**Hobbs Brook Farm – Property History**

Hobbs Brook Farm takes its name from Hobbs Brook, the large brook which is a part of the Walden Pond watershed and is the primary water source for the Cambridge Reservoir. Although now on town water, the property has piping into this watershed since its establishment in 1680, which is the oldest pipe into the watershed; the property line goes into Hobbs Brook, so it has riparian rights. Beyond this, Hobbs Brook Farm has a rich history that spans across many key eras over the past 3+ centuries.

Hobbs Brook Farm was known as the Hoar Homestead or Hoar Tavern until the mid-1800's. It was built in 1680 by Daniel Hoar in what was then Concord. The property was later a part of the town of Lexington (1713-1754) before the town of Lincoln was established. The Hoar Tavern property (now Hobbs Brook Farm) is recognized as the oldest house in Lincoln and one of the oldest functioning houses in North America. Over the years, the property has evolved with the times and maintains a traditional colonial framework of "big house, little house, back house, and barn". These four structures have a continuous access on the level of the first floor and basement. The barn itself is quite large with two stories of 5000 sq ft size, with a basement that is 5000sq ft along with a fourth story. All four levels of the barn have windows. It has served as an entertainment space and painting studio of large modern works in recent times.

The expansive cement floor basement beneath the main house, little house, and back house is contiguous with the dirt floor basement. The basement has stone walls throughout, including massive boulders, granite beams and old ship beams for the basement. It has multiple separate areas including a lockable wine cellar with writing on the walls about temperature from Prohibition times.

Other structures on the farm include a smaller detached barn that now functions as a two-bay garage with attached large storage space, a separate storage shed, and pool shed matching the colors of the house and serving the machinery for an oversize gunite pool (which could not be built today - its size is grandfathered). Each portion of the house and property tells a unique story about the nearly three and a half century history the home has seen, and its current acreage has been farmed, used for livestock or gardening since 1680.

As a residence, tavern, and farm, the Hoar Tavern was a stopping place for many travelers between 1680 and 1869, when the property was sold out of the Hoar Family. Many members of the Hoar family were active in the affairs of the town and played roles in the planning of Lincoln, such as John and Samuel Hoar, the son and grandson of Daniel Hoar. John, who had inherited the property from his father in 1734, fought in the French and Indian War and later in the Battles of Lexington and Concord alongside his son Samuel. After the battle at the Concord Bridge (the Old North Bridge), many of the minutemen patronized the Hoar Tavern. Samuel Hoar's son, grandsons, and future generations of the Hoar family were

also very prominent figures in Massachusetts, with involvement in both state and national politics.

In the mid 1800's, the Hoar Homestead became a hub for the underground railroad, providing shelter and cover for escaped slaves in what is now the residence's attached apartment with access through the basement. Access was provided to them through a tunnel into the barn (now a water catchment), a hidden stairwell (now a finished third stairwell for the house, and a dumbwaiter that brought them food (now part of the third stairwell).

In addition to this, the basement, which features large beams repurposed from old sea ships, has had a wide variety of other purposes over the years. Originally, this basement housed farm animals and still features walk-out access to the yard allowing for convenient storage. Later, after its uses for farming and the underground railroad, parts of the basement functioned as a speakeasy and distillery during 1920's prohibition (and possibly beyond). From its past as a speakeasy, the window to the basement all have bars, the doors from this time are 4 inches thick, and old bottle washing and storage bins are still there.

Since Prohibition, the property has been used as a private residence with abundant living, storage, and flexible studio and entertainment space between the main residence, barn, and grounds. Owners have included two physicians at MGH, an internationally known scientist along with direct descendants of the Randolph clan and General Glasscock from the Revolutionary War. Hobbs Brook Farm is convenient to Route 95, Route 2, and only 11 miles from Boston, making it a short commute into the city, yet having a country location. It is one of a handful of farms within this radius from Boston.