

**INVENTORY**

**Collection #110**

**The Landing Survey**

**The Brick Store Museum  
Kennebunk, Maine**

**Compiled by Rosalind Magnuson  
Archivist  
September, 2011**

## COLLECTION 110

### The Landing Survey

The Kennebunk Landing Architectural Survey was done from 1992-1993 by Joyce Butler in two phases, with grants from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. It is the first comprehensive study of the area in Kennebunk known as The Landing ever accomplished. The survey traces the deeds for each property from the earliest owner through 1993. Phase I encompasses the land from the B & M railroad bridge to Durrell's Bridge Road, and contains the land on both sides of Summer Street. It also includes Durrell's Bridge Road. Phase II features the houses on either side of Summer Street from Durrell's Bridge Road south to the Jotham Mitchell house. For ease of use it is divided into "R" and "L." "R" stands for properties that are on the RIGHT side of the road coming from the Landing to Kennebunk; "L" stands for those on the LEFT.

The Landing was an important "highway" for residents of Kennebunk. Situated on the Kennebunk River about mid-way up-river from its mouth, The Landing historically refers to a town landing, or a center of trade and commerce. The Kennebunk River was ideally suited to the early residents as a convenient route for travel, and The Landing, with several wharves, was well-located to serve these needs. The people desired to separate from the Town of Wells and hold religious services closer to home and, in 1750, the General Court in Boston granted their request to form a separate parish. The citizens of Kennebunk finally had the right to hold religious meetings without having to travel several miles to a place of worship. The Landing was also the home of the first meeting house in Kennebunk.

The Landing is significant to Kennebunk's history because it is the first location in town where significant commerce was located. In 1790 Tobias Lord, a wealthy landowner, moved from the Mousam River to the Landing to build his ships, and the area became the center of shipbuilding until the end of the Civil War. Economy dictated that ships were built ever larger, and they eventually became too large to warp down-river. Ship owners formed a company to build a lock, which made the Kennebunk viable for several more years. Eventually The Landing was abandoned as a ship building site in favor of the more practical area of Lower Village, closer to the mouth of the river.

The entire Survey is cross referenced.

The Survey has been given to the Museum for use as an educational tool only. As such, restrictions have been placed upon it. It is to be used **ONLY** with the assistance of either the Archivist or the Curator, and any copies of the Survey must be made with the assistance of either the Archivist or Curator. At some future date the author of the Survey may use the materials to write a history of the Landing. Until such time the Survey is to be used as an instructive tool only.

The Acq. number is 2011.126.001-009.

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The collection is divided as follows:

.001 – An acid free box of archival materials relating to the Survey, Phase I. This includes Joyce's notes and other pertinent information.

.002 – An acid free box of archival materials relating to the Survey, Phase II. This includes Joyce's notes and other pertinent information.

.003 – Collection of black and white photographs of subject properties, including Phases I and II, housed in a notebook.

.004 – Text for Phase I, including a narrative and deed research of each property, housed in a notebook.

.005 – Text for Phase II, including a narrative and deed research of each property, housed in a notebook.

.006 – Index for types of buildings and various landmarks (blacksmith shop, shipyards, shops, cemeteries), housed in a notebook.

.007 – File Drawer containing index cards for an Index of all names of Kennebunk residents at the Landing and their relationship to other Kennebunk/Landing families.

.008 – File Drawer containing index cards with all Deeds on the right side of Summer Street.

.009 - File Drawer containing index cards with all Deeds on the left side of Summer Street.

Rosalind Magnuson  
Archivist  
September 13, 2011