

# **Amherst Historical Society & Museum CPA Requests, FY 16**

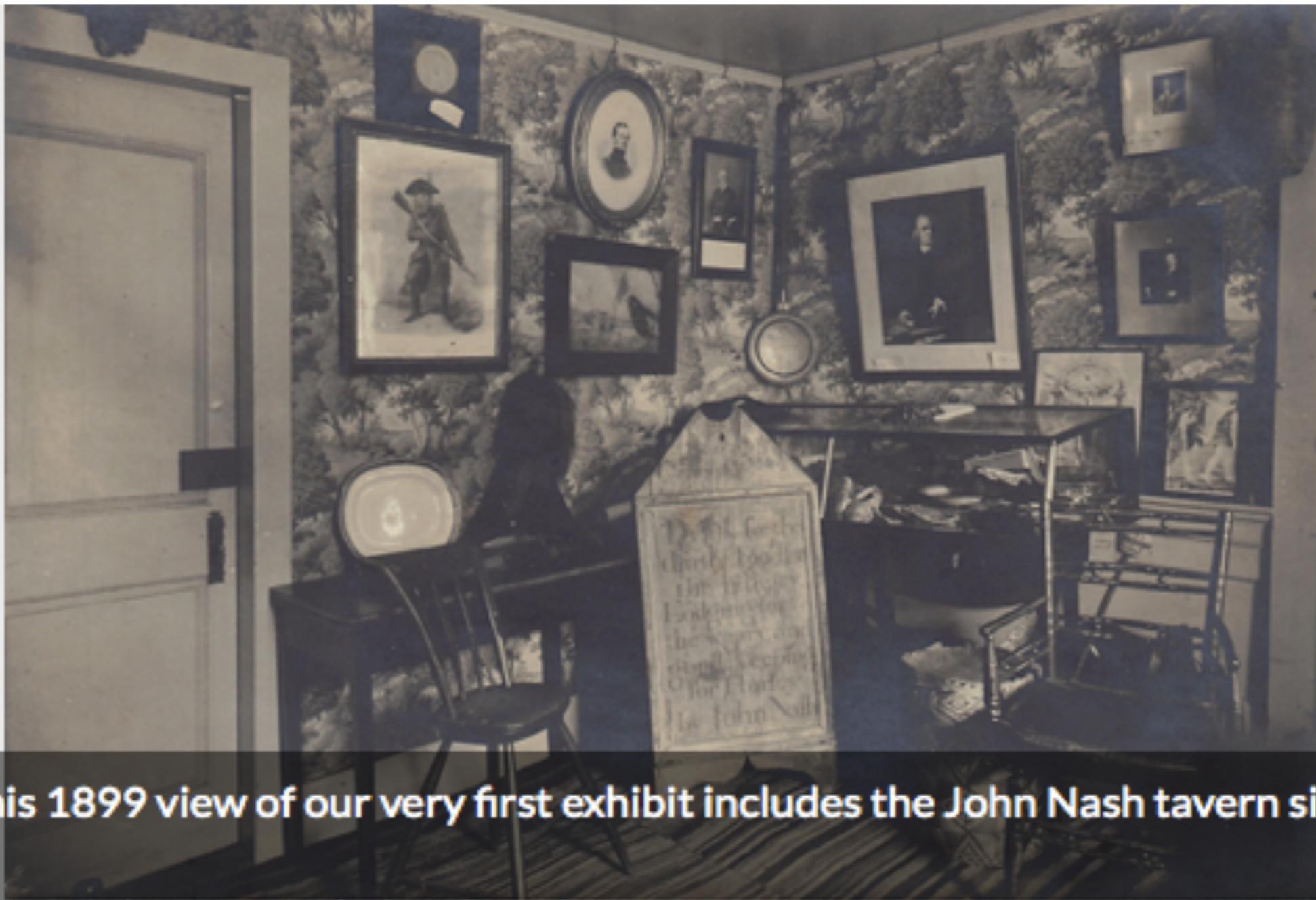


**“The mission of the Amherst Historical Society is to connect people to the Town of Amherst, its history, and its culture.”**



**This Conch Shell is the one used to call people to meetings in Amherst from its earliest days.**

The 1750-era Simeon Strong House is one of the oldest surviving in Amherst. The Museum's collections of over 7,000 objects are a repository of the Town's material history stretching back over 250 years



This 1899 view of our very first exhibit includes the John Nash tavern sign.

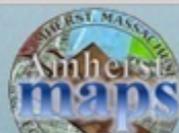
Amherst Historical Society chartered 1903;  
Amherst History Museum opened 1916

# Project 1: Painting and Preservation of the Building Envelope (\$ 25,000)

Purpose: to preserve the structure of this historic house  
and protect the collections that it houses

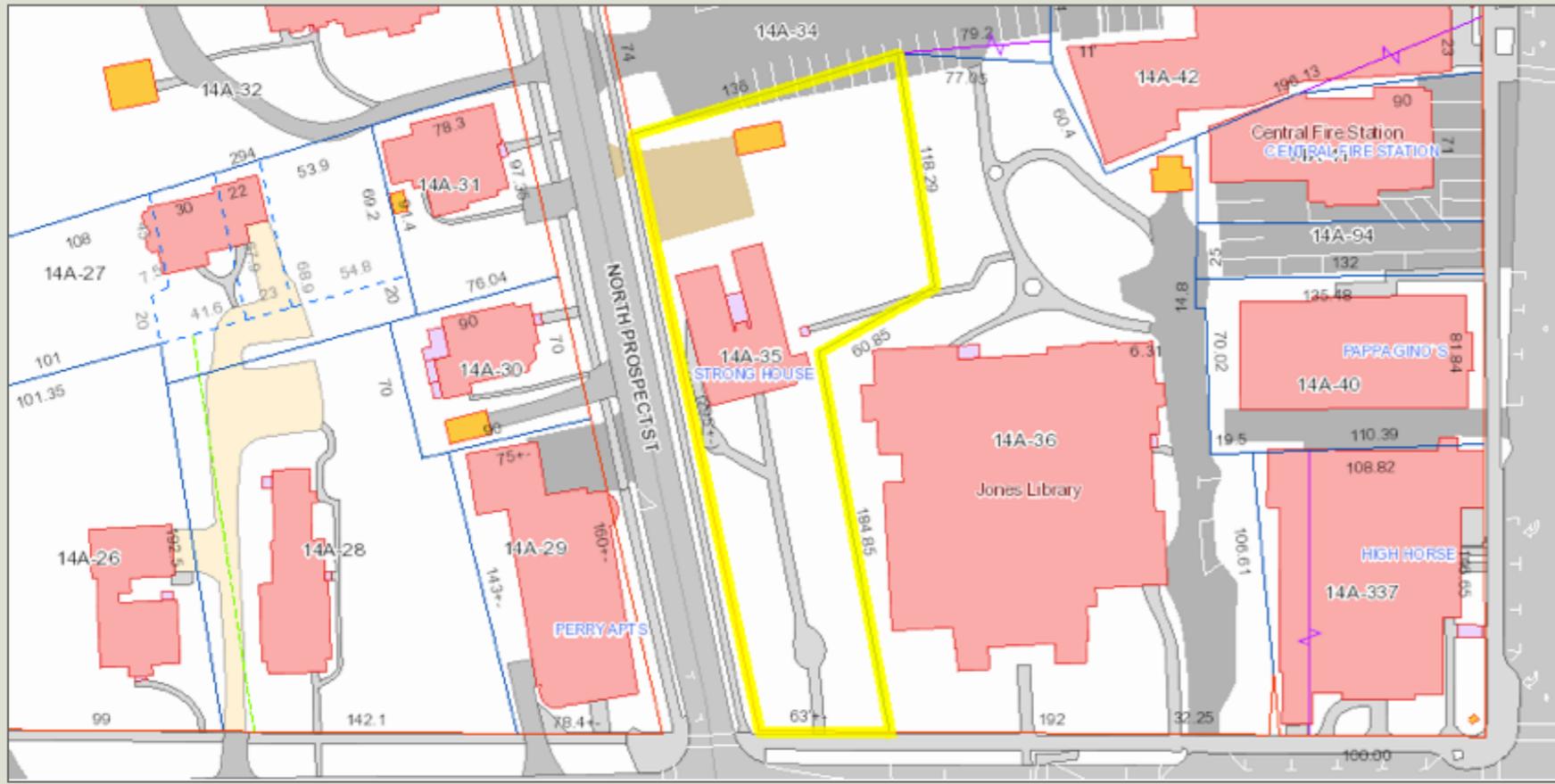
# Previous work/what we know

- Exterior Paint Study (Brian Powell, Building Conservation Associates, 2000)
- Historic Structure Report (Myron Stachiw, et al., 2002)

AMHERST MASSACHUSETTS  amherstma.gov/maps **AMHERST MAPS** [Back To: Property Search](#)

Property Map Imagery Topography Utilities Zoning Conservation Precincts

Scale 1" = 76 ft



1 selected [To Mailing Labels](#) [To Spreadsheet](#)

**AMHERST HISTORY MUSEUM STRONG HOUSE / 67 AMITY ST**

Parcel 14A-35  
Owner AMHERST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Assessment \$364,000.00 (FY15)  
\$350,600.00 (FY14)

Landuse Char R (9051)

Primary Zone RG (Dimensional Regulations)

Neighborhood CENTRAL AMHRST

Area 0.76 Ac / 33213 SqFt

**Property Cards**

[Current \(as of 01/14/2015\)](#) | [2014](#) | [2013](#) | [2012](#) | [2011](#) | [2010](#) | [2009](#) | [2008](#) | [2007](#)

Where are we?



earliest view of the Strong House  
(Yale University)



*Mr Emerson*

1889 view



## Current conditions:

- inconsistent paint colors
  - deteriorated paint
  - damaged wood
- danger to building and contents



# Inconsistent Paint Colors



# Deteriorated Paint









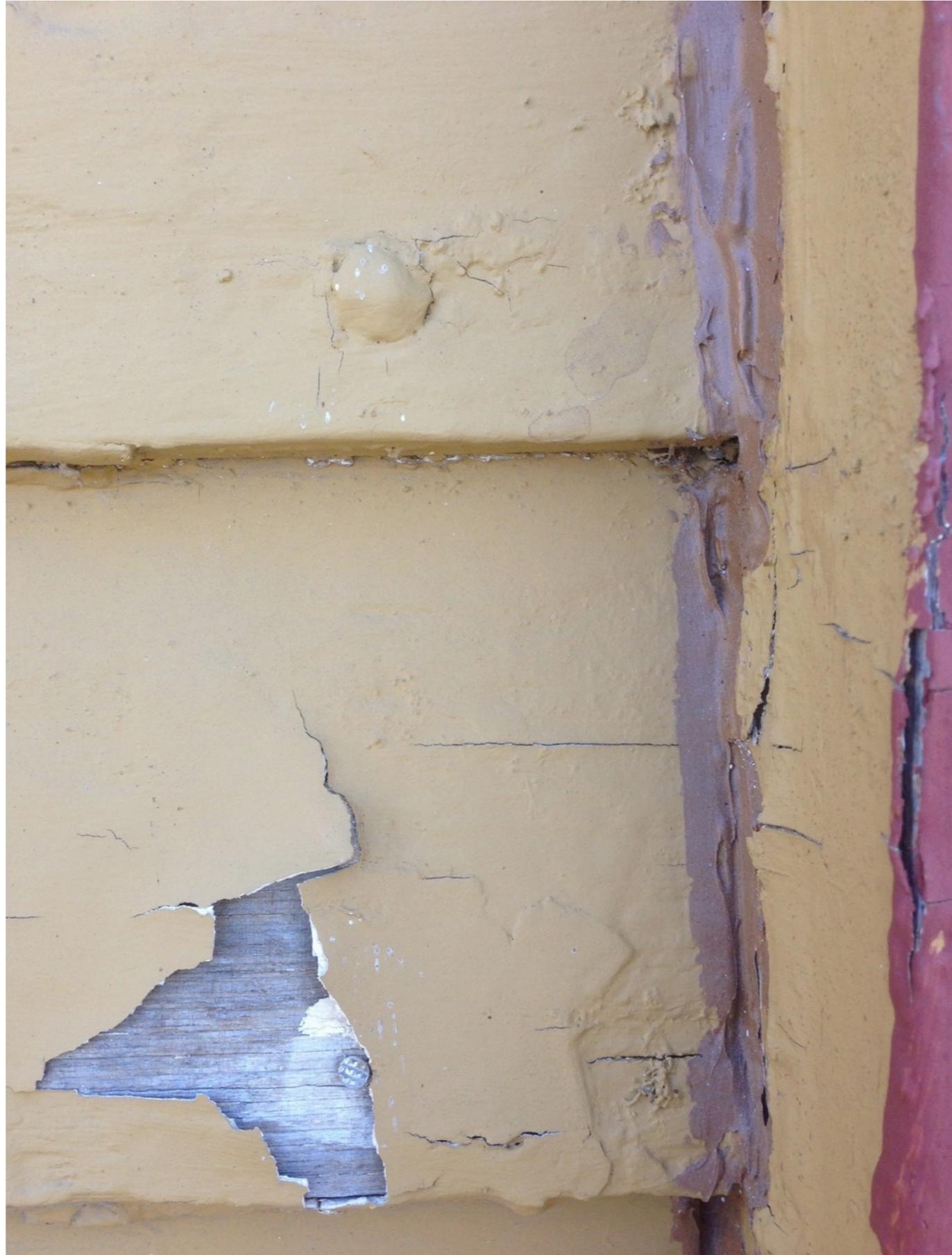












# **Project 2: Archaeology Survey \$ 20,000**

**Purpose:** to identify and safeguard historic resources located beneath the surface of the ground

## **Method:**

- Non-intrusive survey of entire property with ground-penetrating radar
- Limited subsurface testing of revealed anomalies

## **Outcomes:**

- Laboratory analysis of artefacts
- Professional scientific report

# From the Archaeology Chapter of the 2002 Historic Structure Report

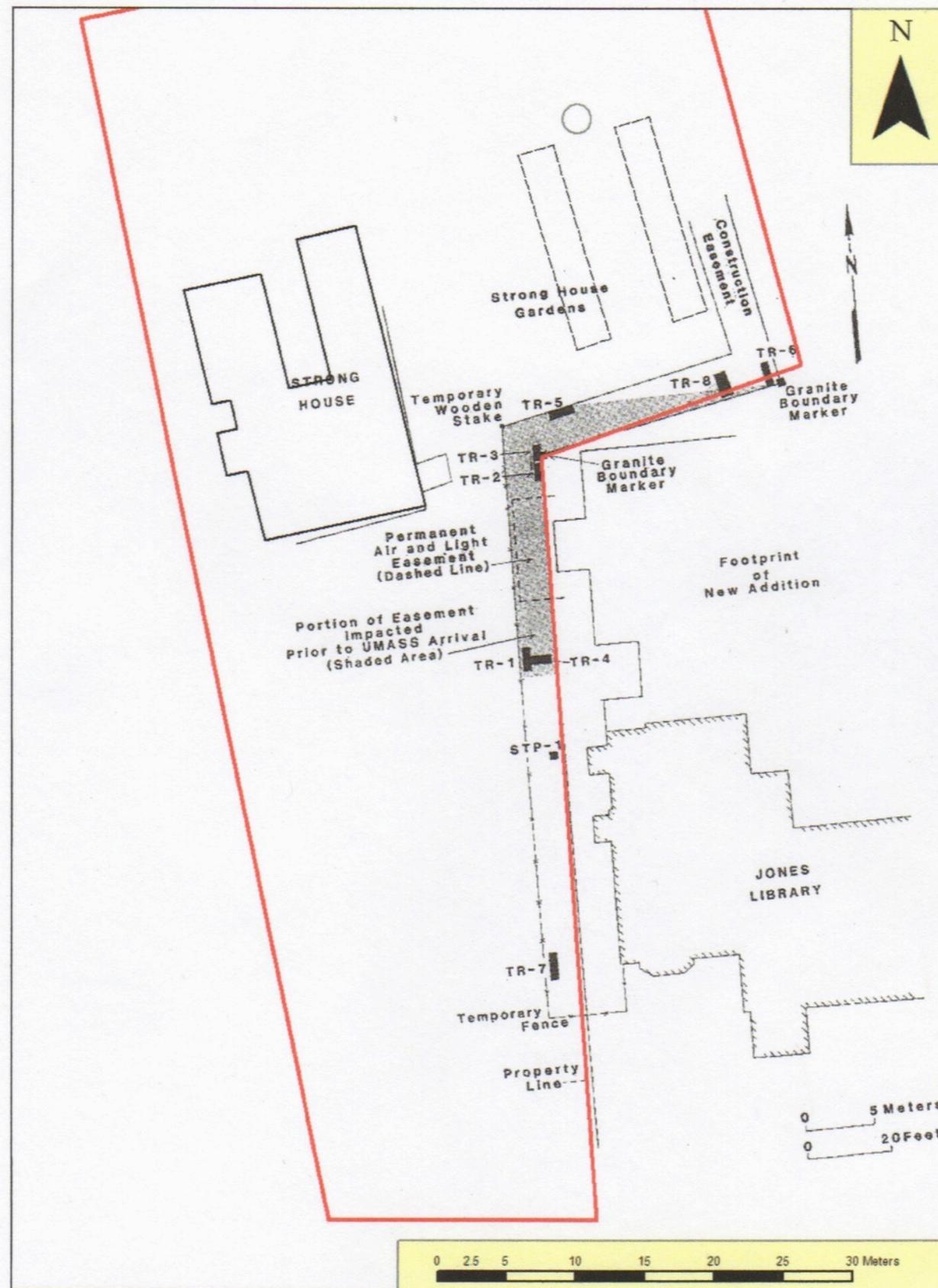
- a long-occupied and heavily utilized site that has a high potential for containing archaeological evidence
- almost certainly contains archaeological evidence for a wide range of agricultural and domestic work activities, structures and artifacts
- Archaeology should be employed, as necessary, in a planned and systematic way to protect and document evidence for the history of the site that lies buried beneath its current ground surface

# Previous work/what we know:

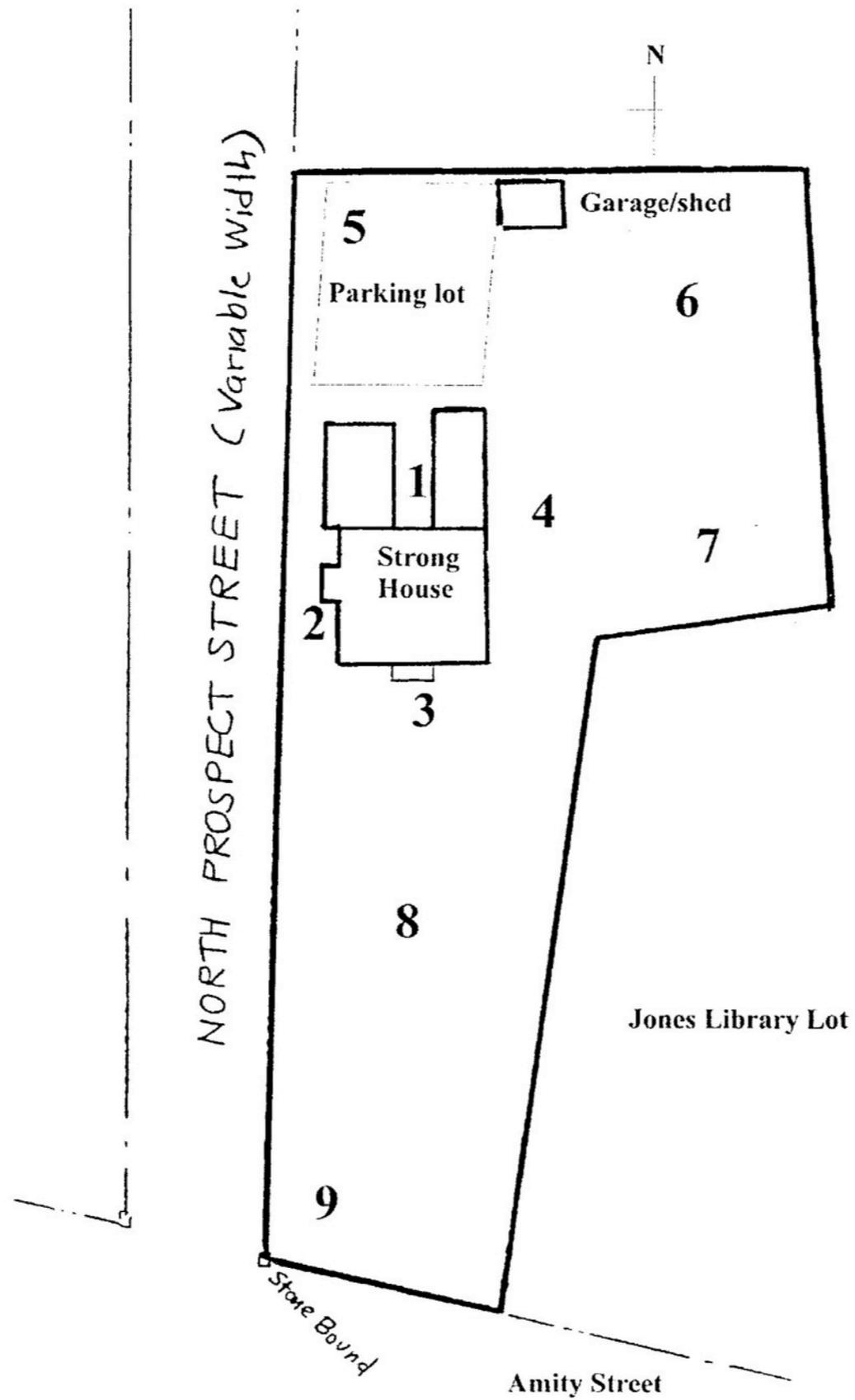
- Garman survey (trench, shovel test pit) in conjunction with Jones Library expansion (1990)
- Historic Structure Report (Ed Hood in Myron Stachow, et al., 2002)
- UMass Archaeological Services test excavations as part of Archaeology Day (2011)



**Figure 1:** Location of the Project area at the Amherst Historical Society Strong House, 67 Amity Street, Amherst, Massachusetts. USGS Northampton quadrangle, 1:24000.



**Figure 2:** Garman 1990 excavation plan showing trench (TR) and shovel test pit (STP) locations associated with the Jones Memorial Library site locational survey, adapted from Garman 1990 Figure 3, overlain on updated property boundaries (red), house footprint and garden bed locations.



**Figure 3:** Areas of archaeological sensitivity on the Strong House property noted by Edward Hood (from Stachiw et al. 2002: Figure 6.8). Areas investigated in this study included 1, 3 and 4.



**Figure 4:** Strong House Educational Archaeology Program, metric control points and grid stakes. Point 1 (Datum N0E0) set to pre-existing PK nail at the property's southwest corner. Point 4 was set at a drill hole in an existing merestone at the southeast property corner, establishing the east-west base-line.



Schoolchildren taking part in test excavations with UMass Archaeology Dept., 2011







# UMass Archaeological Services will perform an intensive archaeological survey that includes the following:

1. A ground penetrating radar (GPR) study of the entire property (appx. 3/4 acre) This will take three days with two archaeologists, including writing a report on the results of the GPR survey.
2. Limited subsurface testing in order to "ground truth" subsurface anomalies identified by the GPR as well as test areas that were identified as having high archaeological potential by Ed Hood, but did not contain GPR anomalies. The testing will take three days with a crew of four plus a field supervisor.
3. Securing a permit from the State Archaeologist.
4. Laboratory analysis and processing of the materials excavated.
5. Preparing a report on the excavations. The total cost is estimated at approximately \$20,000.

Thank you for your  
consideration.