

A current fund raising effort is underway to try to preserve this lovely and historic building. The roof was re-shingled in 1998 to prevent further water damage to the inside of the building. The major concern now is the extremely poor condition of the foundation. Any and all contributions to the restoration effort would be welcome.

*Town of Gouldsboro
Historical Society*

presents

Tour of Historic Homes and Buildings
Saturday, July 24, 1999

Information about the Library, Church and Twin Maples was gathered from an interview with Margaret Ashe Blaisdell (niece of Eugene Ash) and her husband, Tedford Blaisdell, and from fact sheets Margaret had previously prepared which are on file at the Historical Society Town House Museum.

Information about the Hill house and family were taken from a newspaper article written by Jonas Crane and from "The Early Families of Gouldsboro Maine" by Muriel Sampson Johnson, Picton Press, Camden, ME, 1990.

The routine at Ash's Farmstead was described by Mary Lou Hodge who worked there two summers in the late 1950s.

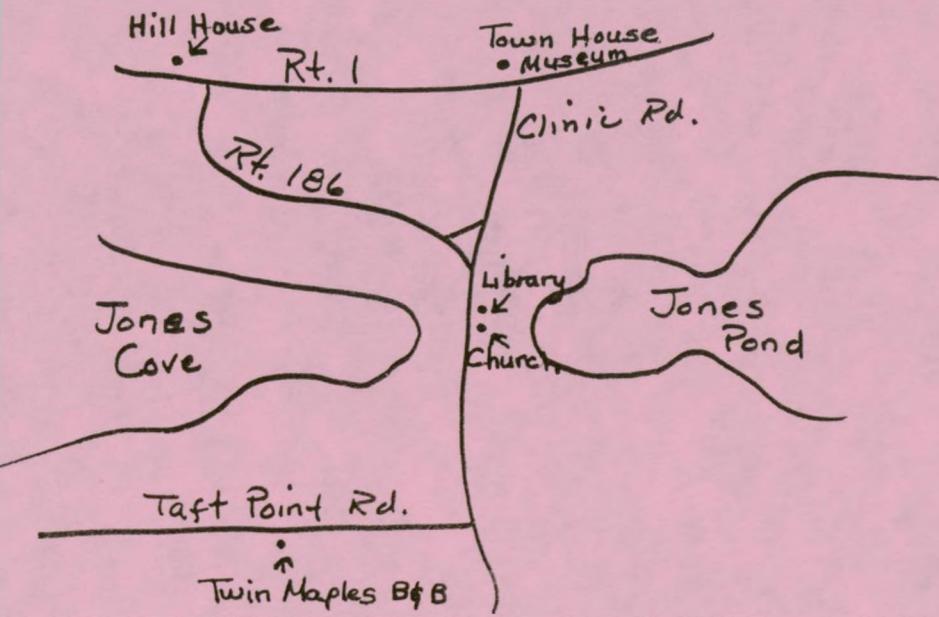
Photos of the Church, Library, and Ash's Farmstead are copied from originals at the Town House Museum. The Hill House photo is a copy of the one which accompanies the newspaper article by Jonas Crane which can be found in a book of articles with local interest donated to the Museum by Harold Campbell, Jr.



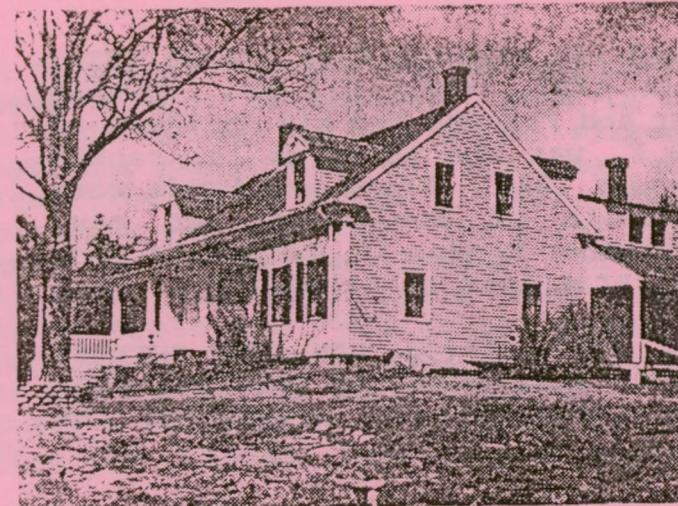
The Town of Gouldsboro Historical Society is offering its second annual tour of historic homes and buildings on Saturday, July 24, 1999. The tour will be held rain or shine, and we urge you to observe the open hours for each property as printed on the ticket which should accompany this booklet.

All buildings included on this year's tour are located in the village of West Gouldsboro. Parking at the Library and Church buildings is very limited and we encourage you to leave your vehicle at the Town House Museum and car pool with others on the tour.

Please let us know of buildings you would like to visit and we will try to include them in future tours.



The Frank and Maude Hill House



Frank Hill's ancestors were among the early settlers of Gouldsboro. Records indicate that Thomas Hill and his wife, Rebecca Train, came to the area in 1773. They raised a family of twelve children, ten boys and two girls. Their ninth son, Barney Smith Hill, was appointed the first postmaster in West Gouldsboro in 1841. Barney and his wife Clarissa opened the first inn for summer visitors in the village. His 1862 guest book included the names of Nathaniel Hawthorne and his son Julian, among others.

Barney's family included eight children of which Peter Lyon (born March 22, 1821) was the second son. Peter planned and built the first water-powered tannery in West Gouldsboro. He was a bootmaker and made boots and shoes from the hides cured in his tannery. He was also a musician and, in his younger years, entertained the guests at the summer guests at the family inn with his violin playing for listening pleasure and dancing.

Peter married (1) Frances Ford (12/25/1858) who died in 1881, then (2) Mrs. Hannah Havey. Peter and Frances had six children of which Frank F. was the third child, second son, born about 1864. Frank and Maude were summer residents of Gouldsboro and many residents remember Maude, in particular, for her diligent practices of frugality.

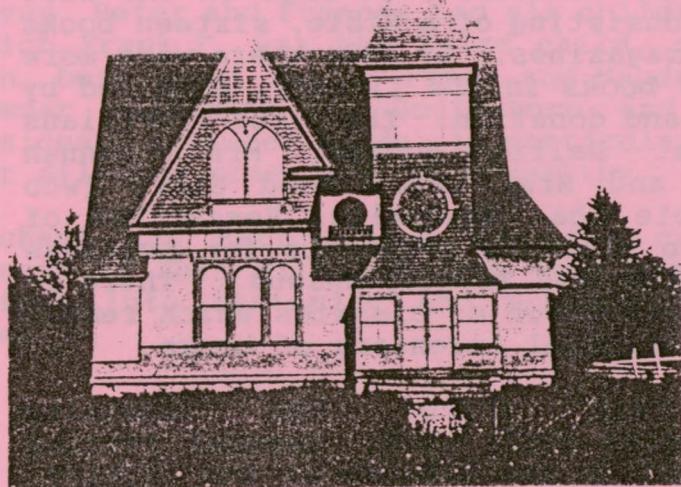
Michael and Patti Riggs are the current owners of this Hill home and have put much effort into restoring and preserving the home.

A temporary library was established at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Shaw in the fall of 1904 consisting of a Bible, sixteen books and some magazines. By 1924 there were more than 1700 books in the library, acquired by purchase and donation. The first librarians were Mrs. Nellie Bunker, Mrs. Hannah Kingsley and Mrs. Grace Wood Clark (who later wrote the "Historical Researches of Gouldsboro which is available for purchase at the Historical Society Museum). There is still a collection of classics which remain from the original inventory of books.

The library served the community uninterrupted until 1956. Several factors contributed to the closing of the library. Among them were the advent of the State of Maine Library Bookmobile service, good school libraries, more frequent travel to Ellsworth where a much larger library existed, and the introduction of television to the area, to name a few.

The building was turned over to the Village Improvement Association for safe keeping in 1956. A gas heating source has been added to the building in 1999 so the building may now be used year round.

A new effort to re-establish the a functioning library was mounted in 1990 and the collection of books now housed in the building numbers around 700. Current librarians are Frances B. Wood and Annette King.



A deed was registered August 8, 1888, transferring land to the West Gouldsboro Union Church Society from Nathan and Elizabeth Shaw. Accounts in The Ellsworth American indicate that the Church Society purchased the land and had most of the lumber on hand for framing the building in July of 1888, and that the actual building of the facility was begun in August of that year.

Further donations of money were received that fall which enabled the workers to shingle the roof, finish the steeple and place a weather vane which was a gift of John S. Emery, Esq. of Boston. With their treasury depleted, work was suspended until the spring of 1889 when a fair and public supper raised enough money to finish the outside of the building.

In 1890 work was concentrated on the inside of the building. In August of that year Mrs. Crawford of Boston donated the clock

which is located on the wall to the right of the pulpit. The pews were purchased "on advantageous terms" and installed in October.

August 20, 1891, the building was dedicated in ceremonies which lasted the whole day. Ministers of several faiths participated in the event. In the morning, Rev. Samuel A. Eliot of Denver, Colorado, Rev. Dr. John F. Moors, Unitarian Missionary for New England, and Rev. Mr. Weed of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Sullivan spoke. After a picnic lunch at the home of Mr. Nathan Shaw, the group re-assembled at the church to listen to a history of the movement that resulted in the building of the church from Mr. Wyman of the Divinity School at Cambridge, Massachusetts, and an account of the structure from the president of the building committee (whose name was not listed in the Ellsworth American article). Mr. Allen of the Bangor Theological Seminary presided and addressed were made by the Rev. Mr. Savary of South Boston, the Rev. Dr. Moors, Rev. Dr. Ropes and other clergymen present. In the evening, a sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Ropes.

Thus being soundly "launched", the church continued to serve the community as a strong presence. Year 'round services were tried but the wood stove located at the back of the church did not produce enough heat to reach the front of the building, so a schedule of summer services was adopted. Attendance continued strong until the early 1980s, when a schedule of one service in July and one in August was adopted.