Bedford Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee

Committee Report to Selectmen

Committee Members:	Gaye Carpenter, Linda Christen, Angelo Colao, Frank Gicca, Kara Kerwin, William Moonan (Chair), Michael Rosenberg (Clerk), Christopher Weisz
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Introduction

Background

The formation of the Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee was initiated by the Selectmen after a meeting with the Bedford Historical Society.

Since its founding in 1893, Bedford's non-profit Historical Society has collected thousands of Bedford documents, photographs, maps and artifacts, preserving and protecting them for the people of Bedford. Some of these treasures date back to before 1729, when Bedford officially became a town. Bedford's rich history is contained in these historic assets, but because the Town has no museum to display them, they remain stored in the Society's archives and are not easily available to residents or scholars. Unlike Bedford, virtually all surrounding towns have museums located in dedicated buildings and operated by their historical societies, where their historic resources are exhibited.

The Bedford Historical Society has worked since its early days to have a public museum to tell the Town's rich history through these artifacts. A small (510 square foot) museum was established in 1951, as a result of a Town Meeting vote that year authorizing funds to complete the Stearns Memorial Library, including an "assembly room for the Bedford Historical Society." That room was used as a museum between 1951-1953, 1955-1964 and 1966-1996. (The School Committee "borrowed" the space for classrooms between 1953-1955; the Library expanded its collections into the room between 1964-1966.)

In 1996, the artifacts and museum displays were placed into storage while the Stearns Building was renovated as Bedford's new Police Station. According to the Society, there was a promise that comparable museum space would be provided. Instead, the Society was given approximately 230 square feet in the police station, which it uses for office and archival storage space. Without a museum, some artifacts are exhibited in glass cases in the police station, high school and middle school.

The Society's Board of Directors established a Museum Exploratory Committee in 2011 to: (1) develop potential options for an Historical Society museum, looking at possible public and private sites; (2) develop a general business plan for each potential location, for review by the Society's Board of Directors, and (3) develop a complete business plan for 1-3 locations. By late 2013, it was clear to the Society's Museum Exploratory Committee that the most successful museum alternative for the community would be one located in a Town-owned building and run by the Society, through a partnership with the Town.

This recommendation was presented to the Society's Board of Directors, who unanimously authorized its Board Chairman, former Selectman Frank Gicca, to make a presentation to the Selectmen for a Town-sponsored museum.

As a result, in December 2013, the Selectmen voted unanimously to support the concept of establishing a town historical museum and to create an ad hoc committee to begin the process by investigating potential museum locations and other issues. The Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee's mission was approved by the Selectmen in June, 2014, and by August, 2014, the committee members were appointed.

The Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee (Committee) is comprised of seven voting and one non-voting members appointed by the Selectmen, as follows:

- One Selectman.
- One member of the Historic District Commission.
- One member of Historic Preservation Commission.
- Four residents at-large.
- One non-voting representative of the Bedford Historical Society.

The Selectmen's charge to the Committee was:

1. Assemble a report describing the operations of local historical museums in other Massachusetts communities. This report should comprise data that will help the Selectmen prioritize the identified sites in Town. The information to be collected should include, but not be limited to:
    - Circumstances/history leading to the start of the museum.
    - Square footage.
    - Budget.
    - Facility operation and maintenance.
    - Hours of operation.
    - Yearly revenue.
    - Critical factors in successful operation.
2. Identify and evaluate a comprehensive list of potential space or sites appropriate for a museum that utilize buildings or property owned by the Town.
3. Identify and evaluate potential space appropriate for a museum that utilizes privately-owned buildings or property that may be available for Town acquisition.
4. Match criteria on square footage needs and other attributes provided by the Bedford Historical Society to potential locations identified by the Committee.
5. Offer recommendations to the Selectmen on the location and size museum that best suits the size criteria provided by the Bedford Historical Society, and which takes into account any common factors derived from the survey of other museums that are critical for the success of a Bedford museum.
6. Identify factors that would need to be addressed to make each potential museum location functional. Such factors include structural needs, interior renovations, security, fire protection, accessibility, parking, zoning issues and other considerations.
7. The Committee is not expected to estimate the cost of creating a museum at any of the identified locations.

While the Selectmen's ad hoc museum study committee was just getting started, the Historical Society's Board of Directors endorsed a report to be submitted to the new Town study committee. In the report, the Society estimated the size of the "most appropriate" museum at 3,500 – 4,500 square feet, which would house all the collected historic treasures and also provide space for other attributes necessary for successful operation. These attributes include meeting, regular storage, archival storage, office, research and gift shop space. The 3,500 – 4,500 square-foot museum size was based upon calculations using the Society's current artifacts to create a realistic set of five Permanent, and 38 Special, rotating exhibits for a new museum.

The Society's report also included information about other area historical museums, consistent with Item #1 of the Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee's charge. The complete Society report, including two attachments, appears as Appendix A - Bedford Historical Society Report to the Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee.

Proceedings

Committee Activities

In order to provide the requested information, the Committee performed its duties in a series of steps, culminating in the drafting of this report.

1. The Committee first reviewed the charge, evaluating the activities that would need to take place in order to produce a suitable report and establishing the criteria to be used to identify and evaluate prospective locations.
2. The Historical Society's report to the Committee was reviewed and discussed in order to understand the scale and attributes required of a museum which would accommodate the needs of the Historical Society.
3. Next, the Committee began an evaluation of existing museums located in towns comparable in scale and scope to Bedford in order to get a sense of which museums were flourishing. The goal was to collect the information required in Task 1 of the Committee's charge, and especially to identify those elements possessed by successful museums that should be incorporated into a Bedford museum in order for it to thrive.
4. The Committee then developed a list of locations in Bedford, and discussed the pros and cons of each in relation to the Historical Society criteria.
5. Next the Committee conducted a pair-wise ranking of all identified locations, comparing each one to the others.
6. The Committee also identified factors that would need to be addressed at each potential museum location to make each functional, such as structural needs, interior renovations, security, fire protection, accessibility, parking, etc.
7. A second ranking was performed to identify locations that best suit the size criteria provided by the Historical Society, considering factors learned from the survey of other museums that are critical for the success of a Bedford museum.

Discussion of Historical Society Space Needs

The Committee discussed the Historical Society's recommendations for museum exhibit space and other museum attributes in order to understand what potential Bedford locations would meet these needs. The Society had calculated its "most appropriate" museum size in various components (see details in Appendix A), as follows:

<u>Exhibit Space</u>:

- Five Permanent exhibits plus two Special (rotating) exhibits: 1,735-2048 sq. ft.

<u>Other desired attributes</u>:

- Meeting/event space: 750 sq. ft.

- Storage for operational necessities: 400 sq. ft.
- Office and Gift Shop: 100 sq. ft.
- Research/Reading space: 48 sq. ft.
- Archival space for documents, records and artifacts: 400-600 sq. ft.
- Two bathrooms and Kitchenette No space assigned

The Historical Society adjusted its calculations to address the potential loss of display space in front of windows and doors, as well as the square footage needed for bathrooms and a kitchenette to derive its total recommended space need of: 3,500-4,500 sq. ft.

The Historical Society's recommendation for 1,735-2048 square feet of exhibit space includes the use of "interactive" exhibits, which it believes are "critical to the success of a museum." (See Appendix A, Attachment 1, which identifies numerous interactive exhibits as part of five Permanent and 38 Special exhibits.) It also suggests that the Special exhibits would be movable, and two could rotate with other Special exhibits every six months or so.

The Society's report also describes the other desired attributes listed above as "necessary to provide a successful museum" and notes, in particular, the need for meeting space that could be rented to produce income "beneficial to the museum's operation." The report notes Bedford's own successful experiences renting space in Old Town Hall and Town Center, the use of this income-generating tool by numerous historical societies, and the importance of such a revenue source to assure a thriving museum operation.

Even though the Committee charge includes a request from the Society for calculations for "small," "medium" and "large" museum space, the Society did not provide all of that information. The Society's report to the Committee indicates that, after identifying its "most appropriate" museum size, its Board of Directors felt that it could not calculate sizes for "small" or "medium" museums, because any sizes less than 3,500-4,500 square feet would not provide enough space to display all the artifacts and provide other attributes critical to a successful museum.

The Committee used the 3,500-4,500 square foot museum size in its deliberations.

Discussion of Area Museum Operations

In order to evaluate what makes a given Town's museum successful or not, the members of the Committee identified a set of museums that, based on the Historical Society's report, were worth evaluating. These were either in comparable-sized towns, exceptionally viable, or had characteristics that matched other aspects that the Committee had identified as being necessary for a successful museum in Bedford. Such aspects included sufficient parking, fire protection and security, a high-traffic central location for easy access, being Town-owned and supported, and managed by an historical society.

These local museums can be divided into four specific types:

- House Museums – This class of museum is very common but tends to have significant problems with attendance, display space, open space for meetings and finances. Benefits include the fact that they are typically small so maintenance may not be very expensive, and they are often donated buildings so they may have no initial cost. This class of museum generated the most discussion, primarily due to the ease of setting up a house museum and the dismal rate of success they have. The Committee reviewed a recent Boston Globe article discussing home museums and their shortcomings. ("The great historic house museum debate" by Ruth Graham, Boston Globe Correspondent, August 10, 2014.) Bedford has many options for a museum of this type.

- Shared Space Museums – These museums are housed in buildings with another intent or purpose, for example, a museum housed in a library, a school, a town hall or an office building. Depending upon the relationship between the museum and other occupants or building owner, these museums may be open during weekday business hours, but also on the weekends. These museums benefit from sharing costs and maintenance and having a flow of people entering the building for other purposes and therefore exposed to the museum. Cons include the potential for limited space and the need for the museum to share space with other occupants. Bedford has several options for this type of museum.

- Re-purposed Museums – These are typically larger museums than a house museum that are in buildings that had another purpose, for example a factory, mill, fire station, library, etc., which is converted to serve as a museum. Similar to house museums, these may benefit from being donated; they normally do not share the space limitations of a house museum, but they may have high renovation costs or layout challenges.

- Built-New Museums – These are buildings designed and built to serve as museums. Typically these are larger museums but they do not have to be. They benefit from being able to be designed and built to the required size and include features such as environmental controls, fire suppression, etc.

The following museums were investigated by Committee members, some involving trips to the sites and meetings with museum officials or volunteers:

- Andover's Blanchard Museum.
- Arlington's Smith Museum and Jason Russell House.
- Billerica's Clara Sexton House.*
- Billerica's Howe School Museum.*
- Burlington's Old West School.*
- Burlington's Town Museum.*
- Chelmsford's Barrett-Byam Homestead.*
- Chelmsford's Garrison House and Hill Jock House.*
- Concord Museum.*

- Danver's Page House and 5 other buildings.
- Holden's Hendricks House.
- Lincoln's Pierce House.*
- Maynard's Virtual Museum.*
- Wakefield's History Museum.
- Westborough's Sibley House.*
- Westford Museum.
- Wilmington's Joshua Harnden Tavern.
- Woburn's Burdett House.*

*The starred museums were also investigated by the Historical Society; additional information on those sites appears in Appendix A, Attachment 2.

In talking to representatives of these museums, the Committee sought to answer the information sought in Item 1 of the Charge as well as additional questions that members felt were important:

- How was the museum acquired or established?
- What type of building was the museum (house, shared space, re-purposed or built-new)?
- How much construction did it require?
- Was there town meeting approval?
- Square footage.
- Handicapped access?
- Proximity to town center?
- Does the museum have auxiliary space?
- Amenities (gift shop, coffee shop, meeting space, restaurant, etc.)
- Who maintains the building (Town, Society, other organization)?
- Costs for the facility, programming and staffing.
- Hours of operation.
- Organizations involved in programming.
- Does the museum offer workshops, living history, hall rental, etc.?
- Staffing details.
- Critical factors in successful operation.

The summary of those findings can be viewed in Appendix B – Surrounding Town Museum Evaluation Spreadsheet.

From the collection of this information, two descriptions emerged of local museums. Some small museums struggle financially or have very limited availability to the public due to staffing and funding issues. A lack of maintenance in some cases meant that museums had to be sold or were in poor condition. In other cases museums were dynamic and relatively active. Local schools visited them; they were used frequently by their local historical societies and other groups; and the museums changed exhibits frequently enough or had a

special purpose which drew in visitors. Financial support from the town, an additional revenue source such as renting out meeting space, and enough volunteers seemed to make the most difference between success and failure.

Based on the evaluation of other museums in the area, the Committee determined that the success of a history museum in Bedford requires:

- A commitment by the Town to financially support certain museum costs, with specific details to be negotiated between the Town and the Historical Society, depending upon the expenses involved in the chosen space.
- A commitment by the Historical Society to operate the museum.
- A commitment by the Historical Society to develop a strong volunteer support network.
- The availability of meeting space for use by the Historical Society as well as for rent by the general public.
- A site that is centrally located and has high vehicular and/or foot traffic, which contribute to increased museum attendance.
- A site with access to sufficient parking, which significantly improves attendance.
- A commitment by the Historical Society to ensure dynamic displays and events, such as school programs, interactive exhibits and special exhibits that will draw more attendees and encourage more volunteers.
- A location that is not a stand-alone house museum

Identifying and Evaluating a List of Bedford Sites

The Committee was charged with identifying and evaluating a comprehensive list of potential space or sites utilizing buildings or property owned by the Town as well as potential space using privately-owned buildings or property that may be available for Town acquisition. According to its Charge, the Committee was not expected to estimate the cost of creating a museum at any of the locations it chose, and it did not do so for any of the sites.

Twelve privately-owned locations and nine public sites with potentially desirable locations, were identified as follows:

<u>Privately-owned sites</u>:

- Any available commercial space on Loomis Street between Page Field and South Road (re-purposed).
- Commercial building on the corner of The Great Road and Hillside Avenue. (re-purposed).
- Commercial building on the corner of The Great Road and Fletcher Roads. (re-purposed).
- Commercial building at 124 South Road near Depot Park (re-purposed).

- Commercial building at 44 North Road next to Bedford Farms (re-purposed).
- House at 10-12 Maple Street (house museum).
- House at 49 Elm Street (house museum: Move house closer to Town Center complex so that access and parking would be via that location.)
- House at 20 South Road (house museum).
- Joshua Page House, 13 School Avenue (house museum).
- Lot on Railroad Avenue across from the Bikeway Source building (built-new: new building).
- A Nathanial Brown property (house museum).
- VFW property, 76 Loomis Street (re-purposed/house museum).

The Committee identified the privately-owned locations in a number of ways. Early in the Committee's deliberations, the Committee's Chairman was notified that the house at 49 Elm Street, owned by Richard and Nancy Daugherty, may be available if the house could be moved to one end of the parcel so that the other end could be developed as a small housing complex. Several months later, the Committee was informed that the owner had decided against this development plan, but would consider selling the property to the Town.

The suggestion to consider that the Town acquire the house at 20 South Road, owned by George Swallow, was made by a member of the Historic Preservation Committee. It was noted that this house is adjacent to Old Town Hall, is an historic building (the old Nathaniel Cutler stable, c. 1836) and, if purchased by the Town, the newer garage in the rear could be torn down to provide parking not only for a museum, but for Old Town Hall.

The proposal for the Town to purchase the historic (1823) Joshua Page House at 13 School Ave, was made by the owner, Lorrie Dunham, who intends to put her house on the market. This house contains a significant collection of Rufus Porter murals, and is believed by some modern-day antique house architects/builders to include an historic addition: the first public school on the Common, built in 1741, used for over 60 years and then purchased and moved by Joshua Page.

The suggestion to use one of the many Brown properties, especially the Domine Manse, 110 The Great Road, came as a result of conversations Mr. Brown had with the Committee's Chairman and with members of the Historical Society some years ago. However, when Mr. Brown was more recently contacted, he expressed no interest in donating any property for this purpose, but did indicate a possible willingness to sell one of his properties, possibly 119 The Great Road.

The house at 10-12 Maple Street was removed from the list after it was sold to a private owner who received Town approval to raze the house and build two new housing units on the site.

The suggestions of the lot on Railroad Avenue, owned by Ken Larson, and the VFW building on Loomis Street came from Committee members who thought that, because of the huge influx of visitors to Bedford via the Minuteman Bikeway, which is adjacent to the historic

Depot Park area, a museum would be ideal in this general location. Recommendations for the various commercial buildings near the center of Town and near Depot Park were also made because of the desirability of their locations. These commercial sites were dropped from the potential-sites list fairly quickly, due to their lack of availability.

In addition to sites identified by Committee members, the Committee distributed a press release to the local media, urging owners of Bedford properties to contact the Committee if there was an interest in donating or selling their property to the Town. No additional sites were identified as a result of that story.

Public sites:

- Bedford Fire Station (re-purposed: use the entire building if the Fire Department is relocated to a larger facility).
- Bedford Library (re-purposed: basement; or built-new: addition).
- Bedford Police Station (built-new: addition).
- Depot Park Passenger Depot (re-purposed: entire building).
- Job Lane Farm Museum (built-new: new building).
- Old Town Hall (re-purposed or shared space: part or all of the building).
- Town Center (built-new: new west wing addition).
- Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room (re-purposed and shared space: add a mezzanine floor with a new elevator stop at that level for a two-floor museum and shared meeting space).
- Town Center Third Floor (re-purposed: relocate existing HVAC ductwork to make space available for a museum on existing third floor).

All of the public sites were identified by Committee members. During its evaluation of these locations, the Committee was forced to eliminate the Bedford Library site after receiving a letter from the Library's Board of Trustees expressing no interest in hosting a museum on its property.

Having reduced the list of public and private sites under consideration to 14, the Committee initially reviewed them using information from the Bedford Assessors (ie., year built, exterior building materials, heating and air conditioning [HVAC], number of bathrooms, square footage, floor plans, etc.) See Appendix C.

Prioritizing the Sites using Pair-Wise Ranking

Using the Pair-Wise Ranking system, the Committee compared each of the 14 sites to each other. The outcome of this ranking resulted in the sites being prioritized such that the highest-ranked site was selected 13 out of 13 times. Results of the Pair-Wise Ranking are as follows, and also appear on the Pair-Wise Matrix in Appendix D.

Chosen 13 times: Bedford Fire Station.

Chosen 11 times: New addition on Town Center West Wing.

Chosen 11 times: A Nat Brown property.

Chosen 10 times: New addition on Bedford Police Station.

Chosen 9 times: Town Hall Multipurpose Room with a second (mezzanine) floor.

Chosen 9 times: Old Town Hall.

Chosen 7 times: Daugherty house, 49 Elm Street.

Chosen 6 times: Railroad Avenue lot across the street from Bikeway Source.

Chosen 4 times: New building at Job Lane Farm Museum.

Chosen 4 times: Joshua Page House, 13 School Avenue.

Chosen 3 times: Passenger Depot at Depot Park.

Chosen 2 times: Town Center Third Floor.

Chosen 1 time: George Swallow House.

Chosen 1 time: VFW Building.

Second Set of Ranking Decisions

Next, the Committee reviewed these sites in relation to the following criteria:

- Square footage.
- Handicapped accessible.
- Security.
- High-traffic central location.
- Town-owned.
- Parking.
- Whether the site is part of an existing building and therefore occupied by others.
- Close to public transportation.
- Pros and Cons.

One additional ranking was done in order to complete the Committee's charge: to offer recommendations to the Selectmen on museum locations that best suit the size criteria provided by the Historical Society and account for common factors derived from the survey

of other museums that are critical to the success of a Bedford museum. The Committee designated all sites they felt meet these criteria as "preferred" (Class A) and those locations that have greater challenges as "less desirable" (Class B).

In making its decisions about preferred sites, the Committee felt that the Old Town Hall site would be an even better museum location if the George Swallow House were included as a package. Purchasing the Swallow House would save an historic house that may soon be placed on the market. It would enable the Town to expand parking for Old Town Hall by removing the modern garage in the rear of the Swallow property and create new parking spaces. In addition, this "package deal" would provide space in the Swallow House, to be used by the Historical Society as office, exhibit or storage space, or to be rented by the Town to the current tenants in Old Town Hall or others.

As a result of this discussion the Old Town Hall "A" site is listed as either "with or without" the George Swallow House.

This preferred sites (A – listed alphabetically) are:

Bedford Fire Station (Re-purposed)
Bedford Police Station (Built-New: addition)
Old Town Hall with or without the George Swallow house (Re-purposed)
Town Center West Wing (Built-New: addition)
Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room (Re-purposed with new 2nd floor mezzanine)

The less desirable Sites (B – listed alphabetically) are:

Depot Park Passenger Depot (Re-purposed)
Daugherty House, 49 Elm Street (House museum)
George Swallow House, 20 South Road (House museum)
Job Lane Farm Museum (Built-New: new building)
Joshua Page House, 13 School Avenue (House museum)
Lot on Railroad Avenue across from the Bikeway Source building (Built-New: new building)
A Nat Brown property such as 119 The Great Road (Re-purposed/House Museum)
Town Center 3rd Floor (Re-purposed)
VFW Building, 76 Loomis Street (House museum).

The "pros" and "cons" that lead to these designations appears in Appendix E – Potential Bedford Sites Spreadsheet. Ignoring any cost of creating a museum (consistent with the Committee's charge), the "A" sites were selected because they meet the criteria for a successful museum as well as the Historical Society's desired space requirement.

The "B" sites were deficient in various ways. Several of these properties were too small to meet the Historical Society space needs (Depot Park Passenger Depot, Daugherty House, George Swallow House, Joshua Page House, VFW Building). Some were inadequate as

"stand-alone" House Museums (Daugherty House, George Swallow House, Joshua Page House, a Nat Brown property and the VFW) – a type of museum the Committee believed would not be as successful although the Committee felt that the Joshua Page House could complement a museum in the Fire Station or Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room and the George Swallow property could provide both additional parking in the rear and office space for current Old Town Hall tenants.

Another reason some of these sites were on the "less desirable" list was due to limited parking (George Swallow House, a Nat Brown property).

While a Built-New museum on the lot on Railroad Avenue across from the Bikeway Source building would meet the Historical Society's space criteria, the committee felt its critical drawback was its location outside of a centrally-located area of high traffic all year round.

In conclusion, the Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee believes there are several viable locations for an historical museum in Bedford. We hope that the Selectmen will select two or three "finalist" sites soon and engage a consultant to conduct a financial analysis of the requirements necessary to establish a museum at those sites and review a museum's impact on tourism, local business and Town resources and infrastructure.

The Committee thanks the Selectmen for the opportunity to participate in this important project.

Appendices

Appendix A - Bedford Historical Society Report to the Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee

Bedford Historical Society
Report to the
Ad Hoc Museum Study Committee
August 5, 2014

At one time during its history, Bedford had a casino within its borders. It also had a wild animal park, saw mills, a Native American trading post, mansions – including one that was torn down as a requirement of the owner's will, a safety razor company that potentially could have toppled Gillette, a hospital to treat men for "dipsomania," a candy company and electric trolley cars running through various parts of town. It also was the home to a woman who was thought to be a witch, an early feminist crusader on women's health issues, a well-known "anti-vaccinationist" and a resident who founded Paine-Webber.

And of course it had volunteers 285 years ago who helped to establish and run the town and volunteers throughout its history to today!

These are just a small sampling of the exciting stories that comprise Bedford's history. It is a compelling story that began in the early 1600s, when a small group of homesteaders settled in the northern part of Concord and the southern part of Billerica to work the land and establish saw and grist mills along the area's brooks and streams. In 1729, this territory was incorporated as the Town of Bedford.

The Bedford Historical Society, established 121 years ago, has an outstanding collection of thousands of documents, photographs, maps and other interesting and educational artifacts chronicling the Town's history. Since its early days, the Society has desired a dedicated location to tell Bedford's rich history through these artifacts that it has protected and preserved for the people of Bedford.

The first opportunity for a small museum occurred in 1951. Residents at the 1951 Annual Town Meeting voted unanimously to spend funds gifted from the Pickman family to complete the Stearns Memorial Library Building, including "finishing an assembly room for the Bedford Historical Society." That 510 square foot room in the Stearns Library, named the Pickman Memorial Room, was used by the Society as a museum from 1951-1953 and from 1955-1964. In 1953-55, the School Committee borrowed the space for classrooms due to overcrowding in the schools, and between 1964-66, the Library expanded into the Society's room. Due to lax security during this time, the musket carried by Lt. Eleazer Davis to the Battle of Concord on April 19, 1775 was stolen, and never recovered.

The Society regained exclusive use of the Pickman Memorial Room in 1966, and re-established its museum there until 1996, when the Society's artifacts and museum displays were moved into

storage while the Stearns Building was being transformed into the Bedford Police Station. Even though there were promises that the Society would retain an equal amount of space in the new police station as it had in the library, this did not happen.

Today, without museum space, a small number of the Society's artifacts are displayed in cases in some Town buildings. Some of the artifacts are stored in the Society's office in the police station. Because that space is not large enough to hold all the artifacts, some are stored at the Job Lane House and in private homes throughout Bedford. Several local families have indicated that they have artifacts to donate to the Society, but are waiting until there is a suitable place to display them.

The Society's significant number of artifacts has long outgrown a space the size of the old Pickman Memorial Room. With the knowledge that numerous communities near Bedford have dedicated museum space that is owned by each town and operated by their historical societies, the Bedford Historical Society made its case for a town-sponsored museum to the Bedford Selectmen in December, 2013.

With the Selectmen giving their unanimous support for the concept of establishing a town historical museum, and creating the Ad Hoc Museum Study Committee in June, 2014, this long-held dream may become a reality and provide a place where children and adults, residents as well as tourists, can learn about the history of our intriguing community.

Request for Society information

The preamble of the Town's Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee includes the following:

> "Ascertaining, from the Bedford Historical Society: (1) potential sizes (i.e. square footage of a small, medium, or large museum) needed to properly display the artifacts currently in storage and (2) other desired attributes (such as computer stations for research by students and scholars, lecture space, gift shop, restaurant, etc.)."

In order to prepare realistic museum size calculations to submit to the Museum Study Committee, the Society's Museum Exploratory Committee began the ambitious task of identifying a set of "Permanent" exhibits plus a long list of "Special" museum exhibits that would be placed in a local museum. Five Permanent and close to 40 Special, rotating museum displays were identified, and are listed in Attachment 1. The Society urges the members of the Museum Study Committee to review this attachment because it reveals many fascinating stories that can be told as a part of Bedford's history as well as the interesting artifacts, photographs, maps and other documents available to bring that history to life.

The list of Permanent and Special exhibits also contains recommendations for "interactive" exhibits. These exhibits, which the Society believes are crucial to the success of a museum, initially would be relatively simple and modestly priced. Later, after a museum is well established, revenues may be available to purchase equipment for additional displays using modern technology and to develop appropriate historical film shorts for both children and adults.

The Society's Museum Exploratory Committee also decided that, for the purpose of calculating museum sizes, it would identify the most appropriate museum size, based on the Society's current collection, and perhaps equivalent to the "large" museum size requested in the Museum Study Committee's preamble. Such a most appropriate size would include space for the five Permanent Exhibits, two Special Exhibits at any given time (that might be rotated with other

Special Exhibits every six months or so), as well as other attributes necessary to provide a successful museum. These attributes include:

- Space for meetings or events.
- Space for storage of operational necessities such as movable partitions, folding chairs, tables, empty display cases, equipment, etc.
- Space for a modest office and gift shop.
- Space for conducting research and reading.
- Archival space for documents, records and artifacts (in addition to the existing archival space in the police station).
- Two bathrooms.
- Kitchenette.

Some might argue that all these attributes are unnecessary. The Historical Society hopes that, as a part of its deliberations, the Study Committee will analyze successful museum operations in other Massachusetts communities, and also will look at Bedford's own successful experiences running programs in various town-owned buildings, such as Old Town Hall and Town Center. What is evident is that rentals of meeting/event space can produce income beneficial to the museum's operation.

Calculating the most appropriate museum size

Closely following the topics (bulleted items) listed in each of the Permanent exhibits in Attachment 1, the following linear feet were calculated:

#1: Before Bedford Became a Town (pre-1729):	30-50 linear ft.
#2: Bedford, the Town, in the Remainder of the 18th Century (1730-1799):	80-100 linear ft.
#3: Bedford in the 19th Century:	150-180 linear ft.
#4: Bedford in the 20th Century:	150-180 linear ft.
#5: Bedford in the First Decade of the 21st Century:	10-15 linear ft.
The size of each Special Exhibit was estimated at 6 linear feet. Assuming two such Special Exhibits at any given time:	12 linear ft.
Total, Permanent and Special Exhibit space:	432-537 lin. ft.
Converting linear feet to square feet in a manner that utilizes both wall space and interior space (i.e., displays on "movable" platforms separated by movable partitions), the **total museum display space required is:**	**1,735-2048 sq.ft.**

The other desired attributes were sized as follows:

Meeting/event space (assumed a 25 X 30 foot space for 50 people sitting in chairs plus a Presenter):	750 sq. ft.
Storage for museum necessities (assumed a 20 x 20 foot space):	400 sq. ft.
Office and Gift Shop (assumed a 10 X 10 foot space):	100 sq. ft.
Research/Reading space (assumed 2 computer stations + 1 desk):	48 sq. ft.

Archival space for documents, records and artifacts (in addition to the existing archival space in Police Station):	400-600 sq. ft.
Two bathrooms and Kitchenette (no space assigned):	(not calculated)
Total, other museum attributes:	**1,698–1898 sq.ft.**
Rounding up these square footage calculations to address the loss of display space in front of windows and doors, as well as the square feetneeded for bathrooms and kitchenette, the **total space needs for the most appropriate museum size are:**	**3,500-4,500 sq.ft.**

Other museum sizes

The Historical Society believes that a 3,500-4,500 square foot museum is the most appropriate to provide for the Permanent Exhibits and two Special Exhibits identified in Attachment 1 as well as other museum features. However, its Board of Directors recognizes that the Ad Hoc Historical Museum Study Committee charge also asks the Society for recommended "small" and "medium" museum sizes. After completing the calculations for the most appropriate museum space, the Society's Museum Exploratory Committee concluded that it would be inappropriate to identify the square footage for a "small" museum, because the artifacts, photographs, maps and other documents in the Society's collection are so extensive. The Board of Directors concurs with that assessment.

Similar concern was expressed about sizing a "medium" sized museum. As a result, the Society's Board of Directors agreed that, providing the town's Museum Study Committee with calculations for the most appropriate museum size would justify the need for such a size and also enable the Museum Study Committee to analyze smaller spaces in the context of the Society's archival collections. The Society understands that the Museum Study Committee may not identify this most appropriate size and knows that it may have to adjust exhibits to fit the museum space ultimately chosen.

Information about area historical museums

In addition to providing information about museum sizes, the Society felt that it could assist the Town's Museum Study Committee by furnishing some perfunctory information about historical museums in the region, consistent with Item #1 of the committee's charge. Attachment 2 contains information collected by the Society's Museum Exploratory Committee.

Bedford Historical Society Board of Directors

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Bedford Historical Society Museum Exploratory Committee

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Attachment 1: Bedford Historical Society Permanent and Special Exhibits

Bedford Historical Society
Permanent and Special Exhibits

Five permanent exhibits trace Bedford's colorful history -- from the days when early settlers traded beaver skins for grain with Native American's who roamed and lived in this area, to the growth of a new "town" where farming and small businesses began to flourish, to further expansion due to train service, industrial development and the Raytheon/Hanscom Field military/industrial complex, to Bedford of the 21st Century – a thriving bedroom community with active and engaged citizens and a strong commercial/ industrial base.

Almost 40 "Special" exhibits offer essential information enlarging upon numerous Bedford topics. They all would be interchangeable, not needing to be set up at the same time, and offer stories that give glimpses of people's lives and surroundings, utilizing related Historical Society artifacts that give life to the Town's exciting history.

While reading through the exhibit list, please note that bulleted items identify topics. The italicized sentences and phrases that follow identify artifacts in the Society's possession as well as "interactive" exhibits – those designed for touching/feeling/or other types of personal interaction.

The Bedford Historical Society considers interactive exhibits to be an important element of any successful museum experience. Our vision assumes that interactive exhibits initially would be relatively simple and modestly priced. Later, after the museum is well established, revenues may be available to purchase equipment for additional interactive displays using modern technology**.**

The Society also believes in digitizing its documents and photographs, as has been done for the important Lane Family Papers, so that the public can conduct online research about the Lane Family, early Bedford, and colonial life in New England. It is the Society's hope that, over time and through the success of a museum, many more documents -- as well as some exhibits -- can be viewed in the virtual world.

We credit the historical publications of A.E. Brown, Louise K. Brown, Williston Farrington, Ina Mansur and Sharon McDonald as well as documents in the Historical Society's archives for much of the narrative describing these exhibits.

We have reached out to a number of Bedford residents with knowledge about museum operations. Carole Charnow, President and CEO of the Boston Children's Museum, Signe Hanson, retired Exhibit Designer for the Boston Children's Museum, and Clive Grainger, television producer and adviser to the Smithsonian Museum, all have indicated a willingness to offer advice and assistance as this process proceeds.

PERMANENT EXHIBITS:

1. **Before Bedford became a "Town" (pre- 1729)**

"In 1637, the Massachusetts General Court authorized separate land grants on the Concord River to Thomas Dudley, deputy governor of the province of Massachusetts Bay, and John Winthrop, governor. The grants lay approximately four miles down river from the settlement at Concord (1635), on the east side of the river in the territory then known as Shawshin or Shawsheen. Dudley Farm, on the north, encompassed 1,000 acres, while Winthrop Farm, on the south, encompassed approximately 1,200 adjacent acres." ***From the Preservation Restriction Agreement for the Farley-Hutchinson-Kimball House, 2012.***

- **In 1635 Concord became the first inland town "settled above tide waters."** That town included what is now the southern part of Bedford.

- **"Two Brothers" and Two Brothers Rocks.** *Photos; guided tours. Grants given in 1637 to Thomas Dudley and John Winthrop (brothers-in-law due to marriage of Dudley's son and Winthrop's daughter).* The entire Winthrop grant and a portion of the Dudley grant lay in what is now Bedford. *(In State Archives; get copy.) Chris Bridgeman's materials compiled on Two Brothers Rocks for Eagle Scout award. Governor Winthrop's 1638 Journal makes reference to the Brothers Rocks.*

- **Bedford's early geology.** *Use USGS maps and records to document early geology. Old Lake Concord.*
  * Esker or Kame near Wilson Rd. *Photos.*
  *Great Cedar Swamp (Davis Rd.) *Photos.*
  * Drumlin at 276 Davis Rd. *Photos.*
  * Ga*rnets (2 chunks) dug up in Bedford.*
  **** Ellen Michaud's paintings.***
  *Ochre was mined in South Bedford, near Hartwell Hill, which provided the coloring for the paint, "Bedford Yellow."
  ** Perhaps a display: What would Bedford have looked like 1,000 years ago? Use the archived report.*
  **An interactive exhibit for 4-6 year-olds: The young archeologist: boxes of sand with artifacts embedded in them. Kids dig around for the artifacts and then use picture charts to identify them. Artifacts could be musket balls, buttons, boot buttons, flints from rifles, marbles, chunks of rock salt/sugar; etc.*

- **Native Americans.** *Exhibits in Police Station Training Room. Arrowheads. Indians considered water at Bedford Springs to have healing powers. Photo of boulder at Suzanne Koeller's house that was dished out and used by Native American for grinding corn. Copy of portion of History of Concord by Lemuel Shattuck, 1835, which describes the Indian battle at Pigwacket, near Fryeburg, on the Saco River, on May 8, 1725 and the garrison-houses in Concord which housed the company of men, including several from what later would become Bedford: Eleazer Davis and Josiah Davis. (See p. 50-51, Wilderness Town.)*
  **The disease that had visited upon the Native Americans before the arrival of the Pilgrims had reduced them in New England from more than 18,000 warriors to about 1,800. Of the five Native American tribes that were located south of New Hampshire, the Massachusetts Indians occupied the territory north of the Charles River and west of Massachusetts Bay, and supposedly numbered about 300. They were divided into villages. One, called Musketaquid, had its limits designated by an act of the Legislature on Sept. 2, 1635, and embraced about two-fifths of the present town of Bedford. The early settlers obtained a quit claim from the natives in 1684 which was executed by Squaw Sachem on behalf of her late husband, Nanepashemet. The title was*

given to the settlers in consideration of "Wompompeag, Hatchetts, Hows, Knives, Cotton Cloath & shirts with a new suit of cotton cloath, a linnin band, a hat, shoes, stockins and a great Coat" for Wappacowet, Sachem's new husband. This compensation for the land was trifling, but satisfied the natives and secured friendly relations between the Native Americans and the settlers.

*For 7-11 year-olds: Make an arrow with pre-cut pieces, with points not sharpened.

**Copy of Billerica records showing that the Billerica Selectmen, on Oct. 14, 1675, petitioned for garrisons around their town to protect their inhabitants from Indian attacks. These fortified locations for troops included two that were within the territory later given by Billerica for the Town of Bedford: Garrison #10: Timothy Brook's-Michael Bacon; Garrison #12: Job Lane's house.*

- **Shawshine House, Indian trading post.** *Was rough-log trading post for beaver furs in exchange for tools, cloth, beads, etc., as reported by surveyors in 1642, who started and ended their survey there near the corner of Shawsheen Rd. and Page Rd.*

- **Bedford's population in 1728: 46.** *Map showing location of the homes for some of these 46 and the 1660 roads that connected concentrated settlements at Billerica (1655) and Concord (1635): North Road in Bedford and Concord Road in Billerica; Woburn Road (1642), Page Road and Kendell Road in Bedford and now Burlington.*

- ***Numerous electronic documents on early Bedford.***

- **Bedford's local economy:** Agriculture, with a large grist and saw mill on the Shawsheen River and smaller mills on tributary streams of the Shawsheen or Concord Rivers. An important asset of any New England settlement was the mill. Bedford had two major rivers and several tributaries and brooks capable of supporting mills. *Documents from Billerica.*

  *Peppergrass Brook (today in the fields to the west of Carlisle Rd.)

  *Two mills on the brook which drained the springs and pond in the northeast part of Bedford. *Photos of evidence at the site of one of these mills, near the old Page School (now Page Place condominiums, 75 Page Rd.)*

  *Mill on the brook which drained the springs in Lexington Park. *Photos of evidence of this mill near Curve Street.*

  *Stearns Mill site on the Bedford-Billerica line. *Photos of evidence of this mill where the brook flows under Dudley Rd.*

  *Wilson Corn Mill on the Vine Brook, ca. 1676. John Wilson's mill was ordered to have two provincial soldiers on guard during the Indian wars. Wilson Mill. *Photos of recent excavation in which was discovered an axle, part of a wagon, and potentially the wheel shaft from the original mill shaft.*

  *Bacon-Fitch Mill on the Shawshine. *Photo of the mill, which operated continuously from ca 1673-1947.*

- **Historic Houses.** *Numerous documents, drawings, photos, etc. pertaining to these homes can be displayed on a rotating basis, or a few at a time. Interactive exhibit: Interviews from family members now living in these historic homes, with their remembrances of historical aspects of their homes. Family genealogies (see L.K. Brown's Wilderness Town)*

*****Job Lane House, 295 North Road, built by Job Lane ca. 1713. *Interviews by members of the Friends of the Job Lane House about the house, the herb garden, and various Friends' activities. Copy of 1636 General Court records first mentioning the land that was to become the Lane Farm.*
*****Michael Bacon Homestead, 229 Old Billerica Rd., 1671.
*****Richard Wheeler House, 445 Concord Rd., ca. 1695. *Trace the 20 different families that have occupied this house since the 17th Century, with interviews from family members.*
***** Josiah Davis/Oliver Reed, Jr. House, 380 Concord Rd., 1725.
*Eleazer Davis House, 255 Davis Rd. ca.1705.
*Nathaniel Page House, 89 Page Rd.,ca. 1700-1725.
*Shawsheen House/Danforth-Webber Inn, 137 Shawsheen Rd., 1700/1725**.** Note: This house today has signage saying it is the original trading post identified by government scouts in 1642. This house dates around 1725, not 1642.
*Caleb Farley Homestead at 461A North Rd., ca. 1700-1732. (Became Hutchinson, then Kimball House): *Numerous artifacts on Kimball House, including Red Feather Candy boxes, photos. Articles to be loaned by Kimball sons (clock, cobbler's bench, paintings, furniture, etc.)***.**

- **Town Common and Meeting House, 1728/29:** Importance of religious life to the community. *Latch from the original Meeting House. Old pew (either from First Church of Christ, Unitarian (today's First Parish) or First Church of Christ, Trinitarian (today's First Church of Christ, Congregational); name scratched in pew is clue to origin; needs investigation). Maps, photographs. First Parish Rev. John Gibbons has acquired numerous artifacts on the church; also early church silver in storage at Museum of Fine Arts. Good for a rotating display.*
  ** Copy of the talk given by the Rev. William A. Stearns, 2nd son of the 4th minister of the town, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the first Sabbath School in Bedford, who presents a clear picture of the first meeting house.*
  ** Display a blown-up photo of the first seal of the Town, which shows the original Meeting House standing in a wide cleared area among the stumps of the trees cut down from the Common, to build that very building.*

- **Other than the modest trails in the 1660s** leading between the settlements in Billerica, Woburn and Concord and the old road from Billerica to Lexington – which was also referred to as "the road to Bacon's Mill," there were no "real" roads through the Bedford area, just farm paths and marked trails that could change with the weather. *Old deeds identifying individual properties. Map showing "North Road." Billerica documents with references to a 1663 "road to Bacon's Mill."*

- **Part of Billerica and Concord before 1729 incorporation.** *Maps. Get copy of Billerica petition (in State Archives). Copy of Charter (on wall in Selectmen's Room). Map showing where old boundaries were between Billerica and Concord. (Does Concord have copy of its petition to separate lands for Bedford?)*

2. <u>Bedford, the Town, in the remainder of the 18th century (1729-1799)</u>.

"In 1728, Andrew Watkins, John Wilkins and John Wilson with others, presented a petition to the Great and General Court setting forth the hardships endured by them by reason of their being so far from Billerica and Concord, and asking that they be set off as a township. The petition was referred to the next session in order that a previously appointed committee might report. This earlier committee, sent out to examine the lines of the proposed Wamesit Parish, was asked to extend its duties to

include the bounds of the proposed Town of Bedford and other petitioners. The committee did not speak favorably of the Wamesit nor of other petitions, but recommended that of Bedford. After due consideration by the mother towns of Billerica and Concord, the request of the founding fathers was allowed, and on September 23, 1729, the town of Bedford was duly incorporated." ***From Wilderness Town by Louise K. Brown***

- **Display showing documents pertaining to Bedford's incorporation.** *Documents from the State Archives and Town Archives. Verbatum report, documents of first Town Meetings, etc. Documents from Billerica showing that the Edward Stearns homestead was taken from Billerica in 1766, and became the last land acquired for the Town of Bedford.*

- **The Town Common; what it included in terms of land area and buildings.** *Maps, old documents, etc.*

- **First Meeting House.** The three most important requirements of the Act of Incorporation were to (1) build a meeting house, (2) settle a minister, and (3) procure a school. The first meeting house stood on the northwest corner of the present Common, approximately where Elm St. and The Great Rd. meet today. The building had no chimney; foot warmers, blankets and hay for the pew floor were supplied by the individuals using the house.

  **Copy of first page of first book of records of the Town regarding the first Town Meeting: "Sept. 26, 1729: Voted that Mr. Jonathan Bacon a principal inhabitant of Bedford bee and hereby is fuly impowered and directed to assemble the freeholders and other inhabitanc of the Town to convene as soon as may bee to elect and choose Town officers to stand until the next anniversary meeting in March…sent down for concurrence, J. Willard, Secy. Quincy, speaker. Red and concurred."*

  ** Records of first Town Meeting on Oct. 7, 1729: list of officers chosen and show what their jobs are today (Example: The "Selor of Waite" [sealor of weights and measures] no longer finds hay or cordwood to measure, but uses his seal on all weights in the town. The ""Hogref" [hog reeve] and "Field Drivers'" duties are now performed by the keepers of the dog pound under the care of the Police Department. The "Tithingmen" are now Assessors.)*

  **Copy of Town Clerk Samuel Fitch's notes on the Oct. 30, 1729 Town Meeting – the last town meeting of that year – in which he writes "First reats maide by the assessor" – indicating the first levy of taxes for the new Town.*

- **Bringing in ("settling") the first minister:** the Reverend Nicholas Bowes. Rev. Bowes became the most important man in town. Not only was he responsible for the religious teaching of young and old, but he would have a say in all important town affairs. For several years, he was the school master. *Documents showing that in September, 1730, Mr. Bowes was given title to 16 acres of land adjacent to the meeting house. Pictures of his house, the Domine Manse, 110 The Great Rd., 1733. Copies of all the Town Meeting records for 1729 – 1730. The close ties between Rev. Bowes and John Hancock: Nicholas Bowes, who had recently graduated from Harvard College, married Lucie Hancock, daughter of John Hancock of Lexington. Bowes' daughter – named "Lucy," married Jonas Clark of Lexington and went to live in the "Hancock-Clark" House in Lexington. She and her husband were entertaining guests on April 19, 1775, when Paul Revere came that morning to warn those guests – John Hancock and Samuel Adams – of the British troops' movements.*

- **Schooling the children in the early town.** *Copy of minutes of Town Meeting held on Jan. 1, 1733: "Whether the town will have a schoole kept this preasant year – and it was put to voat and the voat went in the a formative. Then it was propounded how much the town would grant to maintain ye schoole and ye town granted five pound for this present year." And later minutes of a December, 1734 Town Meeting, in which the townspeople "voated" to establish a "moving school" through four quarters of the town. The four men chosen in 1734 with the task of finding houses with available rooms where classes could be held (Capt. John Lane, Capt. John Merriam, Francis Wilson and David Taylor) were instructed to identify locations "as near the senter of ye town as may be with convenience." This convenience wasn't for the students, but for the citizens who provided the room and the wood to keep the fire going. Interactive exhibit on how children were educated in the early days, when there were no text books as such, just the loan of books from townspeople; the use of the Bible, and there were neither pencils nor pens, and paper was almost non-existent for classroom use. And their curriculum was Obedience, Reading, Writing, and Ciphering.*

  *****First Center School on the Common, 1741 originally was owned by Benjamin Kidder in the center of town, and was used as a school for over 60 years. The house was located on the northwest corner of the Common, near the head of the present-day Elm Street. In 1806, the second schoolhouse was built. It was later purchased by Joshua Page, who moved it off the Common to Springs Rd., pursuant to a vote of Town Meeting. *Old sketch of the school showing a small one-room, two-story building with hip roof and central chimney, well lighted by windows on all sides. Also, Town Meeting records showing that Benjamin Kidder was paid 12 pounds, as voted by the town, for its use, as well as town records showing the sale of the school building to Joshua Page. Documents/comments from 21st Century experts on antique houses expressing belief that the back portion of the Dunham House, 13 School Ave., may be the original first Town Common school.*

  *****South School/Reed-Bacon House, 10-12 Maple St., 1793.

- **Old Burying Ground was on the original Common.** *Town Meeting article that sets the burying ground "by the highway that goes from the Meeting House to Woburn" (i.e., Springs Rd.). Photos of graves, documents from the restoration of the Old Burying Ground in the early 21st Century.*

- **Bedford Flag.** While the Bedford Flag was carried to Concord by Nathaniel Page, Cornet of the Bedford Minuteman Company, on April 19, 1775, it has a long history before that. The silk is believed to have been made in Leeds, England around 1704 and the painting put on the flag between 1704 and 1710.

  **Framed reproduction of the Flag.*
  **John Page's commission (2nd Cornet -- in Flag Room at Library).*
  **Story about the use of the fringe.*
  **Display telling the history of the flag.*
  **Bedford Flag wall display (in Selectmen's meeting room).*
  **The Page family cornets for the flag. Copy of Nathanial Page's father, John's, commission in the Tri-County Troop of Horse, a cavalry troop that protected the towns in campaigns against Native Americans, authorized by Governor Belcher, in 1737. Page family history tells that John carried the flag, then took it back to England, then brought it back to Bedford. (Check source of the "took back to England part). Copy of the records of the order for the Tri-County Troop of Horse flag, that is in the British Museum.*
  **Nathanial Page house.*
  **Video of original Bedford flag.*

**Interviews by Selectmen (Bedford or Concord?) about the soldiers who were at the Battle of Concord and witnessed the battle and death of Captain Jonathan Wilson.*
**Interactive display allowing children to design a flag for Bedford, if they were charged with this task. What would YOU design?*
**Other interesting bits of info from Sharon McDonald's and Barbara Hitchcock's books. (Example: When did the Bedford Flag last travel back to Concord? Answer: In 1925, the flag, framed within glass panes, was removed from its case and carried in an open car by the American Legion for Concord's April 19th celebration that year!) Interactive exhibit using information supplied by both authors on interesting facts and unanswered questions about the flag. Facts or questions would be posed on one side of plastic (or laminated wooden) "pages," and the answers would be available on the reverse side for individuals to discover by turning them over.*

- **Bedford's population in 1765:** 457 individuals in 72 families and 67 houses. *Display showing the marriages between these families. Maps, sketches, etc.*

- **The Town begins building roads.** *Displays using Town Meeting articles such as Article 4 of Sept 20, 1731: paying "a man 3 shillings a day "for work at the high ways" until the last of September; as well as Articles 5 and 6; Article 1 of Dec. 22, 1731 Town Meeting: "To except (accept) the highway that was layout out from the Meeting House to John Stearns land…." Article 5: To accept a highway from "Kdrs" (Kidders, or Fitch Tavern) to Joseph Fitches and from Fitches over "sedar swamp throw (threw) Hartwells and Davises land to the land of David Talors to Concord River medow path and from Sternses land to Fitches land…." Records in 1749 when the Selectmen laid out "an open highway two polls (poles) wide on land of Joseph Fassett of Lexington…" Mr. Fassett later asked to have his land become part of Bedford instead of Lexington, and the Town of Lexington agreed, because it was part of "worthless Tophet Swamp." This swamp, which riders of the Minuteman Bikeway cross over, was later partially drained to become Route 128. Photographs.*

- **Clothing:** (Note: look at photos of clothing for further IDs.) *Interactive clothing display: Use one of old trunks in attic of Job Lane House for copies of clothing that visitors can put ons, especially showing the many layers worn by women/girls. Possibly use a mannequin to display items.*
  *Prudence Deanes' wedding shoes, 1797.
  *The 1796 shawl with border unfortunately cut off, but "crucial to our understanding of the history of the printed shawl nevertheless." (Nancy Rexford)

  Note: see 1989 letter from colonial clothing expert/appraiser Nancy Rexford that describes much of the Society's clothing as "…garments which any museum right up to the MFA in Boston or the Metropolitan in New York would be happy to have.")

- **Witch of Shawsheen.** *Cape belonging to Miriam Gray (who married Benjamin Fitch on Feb. 28, 1732). Painting of woman in red cape. Some form of simple interactive display addressing ALL of the different Witch of Shawsheen tales: which do YOU think is the true story, if any?*

- **Bedford houses reflect growth in size of the early town.** *Photos, deeds, other documents that show each house's significance. Map of the town showing location of these homes, with photos/drawings of what they looked like originally, and what they look like today. Perhaps an interactive display*

utilizing such photos/drawings. (Photos of old houses on one side of wood blocks, what houses look like today on opposite side.)

*Jeremiah Fitch Tavern at 12 The Great Rd, ca 1730. *Photos of the house. Importance of Fitch Tavern to Bedford Minuteman Company (Minuteman Company artifacts.)*
*Bacon/Gleason/Blodgett House, 118 Wilson Rd., ca. 1740.
*The Red Barn, 5 Concord Rd., ca. 1790s.
*Nathanial Fitch House, 71 Concord Rd., ca. 1775.
*Capt. John Moore House, 191 Concord Rd., ca. 1700-1750.
*Colonel Timothy Jones House, 231 Concord Rd., ca. 1775-1770
*Oliver Reed/Davis-Fitch House, 297 Concord Rd., ca. 1775.
*Zachariah Fitch House, 145 Davis Rd, ca. 1730.
*Daniel Hartwell House, 245 Davis Rd., ca.. 1734.
*Oliver Reed/Roger Lane House, 56 Evergreen Ave., ca. 1775.
*Pennimman-Stearns House, 26 The Great Rd., ca. 1788.
*James Lane/Israel Putnam House, 97A North Rd., ca. 1740.
*Domine Manse at 110 The Great Rd., 1733. House was built for the Rev. Nicholas Bowes, 1st minister of the First Parish Church.
*127 North Rd., ca.1761.
*David Lane House, 137 North Rd., 1781.
*Oliver Pollard, Jr. House, 197 North Rd., ca. 1730.
*S. Lane/Dr. G. Buehler House, 373 North Rd. (now 4-8 Stephen Lane), ca. 1750.
*Christopher Page House, 50 Old Billerica Rd., ca. 1730-1735.
*Captain Jonathan Willson House, 261 Old Billerica Rd., 1760.
*137 Shawsheen Rd: (Note: This house has signage indicating that it is the *original* trading post. It is not. This house dates around 1725-1730, not 1642.)
*Lt. John Wilson House, 69 Wilson Rd., ca. 1771.
*Bacon/Gleason/Blodgett House, ca. 1740.

- **Occupations in the 1700s:** Farmers, millers, tavern keepers, carpenters, masons, etc. Mills continue to be an important business activity in the budding new town. Taverns are established to compete with the Jeremiah Fitch Tavern as early travelers move themselves (ww) and goods through the Middlesex area.
  *Wilson Mill.
  *Bacon-Fitch-Clark Mill site at 95 Old Billerica Rd.
  *Pollard Tavern. *Torn down in 1930s. Photos.*
  * Interactive display for 12-18-year-olds discovering an apprenticeship: following several tracks for learning a trade, each relevant to the time period.

3. <u>Bedford in the 19th century (1800s)</u>.

"In Bedford, where almost 100 percent of the people were farmers, there was not much that could be done (following the years after the War for Independence) too make their lot better. The depreciation of the currency of those days was a difficult problem for all of the country to solve, but in small towns like Bedford it was particularly hard. When every homeowner grew the food for his table, the wool and flax for his clothes; when he manufactured the tools employed inside his home as well as those in his fields, then there was little that could be used as a medium for exchange. … The coming of a home industry was the means of saving the little town, and of keeping its pride in itself.

The town had grown too large to live as it thought it should live in a forward-looking country, and it was too small to support any large industry without help from the outside. In the years 1805 and 1806, Bedford saw the establishing of the small shoe shops.

"In the years to follow, the business of cordwainier, or shoemaker, became something that belonged to almost e very farm in the town. The larger shops were owned by the Bacon family, the Simonds family, and by Chamberlin and Billings. These larger shops employed many local people among them. The work turned out in this town was recognized in Boston as being of the most satisfactory grade in this part of New England. ...For almost 50 years, the little shoe shops helped enrich the lives of the people of Bedford." ***From <u>Wilderness Town</u> by Louise K. Brown.***

- **Development of Town government and school buildings.**
  *Old Town Hall, 1856. *Photos of old 2-cell prison with metal bars on barn doors to form the cells. Clock. Early library. Story of how DPW used the prison bars for a brush screen over a storm drain. Story of how early employees threw away old records, for lack of storage space, but dumpster divers saved many of them.*
  * Union School (now Town Center), 12 Mudge Way, 1891. Where 1st PTA in U.S.A. was established.
  **Population of Bedford in 1890: 1002. Legal voters in 1895: 264, of which 224 were registered to vote. Valuation used to determine State and County taxes in 1895: $1,015,381 in property value; tax per $1,000 valuation: $.39. More statistics from 1896 Manual for the General Court.*

- **Examples of 19th Century houses which were built around the 18th century centers of activity in the town,** and reflect the changing pattern throughout the century of movement from a rural farm community to a small manufacturing center" Note: There are about 100 homes in town that date back to the 1800s. *Photos, hand-cut nails, moldings. Possible interactive display showing homes as originally built and renovations/changes today. Possible video of all houses. Photos of housing styles hanging in Police Station taken by Jan van Steenwijk.*
  *Elbridge W. Stearns House, 2 Concord Rd., 1854.
  *16 Concord Rd., ca. 1850.
  *W. A. Stearns house, 21 Concord Rd., ca 1825-1850.
  *22 Concord Rd., ca. 1875-1899.
  *Elijah Bacon Home, 23 Concord Rd., ca. 1825.
  *27 Concord Rd., 1845.
  *Stephen Evans House, 158 Concord Rd, ca. 1855-1860.
  *L. Hosmer/J. Kavanaugh House, 165 Concord Rd., ca. 1855.
  *Kavanaugh House, 169 Concord Rd., ca. 1885.
  *Capt. John Moore House, 191 Concord Rd., ca. between 1800-1850.
  *Henry Wood House, 375 Concord Rd., 1860.
  *W.P. Hayward/W. Parker House, 426 Concord Rd., ca. 1830/1835.
  *O'Dowd-Kelley House, 8 Crescent Ave., ca. 1862.
  *9 Cutler St., 1870s.
  *Emerson B. Cutler House, 18 Cutler St., 1860.
  *Samuel Huckins House, 49 Dudley Rd., 1850s.
  *Dudley L. Pickman House, 228 Dudley Rd., ca. 1840.
  *Stearns-Pickman Barn, 240 Dudley Rd., 1880. (Moved in mid-1960s)
  *Hosmer House, 15-17 Elm St., ca. 1831.
  *Elias Skelton/Hastings House, 21-23 Elm St., 1831.

*Lucy P. Hartwell House, 29 Elm St., 1812.
*Charles Gragg House, 45A Elm St., 1846.
*Reuben Bacon/Flint House, 46 Elm St., 1830.
*E. Hartwell House, 49 Elm St., ca. 1849.
*Hurd-Dimond House, 38 Fletcher Rd., 1886.
*Fletcher House, 39 Fletcher Rd., ca. 1885.
*Quincy Cole House, 42 Fletcher Rd., 1886.
*Davis-Hosmer House, 48 Fletcher Rd., ca. 1888.
*Smith-Prince House, 49 Fletcher Rd., 1888.
*Lane-Fitch House, 78 Fletcher Rd. (moved from The Great Rd. in 1887), 1810.
*David Rice House, 1 The Great Rd., 1812.
*Elijah Stearns House, 4 The Great Rd., ca. 1801.
*Amos Cutler House, 5 The Great Rd., 1835.
*Lewis P. Gleason House, 27 The Great Rd., 1829-30. *Photo of Lewis Gleason's shoe shop. The shop in the rear of the building was moved to Carlisle Rd. in 1924, and the original house was remodeled to become the home of the minister of the First Congregational Church.*
*George Dutton House, 31 The Great Rd., 1828.
*John W. Simonds House, 36-38 The Great Rd., ca. 1827-1829.
*Chamberlain-Billings House, 42-44 The Great Rd., ca. 1831.
*Charles A. Corey House, 43 The Great Rd., 1822.
*47-53 The Great Rd., ca. 1844.
*William Stearns/Albert Bacon House, 56 The Great Rd., ca. 1819.
*Hannah Hartwell/Dr. Hamblen House, 90 The Great Rd., 1842.
*D.P. Ladd House, 113 The Great Rd., ca. 1850.
*William W. Putnam House, 119 The Great Rd., ca. 1850.
*Isaac Hartwell Carriage House, 120 The Great Rd., ca. between 1875-1899. Converted to a house and later a business.
*131A The Great Rd., ca. between 1875-1899.
*Jonathan Bacon House, 133 The Great Rd., 1836.
*138 The Great Rd., 1843.
*Jonathan Bacon Carriage House (garage), 139 The Great Rd., ca. 1836. Converted to a house and later a business.
*Winfield M. Brown House, 140 The Great Rd., 1889.
*Winfield Brown Carriage House (garage), 142B The Great Rd., ca. 1889.
*Sylvanus & Malvina Lawrence/Old Parsonage for Trinitarian Congregational Church, 143 The Great Rd., (originally 93 The Great Rd.), 1845.
*Capt. Charles O. Gragg House, 214 The Great Rd., 1830.
*N. Fitch/Andrew J.L. Cass House, 215 The Great Rd., ca between 1825 and 1850.
*Hodgman/Isaac Pinkham, 227 The Great Rd., ca between 1825 and 1850. Home of Lydia Pinkman, the feminist crusader for women's health issues in a time when women were poorly served by the medical establishment. Lydia, originally from Lynn, MA, gave away her tonic for "female complaints" that she brewed on her stove until 1875, when she formed her company and started selling "Lydia Pinkham's Vegetable Compound," an herbal-alcoholic "women's tonic" meant to relieve menstrual and menopause pains. She started her business after her husband, Isaac was financially ruined in the Panic of 1873. *Bottles, advertising pamphlets, etc. from Lydia Pinkham's products.*
*Nathaniel Page, Jr., 235 The Great Rd., 1833. Coronet for the Bedford Flag during the War for Independence. *Page family documents, including history of all Page cornets.*

*Albert Bacon House, 238 The Great Rd., ca. 1825.
*Amasa Lane House, 239 The Great Rd., ca. between 1825 and 1850.
*Isaac E. Fitch House, 253 The Great Rd., ca. 1870.
*Brooks-Hartwell House, 6 Hancock St., ca 1875.
*18 Hartford St., 1890s.
*Sherman Rich property, 23 Hartford St., 1890s.
*24 Hartford, 1898.
*Delia Keene property, 26 Hartford St., ca. 1890.
*Paul Webber House, 18 Hillside Ave., ca. 1886.
*Isaac Hartwell House, 25 Hillside Ave., 1847-48. (Moved from Great Rd. in 1912 to make room for the construction of the Webber Mansion.)
*S. Davis House, 33 Hillside Ave., ca. 1890.
*Fairwick House, 34 Hillside Ave., 1888.
*38 Hillside Ave., 1880.
*Joseph Green House, 43 Hillside Ave., ca. 1890.
*McDonough House, 53 Hillside Ave., ca. between 1800 and 1850.
*57 Hillside Ave., 1843.
*5 Lane Ave., 1886. (This house, originally part of Martinez's Blue Ribbon Dairy property, was moved from The Great Rd. in 2005.)
*24 Lane Ave., ca. 1890.
*22-24 Loomis St., 1800, moved from 4 The Great Rd., was a general store and later Bedford's first post office (1825).
*38 Loomis St., 1897.
*6 Maple St., ca. 1850.
*8 Maple St., ca. 1853.
*Amos & Nathaniel Cutler House, 9-11 North Rd., ca. 1832.
*Oliver J. Lane House, 16 North Rd., ca. 1857.
*17 North Rd., ca. 1861.
*J. Bartlett Prescott House, 18 North Rd., ca. 1879.
*21-23 North Rd., ca. between 1875 and 1899.
*William A. Lane House, 115 North Rd., ca. 1850.
*Oliver J. Lane House 130 North Rd., 1858.
*Jacob Gragg/G.C. Skelton House, 175 North Rd., ca. between 1857 and 1861.
*182 North Rd., ca. between 1875 and 1899.
*Lane/Bradford Clark House, 217 North Rd., ca between 1800 and 1825.
*Frederick Davis House, 232 North Rd., 1890s.
*Mary Jackson/N. Dolleris House, 321 North Rd., 1861.
*Reed/Copeland House, 394 North Rd., 1840.
*David Fitch, Jr. House, 109 Old Billerica Rd., ca. 1800. *Large painting.*
*Capt. W. Goodridge/J. Ireland House, 167 Old Billerica Rd., 1830.
*Parker/Wade House, 251B Old Billerica Rd., 1898.
*Arthur Parker House, 278A Old Billerica Rd., 1880.
*Parker Stables/Iwanchuk, 278B Old Billerica Rd., 1836.
*Rosenthal, 457 Old Billerica Rd., 1880.
*2 Page Rd., 1836.
*66 Page Rd., 1870.
*115 Page Rd., 1884.
*Rebecca Shaw House, 12 School Ave., 1843.

*Joshua Page House, 13 School Ave., 1823. Some modern-day antique house architects/builders believe that a portion of this house is the 1st school on the Common, built in 1741, used for more than 60 years, then purchased and moved by Joshua Page. *Documents from Lorrie Dunham, present-day owner.*
*16 School Ave., ca. between 1825 and 1850.
*Jonathan Bacon Game Room, 6 School Way, mid 1800s. (Part of the Bacon Mansion at 133 The Great Rd., and later moved – and converted – to a house.)
*10 School Way, 1886.
*Wyman House, 11 School Way, 1838.
*22 Shawsheen Rd., ca. between 1875-1899.
*Nathaniel Cutler Stable, 20 South Rd., 1836-37. (The house at this address was the original Cutler stable, moved from the 24-28 South Rd. parcels and later converted to a house.)
*Nathaniel Cutler House, 24-28 South Rd., 1836-37.
*30-32-34-36-38 South Rd., 1848-49. **.**
*Reuben Bacon House, 33 South Rd., 1830.
*Elbridge Bacon House, 43-45 South Rd., ca. between 1800 and 1825.
*Hosmer-Wilkins Property, 46-48 South Rd., ca. between 1800 and 1850.
*Wm. Merriam/Edwin H. Blake House, 51 South Rd., 1852.
*Butterfield-Wilkins House, 52 South Rd., 1845.
*Charles C. Corey House, 56-58 South Rd., between 1825 and 1850.
*Adams-Blake House, 57 South Rd., 1850.
*Hiram Hutchinson House, 60 South Rd., 1861.
*Wm. Hartwell House, 69 South Rd., 1886.
*A. C. Walter, 70 South Rd., ca. 1890.
*E.R. Champney, 74 South Rd., ca. 1890.
*79 South Rd., 1861.
*Josiah Q. Gragg House, 81-83 South Rd., ca. 1880.
*89-91 South Rd., ca. 1890.
*Winchester-Hartford House, 90 South Rd., ca. between 1850 and 1875.
*93-95 South Rd., ca. 1890.
*98 South Rd., 1876.
*George Walcott House, 99 South Rd., ca. 1890.
*Livermore House, 102 South Rd., 1880.
*Blake House, 103-105 South Rd., ca. 1880.
*323 South Rd., 1890.
*Peter Kelley House, 345 South Rd., 1850s.
*Thomas & Anna Stiles House, 5 Springs Rd., ca. 1838.
*Edwin A. Hartwell House, 22 Springs Rd., 1874.
*29 Springs Rd., 1891.
*31 Springs Rd., 1862.
*Lunt-Bacon House, 34 Springs Rd., 1835.
*Twin Elms, 40 Springs Rd., 1835, the name given the Gragg family home.
*Abram English Brown House, 44 South Rd., 1828-31.
*Laws-Butler House, 48-50 Springs Rd., ca. 1830.
*Watts-Rowe House, 51 Springs Rd., ca. between 1825 and 1850.
*John H. Brown House, 64A Springs Rd., ca. mid 1800s.
*Johnson-Edgston House, 82 Springs Rd., ca. 1857.
*Edward Walsh House, 93 Springs Rd., ca. 1889.

*Foster-Whitten House, 107 Springs Rd. 1870s.
*Pollard-Comley House, 180 Springs Rd., 1810s.
*2 Webber Ave., 1880s.
*10 Webber Ave., 1886.
*16 Webber Ave., 1881.
*21 Webber Ave., 1896.
*22 Webber Ave., ca. 1887.
*25 Webber Ave., 1890s.
*29 Webber Av e., 1880s.
*Kenrick House, 35 Wilson Rd., ca. 1875.

- **Growth of agriculture/dairy industry during this period**.
  *Pickman Farm at 49 Dudley Rd. *Documents showing the Pickmans purchased 600 +/-acres in West Bedford. Photos, receipts, business ledgers for the farm, which sold milk to the Bedford schools into the 20th century.*
  *Parkers bought 400-500 acres off Old Billerica Road. *Arthur Parker raced trotters. Stable is Margo Iwanchuck's garage, 278B Old Billerica Rd. Parkers owned Bacon House, Capt. Wilson House, Paddy Wade's house.*
  *Inferrera Farm on North Rd. Active agriculture through 21st century.
  **Rotating display of milk bottles from Prescott (Bedford Farms), Blue Ribbon Dairy, and Private label milk bottles. Large milk separator.*

- **Religion expands beyond the Common.** *Town meeting records showing that, by vote of the Town, the religious and civic matters of the town were separated.*
  *Church on the Common, 2nd Meeting House, 75 The Great Rd., built by Joshua Page and Levi Wilson in 1817 for $5,445, after the 1st Meeting House was badly damaged in an 1815 hurricane, almost 90 years after it was built.
  *After the church split in 1832, the First Church of Christ, Unitarian, kept the Meeting House, and the First Church of Christ, Trinitarian, moved to 25 The Great Rd.

- **Occupations changed as the character of the Town changed:**
  *Shoe industry. *Shoe artifacts, cobbler's bench, documents.*
  *B&M Railroad Depot, 1874 and 1877 Freight House (the original narrow-gauge engine house) off Loomis Street - South Road. Railroad led to much growth in area.
  *Bedford Springs Hotel with wealthy customers coming for the summer from Boston for the tonic/luxury of the "springs," boat rides, etc. Hayden bought the hotel around the Civil War. He tore down the Bedford Springs Hotel and built the Sweetwater Hotel (Victorian design). He had Italian immigrants dig Fawn Lake. Hayden, a real entrepreneur, was on the Board of the Railroad, got it to build a narrow gauge track in 1877.
  *N.Y. Pharmaceutical Co. Lab (Hayden Laboratory), 96 Sweetwater Ave., 1892. *Artifacts including bottles, photographs, clothing.*
  *Bedford Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Loomis St., had been operating for a while before it was chartered as a corporation on May 28, 1891. The company was chartered "for the purpose of buying, selling and manufacturing all kinds of lumber and articles made of or from lumber in whole or in part, and also all articles and materials used in building and furnishing homes and other buildings, and also of painting and glazing." This became the large industrial operation in Bedford, employing 50 people. The President was Wallace Gleason Webber, a Bedford resident who had worked in several capacities at Blackstone Bank in Boston until he

resigned to form the co-partnership of Paine, Webber & Company, Bankers and Brokers. Webber became a wealthy man, and his love for the tonw led him to make many ventures to promote its welfare. He purchased tracts of land, opened streets and had housing built. According to Town Historian Abram E. Brown, "His transactions in real estate in the latter part of the 19th century, and those of Joshua Page in the early part of the century, mark two very important epochs in the history of the town." Among his volunteer work for the town, he was Chairman of the Building Committee for the Union School House, the yellow building that today is Town Center. Webber built a huge mansion on a hill on The Great Rd. near what today is the Brown & Brown law offices. His property stretched all the way to Hillside Ave.; one of the servant houses on the property is still standing today on Hillside. His mansion, however, is gone, as Webber's will stipulated that the house must be destroyed upon his death. *Photos of Wallace Webber, his mansion, the Bedford Lumber and Manufacturing Company, early Paine Webber photos.*

- **Influence of early mass transportation.**

  *Electric trolley from Bedford Street, Lexington, to Center of town on The Great Rd. Tracks were found when Franz Berkhout, owner of Dahlia's Restaurant, was renovating. *Interview with the owner. Photos, trolley schedules, other artifacts (Friends of Depot Park have more.)*
  *Narrow gauge RR track built in 1877. Originated in Depot Square. Went by VA Hospital property, Sweetwater Hotel.) Later taken over by Boston & Maine, who installed a standard gauge railroad. *Documents, photos.*

- **Continuing the education of Bedford's children.** *Copy of April 2, 1804 regulations governing schools, setting standards by which all school business would be measured. 1806 plans for a new school that were accepted at Town Meeting. Old school desk, many documents, ink wells, photos.*
  **Second school house built on the Common, 1806. *Photo of this school, known as the "Center" school, which also was sold to Joshua Page and was moved to 56 Springs Rd. in1828, and today is a private home.*

  *Third "Center" School on the Common, 1829 was built of brick, two stories high, and contained a bell tower. *Town records describing the ringing of the bell for every town event, and its importance to the townspeople. Town Meeting records about when and how the bell was to be used, who was to ring it, and the amount he was to be paid for that service.*
  *Fourth "Center" School House built on the Common, in 1856 (the Old Town Hall), whose second floor was used for Town Meetings.
  *West District School, 209 Concord Rd., ca. 1840-1846. *Photo of the school, now a private home.*
  *East School, 37 Old Billerica Rd., 1855. *Photo of the school, now a private home.*
  *Union School House, 1891 (yellow part of Town Center). Called the "Union" school because the town's five separate district schools were consolidated. The new school was built on four acres of land bought from the Flint family. The building had four large rooms, 28 x 32 feet, capable of holding 50 pupils each. In the basement were two large concreted playrooms, separated by a brick partition. The Union School had four teachers and eight grades.
  *Students were brought to the Union School in vehicles provided by the Town. These early school "buses" were long wagons, called "barges," drawn by a pair of horses. They were covered with material that was rolled up in warm weather and buttoned down around the sides in the winter. They were convertible: changing from wheels to runners during snowy winters. Attached to the rear of the barge were three steps to allow students easy access. Inside, a long bench extended from the rear entrance to the driver's seat on both sides, with a central aisle in

between. Two barges, two drivers, and four horses toured the town twice a day. *Photo of a barge; enlargements of Town Meeting warrant articles from parents at the edge of Bedford, requesting that a barge make a stop at specific places.*
*Interactive exhibit: *The life of a typical 16 year- old in various time periods, with electronic (or other means) of providing choices for what the 16-year-old's activities would be back in the 1800s.*
**Sports of the time: reading about professional sports of the time (if any), reading stories of professional sports (like boxers, for example)*
*****In 1881 State law required each town to furnish textbooks and all supplies, requiring Bedford to appropriate funds for these items. *Copies of Town Meeting articles, enlarged, that show the amount of money spent by the Town for textbooks and supplies, starting with $2000 in 1881, and showing how much is spent today.*

4. <u>Bedford in the 20th century (1900s)</u>.

"After candles and oil lamps, electricity came to Bedford. The trolley wire (and rail) brought direct current to the Fletcher Block. Albani's Fruit Store (later Stefanelli's) occupied the large center section, with Henry D. Lyon's Grocery on the left corner (the space where his delivery wagon backed in for loading is still evident besides Fletcher Road), and James M. Chase's Pharmacy and soda fountain store on the right corner. I remember seeing the light dim in Albani's and the slow ceiling fan nearly stop. The extra current drain came from double car tracks in front of the Common. They allowed directional passing. Current drains came when two cars stopped, as for fare collection, with air brake, compression pumps running." *From <u>An Awesome Century</u> by Williston Farrington.*

- ***Articles about Bedford in the early 20th Century by Dick Axtell and Judith McConnell.*** *Stories about 10% absentee rate in the Bedford Schools, liquor sales becoming a major problem in town because of public drunkenness, and a "modern" innovation in 1909: spraying the dirt roads with water in summer months to prevent dust clouds.*

- **The electrification of Bedford.** "In the beginning, tall poles supported trolley wires for the new street railway. A few buildings in the center took power for light and fans, but other appliances using direct current were limited. Bedford's change from candles and oil lamps came slowly in some places, taking more than 20 years. (From <u>An Awesome Century</u>.)
  * Trolley wire (and rail) brought direct current to the Fletcher Block (now called Blake Block), but the double car tracks in front of the Common caused the lights to dim and the fan to nearly stop at Albani's Fruit Store (later Stefanelli's). Current drains occurred when two trolley cars stopped to collect fares or drop off passengers, with air brake compression pumps still running.
  * Alternating current brought power to village homes. *Get dates and quotes from TownReports: "63 Street lights make the best lighted village in Massachusetts."*
  *Hayden Memorial Fountain, 1920s. (watering trough in front of Santander Bank.) DPW didn't like the electric lamp that was part of this fountain, so they threw it away but Vern Rivet rescued it from the Town dump. *Photos, original watering trough lantern.*

- **"Gasoline Alley."** Numerous gas stations appear on The Great Rd. *Photos. Interactive display showing photographs of then, and now, with visitors matching individual parcels to see what they looked like then, and now.*
  *180 The Great Rd.: site of Dick and John Dodge Garage, the 1st Ford dealership in Bedford. (Now Bedford Sunoco.)

*Amoco, The Great Rd. (Was this at #105?)
*Mobil, The Great Rd. (Was this at #105?)
*Bedford Auto Parts, #200 The Great Rd.
*Gulf, #331 The Great Rd. (where Jiffy Lube is now located.)
*Dick's Esso, #349 The Great Rd. Now Exxon**.**
*Shell, #358 The Great Rd.
*Bieren's Garage, #50 Concord Rd. (Purchased and razed in 2014.)
*Kazarian non-brand gas, #44 North Rd. (Originally had a convenience store called Gammy's General Store; now called Northside Convenience.)
*Texaco Gas, #105 The Great Rd. Now Citgo.

- **Growth of train service (B&M's Lexington Branch) relates to VA Hospital and industrial development, much around the Bedford Depot area.** *Photos, documents, train memorabilia, etc (Much available from Friends of Depot Park.)*

  **Display the following story: Morning papers were always available at the station and the gate tender at Loomis Street kept one for Charles Dunton's dog. Mr. and Mrs. Dunton lived in a house on The Great Rd. near Webber Avenue, later owned by the Martines family. Mr. Dunton has a devoted and intelligent dog resembling a foxhound which he dispatched on fair mornings to fetch his paper. The dog, named Dick, crossed The Great Road after stopping to look cautiously each way, then trotted the length of Webber Avenue and along Loomis Street to the crossing shanty. He took, the folded paper gently between his teeth, and no distraction could divert him on the return trip of his mission. From An Awesome Century by Williston Farrington.*

  *In 1900, the Middlesex and Boston Street Railway Company brought electric car service through Bedford. One branch went from Wilson Park to Concord, Maynard and Hudson; another branch went to Billerica and Lowell. The tracks from Lexington left The Great Road at Loomis Street and followed it in order to pass the Boston & Maine Depot. Then the tracks turned up South Road to rejoin The Great Road in the Center. *Photos* of trolley *car on The Great Rd. and enlargement of personal recollection of Williston Farrington (see An Awesome Century: "Summertime rides on open trolley cards held the thrill of being chauffeured over private ways. Tracks usually had their own land beside the road, and the trolleys sped merrily past all other traffic. One could scramble for an end seat, or sit back of the front wall, watching the motorman manipulate his controls. A cord hung near the motorman, and a quick pull sent out a penetrating whistle, scattering stray animals."*

  *Bedford Lumber and Manufacturing Company, 111 South Rd. This was the Town's first large factory to fully use steam-powered machinery. A.E. Brown describes it in his history of Bedford: "The woodworking factory has undergone a radical change….The Bedford Lumber and Manufacturing Company has a capital of $25,000….The facilities of the Company are ample. Fifty people are constantly employed, and the largest industrial interest ever established in this town had its beginning in 1901." *Old advertising, photographs, wooden bike rims, page from AE Brown book.*

  *Middlesex Coal & Grain, 111 South Rd., ca. 1900. The building, known to locals as "The Elevator," stored by coal (lower levels) and grain (top floor). "Freight cars loaded with grain stopped beside the elevator building. There the grain was hoisted to the top floor and stored in separate bins that held bran, cracked corn, oats, etc., each one a staple, unmixed feed for animals and poultry. From the opening under each bin a square wooden chute ran straight down, ending a few feet above the main floor. A burlap or paper bag placed under the chute was filled for a customer by pulling open the sliding base." From An Awesome Century by Williston Farrington.

- **Development of other 20th Century industries.**

  *Bedford Print Shop, 181 The Great Rd., corner of The Great Rd. and Webber Ave. , 1903 or 04. Charles C. Farrington of Somerville rented this house from A.E. Brown for himself, his wife and year-old son. It was heated by coal stoves and lit by kerosene lamps. Mr. Farrington purchased a treadle-type printing press, type and equipment in New Hampshire, and set up a printing business in one of the four bedrooms. He photographed local and historic places of interest and printed them on post cards. The first book printed at the shop was the 1910 memorial tribute to A.E. Brown. He also printed Dr. Hayden's Sweetwater Hotel dinner menus. *Photo of Print Shop, around 1916.*

  *Farrington's radios, 2nd floor of the Bedford Print Shop. The Farrington Radio used resistance coupling and broad-band tuning instead of transformers for amplification. Cabinets for the Farrington Radio were first made in the carpenter shops of the Lexington Nursery, but because they were limited in the quantities they could make, Farrington turned to the St. Coeur factory in Cambridge for his radio cabinets, as Mr. St. Coeur lived on Fletcher Rd. in Bedford. *Early radio equipment, Farrington's book, documents.*

  *Bedford Safety Razor Company. This successful business was located on **corner of** DeAngelo Drive off Loomis St. Immanual, Jr. who lived on the corner of The Great Rd. and Brooksbie Rd. in the house originally owned by his father, Immanuel, Sr. (and based on the federal census, housed various members of the extended family, over the years, including the daughter of Albert and Alexandra) started the safety razor company with his brother Louis, which, had it not be destroyed in a fire, could have challenged the Gillette razor because the Bedford models were more comfortable and easy to use. Immanual Sr. was a well-known opponent of vaccinating children. He deliberately entered a smallpox hospital ward to contract smallpox and try to prove that vaccinating against this deadly disease was unnecessary. *Show New York Times article, blown up, about his convalescence after his smallpox exposure and quotes from Immanuel (Emanuel) Jr. supporting the same stance.* Louis & Immanuel, Jr. were involved in state and local politics; Louis was affiliated with the Republican State Committee, serving as secretary in 1919. Louis was the son of Immanuel, Sr. and brother to Immanuel, Jr., William (a veterinary dentist - who did not stay in Bedford and may have also been a land developer in Teaneck, NJ), Albert (a dentist) married Alexandra Carlisle, an actress and the founder of the Bedford Girl Scouts, Hannah (eventually a Bedford Postmistress) and Alice (both sisters remained unmarried and active in Bedford's social scene). Immanuel Jr. ran the Bedford Veterinary Hospital in a large barn beside his home. *Photos of Bedford Razor. The gold-plated model sold for $5 and the silver plated razor for $3.50. Each was packed folded, with extra blades, in a velvet lined jewel type case. The trademark "Bedford" enclosed in an elongated diamond, was stamped in gold on the snap cover and imitated the Gillette logo. Cardboard boxes protected the jewel cases. Photos of the "Bedford Bob" razor, invented by Pfeiffer's partner Hans Christiansen and named after Louis Pfeiffer's son Robert. Photos of the 1925 fire that engulfed the Safety Razor building and led to the end of this profitable business. Razors, pamphlets, razor box. Documents on Immanuel (Emanuel) Pfeiffer and his sons Immanuel Jr., Alice and Hannah. Photo of Alexandra Carlisle.*

  *Bedford Textile Company began in a factory building on Loomis Street to process wool waste. After moving the business to larger quarters on the Concord River, it operated for less than three years when a severe flood destroyed the equipment. (Get dates.)

  *The Red Feather Candy Company operated out of a renovated barn on the Kimball's property, 461A North Rd. *Distinctive light gray box printed with a large, bright red feather.*

*The Bedford House Hotel, on the site of the present-day Fire Station, The Great Rd. and Elm St. Once a mansion built by Joshua Page, he converted his home to an inn. The inn was prosperous during the days of travel by stagecoach, but later fell on lean times, and reverted to the illegal sale of liquor, which created a crisis in Bedford. *Reprints of 1906 Town Warrant: "To vote on the following question: Should license be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquor in the Town of Bedford? NO 121, YES 32. Show other Town Warrants for several years, with same results. Show 1910 Town Report that bemoans: "Violation of Liquor Law: Early in the year it became necessary for this Board to take steps to stop the illegal sale of liquor in Bedford. Complaints in writing, signed by responsible persons, were received at that time, charging that young men were being debauched, that liquor was being furnished to men who should not have it and could ill afford to buy it, and that one home had nearly been wrecked through the too free use of whiskey bought in Bedford. These complaints were investigated as fully as possible…." The inn was later purchased by the Bedford Grange. 1907 photo of Bedford House.*
*Hodgdon's Livery Stable, South Rd. and Railroad Ave.
*Bill Hughes' Blacksmith shop, per program: "South St., Bedford."
*Charles Phillips' Blacksmith shop faced Wilson Park, at the corner of Concord Rd. (approximately 27 Concord Rd. today). *Photo of the house, with double doors no longer opening to admit a horse wearing a harness and needing new shoes.*
*Fred and Alma Cook's Box Factory, Page Rd.
*Clark's Sawmill, (Bacon-Fitch-Ashby-Clark Mill), Old Billerica Rd.
*Robinson's Shady Hill Nursery, Concord Rd. *Purchased by John Kirkegaard, father of Town Historian Louise K. Brown, and still operating as New England Nurseries. Momentos from the Brown family.*
*Bedford Veterinary Hospital, corner of The Great Rd. and Brooksbie Rd., owned by Immanuel Pfeiffer, Jr.
*Marshalls, 1950s.

- **Town Hall slowly catches up to "modern" times.** The Town Hall, still a building that met so many needs of residents, incurred continuous traffic. The jail, and at one time, town offices, occupied the basement. The library occupied the entire first floor, except for the Selectmen's meeting room. The large hall on the second floor was in continuous use for dancing school, formal and informal dances, fairs, professional and amateur entertainment, town meetings, Lodge meetings and more. The Town hall originally had only one bathroom, which was a slop pain in the attic, reached by a steep ladder-like stairs in a side room.

  **Enlargement of Town(Selectmen's) Report of 1909: "Water service has been installed in the Town Building…whenever the Town feels able to install a system of water closetsin the Town Hall Building, something long needed, it will be possible to use this service in that connection."*
  **See Town Report of 1910: "Present cell in town hall condemned by Police commissioners as unfit for use…no plan for toilet rooms for town hall decided on."*
  **Enlargement of 1911 Town Report:* "The town hall sanitary conditions heating and lockup are antiquated."
  *1926 Town Report: "Cell in town hall still unsatisfactory."

- **Raytheon and development of military/industrial corporations in later part of 20th Century.** *Get old photos, artifacts from Raytheon to add to Society collection.* Developed the first radar in Bedford. *(Frank Gicca has contacts.)*

  *The evolution of Raytheon from a company that developed the first WWII radars – to becoming the largest missile defense company. And it started in Bedford.

*Raytheon won the first Air-to-Air defense missile contract (for the Sparrow).
*Similarly with MITRE and Lincoln Laboratories (both with MIT ties) and a lot of other companies in the defense business that started here in Bedford.

- **New schools in town.**

*Electric wiring was installed in the Union School in 1912. After that, the hand rung bell, calling students to class, was replaced by a mechanical gong.
*When the Union School was built in 1892, it had no water supply system, so a student carried drinking water from neighboring household wells for 25 cents a school day. The school later got its own well. By 1912, the school was connected to a new public water system, replacing the old well. "The communal drinking cup was discarded; well-known attorney and community leader George R. Blinn (Library president, Chair of the Shawsheen Cemetery Committee; Commissioner of Public Safety; Director of the American Unitarian Association) proposed using paper cups; ultimately a bubbler was installed.
* By 1900, Bedford pupils were admitted to the Concord High School, because Bedford felt it was impractical to meet the expense of State standards for a high school (must present a four-year course of certain subjects, must have recitation rooms, a chemistry laboratory and a room for experiments in natural science. Tuition to Concord High School was $48 per year. Bedford students could travel to Concord either by the steam trains or by electric trolley cars; the cost was borne by the taxpayers. *Documents.*
*In 1903, music and drawing were added as enrichment classes in the primary and grammar schools. *Photos, documents.*
* Because the Concord High School curriculum was geared towards preparing all students for college – and some Bedford students wished to study business, mechanics or other trades, around 1916-17, the Bedford School Committee paid the tuition for Bedford students to attend other high schools, including schools in Lowell, Howe Academy in Billerica, a business school in Waltham, commercial courses in Lexington, and an agricultural school in Concord. *Documents from the School Department.*
*In 1910, a Parent Teacher Association was formed – the first in the country, to provide extra equipment and services to the schools. Included in their activities was purchasing playground equipment and serving hot cocoa for 3 cents a cup at lunch.
*Bedford shared a superintendent through a formal association with numerous other towns that received state aid to hire one superintendent. But dissatisfaction with the program led many towns to withdraw. Lincoln was the first to withdraw, and later Wilmington. When Bedford and Burlington were the only remaining towns in the association, they formed a union with Belmont in 1911 and hired Belmont's superintendent. This union was dissolved in 1915 and Bedford entered one with Stoneham, but that union lasted only 5 years. From 1920-21, Bedford's school was supervised by Lexington (state law required a town as small as Bedford to share with another community).
*In 1910, there were 170 students attending the Union School and 40 older students attending schools outside Bedford.
*The school began a program of Manual Training for boys, teaching how to repair wooden walks, build a bicycle rack and improve the school property. "This new class was considered a balance for the sewing class popular with the girls." An Awesome Century
*In 1916, Bedford high school students were attending the Concord High School. After Concord raised tuition for out-of-town students, the Bedford School Committee transferred their association from Concord to Lexington, and students began attending Lexington High School. *School Committee reports, photos of students, etc.*

*During World War I, cooking and canning were added to the curriculum at the Union School. The Congregational Church kitchens were used for a cooking class. Gardening was re-emphasized, and students bought War Savings Stamps and assisted the Red Cross.
*The Superintendent requested that the town remove the horse sheds from the entrance to the Union School House, now School Way. *Photos, old school records.*
*Charles Jenks, owner of the Fitch Tavern in 1926, donates a parcel of land known as the Knoll Lot to the town, on which was built a Junior High School. This school and the Union School were adequate for Bedford until the 1950's. *The story of the town's decision to build a junior high, the Building Committee, the Jenks family, etc., using town records, photos, Charles Jenks' journal, and other documents. Photo of the Junior High, now the Town Hall.*
*Building Bedford High School and Davis and Lane grade schools. *Videotaped memories from living residents of their experiences in these schools; photos, records, etc.*

- **Hanscom Field: from farmland to guardian of democracy.**

  * Small airfield before Hanscom, and the history of the Mead family that owned 300 acres of farm land that eventually became part of Hanscom Field.
  **Newspaper article about first flight from the private airfield in a hot air balloon. (15-minute ride for $4.50).*
  * B-24 flied into Empire State Building c. 1948.
  * Nike sites (at Hanscom and off Old Causeway Rd.)
  * One of the first peddle-powered airplanes was launched at Hanscom.
  * The evolution of Hanscom field in the 20th century: From a small civil airfield, to a MA airport and major US Air Force facility. *Document showing when the Navy sold the field to the Mass Port Authority. Photos showing the site being cleared.*
  * Building on the hill, was built during WWII for the Navy, but after the war, was contracted to Raytheon.
  * Air Force family camp off Summer St.
  * Impact of Hanscom students on Bedford schools.
  * Impact of Hanscom Field on housing in Bedford. (2-family ranches built off South Rd.)
  * Impact of Hanscom on commercial development on the East side of Bedford. (Bedford Plaza, Travelodge, restaurants, etc.) *Photos, documents that tell the story of how the Town voted against an airport (1940), and how the plan to build one was taken over by the State, with U.S. Army involvement. Through Frank Gicca's ties to Raytheon, get historical papers, photos, etc. about the development of Raytheon.*

- **Caring for the sick.**

  *VA Hospital, 1927. *Numerous documents, photos (of farmland before hospital was built, Edith Nourse Rodgers, early hospital buildings, how early buildings were used. Bedford Almhouse. (Get more history from VA.) History of the hospital , with 100 or more buildings, starting as a place for brain injuries, now Alzheimers, affordable housing for both male and female veterans. Use old National Registers for hospital history. History of how some of the early buildings were used. Possibly story of High School students finding the head of a former VA patient.*

  *Llewsac Lodge began as a home for the care of people suffering from Dipsomania. Today it is Carleton-Willard – a modern independent and assisted-living community. *Photos of Llewsac Lodge & Carleton-Willard. Llewsac Lodge history; oral histories from C-W residents.*

5. <u>Bedford in the first decade of the 21st century.</u>

"Bedford is located on the map of Massachusetts in Middlesex County-about fifteen miles northwest of Boston near the junction of routes 3 and 95 [128]. The Town may be accessed by car, and public transportation on the M.B.T.A., taxi, shuttle and Logan Express connect to Boston's Logan Airport. Surrounding towns are Lexington, Concord, Carlisle, Burlington, Billerica, and Lincoln. Bedford's 2012 population of 14,501 represents 5,400 households 9,823 voters.

"The Town map shows a land area of almost 14 square miles, with 65.54 miles of public roads. There are rivers, ponds, fields and forests saved as conservation lands. The Town maintains open spaces with walking trails and bikeways as well as athletic fields and parks for recreation.

"Some forty community groups with interests around arts, schools, social service, scouting, gardening, veterans and sports are active, with representation at a town-wide parade and fair on Bedford Day, celebrated the third Saturday in September. The Town's strong business community has a Chamber of Commerce with 150 members ranging from local professional firms to large corporations with global headquarters in Bedford. Hanscom Air Force Base has been an important part in the strength of the Bedford economy." ***From Town of Bedford Website, www.bedfordma.gov.***

- **Ask local officials, Chamber of Commerce, others, to identify the most important features of Bedford in the 21st Century.** *Both an interactive display with visitors submitting their own views of this question and video presentations of local residents and others identifying such features.*

- **20th-21st century families:** *Using Bedford TV equipment (and later, the museum's own equipment), Bedford families would sit before the camera and tell their stories (like NPR's "Story Corps") and a screen would show family stories already filmed. *Photographs of Bedford couples taken by Jan van Steenwijk.*

- **Selected Special Exhibits on 21st century issues:**

*Downsizing: Hanscom Field due to military consolidation.
*Town's commitment to upgrade infrastructure (High School, Lane, Davis Schools, Town Center addition, roads, Police and Fire stations.)
*Bedford as a leader in biomedical research.
*The Edge Sports Center: Becoming the training site for the 2014 Women's Olympic Hockey Team.
*How Bedford faced the Great Recession of 2008. Housing rates barely changed; property tax shift from Commercial/Industrial to Residential.

POTENTIAL SPECIAL DISPLAYS:

1. **Early Bedford families** (Lane, Fitch, Hartwell, Brown, Putnam, Davis, Page (Paige), Stern (Stearns, Sterns), Webber, Bacon, Abbot (Abbott), Merriam (Meriam), Cutler, Duren, possibly others). *Wall displays showing geneology of select families (such as Davis, Fitch, Page). Family papers, deeds, other documents. Have wall displays showing geneology of select families.*

2. **19th Century Bedford families** (Blake, Parker, Hayden, Pickman, Jenks, Reed, Clark, Corey, Mudge, possibly others). *Family papers, deeds, photos, clothing, other documents. What attracted families to Bedford?*

3. **Lane Family Papers:** stories of the Job Lane family and descendants. *Deeds, photos, letters, other documents, all digitized and available on line.*

4. **Veterans from Revolutionary War to today**

   -- Rifles, drum, etc.
   -- Items from Civil War exhibit currently in the High School main entrance case: History book from that era, women's clothing, sabers, muskets, pistol, albumen photo of Lincolnand his flag officers, etc.
   -- WWI Uniform
   -- 19th Century drum.
   -- WWII Japanese rifle.
   --Muskets, some real, some reproductions that could be handled by visitors.
   -- Reproduction pistol.
   -- Minuteman Company's 1st Polecapping Cap.
   --Sabers, powderhorns, canteen.
   --Red Cross items.
   --Korean-area uniform (Don Corey's)
   -- Request old uniforms (Vietnam-era and others, including current ones), from Bedford residents for display.
   -- VA and its relationship to veterans.
   --Veterans Agent Bill Linehan will inquire about available uniforms.
   --Women's roles during the various wars, and what happened when the men came home.
   -- Stories of beginnings: the first military nurses, the first women in the military, the changing role of women in the military.

5. **Slaves in Bedford.**

   -- The plaid kerchief belonging to the slave Ohloon.
   -- Slaves buried at the Old Burying Ground. *Story of slave Peter (Stearns) Freeman, a family servant to Rev. Stearns, who was buried in the black area of the Old Burying Ground, but later moved to the Shawsheen Cemetery with the Stearns family.*
   -- Zachariah Fitch Homestead (145 Davis Rd.), Fitch Tavern, Job Lane House, and other old homes: Sites with hiding place potentially used in Underground Rail Road. *Photos of the "hiding"places.*
   -- Documents on slavery. Anti-slavery treatise.
   -- Original document selling 5-year-old Jeffrey to the Hartwells. Jeffrey served at Bunker Hill; Hartwell kept the $ Jeffrey earned.
   -- Restoration of the Old Burying Ground: Photos of slave area.

6. **Early Bedford Houses.** Many of the houses listed in the Permanent Exhibits, above, should be kept for a separate Special Exhibit(s). Decisions on which to highlight in the Permanent displays and which to put into a separate Rotating Exhibit can be made later.

7. **Early Family Bibles.** *Display bibles in Society's collection, including those from late 1600s.*

8. **Early Samplers.** *Display 1800s samplers in Society's collection.*

9. Industry in Bedford from the 18th century through today. Highlight some of the business activities and occupations not part of the Permanent Exhibits. *Photos, documents, stories from Bedford residents about these businesses.*

-- Concord River cranberry bog and ice cutting area, 265 Davis rd.
-- Ice cutting in late 1800s at Pickman Farm.
--Peat ball from Bedford; photo of peat.
-- Taverns. Pollard House photo. Shawsheen House (became Danforth-Webber House)took in travelers and horses.
-- Farming.
--Bedford House: early 1800s – 1940 was functioning inn. Famous boxer(Johnny Wilson, 1920-21) trained here..
-- Industry in Depot Park area by late 1870s: Pickle factory, Bedford Safety Razor, Bedford Lumber, multiple textile businesses, etc.

10. Town government from the Town's incorporation in 1729 to today.

-- Article 3 of Bedford Town Meeting, Oct. 10, 1776 (John Reed, Moderator), in which the Town consents to having the Commonwealth enact a Constitution and form a government for the State.
-- Documents showing the Bedford Town Meeting vote (November, 1776) to accept the Declaration of Independence, declaring its independence from Great Britain.
-- Documents showing Bedford town Meeting vote of Dec. 30, 1776 to raise money to pay its soldiers "for the Defence of the Country." Bedford now considered itself part of the United States.
-- Several documents with John Hancock's signature, one appointing John Reed as Justice of the Peace (at Domine Manse) who was Bedford's leader of the revolution. Other signature is a receipt.
***--**Photographs of Police and Fire Department in the 1990s.*
-- Have museum sponsor a debate for students in perhaps Grades 5 or 6: Some would be Patriots, some Loyalists.
-- Identify records kept by Town Clerk (in Town vault) worthy of reproduction and display.

11. How public education started in Bedford, if not part of Permanent Exhibit.

-- Early school houses were in homes. *Old documents, reports.*
-- Old Town Hall was part school house.
-- Books used by children.
-- What they studied (interactive display)
-- Interactive display: When girls weren't educated. Also, documents on Abigail Stearns (the Rev. Stearns' wife) starting a girls school.
-- Marist Seminary and convent (nuns photo), also nunnery on Dudley Rd. Photos.

12. Transportation.

-- Minuteman Bikeway (America's 500th Rail-Trail)
-- Various documents & photos re 1874: Boston & Lowell Railroad extends the railway line to Bedford.
-- B & M railroad station: Depot Park.
-- Narrow gauge RR (Billerica to Bedford Railroad. Lasted 2 years; replaced by Lexington Branch of B&M).

-- Trolley to Bedford (and past Lexington Park), along The Great Rd., Loomis St., Concord Rd. (to Maynard) and North Rd.
-- Contact Jim Shea and Friends of Depot Park for more artifacts, information.
-- Development of roads and bridges (Job Lane built the 2nd bridge over the Concord River after the 1st bridge washed away.). Document is in Lane Family papers on the Society's website.

13. Volunteers run Bedford for 285 years (Town Government, early church involvement, etc.)
-- Memories from Town Moderators, such as Harold Wellington – town Moderator for 25 years.
-- Memories from Selectmen: get oral histories from all living Selectmen, plus written documents from deceased Selectmen.
-- Large photographs/drawings of old town seal and new town seal, accompanied by June 27, 1929 vote for the change. (See Wellington's memories, p. 161, Bedford Sampler).
-- Displays listing all Bedford Selectmen, organization charts showing the growth of town government offices and departments (paid staff) from earliest to today.
--Photographs of Selectmen for three years during 1990s.

14. Revolutionary War.
-- Some type of interactive display: How would a farmer react to the Revolutionary War? How would a slave? How would a "landed gentry?" Etc. Have phrases from each category of individuals, which visitors would read and match up to the correct category.
-- Encourage 5th or 6th graders to play Loyalists and Patriots, and debate the pros and cons of the issues leading to the War for Independence.

15. Community organizations then and now. *Display selected documents from:*
-- Parker Lodge, Independent Order of Grand Templars, 1868-1872.
--Petty Larceny Society, 1840.
--Sons of Temperance, 1858-1861.
-- Women's Christian Temperance Union, 1876-1889.
-- Bedford Temperance Society, 1831-1838.
-- Winifred Thorndike Simons Nature Club, 1938-1945.
-- Young People's Debating Club, 1892-1893.
-- Bedford Law and Order League, 1888-1892.
-- Bedford Parent-Teacher Association (PTA).
-- Bedford Players, 1960-1977.
-- Bedford Pride Council, undated.
-- Bedford Rotary Club.
-- Citizens Opposed to the Bedford Landfill Site.
-- Colonial Daughters of the 17th Century.
-- Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, Inc., Bedford Chapter, 1970.
--West Bedford Community Association, 1982 and undated.
-- Bedford Citizens for Environmental Quality (February, 1972)
-- Bedford Woman's Community Club.
-- Bedford Social Club.
-- Concerned Black Citizens of Bedford.
-- Emerson Hospital Auxiliary of Bedford, 1986.
-- Frank W. Thompson Lodge, Bedford Masons, 1980-1984.
-- Freedom's Way Heritage Association.
-- Friday Club, 1908-1909.

-- International Order of Red Men, Shawsheen Tribe 45.
-- Ladies' Commission on Sunday School Books, 1900.
-- League of Women Voters of Bedford, 1952-1975.
-- Middlesex North-West Temperance Union, 1894.
-- Bedford Jewish Community.
-- Bedford Mechanics Band.
--American Legion Post 221.
-- Bedford Band, 1841 and undated.
--Bedford Cadet Band, 1895.
-- Bedford Boy Scouts.
-- Bedford Community Chorus, 1955-1968.
-- Bedford Conservation Land Stewards.
-- Bedford Council on Human Relations.
-- Bedford Dancing School, 1809.
-- Bedford Dramatic Club (Association), 1877-1911.
-- Bedford Equal Suffrage League.
-- Bedford Female Benevolent Society, 1839-1864.
-- Bedford Girl Scouts, 1972-1995.
-- Bedford Guild, 1903-1905.
-- Bedford Improvement Society, 1883.
-- Bedford Civic Club.
-- etc.

16. Business/industry

-- (Fawn Lake – health industry; various buildings – show industry like shoe industry (cordwainers).
-- c. 1830 pair of shoes, a rare type.
-- Wilson Mill: site of John Wilson's 1675 corn mill and mill remains from 1840 paper mill that replaced the corn mill.
-- 175 North Rd.: Inferrera Farm.
-- History of the Bacon-Fitch-Clark Mill site.
-- Bedford Lumber Company.
-- Bedford Springs Hotel.
-- Site of 1st Marshall's in US.
-- For 7-11 year-olds: Make a shoe: With preformed pieces that are punched, sew together the requisite pieces to make a shoe in the style and manner of the old Bedford shoe industry.
-- For 7-11 year-olds: Make a wooden toy with pre-cut pieces that require some simple assembly, like lacing.

17. Construction features of early Bedford housing.

--Show "Windshield Bedford: A quick and Easy Guide to Architecture in a New England Village" video. Supplement with sketches/drawings/photos of architectural features (such as "saltbox" slanted, rear roof; "gambrel" or hipped roof; "pilasters" or "quoins;" arched "fanlight;" "sidelights;" "gingerbread;" "gables;" "turrets;" "bay windows."
--Tom Musco, the timber framer who made the beams for the Job Lane Barn, has kit of an old post & beam structure. Copy for interactive exhibit.
--Use pre-cut blocks, beams, etc., for interactive exhibit.
--Panels in Stearns Building show various architectural styles.

18. How Bedford operated as a suburb to Boston and the region (Lowell, Lexington, etc.) First a retreat, then changes after WWI. Perhaps tie this into a transportation display.

19. How Bedford served as a destination point for recreation (Lexington Zoo, Bedford Springs, tourism). Perhaps tie this into a transportation display.

20. The changing face of crime in Bedford.

--Photo of old jail in Old Town Hall.
--Articles written by First Parish minister and first Police Chief (minister did not want to pay the Chief $80 a year).
-- Old crime prevention leaflets, photos, papers.
-- Photos and stories of booklegger's stills blown up during prohibition.
-- Photos of current jail, current police officers.
--List of all Bedford Police Chiefs with photos).

21. Fire protection from the Eagle Pumper to today.

-- Eagle pumper.
--Canvas fire buckets.
-- Gates from old fire house (which was on property where School Way is located, today).
-- Firefighter helmet.
--Old and new photos of fire station, firefighters, etc.

22. Prominent people through Bedford's history.

-- Jacqueline Kennedy & Caroline picnicked at 161 Springs Rd.
-- Presidents Carter, Reagan, Clinton, Ford, Senator Ted Kennedy, Sec. of State Henry Kissinger (who flew into Hanscom to visit his son at college) and the Beatles all land at Hanscom. *Photographs.*
--Igor Stravinsky – Russian composer, pianist and conductor was married at 564 Springs Rd on March 9, 1940, to Vera de Bosset. Stravinsky had come to Boston to deliver the prestigious Charles Eliot Norton Lectures at Harvard during the 1939-40 academic year.
-- Digital Equipment Corp conceived in the home of DEC founder Ken Olson at 27 Hilltop Dr.
-- Fredric Law Olmstead developed some of the land at the Pickman Farm (get details.)
-- Lydia Pinkham (lived at 227 The Great Rd.)*Bottles, recipe book, photos.*
-- Interactive display for students that allow them to match pictures (with short bio/history) of these individuals to where they lived, etc.

23. Clothing throughout Bedford's history (other pieces that aren't in any of the permanent displays.) [See Hafer letter.]

-- 1732 Scarlet wedding cape, belonging to Miriam Fitch.
-- Group of 1820s child's clothing (with shirt marked SS)
-- Children's clothing of cream flannel with turquoise wood embroidery of 1842.
-- The 3 caps of Abigail Bacon
-- The mourning bonnet of Abigail Bacon.
-- Three-cornered hat and box (Reed)
-- Pre-1815 embroidered petticoat.
--Prudence Deanes' wedding shoes, 1797, if not in Permanent Display.

Note: see 1989 letter from Nancy Rexford that describes the above clothing as "…garments which any museum right up to the MFA in Boston or the Metropolitan in New York would be happy to have.")

-- The 1796 shawl with border unfortunately cut off, but "crucial to our understanding of the history of the printed shawl nevertheless." (Nancy Rexford)

-- Madam Blake's umbrella with an old $30 tag.

-- "Breakfast" corset with two front lacings.

-- White cap with two frills down the back of the head.

-- c. 1870 mourning bonnet.

-- c. late 1870s mourning bonnet.

-- 1833 striped silk dress.

-- c. 1863-4 dress with charming "bolero" trim.

-- *A display of women's early undergarments.*

-- *Interactive display with doll clothes patterned after early men's and women's clothes, that can be dressed by museum visitors.*

-- For 4-6 year-olds: Dressing like they did: samples of clothing from various times to be tried on over their clothes: petticoats, bloomers, dresses, stockings; short pants, vests, shirts, stockings.

24. How did Bedford diversify?

-- Concerned Black Citizens of Bedford

-- Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee established by the Selectmen to advise the Town about AA hiring policies.

-- Korean Church.

-- Buddhist Temple.

--*Documents, interviews, Diversity photo series; Youth & Family Servies DVDs.*

25. Bedford cemeteries – Family burial plots, the Old Burying Ground, and Shawsheen Cemetery.

--*Two coffin plates (nameplates).*

--*Glass plates used to look at a body during a wake.*

-- *Photos of bones from Old Burying Ground renovations.*

--*Documents, photos of family burial plots.*

-- Because Abigail Stearns was buried in Shawsheen Cemetery, all the other Stearns family members' remains were moved to and reburied at Shawsheen Cemetery, so the Stearns Tomb at the Old Burying Ground is empty. *Photos of Stearns tomb, gravestones at Shawsheen.*

--Story of how the Old Burying Ground was renovated, first by the Works Progress Administration (20th Century), and then later by the Town (21th Century) . *Photos, documents, etc.*

-- Current application to the MA Historical Commission for a grant to rehabilitate the Shawsheen Cemetery; the eighth cemetery expansion.

--*Exhibit of varying symbols used on gravestones over the years.*

26. Taverns in early Bedford were inns where travelers would stay.

-- Danforth-Webber Tavern.

-- Pollard Tavern, North Rd. built before 1740 and demolished circa 1930.

-- Hurd's Tavern, 21 Concord Rd.

-- Phineas Chamberlains' tavern (and blacksmith shop), possibly at 5 Concord Rd., the building known as the Red Barn.
-- Bedford House.
-- *Photos, old sketches, etc.*

27. The influence of religion on Bedford families.

-- The Church on the Common was created by people who petitioned the Legislature to create a local church, because it became too far for them to walk to Concord or Billerica. Then, in 1832, a group broke off from First Church of Christ, Unitarian, and formed the First Church of Christ, Trinitarian (Congregational) Church. *Histories, documents from early churches.*
-- Story of the murder of the Church Father, David Bacon. William Merriam, who was driven out of the First Church of Christ, Unitarian, by Minister Samuel Stearns because Merriam's child had married into a "liberal" family. This action supposedly drove Merriam insane. Merriam asked for a guardian, and David Bacon was named the guardian. Then Merriam murdered Bacon. This led to Rev. Stearns preaching his "Sorry Sermon" on July 1, 1810. *Church documents, including the "Sorry Sermon."*
-- Trace development of each Bedford church active today through church records,photos, etc.
-- The story of David Torrey, minister to the First Church of Christ, Congregational, between 1905 – 1915 and his book Protestant Modernism which grew out of his promise to his father that he would never teach anything he did not first investigate.
-- St. Michael's Chapel, next to the Post Office on The Great Rd., was torn down after the new church on Concord Rd. was completed. Photos, etc.

28. Kimball's candy factory and farm stand.

-- How a farm developed an egg business via the railroad through Billerica to Boston, and later the Red Feather Candy. *Candy boxes, poultry tools, caponizing equipment and instructions, etc.*

29. Political parties in Bedford. Before the emergence of the modern GOP, Bedford was exclusively Republican. *Political momentos, artifacts.* An interactive display on *Suffrage, and why it took so long.*

30. Bedford and Prohibition. Bedford was "dry," then "wet," then "dry," and finally "wet."
--Stories, photos, etc. on Willard Hospital for Treatment of Dipsomania, on Old Billerica Rd. (Later bought by Caswell for a Settlement House, then acquired by Llewsac Lodge – the Butterfield Farm property; now part of Carleton-Willard.)
-- Newspaper articles, information from Charles Jenks' scrapbooks.
--Temperance articles, documents from various local temperance groups.
--Interactive display: How do you build a still?

31. Bedford celebrations.

-- Town Historian A.E. Brown was 7 years old when Christmas day became a legal holiday in Massachusetts (1856). (Bay Colony leaders had enacted a law against Christmas in 1659; it was repealed in 1681. *His article, "The Ups and Downs of Christmas in New England," published in December, 1903. 1877 Acton Patriot newspaper report of Christmas celebrations in Bedford.*
-- In 1878, the ladies of the Trinitarian Church held a fair and festival in Town Hall, decorating the building with evergreens and serving a dinner to the public.
-- November 11, 1918 was Armistice Day (Veterans Day), and Bedford residents hosted a parade, a "public sing," and a bonfire. 73 men and women had taken an active role in

the war; those who remained in Bedford had raised $568,000 in Liberty Loans, $27,254 for the American Red Cross, $7,342 for other charities, and also had sent supplies and clothing through the Red Cross. When Bedford's WWI soldiers returned home, they were welcomed at a reception, a banquet and a dance in Town Hall. Each veteran was asked to write a short account of his activities in his own way and to contribute a photograph. *Photos, personal accounts of Armistice Day, photos of Liberty Loans, etc.*

-- At Annual Town Meeting in March, 1925, voters approved a warrant article to raise $1,500 for a memorial to the WWI veterans. A boulder was moved to the Town Common from a farm on Concord Rd. a half-mile away, and a bronze tablet with the names of Bedford's WWI veterans was attached. It was dedicated on July 4, 1925, with a parade and dinner in the Grange Hall. *Photo and names of the men and women on the WWI memorial. Enlarged copy of the War Supplement, 1917-1919 (also published by the Bedford Historical Society as Bedford in the World War), which contains autobiographies, photographs, citations, Red Cross reports, and pictures of the memorial boulder and bronze tablet.*

-- Liberty Pole Capping, which began in 1964, sponsored by the Bedford Minuteman Company. *Photos of various annual Cappings; enlarged reproductions of some of the speeches given that day.*

-- Memorial Day celebrations.

-- Colonial Thanksgivings. *Copies of documents showing the proclamations for two thanksgivings held in 1745, 2-3 held each year between 1755 – 1763 (during the French and Indian Wars), 3 in 1766 to celebrate the sense of freedom due to the Stamp Act repeal, and on Dec. 15, 1774, a proclamation without the royal coat of arms across the top, or the words "God Save the King" printed at the bottom. This proclamation was issued "by the order o the Provincial Congress" and signed by John Hancock. In addition,2 thanksgivings were called in 1777 and 1778 during the War for Independence. In 1784, the two days celebrated first the peace, and second, the new national government.*

-- Old Home Weeks.

-- Bedford Day.

-- July 4th celebrations. *Photograph of 2000 Bedford residents on July 4th, 2000.*

32. Bedford's "Firsts." (Rick Reed has whole list.)

-- First to adopt CPA law.

-- First PTA in USA.

--

33. Trails and stonewalls in Bedford.

-- Jenks Trail. *Jenks history of support to the town.*

-- History of stone walls. *Photos of historic Bedford stone walls.*

34. U.S. Postmasters appointed between 1826 – 1985. Women could not vote, but they could be a U.S. Postmaster and several were in Bedford. *See list starting with Elijah Sterns (appointed 02/18/1826) to Kenneth E. Starr (appointed 08/17/1985).*

-- Bedford's 1st post office was at 4 The Great Rd., later moved to 22 Loomis St. *Photos.*

-- In 1896 Bedford had 2 post offices, 1 in the Center, 1 at Bedford Springs.

35. What's in a Name? Name changes for Bedford's roads. Main Street is changed to The Great Road; Forest Street became Harwell Road; Page Street became Page Road, etc. *Use information from Article 24 of the 1896 Town Meeting for interactive exhibit to guess new names from old. Ouglian's research.*

36. How Town Center has changed. Exhibit showing how homes in the Town Center have changed and/or moved since the early days of the Town. *Interactive exhibit allowing visitors to move house photos from one location to another on a large "map" of Bedford Center. Example: the house at 93 The Great Rd. later moved to 143 The Great Rd.*

37. Bedford Police and Firefighters throughout the Town's existence. *Photos, interviews.*

38. The Role of the Bedford Historical Society in collecting and preserving Bedford's history. The Society was founded in 1893 by a group of Bedford residents who collected objects to preserve the Town's history, and held monthly meetings featuring the presentation of history-related "papers," read by their authors. The Society's meetings were open to the public. The Society's first President was George R. Blinn, named so because he was also President of the library and the Society was formed under the library corporation. There were two other officers: A.E. Brown as Secretary and Mrs. M.A. Fletcher as Treasurer. The rest of the founding members (for a total of 21 founders) were: Benjamin J. Davis, Samuel Davis, Wallace G. Webber, Mrs. Mary P. Webber, Mrs. S.J. F. Brown, Rev. Edwin Smith, Mrs. Clara P. Blinn, Wallace A. Caleb, Mrs. W.A. Caleb, George Solman, Adams Solman, Judge George M. Brooks, S.A. Wood, M.D., Oliver J. Lane, Francis Rodman. Rev. O.J. Fairfield, J.A. Bacon, Rev. James Sallaway. It appears they were all also Library Trustees.

--For the first year, the programs were as follows:

September, 1893: Kindred Interests of Country Towns by A.E. Brown
October, 1893: Ye Choir of our Ancestors (included a performance) by Ernest H. Hosmer
November, 1893: Our Grandparents' Thanksgiving by Mrs. M.A. Fletcher
December, 1893: Concord Old Line and Farm Bounds by Charles W. Jenks (whose name does not appear, oddly enough, as one of the founders)
January, 1894: African Slavery in New England by A.E. Brown
February, 1894: Major Thompson Maxwell by George R. Blinn
March, 1894: Bedford Hunters and Game by William H. Simonds
April, 1894: Bedford Taverns by Elihu G. Loomis, Esq.

--Display the handwritten ledger book with bylaws and meeting minutes, dating back to 1893 with photographs of the founders. Display an enlarged copy of 1951 Annual Town Meeting article 58 in which the Town voted unanimously to accept gifts from Edward M. Pickman and Dudley Pickman" donated to the Bedford Free Public Library Corporation for the purpose of assisting in the erection of the Stearns Memorial Library Building, in memory of the Pickman's father and mother, and "for the particular purpose, in part, of finishing an assembly room for the Bedford Historical Society...."

--Display copies of Historical Society newsletters and photos over the years.

--Photos of the Pickman Memorial Room as it was used as a small museum.

Attachment 2: Regional Museums: Facts Relevant to Considering a Bedford Historical Museum

Billerica Historical Society's Clara Sexton House, 36 Concord Road

Clara Sexton House

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Society President Maria Seminatore, 978-667-7073; marias1102@comcast.net or billericahistorical@verizon.net; Society VP John Bartlett, 978-667-7376 or bartlettje@verizon.net; or info@billericahistory.org or call 978-667-7020 (at the Clara Sexton House).

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment:
The Billerica Historical Society, founded in 1894, received the Clara Sexton House, ca 1723, through a bequest upon Clara Sexton's death in 1936. The Society has maintained the house since then with money raised through fundraisers and with some modest support from the Town of Billerica.

Before receiving the Sexton House, the Society had been given some space in the Bennett Library. However, it became cramped due to the donation of artifacts.

In September, 2008, the Society entered into a 99-year lease with the Town to turn the historic Howe School, at 390 Boston Road, into a museum. This brick Greek revival building was built in 1852 and was operated continuously as a school until 1915 but has been empty for several decades. The Society estimates that renovation costs will exceed $1 million and it is raising funds through donations and grant applications. The Society received a commitment some years ago from the Town for $60,000 to replace the windows, but that funding may have been lost because of a turnover in town managers (three in the last five years), and the Society's inability to raise all the funds necessary to restore the interior (over $10,000 from grants and donations raised to date). This building is on the National Register and contains over 6,000 square feet of space

Due to the newly-appointed members of the Board of Directors and the slight economic improvement, President Seminatore said the Society will be making an extra effort during 2015 to address its on-going efforts at the Howe School.

At present, the Society cannot get an occupancy permit for the Howe School. President Seminatore would like to see the first floor refurbished so that it can open for exhibits and income-producing rental functions.

The Society keeps its archival collection at the Clara Sexton house. The Town of Billerica keeps its collection in a Town hall vault and in the library, where archived materials are available for view upon appointment and research can be done.

3. Square footage: Clara Sexton House: 2,706 square feet. Howe School: 6,160 square feet.

4. Museum budget: The Society's annual budget is approximately $10,000.00. Expenses include approximately $6,000 for utilities and $4,000 for maintenance, artifact preservation and supplies, gift shop inventory and office supplies.

Howe School

The Society has not completed a cost analysis for the renovation of the Howe School, but V.P. John Bartlett believes it may take $1 million to completely restore this building. The Society is planning to apply for state restoration grants and continue its fundraising.

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: For both the Sexton House and the Howe School, the Society has primary responsibility, although the Town of Billerica has funded some improvements at Sexton (new window shades for example), and has offered funding for the Howe.

The lease between the Society and the Town offers evidence of a cooperative effort in the Howe School renovation. Restoration must be in a historically sensitive manner. Both parties will work together toward receiving Federal, State, and Local preservation grants.

The Town will install a handicap access ramp and two public restrooms prior to the Society occupying the building.

Relative to repairs and maintenance for the Howe School museum project, the Town is responsible for the major infrastructure repairs and maintenance: windows, roof, exterior walls, foundation, plumbing, electrical heating, HVAC, security, fire suppression system and electrical. The Historical Society is responsible for interior renovations, including minor repairs to the interior, movable display cases, lighting and bulbs, wall coverings, security, computer video displays, telephones, storage areas and floor refinishing.

Insurance will be provided by both parties. The Town will provide loss and damage by fire. Both parties must carry general liability coverage for the premises. As far as utilities, the Town will pay for water, sewer, gas, rubbish, electricity, landscaping, snowplowing and other services.

In addition, the lease allows the Society to rent space in the building, with the Town's approval.

6. Hours of operation: Open houses are held at the Sexton House from 1-3 pm on the first Sundays of the months between May – October and on the first Saturday of December from 4-7 pm (Victorian Christmas). While the Society heats the house year-round, the heat is kept low during winter months, so the house is not open to the public at that time.

The Society has begun hosting more school children in formal classroom tours.

7. Yearly revenue: Revenues include funds from grants, donations, membership dues and sales from its craft fair and gift shop. The Society occasionally receives a donation from a grant given to a school to provide school tours.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: The Society does not rent the Sexton House for functions, and does not charge for the Sexton House open houses, but occasionally receives donations for arranging school tours. According to President Seminatore, the biggest factor limiting operations at the Sexton House is a lack of parking. Parking is available at the Billerica Library, about 300 feet away, but this option is not attractive during winter months. Another factor necessary for successful operation is enough volunteers.

9. Other museum attributes: The Clara Sexton House is decorated as a house; it does not have enough space for meetings or events other than tours. It does not have computer stations or interactive exhibits. The Society hopes to establish exhibits and computer stations at the Howe School, once it is renovated.

Town of Burlington's Old West School, 106 Bedford Street and History Museum, 29 Center Street

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Burlington Historical Commission (BHC) Co-Chair Toni Faria, 781-272-1049 or faria6to15@verizon.net or tfaria@burlingtonmahistory.com; Burlington Historical Society President Mary Nohelty, 781-272-1516 or noheltymkn @verizon.net; BHS Treasurer Joyce Fay, 781-272-2516.

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: Burlington has two "school" houses that are open for tours, one is the old West School, and the second is the old Center School – now the Burlington Town Museum.

The West School was erected in 1794-1795 by the Town of Woburn, but in 1799 it become the property of the newly incorporated Town of Burlington. This Federal/Greek Revival-style one-room schoolhouse built for a small, rural Massachusetts community was moved in 1839 by the Burlington School Committee to serve as the schoolhouse for the western part of the town. It remained a school there until ca. 1897, when the Town of Burlington consolidated its four "district" schools into a centralized school system.

After having been altered for use as a private garage in the early 20th century, the building was saved from demolition and restored by the Burlington Historical Society in 1964. The Society was actually founded in order to save this school. It negotiated the purchase of the school and land from a private developer for $5,000. The 1964-65 renovation was a town-wide event, with numerous organizations (Burlington Lions Club, Burlington Garden Club, American Legion, Daughters of the American Revolution, Boy Scouts, etc.) working with a small group of dedicated individuals who formed the Historical Society.

In 1967, Burlington Town Meeting voted $4,500 to purchase the school. The Town's Historical Commission maintains the building and property.

Also managed by the Town's Historical Commission is the Burlington Town Museum, which had been the old Center School, erected in 1855 to replace an earlier school in the town center. In 1897 when all the Burlington schools were consolidated, the Center School was sold to a private party, but then returned to the town to become the Burlington Library for 70 years, through the generosity of Edward Barker. In 1968, the building was once again turned over to the Burlington Historical Commission when a new town library was built. For a time in the late 1960s and early 1970s – during protests over the Vietnam War – the Center School was used as a temporary quarters for the Burlington Police Department. The building was fire bombed in 1970, causing considerable damage. It reverted back to the Historical Commission once again, and with the help of the Historical Society, funds were raised by the sale of desks from the old Union School attic, by flea markets, and some funds from insurance and the 175th Anniversary celebration. With that as a base, matching funds were authorized by Town Meeting. The interior was cleaned and painted, the stairway re-built, two rest rooms installed in the basement because, for a time, it was used as a meeting place for senior citizens; electric lights and plugs were installed and shutters fitted to the windows.

West School

Burlington Town Museum (old Center School)

It became the Burlington Museum and opened officially in the spring of 1975. At first the museum simply put its collection on display. Two Burlington youths painted murals in the entry area. Then to create more interest, two other teenagers constructed and furnished a replica of a country farmhouse typical of Burlington in the 1800s. That has since been replaced with a replica of Silas Cutler's village store, circa 1850.

3. Square footage: West School: 792 square feet. Burlington Town Museum: 1,120 square feet.

4. Museum budget: Both buildings are managed by the Burlington Historical Commission, a board appointed by the Burlington Town Administrator. The Commission's budget of approximately $1,600 a year does not cover the maintenance of the buildings. Those costs are borne by the Town, which recently paid for a new roof on the West School (private contractor) and is installing two sump pumps to address a water problem in the Town Museum's basement (DPW).

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: Town of Burlington and its Historical Commission.

6. Hours of operation: Town Museum: During summer months the building is normally open Saturday afternoons and Tuesday evenings, to coincide with concerts on the Common across the street. It is staffed by volunteer members of the Historical Commission or Historical Society. Because of some water damage in the basement, the museum has been closed for repairs for

2-3 years. West School: Open by request for school children or other groups.

7. Yearly revenue: There is no charge to view either the museum collection or the West School; the Historical Society raises limited funds through the sale of books and cards.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: Neither building has rentable space. There is limited parking at both, and especially the museum suffers because of it. To encourage interest in the Town's history, the Historical Commission produces a "We are History" television show on a local Burlington cable station; the Society hosts speakers during the year.
9. Other museum attributes: The Old West School is set up to look like a school; there are no computer stations, interactive exhibits or lecture space. The Town Museum has a computer in the basement, and a small section of interactive space for children on the main floor among the exhibits, called "hands on table." The museum vestibule, containing murals painted by high school students, is used for introductions to tours of the collection.

Three historic "house" museums in Chelmsford: Barrett-Byam Homestead, 40 Byam Road and "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House and Hill Jock House, both at 105 Garrison Road

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Chelmsford Historical Commission member and Chelmsford Historical Society member Fred Merriam, 978-251-8396 or fredmerriam1@gmail. com; CHS President Rebecca Warren, Becky_Warren@nps.gov; Garrison House Association President Deb Taverna, 978-256-5613 or dtaverna @msn. com or info@garrisonhouse.org; Chelmsford Historical Society, 978-256-2311 or chelmshist @gmail.com; Garrison House Association Treasurer George Ripson, 978-250-9210.

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museums' establishment:

There are three historic houses in Chelmsford operated as museums by two distinct groups. The Chelmsford Historical Society owns and operates the Barrett-Byam Homestead at 40

Barrett-Byam House

"Old Chelmsford" Garrison House

Byam Road. The Old Chelmsford Garrison House Association owns and manages the other two house museums, known as the "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House and the Hill Jock House, both at 105 Garrison Road.

The relationship between these two groups is cordial; sometimes they jointly hold events; sometimes they hold separate events on the same dates or different dates. Their existence is consistent with Town of Chelmsford protocols for managing historic properties; other distinct groups have been established to manage the renovations of Chelmsford's two old Town Halls, the Mill Stream complex and other historic properties. Many of the same history buffs are on their boards.

Hill Jock House

Greene & Mill Stream Complex

The Mill Stream Foundation was established at the request of Lloyd C. Greene to manage the Mill Stream complex after his death in 2011. Fascinated with dams, water wheels and mills, Mr. Greene searched for years until discovering the long-abandoned property originally owned by Samuel Adams (ancestor of Presidents John and John Quincy) and the site of the first grist and saw mill in Chelmsford (ca. 1656). Moving his audio-visual equipment manufacturing facility to this location, he devoted his life to the restoration of the dam and mill complex, eventually generating electric power commercially.

The Foundation is at work repairing turbines and cleaning up the property and buildings, with plans to open the site to the public in 2-3 years.

The Barrett-Byam Homestead, headquarters of the Chelmsford Historical Society, dates to ca. 1663, though much or all of today's structure may date from the mid-18th century. The homestead was established in 1663 by Thomas Barrett. The house was originally built as a south-facing "saltbox" with a central chimney and fireplace in every room. The homestead was donated by its owners (who took a tax break on the donation) to the historical society in the late 1960s.

The main house of the Barrett-Byam Homestead has been repaired and expanded, but is not handicapped accessible; the renovated barn offers accessible meeting space but not bathroom facilities. Artifact storage is available in the house, the el (small house addition) or the barn basement, although it is not climate-controlled. The house is set up as a house museum; the small kitchen serves as the site of board meetings.

The el on the Barrett-Byam house features the Society's collection of armaments, uniforms and other memorabilia from each of the wars (in glass cases), and bound volumes of old Chelmsford newspapers. There is a connector to the large barn, which has been turned into a small apartment for a caretaker. The barn, called the Warren-Stevens Education Center, has been

renovated to offer basement storage, limited meeting space, a main floor with small auditorium and stage; around the walls are displays of a typical bedroom, sitting room, kitchen, photographs, Civil War swords and other memorabilia. Another part of the barn is set up as a country store, with old Chelmsford products and tools.

Two Chelmsford events are held at the five-acre site: a Farm Fair in September (pony and hay rides, cider-making and maple sugaring, food, other exhibits and house tours) and a holiday open house, decorated by the Chelmsford Garden Club. There is parking for about 25-30 cars, with additional parking on the lawn.

The "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House is believed to have housed British soldiers in the early days of Chelmsford's history. The house, with its gunstock posts, 33-inch wide paneling and original fieldstone fireplace, was built around 1700 and used as a family dwelling until The "Old Chelmsford" Garrison House Association was formed in 1959 to restore and preserve the house and received it as a gift that year from W. C. Lahue, Inc. The house is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The last owner of the Hill Jock House, built by Jonathan (Jock) Parker in ca. 1756, wanted to demolish the historic structure, but was willing to donate it to anyone who would assume the cost of moving the house and renovating it. The Garrison House Association arranged to move the structure in 2004 to the property where the Garrison House sits. Also on this property are two barns, a summer kitchen, a working blacksmith shop, a craft house and an herb garden.

The Garrison House Association also runs fundraising events in both the Garrison House and the Hill Jock House and offers free meeting space (for up to 100 people) to other organizations on the first floor of the Hill Jock House, estimated to be about 1,000 square feet. The Association installed a modern kitchen and bathroom in this house, as well.

3. Square footage: Barrett-Byam Homestead: 4,832 square feet; Garrison House: 2,772 square feet; Hill Jock House: about 1,000 square feet on the first floor; the second floor is used for Association offices and storage.

4. Museum budget: The Chelmsford Historical Society's operating expenses at the Barrett-Byam Homestead are about $14,000 annually. The shortfall between income and expenses is covered by a Society trust fund. The Garrison House Association budgets between $10,000 - $15,000 a year, not including major capital projects, to run its programs at the Garrison Road site. President Deb Taverna said insurance is a major portion of their expenses (approximately $9,000).

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: Barrett-Byam: Chelmsford Historical Society. Buildings at 105 Garrison Rd: Garrison House Association.

6. Hours of operation: Both locations are open on a very limited basis (a few Sundays in the summer) and by appointment. The Barrett-Byam Homestead and Hill Jock House have heat and electricity; neither exists at the Old Garrison House.

7. Yearly revenue: The Society raises about $10,000 annually through its gift shop, grants, membership drives and special events, including the July 3-4 Town Fair on the Town Common (sale of historical collectibles and publications), its annual fall fair. The Garrison House Association also holds special fundraising events, including membership drives and a Colonial Crafts Fair using all its facilities at the Garrison Road complex. The Association currently is

planning a “Garrison House After Dark” party (using battery powered candles because the house has no electricity) as a fundraiser. According to George Ripson, both 501(c)(3)s received bequests of stock from the same Chelmsford family that provides an annual source of revenue.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: Both organizations believe their special speaker programs and events at their sites are what draw people. Both organizations offer a craft day full of exhibitions of colonial crafts, such as chair caning, cider pressing, butter churning, etc. Neither rents out their facilities to produce income. The Garrison House Association has a few “generous benefactors,” according to Ms. Taverna, but her greatest wish is for more volunteers.

9. Other museum attributes: The Barrett-Byam Homestead has meeting space, a small auditorium and stage in its barn. The Society has no current process for renting their space, but is considering doing so in the future. The Garrison House property has meeting space, but does not charge for its programs or charge other organizations to use the space. (Donations are voluntary.) Neither group has computer research stations in their museum space.

Concord Antiquarian Society’s Concord Museum, 53 Cambridge Turnpike

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Claire Carucci, Manager of Operations and Communications. 978-369-9763, ext. 216; Emer McCourt, Director of Marketing and Public Relations. 978-369-9763, ext. 211; cml@concordmuseum.org.

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: A museum was established in Concord in 1886 by Cummings Davis who moved to Concord in 1850 and began

Concord Museum

collecting Concord artifacts. Initially he rented “antiquarian rooms” in the old Concord court house in Concord Center. In 1886 the collection was transferred to the newly-formed Concord Antiquarian Society, which purchased a house in 1887 to serve as the museum. The present Concord Museum was built in 1930.

3. Square footage: 5873 square feet of museum space. Other space used for archival storage, offices for 14 staff, etc.

4. Museum budget: In 2012, admissions revenue - approx. $375,000. Expenses - approx $860,000. Contributions and grants totaled $1.3 million. Total revenues - approx $2,183,500; total expenses - $1,500,000.

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: Concord Antiquarian Society.

6. Hours of operation: From January – March: Monday-Saturday from 11 am – 4 pm and Sundays from 1-4 pm. From April – December: Monday-Saturday from 9 am – 5 pm and Sundays from noon – 5 pm. (Sundays in June, July and August from 9 am – 5 pm).

7. Yearly revenue: In 2012, annual museum revenue was about $375,000 from admission tickets and school programs. The Antiquarian Society also does extensive fundraising, all for its "educational" programs. Events include an annual golf tournament; a spring gala fundraiser with cocktails, dinner and a live auction; a special Patriots Day program; an annual tour of private Concord gardens, and other fundraising events organized by the museum's Guild of Volunteers.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: The museum is able to take advantage of the important role that the Town of Concord played in American history. They have marketed museum tours aggressively, resulting in busloads of visitors coming from around the world. They offer Special Exhibits with broad appeal, to get visitors to return numerous times, including local residents.

9. Other museum attributes: The museum has audio stations, runs an "Exploring Concord" film, provides hands-on activities and a spacious museum gift shop. The museum is handicapped accessible. Volunteers run 20-minute "Gallery Talks" on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Saturdays, and conduct frequent tours of the period rooms and history galleries. The museum holds special "Family Programs" on the 2nd Sunday of each month and special "Free Fun Fridays" with sponsorship from local businesses. They provide a "treasure hunt" guide (free with admission) for kids to find specific artifacts. The admission ticket (Adults - $10, Seniors and Students - $8, Children 6 and over - $5) is valid all day; visitors may leave and return the same day. The museum is free to military families between Memorial Day and Labor Day. They provide free parking.

Lexington's Historical Society's three historic houses: Buckman Tavern Museum, 1 Bedford Street; Monroe Tavern, 1332 Mass Ave., and Hancock-Clark House, 36 Hancock Street

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Executive Director Susan Bennett, 781-862-1703 or director@lexingtonhistory.org.

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: The Lexington Historical Society, founded in 1886, provides public tours of Lexington's historic sites that played important roles in the Battle of Lexington: the Hancock-Clarke House, Paul Revere's destination; Buckman Tavern, the gathering place of the Lexington militia; and Munroe Tavern, a British field office and hospital on April 19, 1775.

In 1896, when the Hancock-Clark House faced demolition, the Society acquired it and moved it from across the street to its present location. In 1902 the Society constructed a rear brick addition containing a fireproof vault to protect its more valuable possessions.

The Society received the Monroe Tavern from a bequest in 1911. In 1914, when the Buckman Tavern was facing demolition, the Society stepped forward and helped the Town buy the house. The Society paid one-third of the purchase price, and today has a $1 per-year long-term lease with the Town to operate the building for historical purposes.

Tours are held at all three houses. In addition, the second floor of Buckman Tavern offers about 800 feet of exhibit space. Buckman Tavern also has a colonial flower garden and a museum shop. The Hancock-Clark House offers an orientation film, a "Treasures of the Revolution" exhibit and a colonial herb garden. The basement of the Hancock-Clark House houses the Society's archives, with computer stations for research and an archivist. The Society's other documents are kept in a vault built as an addition onto the Monroe Tavern property.

Executive Director Susan Bennett said that, in her tenure (10 years), the Society has never had any theft problems. Each home is wired with a security system that also sends alerts relative to the heating system and water damage. The Buckman Tavern uses both guided and self-guided tours, and she said there has been no problem with theft.

Buckman Tavern

3. Square footage: Buckman Tavern: about 4.000 square feet; Monroe Tavern: about 2,900 square feet; Hancock-Clark House: 2,906 square

4. Museum budget: Between $15,000 – $20,000 per house per year. Does not include funds for 3.5 staff.

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: Lexington Historical Society.

Monroe Tavern

6. Hours of operation: Buckman Tavern: Open daily 10 am – 4 pm, April 5-October. Monroe Tavern and Hancock-Clark House: Open on weekends from April 5 – May 26 and open daily from noon – 4 pm from May 26-October. Private tours are also available off –season.

Hancock-Clark House

7. Yearly revenue: Approximately $900,000 in 2012, of which about $100,000 is from the three house museums (over $600,000 in gifts and grants). Admission is charged for house tours: 3 houses: $12 for adult, $8 for a child. One house: $7 for adult, $5 for child. (Children under 6 are free.)

The Society also holds annual fundraisers including two antique shows, antique appraisals and a golf classic. In addition, the Society has groups called the Colonial Singers and Colonial Dancers who perform in the Boston area, for a fee. It also earns income from the rental of the Lexington Depot, which it owns.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: The Society provides year-round history programming for all ages. The Society has an extensive archive of Lexington history through the years, as well as rich collections of objects from the town's settlement in the 1640s to present day.

9. Other museum attributes: While the house museums do not have lecture or rental space, the Society owns and rents out the Lexington Depot to Lexington businesses and residents and also charges fees for use of the Society's AV equipment.

Town of Lincoln's Pierce House, 17 Weston Road, Lincoln

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Richard Silver, Pierce House Facilities Manager, 781-259-2600, richard@ piercehouse.com; Lincoln Historical Society Co-Chairs Beth Ries, 781-259-8227 or bethries@verizon.net and Chris Taylor, ctaylor@geoviewinc.com.

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: The Pierce House, an elegant Georgian mansion, was built in 1900 for the Pierce family, who left the house and more than 30 acres of woodlands to the Town of Lincoln, to be used as a hospital and park after the last remaining Pierce family members passed away. A 1930 court decree authorized the Town to rent, sell or make such other disposition of the house, as the Lincoln Selectmen considered advisable. The decree also provided that the Town of Lincoln was authorized to use as much of the annual income from the bequests of John and Elsie Pierce as the Selectmen considered necessary for the maintenance of the park and that the balance of the income be used to provide hospital treatment for the inhabitants of Lincoln who were in financial need.

Pierce House

Attempts in the 1930s to turn part of the woodlands into an athletic complex with a running track, baseball and football fields and a grandstand were rejected b y Lincoln's Town Meeting. In 1945, a Lincoln school needs

planning committee considered, but then rejected, the idea of building a new school on the property.

Following the death of Robert M. Pierce's widow in 1964, the house was transferred to the Town's ownership. Run by a town employee-Facilities Manager (who has lived with his family in the mansion for 20 years as caretaker), the facility is rented for 60-70 weddings each year and hosts over 100 community events.

The Pierce House is not a museum. There are no tours available of the property (except to those interested in its rental); most of the rooms are empty. There is, however, a room used by the Lincoln Historical Society to display and store historical artifacts and for its monthly meetings. According to Mr. Silver, there are a couple of bookcases holding books and some artifacts and a couple of pictures on the walls; he would not describe the room as a "museum." The room is also used as a bride's preparation room/changing room during weddings. According to Society Co-Chair Beth Reis, the Society is limited in what it can do because of the alternative use of the room for brides, and also said that the Society does not have a collection yet that would warrant a museum or the funds to support one.

The Lincoln Historical Society has proposed to the Town to curate exhibits in the four display cases at the Lincoln Town Hall, which were installed during the extensive renovations completed last year. They are awaiting the Selectmen's decision. The exhibits would not be exclusively devoted to the Society's collections, but would include material from other Lincoln groups.

The Society also uses a vault at the Lincoln Library for archival storage.

3. Square footage: Approximately 8,000 square feet. The room used by the Historical Society is about 250-275 square feet.

4. Museum budget: The Pierce House operating budget is approximately $140,000. The Town provides an annual $40,000 stipend, and wedding rentals total about $100,000. No rental fees are charged to community groups to use the house.

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: The Town of Lincoln.

6. Hours of operation: N/A

7. Yearly revenue: Approximately $100,000.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: Rentals would provide a significant source of revenue, were portions of this house to be set up as a museum.

9. Other museum attributes: N/A

Maynard Historical Society's Virtual Museum

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Dave Griffin, 978-394-2375 or davebets@mac.com; Maynard Historical Society, 195 Main Street, Maynard, MA 01754

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2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: The Maynard Historical Society does not run a museum, but is actively seeking a location for one so that students, researchers, and the general public can see first-hand its collection of over 4,000 artifacts and documents. In the meantime, the Society is working to survey, catalogue and digitize its collection to make it accessible online.

The Society's website, www.maynardhistory.org, links to its online collection, and instructions for searching its archives. Collections are curated groups of items that are associated with each other in some way. The Society has only begun to actively manage these collections (it is still figuring out which ones it wants to digitize) and most of the collections are incomplete as they require a fair amount of work to manage, and the work of building the archive has been overwhelming.

Typing one or more keywords in the search box reveals all the items that have one or more of the keywords, and the items "float to the top" of the search list. Many of the items in the archive have one or more "tags" associated with them. These are keywords that the person entering the item has decided both describes the item and, more importantly, may describe other items in the collection. This tagging process is "organic" within the Society's collection team and is constantly evolving as the volunteers doing this work discover new ways of associating items with each other. All of the tags used to date can be viewed by clicking on "Browse Items" and then selecting the "Browse by Tag" option.

3. Square footage: N/A.

4. Museum budget: N/A.

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: N/A.

6. Hours of operation: N/A.

7. Yearly revenue: N/A.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: N/A.

9. Other museum attributes: N/A.

Waltham Museum of Industry and Innovation, 154 Moody Street

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Museum Director Katherine Davis, 781-893-5410 or katherine@crmi.org.

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: The Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation was originally built as part of the Boston Manufacturing Company, Francis Cabot Lowell's first textile mill. The mill, built in 1814, has been converted into housing and artist lofts, with the museum taking up only a small portion of the previous mill building.

The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as America's first factory. Waltham received a $10 million urban revitalization grant, which allowed the site to be renovated and preserved. As part of the site's renovation, a group of cultural, civic, and business leaders created the Charles River Museum of Industry & Innovation in what had been the mill's massive steam-powered engine and boiler rooms.

Following a monumental campaign of fundraising, cleaning, building, planning, and installation, the museum began operation in 1980. It is a nonprofit corporation governed by a Board of Trustees and funded by private donations.

Around 1982, Waltham's State Senator got a one-time contribution of $50,000 in state funding for the museum. That funding was used to create a partial second floor within the boiler room for display space. (The boiler room is 3-4 stories high.) The support structure for that space was constructed to replicate a manufacturing facility of the late 19th century. A belt-drive system was created to demonstrate how machines could be powered by water for manufacturing purposes.

3. Square footage: 9,400 square feet (Main floor: 5,000 square feet; Second floor: 1,700 square feet; Entrance area: 2,700 square feet).

4. Museum budget: Approximately $230,000.

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: Museum officials are responsible for O&M of the museum space. Until recently, a dispute existed between the building owner and museum officials over who was responsible for exterior building maintenance. After the museum spent $50,000 to repair the roof and rebuild roof supports, the owner has now agreed to assume all responsibility for the building's exterior.

The museum does not carry flood insurance, as there had never been a flood at this facility – adjacent to the Charles River, and flood insurance is extremely expensive. A couple years ago, a 500-year storm brought 2 feet of water into the boiler room. Volunteers were able to move most of the exhibits onto dry space, but the museum is still working to correct damage from the flood.

6. Hours of operation: Open Monday – Friday, 10 am – 2 pm.

7. Yearly revenue: Approximately $230,000, including about $80,000 in rental income.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: The museum promotes its location in Waltham as a foundation of the American industrial revolution, by connecting the expertise of older generations with the inquisitiveness of young people, and by providing audiences of all ages with an engaging museum experience. Hands-on exhibits feature American innovation and invention from 1812 to the present day, with exhibits on Waltham's Boston Manufacturing Company, the Metz Company, the Waltham Watch Factory, and Orient bicycles from the Waltham Manufacturing Company.

The museum also rents out the Jackson Room – a large meeting room in the Cabot Mill complex that adjoins the museum -- for social and business functions. A major problem for the museum is the expensive rent charged by the building owner: $44,100 annually.

9. Other museum attributes: The museum does not have computer stations for research, but does utilize its event and lecture space and has some interactive exhibits.

Westborough Historical Society's Sibley House, 13 Parkman Street

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Past President and Board Member Kris Allen, 508-366-0312, krisallen2@verizon.net; Treasurer Philomena Feighan, 508-366-6327 or pfeighan@hotmail.com.

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: The Westborough Historical Society was formed in 1898. Like the Bedford Historical Society, its members began by meeting in member's homes. They then obtained a room in the old Post Office Block where artifacts could be viewed. In 1966, they moved to the Spurr House at 7 Parkman Street, a town-owned building. They soon needed more space, and in 1990, purchased the Sibley House at 13 Parkman Street where they now house their collection.

Sibley House

The Sibley House, built in 1844 by successful sleigh-maker William Sibley, contains collections of early furniture and household tools, paintings, maps, textiles, glassware and china. The parlor is open to the public, along with three period rooms upstairs. Each room represents a century of Westborough history and is filled with artifacts that help tell the story of their town from an agricultural society to a modern, industrialized one.

3. Square footage: 1,924 of finished space; more space unfinished.

4. Museum budget: According to Society Treasurer Philomena Feighan, the Society spends about $5,500 annually to operate the Sibley House museum. This includes telephone and electrical, as well as paying $150 yearly for a wireless security system and alarm service that not only notifies police if doors are left unlocked, but also sends a signal if the heat drops below a certain level. The largest expenses are heat (about $1,500) and property insurance ($1,500). She noted that the Society recently was able to reduce its O&M expenses by paying off the mortgage.

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: Westborough Historical Society.

6. Hours of operation: First Sunday of each month, from 2-4 pm all year long. Free to the public.

7. Yearly revenue: The Society receives about $15,000 annually from a trust donated by a local philanthropist as well as money from membership dues. It also uses holds two “tag” sales yearly, and runs an “antique boutique in the Sibley House to sell donated antiques on the Sundays that the house is open to the public. These fundraising activities bring in about $1,300 each year.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: The Society does not rent out space at the Sibley House, even though it has a small meeting room that holds about 25 people. It attributes its success to the fact that its Sunday open houses are free to the public and Society volunteers serve as docents to lead tours; that it runs tours for school children (limited); and that it runs a speakers’ program between September and May (held in a Library meeting room because the Sibley meeting room is too small), and a public who supports its mission.

9. Other museum attributes: The Sibley House does not have computer stations or interactive exhibits. Its meeting space holds only about 25 people, and it is not rented out (although this idea was intriguing to the contact people). Both the Westborough Historical Commission and the Westborough Library have research files and space; the Historical Commission has a small library which includes information about the town’s history, townspeople, genealogy and events dating from 1643. Maps, survey forms, deeds and photographs -- both historic and contemporary -- are available for study. The Westborough Library has a history room and research capabilities, as well, and inquiries to the Historical Society are referred to these two locations.

Weston’s Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History, 241 Wellesley Street

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: Director of Education Henry Lukas or Curator George Norton, 781-768-8367 or info@spellman.org.

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: The Spellman Museum is an independent, not-for-profit cultural organization (501(c)(3)) with a mission to promote knowledge and understanding of worldwide history and geography through the study of stamps, letters, and other artifacts of people's communication through the mail. This educational mission is advanced through exhibitions, a resource center and library, and programs for children, families, and adults. The Museum is a partner in the Regis College Museum Studies Program, providing formal classroom support and internship and practicum experiences for students.

Founded in 1960, the museum brought together the collections of Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and the National Philatelic Museum in Philadelphia. The collection now includes over 2,000,000 items including those from President Dwight David Eisenhower, violinist Jascha Heifetz, and General Matthew Ridgway. The Spellman Museum is one of two public museums in the United States devoted to stamps and postal history, the other being the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

The Spellman Museum is supported by grants, membership, admission fees (Adults - $8, Seniors and Students - $5, and Children 5 -16 - $3) and related earned income, earnings from an endowment fund, and the annual contributions of trustees, members, and friends. Donations of philatelic collections and literature are encouraged to enhance the museum's collection, for use in public programs, and for resale to support the museum.

Other than the hours of operation (Thursday – Sunday from noon to 5, except July and August) no other information was able to be collected on this museum.

Winchester Historical Society's Sanborn House, 15 High Street

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: President Tom Sevigny, 781-729-7397; www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org or 781-721-0135

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: The Sanborn House, a magnificent Beaux Art mansion built in 1906-07 by the younger son of the co-founder of Chase & Sanborn coffee, was later purchased by the Town of Winchester. The building had been neglected for years, and the Winchester Historical Society approached the Town to assume responsibility for the building. A feasibility study in 2005 supported this view. In 2006 the Society signed a 50-year lease with the Town, for $1 dollar a year, and assumed responsibility for the restoration of the Sanborn House and its conversion into the Winchester Historical and Cultural Center for use by both the community and the Society.

In 2005, complete exterior and interior renovation costs were projected to be approximately $3 million dollars. Subsequent furnishing and decor restoration was open-ended depending on funds, and estimated at $1.3 million. Changes to the renovation plan have occurred; the original cost included a large meeting room in the basement. This is currently not thought to be a good value and is no longer in the plan. To date approximately $250,000 has been spent on the restoration of the House.

The Society is in the process of doing a total renovation in three phases, as funds are raised. Having already raised $250,000, Phase 1 has been completed and enabled the Society to

stabilize the building envelope and perform limited interior work so that the main floor would be available for public use and rentals.

Phase II will restore the house exterior and the grounds and make them ADA compliant. Phase III will upgrade internal systems (mechanical, elevator) and the kitchen, restore the second floor and develop a master plan for a history center and archives in the basement, in collaboration with the Winchester Town Clerk.

Major funding comes from grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Griffin Foundation, Cummings Foundation, Boston Foundation, and from among the 300 Society members and friends. Funding is also obtained through office/studio rentals as well as rentals for community meetings and events.

The Sanborn Center provides, at a nominal cost, office facilities on the second floor and meeting space on the first floor that can be shared by multiple organizations. The facility is open for rental to all groups. According to the Society's website, the goal for the Sanborn House is not to create a historical museum, but rather "to illustrate town history by use of the House for 21st Century activities….Furnishings are of the period but few to allow room" for the rental activities (meetings, social events, etc.).

3. Square footage: 8,580 square feet.

4. Museum budget: In a typical year, the Society brings in about $85,000 in income from grants ($60K), museum revenue ($12K) and dues/assessments ($12K). Its museum expenses (occupancy, rent -- $1 per year, utilities and maintenance) are typically $10,000 per year.

Rental fees for events are $175 per hour for non-Winchester residents and $125 per hour for local residents and organizations, as well as non-profits. Rental fees for meetings are $100 per hour for non residents, and $75 per hour for residents/community organizations, with a $75 custodial fee.

By the terms of the lease, the town provided the funds to stabilize the exterior (to prevent further damage) in 2006 at a cost of $87,850, and also split the cost of utilities from 2006 through 2009. This time period enabled the Sanborn House Historical and Cultural Center to get up and running. The Historical Society took on the cost of operating and restoring the mansion. It is not town supported. The goal is to cover operating costs through rentals and other income; restoration costs will be covered by fund-raising.

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: Winchester Historical Society.

6. Hours of operation: Open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am – 2 pm.

7. Yearly revenue: About $85,000.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: The house is rented out for various events, including weddings.

9. Other museum attributes: The facility has rentable event space, lecture space and office space. Future plans include a history center and archives in the basement, which presumably would be available to researchers.

Woburn Historical Society's Burdett Mansion, 7 Mishawum Road

Burdett Mansion

1. Contact name, phone # and/or email: President Joe Crowley, 781-933-1615 or jcrowley10@verizon.net; Treasurer Mike Maher, 781-933-5002 or fordantique 41 @aol.com; email **i**nfo@woburnhistorical society.com.

2. Circumstances or history leading to the museum's establishment: Kathy and John Flaherty donated a portion of the Burdett Mansion as headquarters for the Woburn Historical Society (WHS) in 2010. The donor pays for the estate's upkeep, both interior and exterior. Artifacts are permanently displayed on part of the first and second floors of the mansion, and also at a town facility. Other rooms on the first and second floors are rented by Mr. Flaherty, a Woburn philanthropist, to other enterprises.

3. Square footage: The house is 3,932 square feet, but the Historical Society occupies only about 1,000 feet on the first floor and 120 square feet on the second floor.

4. Museum budget: Income: about $56,000 from contributions, sales of DVDs ($3,000) and membership dues. Expenses: about $42,000. (The Society's Form 990 indicates that some of both income and expenses are based on the value of the space donated by the building's owner, and the cost of operating that space, were the Society to have to pay for it.)

5. Responsibility for facility O&M: John Flaherty remains as legal co-owner of the mansion, and takes responsibility for all maintenance. Operating costs to run the museum – approximately $42,000, are paid by the Society.

6. Hours of operation: Open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10 am – noon.

7. Yearly revenue: About $55,000.

8. Critical factors in successful operation: The Woburn Historical Society, founded in 2006, has been successful in increasing its membership to about 400 people by sponsoring history programs with more modern and catchy themes – such as the boxer Mickey Ward, or the former MA Senate President William Bulger talking about his book. It uses the Woburn High School auditorium for its programs and runs cooperative programs with other Woburn groups, especially the Woburn Fire and Police Departments, which hold seminars for young audiences (bike safety, etc.). The Society produces numerous historical film/videos on its programming, which it sells. For the past two years, it has arranged fundraisers called "Town Tours" – renting Boston trolley cars to drive participants around to Woburn's historic homes, cemeteries and monuments where volunteers elaborate on the famous homes and their occupants. Some of their programs have been so popular that attendance has exceeded 600.

9. Other museum attributes: The Woburn Historical Society does not have enough space in the Burdett Museum to run lectures; their displays are not interactive nor can one do research at their facility. They do not rent out space. They do not have computer stations for independent research; persons interested in doing such research use the Woburn Library. But their model of producing more "modern history" presentations has been very successful.

Other Museums Worth Investigating:

Acton Historical Society's Jonathan Hosmer House, 300 Main St., Acton. Website: www.actonhistoricalsociety.org. 978-264-0690 or email jenkslibrary@verizon.net

The Hosmer House Museum and the Jenks Library are located at 300 Main Street. Open houses are featured at the house, but it is not clear from the website whether there are any regularly-scheduled opening dates or times. The Jenks Library is open by appointment, and preserves, stores and displays the Acton Historical Society's collection of historical books and papers. The Jenks Library also maintains histories and genealogical information for surrounding towns. Materials in the collection do not circulate, but photocopying is available at the discretion of the volunteer staff. A $10 donation is requested for genealogical research as well as a $25 donation for research requiring a written summary.

Arlington Historical Society's Smith Museum and Jason Russell House, 7 Jason St., Arlington. Website: www.arlingtonhistorical.org or contact@arlingtonhistorical.org or 781-648-4300.

The Arlington Historical Society, with offices in the Smith Museum, hosts a yearly lecture series as well as offering individual and group tours of the historic Jason Russell House. Through its education and outreach program, the Arlington Historical Society welcomes school classes and scout groups to explore life in colonial America.

The museum was completed in 1980 with funds contributed by Elizabeth Smith in memory of her father grandfather. The museum houses exhibits and the Society's collection of artifacts, manuscripts, and other Arlington memorabilia. The Smith Museum is handicapped accessible. Entrance fees are Adults - $5, and Children - $2.

The Society acquired and restored the Jason Russell house, ca. 1740, in 1923. In 1974 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The ground floor is handicapped accessible; the second floor can be experienced using our photo-interpretation book.
The Society offers evening lectures and informal morning talks they call "Winter Wednesdays" in which Society members plan a presentation in an informal setting at the Smith Museum, with coffee and donuts.

Hudson Historical Society Museum, 43 Broad St., Room C402, Hudson. Website: www.hudsonhistoricalsociety.org/museum. Ellen Busch, 978-562-7095 or Peggi Sulllivan, 978-568-7095 or Barbara Nahoumi, 508-481-8073..

The museum, located in the Hudson Mill Business Center, is accessible by elevator or stairway and is air-conditioned. The museum is open Tuesdays 2-4 pm and also the first

Saturday of each month, 10 am – noon, where its large collection of pictures and historical artifacts are maintained and displayed to the public.

Middlesex Canal Commission, 71 Faulkner St., North Billerica. Website: www.middlesexcanal.org/museum. J. Breen, 978-670-2740, jj@middlesexcanal.org.

This museum has a meeting room for rent for $200.

Sudbury Historical Society, 322 Concord Rd., Sudbury. Website: www.sudbury01776.org. Curator Lee Swanson, 978-443-3747.

The Society maintains its offices and collections on the second floor of Sudbury Town Hall. Curator Lee Swanson answers questions and assists with research, which is free to members and $20 per hour for non-members. Only a small percentage of the Society's collections are arranged in exhibition displays, but with advance notice, the curator will arrange a tour though the collection for individuals and groups.

The Waltham Museum, 25 Lexington Street, Waltham. Albert Arena, Director. 781-893-9020. Website: www.walthammuseum.com.

Located in the old Waltham Police Station, the museum displays an extensive collection of Waltham memorabilia relating to automobiles, sports, military and civic, plus highlights of the lives of prominent Waltham citizens.

Wayland Historical Society Museum, 12 Cochituate Rd., Wayland. Website: www.wayhistsoc.home@comcast.net or email wayhistsoc@comcast.net.

The Grout-Heard House was purchased by Raytheon in 1956 and given to the Historical Society. Because the house had been moved to make room for a new Town Hall, the Society raised the money to move it back to its original site in 1962 and to add a modern kitchen and office above. The house now serves as the Society's museum, where artifacts, documents, maps and photographs are preserved. The House is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 to noon.

Wellesley Historical Society's Dadmun-McNamara House, 229 Washington St., Wellesley. Website: www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org or info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org; 781-235-6690.

The Wellesley Historical Society founded in 1925 and incorporated in 1965, resided in a number of locations, including the Town Hall and the Wellesley Hills Branch Library, until 1975. That year the Society purchased the Dadmun-McNamara House for $1 and moved to its current location at 229 Washington Street. The house had been built in 1824 by Daniel Dadmun, one of the early toll keepers on the Worcester Turnpike.

The Society operates the Tollhouse Shop which features gently-used items (linens, china, crystal, costume jewelry, silver, silverplate, lamps, mirrors, small tables, and other collectibles) donated by Wellesley residents. Donors receive a tax-deductible receipt for their items. The Society also collaborates with It's Your Move, Inc., which helps people downsize and relocate, and the Tollhouse Shop has been the recipient of many items from their clients.

Note: This report was prepared by the Bedford Historical Society's Museum Exploratory Committee in June, 2014. It was updated in July, 2015 to incorporate additional information obtained on the Barrett-Byam Homestead in Chelmsford.

Appendix B – Surrounding Town Museum Evaluation Spreadsheet

	Andover Blanchard Museum	(Ft. Note 1) Arlington Smith Museum Jason Russell House	Billerica Clara Sexton House	Billerica Howe School	(Ft. Note 2) Burlington Old West School	Burlington Town Museum	(Ft. Note 3) Chelmsford Barett-Byam Homestead	Chelmsford Garrison House, Hill Jock House	Concord Museum	(Ft. Note 4) Danvers Page House, 5 Others	Holden Hendricks House	Lincoln Pierce House	Maynard's Virtual Museum	(Ft. Note 5) Wakefield West Ward School	(Ft. Note 6) Westborough Sibley House	Westford	Wilmington Harnden Tavern	(Ft. Note 7) Woburn Burdett Mansion
Sqaure Footage	2,772	Museum 1,200 Storage 1,200 Office 600 House 2,400	2,706	6,160	792	1,120	4,832	1,000	5,873	Page House 5,489 + 5 other buildings	1,052 1st Fl 472 2nd Fl Attic total 1,644 + Barn	250 -275	On Line	2,992	1,924	3,600	4,095	1,000 1st Fl 120 2nd Fl
Central Location	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a	N	Y	Y	Y	Relatively
Town Owned	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	n/a	Y	N	Y	Y	Privately Owned By Benefactor
House Museum	Y	Half	Y	N	N	N	Y	10 Buildings	N	Y Museum	Y	Y, Georgian Mansion	n/a	N	Y	House and Fire House Next door	Y	Y
Donated or Purchased		House Donated Museum built with one contribution	Donated	n/a	Orig. Purchased by HS	n/a	Donated	Donated	Built by Antiquarian Society	Both and Built	Town Purchase	Donated	n/a	Built by Town in 1847	Purchased by HS	Donated	Eminent Domain/ Purchase	Donated
Town Supported	Y	N	Modest	Modest	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	?	Y	n/a	Bldg only	N	All Buildings	Y	N
Meeting Space	Y	Small (50 People)	N	Y	N	N	N	Small	Y	Y	N	Y	n/a	Minor	Small (25 People)	Y	Limited	N
Office Space	Y	Y	N		N	N	Minimum	Minimum	Y	Y	Y	N	n/a	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Storage	Y	Y	Y	Y	N		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	n/a	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Bathrooms	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	n/a	Y	Y	N in Main Bld., Y Office 2nd fl. (not Handicap Access)	Y	Y
Adequate Parking	Y	N	N	Y	Limited	Limited	Y	Y	Y	Loc depen.	N	Y	n/a	Y		N	Y	N
Seasonal	Y	April-October	May-Oct			Summer	Y	Limited	Year Around	All year	All Year	N	n/a	upon request	All Year	Year Round	N	All Year
Days Open		Weekends and By Appointment	1st Sunday each month	None Needs Rennovation	Upon Request	closed	By Apointment	Few Sundays	7 Dasys a week	9am-1pm M-F Special Events	By Apt.	By Apt.	n/a	Last Sun of Mo, 1-3 PM or upon request	1st Sunday 2-4 PM	Most Sundays 2-4 PM	T & Th 2-4 and 1st Sun 2-4	Mon, Wed, Sat 10Am-Noon
Charge Admission	N	Y	N	n/a	N	N		N	Y		N	N	n/a	request depen	N	N	N	N
Hired Personnel	Y	Y Three Days a			N	N	N	N	14 Staff	3 FT + 2PT & summer help	N	N	n/a	N	N	1 Pt Time	Y	N
Interactive Exhibits	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	not yet	N	N	n/a	N	N	Y	N	N
Docents	Y	Y	N	n/a	Hist Soc Volunteers	Hist Soc Volunteers	Hist Soc Volunteers	Garrison House Assoc. Vol.	Y	Hist Soc Volunteers	Hist Soc Volunteers	N	n/a	Hist Soc Volunteers	Historical Society Volunteers	Historical Society Volunteers	Y	Historical Society Volunteers
Managed By	Historical Society	Hist. Society and Paid Tenant Caretaker	Historical Society	Historical Society	Historical Commission	Historical Commission	Historical Society	Historical Society	Antiquarian Society	Historical Society	Historical Society	Town Facilities Employee	Historical Society	Historical Society	Historical Society	Historical Society	Historical Commission	Historical Society
Budget		$15K-$20K	$10,000	Needs $1MM	$1,600 -	- Shared	$10K inc $14K exp	$10 -15K	$2.2MM inc	$260K inc $354K exp		n/a	n/a	$2600 inc $4800 exp	$5,500	Break even with Hist	$3,300	$50K inc $34K exp

Notes:

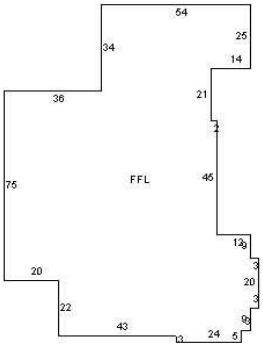
1. The Arlington Historical Society's Museum Administrator believes that the reason for the low turnout last year (858 visitors) at the Smith Museum and Jason Russell House is due to the fact that the museum does not have "movable" or "changing" exhibits, and does not do enough outreach into the community.
2. Burlington's Town Museum and Old West School are managed by the town's Historical Commission, which has an annual budget of $1,600. The maintenance of the two museums is paid separately by the town of Burlington.
3. The Danvers Historical Society owns and maintains six buildings. The Page House (5,489 sq. ft.) is the museum. One of the Society's part-time employees manages the buildings and rentals of the Tapley Memorial Hall and the Glen Magna Farms Estate. Some of Danvers' historic papers are kept at the town library, where the town has a paid Town Archivist that maintains some of the Society's artifacts.
4. Wakefield's school system stills uses the West Ward School museum for two months of each year, conducting classes in the building so that all Wakefield public school students experience what a school day was like 140 years ago.
5. The Westborough Historical Society receives about $15,000 yearly from a trust donated by a local philanthropist, in addition to its membership dues. Its income also comes from two yearly "tag" sales as well as sales of donated antiques using space in its Sibley House museum.
6. Woburn Historical Society's income and expense figures are based partly on the value of the museum space donated by a Woburn philanthropist. Because the Society does not have meeting space it its museum, it uses the Woburn High School auditorium for its programs and runs cooperative programs with other Woburn groups, especially the Woburn Police and Fire Departments. The Society produces historical films/videos on its programs, which it sells. A current annual program is renting Boston trolley cars to drive participants around Woburn's historic homes, cemeteries and monuments with Society volunteers describing the homes and their occupants. Some programs have been so popular that attendance has exceeded 600.

Appendix C – Potential Bedford Museum Sites: Square Footage and Floor Plans

Sites in consideration for recommendation by the Historical Museum ad hoc research committee to the board of selectmen:

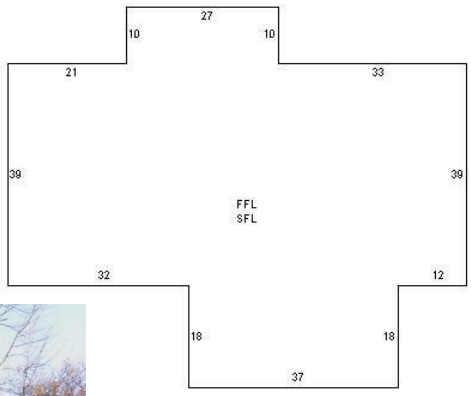
Fire Station, 55 The Great Road

Parcel I.D.: 054-0162
Building value: 819,400.00
Land value: 239,100.00
Total value: 1,058,500.00
Built: 1940
Frame: C
Exterior: concrete block
Floors: vinyl
Roof: Asphalt shingles
Heat: 100%
Air Conditioning: 100%
Bath: Full: A, Half: 0
Kitchen: A
Building condition: good
Finished area: 9,418
Acres: 0.68871



Police Station, 2 Mudge Way

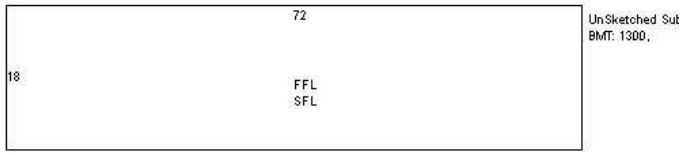
Parcel I.D.: 053-0040
Building value: 2,568,800.00
Land value: 361,900.00
Total value: 2,930,700.00
Built: 1998
Frame: C
2 Story
Exterior: Concrete block
Roof: Composition
Floors: carpet
Heat: 100%
Air Conditioning: 100%
Baths: Full: A, Half: A
Kitchen: A
Gross area: 8,190
Finished area: 8,190
Acres: 0.93627

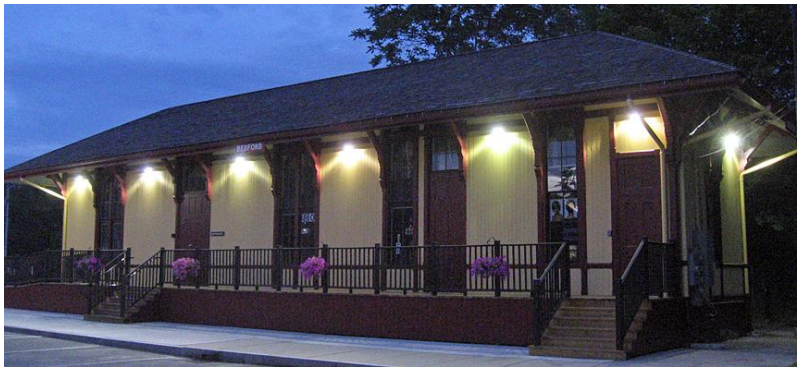


Bedford Depot, 80 Loomis St.

Parcel I.D.: 063-0162
Building value: 279,700.00
Land value: 197,400.00
Total value: 477,100.00
Built: 1900
Frame: D
Exterior: Wood shingles
Roof: Asphalt shingles
2 Story
Floors: carpet
Heat: forced H/W 100%
Air Conditioning:
Full Bath
½ Bath
Kitchen
Finished area: 2,592
Gross area: 3,892

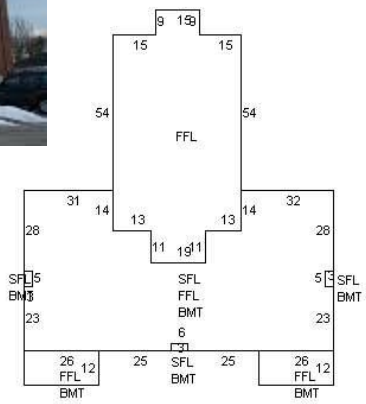
Acres: 0.51072





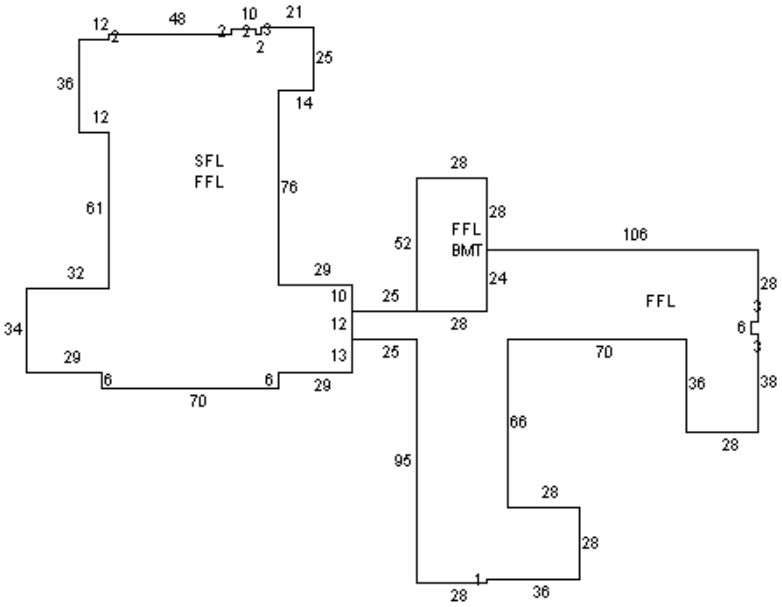
Town Hall, 9 Mudge Way

Parcel I.D.: 053-0045
Building value: 25,249,100.00
Land value: 4,005,000.00
Total value: 29,254,100.00
Built: 1900, 1985
Frame: C
Use: Government B
Exterior: Brick
Roof: composition
Sprinklers: 100%
2 Story
Floors: carpet
Heat: 100%
Air Conditioning: 100%
Full Bath
½ Bath
Kitchen
Finished area: 14,398
Gross area: 20,281
Acres: 29.18623



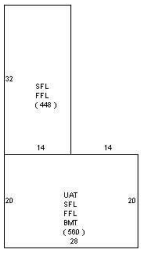
Town Center, 10 Mudge Way

Parcel I.D.: 053-0045
Building value: 25,249,100.00
Land value: 4,005,000.00
Total value: 29,254,100.00
Built: 1900, 1985
Frame: C
Use: Government B
Exterior: Brick
Roof: composition
Sprinklers: 100%
2 Story
Floors: carpet
Heat: 100%
Air Conditioning: 100%
Full Bath
½ Bath
Kitchen
Finished area: 14,398
Gross area: 20,281
Acres: 29.18623



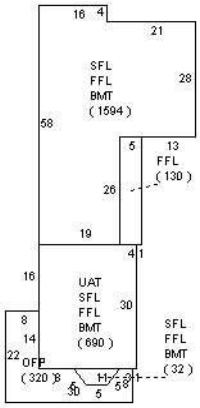
Daugherty House, 49 Elm Street

Parcel I.D.: 054-0155
Building value: 177,200.00
Land value: 401,400.00
Total value: 585,980.00
Built: 1827
Frame: Wood
Exterior: Clapboard
Roof: Asphalt shingles
2 Story
Floors: Hardwood
Heat: Forced H/W
Air Conditioning:
Baths: Full: 2 Half: 1
7 Rooms, 3 Bedrooms
Building Condition: Average
Finished area: 2,016
Acres: 0.930



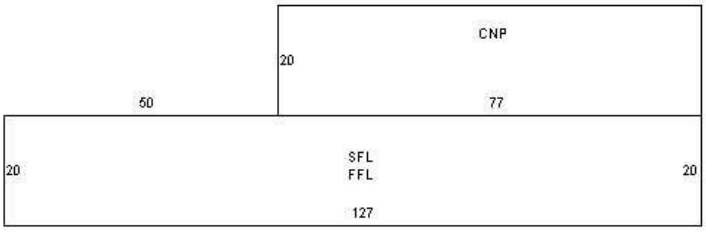
Nat Brown Property, 119 The Great Road

Parcel I.D.: 054-0128
Building value: 409,200.00
Land value: 315,300.00
Total value: 537,648.00
Built: 1861
Frame: Wood
2 Story
Exterior: Clapboard
Roof: Asphalt shingle
Floors: Carpet
Heat: Forced hot water
Air conditioning: 30%
Baths: Full: 1, Half: 4
Finished area: 3,087
Acres: 0.956



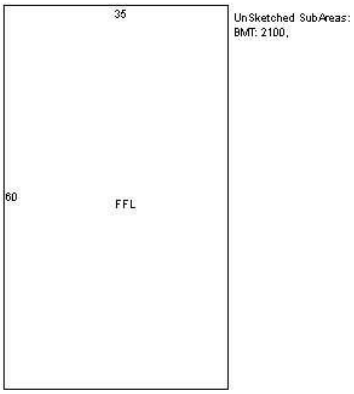
Lot, 1 Railroad Ave.

Parcel I.D.: 063-0037
Owned by: Larson Properties, LLC
Building value: 25,600.00
Yard value: 3,500.00
Land value: 184,500.00
Total value: 233,600.00
Building grade: D-
Frame: Wood
Exterior: Clapboard
Roof: Asphalt shingles
2 Story
Floors: softwood
Finished area: 5,080
Gross area: 6,620
Acres: 0.88271



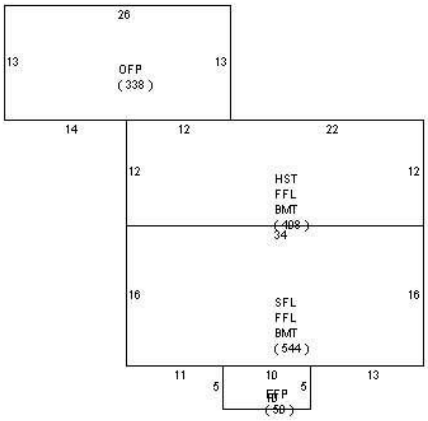
Old Town Hall, 16 South Rd.

Parcel I.D.: 054-0131
Building value: 213,900.00
Land value: 178,600.00
Total value: 392,500.00
Built: 1856
Frame: D
Exterior: Clapboard
Roof: Asphalt shingles
2H Story
Floors: hardwood
Heat: forced H/W 100%
Air Conditioning:
Baths: Full A, Half A
Kitchen: A
Finished area: 2,100
Gross area: 4,200
Acres: 0.2617



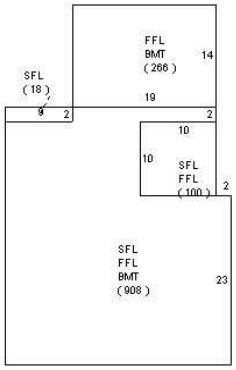
Job Lane property, 295 North Rd.

Parcel I.D.: 017-0019
Building value: 182,100.00
Yard value: 10,300.00
Land value: 313,200.00
Total value: 505,600.00
Finished area: 1,700
Gross area: 3,244
Built: 1775
Frame: wood
Exterior: Clapboard
Roof Structure: Salt box
2 Story
Floors: softwood
Heat: steam 100%
Air conditioning: 0
Baths: Full: A, Half: A
Kitchen: 1, A
Fire places: 3
Acres: 5.0



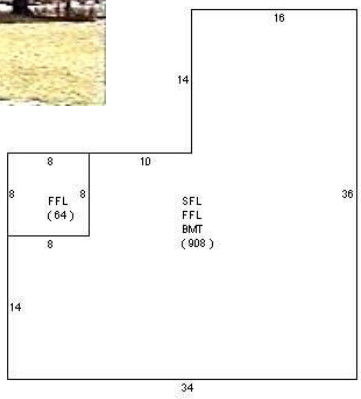
Swallow House, 20 South Road

Parcel I.D.: 054-0132
Building Value: 211,700.00
Land Value: 334,900.00
Total value: 559,404.00
Built: 1836
Frame: Wood
2 Story
Exterior: Clapboard
Roof: Asphalt Shingle
Floors: Hardwood
Heat: Forced hot water
Air conditioning: 100%
Baths: Full: 3, Half: 0
Finished area: 2,159
Acres: 0.229



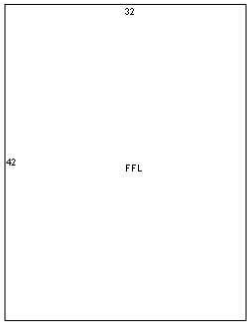
Joshua Page House, 13 School Ave.

Parcel I.D.: 054-0166
Owned by: Lorraine Dunham
Building value: 176,500.00
Land value: 283,900.00
Total value: 460,400.00
Built: 1790
Frame: Wood
Exterior: Clapboard
2 Story
Floors: Hardwood
Heat: forced H/W 100%
Air conditioning: 0
Roof: Gable, Asphalt shingles
Baths: Full: 1 Half: 1
Kitchen: 1, F Fireplace: 1
7 Rooms, 2 Bedrooms
Building grade: C
Finished area: 1,800
Gross area: 2,788
Acres: 0.19933



VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), 76 Loomis St.

Parcil I.D.: 063-0161
Owner: VFW, Sgt. F.H. Sullivan
Building value: 103,800.00
Yard value: 4,900.00
Land value: 190,700.00
Total value: 299,400.00
Finished area: 1,344
Gross area: 1,344
Built: 1974
Frame:
Exterior: Vinyl
2 Story
Floors: Vinyl
Heat: forced H/W 100%
Air conditioning:
Baths: Full: A, Half: A
Kitchen: A
Building grade: D+
Acres: 0.45964



Appendix D – Pair-wise Matrix

RANK	TOTAL		Multi Purpose Room	Police Station Addition	TC North Wing	TC 3rd Floor	Old Town Hall	Joshua Page House	Present Fire Station	Passenger Depot	VFW Building	New Bldg. at Job Lane	49 Elm Street (Dougherty)	Build Across from Bikeway	A Nat Brown Property	George Swallow House
5	9	Multi Purpose Room		Police Station Addition	TC North Wing	Multi Purpose Room	Multi Purpose Room	Multi Purpose Room	Present Fire Station	Multi Purpose Room	Multi Purpose Room	Multi Purpose Room	Multi Purpose Room	Multi Purpose Room	A Nat Brown Property	Multi Purpose Room
4	10	Police Station Addition			TC North Wing	Police Station Addition	Police Station Addition	Police Station Addition	Present Fire Station	Police Station Addition	Police Station Addition	Police Station Addition	Police Station Addition	Police Station Addition	A Nat Brown Property	Police Station Addition
2	11	TC North Wing				TC North Wing	TC North Wing	TC North Wing	Present Fire Station	TC North Wing	TC North Wing	TC North Wing	TC North Wing	TC North Wing	A Nat Brown Property	TC North Wing
12	2	TC 3rd Floor					Old Town Hall	Joshua Page House	Present Fire Station	TC 3rd Floor	VFW Building	New Bldg. at Job Lane	49 Elm Street (Dougherty)	Build Across from Bikeway	A Nat Brown Property	TC 3rd Floor
5	9	Old Town Hall						Old Town Hall	Present Fire Station	Old Town Hall	Old Town Hall	Old Town Hall	Old Town Hall	Old Town Hall	Old Town Hall	Old Town Hall
9	4	Joshua Page House							Present Fire Station	Passenger Depot	Joshua Page House	Joshua Page House	49 Elm Street (Dougherty)	Build Across from Bikeway	A Nat Brown Property	Joshua Page House
1	13	Present Fire Station								Present Fire Station	Present Fire Station	Present Fire Station	Present Fire Station	Present Fire Station	Present Fire Station	Present Fire Station
11	3	Passenger Depot									Passenger Depot	New Bldg. at Job Lane	49 Elm Street (Dougherty)	Build Across from Bikeway	A Nat Brown Property	Passenger Depot
13	1	VFW Building										New Bldg. at Job Lane	49 Elm Street (Dougherty)	Build Across from Bikeway	A Nat Brown Property	George Swallow House
9	4	New Bldg. at Job Lane											49 Elm Street (Dougherty)	Build Across from Bikeway	A Nat Brown Property	New Bldg. at Job Lane
7	7	49 Elm Street (Dougherty)												49 Elm Street (Dougherty)	A Nat Brown Property	49 Elm Street (Dougherty)
8	6	Build Across from Bikeway													A Nat Brown Property	Build Across from Bikeway
2	11	A Nat Brown Property														A Nat Brown Property
13	1	George Swallow House														

Appendix E – Potential Bedford Sites Spreadsheet

Class	**A**
Location	**Bedford Fire Station (Re-purposed)**
Square Footage	9,418 sq. ft.
Pros	Assuming Fire Dept is relocated and whole building becomes available, excess space could be rented. Big, open space (truck bays) for meetings and exhibits. Has bathrooms and kitchen. Close to public transportation lines. All on one floor for handicapped accessibility.
Cons	Currently occupied. May be a more long-term (5-10 year) option. CPA funding not available except for handicapped accessibility.
Parking	Yes (17-18 on-site, more on street.)
Handicap Access	Yes
Security	Yes
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	Yes
Occupied by Others	Yes, unless excess space is rented by Town.

Class	**A**
Location	**Bedford Police Station (Built-New: Addition)**
Square Footage	Build to suit.
Pros	Already many of the historical items are archived there. Re: security, police would be closer than other locations. Could free current Society space for police use. New construction allows specific design for all elements of a museum (bathrooms, kitchenette, and space for exhibits, meetings, office, research, storage) plus environmental controls, fire suppression, humidity control, security, etc. Previous site of BHS museum.
Cons	Has to be built, cost of new construction for all museum elements may be higher than other options. People may not want to go into police station unless museum has separate entrance. Would need Historic District Commission approval. May be a more long-term (5-10 year) option. CPA funds not available for new construction.
Parking	Yes
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	Yes
Security	Yes
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	Yes
Occupied by others	No (if a dedicated new structure were merely attached to Police Station) or Yes (if part of addition were for police)

Class	**A**
Location	**Old Town Hall (Re-purposed)**
Square Footage	6,300 sq. ft., 2,100 sq. ft. per floor
Pros	On public transportation line. Large 3rd floor for meeting and exhibit space; good space for rental income. Has kitchen and bathrooms. Old Town jail and safe on first floor (in Bedford Center for the Arts space); interesting building. With acquisition of George Swallow house, existing tenants could be moved next door and more parking would be available for 3rd floor rentals.
Cons	Must relocate tenants. Depending upon negotiated agreement with the town, Historical Society may not get to keep 3rd floor rental income. If 3rd floor only, were to become the museum, not highly visible. CPA funding not available.
Parking	Limited.
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	Yes
Security	Yes (May need enhancement)
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	Yes
Occupied by others	No, if entire building were museum and Historical Society handled 3rd floor rentals. Yes, if 3rd floor rentals were shared by town and Society.

Class	**A**
Location	**Town Center West Wing (Built-New: Addition)**
Square Footage	Build to suit.
Pros	On public transportation lines. New construction allows specific design for various elements of a museum (space for exhibits, meetings, office, research, storage) plus environmental controls, fire suppression, humidity control, security, etc. Bathroom and kitchens in adjacent building.
Cons	Has to be built, cost of new construction for various museum elements may be higher than other options. May be a more long-term (5-10 year) option. CPA funds not available for new construction.
Parking	Yes
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	Yes
Security	Yes
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	Yes
Occupied by others	No, but shared bathrooms, kitchenette, and (possibly) meeting space.

Class	**A**
Location	**Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room (Re-purposed)**
Square Footage	2,774 sq. ft. on 1st floor; up to 5,548 sq. ft. with new 2nd floor mezzanine.
Pros	On public transportation lines. May be a cheap option without second floor. Would meet BHS space needs with 2nd floor mezzanine. Existing elevator could stop on next 2nd floor space. If expense of a 2nd floor could not be done immediately, could be added in the future. Short time frame to complete. Bathrooms, break space (kitchenette) already in building. CPA funding available for some renovations.
Cons	Need construction of a partial second floor to meet space requirements, if so, may cost more than other options. Meeting space on 1st floor may need to be shared.
Parking	Yes
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	Yes
Security	Yes
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	Yes
Occupied by others	Yes

Class	**B**
Location	**Depot Park Passenger (Re-purposed)**
Square Footage	2,592 sq. ft. (1,296 sq. ft. per floor, less stairs)
Pros	Public Transportation. At end of bike path, which is largest tourist destination in town. Bathroom. Kitchen. CPA funding available for some renovations (elevator).
Cons	Have to relocate tenants. Loss of rent to Town. Too small to meet Historical Society needs. No large meeting space. May need rehab for museum use. CPA funding not available, except for accessibility.
Parking	Yes
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	1st Floor Only
Security	Yes (may need enhancement)
Central Location	No, but in tourist location at the end of bike path.
Town Owned	Yes
Occupied by others	No

Class	**B**
Location	**Daugherty House, 49 Elm Street (House museum)**
Square Footage	2,016 sq. ft.
Pros	In center of Town. Near public transportation. CPA funds available for purchasing home and some renovation (for accessibility).
Cons	Costs for both purchasing and renovation. Too small to meet Historical Society needs. Small stand-alone house museums not as successful.
Parking	Yes (on site and at Town Center)
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	No
Security	No
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	No
Occupied by others	No

Class	**B**
Location	**George Swallow House, 20 South Road (House museum)**
Square Footage	3,474 sq. ft. Only 2,259 sq. ft. finished
Pros	Public transportation. Good combo with Old Town Hall. Could provide additional parking for Old Town Hall and museum, by removing garage. Current occupants of Old Town Hall could be moved here. CPA funds available for purchasing home, and some renovation. Saves a historic house. In combination with Old Town Hall could be rentable office space or Society office or exhibit space.
Cons	Needs rehab. Too small to meet Historical Society needs. Owned by Swallow family trust; costs for both purchasing and renovation. Parking limited. Small stand-alone house museums not as successful.
Parking	Limited.
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	No
Security	No
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	No
Occupied by others	No

Class	**B**
Location	**Job Lane Farm Museum (Built-new: new building)**
Square Footage	Build to suit
Pros	Combining two historic sites may draw traffic to Job Lane House. Walking distance to Lane School. New construction allows specific design for all elements of a museum (bathrooms, kitchenette, and space for exhibits, meetings, office, research, storage) plus environmental controls, fire suppression, humidity control, security, etc.
Cons	Has to be built, cost of new construction for all museum elements may be higher than other options. May be a more long-term (5-10 year) option. Not in Town Center. No public transportation. CPA funds not available for new construction.
Parking	Yes (need to create).
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	Yes
Security	Yes
Central Location	No
Town Owned	Yes
Occupied by others	No

Class	**B**
Location	**Joshua Page House, 13 School Avenue (House museum)**
Square Footage	2,788 sq. ft. (1,800 sq. ft. finished)
Pros	Public transportation. Rufus Porter murals considered among the finest examples in New England. CPA funding available for purchasing home, and some renovation (accessibility). Could be part of a historical complex with Fire Station or Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room as main museum. Saves an historic house.
Cons	Need to purchase. Must be acquired for cost in addition to renovation cost. Too small to meet Historical Society needs. Requires rehab. Stand-alone house museums not as successful.
Parking	Limited at the site but available around Town Hall.
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	No
Security	No
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	No
Occupied by others	No

Class	**B**
Location	**Lot on Railroad Avenue across from Bikeway Source building (Built-new: new building)**
Square Footage	Build to suit
Pros	At end of bike path, which is largest tourist destination in town. New construction allows specific design for all elements of a museum (bathrooms, kitchenette, and space for exhibits, meetings, office, research, storage) plus environmental controls, fire suppression, humidity control, security, etc.
Cons	Must be purchased. Costs for both purchasing and construction. Parking may be limited; perhaps only available across the street, behind the Bikeway Source building. Has to be built, cost of new construction for all museum elements may be higher than other options. May be a more long-term (5-10 year) option. CPA funding not available. Not in central location with high traffic year-round.
Parking	Limited, perhaps only across the street.
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	Yes
Security	Yes
Central Location	No, but in tourist location at end of bike path.
Town Owned	No
Occupied by others	No

Class	**B**
Location	**A Nat Brown property, possibly 119 The Great Rd. (Re-purposed/House museum)**
Square Footage	3,087 sq. ft. of finished area
Pros	In center of Town. Near public transportation. CPA funds available for purchasing home and some renovation (for accessibility).
Cons	Costs for both purchasing and renovation. Too small to meet Historical Society needs. Small stand-alone house museums not as successful
Parking	Limited
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	No
Security	No
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	No
Occupied by others	No

Class	**B**
Location	**Town Center Third Floor (Re-purposed)**
Square Footage	7,200 sq. ft.
Pros	Building has bathrooms and kitchen. Has elevator.
Cons	Cost to relocate mechanicals and to rehab 3rd floor. 3rd floor location not highly visible as a museum. CPA funding not available.
Parking	Yes
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	Yes
Security	Yes
Central Location	Yes
Town Owned	Yes
Occupied by others	Yes

Class	**B**
Location	**VFW Building, 76 Loomis Street (House museum)**
Square Footage	1,344 sq. ft.
Pros	At end of bike path which is largest tourist destination in town. Has 2 bathrooms and Kitchen. In historical Depot Park complex. First floor handicapped accessible.
Cons	Very Small. Too small to meet Historical Society needs. Likely would need rehab and enlargement.
Parking	Yes
School Access	Yes
Handicap Access	Yes (1st floor)
Security	Would likely need enhancement.
Central Location	No, but in tourist location at the end of bike path.
Town Owned	No
Occupied by others	No