Inventory of Historical Flooding in the Prestile Stream Basin

Prepared For

Corps of Engineers
Waltham, Mass.

By

Edward C. Jordan Co., Inc.
Presque Isle, Maine

INVENTORY OF HISTORICAL FLOODING

IN THE

PRESTILE STREAM BASIN

JANUARY, 1978

PREPARED FOR

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DIVISION
424 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA

by

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March 15, 1978

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England Division
424 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02154

ATTN: NEDPL-L

Gentlemen:

RE: Final Report-Inventory of Historical Flooding in the Prestile Stream Basin

Subsequent to receiving your comments on our draft report on February 17, 1978, we have completed the requested revisions. Our final report is herewith submitted. For the benefit of those who did not receive a copy of the draft, this report is presented as a brief summary of the study process and findings, followed by Appendices presenting high water locations, photographs, forms NED 203, and the Project Journal, thus including all relevant information into one document. Under separate cover we are forwarding a mylar of the drainage area map (Appendix I) and plates for reproducing Appendix III (photographs), as well as the original typed pages from the text.

We have enjoyed this opportunity to be of service to the Corps and look forward to working with you on future projects. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions relative to this report.

Very truly yours,

EDWARD C. JORDAN CO., INC.

Joseph W. Donovan, P.E.
Project Manager

Harvey J. Oest, P.E.
Division Manager

JWD:HJO:cm
Enclosure

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INVENTORY OF HISTORICAL FLOODING IN THE PRESTILE STREAM BASIN

GENERAL

The Prestile Stream, a tributary of the St. John River, is located in Maine's Aroostook County. The headwaters are located in Fort Fairfield, and the stream flows southerly through Easton, Presque Isle, Westfield, Mars Hill and Blaine, and crosses the Canadian border at Bridgewater. Within the United States, the drainage area of the basin encompasses approximately 170 square miles.

Three dams currently impound flow of the stream. Lake Christina in Easton was created in 1965 when Vahlsing, Inc., constructed a potato processing plant: Christina is used as a process water source and impounds the headwaters of the Prestile. A dam in Mars Hill originally provided power for a mill and is currently in a deteriorated state. (This dam was damaged and repaired in 1973). Another dam in the Robinsons area of Blaine was recently rebuilt and subsequently received major damage during the storm of April, 1976.

Accurate data on impoundment storage and head of these dams is not readily available. The head of each is estimated at 10 ft; we have determined the surface area from aerial photographs and estimate the capacity of each as follows:

	Surface Area Acres	Impoundment Capacity Acre-Ft
Lake Christina	433	1,400
Mars Hill Dam*	21	100
Robinsons Dam	18	60

*This dam has no effective flood storage capacity, as the gates are reportedly opened preceding storms due to deteriorated condition of the structure.

A second dam, Lake Josephine, was constructed in Easton to impound industrial wastewater. Due to the natural drainage to the impoundment and inadequate construction, this has presented a potential flood hazard in the previous decade. The structure was rehabilitated in 1976, and is currently certified as adequate for an impoundment level up to elevation 653. At this elevation, the structure impounds approximately 1,600 acre-ft, with a head of 30 ft, and a freeboard of 10 ft. During the 1976 rehabilitation a "hurricane ditch" was constructed to intercept natural drainage to the impoundment.

No historical data on stream flow is available for the Prestile as flow has never been gauged. For the most part, the cross-section of the channel is well defined, and, except for a few areas, flooding has not occurred in the past. In 1964, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) initiated a watershed study[1] which recommended flood control measures on various tributaries of the Prestile at a benefit/cost ratio of 1.3/1. This study is now outdated, however, due to the 1965 construction of Lake Christina in Easton, demolition of flood prone structures in Westfield, and reported withdrawal from production of flood prone cropland.

The purpose of the current study is to perform a preliminary evaluation of any recent flooding problems in the drainage basin, particularly in the following locations:

1. Easton
2. Phair Junction (Presque Isle)

---

[1]Preliminary Investigation Report, Prestile Stream Watershed, Mars Hill Maine, December 1, 1964.

3. Westfield

4. Mars Hill

5. Robinsons (Blaine)

Four known dates of recent flooding in the County have been identified:

1. 4 April 1976

2. 2 May 1974

3. 24 December 1973

4. 30 April 1973

In addition to the above, investigation of any other recent floods was requested. Appendix I depicts the study area.

METHOD OF STUDY

Prior to field research, an attempt was made to document past sites of flooding, ice jams, etc., through research of local newspapers and one paper of state-wide circulation, and through contact with highway, utility, and municipal officials.

Newspaper issues following the specified flood dates were researched in the following publications:

1. Presque Isle Star Herald;

2. Aroostook Republican;

3. Fort Fairfield Review; and

4. Bangor Daily News.

Contact was made with the Houlton Pioneer Times. We were informed that the publication does not cover events in the area of interest.

The State Bureau of Civil Emergency Preparedness (CEP) was also contacted. CEP officials indicated no current concern with potential hazard to life or property. Their only recent involvement in the study area was to require the Vahlsing Wastewater Lagoon (Lake Josephine) to be drained because of flood hazard. As previously mentioned, the structure has recently been rehabilitated.

Research of publications yielded no specific information or pictures other than a sentence in the April 7, 1976 issue of the Star Herald to the effect that State Aid Road No. 2 in Robinsons was temporarily closed. (The general subject of the article related to flooding of the Aroostook River.) It was later learned that the highway had been closed due to damage to bridge approaches when a dam, 150± feet upstream, failed.

Highway and utility officials related no knowledge of problems other than those mentioned above. Pictures of the damage in Robinsons were obtained from the Division Engineer of the State Department of Transportation. These and other photographs acquired during the study are presented in Appendix III.

Municipal officials provided "leads" and some specific information on flooding and washouts in the respective communities. Names of persons with real or potential problems were provided, and these individuals were interviewed. Farmers with cropland adjacent to the stream were contacted.

These individuals provided flood level and damage information, and copies of available pictures were obtained. Some occurrences were

located on tributaries of the Prestile in locations other than those specified. These were recorded as ancillary information.

We were unable to obtain photographs of past events other than the Robinsons Dam failure, provided by MDOT and a resident of the area.

All individuals interviewed recalled and thus provided high water information for the storm of April, 1976 or the hurricane of 1954. Memories of occurrences during the remaining identified storms were vague at best. The 1976 storm was considered to be the worst during the past decade, while the 1954 hurricane was the most notable occurence remembered.

RESULTS OF SURVEY

Due to the well-defined channel of the Prestile, property damage flooding of the stream has reportedly been minimal. Locations of historical problems are as follows:

1. Robinsons. Failure of the dam in 1976 resulted in damages to the State Highway and one residence. High water information for this event is provided herein. These water levels would not be useful for establishing the stream gradient for the flow following the storm because the reported high water elevation resulted from failure of the dam rather than a "normal" flood.
2. Westfield. At one time about five homes were located on the flood plain east of the stream and south of the Village Bridge. Most of these homes have been demolished, and only one residence is currently subject to occasional flooding. Information for this area is appended.

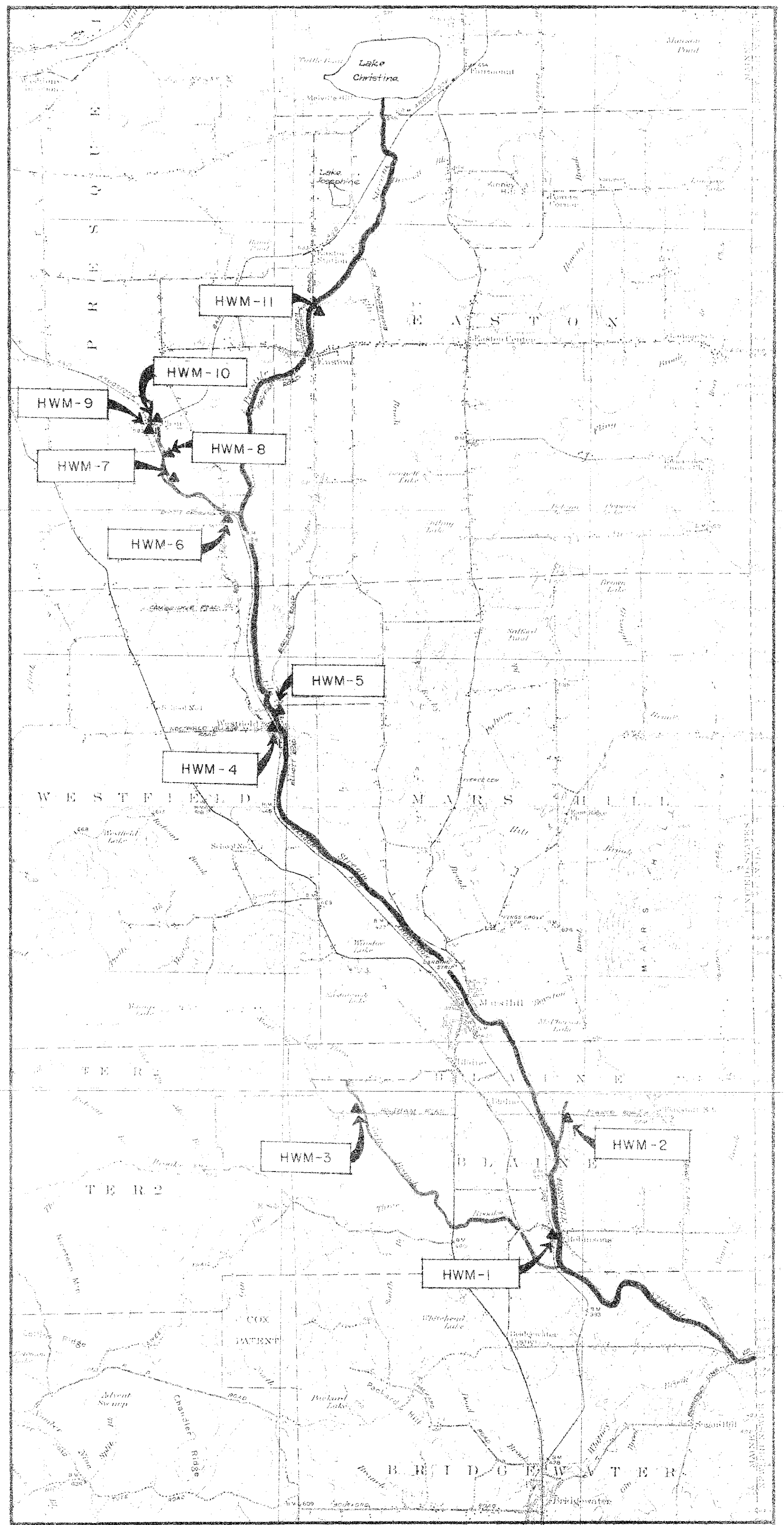
3. Phair Junction. A section of railroad between Phair and Egypt Crossing has frequently been flooded. This line is now rarely used. A retired section foreman who was formerly in charge of maintenance in the area provided information. The water levels pointed out occurred during the hurricane of 1954. Periodic flooding has occurred since that date, but, due to the remoteness and current lack of regular maintenance personnel, more recent information could not be obtained.

4. Easton. A small privately-owned bridge serving a residence near the Richardson Road washed out in April, 1976, and flood waters came to within 25 feet of the home. The so-called "Frypan" area, located just south of Route 10 on the westerly side of the stream, has been subject to flooding in the past, but the situation is reported to have improved since the headwaters of the Prestile were impounded to create Lake Christina. A home in the area (now demolished) flooded in the past. A small bridge and a barn located close to the stream appeared from physical inspection to be flood-prone, but were reported to have experienced no recent problems.

In addition to the above, various high water levels were identified within the drainage basin. Other than minor highway damage, these indicate no property damage other than inundation of land of little value. No high water marks were set in these areas, but landmarks retaining high water marks were noted and photographs taken for future reference. Refer to Appendix IV, Project Journal.

APPENDIX I

DRAINAGE AREA AND HIGH WATER MARK LOCATIONS



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DRAWN:
APPROVED:
SCALE: 1:62500 / USGS
JOB NO.: 20129 / 7709620

INVENTORY OF HISTORICAL FLOODING
IN THE PRESTILE STREAM BASIN

APPENDIX I

Drainage Area And High Water Mark Locations

APPENDIX II

FORMS NED 203.
HIGH WATER MARK INFORMATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
New England Division, Corps of Engineers
424 Trapelo Road
Waltham, Mass. 01254

HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF April, 1976

Prestile Stream	4.0±	HWM-1
(River)	(Miles from Mouth) U.S. Border	(Mark No.)
St. John River	Blaine	Maine
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Flagged nail SW corner of Lynwood Brown home

See Appended Photograph

12 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Mrs. Lynwood Brown, Robinsons, Blaine
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

N/A	1700 HR., 3 April 1976
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)

(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)

(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

Failure of dam upstream at time of high water.

ED FORM MAR 68 203

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
New England Division, Corps of Engineers
424 Trapelo Road
Waltham, Mass. 01254

HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF April, 1976

Un-named	5.65±	HWM-2.
(River)	(Miles from ~~Mouth~~ U.S. Border)	(Mark No.)
Prestile Stream	Blaine	Maine.
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Spike 2 ft. above grade: NET#13

See Appended Photograph

13 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Proprietor: Dave's Auto & Truck Repair, Pierce Rd., Blaine
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

N/A	Not specific
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)
(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)
(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)	

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

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HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF April, 1976

North Branch Three Brooks	7.42±	HWM-3
(River)	(Miles from ~~Mouth~~ U.S. Border)	(Mark No.)
Prestile Stream	Blaine	Maine
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Spike 5' above grade NET #27, approximately 1.25 mi. west of U.S. Route 1 on Holtham Rd.

See Appended Photo.

13 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Larry Folsom, Holtham Rd., Blaine
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

	Not specific
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)
(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)

(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

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HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF April, 1976

Prestile Stream	12.7	HWM-4
(River)	(Miles from ~~Mouth~~ U.S. Border)	(Mark No.)
St. John River	Westfield	Maine
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Ground level SE corner of old foundation

See Appended Photographs

19 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Albert Fields, Westfield Village Rd., Westfield
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

	Not specific
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)

(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)

(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

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HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF April, 1976

Prestile Stream	12.95	HWM-5
(River)	(Miles from ~~Mouth~~ U.S. Border)	(Mark No.)
St. John River	Westfield	Maine
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Spike 1 ft. above grade third tamarack to north behind Corey home.

See Appended Photo.

19 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Thomas Corey, Easton Road, Westfield
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

	Not specific
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)
(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)

(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

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HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF 1954

Un-named	15.95	HWM-6
(River)	(Miles from ~~Mouth~~ U.S. Border)	(Mark No.)
Prestile Stream	Presque Isle	Maine
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Spike 8 ft. above grade on utility pole SE of Egypt Road RR crossing.

See Appended Photo.

16 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Alva Jones, Benjamin St., Mars Hill
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

	Not specific
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)

(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)

(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

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HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF 1954

Un-named	16.9	HWM-7
(River)	(Miles from ~~Mouth~~ U.S. Border)	(Mark No.)
St. John River	Presque Isle	Maine
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Flagging 5 ft. above grade on "yl" sign post, 150± south of RR milage 205.25: .75± ft. south of Phair Jct.

See Appended Photo.

16 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Alva Jones, Benjamin St., Mars Hill
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

	Not specific
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)
(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)

(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

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HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF 1954

Un-named	17.2	HWM-8
(River)	(Miles from ~~Mouth~~ U.S. Border)	(Mark No.)
Prestile Stream	Presque Isle	Maine
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Spike 7 ft. above grade in pole SE of railroad bridge, .5 mi.± south of Phair Jct.

See Appende Photo.

16 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Alva Jones, Bejamin St., Mars Hill
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

	Not specific
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)

(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)

(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

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Waltham, Mass. 01254

HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF 1954

Un-named	17.8	HWM-10
(River)	(Miles from Mouth) U.S. Border	(Mark No.)
St. John River	Presque Isle	Maine
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Flagging 3 ft. above grade on sign post west of railroad bridge, approximately 0.1 mi. NE of railroad wye north of Phair Jct.

See Appended Photo

16 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Alva Jones, Benjamin St., Mars Hill
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

	Not specific
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)

(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)

(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

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Waltham, Mass. 01254

HIGH-WATER MARK - FLOOD OF April, 1976

Prestile Stream	19.1	HWM-11
(River)	(Miles from Mouth)	(Mark No.)
St. John River	Easton	Maine
(Tributary of)	(City or Town)	(STATE)

Description of H.W. Mark Toe of slope 23 ft. north of NW corner of Adrian Condon home. Residence located off Station Road 1000± ft. south of Vahlsing Plant

See Appended Photo.

20 Dec. 1977	JWD
(Date obtained)	(Obtained by)

Mrs. Adrain Condon, Easton
(Name and address of person pointing out H. W. Mark)

	Not specific
(If not pointed out, how obtained?)	(Date and hour of H. W.)

(Elev. of H. W. Mark)	(Datum)	(B. M. referred to)	(Datum)

(Elev. of H. W. above Water Surface)	(Date & Hour)	(Classification of Mark)

(Elev. determined by)	(Date)	(Order of Levels)

(Nearest dam upstream or downstrem)	(Lat. and Long. of Mark)

Remarks - (Failure of dams upstream, Elev. and Time of other points on hydrograph, factors that might affect H. W. Mark, Elev. of previous flood heights at same point, etc.)

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APPENDIX III

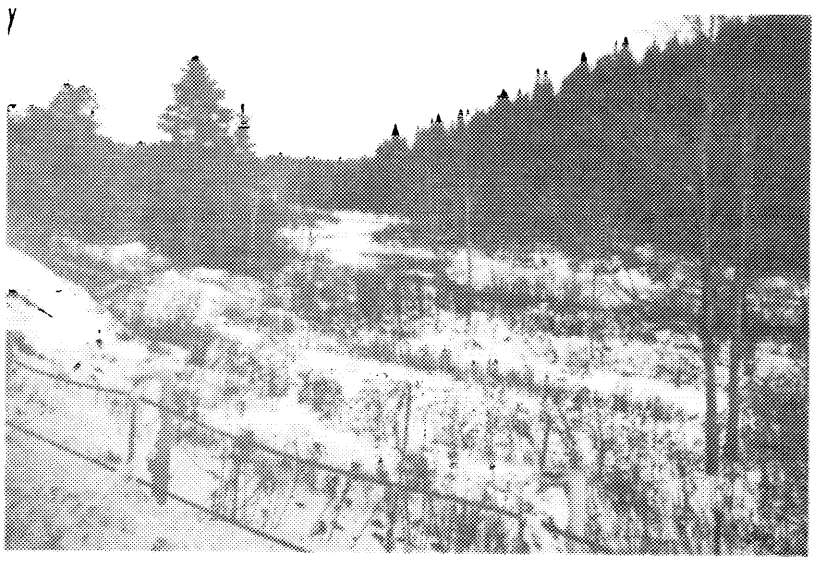
PHOTOGRAPHS

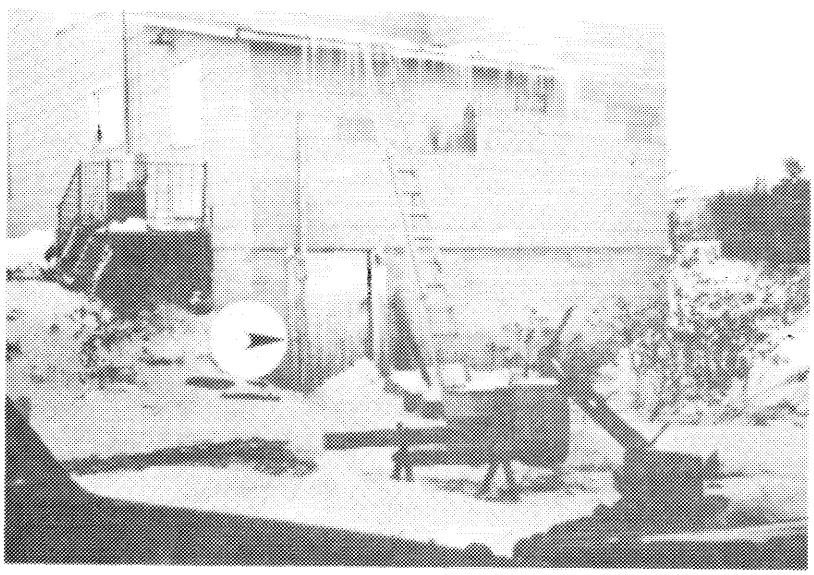
1-1

Pryor Field in Bridgewater
page 12, Journal
High water mark not set, but reported to be at the edge of Alder Growth to the left.

1-2

Prest Garden in Bridgewater
page 12, Journal
High water mark reported to be toe of highway embankment.





1-3

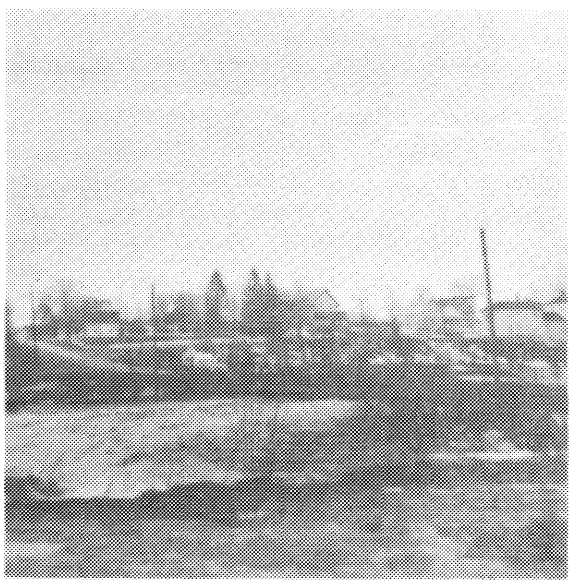
Brown home Robinsons
page 13, Journal
HWM-1 indicated by arrow, 3 ft. above ground.

LG-2

Robinsons Dam before April 3, 1976 washout.

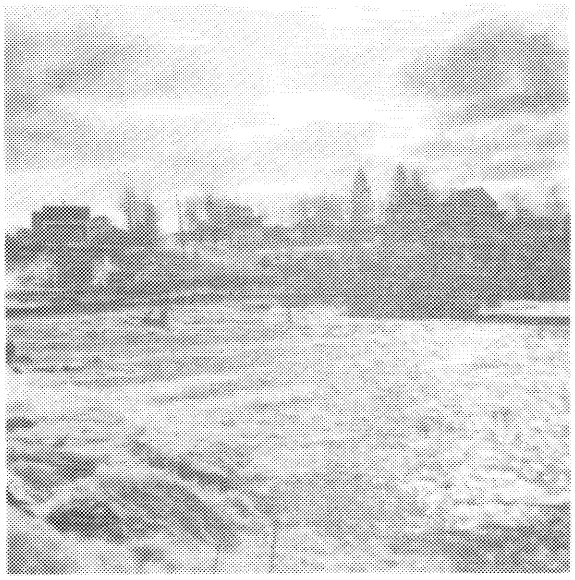
DOT-1

Robinsons Dam after April 3, 1976 washout.



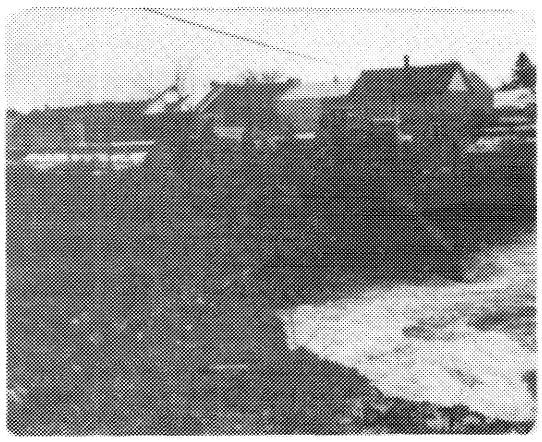
LG-1

Flooding of Robinsons Bridge April 3, 1976.



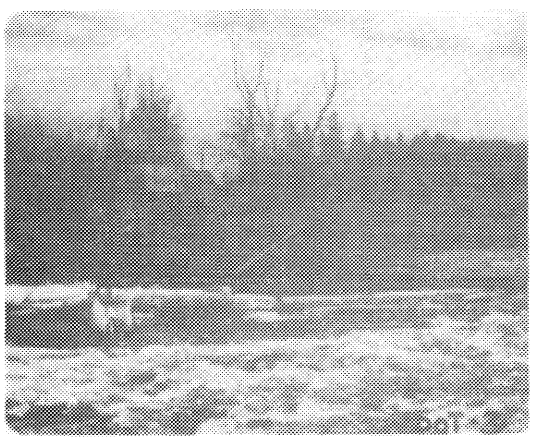
LG-4

Flooding of Robinsons Bridge
April 3, 1976.



DOT-7

Damage to Robinsons Bridge
April 3, 1976.



DOT-3

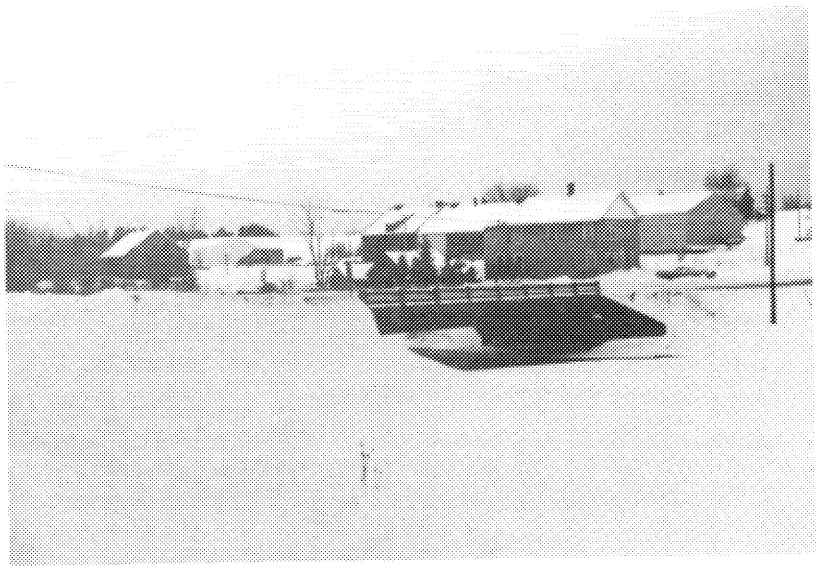
Damage to Robinsons Bridge
April 3, 1976.

DOT-4

Damage to Robinsons Bridge April 3, 1976.

2-11

Robinsons Bridge from northeast, Brown home in background.



2-10

Brown home in Robinsons.

2-8

Robinsons Bridge from northwest.

2-9

Robinsons Dam and Bridge from southeast. Dam obscured by snow cover.

1-4

Pierce Road in Blaine page 15, Journal HWM-2 indicated by arrow, 2 ft. above grade, Net #13.

LG-6

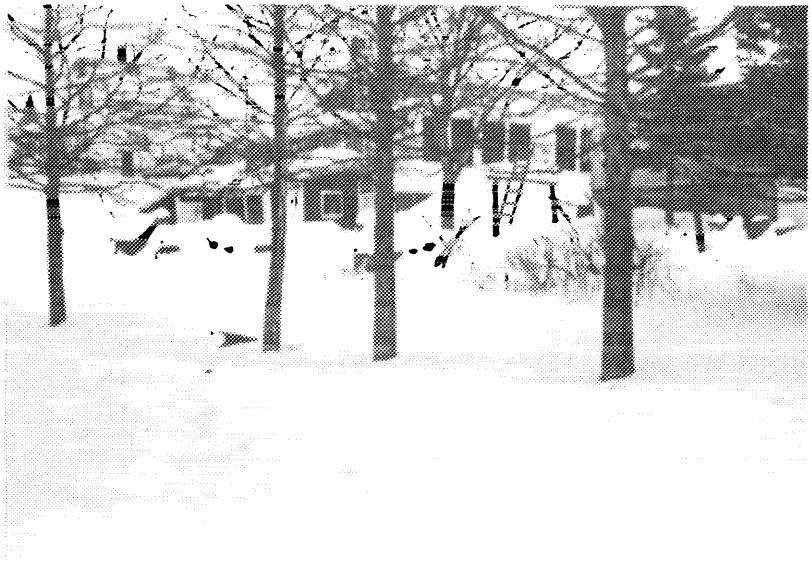
Culvert after washout of Pierce Road in Blaine April 3, 1976.

1-5

Holtham Road in Blaine page 15, Journal HWM-3 indicated by arrow, 5 ft. above grade Net #27.

1-16

South of Westfield Village bridge on easterly side of Prestile Stream in Westfield page 21, Journal HWM-4 is indicated by arrow, ground level (obscured by snow cover) 8 ft. above grade.

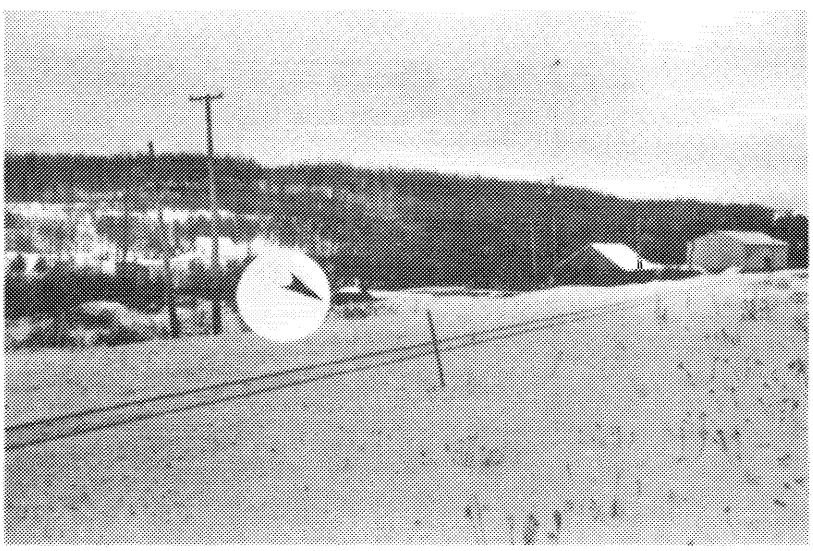


1-15

North of Westfield Village Bridge, behind Corey home in Westfield page 21, Journal HWM-5 at spike in Tamarack tree indicated by arrow, 1 ft. above grade.

1-17

View of Higgins home from Elliott Road, south of Westfield Village Bridge in Westfield.



1-18

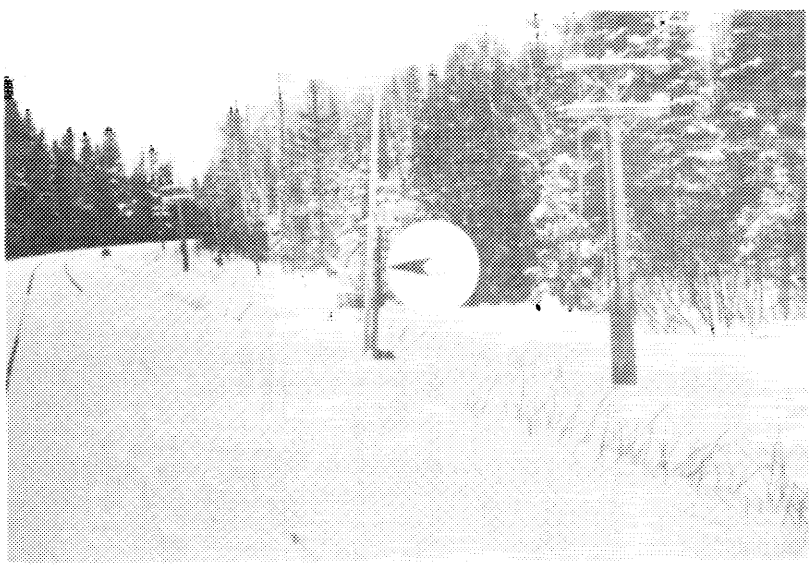
View of Higgins home and HWM-4 (arrow) from westerly approach of Westfield Village Bridge in Westfield.

2-1

View to north of Westfield Village Bridge.

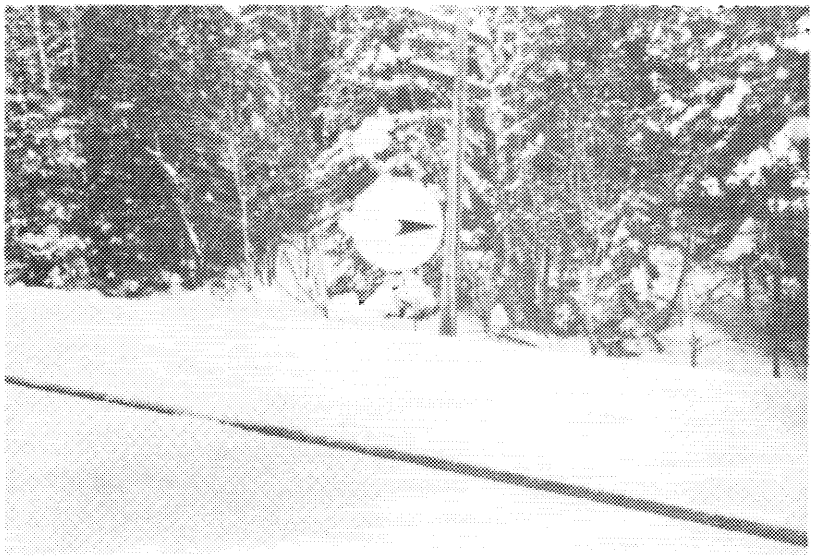
1-10

Egypt Crossing in Presque Isle
page 17, Journal
HWM-6 indicated by arrow (pole spike) 8 ft. above grade.



1-11

B & A Railroad 0.75 miles south of Phair Junction in Presque Isle.
page 17, Journal
HWM-7 indicated by arrow (flagging) 5 ft. above grade.

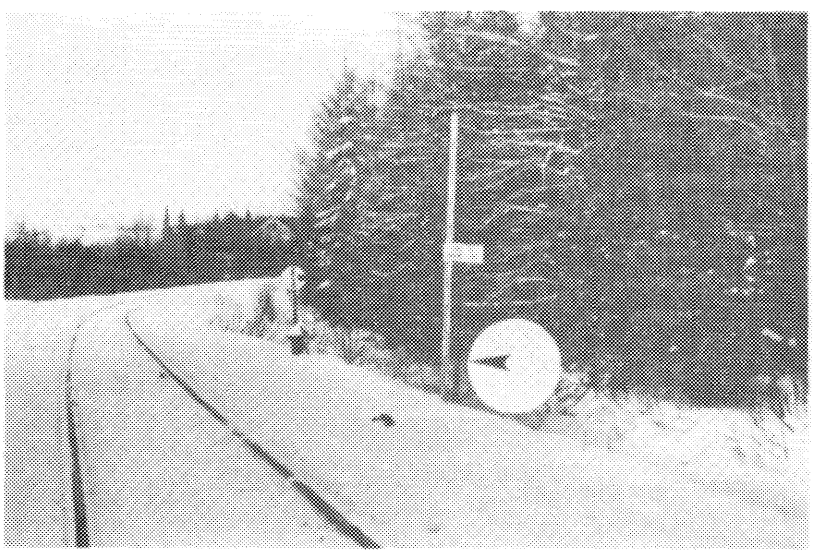


1-12

B & A Railroad 0.5 miles south of Phair Junction in Presque Isle page 17, Journal HWM-8 indicated by arrow (pole spike) 7 ft. above grade.

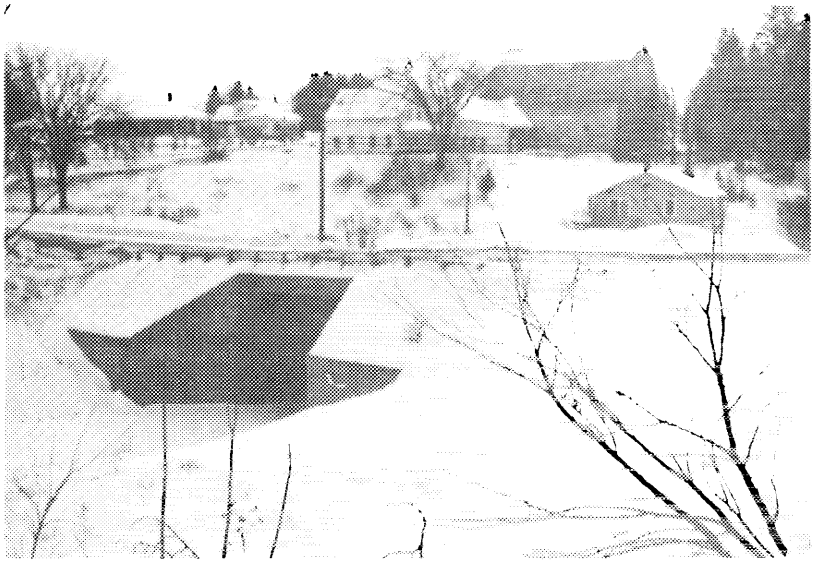
1-13

Northeast section of Phair Junction in Presque Isle page 18, Journal HWM-9 indicated by arrow (pole spike) 1 ft. above grade. Pole #16.



1-14

B & A Railroad north of Phair Junction in Presque Isle HWM-10 indicated by arrow (flagging) 3 ft above grade.



2-2

Center Road Bridge from northwest in Easton.

2-4A

Foundation of Davis home in Easton, from the southwest located 500 ft ± south of Center Road Bridge.

2-3

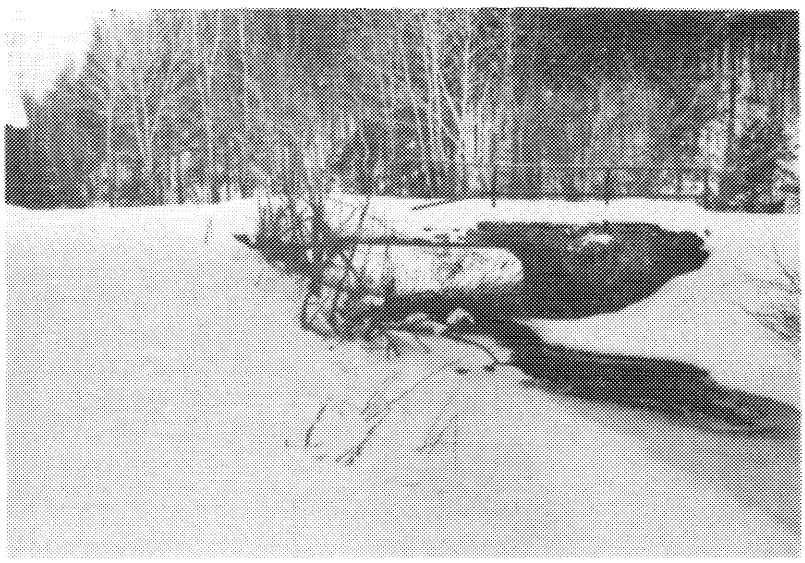
Barn to south of Davis home in "Frypan" area of Easton from northwest.

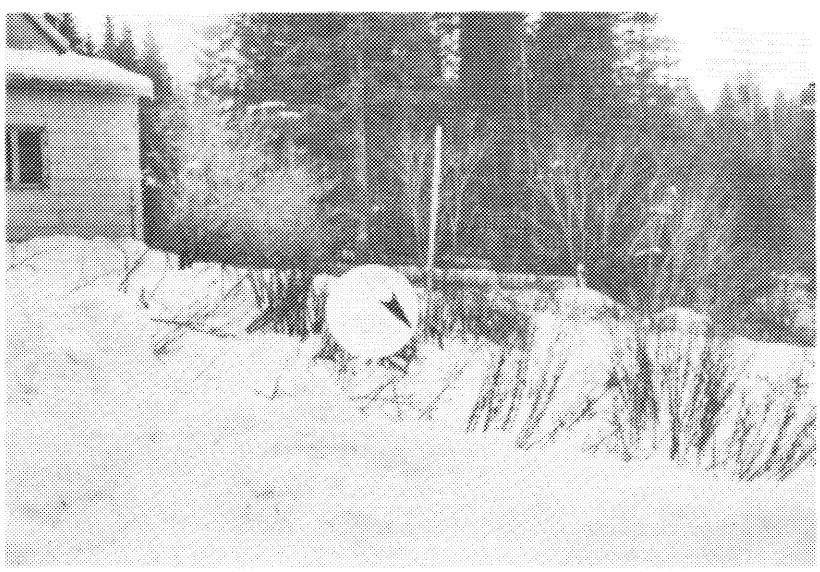
2-5

View upstream from Frypan Road Bridge in Easton.

2-4

Frypan Road Bridge from south in Easton.





2-6

Condon home in Easton page 23, Journal HWM-11 indicated by arrow at grade.

APPENDIX IV

PROJECT JOURNAL

LIETZ

SURVEYING INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- *levels*
- *transits*
- *theodolites*
- *tripods*
- *rods*
- *hand levels*
- *tapes*
- *planimeters*
- *accessories*

The paper in this book is a fine quality thick Bond specially treated during the making to give "High Wet Strength". This quality has been used extensively for maps, etc. It retains its strength and writing surface when dried after having been subjected to extreme weather conditions.

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LOCATION SKETCH (INDEX)

TOWN - LOCATION	PAGE

5 DEC. 1977 MONDAY

BEGAN RESEARCH W/ VISIT TO PRESQUE ISLE STAR HERALD. TALKED W/ ELIZABETH H UMPHREY, NEWS EDITOR, AND KITTY SCOTT, A CLERK. BOTH HELPFUL BUT RECALLED NOTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT FLOODING OF PRESTILE, EXCEPT MS SCOTT MENTIONED MEETING A MRS. GRANT 3-4 YR. AGO, AND HER HOME IN EASTON HAD BEEN FLOODED.

GRANTED PERMISSION TO RESEARCH OLD ISSUES BUT COPIES ONLY AVAILABLE 1975 TO DATE. INFORMED THAT U. MAINE PQI (UMPI) HAS 15 YR COLLECTION & WILL REPRODUCE ANY ARTICLES.

PERUSED ISSUES FOLLOWING FLOOD OF 1 APRIL, 1976. FOUND NOTHING IN 7 APRIL ISSUE REFERRING TO FLOODING IN ROBINSON. 14 APRIL ISSUE HAD FOLLOW-UP PICTURES FROM FORT FAIRFIELD (AROOS. RIV). NOTHING IN 21 APR.

WENT TO AROOSTOOK REPUBLICAN OFFICE IN CARIBOU. TALKED W/ REGGIE THOMPSON, GEN'L MGR. NO RECOLLECTION OF ANY COVERAGE ON PRESTILE BASIN. MENTIONED ARMY CORPS REP. WAS IN 2 YR AGO LOOKING FOR ARTICLES ON AROOS. RIV FLOODING & COVERAGE HAD BEEN POOR.

RESEARCHED ISSUES FOLLOWING 30 APRIL 1973 FLOOD & THAT OF 24 DEC 1973. ARTICLES & PICS ON FT. KENT, FT. FAIRFIELD, WASHBURN, COLLINS POND IN CARIBOU, BUT NO REFERENCE TO ANYTHING SOUTH OF CARIBOU. 1973 LATEST ISSUES BOUND, & NOTHING AVAILABLE BET. THEN AND LATE 1976. (IN ORGANIZED FORM). WENT THRU ALL STACKS & FOUND NOTHING.

ALSO PERUSED BOUND ISSUES OF "THE LIMELIGHT" WHICH IS ORIENTED TO MILITARY AT LIMESTONE AIR BASE. FOUND NOTHING.

JWD

6 DEC 1977 TUES.

WENT TO UMPI LIBRARY. INFORMED THAT STAR HERALD IS ONLY PAPER SAVED.

RESEARCHED ALL ISSUES FOLLOWING SPEC'D FLOODS. FOUND ISSUES IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THESE DATES TO BE MISSING. 2 JAN 74 ISSUE REFERRED TO ICE JAM IN WASHBURN, BUT NOTHING ON PRESTILE.

SOUGHT OUT MRS ALLEN & INFORMED HER OF MISSING ISSUES. SHE THEN REMEMBERED AN ARMY CORPS REP HAD BEEN RESEARCHING ST. JOHN FLOODING WITHIN PAST MONTH. WENT TO RETURN STACKS & FOUND THE ISSUES, RESEARCHED THOSE OF 2 MAY 73, 16 DEC 73, & 2 MAY 74 W/ NO LUCK, PERUSED FRONT PAGES OF ALL IN STACK, AS HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT FOR SIMILAR PURPOSE. NO LUCK.

WENT TO PRESQUE ISLE LIBRARY & RESEARCHED REMAINING ISSUES OF AROOS REPUBLICAN. FOUND NOTHING.

CALLED MARSHALL HAMMOND, EDITOR OF THE HOULTON PIONEER TIMES. MR HAMMOND STATED THEY DO NOT COVER EVENTS THAT FAR NORTH, AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN THE CANADIANS DAMMED THE PRESTILE BECAUSE OF POLLUTION, THIS WAS NOT COVERED BY THE PIONEER. (NEWSWORTHY EVENT)

WENT TO LOCAL OFFICE OF BANGOR DAILY NEWS & WAS INFORMED THAT BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE ONLY IN BANGOR. TRIED PRESQUE ISLE LIBRARY: NO LUCK. CALLED CARIBOU LIBRARY AND INFORMED PAPERS ONLY KEPT 1 YR.

CALLED STAN WALKER OF OUR BANGOR OFFICE & ASKED HIM TO ASSIGN SOMEONE TO RESEARCH THIS @ BANGOR OFFICE OF BDN.

WENT TO OFFICE OF FORT FAIRFIELD REVIEW & FOUND NO REFERENCES

TO PRESTILE FLOODING

VISITED W/ AL DIXON, TOWN MGR. IN EASTON. MAJOR PROBLEM AREA IS "FRYPAN" AREA ABOUT 250' DOWNSTREAM OF CENTER RD. AN ELDERLY LADY, NEDDY GRANT HAD WATER 4'± ABOVE SILL (PREV. MENTIONED) "ABOUT 7 YR. AGO." HOUSE TAKEN OVER FOR TAXES & BURNED. REMNANTS OF FOUNDATION MIGHT REMAIN FOR WATER LEVEL REFERENCE.

UPSTREAM OF CENTER RD. AN ERIC SMITH & ADRIAN CONDON HAVE HAD THEIR HOMES FLOODED. THEY LIVE ON RICHARDSON RD. & A SIDE RD. OFF STATION RD. RESPECTIVELY. A BRIDGE NEAR CONDON'S HOME WASHES OUT EVERY 2-3 YRS., AND [illegible] UPSTREAM OF THIS [illegible] C.B. OSGOOD FLOODS PERIODICALLY.

AL MENTIONED THAT A PEGGY TOWLE, AGE 76, KEEPS AN EXTENSIVE PHOTO ALBUM OF NEWSWORTHY EVENTS AND LOVES TO TALK. SHE LIVES IN APT. 14 OF THE LOCAL ELDERLY HOUSING PROJECT, TEL. 488-5421.

7 DEC 1977 WED.

CONTACTED RAY WINE, ASS'T DIV. ENGINEER, STATE DOT, RICE ST. PRESQUE ISLE. RAY SUGGESTED THAT OMAR PARADIS, DIV SUPERVISOR (MAINTENANCE) WOULD BE BEST SOURCE. HE WILL BE IN CONTACT.

CALLED DALE ANTHONY, AN OF THE ENGINEERING DEP'T OF THE BANGOR & AROOSTOOK RR @ MAIN OFFICE IN HERMON. TRACKAGE IN AREA OF INTEREST HAS BEEN ABANDONED AND RECENT RETIREMENTS HAVE REDUCED FAMILIAR PERSONELL. DALE MENTIONED THAT HERMAN WRIGHT SR., RETIRED ROADMASTER, LIVES IN CARIBOU AND WOULD BE A GOOD CONTACT.

IN LOOKING THRU AVAILABLE RECORDS, DALE FOUND THAT A RR BRIDGE IN THE 3-BROOKS

AREA HAD WASHED OUT IN THE MID 1940'S, LOCATED @ MILE 192.79.

VISITED TOM SAUCIER, TOWN MGR. IN MARS HILL. TOM KNOWS OF NO PROPERTY DAMAGE DUE TO FLOODS. MENTIONED THAT CERTAIN AREAS DO FLOOD, BUT NO VALUE TO LAND (SWAMP, ETC.). THE COMMUNITY DAM DOES SUSTAIN SOME PERIODIC DAMAGE. TOM MENTIONED THAT HE FISHES THE STREAM UP TO WESTFIELD, AND HAS OBSERVED NO LOW-LYING CROP-LAND.

VISITED DIANA MENENDEZ, TOWN MGR. OF BLAINE. NO PROBLEM WITHIN BLAINE CENTER, BUT A RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED DAM IN THE ROBINSONS AREA SUSTAINED SEVERE DAMAGE. LEO GRIFFIN, A SELECTMAN, HAS PICTURES. AT THAT TIME, THERE WAS CONCERN FOR THE STATE H'WAY BRIDGE BELOW THE DAM. THE HOME OF LYNWOOD BROWN SUSTAINED DAMAGE. A PORTION OF THE PIERCE RD. WAS WASHED OUT BY A TRIBUTARY OF THE PRESTILE. THE E PLANTATION RD. WAS ENDANGERED BY THE NORTH BRANCH OF THREE BROOKS AND PROTECTED W/ SANDBAGS. ALL ABOVE DAMAGE DURING APRIL, 1976.

VISITED HAROLD ROBINSON, POST DIRECTOR AT THE U.S. CUSTOMS STA. IN BRIDGEWATER, ADJACENT TO THE BORDER CROSSING OF THE PRESTILE AND ITS CONFLUENCE W/ WHITNEY BROOK. MR. ROBINSON LIVES IN THE AREA & CONSIDERED GOOD CONTACT. HE KNEW OF NO ENDANGERED PROPERTY, BUT GAVE THE NAMES OF ROBERT PREST AND RALPH PRYOR OF ROBINSONS, WHO OWNS FARMLAND ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREAM BETWEEN ROBINSONS & THE BORDER.

JWD

8 DEC. 1977 THURS.

CALLED RALPH PRYOR OF ROBINSONS & ASKED IF ANY PROBLEM W/ FLOODING OF

HIS CROPLAND OR THAT OF ANY NEIGHBORS. CLAIMED TO KNOW OF NO PROBLEMS BETWEEN ROBINSONS AND THE BORDER. NOTE: DID NOT SOUND TO BE IN RIGHT MIND. MENTIONED HE HAD FARM TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM RECENTLY; NOW CONTROLLED BY SON, ELLIS.

CONTACTED ~~PHIL MORRELL~~ MR. FONSOM OF ENGINEERING, N.E. TELEPHONE. NO PROBLEMS WITH THEIR FACILITIES IN PRESTILE BASIN EXCEPT A POLE JOINTLY OWNED W/ POWER CO WAS LOST IN ROBINSONS WHEN DAM WENT OUT. HAS NOT BEEN REPLACED "BECAUSE THERE IS NO PLACE TO PUT IT."

RAY WINE OF DOT CALLED BACK. NO PROBLEMS W/ HIGHWAYS EXCEPT [illegible] BELOW DAM IN [illegible]. TALKED ALSO W/ [illegible], WHO RECENTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE AREA AS DIVISION ENGINEER. HE HAS PICTURES TAKEN WHEN DAM WENT OUT. MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO SEE PICTURES & POSSIBLY GET COPIES.

CALLED HERMAN WRIGHT SR. RETIRED ROADMASTER OF B&A. MR. WRIGHT CONFIRMED THAT TRACKAGE BET. PHAIR JUNCTION AND WESTFIELD VILLAGE IS SUBJECT TO FLOODING (ABANDONED LINE) AND PROBLEMS IN PAST W/ ICE JAMS @ BRIDGES IN THIS AREA. MAJOR PROBLEM AREA MILE 204± ABOUT 1 MILE SOUTH OF PHAIR, AND A BRIDGE ON CLARK BROOK, MILAGE 200.25 WASHED OUT DURING THE 1950'S. NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE OF RECENT EVENTS BUT GAVE THE NAME OF ELVA JONES IN MARS HILL WHO ONLY RETIRED RECENTLY. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT A SECTION OF TRACK ABOUT 1 MILE SOUTH OF WESTFIELD HAS FLOODED IN THE PAST. NEVER OBSERVED ANY FLOODED CROPLAND. RES. 116 GLEN ST. CARIBOU.

CALLED TED GRANT, VICE PRES.,

MAINE PUBLIC SERVICE CO. HE ~~WAS~~ IS UNAWARE OF ANY DAMAGES TO THEIR FACILITIES THAN THAT IN ROBINSONS. SUGGESTED CONTACT W/ JOE MADEAU, CHIEF ENGINEER. DID SAME & NO DAMAGE REPORTED.

JWD

9 DEC 1977 FRIDAY

WENT TO SEE ALVA JONES, RETIRED RAILROAD EMPLOYEE WHOSE NAME WAS GIVEN BY HERMAN WRIGHT SR. HAD MADE APPOINTMENT TO WALK FLOOD AREAS, MARK HIGH WATER MARKS, ETC. BUT SNOWING TODAY & QUALITY OF PICTURES WOULD BE POOR. MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR MONDAY.

CALLED MRS. LYNWOOD BROWN OF ROBINSONS, WHOSE HOME HAD BEEN FLOODED BY FAILURE OF DAM, BUT CANCELLED APPOINTMENT FOR SAME.

VISITED LAWRENCE BROS. OF KINGS ~~ROAD~~ GROVE ROAD IN MARS HILL. THEY OPERATE A REPAIR SHOP ADJACENT TO HILT BROOK, A TRIBUTARY OF THE PRESTILE. A NEARBY BRIDGE CONSTRICTS THE BRIDGE BROOK, AND WATER HAS RISEN TO 1 FT. BELOW ABUTMENT. WATER HAS NEVER ENDANGERED THEIR PROPERTY, HOWEVER, DUE TO DEPTH OF CHANNEL. THEY KNEW OF NO OTHER PROPERTY OR CROPLAND IN VICINITY WHICH MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO FLOODS.

CALLED JOHN CARRIER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, PRESQUE ISLE. JOHN ~~HE~~ KNOWS OF NO PROBLEMS IN PLAIN JUNCTION AREA, BUT GAVE THE NAMES OF AL IRVING, AND ROY & BOB SHAW, WHO OWN FARMS NEAR THE PRESTILE.

FINALLY CONTACTED KEITH McCRUM, A SELECTMAN IN WESTFIELD, WHO LIVES ON THE PRESQUE ISLE RD. (TOWN OFFICIALS IN WESTFIELD SERVE PART-TIME AND ARE DIFFICULT TO REACH DURING DAYTIME.) MR. McCRUM STATED

THAT THERE WERE PROBLEMS IN THE PAST WITH HOMES FLOODING ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE STREAM WITHIN THE VILLAGE, BUT ONLY 1 HOME THERE NOW W/ NO BASEMENT. THIS IS OWNED BY A RICHARD HOTHAM?. MR. McCRUM ALSO SAID HE THINKS AN ALBERT FIELDS MIGHT HAVE PROBLEMS, BUT EITHER OF THE ABOVE SHOULD BE ABLE TO POINT OUT FLOOD LEVELS. MR. FIELDS' HOME IS LOCATED "JUST ACROSS THE BRIDGE" IN THE VILLAGE. QUESTIONED McCRUM ABOUT CROP DAMAGE, AND HE GAVE THE NAMES OF RAYMOND COREY & IVAN SMITH AS FARMERS IN THE AREA.

CALLED WALLACE PRYOR, SON OF RALPH PRYOR, EAST BLAINE RD., BRIDGEWATER, ME. ABOUT 3 AC. OF THEIR CROPLAND FLOODED IN 1976 & PERIODICALLY IN THE PAST. KNOWS OF NO OTHER PROBLEM IN THE AREA. I MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE THE HWM POINTED OUT NEXT WEEK.

JWD

12 DEC 1977 MONDAY

WENT TO ALVA JONES RESIDENCE (BENJAMIN ST., MARS HILL). MR. JONES BUSY TODAY & WILL BE AVAILABLE LATER TO VISIT RR FLOOD SITES.

WENT TO DOT OFFICE TO VIEW PICTURES OF WASHOUT IN ROBINSONS. MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO GET COPIES.

CALLED AL IRVING (IRVINGS TRUCK STOP, PQL), WHO OWNS FARMLAND IN THE PHAIR JCT. AREA. NO PROBLEMS W/ FLOODS & KNOWS OF NO NEIGHBORS W/ PROBLEMS.

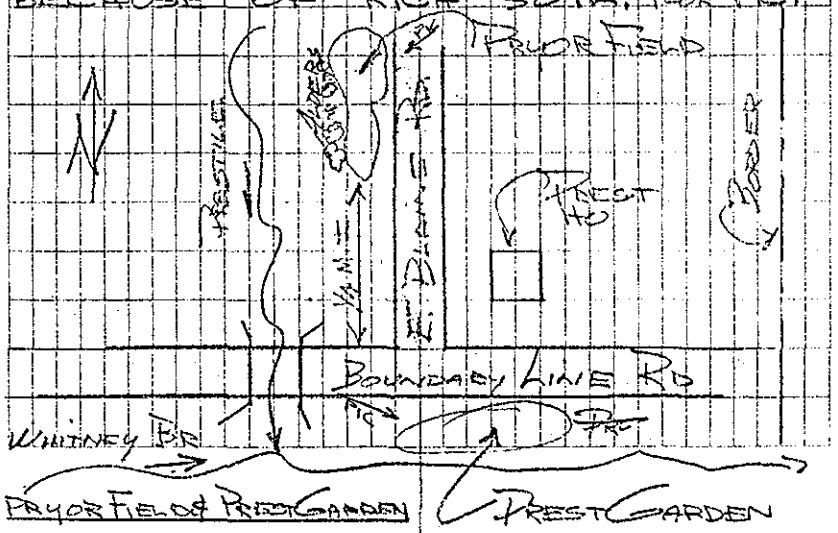
CALLED BOB SHAW A FARMER ON THE EGYPT RD IN EASTON. NO PROBLEMS REPORTED AND KNOWS OF NONE.

CALLED ROBERT PREST, WHO

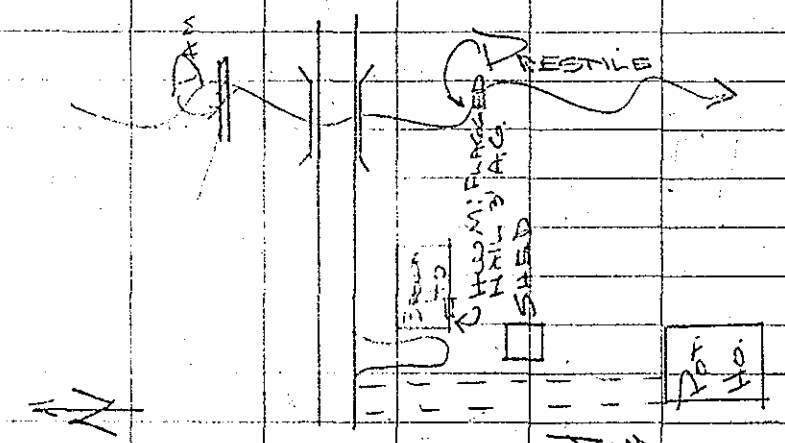
LIVES NEAR THE U.S. CUSTOMS STA. IN BRIDGEWATER. HE WAS NOT HOME, BUT A SON, TONY STATED THAT THEIR BACK YARD FLOODS. MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO INSPECT.

WENT TO WALLACE PRYOR HOME IN ROBINSONS & PICKED UP W. PRYOR TO SHOW FIELD WHICH REPORTEDLY FLOODS. THIS FIELD IS LOCATED ~~ABOUT 1~~ ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE EAST BLAINE RD., ABOUT 1/4 MILE FROM THE BOUNDARY LINE RD. IN BRIDGEWATER. IN VIEWING THE SITE, MR. PRYOR STATED THAT THE TILLED PORTION OF THE FIELD DOES NOT FLOOD. THE HWM IS CLEARLY DEFINED BY [illegible] OF ALDERS & NO MATTER HOW WET, AS THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A PROBLEM. TOOK PICTURE ANYWAY.

WENT TO ROBT PREST HOME AT INTERSECTION OF BOUNDARY LINE RD. & E. BLAINE RD. MRS PREST POINTED OUT THEIR PROPERTY WHICH FLOODS & INCLUDES THEIR GARDEN. THIS PROPERTY IS LOCATED ACROSS ROAD FROM HOME (SOUTH) CONTRARY TO INFO GIVEN EARLIER BY SON TONY, & IS ACTUALLY ADJACENT TO WHITNEY PROPER. THE GARDEN IS LOCATED IN AN OBVIOUS FLOOD PLAIN OF A WELL-DEFINED CHANNEL. MRS PREST STATED THAT THE HWM OCCURS @ TOE OF HWAY EMBANKMENT, THE LAND HAS NO VALUE, & GARDEN IS ONLY LOCATED THERE BECAUSE OF RICH SOIL. TOOK PIC.



VISITED MRS. LYNWOOD BROWN IN ROBINSONS, WHOSE HOME WAS FLOODED WHEN DAM FAILED (NOT NORMAL FLOOD, BUT DOCUMENTING ANY WAY). MRS. BROWN CLAIMED DAMAGE AMOUNTED TO ABOUT $2000; AND POINTED OUT HWM IN YARD. QUESTIONED ABOUT DAMAGE TO OTHERS, ESP. POTATO HOUSE IN VICINITY BUT CLAIMED NONE OCCURRED. SHE ALLOWED ME TO SET A NAIL IN FRAMEWORK OF BASEMENT DOOR W/ POD LEVEL. TOOK PIC W/ STADIA (HWM @ 3' ON STADIA ROD)



BROWN HOME

13 DEC 1977 TUESDAY

PICKED UP ALVA JONES AND WALKED SECTIONS OF RR STARTING AT PHAIR JCT. DECIDED ONLY TO FLAG HWM'S FOR NOW AS IT'S 20° BELOW (F°) AND DONT FEEL LIKE CARRYING EQUIPMENT. NOTE: JONES WAS SECTION FOREMAN PRIOR TO RETIREMENT AND WORKED THIS AREA FOR YEARS. THE LINE IS NOW USED INTERMITTENTLY BUT LITTLE MAINTENANCE; THUS LACK OF PERSONNELL FAMILIAR W/ MORE RECENT FLOODING. JONES KEPT REFERRING TO THE HURRICANE OF 1954, AS HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE AREA AT THE TIME. THE WATER LEVELS HE POINTED OUT OCCURRED DURING THAT STORM; HE RECALLS INTERMITTENT FLOODING SINCE THAT TIME, BUT UNSPECIFIC AS TO DATES AND WATER LEVEL. IT WAS NECESSARY TO REPAIR ABOUT 3/4 MI. OF TRACK IN THE AREA

SOUTH OF PHAIR WHERE AN UNNAMED TRIBUTARY OF THE PRESTILE ~~RUNS~~ FLOWS PARALLELL TO THE TRACKS ON THE WESTERLY SIDE. THIS ~~LEN~~ STRETCH OF STREAM IS FREQUENTLY SUBJECT TO ICE JAMS, BUT NO SPECIFIC LOCATION GIVEN. WE ~~MARKED~~ FLAGGED & HWL IN 2 LOCATIONS IN THIS AREA; INTEND TO RETURN ON WARMER DAY TO SET PERMANENT MARKS, ETC.

WE RETURNED TO PHAIR AND MR. JONES POINTED OUT HWL ON BRIDGE JUST NORTH OF PHAIR ON THE FT. FAIRFIELD SPUR OF TRACK, JUST EAST OF THE "Y". THIS ALSO OCCURRED DURING 1954, AND WATER WAS approximately 1.5' ABOVE RAILS on bridge.

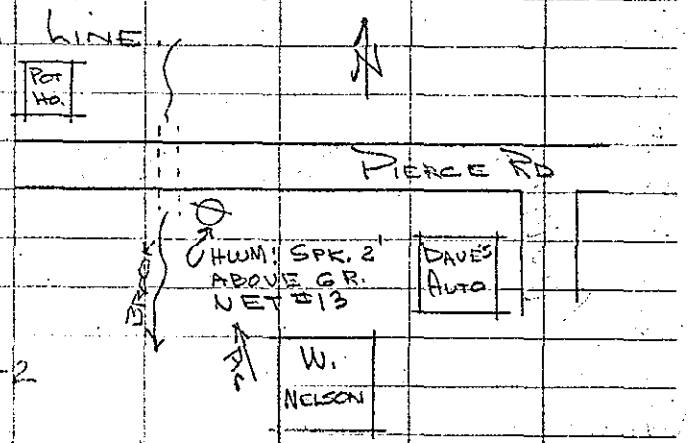
WE THEN PROCEEDED TO Egypt Crossing, LOCATED ABOUT 1.5 MI SE OF PHAIR. AT THIS POINT WATER WAS 4' ABOVE ROAD (SAME STORM) AND SERIOUS WASHOUT OCCURRED. DURING REPAIR A "SMALL" CULVERT BENEATH THE ROAD SOUTH OF THE CROSSING WAS REPLACED W/ 2-48"± CMP'S, AND ANOTHER 48"± CMP WAS INSTALLED BENEATH THE ROAD IN THE NORTHERLY DITCH OF THE TRACK.

QUESTIONED JONES ABOUT PROBLEMS BETWEEN EGYPT CROSSING AND WESTFIELD, PARTICULARLY THE CLARK BROOK BRIDGE. HE RELATED NO PROBLEMS, AND COULD NOT RECALL THE BRIDGE WASHING OUT, AS EARLIER SUGGESTED BY MR. WRIGHT.

ABOUT 1 MILE SOUTH OF WESTFIELD, ON "BUCKLEY CURVE", WATER WAS 1.5' ABOVE RAIL IN 1954, ~~WE DID~~ BUT NO DAMAGE OCCURRED. WE DID NOT INSPECT THIS SITE.

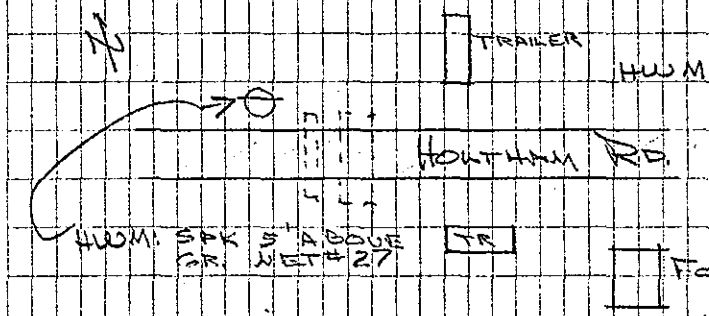
AFTER RETURNING MR. JONES TO HIS HOME, I WENT TO

THE PIERCE ROAD IN BLAINE, WHICH TOWN MGR. HAD REPORTED TO HAVE WASHED OUT IN APRIL, 1976. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY PROPRIETOR OF DAVES AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR SHOP TEL. 429-9223. HE POINTED OUT HWM; & SET MARK ETC. THIS AREA IS LOCATED ON AN UN-NAMED TRIBUTARY, 1/3 MI EAST OF PRESTILE, ABOUT 1/4 MILE SOUTH OF MARS HILL TOWN LINE.



NOW ABOUT 15' SECTION OF ROAD WASHED OUT, & REPORTEDLY MACHINE MAIN METHODS. WATER REPORTEDLY ALMOST TO LEVEL OF ROAD THIS PAST FALL.

WENT TO HOLTHAM RD. (INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED PREVIOUSLY AS E. PLANTATION RD.) THIS ROAD WAS ENDANGERED BY OVERFLOW OF NORTH BRANCH OF B-BROOKS, ALSO DURING APRIL 1976. HWM POINTED OUT BY HARRY FOLSOM, WHO LIVES NEARBY. FOLSOM KNEW OF NO OTHER FLOOD PROBLEMS IN AREA.



NOTE: 24" & 60" CMP'S PRESENTLY. FOLSOM THOUGHT 1 OR OTHER HAD BEEN INSTALLED SINCE ROAD WAS ENDANGERED. H'WAY CREW PROTECTED ROAD W/ SANDBAGS AT TIME.

WENT TO WESTFIELD AND ATTEMPTED TO FIND PERSONS WHOSE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN

REPORTED TO HAVE PROBLEMS. No LUCK. (HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REACH BY PHONE). FOUND A STRETCH ON THE ELLIOT RD. (EAST OF PRESTILE, AND SOUTH OF WESTFIELD VILLAGE) WHICH APPEARED TO BE A POSSIBLE PROBLEM AREA. INQUIRED AT HOME OF MICHELLE GREEN, AND WAS TOLD ROAD HAS NEVER FLOODED. THE FLOOD PLAIN & REPORTEDLY EXTENDS TO TOE OF ROAD EMBANKMENT, AND LAND APPEARS TO HAVE NO USE.

WENT TO EASTON. ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT PEGGY TOWLE, BUT NOT HOME.

VISITED ERIC SMITH OF RICHARDSON RD., EASTON; TOWN MGR. WAS REPORTED PROBLEMS AT HIS HOME. MR SMITH REPORTED THAT PROBLEMS BEGAIN 5± YR. AGO WHEN STATE RAISED GRADE OF ROAD W/OUT ADEQUATE BRIDGE OR CULVERT TO PASS STREAM FLOW. (SMITH LIVES NEAR "BRIDGE" ON EASTERLY SIDE OF STREAM) ABOUT 10 YR. AGO SEVERAL CULVERTS WERE INSTALLED & NO PROBLEMS SINCE. KNOWS OF NO OTHER PROBLEM IN AREA, AND ADDED THAT SITUATION WAS IMPROVED IN EARLY 1960'S WHEN VAHLSING INC. DAMMED PRESTILE UPSTREAM TO CREATE LAKE CHRISTINA FOR PROCESS WATER IMPOUNDMENT.

JWD

14 DEC 1977 WED.

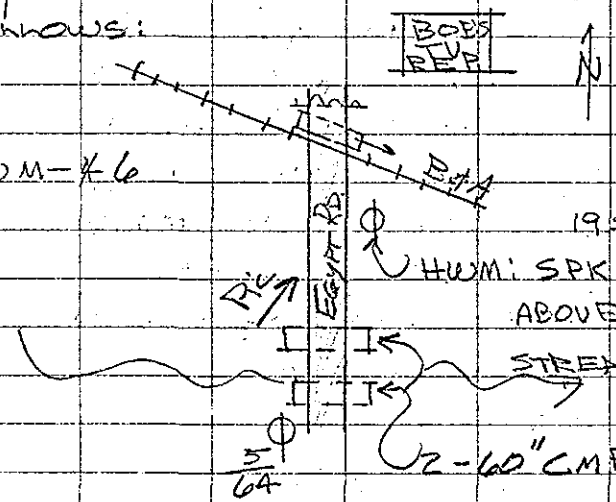
FINALLY CONTACTED ALBERT FIELDS OF WESTFIELD. HIS HOME HAS BEEN FLOODED & MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO INSPECT AT LATER DATE. SNOW STORM TODAY.

RECEIVED CALL FROM BANGOR OFFICE TO EFFECT NO REFERENCE TO FLOODING OF PRESTILE WAS FOUND IN BANGOR DAILY NEWS. ASKED FOR MEMO TO FILE OUTLINING WHICH ISSUES WERE RESEARCHED, ETC.

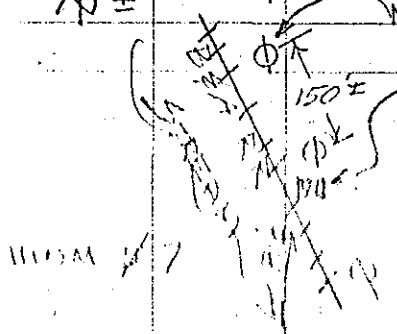
JWD

16 DEC 1977 FRIDAY

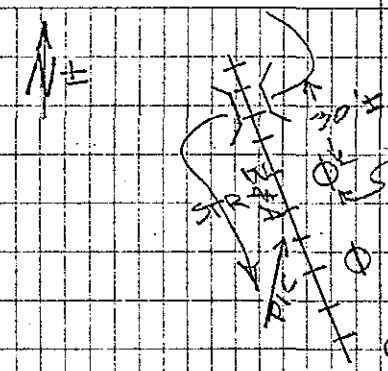
SET HWM'S, TOOK PICTURES, ETC. AT POINTS POINTED OUT BY ALVA JONES 13 DEC, AS FOLLOWS:



EGYPT CROSSING



3/4 MILE SOUTH OF PHAIR



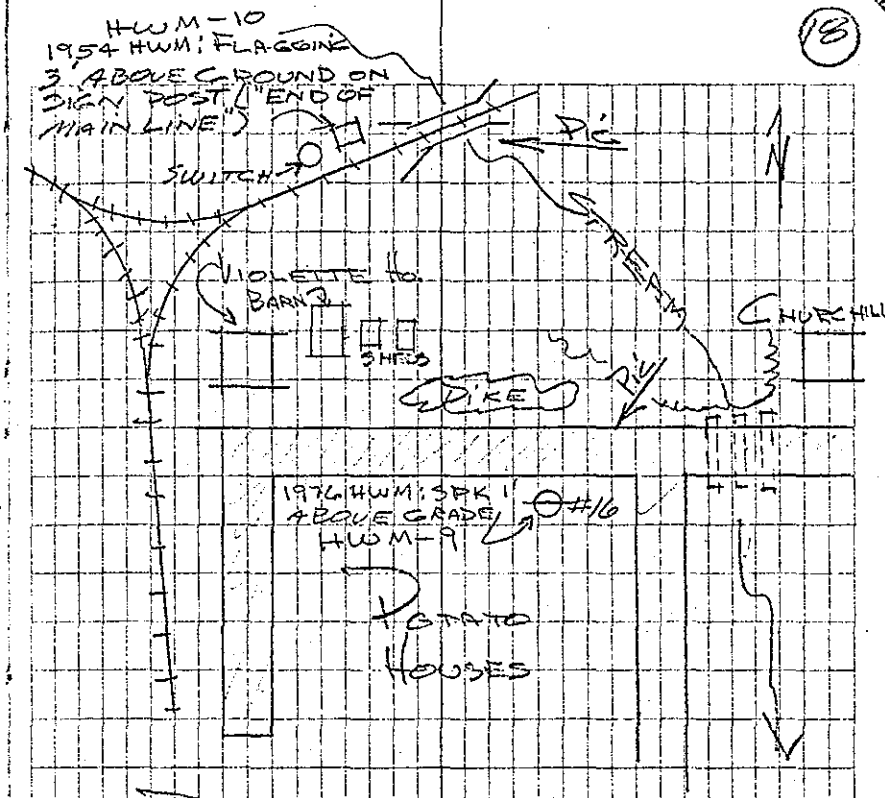
1/2 MILE SOUTH OF PHAIR

INTERVIEWED AN ALBERT CHURCHILL AT HIS HOME LOCATED IN THE NE SECTION OF PHAIR JCT. HIGH WATER REACHES TO EDGE OF WOODED AREA ADJACENT TO HIS RESIDENCE BUT NEVER FLOODS YARD. MR. CHURCHILL POINTED OUT HWL FOR APRIL 76 & STATED WATER REACHES SAME LEVEL EVERY SPRING & ONLY VARIABLE IS DURATION. I QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT HEAVY RAIN THIS PAST FALL & 1954 FLOOD (ALL OTHER INFORMATION PROVIDED

FOR THIS AREA TO DATE WAS FOR THAT STORM.) STATED HWL WAS ABOUT SAME IN 1954 AND WAS SLIGHTLY ABOVE TOP OF CULVERTS THIS FALL. SECTION OF ROADWAY IS PERIODICALLY FLOODED. SET MARK FOR 1976 HWL ETC.

QUESTIONED CHURCHILL ABOUT RESIDENCE & BLDG'S ~~EAST~~ WEST OF HIS PROPERTY. REPORTEDLY OWNED BY PEOPLE BY NAME OF VIOLETTE, WHO ARE IN FLORIDA FOR WINTER. STATED NO FLOODING OF THIS PROPERTY.

CHURCHILL RELATED THAT H'WAY DEPT HAS RECENTLY REPLACED SOME CULVERTS IN SOUTHERLY SECTION OF PHAIR WHICH HAS IMPROVED DRAINAGE BUT ACTUAL HISTORICAL FLOODING HAS BELOW AREA. HE HAS CONSTRUCTED MAKESHIFT DIKE WITH ROAD DITCHINGS AS DEPICTED IN SKETCH.



PHAIR JUNCTION

ALSO SET 1954 HWM AS POINTED OUT BY ALVA JONES. (DEPICTED IN ABOVE SKETCH.)

JWD

19 DEC 1977 MONDAY

VISITED ARTHUR KINNEY OF EASTON RD. IN WESTFIELD. HIS HOME IS OBVIOUSLY ABOVE FLOOD

PLAIN, BUT A GARAGE BEHIND HO. ON DRIVE ~~DATA~~ PARALLELL TO STREAM APPEARED TO BE LOCATED IN POTENTIAL FLOOD PLAIN. (SEE SKETCH). KINNEY CLAIMED TO HAVE EXPERIENCED NO PROBLEMS W/ BLDG, BUT DRIVE FLOODS JUST SOUTH OF THE GARAGE, BEHIND THOS. COREY'S REPAIR SHOP. FOGGY MEMORY ON LEVELS FOR RESPECTIVE DATES, BUT ANNUAL OCCURRENCE. QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT DILAPIDATED RESIDENCE & SHED NORTH OF THE BLDG. STATED THAT HOUSE HAS NEVER BEEN FLOODED, AND WATER AROUND PART OF THE SHED SPRING OF 1976. ADVISED ME THAT THE OCCUPANT, A JAMES [illegible], HAS NOT BEEN "RIGHT SINCE" W.W. II, AND WONT TALK TO NEIGHBORS, LET ALONE "GOVERNMENT FELLA'S". MR. COREY STATED THAT STREAM WAS 1 FT ABOVE BRIDGE ~~IN~~ DURING 1954 HURRICANE.

SPOKE W/ THOMAS COREY AT REPAIR SHOP NEXT DOOR TO KINNEY. COREY CLAIMED TO OWN FARM HAND BOTH SIDES OF STREAM NORTH OF VILLAGE, AND TO HAVE FISHED & TRAPPED THROUGHOUT WATERSHED AND KNEW OF NO PROBLEM AREAS, INCLUDING FARMS, EXCEPT VILLAGE AREA ITSELF. CLAIMED THAT DISCHARGE FROM TAHLSING'S PREVENTED ICE JAMS, AND THAT WATER WAS 3' ABOVE BRIDGE IN 1954. PROBLEM BEHIND HIS HOME IS DUE TO CONSTRICTION OF BRIDGE, AND ROADWAY ~~X~~ WAS BUILT UP ABOVE BRIDGE TO ALLEVIATE FLOODING OF ROAD. THIS MAGNIFIED PROBLEM UPSTREAM. MR. COREY POINTED OUT HWL ON TREES BEHIND HIS SHOP. AS HAS BEEN GENERAL CASE TO DATE, HE WAS UNSPECIFIC ABOUT DATES, BUT ALLOWED THAT SPRING OF 1976 WAS HIGHEST LEVEL FOR PAST 5 YR.

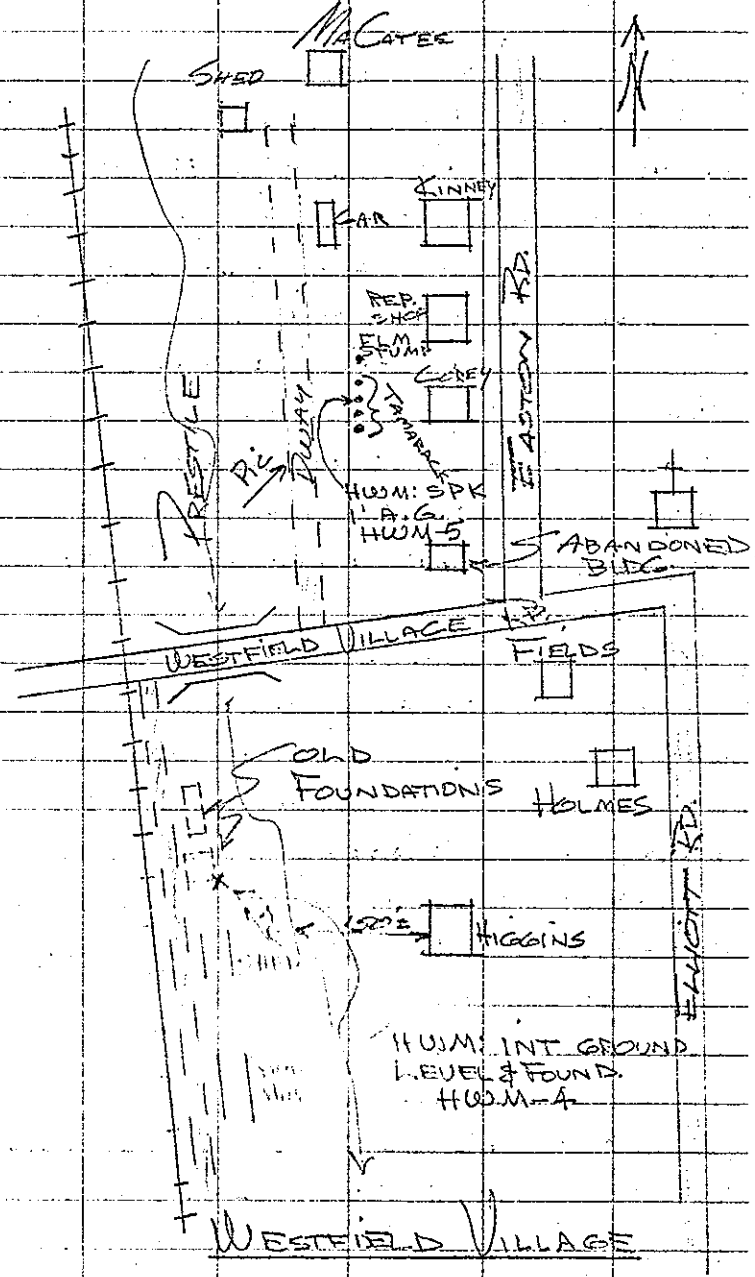
VISITED ALBERT FIELDS, WHO HAD BEEN REPORTED TO HAVE EXPERIENCED FLOODING OF HOME. HE STATED THAT ACTUAL PROBLEM WITH HIS HOME, AS WELL AS OTHERS IN VICINITY, IS WITH RAISED WATER TABLE DURING PERIODS OF HIGH RUNOFF. HOMES ~~IN~~ ON FLOOD PLAIN HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED (EAST OF STREAM AND SOUTH OF BRIDGE). STATED THAT THE PLANNING BOARD, OF WHICH HE IS A MEMBER, "DOESN'T CONSIDER FLOODING TO BE A PROBLEM IF A SUMP PUMP WILL HANDLE IT." ASKED ABOUT HOMES SOUTH OF HIS; WATER WAS WITHIN [illegible] OF HOME OWNED BY [illegible] (SEE SKETCH), [illegible] 1976, AND SHE WAS MOVED OUT ON OCCASION, BUT HOME NEVER FLOODED. SHE IS PRESENTLY IN FLORIDA. FIELDS POINTED OUT HWM SPRING 1976 (HIGHEST RECENTLY) TO BE GROUND LEVEL OF OLD FOUNDATION ON WESTERLY SIDE OF STREAM. TOOK PICTURE OF SAME W/ STADIA.

UPON FURTHER QUESTIONING, FIELDS PRODUCED AN H.U.D. FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP AND STATED THAT LEVELS WAY OVER-ESTIMATED. DISCUSSED ALL TRIBUTARIES DEPICTED; ONLY PROBLEMS: ① CULVERT ON WESTFIELD VILLAGE RD. ABOUT 1/2 MILE FROM U.S. 1 BACKED UP DURING DEC. 1976 STORM, AND A PORTION OF THE CAMBRIDGE RD. FLOODS PERIODICALLY. OTHER AREAS DELINEATED ARE SWAMP OR WOODLAND.

SKETCH OF HWM'S ABOVE & BELOW WESTFIELD BRIDGE ON FOLLOWING PG.

ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE OTHERS IN IMMEDIATE VICINITY BUT NOT AT HOME.

WENT TO HOME OF DICK GREEN ON WESTFIELD VILLAGE ROAD AND QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT



DEC., 1976 STORM (ALBERT FIELDS HAD CLAIMED ROAD DAMAGE). GREEN STATED PROBLEM OCCURRED ON 2 FEB 1976 AND WAS CAUSED BY FREEZE/THAW CYCLE HAVING PLUGGED CULVERT. NORMALLY NO PROBLEM. HE WENT ON TO SAY THE ELLIOTT RD. HAD WASHED OUT ON THE SAME DATE. INFORMED HIM I HAD BEEN TOLD BY MICHELLE GREEN THAT FLOODING WAS NO PROBLEM ON ELLIOTT RD. HE ADVISED ME THAT A JACK BLALECK WOULD GIVE BETTER INFORMATION.

JWD

20 DEC. 1977 TUESDAY

WENT TO JACK BLALECK RESIDENCE ON ELLIOTT ROAD, WESTFIELD (NOT HOME YESTERDAY). I QUESTIONED ABOUT 1976 WASHOUT OF ROAD. HE STATED THAT 2 SMALL CULVERTS X PLUGGED W/ DEBRIS & ICE, CAUSING INCIDENT. A 5' CMP WAS

INSTALLED & NO PROBLEMS SINCE. ASKED HIM ABOUT KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER EVENTS; NO NEW INFO.

WENT TO SEE BONNIE KINNEY, TOWN CLERK (HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT). NO NEW INFO. ASKED ABOUT CAMBRIDGE RD. NO HOMES ON THE ROAD, AND IS "UNIMPROVED" AND CAUSES NO REAL INCONVENIENCE OR DAMAGE WHEN IT PERIODICALLY FLOODS.

WENT TO EASTON AND VISITED PEGGY TOWNE. PREVIOUS REPORT BY TOWN MGR. THAT SHE MIGHT PROVIDE PICTURES. SHE HAD SOME OF A FLOOD IN 1924 BUT NOTHING MORE RECENT. SHE RECALLS NO PROBLEMS SINCE [illegible] EXCEPT FOR [illegible] THE NEDDIE [illegible] DID NOT RECALL DATE OF THIS OCCURRENCE BUT THOUGHT IT WAS "QUITE A WHILE AGO." (PREVIOUS REPORT THAT THIS HAPPENED WITHIN PAST FEW YEARS.) SHE REPORTED RESIDENCE WAS BURNED "SOME TIME AGO" AND ONLY FOUNDATIONS REMAINED.

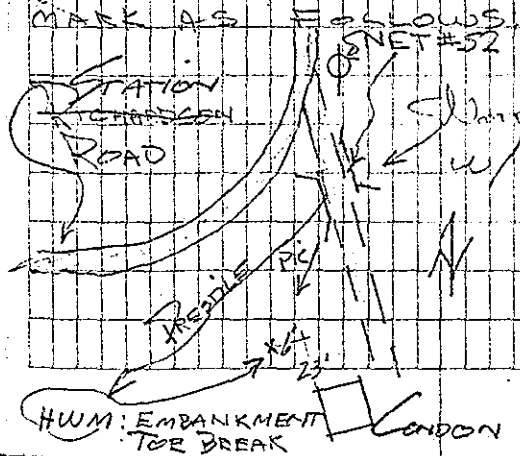
MRS. TOWLE CALLED HUMIN MAHANEY, STATE LEGISLATOR, WHO LIVES IN LIMESTONE. I QUESTIONED HIM IN DETAIL & ONLY PERTINENT INFORMATION OBTAINED REFERRED TO AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE & PERIODIC WASH-OUTS OF FARM BRIDGES. NOTHING SPECIFIC.

WENT TO EASTON TOWN OFFICE AGAIN TO FURTHER QUESTION AL DIXON. HE WAS NOT AVAILABLE, BUT TALKED W/ A MRS FITZ-HERBERT, TOWN CLERK. SHE COULD RECALL NO FLOODING IN AREA AND ONLY VAGUELY REMEMBERED INCIDENT AT GRANT HOME. SUGGESTED I TALK W/ GARY HANAGAN & PHIL PERRY OF THE H'WAY DEPT.

I QUESTIONED THEM ABOUT

THE ~~FLANAGAN~~ GRANT HOME AS WELL AS A BARN & BRIDGE LOCATED ABOUT 500' DOWNSTREAM OF CENTER ROAD BRIDGE. THEY ARGUED ~~A~~ BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND FINALLY ALLOWED THAT THE HOUSE FLOODED "10 OR 20" YEARS AGO. STATED THAT THE BARN OR THE BRIDGE HAVE NEVER FLOODED. ADDED THAT FLOOD PLAIN ~~LEVELS~~ OF STREAM IS LOWER IN THIS AREA SINCE VAHLSING IMPOUNDED "LAKE CHRISTINA". MR. PERRY STATED THAT THE BRIDGE, ON WHAT IS CALLED FRYPAN ROAD, HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS. BOTH CLAIM TO BE ACTIVE FISHERMEN, AND TO FISH THE STREAM FROM [illegible] TO BORDER, AND KNOW OF NO FLOOD-PRONE AREAS. ASKED ABOUT FARM HAND WITHIN BOUNDARIES, AND THEY SAY IT IS MOSTLY OWNED BY C.B. OSGOOD ALONG STREAM, AND HE OWNS A FIELD ON FLOOD PLAIN NEAR PRESQUE ISLE TOWN LINE, BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN TILLED FOR SOME TIME.

WENT TO ADRIAN LONDON HOME, WHICH IS LOCATED ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF PRESQUE FROM ~~RECREATION~~ STATION RD. ABOUT 1000' SOUTH OF VAHLSING PLANT. A BRIDGE ON ACCESS ROAD WAS REPORTED TO HAVE WASHED OUT IN SPRING OF 1976. MRS. LONDON POINTED OUT HUM ON HER "LAWN" & HAD NO USEFUL INFORMATION TO ADD. SE LOCATED MARK AS FOLLOWS:



It was brought to my attention that Civil Defence officials had issued news release after failure of Robinsons Dam (had found no reference to this in newspapers). Contacted Nancy Benn of County office in Houlton, (Director). No recollection. Called Les Higgins, Deputy State Director, in Augusta. Mr. Higgins recalled ~~news releases~~ Civil Emergency Preparedness (CEP) involvement and news releases relative to draining of Lake Josephine (wastewater) at Vahlsing [illegible] (now McCain's) due to [illegible] structure, [illegible] about actual [illegible]. Agreed to [illegible] copies of all recent news releases relative to Prestile Stream. Mr. Higgins recalled CEP involvement in funding repair of Mars Hill Dam in 1973.

JWD

21 Dec 1977

Caught Mrs. Meg Griffin of Blaine at home (having been trying to contact since initial call) and obtained negatives for pictures of Robinsons Dam wash out similar to those obtained from DOT & poorer quality. Mrs. Griffin checked her diary and this event occurred April 3, 1976.

JWD

22 Dec 1977

Rec'd SCS watershed rep't from Art Dearborn - Orono. This discussed cropland flooding & recommendations flood control. Called Dearborn and he switched me to Harry Hong who had been involved in the study, published 1964.

LONG STATED THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, CROPLAND ON FLOOD PLAIN IS NOW OUT OF PRODUCTION. ALSO ALLOWED THAT CONST. OF LAKES SO & CHRISTINA IN EASTON INVALIDATE RESULTS OF THEIR STUDY.

JWD

23 DEC 1977 FRIDAY

TALKED W/ DAN SMITH OF PRESQUE ISLE OFFICE, SCS. I QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT CROPLAND FLOODING REFERRED TO IN 1964 REPORT, AS WE FOUND NO CLAIM OF SUCH OCCURRENCE. DAN STATED THAT IMPOUNDMENT OF [illegible] HAD IMPROVED [illegible] SOME LAND IS [illegible] PRODUCTION.

JWD

[illegible] FEBRUARY

REC'D THIS DATE LETTER, PRESS RELEASES, & COPIES NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FROM BUREAU OF CIVIL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS. THESE ARE RELEVANT ONLY TO POLLUTION AND FEAR OF FLOODING FROM WASTE-WATER IMPOUNDMENT AT VAHLING'S IN EASTON.