

ON-SITE: THE CADMAN-WHITE-HANDY HOUSE, c. 1713, c. 1800, c. 1830: WHAT IS IT?

Standard(s)/Unit Goal(s) to be addressed in this lesson:

RI.3.4 Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a social studies lesson.

The Westport Historical Society collects many objects and papers, but the most important object in its collection is the Cadman-White-Handy House, c. 1713, c. 1800, c. 1830, located at 202 Hix Bridge Road. Known familiarly as the Handy House, the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is also featured as a significant building with the Westport Historical Commission.

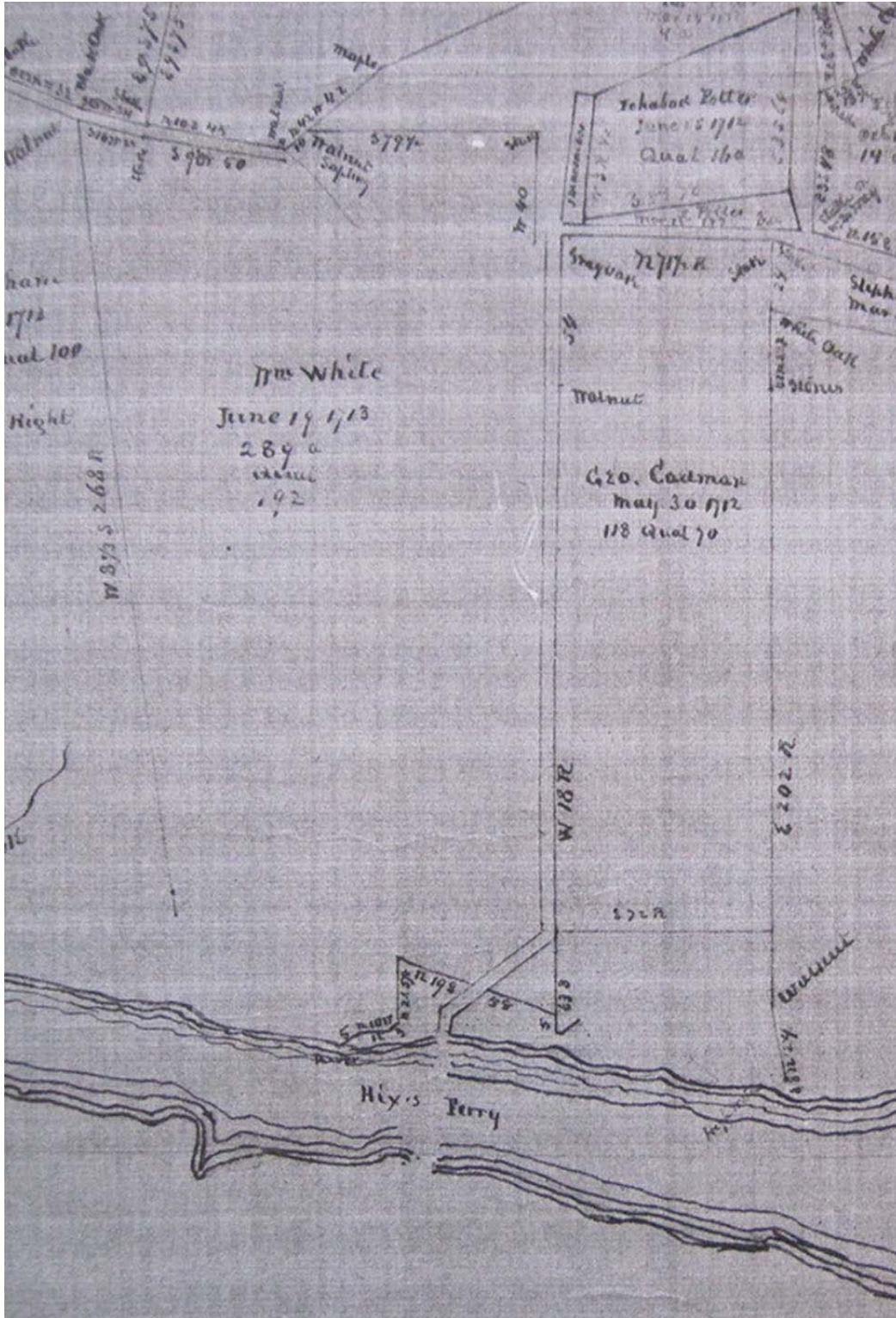
There have been many changes to the Handy House over the years, but, the Historical Society has chosen to display the building as authentically as possible to each time period. As a result, some of the changes have been kept, while others have not. This process is known as the historic preservation of a building.

We are continuing to learn about the Handy House, but, so far we know that it was built for a woman named Elizabeth Cadman-White and her husband, William, in 1713. They were given the farm land by Elizabeth's father, George Cadman. Elizabeth was an only child, but she and her husband had 11 children. It was not uncommon to have so many children in those days, especially if one had a farm to operate. The children would be put to work keeping the farm running smoothly.

The original farm property was larger than what remains today. It covered the land all the way up to Main Road near where the Quaker Meeting House now stands in Central Village. We believe that Elizabeth's father George donated the land to build the Quaker Meeting House, perhaps because he and his family were Quakers, although we don't know for sure what religion they practiced. The farm contained hundreds of acres that went all the way down to the part of the Noquochoke River — today, the Westport River — that runs under the Hix Bridge.

Both Elizabeth and her husband William were descended from people who immigrated to America on the ship *Mayflower*. One of the later owners of the home was Dr. James Handy, a medical doctor who treated many people in Westport including our most famous resident, Paul Cuffe. We will find out more about these people in later lessons.

Using the map below, WHS staff will point out the locations listed above. Teachers may prepare their students in advance of their site visit by reviewing the locations in class.



MAPS HELP US LEARN ABOUT THE PAST

Cartography is the study and practice of making maps. It involves science, math, and design skills. People read maps to find landmarks, geography, and roads.

Ask students: *Why do we make maps?*

What kind of map is this?

Explain that this is an early example of a **plat** map of Westport showing land ownership circa 1715.

Ask students:

Looking at the map, how do you think the land was settled and divided? Why?

Do you see any Native American trails? If so, point them out.

Do you see the river on this map? This is a geographical feature.

Does it exist today? If so, which one is it?

Do you see any streets? Have they changed?

Have any of these features remained the same or changed in some way?

Which ones are still there today?