

Q: ...your name, and telling how you came to live here.

My name is Peggy Gillio, and we have owned 1082 State Route 40 in North Easton for, uh, almost 19 years. Uh, it will be 19 years in October.

When I first came up to this area, actually it was Vermont, not New York state at the time. I was going to a convention and basically, from New Jersey, just took the Thruway to Route 7, and Route 7 all the way to Stowe, Vermont. And as my friend and I went along on that trip, we just – I just was falling in love and knew that I had to live in this area. At that time, I owned my own personnel agency and was very, very busy. I, uh, so that the peace and quiet of the countryside just meant all the world to me. Uh, and I decided that, yes, we, we need to have a, a, a little country home up in, you know, up in this area. We looked for seven months in Vermont. We looked in all the normal places that people from New Jersey, Long Island, and Connecticut looked. Manchester and, uh, you know, Danby, um, and, um, and the Dorset area. We looked in Arlington. And we came up every single weekend on a Friday night, and we left every single Sunday night to come back home to Ramsey, New Jersey. And we were getting very disgusted. But at that time, I would not hear of New York state. I only wanted Vermont. And people at the bed and breakfast kept saying, just go over the border. It's just as beautiful. But because of the great PR work that Vermont was doing 19 years ago, that's all I kept hearing was Vermont, Vermont, and I did not want New York state.

Well, to make a long story short, one rainy afternoon, we had just about looked at everything that they had to offer. I said, okay, let's go, Tony. Let's go over the border and see what they're talking about. Well, we went to Cambridge, which 19 years ago was not for me. And then from there, we went into Greenwich, which I immediately related to, because it looked exactly like, uh, the town I grew up in in Manasquan, New Jersey. A little town, darling town, a step back in time, and I just thought it was wonderful. We saw a center for real estate window, and at that time it was next-door to the Glens Falls Bank. And in the window, there was a huge picture of 1082 State Route 40. And I stopped dead in my tracks and I said to my husband, that's the house. He said to me, this is the little cottage that you wanted to buy for weekends, he said? I, I don't think so. I said, I want to go see the house. So, we walked in. Dorothy Abrams was sitting there. We got in her car. We came—she, she went the back way. Now that I know the

area, she went the back way to, um, you know Route 40, and as we were coming up towards North Easton going south on Route 40, it was just a picture. And I was getting very excited, and my husband kept saying, don't get so excited, you'll never be able to bargain for the house. So, but I didn't care. And we came up Route 40 and I saw the flag pole in the field, and then I saw this beautiful little hill going to a pond, and I was madly in love. I hadn't even gone into the house yet. So, we pulled into the driveway and I'm, I'm hitting my husband with my elbow saying, this is it, this is it. And he's saying, no, no, no. And we walked into Anita and Bill Sharon's house at the time. The fireplace was roaring, and, you know, they did all the things you're supposed to do to entice people to buy. There was the smell of apple pie, and—but the Piece De Resistance was the, the historical Washington County book, which was open to the page where the house was. And when I saw that, I flipped, because at that time I had—I belonged to, uh, the Questers, which we used to visit—it's a group of women that quest for the knowledge about antiques and historical places. And we, every month we visited a historical house. So, um, I flipped. And, um, I wanted that house. And that's all there was to it. I didn't even remember Vermont anymore, and, of course, the little library was, uh, two houses down, which, oh, that was to me incredible. And the little town hall, and the beautiful white church with the steeple. And I was sold. And that was, that was that. There was no discussing, I had to have the house, and we bought it.

Um, the one thing I'd like to add to our search for a little country home, was—is basically the people of North Easton, Greenwich, and the area. We never were made to feel like strangers. Everybody was wonderful. They welcomed us. Uh, I just found everybody, uh, delightful. Of course, my accent was made a lot of fun of, but that's okay. And, uh, we just fell in love with the people. Um, we were just made—as I say, we, we just were made to feel part of the community and I just loved it. Loved it, loved it. We have loved it for all these years. Now we're here permanently six years, and we're—we sold our home in New Jersey. So, uh, that's what North Easton means to us.

The other thing I'd like to add is the fact that during these 19 years, we've become grandparents and our granddaughters, Jenna and Gabrielle, come up to, uh, North Easton, and to them it's just paradise. They, they get out of the car and race down to the pond and uh, put their feet in the stream, and they just think this is the, the end-all, even though they do live very much in a, a

rural area, uh, in West Milford, New Jersey. Uh, but the li—they run to the library. I, I give them my library card and they run to the library. And they come and visit, and they come back with tapes and books, and, uh, they just love this area and they couldn't be happier than when they're with us in our beautiful house. So, we just love everything about North Easton, Greenwich, and the people.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to add, Peggy?

I think that, that's it.

Q: Okay, do we have your permission to, uh, use this for our project for storytelling?

Yes.

Q: Thank you very much for your story. It was wonderful.

Thank you.