

## HILLSBOROUGH, NEW HAMPSHIRE'S "HOUSE ROCK"

(Compiled by RES, October, 2021)

"House Rock," which is on property owned by the Town of Hillsborough's Conservation Commission, is one of the largest glacial erratic granite boulders in the United States. It is the only known erratic of its size that has a naturally open, two-story, internal space large enough to accommodate many people.

According to geologists, House Rock is composed of 400 million-year-old rock that was moved into place by a glacial ice sheet at the time of the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago. The cracks and openings are thought to have been created by repeated annual freezing of water, aided by gravity.

According to legend, many generations ago, a young local couple hid themselves in House Rock as part of their plan to elope. They were discovered when a pair of shoes was noticed outside an entryway.

Estimates of its approximate size and weight, as provided by the Town Conservation Commission, are:

**Circumference:** About 170 feet around, excluding the separated portion at the south end.

**Height:** About 30 feet high at the highest point, but with an average height somewhat less.

**Weight:** Between 3 and 4 thousand tons, based on the estimated volume and density of granite.

*"TAKE ONLY PICTURES; LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS"*

House Rock, surrounded by its 20 wooded acres, was acquired in 1971, for \$2,250, by Hillsborough's Conservation Commission. We view it as a priceless natural wonder to be preserved and enjoyed.

NOTE: As with all of nature, there are inherent risks associated with its enjoyment. Visitors are asked to exercise extreme caution when viewing House Rock because of the unavoidable risk of unintended injury. In any case, neither the Town of Hillsborough, nor any Town board or body, nor any individual will be responsible for injury, loss of life, or any other loss, associated with your visit to House Rock.

Also, this is a "carry in, carry out" natural wonder. *Please do not leave any trash at House Rock.*

*Defacing House Rock, moving, adding, or removing rocks, or altering it in any way, is unlawful.*

MAP-- A map, showing the location of House Rock, is available online [at this link](#), but see below!

LOCATION AND ACCESS NOTES: House Rock is located in the northeast part of town, near the intersection of Sand Knoll and Kimball Roads. *These are rough, one-and-a-half lane, non-maintained CLASS VI ROADS. Visitors are thus advised to plan accordingly, and will be responsible for damage to their vehicles, or getting stuck. ALSO, GPS DIRECTIONS showing access via any road other than BOG ROAD should **not** be followed! There is PARKING for several vehicles adjacent to House Rock.*

Source for historical and geological information: "*History of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, The Story of a New Hampshire Town*," by Cynthia Van Hazinga, Peter E. Randall, publisher, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 2001. Source for granite density (about 170 pounds per cubic foot): Funtrivia.com.