

DATE: July 22, 2024

TO: Board of Selectmen, Town of New London
Bill Helm, Chair
Bebe Hammond Casey
Janet R. Kidder

✓cc. Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

FROM: Harry Blunt Douglas Baxter
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New London, New Hampshire celebrated its bicentennial in 1979 by commissioning and erecting 16 HISTORICAL MARKERS between 1963 and 1978. (See attachment) These markers celebrated important people, places, and events in the town's history. New London will celebrate its Semiquincentennial in 2029, marking 250 years of its existence as a town.

In the 50 plus years since the historical markers were erected, they have experienced significant wear and tear, resulting in markers today that are weather worn, faded, and in poor condition. This group of concerned citizens is asking the Board of Selectmen to address the poor condition of the markers. Ideally the existing markers will be refurbished, placed on new posts, and in some cases even moved to more appropriate locations by the time New London celebrates its next big birthday in 2029.

The Town of New London owns these markers. The current condition of the markers reflects the values the town places on its storied history. This is the right time to begin addressing the condition of the historical markers if the proposed timeline is to be met. Sewah Studios, Marietta, Ohio manufactured the markers and can refurbish them to their original condition. Total project cost is up to \$35,000, which includes \$1500.00 per marker refurbishment plus \$375 per new improved post. Transporting the markers to and from Ohio is included in these cost estimates.







We appreciate the work Jim Perkins, New London Town Archivist, put into researching and presenting information to us from town archives and his own survey. Mr. Perkins raised a few questions that merit attention. One opportunity to explore is the addition of QR codes attached to the marker posts allowing interested viewers to use the New London Archives website for additional background information. Ideally Mr. Perkins would be willing to help in creating the text for these.

As an element of this project, the selectmen would request the town highway department be involved in taking down the markers, helping prepare them for shipment, and re-erecting the refurbished markers on their posts when they arrive back in New London.

This group of concerned citizens is willing to assist the Board of Selectmen with this project. Celebrating New London's past is as important as planning its future. As a Board of Selectmen, how will you spearhead this important project?

New London Historical Markers

YEAR	IMAGE	TITLE	TEXT	SIGNATURE	ORDER NO.	LOCATION (what3words)
1963		First Town Meeting	On this site and in this building, / then owned by Squire Samuel Messer, / THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON / was officially organized /on August 3, 1779	THIS MARKER ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, 1963		subscriber.inches.sugars
1964		Herrick Homestead & Tavern	Built 1812 for Jonathan Herrick, Jr. Here he kept Store, Tavern and Stage Coach Stop for the daily Journey from Lowell, Massachusetts to Hanover, New Hampshire, first run in 1832 Now known as THE COLBY LANE HOUSE	THIS MARKER ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, 1964	M1414	ripen.tramps.translates
1965		Old Main Street	On this Street before 1800 were located the first Meeting House Burying and Burying Ground; the Town Pound and Muster Field; the first Stores, Tavern, Postoffice, and Blacksmith Shop; a School House; and several Homes. / In Some Early Town Records this road is called "Summer Street," or is termed "The Road to Wendell"	ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, AUGUST, 1965	M1570	rearranged.joggers.leafing
1966		Colby Hill School	On this site, from 1804 to 1906, stood one of the seven "District Schools" which were built at various times during the first century of New London's history. The others were: North End, Pleasant Street, Burpee Hill, West Part, Low Plain, and Elkins.	ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, AUGUST, 1966	M1679	getaway.moving.seducing
1967		Otterville	In 1812 there was built near this place, then called "Goose Hole," the first saw and grist-mill in the western part of New London. Later in the 19th century came cloth mills, blacksmiths, shoemakers, stores, a public hall, rooms for 49 "summer boarders," and a Mission Church.	NEW LONDON TOWN HISTORICAL COMMITTEE / AUGUST, 1967	M1857	buddy.treaties.caters
1968		Willow Farm	In 1995 this historic farm in the West Part of New London became the summer residence of Mr. & Mrs. James J. Tracy of Cleveland, Ohio. During the ensuing years they directed the construction of these magnificent stone walls which encompassed their estate. Also on Willow Farm they introduced advanced methods of agriculture: erected the first greenhouse in New London; and developed a 9-hole golf course.	NEW LONDON TOWN HISTORICAL COMMITTEE / AUGUST, 1968	M1965	drank.collarbone.cheapen
1969		Falling Water & Early Industry	On these headwaters of the Blackwater River, 19th century industry flourished. The stream which begins here through its first few miles once powered the New London Scythe Company, a shingle mill, a saw mill, a grist mill, a woolen mill, a tannery, and other small industries. Upon such foundations modern American business and technology began.	ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, AUGUST, 1969	M2172	critics.solicitor.gurgled
1970		Soo-nipi Park	Between this road and Lake Sunapee, in 1892 John D. Quackenbos, M. D., (1848-1926) began his "Soo-Nipi Park" development. It then comprised 400 acres of land from the historic Currier and Pike farms, and extended for almost two miles along the lake shore. So carefully planned was its growth that Dr. Quackenbos has been termed a "pioneer of zoning" for our nation. Soo-Nipi Park included a guest house, individual cottages, a golf course, tennis courts, horseback trails, foot paths, a steamboat landing, a fish hatchery, and a wild-life sanctuary. Dr. Quackenbos was one of the founders of Barnard College in New York City, and a prolific writer on literary and medical subjects. Becoming a legal resident of New London in 1897, in ensuing years he served on the Library Committee, the Board of Health, and the School Board. A truly dedicated citizen!	NEW LONDON HISTORICAL COMMITTEE / AUGUST, 1970	M2346	guru.biologist.flagged
1971		Pleasant Street Pioneers	In the first century of New London's history a thriving community developed along Pleasant Street and on the land between the head of Pleasant Lake and Morgan Hill. The rushing streams that flowed down the slopes of that hill, notably Great Brook, powered two sawmills and a cider mill. Located nearby there were a brickyard, a blacksmith shop, stone workers, shoemakers, and carpenters. To serve the youth of the area the Pleasant Street School was built in 1821.	THIS MARKER ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, 1971	M2572	casting.incorrect.cornfield
1972		Lakeside Landing	In the "Golden Age" on Lake Sunapee which extended from 1876 to 1933, this location on Herrick Cove was the principal landing point in the Town of New London. To this place the "Armenia White," the "Ascutney," the White the "Lady Woodsun," "Kearsarge," and the "Weetamoo," brought hundreds of passengers every summer. From here stages and dray lines carried the visitors and their baggage to New London's hotels and boarding houses.	THIS MARKER ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, AUGUST, 1972	M2736	shapes.fanfare.excuses

YEAR	IMAGE	TITLE	TEXT	SIGNATURE	ORDER NO.	LOCATION (what3words)
1973		Primal Peoples	Along the shores of this lake aboriginal people once travelled and camped. Artifacts have been found near here which date back thousands of years to the "Archaic Period" of primitive culture. Other artifacts from the later "Woodland Indians," made before the coming of the white man, have also been discovered. The Pleasant Lake area was obviously well-known to the earliest inhabitants of New Hampshire.	THIS MARKER ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, AUGUST, 1973	M2902	birthmark.wordplay.shopping
1974		Hominy Pot	In the vicinity of this marker, during the last quarter of the 19th century, were built the first homes and the original schoolhouse of New London. Along this brook, developed by several men at different times, were a saw mill, a grist mill, a carding and cloth-dressing mill, a hat factory, and a shingle mill — all powered by falling water. This industrial area has been variously called "Minot's Square," "Harvey's Mills," "Trussell's Mills," and, most lastingly, "Hominy Pot"	THIS MARKER ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON / AUGUST 1974	M3052	rainwater.knocking.preferences
1975		The Home of Moses Trussell (1753-1843)	The house up the hill on the right was built by Moses Trussell in 1808. Born in Plaistow, N.H., Trussell lived with an older brother in Hopkinton until his majority. In 1774 as a pioneer he made the first clearing in what is now New London, on a site north of the present King Hill Road. In April, 1775, he enlisted in Col. John Stark's First NH Regiment. At the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, Trussell lost his left arm by a direct hit from a British cannon ball... After recovering from his wound, Trussell taught school for some years. Then he married and settled in New London on an 80-acre farm extending along both sides of today's Main Street. He died in April, 1843, five months short of his 90th birthday. His house and farm remained under Trussell ownership until 1889.	THIS MARKER ERECTED BY THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, JUNE 22, 1975	M3177	motionless.season.laptops
1976		County Road	One of the oldest roads of New London, a portion of this highway was authorized at the original Town Meeting in August, 1779. When completed in 1797, it bisected the Town from Newbury to Springfield. Indicative of the first settlers' needs for communication, County Road is in daily use almost two hundred years later.	NEW LONDON HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE, AUGUST 1976	M3503	basin.presumes.granny
1977		Little Lake Sunapee	Along these shores Indians once camped and fished. In New London's beginnings, this lake was the baptismal site for those who joined the first church. Near the end of the 19th century it became a haven for vacationers' summer homes, and close to it "Twin Lake Villa" was built. Along the eastern shore a small golf course once existed. From its frozen surface in winter, ice for the community was cut. In the summer its shining waters prompted the establishment of youth camps and saw sailing regattas. Today thousands enjoy its public bathing beach.	NEW LONDON HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE, AUGUST, 1977	M3771	catch.refrigerate.indeed
1978		The Old Campus	In the pioneer years of New London this open tract was included in the farm of Ezekiel Sargent. His home is now part of the New London Inn. The acreage is today the property of Colby-Sawyer College. Four school buildings once stood here. As we face the lot from Main Street these were the Original Academy (1838), the Heidelberg, a girls' dormitory (1853), the Gymnasium (1854); and Colby Hall, a boys' dormitory (1854). Now only the "Old Academy" remains, but the outlines of the former structures and of an ancient tennis court may still be seen on the green lawn.	NEW LONDON HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE, AUGUST 1978	M3908	timeless.august.sprinkling