

## Theo Holtwijk

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**From:** Theo Holtwijk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 10:07 AM  
**To:** Theo Holtwijk  
**Subject:** Tidewater Farm - Council 10/16  
**Attachments:** FHS-1903.pdf; Tidewater Farm.pdf

**From:** FHS President <president@thefhs.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2019 9:48 AM  
**To:** Theo Holtwijk <tholtwijk@falmouthme.org>  
**Cc:** suzanne@fgrd.org; bbwhitcomb@gmail.com; Nathan Poore <npoore@falmouthme.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Tidewater Farm - Council 10/16

You asked for our assistance in assessing Tidewater's value as a historic property.

We dug more deeply into the history of the property and gained a fuller understanding of how Tidewater fits into the context of our town's historical narrative. That story with a cover letter summarizing our position is attached.

Usually when we do property research, we bring out more of the occupants' life stories. This paper is meant to support deliberation by the town council. That narrows the scope and the paper focuses on the facts. The result is drier than day-old toast but provides an objective assessment as to whether the buildings are historic. They are... and more than we realized.

In our research, we were struck by three points:

- Tidewater's roots penetrate deeply into the fabric of Falmouth's narrative. The first Europeans to occupy the site of the Tidewater farmhouse were part of the Mackworth family. You don't get older than that in our town.
- We expected strong ties to our agricultural heritage. We didn't expect such strong ties to our maritime heritage beginning with more than 80 years as the site of a very productive shipyard. Then, in the last century, it was owned for two decades by a mariner who spent more time at sea than farming.
- Our biggest surprise came from the role immigrants played in the story. The first European settlers were, of course, English immigrants but for much of the past century Tidewater was owned by later generations of immigrants. The Dane and French-Canadians were economic migrants seeking opportunity. The Lithuanian Jews were likely seeing freedom from religious persecution.

More recently we have seen some of Maine's newest immigrants tending crops on the farmland at Tidewater where those first English settlers tilled the soil nearly four centuries ago. Like many of those who came before them, this generation of immigrants has fled from persecution in their homeland—escaping dire threats to their lives and livelihoods.

I will attend tomorrow's meeting. If there is anything else you need, please ask.

David Farnham  
The Falmouth Historical Society  
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