

*Extra Info  
Pre Meeting*

Reuse Feasibility Study  
for 17 Woodbury Lane

Acton, ME

November 20, 1998 DRAFT  
*Revised January 7, 1999*



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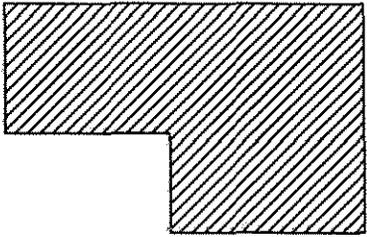
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## 2.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

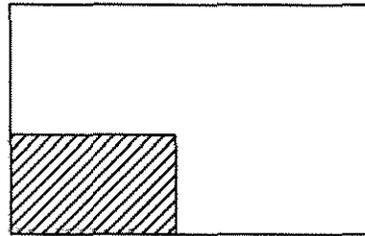
The house at 17 Woodbury Lane is located on a relatively flat site at the edge of the Acton Centre Historic District. The facade of the house faces east and sits back from the road approximately twenty feet. The original structure is characteristic of an early-nineteenth-century cottage and exhibits elements of the Greek Revival. The later additions have been respectful of the original structure in scale and detail. Records indicate that the house was first occupied in early 1861 however, the structure of the present house suggests that portions were constructed earlier than that date and the house might have been moved to the site. No records have been found that indicate who the builder was, but Asaph Parlin is listed as the first occupant in 1861.

Based on a review of the wood framing and foundation, the original house appears to have been constructed as one room with an ell in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century (the ell may have been a later addition.) This is the house that would have been moved to the site in 1861 if it were not constructed there originally. The entrance to the house may have been on the south side facing the road that originally ran behind the present day Town Hall. The northwest corner of the house appears to have been added soon after, possibly the 1870s or 1880s, creating a rectangular plan. The northwest room (Rm. 114) of the house is not timber framed like the southwest (Rm. 110) and the roof sheathing on the north slope is milled dimensioned lumber, unlike the south slope that is not evenly dimensioned and still contains bark on the edges. The next expansion to the house appears to have occurred in the late 1940s or 1950s creating an ell with an attached garage off of the southeast corner of the house. This is based on sketches from 1925, a site survey from 1945 and building permit records from 1967. The final alteration to the house occurred in 1975 when a two-story addition was attached to the south side.

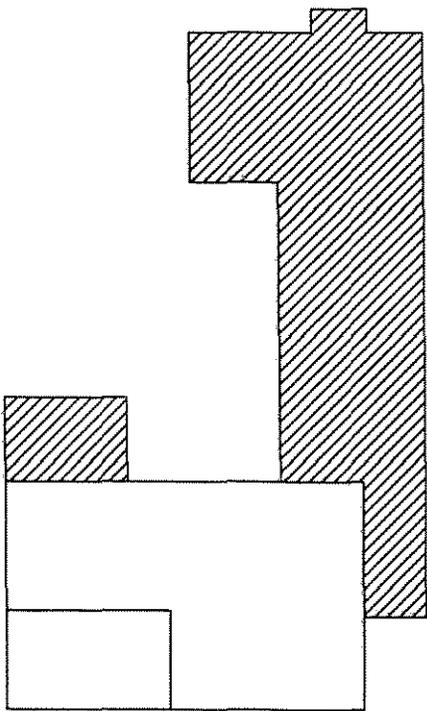
The exterior of the house is clapboard with a large front gable. Windows are typically true divided lite, double hung with those in the oldest portion of the house being six-over-nine while those in newer portions tend to be six-over-six or twelve-over-twelve. Today the exterior of the house retains much of its original eighteenth century character and it acts as a buffer to the expansive parking lot behind it helping to maintain the character of the historic district. The interior of the house has seen significant alterations and even the oldest rooms do not appear to contain much of their original materials.



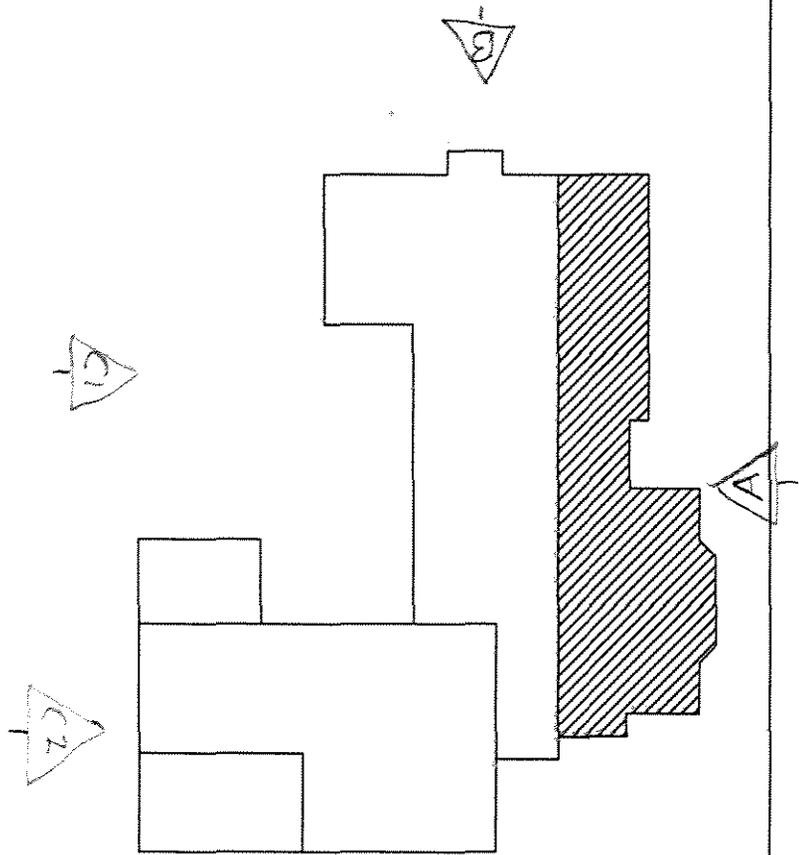
LATE 18TH OR EARLY 19TH CENTURY  
1780s - 1870s



LATE 19TH CENTURY  
1870s - 1950s



MID 20TH CENTURY  
1950s - 1975



LATE 20TH CENTURY  
1975 - 1996

0' 5' 10'

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF 17 WOODBURY LANE

1/16" = 1'-0"

