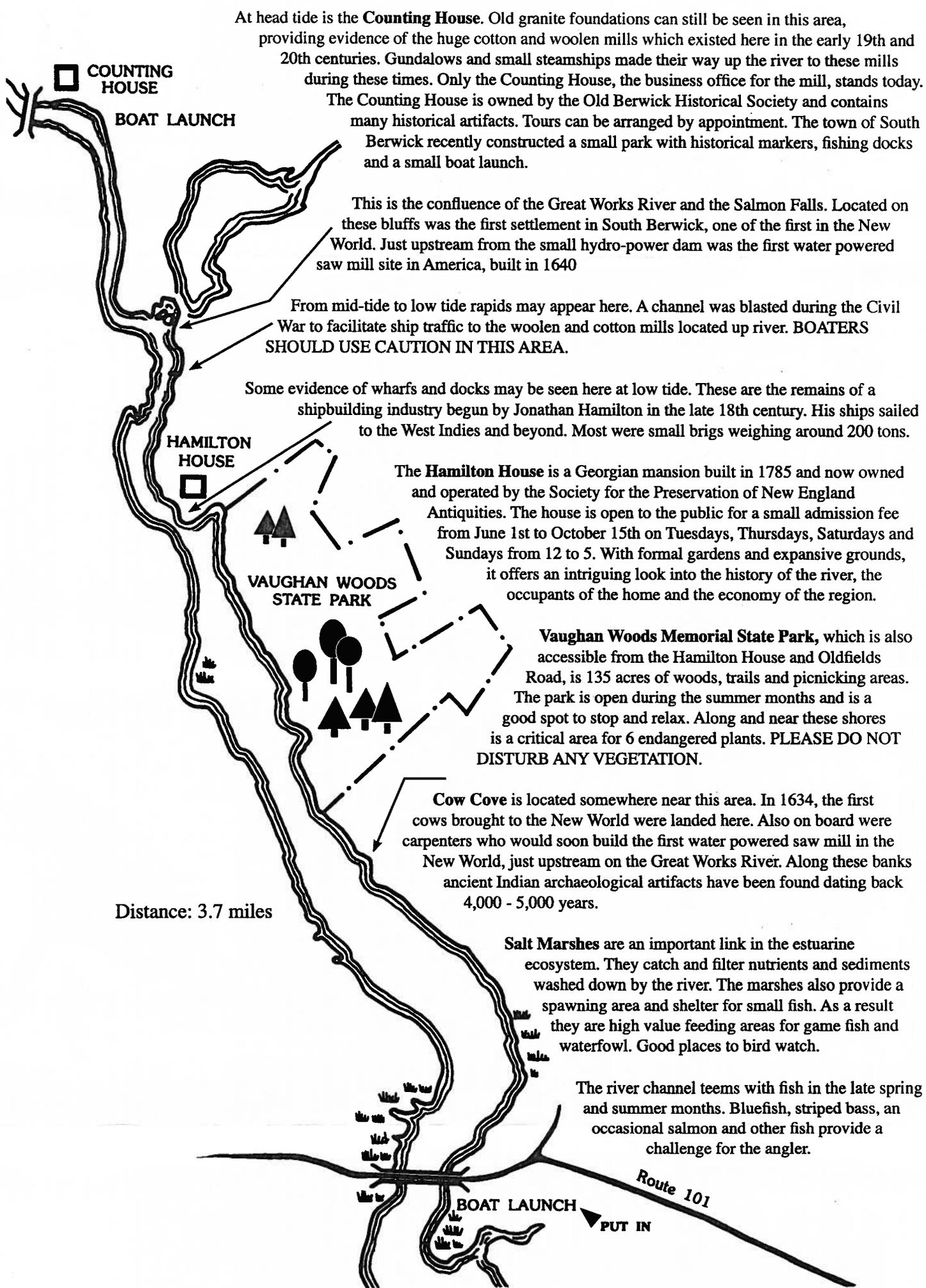


SALMON FALLS RIVER CANOE TRIP



Boat Launch - Located off Rte. 101 Dover/Eliot Road. Tidal access to the river is three hours either side of high tide. **KNOW YOUR TIDES.** Try to catch the incoming tide, paddle upriver, enjoy Vaughan Woods, the Hamilton House, the Counting House and return on the outgoing tide. There are places to take out near the Counting House if one wishes to avoid the round trip.

Add one hour and forty-five minutes onto the low and high tides at Portsmouth for the tide at the boat launch.
 Check the tides on-line at: www.maineharbors.com/nh/tidenh.htm

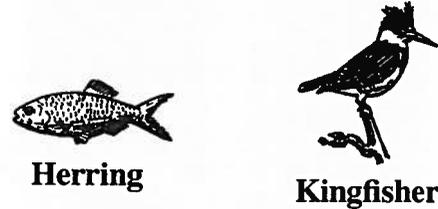
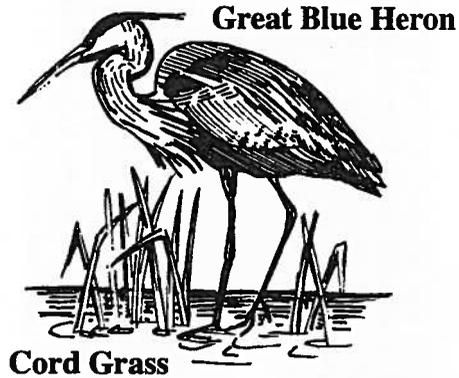
Introduction

In 1630, a small group of English settlers made their way up the Piscataqua and Salmon Falls rivers. Among the first settlers of the New World, they discovered a region of tall timberlands, wildlife, beauty and promise. Their arrival signaled the beginning of the settlement of Maine. The Native Americans who lived on the banks of the river (called Newichanwannock, meaning "my place of wigwams") for thousands of years were soon driven away. The river, which provided access to inland resources of lumber, became the symbol of colonization, and later industrialization of America.

The Salmon Falls River is an estuary for the 3.7 mile stretch from the Rte. 4 dam to the confluence of the Cochecho River. When joined by the Cochecho, the Piscataqua River is formed leading to Portsmouth and the sea. An estuary is a bay or river where seawater mixes with the fresh water from inland areas. Due to the flushing of the tides it is one of the most productive habitats on earth. Roughly two-thirds of commercially important fish and shellfish depend on the estuaries for part or all of their lives.

This estuary is rich in wildlife and historic resources. One of the purposes of this brochure is to help people understand these resources and how they may be preserved. It is also important for everyone who uses the river to understand the impact they have on it. Please do not litter! Please respect the private property of those who live along the river!

Commonly Found on the River:



Environmental Issues

We hope you enjoy your trip up the river. However, it should be noted a number of current and potential land use activities threaten the integrity of the river. These include:

- Point source pollution from sewage treatment plants and industrial activities affecting water quality.
- Non-point source pollution from runoff and development alongside the river.
- Homes built on the riverbanks with little vegetative buffer thus threatening the scenic beauty of the river.
- Water quality changes (particularly low oxygen) resulting in algae blooms and fish mortality.
- Changes to the upland habitat of the river which many species use for cover, forage and hunting opportunities.

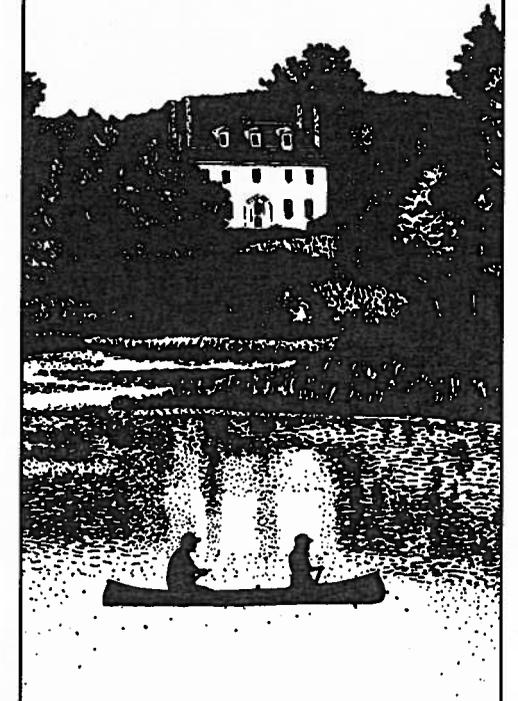
The South Berwick Conservation Commission, the Towns of Rollinsford and Dover, N.H., the Great Works Regional Land Trust, Strafford Rivers Conservancy and Historic New England encourage everyone to support the protection of the Salmon Falls so that our children may enjoy it as we do now.

To find out more about the river and it's protection read the *Salmon Falls Greenbelt Plan* available at the South Berwick Public Library.

For more information about the Old Berwick Historical Society visit their website at www.obhs.org

For more information on the Hamilton House visit Historic New England's website at www.historicnewengland.org

The Salmon Falls River Canoe Trip



South Berwick,
Maine