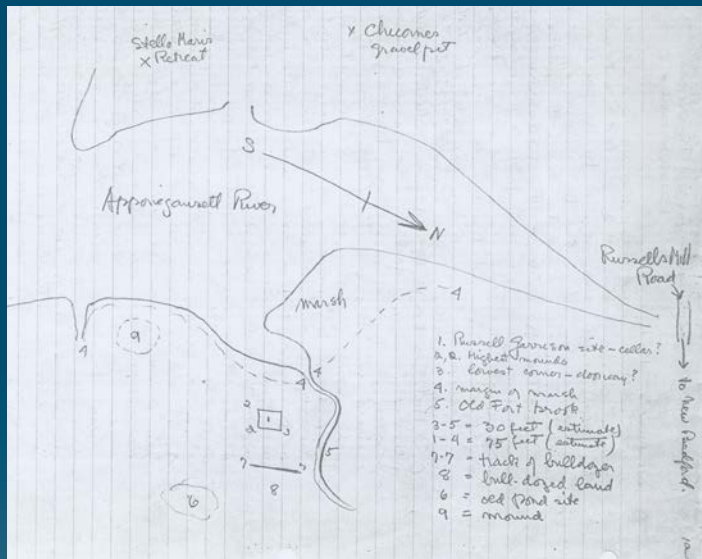
The following year, however, the enticement of a Yucatan coast of Yucatan brought him back in the Maya field. By drawing and mapping had become recognized and he was interested in archaeology. On the 1922 expedition he Tulum and Naranja and worked on architectural surveys. run for the first time. After returning to the United States, to Brazil to attend the XX International Congress of America.

In 1923 Ricketson returned to the jungles of the Peten made the first accurate latitude and longitude surveys of a summer, with J. A. Jeancon, he covered a large part of National Geographic Society, collecting samples for tree-ring etson who conceived the idea of taking borings in ancient overcame local opposition by placing turquoise offerings in

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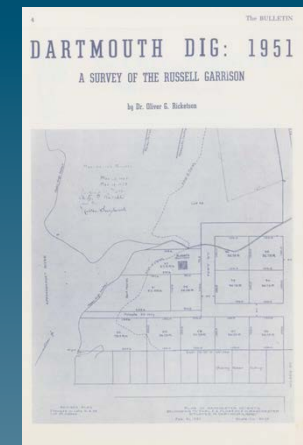
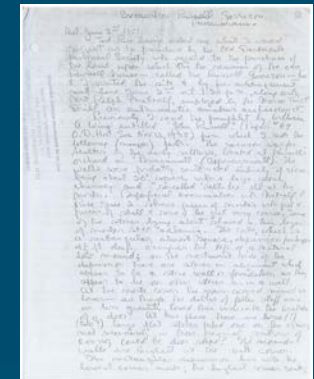
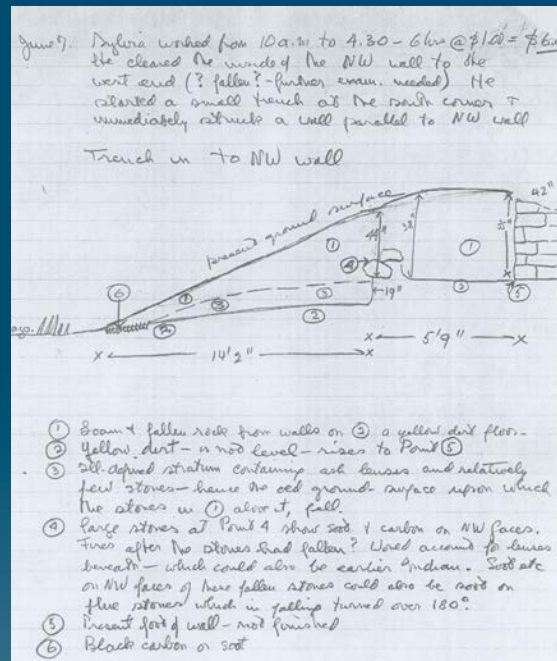
Ricketson's Fieldwork



	Monday 2	Tues 3	Thurs 5	Fri 6	
Sawance	8 hrs	8	8	8	32
Frank	4	8	8	8	28
Rose	—	4 hrs	—	4 hrs	8

Saw. - 32 hrs @ 1.40 = 44.80
 Frank - 28 hrs @ 1.00 = 28
 Rose - 9 hrs - 1 hr lost work - @ 1.50 = 13.50 } 41.50

Carry over for the Rose the day
 afternoon (not included in the above)
 1/2 hr. or \$2.25.



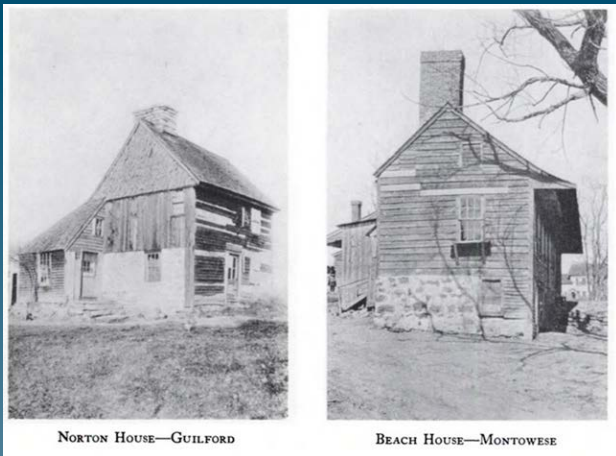
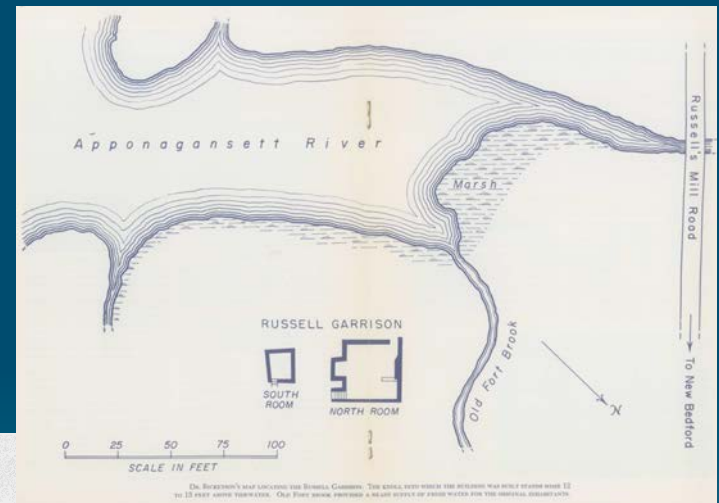
Ricketson's Fieldwork



Russell Garrison Reconstruction

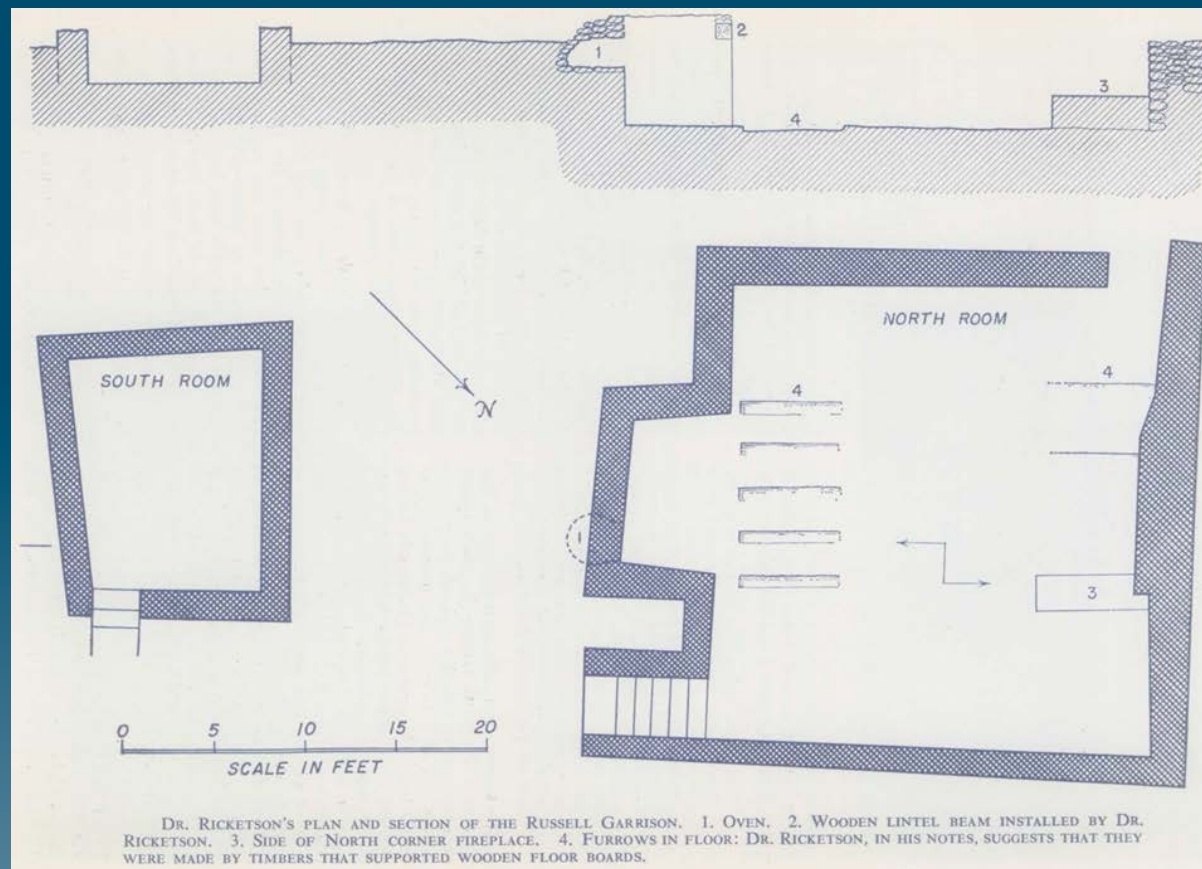


Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut (Kelly 1924)

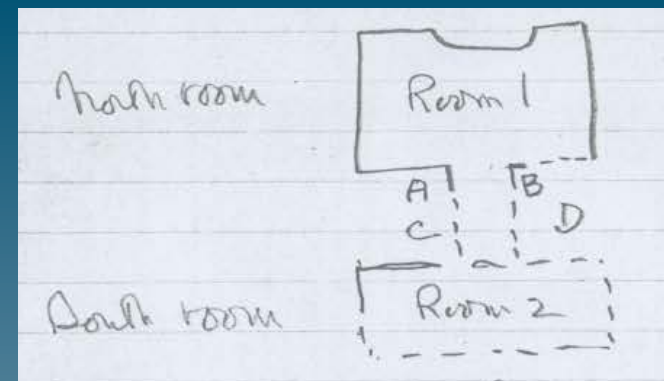
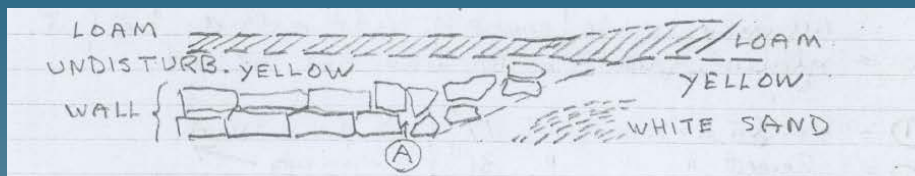
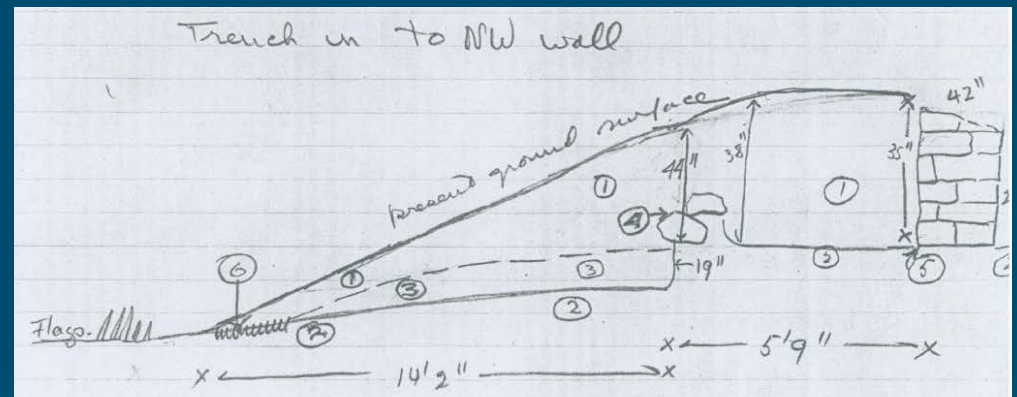
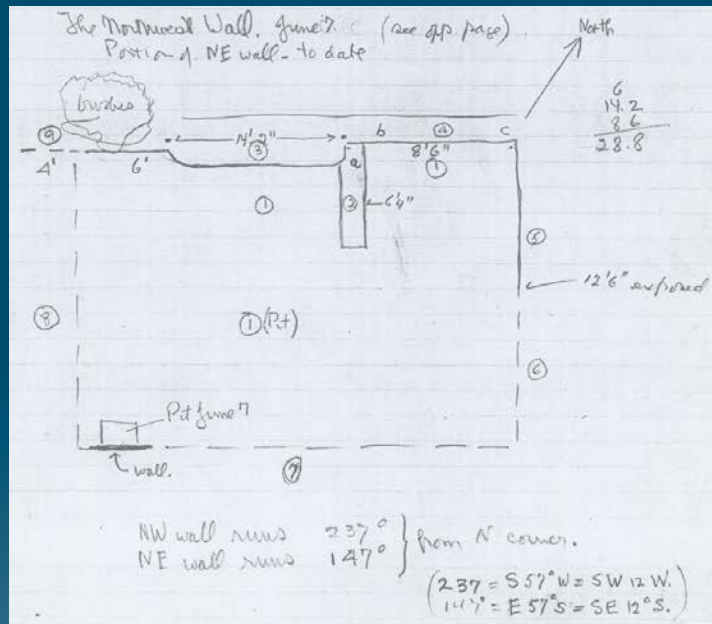


Thomas Taber House, Fairhaven, built ca. 1678

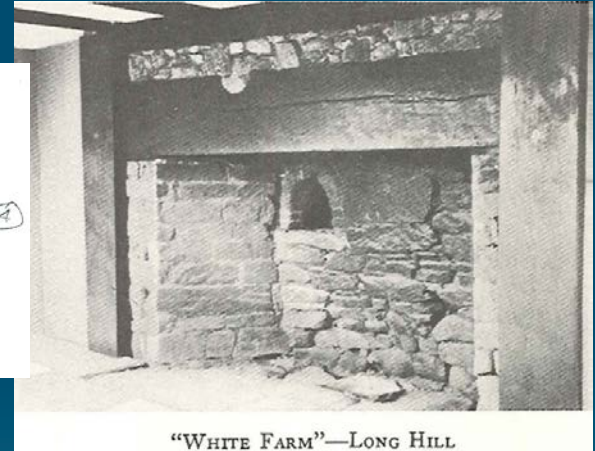
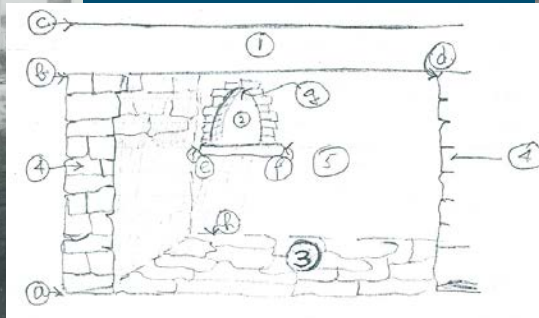
Russell Garrison Excavation



Russell Garrison Excavation



Russell Garrison Reconstruction



"WHITE FARM"—LONG HILL

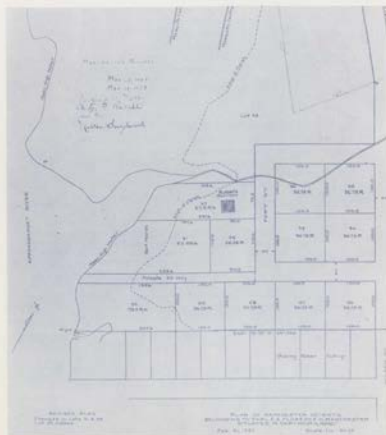


*Early Domestic Architecture of
Connecticut (Kelly 1924)*

Dartmouth's 300th (1964): Ricketson's Report Published

THE BULLETIN DARTMOUTH DIG: 1951 A SURVEY OF THE RUSSELL GARRISON

by Dr. Oliver S. Ricketson



SUMMER 1961

Since the Society in 1951, subjects have been the focus of the year. In at a Society meeting, the survey is now, there is an architecture and as its significance enhanced the fully. Dr. Ricketson of the popular Tenthredinist take another look at the Russell Garrison are from the first.

When I was in the Garrison, I was much about a hole in the ground, even if it is an historic hole. For there is very little record about this so-called garrison in itself. If you stand today on the hill it once crossed and survey the excavation, the first glance would be unable to distinguish it from any other for any house. However, if we examine the situation a little more closely, an arena of antiquity sets it apart. A modern cellar does not contain an open fireplace large enough to stand in, nor do present fireplaces contain a bee-hive shaped oven built into the chimney's back wall.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

As much as I had heard of Russell's garrison, I had never visited the site, so when our treasurer asked me for suggestions as to the president I would recommend to the Old Dartmouth Historical Society following its purchase of the property, our first move was to visit the garrison. We therefore met on the site June 2, 1951, and made an examination of the ground. Previous to this meeting I read the Old Dartmouth paper #69, by William A. Wing, entitled "John Russell," and from it I gathered the following meager facts about the garrison itself.

The garrison was erected in 1675 for the shelter of the early settlers from Indian attack in Ponagansett; Ponagansett being the present name of that body of water which forms the harbor and inlet of Pelham. Wing tells us that the walls were constructed entirely of

should remember this question of a sub-bay all at the north, for after the excavations had been completed, it will bear upon an inference as to the type of roof. As we shall see, we can only infer as to the roof construction.

Our superficial examination of the site revealed that it lay upon the top of a small grass-covered knoll, rising 12-15 feet above the tide-water and about 30 feet south of Old Fort Brook, and on the eastern shore line of the Apponaugsett River, a tidalwater estuary into which the Old Fort Brook empties about 50 feet west of the site itself. Meadow grass covered the whole area of this terrain, with a half dozen oaks scattered here and there. The land had belonged to the Kirby estate, but had recently been purchased by Mr. Carl Manchester for development. Grading of the land immediately adjacent on the east shows it to be composed of a glacial sand-and-gravel formation, containing stones from egg-size up to the size of a small grapefruit, and excavation later revealed that the knoll upon which the fort stood was of the same formation. We therefore note the following: The garrison was very strategically located upon a knoll of quickly draining soil, protected on the west by the Apponaugsett River, on the north by the beach, swampy bed of Old Fort Brook, which also served as a permanent water supply, and on the southeast by a marshy fresh-water pond, now being filled in by the grading operation.

I know of no record of an Indian attack on this fort, but it was strategically well placed



From the QUARTERDECK

In 1951 the Old Dartmouth Historical Society became the owner, protector, and caretaker of the site of the Russell Garrison in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts, a structure closely associated with King Philip's War. Shortly after acquisition, an archaeological survey was done under the leadership of Dr. Oliver S. Ricketson, a professional in the field and a native to the area. Later, the foundation of the garrison was enclosed with a chain fence and an explanatory historical marker installed. Although some distance from the main stream of tourism, it is still visited by many interested searchers into the past. A trip to the old garrison is worth the time and trouble it may take to ask your way there. Aside from the remains of the rather unusual construction of the garrison itself, its location sites a sense of the isolation that must have been felt by those first settlers in the face of Indian springs. Now some three-hundred years later the isolation and fear that drove the early settlers to the garrison brings patients to the psychiatrist's couch, the flintlock and the fire arrow have become objects for a museum collection, and the war cry of the Indian is a television asset.

From summer the records of Dartmouth have been



1970s- 19980s



National Register Documentation 2014-2018



NPS Form 10-900

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

National Register of Historic Places
 Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

This form is to be used in completing or updating documentation for individual properties and historic districts. See instructions in the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to your property, leave it blank. Do not check "N/A" for "not applicable." For facilities, architectural characteristics, significance, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Russell Garrison

Other names/number: formerly DAR-900

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Fort Street

City or town: Dartmouth

State: MA

County: Bristol

Not For Publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.6.

In my opinion, the property ☒ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

☒ national ☐ statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria

☒ local

☒ A

☒ B

☒ C

☒ D

<i>Bruce Sumner</i>		<i>June 4, 2018</i>	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHIPO	Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

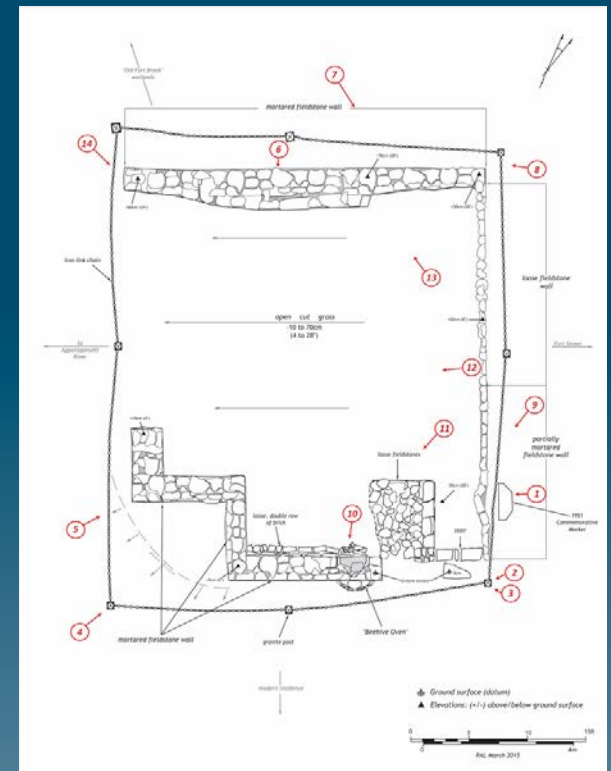
Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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National Register Criteria of Eligibility

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting materials, workmanship, feeling and association and

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (c) that embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Thanks to:
Dartmouth Arts & Historical Society
Dartmouth Historical Commission- Judy Lund, Chair

