

Exhibit honors town's history

BY JOHN BASILESCO

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PELHAM, N.H. — An exhibit of photographs from Pelham's past has been created in honor of the late Joyce Mason, who fell in love with the town when she came here as a young bride in 1951.

Mason, 78, who died in September 2007, was recognized for her service to the town in two separate annual town reports, one in 1992 and the 2007 town report.

She worked as a police dispatcher for 10 years and then from 1982 to 1992 as the clerk for the former

Pelham Municipal Court, where she served Judge J. Albert Lynch. They both retired in 1992.

After Mason died, Lynch decided he wanted to do something in her honor, said William Hayes of the Pelham Historical Society,

The photos are from the center of town and include pictures of a former corn field off Main Street and the former trolley barn.

Two or three months later, one of Mason's daughters came to a meeting of the Pelham Historical Society and donated a collection of glass negatives of photographs taken of the town from the 1890s to the 1920s, Hayes said. It was one of Mason's prized possessions.

Hayes tracked down a photo lab in Lowell, Mass., that could process the photos and Lynch covered the tab of about \$1,000, Hayes said.

The 73 framed photos will be hung in a gallery in a town museum being created in the former Pelham Library on Main Street, which is expected to open by Christmas. Meanwhile, people can view the photo exhibit online,

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Courtesy photo

A photo exhibit will be on display at the former Pelham Library.

EXHIBIT: Will be on the Web

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Hayes said. The Web page is www.pelhamnhhistory.org/library/onlinelibrary_mason.html.

Hayes said the photos are from the center of town and include pictures of a former corn field off Main Street and the former

trolley barn, where trolleys came and went. In about 40 percent of the photos, it's unclear who the people are or the actual location in town, Hayes said.

The photos are a nice addition to the museum, which will house the Ruth Sherburne Sturrit Art Gallery, where the photos will be on display, Hayes said.