

**Architectural Reconnaissance Report
Lincolville Center
Lincolville, Maine**

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Prepared for: Maine Historic Preservation Commission
55 Capitol Street
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Dates: May – August 2020

Level: Reconnaissance

Name of Surveyors: Patrick O'Bannon
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Continuing Project? No

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The survey documents historic resources in Lincolville, Maine, a town in Waldo County bounded by Belmont and Searsmont to the northwest, Northport to the northeast, Penobscot bay to the southeast, and Hope and Camden to the southwest. The area surveyed is approximately 67 acres that encompass the area known as Lincolville Center. The surveyed area includes 49 structures, 13 of which are outbuildings or barns.

The survey area focused on Lincolville Center, including resources on Main Street, Moss Meadow Road, Hope Road, Heal Road, Searsmont Road, Belfast Road, and Wentworth Road. The majority of the buildings are in good condition. However, many feature replacement materials or alterations.

The documented resources include residential buildings, barns, a church, and commercial buildings, most of which were built in the mid to late nineteenth century. Many of the residential buildings were built with attached or detached barns that were originally constructed for agricultural and livestock purposes. The period of construction reflects the growth of the community, which has remained rural.

II. RESEARCH DESIGN AND BACKGROUND RESEARCH

A. Basis:

The purpose of this investigation was to conduct a reconnaissance-level architectural survey of all above-ground resources more than fifty years of age within the defined survey boundary. Administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission (MHPC), the survey was undertaken to satisfy MHPC's request for an architectural survey to identify and record information on resources more than 50 years of age within the survey boundary.

B. Survey & Research Goals:

The survey documents historic resources in Lincolnville within the survey, including the intersections of Searsmont, Belfast, and Heal Roads and Hope Road, Wentworth Road, Moss Meadow Road and Main Street. The area consists of approximately 67 acres and includes 49 resources.

Since the area had not been previously surveyed it was important to document the historic resources. Specific goals for the project included development of a historic context statement for the town, from its establishment to the present; completion of a reconnaissance survey within the priority zone identified by the MHPC, entering the surveyed resources in the Cultural & Architectural Resource Management Archive system (CARMA); and completion of a survey report.

C. Survey Boundaries:

The surveyed area includes above-ground resources on Moss Meadow Road, Hope Road, Main Street, Heal Road, Searsmont Road, Belfast Road, and Wentworth Road. The resources are on Tax Map 05.

D. Survey Methodology:

1. (Describe background research method, including archival and historical research, institutions consulted, location of data, etc.) Primary resources of information include historic maps, Walsh History Center, Maine Historical Society, and the Lincolnville Historical Society. Additional resources consulted included available online town and county histories, which are detailed in the bibliography.
2. (Describe field research method) Field work was conducted by Patrick O'Bannon on May 12, 2020. Equipped with a digital camera, photographs were taken documenting every building of historic age within the survey area.

3. (Indicate whether a file search was undertaken at MHPC for National Register listed or previously recorded properties) Michael Goebel-Bain reported that there were no previous surveys in CARMA or in the survey room at MHPC. The Lincolnville Center Meeting House, otherwise known as the United Christian Church, was listed on the NRHP at the state level in 1983 (Resource No. 29).

E. Goals:

1. (Provide the number of acres in the planned survey area) approximately 67 acres
2. (Provide the number of surveys this project is expected to generate) 49

III. SURVEY FINDINGS

A. Acres: The survey boundary encompasses approximately 67 acres.

B. Setting: The area is rural surrounded by dense forest with primarily residential buildings. A few commercial buildings are within the survey area. The topography of the area has gradual slopes and streams. Norton pond is south of the survey area.

C. Number of Resources Recorded: Forty-nine forms were added to the CARMA database.

D. Previously Inventoried Properties: The Lincolnville Meeting house, otherwise known as the United Christian Church, is the only property that was previously documented and is listed at the state level in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 83000475).

E. Types of Properties:

1. (Summarize general trends within the project area: commercial, residential, urban, rural etc.) Lincolnville Center consists of mostly residential properties with three commercial buildings, one church, and a recreation building. The surveyed buildings are along Main Street and the intersections of Heal and Belfast Roads, Hope Road and Main Street and Moss Meadow Road. The area surrounding the survey area includes undeveloped land and rural residential buildings. A modern school building is located on Hope Road just outside the survey area. The Lincolnville General Store went through a major renovation in 2016 (Resource No. 23).

2. (Summarize the age, style, and condition of the resources in the project area)

Residential properties range from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Most properties are typical of rural vernacular New England architecture. Italianate, Federal, Greek Revival, and Queen Anne architectural styles are can be seen within the surveyed area. Buildings forms include cape, side hall, central hall, hall and parlor, irregular, and gable and front wing. Many of the buildings include

attached or detached barns or garages. A Ranch style building constructed in 1970 is within the survey area (Resource No. 24). Overall, the buildings are in good condition, although the integrity of some buildings has been diminished by the addition of replacement windows and siding.

3.(Describe in detail any eligible properties or historic districts)

The resource at 10 Wentworth Road, also known as the Wentworth House, (Resource No. 5 & 6) is a property that is potentially individually eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture. The building and connecting barn retain all aspects of integrity and is a well preserved 1815 Federal style building.

F. NR Eligibility: The survey area illustrates a developed area in a rural community. Buildings within the survey area reflect the growth of Lincolnville during the mid to late-nineteenth century. Most of the buildings have had alterations, such as replacement windows and siding, which has diminished the historic integrity. Overall, the resources do not embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; or possess high artistic values. As a result, most of the above-ground resources within the defined survey boundary do not meet NRHP eligibility criteria.

The Lincolnville Meeting house, otherwise known as the United Christian Church, is the only property that was previously documented and is listed at the state level in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 83000475).

G. Threats: No threats were found.

H. Recommendations for Further Work: None

I. Data Repository: The Maine Historic Preservation Commission will retain a copy of the survey forms and report.

IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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V. Historic Context Statement

The town of Lincolnville is located on the coast of Penobscot Bay in Waldo County. Named in honor of the wealthy merchant Samuel Waldo, the county was established in 1827 from a portion of Hancock County (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica 2017). Lincolnville is bounded by Belmont and Searsmont to the northwest, Northport to the northeast, Penobscot bay to the southeast, and Hope and Camden to the southwest. The landscape of the town is mountainous with numerous ponds, streams, and rivers. One of the largest, Pitcher Pond, partially within the borders of Northport to the east, has an outlet at Ducktrap River. South of Lincolnville Center is Norton Pond which

connects to Megunticook Lake to the west. Coleman, Andrew's and Fletcher Pond are among other bodies of water within Lincolnville's boundaries.

In 1770 Nathan Knight became the first documented settler to build a farmstead. The Knight family grew and became a prominent family within the community. Another early settler was John Studley who arrived in 1774. As more settlers arrived, such as the Young and Smith families, the population grew and by 1790 there were 190 residents. Nathan Knight settled the Ducktrap and Canaan plantations, which also incorporated land from present-day Lincolnville (Mitchell, et al. 1907:12).

As the community grew a town house was constructed in 1820 for the purpose of holding town meetings and provided a space for public worship (Mitchell, et al. 1907:23). The population reached 1,900 in 1870, which decreased in 1880 to 1,706 (Varney 1886). By 1880 there were seventeen school districts. Six years later there were three churches, two Methodist and one Baptist, and fourteen public schoolhouses.

The United Christian Church, also known as the Lincolnville Center Meeting House, was built by Joshua Lamb between 1820 and 1821. The rectangular building is typical of a rural Federal-style meeting house. The interior features a narrow vestibule, altar, pulpit, and curved mezzanine. Boxed pews are located on the main floor, while the mezzanine features open, curved pews. A second building to house all denominations was the Union Church at Lincolnville Beach.



Figure 1. Maine Centennial Celebrations (1920) with the Lincolnville Center Meeting House in the background (Courtesy of Walsh History Center)

The rural landscape resulted in three separate communities that developed in areas that provided work for residents. The available water resources in Lincolnville Beach, Lincolnville Center, and Ducktrap made them ideal areas to settle and work.

During the eighteenth century Ducktrap had a variety of mills, lime kilns, hay press, barrel factory, shipyard and a toll bridge (Plausse 2006). Coleman's lime kiln was also located in Ducktrap Village. Howe Point Road, which accesses the Ducktrap's

shoreline, was once the location of a windmill that provided power for a corn-grinding mill (O'Brien 2015). The foundation of the Howe Store still exists on Howe Point Road.

Located at a major intersection, commercial businesses were established in Lincolnville Center, and by 1859 there were ten storefronts and the Meeting House. Unlike Ducktrap, shipbuilding was not a leading industry on Lincolnville Beach, instead the beach was used to ship goods such as lime, ice, lumber, shingles and barrels (Plausse 2006).

A smaller community was also developed around present-day Coleman Pond, which at the time was known as Andrew's Pond, east of Lincolnville Center. Industries such as quarries, lime kilns, a grist mill, and sawmill utilized the water source and a dam was built at Black Brook, at the eastern point of the pond. A school and general store accommodated to the residents by Andrew's Pond. Coleman's Quarry was located on Sand Hill Road and in the late nineteenth century a horse-drawn lime railroad transported lime from the quarry to Ducktrap (Plausse 2006). When the mills began to close, the small community surrounding the pond began to disappear. Today the only evidence of the community is the raised berm tracks from the horse-drawn lime railroad.

Lincolnville's landscape provided residents with success in early industries. Paving stones, granite and limestone quarries, farming, and shipbuilding were among the early industries that utilized natural resources. Lime production was used for construction and fertilizer and by 1840 the town was exporting approximately 400,000 casks of quicklime annually (Welcome to Lincolnville, Maine 2020). The Samuel and John, built by Samuel Whitney at Ducktrap, was the first ship to be built in Lincolnville. The three masted ship was launched in 1825 (Mitchell, et al. 1907:28). Israel Decrow, Austin Knight, and Arthur Burton are among other successful shipbuilders.

Industry boomed in the mid-nineteenth century and the population grew to 2,154 residents; however, the Civil War terminated the population increase. Businesses closed and residents were forced to seek work elsewhere. Despite the decline, in 1886 Lincolnville had six lumber mills, a grist mill, a tannery, and multiple lime and granite quarries. The streams continued to waterpower for the local mills.

Commercial businesses included general, shoe and carriage stores along Lincolnville Center and the beach (Varney 1886). Although the town had prosperous industries, the lack of transportation prevented the town from becoming fully developed. In 1886 the closest railroad connection was about twelve miles away to the north and south. The rural community relied on local produce and livestock to survive harsh winters.



Figure 2. View southeast on Main Street c. 1880 with 273 Main Street (Resource No. 24) on the left (courtesy of the Walsh History Center)

Throughout the years, the present-day Lincolnville General Store (Resource No. 23) operated as a variety of general stores, as well as a post office. During the early 1900s the N.D. Ross store was in the building, followed by the R.S. Knight Store. The 1920 census recorded 811 remaining residents, a dramatic decrease from the 1850 census (Welcome to Lincolnville, Maine 2020).



Figure 3. Historic photo of the N.D. Ross store and Post Office (present-day Lincolnville General Store Resource No. 23) (Courtesy of Walsh History Center)



Figure 4. View southeast showing the historic R.S. Knight store (present-day Lincolnville General Store Resource No. 23 and 273 Main Street Resource No. 24) (Courtesy of Walsh History Center)



Figure 5. View southeast on Main Street in 1941 with Petunia Pump (Resource No. 37) and 262 Main Street (Resource No. 38) to the right (courtesy of the Walsh History Center)

Many of the buildings still stand, however most have been altered. An example of a historic building with alterations is 1 Heal Road (Resource No. 31), which has had a side ell removed, replacement windows installed, and exterior cladding changed from clapboard to wood shingles.



Figure 6. Historic Photo, left (Courtesy of the Walsh History Center), and current photo, right, of 1 Heal Road (Resource No. 31)

A historic photo shows that the historic building at 246 Main Street (Resource No. 40 & 41) has retained some architectural elements, such as the porch brackets, but the rear of the building has changed its form over the years. The detached barn no longer stands, and a side-gabled addition has been constructed, replacing a historic detached structure.



Figure 7. Historic Photo, left (Courtesy of Walsh History Center), and current photo, right, of 246 Main Street (Resource No. 40 & 41)

Today the most concentrated area of commercial buildings is along Lincolnville Beach. Tourism is a large part of Lincolnville's economy, whereas Lincolnville Center now caters primarily to residents. The Lincolnville Historical Society has erected a sign in remembrance of the center's former days that reads,

Lincolnville Center was a busy place in the 19th century with three general stores, two blacksmith shops, a couple of sawmills, several shoemaking shops, a one-room school, two churches and a wheelwright shop. In 1904 the Lincolnville Telephone Company was founded near this site.

It is evident that the towns history is important to the community. In recent years, the historic commercial building at 269 Main Street (Resource No. 23) was renovated and

remained a general store. The building was brought down to the historic shiplap and significant Italianate architectural features were recreated or saved and restored when possible (Mustapich 2014). In 2013 a historic one-room schoolhouse was relocated to 208 Main Street (Resource No. 49) to function as the Lincolnville Community Library. Originally constructed in 1849, the schoolhouse underwent a major renovation, including a new roof and exterior clapboards. The historical integrity of the former schoolhouse was maintained while adding modern energy efficient features such as electric heating and solar panels (Lincolnville Community Library).

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