Heritage Resources Report for the Proposed Campton Office Location, Ammo-Pemi Ranger District, White Mountain National Forest

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Introduction

The 43.76-acre property, located adjacent to I-93 on the west side of the Pemigewasset River above Blair Bridge in Campton, Grafton County, New Hampshire, was assessed for prehistoric and historic cultural resources in anticipation of the construction of office and related facilities for the White Mountain National Forest Supervisor’s Office and the Ammo-Pemi Ranger District Office. (See attached map of proposed office layout.) The results of the historical and archaeological research are outlined below, as well as recommendations for the future management of cultural resources on the property.

Prehistoric Occupation

Historic accounts and folklore claim that the confluence of the Baker and Pemigewasset Rivers was the location of the principal village of the Pemigewasset band of the Abenaki, and the site of an attack in 1712 by Thomas Baker (for whom the river was named) and a band of colonists bent on eradicating the Indians and stealing furs: “‘They found a rich store of furs; deposited in holes, dug in the bank of the river horizontally—in the same manner that bank swallows build their holes.’” (J. E. Sargent 1878, quoted in Child 1886: 112-112) Child’s 1886 Gazetteer of Grafton County quotes an additional account that “at the mouth of Baker’s river, in the town of Plymouth, N.H., the Indians had a settlement, where have been found Indian graves, bones, gun-barrels, stone mortars, pestles and other utensils in use among them.” (Child 1886: 112-112)
Price identified a Native American trail along the Pemigewasset River in the vicinity of the WMNF property (Price 1958).

Files of the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources were consulted to determine if prehistoric sites exist in the vicinity of the 43.76-acre WMNF property, but none were on record. Prehistoric sites along the Pemigewasset River have been recorded south of Grafton County, and the absence of sites in the Campton area is most likely due to lack of survey. The nearest recorded sites are in the Plymouth area near the junction of the Baker River and the Pemigewasset River, corresponding with the historic accounts quoted above. Site 27-GR-165, recorded in 1955, is located on a terrace above the river junction. The investigative technique is unknown, but a scraper, bi-pitted stone, and refuse and fire pits were recorded. Site NH19-1 was recorded in the same year and in the same general area, but no further information as to the nature of the site is included on the survey record. The WMNF property includes terraced landforms above the river, and was initially considered to be a potential location for prehistoric activity. Areas identified as having the highest potential were tested for cultural resources, and the results of testing are included below in the “Summary of Field Work”.

Summary of Historic Occupation

Property History

The property was first occupied by European Americans in the late eighteenth century. The town of Campton was granted in 1761, and regranted and incorporated in 1767. An eighteenth-century map of Campton in the collections of the New Hampshire Historical Society’s Tuck Library shows the original 100-acre lots and their owners. The west side of the Pemigewasset River was designated the second division, and was divided into ranges running north-south, with numbered lots within each range. The tract purchased by the WMNF lies in lot three (and possibly four) of the second range in the second division. The original right to lot No. 3 belonged to John Holmes, who owned multiple lots throughout Campton.

John Holmes sold lot No. 3, probably in the 1770s, when yearly rent was raised from one ear of Indian corn to one shilling for every one hundred acres owned, according to the terms of the town charter on file at the New Hampshire State Archives. The first recorded transaction in the Grafton County Registry of Deeds for lot No. 3 was in 1780, when William Baker sold it to his brother, Benjamin Baker. Included in the deed to the land were “the Buildings and Appurtenances thereof,” (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 7, Page 9) which indicates that the
property was being farmed by this date. Benjamin Baker died in 1790 and his children inherited the property. Daniel Baker bought his sisters’ shares in the property in 1805 (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 39, Pages 254-255), and sold the 100-acre lot in 1810 to Peter Blair. Specifically mentioned in the deed are a barn and schoolhouse, of which one third share, along with six acres of land, are listed as an exception. The six acres and one third of the barn and schoolhouse may represent the dower property of Sarah Norris Baker, Benjamin Baker’s widow. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 51, Page 235)

Peter Blair farmed the property, mortgaging it several times between 1810 and 1826. The barn and schoolhouse are mentioned again in an 1817 mortgage (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 72, Page 267), and the “old barn” and buildings are referred to in 1824. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 92, Page 473) In 1826 Peter Blair sold 50 acres of lot No. 3 to Joseph Weld. The 50 acres, located “on the westerly side of the main road leading from Plymouth to Thornton”, included the “old Barn”. Listed as an exception is “the burying ground on the lot being one half acre”. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 98, Page 445) The “main road” referenced is most likely the road that eventually became Route 3, which according to the description above, bisected lot No. 3. The western half of lot No. 3 probably contains the recently acquired WMNF property, as it is adjacent to the early nineteenth-century cemetery mentioned in the deed.

In 1829, three years after his father, Peter, sold it, Joseph C. Blair purchased the property from Samuel Holmes, who had purchased it from Joseph Weld’s estate that same year. Joseph C. Blair actively acquired parts of the adjoining 100-acre lots in the 1830s and 1840s, eventually owning most of lot Nos. 3, 4, and 5 in the second range, as well as other properties throughout Campton. He frequently mortgaged portions of his property, where he ran a boarding house and farm, and the description of the western half of lot No. 3 remains the same as above, including references to the “main road”, “buildings”, and “burying ground”. (See attached summary of deeds.) From 1837 to 1853, Judge Arthur Livermore owned a 10-acre piece of the Blair farm, and built a road between Lot 3 and Lot 5 across Blair’s property. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 142, Page 460; Book 232, Page 153) Joseph C. Blair, Sr. died in 1864, leaving a 304-acre “home farm” to his children. (Probate of Joseph C. Blair, New Hampshire State Archives) Joseph C. Blair’s heirs mortgaged the property repeatedly between 1865 and 1897 while Joseph C. Blair, Jr. and
his family lived on the property. In 1897, the Blairs defaulted on the mortgage, and the 300-acre property reverted to Laconia Savings Bank.

The property was sold by foreclosure in 1901, and then sold in 1902 to Mary F. Reuter of New York City. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 459, Page 551) Mary Reuter does not appear to have lived on the property, as her residence is still noted as New York City when she sold the “Blair Place” in 1905 to Louvain Werden of Illinois, referencing fences, stone walls, an “old saphouse”, the “Blair Pipe ditch”, and “Judge Livermore Path.” (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 474, Page 35) It is possible that the Blair family was living on the property as tenants, since the Blair Hotel was still in operation. (See Blair family history section below.) Werden sold the property to Fred Flanders and Charles Burnham in 1910, with the exception of “a certain old cemetry”. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 505, Page 314) The property changed hands multiple times in the twentieth century, and continued to be referred to as the “J.C. Blair Place” with essentially the same boundaries and exceptions as in the 1910 deed.

In 1914 Charles Burnham sold the property to Fred Hill, and this deed indicates that Burnham logged the property during his four-year ownership. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 531, Page 426) It appears to have remained as a farm in the Hill family until 1969 when Maurice Hill sold it to the Palazzi Corporation, except for 2.5 acres of the eastern portion of the property sold by Hill to the State of New Hampshire for the construction of Interstate 93 in 1961. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 1091, Page 524; Book 952, Pages 376-381) At the same time, land for a road 16 feet wide from Blair Road north to the cemetery, providing access to the Hill property, was planned.
The Palazzi Corporation was the contractor hired for the construction of the segment of I-93 in the Plymouth – Campton area, and records on file at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation show that 525,092 cubic yards of gravel and other soils were removed from the area north and east of the cemetery in 1969 and 1970. (NHDOT Project I93-3(35)84: P-3801-E Record Book, Page 111; P-3801-E Correspondence Envelope, letters of the Palazzi Corporation dated April 25, 1969 and April 29, 1969). Where field book records for the surveys of the pit before and after excavation for the DOT project could be matched, a depth of 9 feet was recorded, but this is likely to be a conservative number, especially since the Palazzi Corporation owned the pit area and may have used it as a source for material in other construction projects before it sold the “J.C. Blair Place, so-called” to Frederick J. Duncan in 1972. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 1168, Page 294) Maps from the I-93 construction projects provide supporting evidence that the historic building cluster, including the Blair Hotel and homestead, was located along the old corridor of Route 3 (relocated in this area during I-93 construction) on the eastern side of I-93, and not on the 43.76 acres purchased by WMNF, which was likely used as pasture and wood grove. (NHDOT Project No. 193-3(18)82, Sheet No. 36) The property was logged in the early twentieth century (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: Book 531, Page 426), and slated for development as a subdivision in the late 1980s and early 1990s, but no construction took place.

Family Histories:
It is likely that the Baker family (c.1770 to 1810), the Blair family (1810 to c.1902), and the Hill family (1914 to 1969), were the primary residents on the property; although the property changed hands many times, it was often for only a brief period. No one appears to have lived on the property after Maurice Hill sold it in 1969.

Baker: The Bakers were a prominent family in eighteenth-century Campton, including several Revolutionary War officers. William (d. 1814) and Benjamin Baker (d. 1790) were both Revolutionary War veterans. (Child 1886: 204; Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots, serial 10094, Volume 5.) William and Benjamin Baker, who were brothers, are referred to as “Yeoman” (meaning farmer or freeholder), and Daniel Baker (1775-1815) is referred to as “Husbandman” (farmer) in the deeds. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: 7/9, 51/235.) Daniel Baker, the son of Benjamin, was a private in the First Regiment of the New Hampshire Militia in the War of 1812 (War of 1812 Service Records, Box 9, Roll 2). There is a gravestone with his name, the date of his death at age 39, and the names of six of his and his wife Alice’s children in the cemetery on the property. (See Cemetery section below.)

Blair: Peter Blair was born in 1778 in Holderness, New Hampshire. He married Hannah Palmer, and they had ten children, including Joseph Colman Blair, born in 1809. Peter
Blair, who died in 1840, is referred to as “Husbandman” (farmer) in the deeds for the Campton (Lot 3) property. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: 51/235, 72/267, 92/473, 98/445.) Joseph C. Blair is referred to as “Husbandman” or “Yeoman” in deeds prior to 1837 (116/447, 135/156, 140/232, 140/234), when he is listed as “Innholder” (142/460). He is referred to as “Innkeeper” in 1842 (169/203). In all other deeds from 1838 to his death in 1864 he is referred to as “Gentleman,” suggesting a rise in wealth/status with the establishment of the hotel. Evidence for Blair’s Hotel suggests it was in operation from the 1830s to at least 1902, and perhaps as late as the 1930s. The 1837 deed is the earliest reference to an inn or hotel (Grafton County Registry of Deeds: 142/460). The 1864 probate inventory of J. C. Blair’s estate values his real estate at $3400.00, including the 304-acre “home farm” (Lots 3, 4, and 5) and 3 other smaller (6 acres or less) parcels of land. In addition to running the hotel/boarding house (evidenced by the 80 chairs, 26 tables, 18 bedsteads, 6 ½ dozen plates, etc., in the inventory), the probate indicates that Blair farmed the property and raised livestock, primarily sheep. Joseph C. Blair married Dolly Noyes, and raised four children, including a son also named Joseph C. Blair, who appears to have taken over the hotel and property after his father’s death when he returned from the Civil War, in which he served as a Wagoner in the Fifteenth New Hampshire Regiment.

Two buildings labeled “J.C. Blair” are present on an 1860 map of Campton (H. F. Walling, surveyor, “Topographic Map of Grafton County New Hampshire”). On the 1892 map, two buildings in the same location are labeled “Blair’s Hotel” (Hurd, “The Old Maps of Grafton County, N.H. in 1892”: 38). In 1886, Blair’s Hotel is described as “a popular summer boarding house,” with Joseph C. Blair, Jr. as the proprietor. He is also listed as a farmer. (Child 1886: [v.1] 214, [v.2] 55) In the 1901 foreclosure on the Blair property by Laconia Savings Bank, it is referred to as “Blairs Hotel.” Despite the fact that the Blair property was under different ownership, in the 1902 Tourist’s Guidebook to the State of New Hampshire, “additional hotels and boarding houses” in Campton include both “Blair’s” and “J.C. Blair & Son”, apparently two separate establishments, which may refer to the two separate buildings shown on the maps noted above. (Tourist’s Guidebook to the State of New Hampshire 1902: 259) This suggests that although he was no longer the owner, J.C. Blair, Jr. remained on the property as a tenant or hotel manager.

In the Campton Bicentennial 1767-1967 Commemorative Booklet, Blair Hotel is described as a turn-of-the-century hotel located north on Rte. 3 above Blair Bridge. (Campton Bicentennial Committee 1967: 23, 29) The 1928 USGS topographic map, Plymouth quadrangle, shows a cluster of buildings, probably Blair’s Hotel and associated farm buildings, to the northeast of the cemetery along the old corridor of Route 3, which was altered by the construction of Interstate Route 93 in the 1960s. The hotel had burned down by the
time of the 1967 publication of the *Bicentennial Booklet*. (Campton Bicentennial Committee 1967: 23) An undated photograph of the Blair hotel appears to have been taken in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, showing horses, carriages, and guests in front of the wood frame hotel. (Campton Bicentennial Committee 1967: 24) A contemporary etching gives a view of the hotel and its connected carriage house from the opposite direction, with a stagecoach in the driveway and a game of croquet in progress on the lawn. It is likely that the hotel was originally the Blair farmhouse, expanded to accommodate increasing numbers of summer guests. According to local historian Lester Mitchell, the hotel stood on the ground now covered by I-93, with a barn set back near the cemetery. (Lester Mitchell 2003: pers. comm.) This corresponds with the “old foundation” which appears on the New Hampshire Department of Transportation layout maps for the construction of I-93. (NHDOT Project No. I93-3(18)82, Sheet No. 36.)

Avid hiker and Appalachian Mountain Club member Marian Pychowska, of Hoboken, New Jersey, stayed at Blair’s Hotel with her family during the summers of 1879 and 1880, when she was nineteen and twenty years old. In her letters to fellow AMC member Isabella Stone, she provides insight into life at the hotel, the Blair family, and the surrounding community, as well as nineteenth-century tourism and recreation in what later became the White Mountain National Forest. Her description of Blair Hotel is as follows:

> The house is very comfortable, the table good, and the big attic room that my mother and I occupy has a lovely view from the window...you will find us on the west bank of the Pemigewasset River nearly opposite the mouth of the Beebe River, with Round Hill just back of us...Our woods are rich and beautiful. My mother and I have found about twenty different kinds of fern, but no maidenhair... Although Blair’s is nearer Campton Post Office or West
Campton than Plymouth, there is more communication with the latter place. The Profile stages bring and take our mail as they pass. (Rowan 1995: 13-15)

Pychowska, who stayed with her family at Blair’s through the end of the season in September, describes in detail her hiking excursions in the White Mountains, in which Mr. Blair (J.C. Blair, Jr.) played a role as the provider of transportation to and from trail heads. The Blair family dog also had a role in her summer experiences:

Mr. Blair’s dog, ‘Towser’, a handsome part Newfoundland, had been in the habit of taking smaller walks with us, and he was ready to follow the wagon any distance. On this day I write of, we supposed we had said good-bye to him when we left the wagon at the base of the mountain, but while we were resting on the pretty wood path after our first pull uphill, a dark object came bounding up the road and Towser joined us. Poor fellow! He had no bag lunch, and while we ate our dinner, he looked at us with longing eyes for contributions of doughnuts and maple sugar.” (Rowan 1995: 21)

In addition to the outdoor pursuits it offered, life as a summer boarder at Blair’s was festive, with social gatherings and evening entertainment:

Our household [at Blair’s] is now reduced to about eighteen, all pleasant and interesting. August gaiety has not entirely departed, our evenings being usually enlivened by a Virginia reel in which my mother and aunt and other old ladies take part, thereby adding much to our pleasure. As was the case last year at Goodnow’s, the ‘September people’ are more given to late hours than the ‘August people’, for now they get fairly settled down in the evenings and discussion pays little regard to the passage of time. (Rowan 1995: 18)

Through this month [August] our house [Blair’s] will be, I suppose, as full as possible, and perhaps a little more so! But the crowd is composed of such pleasant people, that one does not feel inclined to complain. A grand festivity was held here on Friday evening in return for one given at Sanborn’s [boarding house in Campton Village] a week ago. The programme began with ‘Punch and Judy’, included two charades, and several comic things gotten up by the very clever young people in our house, and ended with ice cream and dancing at a very late hour. I think we can now say that effort is over for the season. Perhaps the next thing will be a picnic. Our fellow boarders are not much given to walking, but occasionally a party of fifteen or twenty start off for some point of interest on foot. (Rowan 1995: 35)

In 1880, her second summer at Blair’s, Marian anticipated a lively season, noting, “Mr. Blair has been making some improvements about the house, and adding a few new rooms, as it promises to be a crowded season. A party of eight cousins of ours, who made up their minds to join us in August, were unable to get rooms here.” (Rowan 1995: 34)

After the summer of 1880, the Pychowska family moved on to other hotels and boarding houses in the White Mountains, “looking forward with pleasure to having new walks and new ferning grounds, though with much doubt whether we shall find the same
comforts and benevolent spirit in the house management which makes Blair’s so pleasant.” (Rowan 1995: 48) Marian continued to remember “our dear old Blair’s” (Rowan 1995: 205) with fondness in subsequent years:

Last Monday (the 8th), after dinner, we walked down to Blair’s to visit our friends there. All gave us a hearty welcome, and sitting on the porch there with the beautiful familiar view before us, there seemed no reason for going away. Mr. and Mrs. Blair were particularly cordial and would have had us stay all night, but after tea we were ferried over the river and started for our present home. (Rowan 1995: 57-58)

Marian Pychowska’s letters portray Blair Hotel as a bustling, busy place, where the activities of the boarders were an integral part of the daily life of the Blair family. When they were the last remaining summer boarders in the September of 1880, the Pychowskas cut short their stay and “turned our backs on Kineo still unclimbed” out of consideration for the Blairs, who had a sick child. (Rowan 1995: 43)

The village of Blair within the town of Campton, the area surrounding Blair Bridge two miles north of Livermore Falls on the Pemigewasset River and including the Blair hotel and farm, was named for the most prominent member of the Blair family, Henry William Blair (1834-1920). Henry William was the grandson of Peter Blair, nephew of J.C. Blair, Sr., and cousin of J.C. Blair, Jr. He was wounded in action as Lieutenant Colonel of the Fifteenth New Hampshire Regiment in the Civil War, and later served in both the New Hampshire House of Representatives and State Senate, and was elected to the United States House of Representatives (1875-1879) and the United States Senate (1879-1885 and 1893-1895), advocating temperance and education reform. He died in Washington, DC in 1920, and is buried in Campton. (Leavitt 1900: 157; Grafton County Republican Committee of New Hampshire.) In addition to the hotel, the village of Blair had a post office (established 1890), railroad station, and school. The currently existing Blair covered bridge on Blair Road, the second in this location, was built in 1869. Henry William Blair co-signed his cousin Joseph C. Blair’s 1874 mortgage on the Campton property, which the bank foreclosed in 1897.

By 1930, the Blairs were living in other parts of New Hampshire. Joseph C. Blair, Jr., who was then 88 years old and retired, was living with his daughter’s family in Plaistow. His son, Joseph C. Blair III lived on rented property in Laconia, and was the proprietor of a hotel. (1930 US Census Population Schedule) It is unclear if he continued to run the Blair Hotel in Campton, owned at this time by Fred G. Hill, or if he ran another hotel in Laconia or elsewhere.
The Blair family had close ties with the prominent Livermore family of Holderness and Campton. Samuel Livermore, Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court in 1782, a member of the first Congress of the United States in 1789, and President of the New Hampshire Constitutional Convention in 1791, purchased property in Londonderry from Peter Blair’s grandfather. (Leavitt 1900: 152) He eventually owned ten to twelve thousand acres in Holderness, Campton, and Plymouth. (Thwing 1902: 84) Peter Blair’s mother, Frances, who married one of her Blair cousins, had a brother named Samuel Livermore Blair after the judge. Frances Blair, who was a Revolutionary War widow, lived with Samuel Livermore’s family in Holderness for many years. (Leavitt 1900: 154) According to the Blair family genealogy, Frances Blair was eventually “buried, with her only child, Peter Blair, in Campton, N.H., on the old Blair Homestead.” (Leavitt 1900: 154) Her grave is probably in the cemetery adjacent to the WMNF property, where there is an “F.B.” gravestone. (See Cemetery section below.)

Arthur Livermore was the son of Samuel Livermore, and was justice on the New Hampshire Superior Court and a delegate in the United States House of Representatives. He died in Campton in 1853 on his property, which he called “Craigie Burn”. (Thwing 1902: 144, 146) He purchased Craigie Burn from Joseph C. Blair, Sr. in 1837, and upon his death in 1853, Blair reacquired the 10-acre property, located in the southwest corner of lot No. 5 in the second range of lots. (Grafton County Registry of Deeds, Book 142, Page 460; Book 232, Page 153). In the 1837 deed from Blair to Livermore, the right of way to a road across lot No. 4 is included, to which Blair also reserved rights for himself. (See 142/460 and 158/301 in the attached summary of deeds for details of road.) It is likely that this is the Judge Livermore’s Road or Path referred to in later property deeds, a portion of which appears to be intact on the WMNF property.

Hill: The Hill family owned the property from 1914 to 1969. In the 1920 US Census population schedule, Fred G. Hill is listed as a farmer engaged in general farming. In 1930, Hill is again listed as a farmer. This suggests that the property remained a working farm into the twentieth century, and that the Hills did not run the hotel on the property, which burned down sometime during their ownership. The hotel may have continued to be run by the Blairs, as Joseph C. Blair III is listed as the proprietor of a hotel in 1930. Maurice Hill was Fred Hill’s son, and he acquired the property after his father’s death (c. 1950). By 1961, when he sold 2.5 acres to the State of New Hampshire for the construction of I-93, he was no longer living on the property, but in Manchester, NH. (1961 Deed of Warranty, NHDOT files.)
List of possible archaeological features/cultural landmarks and dates referenced in property deeds:

- “buildings”: 1780, 1824, 1838, 1840, 1868, 1902, 1905, 1950
- “barn” or “old Barn”: 1810, 1817, 1824, 1826
- school house: 1810, 1817
- main road or highway: 1824, 1826, 1836, 1838, 1840, 1905, 1910, 1969, 1972
- burial ground: 1826, 1838, 1840, 1897, 1901, 1910 (“cemetery” in all later twentieth C. deeds)
- “homestead”: 1865, 1868, 1869, 1874, 1897, 1901, 1902
- hotel: 1901
- saphouse: 1905
- aqueduct: 1909

Cemetery

The cemetery is located in a wooded area adjacent to the southeastern border of the property, surrounded on three sides by the WMNF parcel. It is accessed by a dirt road that borders the WMNF property as an extension of Bog Road, and is bounded by a dry stone wall. It contains five large gravestones with legible inscriptions, ten smaller stones marked only with initials, and additional unmarked stones. The gravestones are not uniformly oriented, and many appear to have been relocated and are now propped against trees or wedged into tree stumps. According to local historian and former Campton Historical Society President Lester Mitchell, several gravestones were stolen from the cemetery, and those that were recovered were set in cement to deter future theft. (Lester Mitchell 2003: pers. comm.)

There is much empty space within the bounds of the stone wall, and there are visible gravestone slabs broken off at or near ground level. The dates on the legible gravestones range from 1803 to 1846.

The cemetery does not appear on the 1860 or 1892 map, during which time it was encompassed by the Blair farm, but it is present on the 1928 USGS map. In a listing of Campton cemeteries in the Campton Bicentennial 1767-1967 Commemorative Booklet, a cemetery is described as “back of site of old Blair Barn”, and this likely refers to the “Bog Road” cemetery. The nearby cemetery known as Blair Cemetery, which is a large
The cemetery on the opposite side of the Pemigewasset River and Blair Bridge, is listed separately and was laid out in lots in 1854.

It is possible that some of the graves and/or gravestones were moved from the earlier small Bog Road cemetery on the western side of the river to the large cemetery on the eastern side. In the 1950s, graves were privately moved from several small local cemeteries in anticipation of a proposed dam on the Pemigewasset River that would have flooded them. (Lester Mitchell 2003: pers. comm.) Clustered in the same area of the Blair Cemetery, in its southwest corner, are family plots for the Baker, Cook, Kenniston, and Blair families, all families associated with the Bog Road cemetery. These families were further linked by their membership to the Congregational Church prior to 1858, as well as by multiple marriages. (Child 1886: 203-204) Given the grouping of these families in both cemeteries, the early dates and the missing and disturbed gravestones in the small Bog Road cemetery, it is possible that these families moved graves and/or gravestones from the Bog Road cemetery to the large Blair Cemetery soon after it was laid out in 1854. The Blair Cemetery appears to have superseded the Bog Road cemetery, as none of the gravestones in the latter date to after 1846.

The gravestones in the Bog Road Cemetery include members of the two earliest families known to have owned the property, as well as associated families in the surrounding community. Daniel Baker probably lived on the property from 1780, when his father purchased it, until 1810, when he sold it to Peter Blair. His six children, who died between 1803 and 1816, also probably lived on the property. The family plot of the Blair family includes Hannah Blair, wife of Peter Blair, and possibly several of their children, as well as Peter Blair’s mother, Frances.

**Gravestone Inscriptions:**

- “Mrs. Lydia, wife of Moses Blake Esq. [d]ied June 27, 1804…the 27 year… …r age”
- “EMILY / dau.tr. of Daniel/ & Phebe Wyatt died / Feb. 16, 1846 / Ae 24 yrs & 4 mo.”
- “Daniel Baker died Jan 11, 1815 aged 39 / Sally, died Sept. 10, 1803 / Hannah, April 23, 1804 / Betsy Dec. 18, 1805 / Harriet May 2, 1808 / Josiah Jan 16, 1813 / John Feb 23, 1816 / Children of Daniel & Alice Baker” [war flag, also present in 1983 as noted by Bagley & Vacca (p. 1)]
- “Giddings Family” (surrounded by iron railing)
“Children of Ebenezer and Harriet Keniston. Ebenezer, died Jan 5, 1823 ae 2 yrs 7 mos / Infant dau d Oct 3, 1825, ae 1 dy” *This stone is no longer present in the cemetery, but was recorded in 1983 by Bagley and Vacca (p. 1)*

Stones with initials only:

- “FB DI... / J...”, “FB” [Possibly head and foot stones of Frances Blair, mother of Peter Blair, who was buried “in Campton, NH, on the old Blair Homestead.” (Leavitt 1900: 154)]
- “HB / DI.M 21 / 1827”, “HB” [Probably head and foot stones of Hannah Blair, wife of Peter Blair and mother of J.C. Blair, Sr., who died March 21 or 22, 1827. (Leavitt 1900: 155)]
- “WLB” [Possibly Walter Livermore Blair, son of Peter and Hannah Blair, who died in childhood between 1811 and 1814.]
- “WB” with unmarked footstone. [Possibly William or Walter Blair, sons of Peter and Hannah Blair.]
- “HB” with unmarked footstone. [Possibly Hannah or Hepsebeth Blair, daughters of Peter and Hannah Blair.]

The above group of stones may be in their original locations as they appear to have both head and foot stones intact, are clustered together, and are uniformly oriented. They have similar rough masonry and rustically carved inscriptions, and appear to belong to a family group, probably the Blair family.

- “CDW”
- “EW”
- “DW”

These three stones appear to have been relocated, and may be foot stones for graves that have been moved or of which the headstones have been destroyed. The “EW” stone may belong to the nearby headstone of Emily Wyatt, but one or both has been moved out of alignment. “DW” may be a footstone for Daniel Wyatt, with the headstone missing

Cemetery Family Histories:

In the Campton Bicentennial 1767-1967 Commemorative Booklet, included in the “Early Settlers of Campton” list are individuals with the family names of Baker, Cook, Clark, Giddings, and Wyatt. (Campton Bicentennial Committee 1967: 42).

Baker: The Bakers, including Daniel Baker, owned the property in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. See family information in the above property history.

Giddings: According to Lester Mitchell, local
historian and former President of the Campton Historical Society, the Giddings family was wiped out by disease and the town raised the funds to erect the monument and iron pipe railing in the Bog Road cemetery. The Giddings family owned property adjacent to the Blair homestead in the early nineteenth century.

**Wyatt:** Information on the Wyatt family is available in the 1908 *Town Register: Ashland, Plymouth, Sandwich, Campton, Holderness, Center Harbor, Moultonboro*:

Daniel Wyatt from Newburyport came to the place as early as 1769, and became the miller of the town, walking over a mile from his home above Little’s to the mill. He was as regular at his post as the return of day. Many of those early settlers had cause to be thankful to Deacon Wyatt for his words of encouragement, suggestion or reprimand and solemn appeal all delivered in his kind heart to heart method. (*Town Register: Ashland, Plymouth, Sandwich, Campton, Holderness, Center Harbor, Moultonboro*, 1908: 68)

Deacon Daniel Wyatt is probably the grandfather of the Emily Wyatt whose gravestone is in the cemetery. According to an anonymous undated typescript, “Cemetery Inscriptions of Campton and Thornton”, Daniel Wyatt was a Revolutionary war soldier, buried in East Campton Cemetery (?), who was made deacon of the Congregational Church in Campton in 1815. (“Cemetery Inscriptions of Campton and Thornton”, p. 1) Also members of the church were Jacob Giddings (member 1816-1834), Hannah Cook Clark, wife of Joseph (1824-1832), Joseph Clark (received by the church in 1825), Mary Giddings (1825-1869), and Alice Merrill Baker, wife of Daniel and later wife of Hervey Johnson (1827-1835). (“Cemetery Inscriptions of Campton and Thornton”, pp. 16-18).

There is a large Wyatt family monument in the Blair Cemetery on the east side of the Blair Bridge. Stylistically, the monument appears to date from the late nineteenth–early twentieth century, but includes family members deceased much earlier, including Deacon Daniel Wyatt and the same Emily Wyatt who appears on the gravestone listed above in the Bog Road cemetery. The family plot was probably laid out in or after 1854, and it is possible that Emily Wyatt was included on the family monument in name only, or that her remains were moved to the new family plot in the larger cemetery and the old gravestone left behind as it was no longer needed. (In addition to her inclusion on the family monument, there is a newer footstone in the family plot inscribed “E.W.”). It is possible that Deacon Daniel Wyatt, or the Daniel Wyatt who died in 1834 and was probably Emily’s brother, was also moved from the earlier Bog Road cemetery, where there is a “DW” footstone near the “EW” footstone and Emily Wyatt headstone. The complete inscription on the Wyatt family monument in Blair Cemetery is as follows:


Summary of Field Work

Phase I (Above Ground) Survey:

On October 27 and 28, 2003, two WMNF archaeologists, three Heritage Resources paraprofessionals, and two GIS personnel surveyed and recorded above-ground cultural features present on the property purchased by White Mountain National Forest. The property was walked in parallel transects by the heritage resources personnel for one hundred percent coverage of the property. Ground visibility was fair to poor due to fallen leaf debris. GIS personnel recorded the location of identified features using a Trimble GPS unit. Seven stone wall segments, in addition to the cemetery wall, were identified and recorded, as well as a stone pile feature that may represent the remains of a cultural structure, and two twentieth-century dumps. When mapped, it is clear that several of the wall segments are in alignment, and probably represent livestock enclosures used by the Blairs in the nineteenth century. (See attached “Heritage Resources Assessment” map.) The longest intact segment of wall, roughly five hundred feet in length, is located at the eastern base of the hill in the southwestern tip of the parcel, on the east side of Judge Livermore’s Road. The wall stands as high as three feet, and is in fair to good condition. A pile of approximately twenty large granite boulders was noted in a drainage, and may represent debris from the wall or other cultural feature. The stone wall remnants are considered to be a significant feature of the property’s agricultural history and vernacular landscape.

Also observed during the survey were fragments of barbed wire located along the property boundary. The presence of both the stone walls and barbed wire fencing suggest that the property was primarily used as pasture for livestock, extending from the early 1800s, when stone walls were widely constructed, to the late 1800s or beyond, when barbed wire was introduced and used to supplement and increase the height of old stone walls. (Wessels 1997: 48) The terrain is hilly, with large glacial boulders, and unsuitable for crop cultivation. The historical record indicates that the Blair family raised sheep during their ownership of the property in the nineteenth century, and this terrain seems a likely location for such use.

A mid-twentieth-century trash scatter was located to the immediate north of an old logging skid road. Three cans were observed, but the full extent of the deposit could not be assessed due to poor ground visibility. A second can dump was located adjacent
to the northeastern corner of the cemetery wall. Approximately ten cans were visible on the surface, including several paint cans and lids. Neither dump is considered to be of significance.

Judge Livermore’s Road, which dates to c.1837, (see above property history) retains historic integrity on the northern half of the property, where the road is deeply cut in places, and traces of remnant stone walls along its edges were observed. The southern part of the road has been impacted by past gravel pit and logging activity, and is considered to have compromised integrity. At the extreme northern tip of the property, the stream has been diverted into a segment of the historic roadbed, and is causing the erosion of the road surface and definition.

Phase II (Sub-Surface Testing) Survey:

On October 30, 2003, Edna Feighner, Review and Compliance coordinator for the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR), which functions as the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), visited the property to assess landforms for prehistoric use potential. One landform, a knoll that drops 60 feet in elevation on its northern and eastern slopes, located at the southern tip of the property, was identified as a possible location for prehistoric activity, and a Shovel Test Pit survey was conducted on November 12, 2003 in this area to ascertain the presence and nature of sub-surface archaeological resources. Four Shovel Test Pits (STPs) were placed on a north-south transect (Transect A) on the crest of the knoll, and two STPs were placed on the bench on the northeastern slope of the knoll (Transect B). No cultural materials were recovered from any of the STPs. All STPs were excavated to a minimum depth of 50cm below ground surface. Stratigraphy was generally a layer of organic material and dark brown sandy loam overlaying sterile yellowish brown fine loamy sand. Based on the negative results of the Shovel Test Pit Survey, this area is not considered to be culturally sensitive.
Recommendations

In the interest of preserving the historic ties of the property to the Campton community and New Hampshire heritage, its cultural components should be considered during the development of the property, and incorporated into the final design. Although the historic buildings and farm yard area were most likely located where I-93 now sits and not on the parcel of land purchased by WMNF, the land was shaped in the historic period by farm activity, and traces of this activity are still visible in the landscape. Specific points of interest in the future development of the property include the

Approximate location of Shovel Test Pits (STPs).

Cemetery and western stone wall with wooded slope beyond.
area surrounding the cemetery, the extant stone walls, the stone pile feature, and Judge Livermore’s Road.

In accord with Edna Feighner, of the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources and New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office, it is recommended that the trees on the slope around the cemetery be left standing to serve as a buffer between it and the future WMNF office complex, preserving the secluded atmosphere of the early nineteenth-century burial ground, and preventing erosion which could negatively impact the stone walls and graves.

The seven stone wall segments and historic stone pile feature identified represent the approximately 200-year farm history of the property, and as the only standing historic structures, it is recommended that they be retained intact as components of the historic vernacular landscape. The rocky slopes, distance from historic farmhouse location, and large stones that make up the walls all indicate that the land of the WMNF property was used for pasture rather than field cultivation. (Wessels 1997: 44) Sheep were prevalent in New England upland areas after the War of 1812, as merino sheep began to be imported and the market for wool flourished. By 1840, New Hampshire had more than 600,000 sheep, dramatically changing the landscape as the majority of forested land (75% by 1840) was cleared for pasturage. (Wessels 1997: 58) By 1900, the sheep craze was over, and much of the open land reverted to forest. The stone walls not only attest to the past land use of the property and local participation in this regional agricultural and economic trend, but also function as integral components of the current landscape. As geologist Robert Thorson states, “There is more to an old stone wall than an abandoned fence. Each is also an historic artifact, animal habitat, ecological boundary, rock collection, and aesthetic object.” (Thorson 2002: Stone Wall Initiative web page) Stone walls are an important part of New Hampshire and New England identity, and the White Mountain National Forest has the opportunity to interpret them for visitors at the Campton facility.

Judge Livermore’s Road, laid out c.1837, is a part of the cultural landscape of the property and the surrounding area.
It is associated with Arthur Livermore, a prominent figure in New Hampshire history, as noted above. The northern portion of the road on the property retains historic integrity, and it is recommended that the segment north of the Light Industrial Zone (indicated by the dotted line on the attached map of the proposed office layout) be maintained by diverting the stream out of the roadbed, and retained intact. As this is the most remote corner of the property, least likely to be developed, with the least noise pollution from I-93, use as a walking path for WMNF visitors and staff, including opportunities for the interpretation of both the cultural and natural resources of the area, is suggested. If in the future it is deemed necessary that the road be used for vehicular traffic, care should be taken to document and retain its present width, structure, and character in consultation with the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office.

As an eastern Forest located in New England, the White Mountain National Forest has a depth of history rare in the USFS, and the new office complex in Campton offers an opportunity to include this heritage in the character and interpretation of the property, and in the treatment of the landscape. According to the National Park Service’s Preservation Brief on Protecting Cultural Landscapes:

Landscape interpretation is the process of providing the visitor with tools to experience the landscape as it existed during its period of significance, or as it evolved to its present state. These tools may vary widely, from a focus on existing features to the addition of interpretive elements. These could include exhibits, self-guided brochures, or a new representation of a lost feature. The nature of the cultural landscape, especially its level of significance, integrity, and the type of visitation anticipated may frame the interpretive approach. Landscape interpretation may be closely linked to the integrity and condition of the landscape, and therefore, its ability to convey the historic character and character-defining features of the past. If a landscape has high integrity, the interpretive approach may be to direct visitors to surviving historic features without introducing obtrusive interpretive devices, such as free-standing signs. For landscapes with a diminished integrity, where limited or no fabric remains, the interpretive emphasis may be on using extant features and visual aids (e.g., markers, photographs, etc.) to help visitors visualize the resource as it existed in the past. The primary goal in these situations is to educate the visitor about the landscape’s historic themes, associations and lost character-defining features or broader historical, social and physical landscape contexts. (Birnbaum 1994)

The vestiges of the agricultural activities of the Blairs and other families are visible on the modern landscape, retaining degrees of historic integrity. As they come under federal stewardship, these assets may be preserved and utilized as a resource for the education of the public about New Hampshire heritage and the White Mountain National Forest, many parts of which share a similar agricultural history.

The Blair family was significant locally, prominent in Campton throughout the nineteenth century; the area surrounding the former Blair property continues to be known as Blair Covered Bridge (1869), located ¼ mile from WMNF property, spanning the Pemigewasset River in Campton.
“Blair” or “Blair Bridge”. Through the activities of Senator Henry William Blair, the family was important in the social movements of late nineteenth-century New Hampshire and the government of the United States. The WMNF property is linked by association with the family to nearby Blair Road, Blair Cemetery, Blair State Forest, Blair Covered Bridge, and the former Blair School, Blair Post Office, and Blair Station on the Boston & Maine Railroad.

The property has links not only to New Hampshire agricultural and political history, but also early tourism in the White Mountains. The property was frequented by summer tourists for approximately one hundred years, and the new WMNF office building will revive this legacy of White Mountain visitor activity. The Blair Hotel and Blair farm, integral parts of the WMNF property history, might inform the design of the WMNF building complex. It is suggested that architecture and landscape design reflect the rural New England character of the property, and thereby its historical link to the area. Examples of nineteenth-century vernacular architecture, such as connected farm complexes, are readily available in the area, and a photograph and an etching of the Blair Hotel itself are available for reference. (See attached examples of rural New England vernacular architecture.) Although it is neither desirable nor appropriate to attempt to reproduce an historic building, the new structure could take its cues from the surrounding landscape, local farms, and historically rural community.

Interpretive panels with information about the occupational history of the Pemigewasset River valley and Campton area in both prehistoric and historic times, as well as the history of the property, the cemetery, and associated prominent historical figures, would be a valuable addition to visitor areas of the facility and on the property. The dynamic nature of the landscape’s history relates to many themes in New Hampshire and White Mountain history, most prominently agriculture, tourism, recreation, and transportation development, and it is hoped that this heritage will be incorporated into the tenor of the White Mountain National Forest stewardship of the property.

Summary and Conclusions

The 43.76-acre parcel purchased by WMNF was used historically as farm pastureland. More recent activity on the property includes logging and the excavation of a gravel pit during the construction phase of Interstate 93. Although the historic farm and hotel buildings associated with the property were most likely located to the southeast of the WMNF parcel, historic features remain on the property. The stone walls, historic stone pile feature, Judge Livermore’s Road, and the adjacent early nineteenth-century cemetery with its ties to former property owners, are all tangible features of the landscape that provide opportunities for the interpretation of the well-documented property history. No further archaeological investigation is recommended or believed to be required at this time. In the event that the stone walls, stone pile feature, or segment of Judge Livermore’s Road north of the Light Industrial Zone cannot be protected in the future, mitigation measures will be required in further consultation with the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources.
No prehistoric cultural materials were recovered during the archaeological survey; however, the Pemigewasset River valley is known through historical accounts and recorded archaeological sites in other parts of the valley to have been an area occupied by the Pemigewasset band of the Abenaki. The cultural history of the property and the area present an opportunity for the White Mountain National Forest to incorporate aspects of the heritage of the region into its interpretive program, providing an historical context for the current land use of the area to forest visitors, and fostering links to the local community.
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