

Eliot, Maine

MAINE 200-PLUS-ONE HISTORIC SITE TOURS

HISTORIC MARKERS



1. **Hanscom Shipyard. 925 Main St.** John Hanscom, born in Eliot in 1748, bought what is now the Green Acre property from the Hammond family. He and sons William and Samuel were shipwrights. William worked for Rueben Shapley in Portsmouth and later built in S. Berwick and Durham. He established a shipyard on the family's land by 1828. The son, William L., worked with his father and built his ship the *Elizabeth Hamilton* here in 1847. William's third son Isaiah is the designer of the famed clipper ship *Nightingale*. Isaiah worked, for a time, at the Navy Yard as naval constructor but then returned to the family shipyard. Samuel Hanscom, Jr., built and launched the clipper ship here.
2. **Capt. Daniel Paul.** At the end of Varney Lane is a marker denoting the *homestead site of Daniel Paul* who was the first of his family to come to this country. He settled here on "Long Reach" in 1648. He and his sons were ship builders. In this area were the James and Stephen Paul shipyards. Members of this family made their way to the eastern part of Eliot and the town of York in those early years. The "Long Reach" was a name given to the straight stretch of water that extended below Frank Fort Island to and slightly past the Paul shipyards.
3. **Dixon's Point.** During the War of 1812 Joseph Dixon, using his own monies, built a fort on his land above the Piscataqua to defend against the British. People here believed that it was only a matter of time before the British sailed up the Piscataqua destroying their property and industry as they had done in other parts of the coast of Maine. Evidently Dixon was promised to be reimbursed because at the end of the war Congress was petitioned by General Samuel Leighton to repair the damage on his property. Seven years later he received the funds for removal of the Fort. Off this point was a Piscataqua

River landmark - "Boiling Rock". It was the most dangerous point in the river and was dynamited in 1978.

4. **Veteran's Memorial Flagpole/plaque.**

This memorial plaque, at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, honoring veterans of all wars was installed in May of 1967 by the American Legion Post 188 and is surrounded by many of the veteran's graves including Enoch Emery whose body was brought here from Punkintown. The American Legion Post # 188 has the responsibility of coordinating the Memorial services at this cemetery each Memorial Day

5. **The Church in the Woods. 850 Main St.**

The first Meeting House built in what is now Eliot was located seventeen rods southwest of the marker and nearer the river. This first church was 30 feet long, 20 feet wide, with a side wall of 16 feet, built about 1699. By 1716 there was a movement to build another church on Leighton Land near Cram's Corner. In later years town records allude to this "Church in the Woods" being used as a school around 1728. At least one town meeting was held here, in the now "Upper Parish," in 1732.

6. **First Public Library/Leighton house. 208 River Rd.**

Site of Eliot's First Public Library and the site of the original home of *Andrew Pepperrell Leighton*. Andrew P. Leighton was a teacher at the Eliot Academy, later a State Representative and Senator and member of the Anti-Slavery Society that was organized in 1844. He opened a public library at his home which is considered the first public library in Eliot.

7. **2nd Parish Meeting House. 204 River Rd.** The meeting house was completed in 1715/16. The church was formally organized on June 22, 1721 and considered the beginning of Eliot's Congregational Church. Here, in 1809, the meetings were held by inhabitants of the "Upper Parish" which resulted in the area's incorporation in 1810 under the name of "Eliot". Until this building was torn down in 1835/1837 it served as a meeting place for Eliot and for Town Meetings. The plaque was placed in 2008.

8. **William Everett's Tavern. 258 River Rd.** Here, near what was known as Joselyn Point and later Leighton's Point, sea captain William Everett built a large 3 story house about 1640 and was licensed to keep a tavern in 1649. The Court of General Sessions and town meetings were held here. On Nov. 16, 1652 the residents of Kittery signed the Submission to Massachusetts with Everett being the last to put his name to it. William Everett lost his life at sea soon after and his widow and her new husband sold to Capt. William Leighton in 1656. William's son, John Leighton, inherited the property, took the house down and, in 1690, built somewhat east of here, what was known as the "Old Leighton House".

9. **Kittery House/ Sandy Hill Farm, 374 River Road & 28 Sandy Hill Road.** The name "Kittery House" takes its name from the residence in England of Alexander Shapleigh, the Immigrant. His house, built on this site about 1638, became the manor house with kitchen, brew house, barn and out-buildings. The house here today is the third on this site. The first (1638) was later converted to a Garrison house and was

taken down and a second house built prior to 1802. It is thought to have burned. In 1802 Capt. Elisha Shapleigh (1749-1822) built this present home and his fourth son, also Capt. Elisha (1778-1852) inherited the property. His descendants lived here until about 1940. **Sandy Hill Farm:** This 42-acre farm is part of the original 800 acres of land purchased by Alexander Shapleigh on January 10, 1636. The name "Sandy Hill" goes back to the mid 1600's. River Road was called Sandy Hill Road as late as 1850. The plaque was placed by the Shapleigh Family Association August 12, 2001

10. **Moses Gerrish Farmer Home. 1271 State Rd.** This was originally the site of the home of the Richard and Olive Tobey Shapleigh family and, in 1880, when the house was enlarged, of their daughter Hannah, husband Moses Gerrish Farmer and daughter Sarah Jane. It was an expansive home with a tower which burned in 1904 and was replaced with the present structure. A small part of the original home still remains. Hannah Farmer was a philanthropist and is best remembered for Rosemary Cottage. Moses Gerrish Farmer was a noted electrical inventor; among his inventions were the fire alarm pull box, the dynamo, printing telegraph and the first incandescent light bulb. Daughter Sarah Jane was one of the original builders and the founder of Green Acre. The small home to the right was the workshop of Moses Gerrish Farmer and originally sat to the back of the house.

11. **Hammond Park/Blue Star by-way/Veteran memorial,** is named for George Albert Hammond who lived at 1328 State Rd/ He was known in town as "Squire Hammond" and spent his 89 years serving his town. He was elected to Town and County offices including Representative to the General Court in Maine in 1853 and

1869 and also ran for Senator. He worked to establish a Free High School in Eliot. Squire Hammond died in 1902. His son George E. Hammond married Betsy Warren Huntress and was one of the builders of the Eliot Hotel (now Green Acre). The gazebo was a gift from the Eliot Garden Club to the town as is the "**Blue Star By-Way Plaque**" which was originally placed, in 1995, at the intersection of Farmer Road and State Road. The Eliot American Legion Post 188 is responsible for the memorial marker and the bench, which was dedicated Memorial Day 2008.

12. **Ebenezer Plaisted Gatepost/Stained Glass Window. 1333 State Rd.** In 1989 the Eliot Historical Society presented the town with a stained-glass window for the new town hall (1987). A contest was held seeking the design and the one chosen was that of former resident Lisa (Zamarchi) Blanchard. A Plaque inside the town office vestibule commemorates the installation.

13. **Eliot Academy. 1389 State Rd.** The bronze plaque was placed during Eliot's Centennial in 1910. Built in 1839 on land of Joseph Fogg and opened in 1840, it was the first Normal School in Maine. The first floor was for the school, the second for social functions, religious meetings, balls, courts of law, school exhibitions, and political occasions. It burned down in 1875.

14. **WWI Veterans Memorial.** On the grounds of the William Fogg Library is a marker honoring those who served in WWI. It was dedicated in 1937.

15. **Hill Homestead. 18 Governor Hill Rd.** The birthplace of John Fremont Hill, the son of William Hill and descendent of Samuel Hill who settled first at Oyster River and then here. John F. Hill served two terms as Governor of the State of Maine from 1901-1905. He was a physician, publisher, and businessman, involved in promoting railway, telephone and road systems for the state.

Properties on the
National Register of Historic Places

16. **Frost Garrisons, 23 Garrison Drive.** John Frost settled here in 1730, built the Manor House in 1733 and a small guard-powder house in 1735 and in 1740 the Garrison.
17. **William Fogg Library. Old Rd.** Built in 1907. Given by John S.H.Fogg in memory of his father William.
18. **Paul Family Farm, 302 Depot Rd.** In this area settled Moses Paul descendant of Daniel Paul. House built 1804 by Hugh Paul.
19. **Friends Meeting House. 799 River Rd.** Regular Quaker services were established in Eliot around 1730. The meeting house, that stood across the road from the Allen cemetery had been built at Dover Neck in 1633, was dismantled in 1769 and carried across the river to Eliot and set up on the land of Friend Jenkins. For the first 10 years it was the only Friends Meetinghouse in Maine and was connected with the Dover Monthly Meeting. It was torn down in the

1800's and the Charles Goodwin house were built on the site. The stone, at the corner, upon which a bronze plaque is served as a horse block for mounting and dismounting. This corner was known as "Allen's Corner". It is said that the red brick silos, that you see along River Road, were built by the Quaker families in this area.

20. **Ambush Rock. 786 Goodwin Rd.** The marker commemorates the ambush of Major Charles Frost, his two sons Charles and John, Dennis Downing, and Phoebe Littlefield Heard and her husband John, as they were returning from worship at the meetinghouse on Old Fields Road in what is now South Berwick. On July 4th 1697, about a mile from their home/garrison, and were ambushed by Native peoples. Phoebe's husband Capt. John and Charles Frost's sons Charles and John escaped. A marble plaque was originally placed here as the first act of the newly formed Eliot Historical Society, on the anniversary of this event in 1897. Vandalized, it was replaced with a bronze plaque in 1915 by Ralph Sylvester Bartlett.
21. **Noah Emery house, 985 Goodwin Road.** Noah's great-great grandfather Anthony purchased the land from John Smith. Noah Emery was the first lawyer residing in Maine and his office was here. He was admitted to the bar in 1725 and served as the King's Attorney for the Province.
22. **Town Pound, 590 Goodwin Rd.** This fieldstone enclosure was used to detain stray animals until their owners could reclaim them after paying a fine. At the first town meeting held in 1810 for the newly formed town of Eliot, Charles

Frost was elected keeper of the pound, later William Scammon and Jeremiah Shapleigh who lived next door at the time served. As early as 1700 there was a town pound near the Long Reach meeting house at the home of Joseph Hill. The walls have been reconstructed recently. The original walls would have been at least 6 feet high. The plaque recognizes Eliot Historical Society member Lindy Leavitt who cared for it during his lifetime.

23. **Capt. Samuel Leighton house. 310 Goodwin Rd.** Samuel Leighton the son of John and Mary (Hill) Leighton built this home, in 1765. It is said that General Lafayette was entertained here. When Samuel Leighton was 35, he was made Captain in Col. James Scammon's 30th Regiment of Foot. He also served as Captain of the York County Company in Col. Ebenezer Francis' militia in 1776 and was Captain of the 7th Co. in the 2nd York County militia regiment. He was commissioned second Major under Col. Ichabod Goodwin in 1778. He died on Feb. 27th 1802, and is buried in the family cemetery located back near the corner of Frost Hill and Goodwin Road. Samuel's son, Gen. Samuel Leighton also lived here, before moving to Alfred, Maine. Gen. Leighton had charge, in 1814, of building the fort on Joseph Dixon's land, during the war of 1812. He was Eliot's first representative to the General Court of Massachusetts from 1811-1814 after our separation from Kittery. His last military act was to escort President Munroe through his brigade. He died in 1848. Later owned by the Hanscom family of Philadelphia.