

# *Historical and Archaeological Resources*

**Goal:** *To preserve the state's historical and archaeological resources.*

<i>Policies</i>	<i>Strategies</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Implementation</i>
<i>Protect to the greatest extent practicable the significant and archeological resources in the community.</i>	Seek federal, state and private funding for restoration of historic properties, including historic tax credit programs.	Town Manager Economic Development Historical Society	0-2 Years
	Educate landowners of potential archaeological sites to minimize disturbance of historical and pre-historical areas.	Historical Society Planning Board	Ongoing
	Work with Madison Historical and Genealogical Society to assess future needs for preservation in Madison including assessments and surveys.	Town Manager Economic Development Historical Society Planning Board	0-2 Years
	Distribute Historic Preservation Maps to any entity requiring site review and incorporate such information into the Site Review process.	Town Office Economic Development Historical Society	Ongoing

Historical and archaeological resources contribute to a community's character and individuality. A history of Madison includes Native American history, European settlement of village areas, and economic development associated with production of local necessities. Businesses first located within the Kennebec River corridor, then expanded to settlements around Lake Wesserunsett.

English settlement of the area now known as Madison was preceded by the habitation of Abenaki Indians along the shores of the Kennebec River, a site currently known as The Pines. The strong relationship between the Kennebec Abenakis and Father Rasle, a Jesuit priest, led to resistance of English settlement, ultimately resulting in Dummer's War. The Abenaki settlement was destroyed by the English in 1724, ending the tribe's presence at Old Point. The site, which included a chapel as well as longhouses, is now a National Historic Landmark. All artifacts belong to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

The Town of Madison became owner of the property in 2005, conveyed to the Town by The Archaeological Conservancy of Albuquerque, New Mexico, who had been deeded the property by Madison Paper Industries. The Pines site abuts the Catholic Cemetery where the monument to Father Rasle, dedicated by Bishop Fenwick in 1833, states the importance of the priest's influence on the Abenakis. Father Rasle's dictionary of the Abenaki language is preserved at the Harvard Library in Cambridge Massachusetts.

According to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission there are eight prehistoric archaeological sites known in Madison (see M6). Three are located along the shore of Wesserunsett Lake, and five are located along the banks of the Kennebec. The prehistoric site around the Father Rasle mission is listed in the National Register and considered of high significance.

Professional archaeological survey for prehistoric sites in Madison has been done from the banks of the Kennebec River upstream (north) of the Madison dam; approximately 1/4 mile downstream from the dam; the Pines and Father Rasle mission properties along the river at the southern boundary of the town; an industrial development along Pooler Brook, and from a portion of the proposed Skowhegan bypass that extends into Madison at the southeast corner of the town.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission completed a reconnaissance archaeological survey for prehistoric sites along the banks of the Kennebec River and recommended that a similar survey be conducted for Lake Wesserunsett and Wesserrunsett Stream. The Old Point Pines site yielded significant archaeological artifacts from the late 1600's. Thompson Point, at Lake Wesserunsett (northeast of East Madison) contains stone tools and is considered another prehistoric Indian site.

Large areas of Madison, approximating 2 to 1 km from the Kennebec River eastward, are characterized by glacial outwash soils that may have attracted Native American settlement. In addition, the higher terraces and river floodplains back from the immediate banks of the Madison Dam impoundment need surveying along with the shoreline of Wesserunsett Lake and

the outlet stream. There is a small area of wind-blown sand southeast of Martin Corner that needs a professional survey for Paleoindian sites.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission also identified three patches of aeolian (duned) sand along the Russell Road, just northeast of Ward Hill and five other additional sites in the southern half of Madison. An additional, very significant prehistoric archaeological site is adjacent to the former Madison Electric Works powerhouse building on the Sandy River. The powerhouse property is currently for sale and the dam has been removed. Archaeological survey work was completed during the dam removal process.

The Town of Madison incorporated on March 7, 1804, in the State of Massachusetts. Maine became a state in 1820. Research of early settlers in Madison documents many familiar family names, roads and streets. The Weston Homestead is still owned by Weston descendants. The first settlers began a tradition of an agricultural economy, which continued in Madison for many years. Farming in Madison has decreased in numbers from early settlement days while logging remains a vital part of the current economy.

Settlement around the area of Lake Wesserunsett, then known as Hayden Lake, occurred around 1820, and during that time the East Madison village had grocery stores, a blacksmith shop, two school houses, a woolen mill, cloth dressing mills, tanneries, a chair manufacturer and a shingle mill.

Across the lake another village developed around the historic Lakewood Theater, built in 1882 and noted as America's oldest summer theater. A steamer carried passengers across the lake from East Madison, a trolley brought guests from Madison and Skowhegan. Lakewood became renowned for famous actors performing summer stock. The property is now owned by the Curtain Up Enterprises, which produces several plays a year using local talent. Theater goes and the general public may still dine at the historic Lakewood Inn.

Madison has several historic buildings now listed on the National Register of Historic Places that also have contributed to the town's history. The structures most worthy of the federal designation of preservation for their historic, cultural or archaeological significance include the Weston Homestead, Lakewood Theater, and Madison's Public Library.

**The Weston Homestead:** Located at the end of Weston Avenue, stands in grand Federal style on the banks of the Kennebec River. The property takes the visitor back to the 1800's with original features, wallpapers and furniture in the home of one of the first settlers in Madison, Benjamin Weston. The property is still owned by direct descendants of the Westons and managed as a tree farm and leased fields for local farmers. Currently the property is for sale and is being considered for purchase by the Somerset Woods Trustees in collaboration with the Land for Maine Futures Grant program.

**Lakewood Theater** originated as a Spiritualist Camp in 1882, and the first meeting house barn-like structure evolved into the pillared theater building still prominent on the Wesserunsett shores today. The theater, inn and small shanty building remain as symbols of a charmed era; cottages that once housed the stars adorn the now private lanes leading to the theater.

**The Madison Public Library:** Andrew Carnegie gifted the Town of Madison with \$8,000 to construct the C.S. Humphreys (locally designed) building, to be matched by \$800 from the town. Henry and William Johnson built the ornate, brick and granite library. The unique building includes a balcony, fine oak paneling, and antique light fixtures.

The Town of Madison conducted surveys of historical properties in 1985 and 1989. Several downtown buildings represent turn of the century architecture, including the Blackwell Building (1902) the Greene Block (1892), the Congregational Church (1893) and the Christopher Building (1921). Public input indicated there may be a need for an updated survey, pooling the resources of the Historical Societies, and creating an informational map.

Other buildings with historic significance currently owned by the Town include the old Weston Avenue School, and the original section of Old Point School. The Main Street School, which was the site of the original high school built in 1895, was vacant for more than 10 years and was demolished in 2013.

The historic survey also identified historically significant buildings in East Madison including the Baptist Church, now used as housing, the East Madison Grange and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, with buildings located on the East Madison Road and cottages on Lake Wesserunsett.

A comprehensive survey of Madison's historic above-ground resources needs to be conducted in order to identify other properties that may be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Madison Historical and Genealogical Society organized in 1999. The Society currently has 78 members who meet on the third Saturday of every month. The Town of Madison supports the Historic and Genealogical Society by providing free space at the Old Point Avenue School for the group's displays and meetings. The historic collection now holds over a million dollars in local artifacts which may be viewed by the public every Saturday from 10am-2pm.

In 2010, the Town of Madison granted a portion of the land at the East Madison Fire Station to the East Madison Historical Society to construct a building to house their historic collections. Madison now has two operating historical societies, representing both villages and preserving the individual histories of both areas within the town limits.

Shoreland zoning and natural resource protection benefit the archaeological areas of the Kennebec River and Lake Wesserunsett as the areas sensitive to prehistoric archaeology encompass the shoreland areas. No site plan or subdivision regulations currently require a survey for archaeological and historical resources; however the map of such resources is publically displayed at the town office for reference. State and federal funding requires a historic assessment and protection of resources which offers further preservation measures when such monies are used in Madison.

The Town of Madison recognizes the important goal of protecting historic and archaeological resources and the following policies and strategies outline the plan for this resource.

In order to protect to the greatest extent practicable the significant historic and archaeological resources in Madison, the Town should consider ways that the Madison Historical and Genealogical Societies generate tourism dollars and economic development, and how that could be leveraged to develop an overall Tourism center to make Madison a destination town with features such as:

- Access to the River by the Pines
- Historical Tours of Lakewood Theater, Congregational Church, Public Library, and the Weston House

Additional efforts would include: Seeking federal, state and private funding for restoration of historic properties, including historic tax credit programs. Educating landowners of potential archaeological sites to minimize disturbance to historical and pre-historical areas, and distributing Historic Preservation Maps to any entity requiring site review and incorporate such information into the Site Review process.

## *Agriculture & Forestry Resources*

**Goal:** *To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development which threatens those resources.*

<i>Policies</i>	<i>Strategies</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Implementation</i>
<i>To safeguard lands identified as prime farmland or capable of supporting commercial forestry.</i>	Consult with the Maine Forest Service district forester when developing any land use regulations pertaining to forest management practices as required by 12 MRSA 8869.	Planning Board Code Enforcement	3-5 Years
	Consult with Soil and Water Conservation District staff when developing any land use regulations pertaining to agricultural management practices.	Planning Board Code Enforcement	3-5 Years
	Include agriculture, commercial forestry operations, and land conservation that supports them in local or regional economic development plans.	Town Manager Economic Development Local Farmers Network KVCOG SEDC	3-5 Years
<i>To support farming and forestry and encourage their economic viability.</i>	Where applicable, encourage non-residential development of natural resource-based businesses and services, nature tourism/outdoor recreation businesses, farmers markets and home occupations.	Town Manager Economic Development Planning Board Code Enforcement Local Farmers Network Local Land Trusts	0-2 Years
	Encourage owners of productive farm and forest land to enroll in the current use taxation program.	Town Manager Economic Development	3-5 Years
	Permit land use activities that support productive agriculture and forestry operations, such as roadside stands,	Town Manager Economic Development Planning Board Code Enforcement Local Farmers Network	Ongoing

greenhouses, firewood operations, sawmills, log buying yards, and pick-your-own operations.

Forestry and agriculture resources continue to make important contributions to the Madison economy as well as the visual impact to the rural landscape. Local land owners are dependent on farmers and foresters to help maintain their fields and woods by haying, planting crops, and harvesting timber.

Approximately 8,000 acres are assessed as farmland, about 22% of the total acreage in the Town. Approximately 67% of Madison's land area, 23,600 acres, is forested (See Map M7).

Local dairy farms have dwindled in number from over 40 in the 1960's to 2 in Madison currently (Mantor & Paine). Farmers struggle with controlled costs in milk pricing as well as other restrictive regulations, making profitable farming quite difficult. Public input indicates that property taxes are another key factor in farming profitability since they are generally some of the largest land owners.

The number of large, family owned operations like dairy farms and apple orchards (North Star) is unlikely to change in the next 5 to 10 years. Homesteading, however is a growing phenomenon in Central Maine as people relocate from urban to rural areas to operate self-sustaining farms. A growing number of homesteaders in the area sell their produce at local farmer's markets in Skowhegan and Farmington. Attempts to maintain a farmer's market in Madison have had variable results.

In addition to farmer's markets, supports such as a Farmers Network and a local food hub or co-op could benefit homesteaders in their efforts to be sustainable. Other start-up costs for farmers include purchasing equipment, access to land and training. Farmers could have the same access to the Town's Revolving Loan Program as other local businesses.

The largest agricultural impact in Madison is Backyard Farms 42 acre greenhouse complex. BYF provides over 200 jobs in the local economy and its current TIF agreement with the Town provides a steady stream of funding for economic development projects. Backyard Farm's 182 acre purchase involved one of the largest tracts of agricultural land in Madison.

Economically, forestry appears to have remained stable over the past decade with the paper mills, development of biomass to replace oil as well as the conversion from heating oil by many residents to wood and wood products.

Nearly all of the Town's forest land is owned by non-industrial land owners. The Maine Forest Service's Best Management Practices for erosion control, provides guidance for local forestry use by both small and large logging operations.

The Tree Growth Program allows assessment of forestland based on current use rather than market value as long as the land is managed for timber production and remains as a forest. In 1999, the Tree Growth Program had 167 parcels, totaling 12,872 acres. For 2010 those numbers dropped to 132 parcels and 7,512 acres.

Non-industrial landowners have diverse uses for their forestland, such as wildlife conservation, fuel supply, timber management, recreation and general amenity. At this time, the Town of Madison does not have any regulatory ordinance protecting forested land. Somerset Woods Trustees is a regional organization supporting the preservation of forested lands in the area.

Table A.32 shows data from the Maine Forest Service regarding the types and total acres of forest harvest in Madison since 1991.

<b>Table A.32</b> <b>YEAR</b>	<b>Selection harvest</b>	<b>Shelterwood harvest</b>	<b>Clearcut harvest</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>	<b>Change of land use</b>	<b>Number of active Notifications</b>
<b>1991</b>	940	-	91	1,031	-	31
<b>1992</b>	825	275	19	1,119	19	39
<b>1993</b>	879	51	32	962	22	34
<b>1994</b>	907	78	67	1,052	33	38
<b>1995</b>	1,405	60	18	1,483	5	42
<b>1996</b>	994	25	8	1,027	9	35
<b>1997</b>	1,119	-	10	1,129	10	41
<b>1998</b>	1,292	15	35	1,342	1	52
<b>1999</b>	1,222	50	-	1,272	56	84
<b>2000</b>	1,150	161	-	1,311	41	96
<b>2001</b>	708	37	-	745	14	66

<b>2002</b>	724	-	-	724	57	66
<b>2003</b>	616	30	-	646	2	47
<b>2004</b>	561	160	-	721	15	46
<b>2005</b>	696	143	-	839	2	46
<b>2006</b>	540	113	-	653	6	65
<b>2007</b>	780	96	5	881	5	58
<b>2008</b>	508	46	-	554	20	56
<b>2009</b>	717	317	-	1,034	18	49
<b>Total</b>	16,583	1,657	285	18,525	335	991

The increase of total acres harvested in 2009 is indicative that forestry remains a strong factor in Madison's economy. Since the data relies on landowners reporting the amount of timber they may or may not harvest each year, the number of active notifications exceed the number of acres actually cut.

Both farms and logging contractors face the same challenges in the markets as larger companies are able to provide products and services for less and force prices down. The Town of Madison supports community farming and forestry activities such as development of a farmer's market, community gardens and forested areas where people can hike, ski and camp.