Pettengill Farm Property

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Features Key:

Brickworks	
Wharf	
Foundations	
Sluice Gates	
Stadels	
Dikes	
Stone Walls	
Ridge Trail	
Marsh Trail	
Grant's Point	
Carter's Creek	
Pettengill Road	

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Pettengill Farm

31 Pettengill Road, Freeport

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Mildred and Frank Pettengill

1 Marshland and Five Year Island

Millie Pettengill dug clams and harvested edible ferns here. The island just upstream was also called Marsh Island.

2 Vegetable Garden

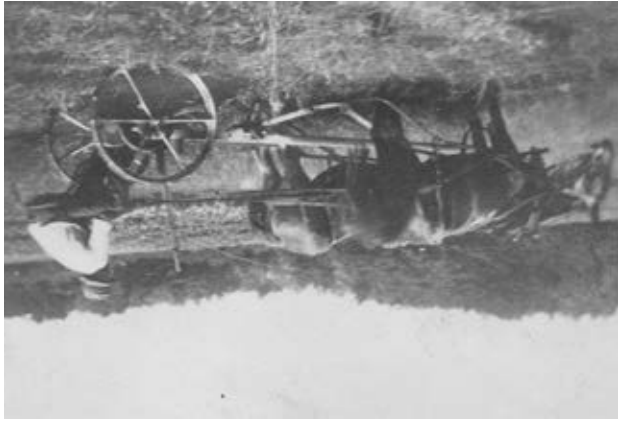Millie and Frank Pettengill had a large vegetable garden here that they worked together.

3 Jane Rodick Brewer house

Jane was a daughter of Captain James Rodick, who purchased the farmstead in 1831. Following his death in 1848, the land was divided between his children. Jane and another daughter Sophronia built houses on the land they inherited. Jane's house, located here, was very small. The foundation site was excavated by the Historical Society in 2002.

4 Barn of Sophronia Rodick Gould

Sophronia Gould's house was located southwest of here. The foundation of her barn, just behind the tree line, was excavated by Freeport Historical Society in 2005.

5 Frank Pettengill's Horse Drawn Mower

The last time Frank mowed the fields in the late 1950s, he left the mower sitting where it was (down this path about 75 feet), and there it has sat ever since, for almost 60 years.

6 Cedar Tree

This tree came here from Great Island, transplanted by Millie when she and Frank first visited there by boat in 1934.

7 Pettengill Barn and Stable

The size of the English barn once on this site was about 35 feet wide by 40 feet long. (Corners are marked by stakes.) The main door was on the long side and faced the house, which dates the structure to before the Civil War. It was probably built by either Aaron Lufkin (ca. 1800-1810) or James Rodick (1830s-1840s).

The barn was flanked by two later additions: on the front the Pettengills built a stable that housed the horses, and an extension that included silos was located on the back side of the barn. The barn fell down in the 1950s after being weakened by Hurricanes Carol and Edna.

The site was excavated by FHS in 2002. The Mean Ceramic Date of artifacts collected here was 1838, which suggests that an earlier barn or structure may have existed on the site, or the dump site may have moved at some point in the later life of the barn. (M.C.D. should have been 1875, assuming 1800-1950 barn site, average is 1875.)

8 House Indian Shelf

According to Millie Pettengill, the back side of the house where the three windows are located once had a shelf that folded out towards the outside yard. Oral history passed down through generations identified the shelf as a remnant of the house's early history when it was an Indian trading post. Presumably the shelf was used to show items for trade with the Natives, who could view them without coming into the house. This story has not been substantiated by the historical record, but it remains an intriguing tradition associated with the house.

9 Indian Stone

Another artifact attributed to Native people at the farm is this bowl-shaped granite rock. Millie Pettengill cherished this stone because of its associated oral tradition---that it was once an Indian corn grinding stone.

10 Well

This dug well was used by the Pettengills for their source of indoor water. Millie carried water from here daily for cooking and cleaning in the house.

11 Wharf and Brickyard

Last fall (2015) this site was the focus of an archaeological dig to determine the size and location of a wharf and brickyard in the area. Archaeologist Norm Buttrick and his students from Pine Tree Academy determined that the wharf was at least 30 feet wide by 100 feet long. Three points that included the wharf are marked with stakes, and the fourth SE corner extended into the mud flat. The brickyard location is staked near the wharf's edge.

The size of this wharf indicates that it was used commercially, probably to ship bricks made onsite to other locations. We know that house builder Aaron Lufkin had a brickyard at this site so he was the probable builder of the wharf around 1800 to 1810. Note the remnants of this 200+ year wharf that have been preserved over a long period of time by the brackish water and a covering of tidal mud.