

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. **Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Doolittle, Colonel Ephraim and Sarah, Farm

other names/site number Birchard Farm, Clemens Farm, Berry, Eleanor Farm

**2. Location**

street & number Doolittle Road  not for publication

city or town Shoreham  vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Addison code 001 zip code 15770

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



11/28/91  
Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

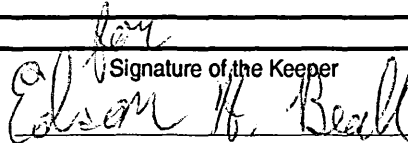
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

1-6-95

Doolittle Farm  
Name of Property

Addison County, VT  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	1	buildings
2	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
10	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple listing.)

Agricultural Resources of Vermont

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Industry: manufacturing facility

Industry: manufacturing facility

Agriculture: animal facility

Agriculture: animal facility

Agriculture: storage

Agriculture: animal facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

not in use

not in use

not in use

not in use

not in use

not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

no style

no style

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation limestone

walls brick

roof slate

other wood, marble

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

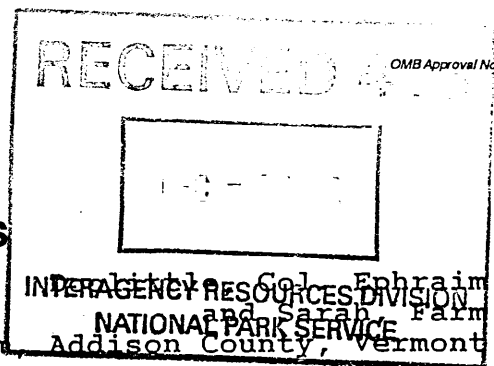
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Shoreham



### DESCRIPTION

The Doolittle Farm is located north of the village of Shoreham, Vermont approximately one mile east of Route 22-A on Doolittle Road. The farm encompasses one hundred and ninety acres, and includes the large, brick Federal style main house (c. 1800), a Federal style carriage house (c. 1820), a two and a half story early bank barn (c. 1870), a large ground level stable barn (c 1890), and a large hay barn (c. 1900). There are also three smaller farm buildings and the foundations of an historic grist mill (1788) and saw mill (1766) on the property. The mills are located along the Prickly Ash Brook which runs through the property. The historic Crown Point Military Road, which was built before and during the Revolutionary War linking Chimney Point in Addison County, Vermont and Charleston, New Hampshire, also crosses the property.

The land encompassed by the Doolittle Farm is diverse. The main house sits on a small knoll overlooking Doolittle Road to the south. The main yard, containing the farm buildings, is located west of the main house and is fairly flat and clear of trees and bushes, making for a very neat and well kept farm yard. West, beyond the farm buildings the land drops sharply off and becomes slightly wooded, before reaching the Prickly Ash Brook. The brook winds in a north easterly direction through the property and is bordered by large limestone river rocks. The land west of the brook is heavily forested with deciduous and coniferous trees till the property meets Route 22-A. To the east of the main house the land slopes upward, gradually flattening out. This area is clear of trees and brush and is currently meadows and tillage. There is a fence line that runs around the farm yard. Beginning from Doolittle Road, the fence line goes north directly by the west facade of the ground level stable barn (F) then turns east and runs directly alongside the northern facade of the hay barn (E) and the northern facade of the chicken coop (C). The fence line continue east some 100 yards beyond the chicken coop before turning south and continuing till it returns to the Doolittle Road. This line includes all the buildings of the farm complex and encompasses two acres.

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**A) MAIN HOUSE, c.1800**

The main house on the Doolittle farm sits back fifty feet from the road, facing south, on a small hill overlooking the farmstead. Seven mature black locust trees frame the house on the southern side. There is a low limestone wall that runs around the southern and western facade of the house, approximately 20 feet beyond the footprint of the house. At the southwest corner it is at its highest point of about three feet and tapers off in both directions to about one foot.

The house is a large Federal style, two-story, brick building with a five by three bay Georgian plan and a two by three bay hip roof ell on the rear. The bricks are laid in common bond, and are a low fire, handmade type. The main block has a standing seam hip roof with two large, brick end chimneys, which are located in the central east and west bays of the main block, and a full entablature. The roof line above the central entry on the five bay southern side has a gable peak. The whole building sits on a high ashlar stone foundation and has a full basement with exterior cellar door entrance on the western facade of the main block. The entryway is a projecting one-story wooden portico Colonial Revival addition, which spans the central bay and is supported by fluted, Doric columns with fluted Doric pilasters on either side of the entry. The doorway has sidelights and there is a balcony with plain wooden balustrade above the portico. The entry steps are marble. The windows on the main facade are twelve over twelve double hung with splayed flush headers on the first story. The central window of the second floor is a restored Palladian window. The top of the windows of the second floor abut the eave line. A brick string course runs around the entire structure between the first and second floors. There is an entry on the western side which is located in the first bay of the wing with a one story, wooden, classical portico with full entablature, pediment and Doric columns and is a Colonial Revival addition. The three steps to the entry are made of marble.

It is believed that the Doolittle house was built by Job Lane Howe, an active housewright in the area at the time. Howe is thought to have built the Federal style, Georgian plan, hip roof Callender House (1793) in Shoreham. The

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Doolittle house is also very similar to the Lemon Fair Farm House (c. 1795) and Elijah Wright House (1790), both in Shoreham.

The house was remodeled in the late 19th century during the Victorian era. The original gable peak and Palladian window were removed and the twelve over twelve windows were replaced with two over two double hung windows. Within the last ten years the current owners have returned the house to its original appearance, using bricks found on the site to reconstruct the gable peak, and putting in a replacement Palladian type window and aluminum double thick insulated twelve over twelve double hung windows. The large interior chimney on the eastern roof plane has been reconstructed with modern bricks.

The interior of the main block is Georgian in plan with central entry hall with stairway, and four room division. The original stairway fell into disrepair as an owner of the house at one point liked to take his horses upstairs, where the tack room was located. The stairway there today, therefore, is not original. The flooring in the main block are original wide, flush joint oak. The large interior end chimney on the eastern side of the block forms angled hearths in the eastern front room and dining room, which are surrounded by original oak paneling as is the hearth in the western front room. The rear ell, which originally housed the kitchen facilities and servant quarters, has been extensively remodeled and recently three, small additions have been added to the house in the northwest corner between the main block and the ell.

**B) CARRIAGE HOUSE, c. 1820**

There is a carriage house to the rear of the buildings that is one and a half stories high, clapboarded and has a slate gable roof with the gable ends facing east and west and a stone foundation. It has irregularly placed twelve over twelve double hung windows. The southern facade has two large, centrally placed, double hung doorways with wrought iron hardware and decorative Federal style elliptical arches with decorative keystone motif above, as well as an entry to the left of the double hung doors. It has two small interior brick chimneys. On the eastern rear side is a small one-story, wooden, shed-roofed structure, which

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originally held hay. The carriage house has been moved on the property several times and currently functions as an apartment.

Attached to this carriage house is a modern two car garage. Connecting the carriage house to the main house is a covered walkway, which has recently been added. There is also an in ground pool on the property. The pool, garage and walkway are non-contributing structures because they are less than fifty years old.

### **FARM BUILDINGS**

There are five farm buildings associated with this property. They are all clapboard with standing seam metal roofs and decoratively painted doorways. They were not built at the same time as the main house, but range in dates from c. 1870 to c. 1920.

#### **C) CHICKEN COOP, c. 1900**

To the north of the main house approximately sixty feet is the chicken coop. It was built c.1900 and is a small, one-story, gable roof building with clapboards and has two attached additions. There is one nine paned square window on the left side of the northern facade of the chicken coop and louvered, ventilation windows in the gable peaks. The coop has a fieldstone foundation. The additions are one-story shed roof structures with vertical weatherboard, which were probably added to the structure in the early or mid 1900's for storage. These rest on either side of the gable roof structure, with the eastern structure extending several feet beyond the chicken coop's northern facade. They may also have been on the site originally, but moved to their present location. The chicken coop is now used as a cabana for the swimming pool and as a wood shed and has a concrete floor.

#### **D) EARLY BANK BARN, c. 1870**

Twenty feet to the southeast of the chicken coop is a small early bank barn, rectangular in footprint with gable roof, with the gable ends facing east and west. It is set into the side of a gently rolling hill, so that the eastern side is two stories

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tall and western side is three stories tall. It has a limestone foundation. The first floor contained stalls for cows, while the second story served as the hay loft. The early bank barns utilized a gravity flow design. The basement floor was where the manure from the animals collected and it could then be easily shoveled out to be used as fertilizer. The basement has a dirt floor. On the southern facade is a large, rolling entry door with earthen bridge that has been covered with concrete. The windows are irregularly placed and of varying sizes. To the left of the entry door on the southern side is a six over six double hung window and to the right of the facade is a nine paned fixed window. There is an attached shed roof structure spanning its southern side, which has a concrete foundation and was probably added to the building in the early 20th century. This farm structure is currently being used as storage space and as a work shed.

**E) HAY BARN, c. 1900**

One of the two largest farm buildings on the property is a hay barn, located one hundred yards west of the early bank barn (D). The building has a gable roof, with the gable ends facing east and west. It is one and a half stories tall, rectangular in footprint with a large, rolling, slightly off center entry doorway on the eastern gable end. There are two large rolling doors on the north and south facade, toward the rear of the building that line up across the barn from each other. These served as drive-through for wagons. There are windows in both of the gable peaks, with the one in the eastern peak being boarded up and the western one being a nine paned square window. There are also three regularly spaced six pane, rectangular windows on the first floor eastern facade. Inside it is open to the rafters, allowing for maximum storage of loose hay and later hay bales. The floor is currently concrete and the building is used to store large farm machinery and a small sail boat.

**F) GROUND LEVEL STABLE BARN, c. 1890**

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Three feet to the west of the hay barn is a ground level stable barn whose northern facade begins three feet north of the hay barn's southern facade. It is the largest structure on the property and measures approximately 60 by 100 feet and is set into a hill that continues down to the Prickly Ash Brook. It is a two-story gable roof structure with the gable ends facing north and south. It is rectangular in footprint and sits on a limestone foundation, with the foundation exposed four feet at the southwest corner, and the grade rising to expose only one foot of the foundation at the northern end. The eastern facade is flush with the grade. The eastern side has three irregularly placed and irregularly sized doorways on the first floor. The first floor of the western side is six bays across with an entry in the second bay from the northern end. The other five bays have regularly placed, small, square, twelve-paned windows, which correspond with the stalls that are located in the interior of the first floor. The second floor contained the hay loft and there are five, large, square, low-placed openings on the second floor of the eastern side through which hay could easily be hauled up. The first floor has an original concrete floor with some stalls still remaining. The structure is currently not in active use.

**G.) MILK HOUSE, c. 1920**

Projecting from the far left eastern side of the ground level stable barn is a small one-story milk house with gable roof and high concrete foundation. The gable ends face north and south and the ridge line of the milk house lines up with the southern facade of the ground level stable barn. There is a small overhang created by the southern plane of the milk house roof that covers the far right southern facade entry of the ground level stable barn and there is an entry to the milk house on its western facade that opens out onto this entry. The foundation and main door is about three feet high, making it easy to load milk onto wagons. There is an entry on the left eastern side with four concrete steps. Milk houses became common in Vermont in the early 20th century as a means of reducing milk contamination.

**H) PIG HOUSE, c. 1900**



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Fifty feet east of the ground level stable barn is a small, one-story, gable roof farm building. It has irregularly placed, square, six paned windows and a modern garage door on the eastern facade. It also has a larger original, rolling door on the eastern side. A recently added shed roof on the western side with exposed rafter tails runs the length of the western facade. The building was probably used to house pigs.

**I) MILL FOUNDATIONS, 1766 and 1788**

The historic mill foundations are located some three hundred yards south of the farm buildings along the Prickly Ash Brook. They are made of limestone. The foundation from the original saw mill (1766) and the saw mill that was reconstructed on the original foundation in the 1790's are located just north of the bridge that carries Doolittle Road across the brook, on the eastern bank, directly below some small falls. It is approximately five wide by ten feet long and is seven feet tall. The limestone rock is in large, rectangular blocks and rest with the broad planes parallel to the ground. The stream breaks into two arms just beyond the saw mill foundations veering east and west, gradually rejoining each other some 30 yards downstream. There are falls on both of these arms which helped facilitate the mills operations. The grist mill was built in 1788 and the foundation is located along the western arm of the break in the brook some 20 yards downstream from the saw mill. These foundations are located on both the west and eastern banks and are larger than the sawmills, being both taller and wider, measuring approximately 8 feet tall and ten feet wide. The mills were generally in operation in the spring when run off from the mountains turned the brook into a fast running stream, though a dam located directly above the saw mill foundations was used at times to facilitate the mill operation.

**J) CROWN POINT MILITARY ROAD**

The remains of the Crown Point Military Road run through the south western section of the Doolittle Farm. They are difficult to see, but in 1910 the local chapter of the D.A.R. erected sign posts to indicate its location along the Doolittle Road west of the farm complex.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1766- 1944

**Significant Dates**

1766

1788

c. 1800

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Howe, Job Lane

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:** \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 180

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 0 | | 4 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing

2 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 0 | | 4 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 0 |

3 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 0 | | 4 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing

4 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 0 | | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 0 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundry Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristina M. Van Vleck

organization University of Vermont date May 11, 1994

street & number Wheeler House telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Eleanor Clemens

street & number Box 173 telephone (801) 897-7791

city or town Shoreham state VT zip code 05770

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden from this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## SIGNIFICANCE

The Doolittle Farm is historically significant for its contribution to the development of agriculture in the Shoreham and the Champlain Valley. It meets the registration requirements for the property type, farmstead, in "Agricultural Resources of Vermont". First settled along the Crown Point Military Road in 1766, the farm has adapted throughout its history to the changing agricultural trends of the region. Early in the farm's history a saw mill and later a grist mill operated along the banks of the Prickly Ash Brook that runs through the property. The foundations from these mills exist today on the property and are well preserved examples of early mill foundations built before permanent settlement in Addison County. The whole farmstead, including the Federal style main house (c.1800), carriage barn (c. 1820), early bank barn (c. 1860), ground level stable barn (c. 1900), hay barn (c.1900), milkhouse (c.1920), chicken coop (c. 1920) and pig house (c. 1920) are architecturally significant. The Federal style main house has a distinctive Georgian plan with original flooring and paneling. The house was built by Job Lane Howe an active housewright in the area and was influenced by the Federal style General John Strong House (1795) in Addison, Vermont.

## HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Located on the flat, rich soil adjacent to Lake Champlain, the Shoreham area provided its first settlers with ample natural resources. Among its first European inhabitants was Colonel Ephraim Doolittle of Massachusetts, a captain in the French and Indian War and a colonel in the Revolutionary War. Doolittle was instrumental in blazing the Crown Point Military Road, which began construction during the French and Indian War. This road ran from Charleston, New Hampshire to Chimney Point on the shore of Lake Champlain in Addison County, carrying people and supplies from 1759 through the Revolutionary War. The road also provided for the settlement of the Champlain Valley region, bringing settlers, including Colonel Doolittle, who had discovered the rich and fertile of the Champlain Valley while building the road.

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In 1766, Doolittle and some of the men in his company, settled on the site that is now the Doolittle Farm. The land was quite diverse and fertile, with hills and valleys, as well as some flat areas which would be adequate for crop farming. These early settlers lived communally in a log cabin, clearing the land and built a saw mill built along the Prickly Ash Brook. The brook's natural falls provided enough power for the mill to be operated, particularly in the spring when winter runoff turned the brook into a raging stream. This was the first saw mill in the Shoreham area and the second in the county, but was burned by the Indians during the Revolutionary War. After the war, in 1788, a grist mill was erected on Prickly Ash Brook about 30 yards downstream from the original saw mill. The grist mill provided the growing Shoreham area community a vital mechanism for processing wheat and corn and is one of the earliest and most important manufactories in Vermont, because a town's development depended on having active mills nearby. In the 1890's another saw mill was erected on the site, on the foundations of the original saw mill. The limestone foundations of both mills can still be seen today. They provide valuable information about the lives of early Vermont settlers.

In 1788 an official charter to settle the town and area of Shoreham was obtained from the Governor of the Province of New Hampshire. Colonel Doolittle was instrumental in obtaining this charter and was among the 64 proprietors. The village of Shoreham was laid out in one acre plots and the surrounding land was divided into 100 acre lots, with Doolittle obtaining 5 lots or 500 acres, which was the largest land holdings in Shoreham at the time. The land he obtained contained an arm of the Prickly Ash Brook, as well as part of the Crown Point Road, which at the time still served as an important road of transport across the state. Both were valuable in assuring that Doolittle's farm would prosper, for the road provided for supplies and the brook would be ideal for the needed grist and saw mills. Today, no surface evidence of the Crown Point Road exists on the Doolittle property, but its historic passage is commemorated with two monuments erected by the Shoreham Daughters of the American Revolution in 1910.

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Around 1800 a large, Federal style, Georgian plan, brick house was built for Colonel Doolittle and his family. It is believed that this house was built by Job Lane Howe, an active housewright in the area at the time. Howe is thought to have built the Federal style, Georgian plan, hip roofed Callender House (1793) in Shoreham which is very similar in style to Doolittle's house. The Doolittle house is also very similar to the Lemon Fair Farm House (c. 1795) and Elijah Wright House (1790), both in Shoreham. Doolittle, in the design of his house, may have been copying the Strong House (1795) in nearby Addison, Vermont. Built by John Strong, a general in the Revolutionary War, it is remarkable similar to the Doolittle house. Both are large, brick Federal style houses with five by three bay plan, large chimneys, and central gable pediment. Both Strong and Doolittle were officers in the Revolutionary War and Doolittle may have been trying to establish high standing in the Shoreham community by copying the house of his nearby and established neighbor. The Doolittle house is also similar to other Federal style, brick houses in the Champlain Valley Region, including, the Jonah Case House (1784) in Addison, the Hileman House (c.1805) in Cornwall and the Jewett House (c. 1810) in Weybridge.

The high style of the Doolittle House

, expresses the prosperity of the Colonel and his place in the Shoreham region. Colonel Doolittle is considered the founder of the town of Shoreham and was Shoreham's town representative in 1798 and also represented the town in the 1791 Constitutional Convention. In 1910 the original gravestones of Colonel Doolittle and his wife, which had been on the property of the Doolittle Farm north of the main house, were placed in Shoreham's town center. Today, a modern gravestone marks the spot on the farm where Doolittle and his wife Sarah were buried.

With 500 acres of land and a good wheat market in the late 18th and early 19th century, the Doolittle Farm prospered. The grist and saw mills both continued to operate, providing lumber and flour for the Shoreham region. Also built during the early period of the Doolittle Farm was the Carriage Barn (c. 1820), a one and a

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half story wood structure with gable roof and two double door entrances with wrought iron hinges and elliptical boarding with keystone above both doors. Most early carriage barns in Vermont were only constructed by the most wealthy farmers, while the less affluent farmers simply housed all of their livestock and stored hay and grain in the same building or had enough room in their barn. The carriage barn on the Doolittle farm has historically been moved several times, probably as more farm buildings were constructed on the property.

In the early 19th century production of grain crops in the Champlain Valley became less prosperous. Wheat prices fell and the cold weather of 1816 destroyed many farms in the region. Also, the Champlain Valley soil, which had seemed so rich when first settled, was becoming less fertile from over-farming. Farmers at the time didn't know enough about fertilizing to keep the land in production, so farmers of the region turned to other means to sustain their farms, particularly sheep farming with the protective tariffs of 1824 providing additional incentive. From 1825 to 1850 sheep became the leading farm product in Vermont and the Champlain Valley seemed ideal for them. By 1837 Addison County had raised more sheep and produced more wool than any other county in the United States.

Throughout the 19th century the land associated with the Doolittle Farm remained basically intact. By the 1850's ownership had changed to the Birchard family. The *United States Agricultural Census of 1860* lists Alonzo Birchard as owner of the Doolittle Farm with 400 acres of land. During this period the Doolittle farm was very diversified and included 200 sheep, 11 milk cows, 25 stock cows, 8 horses and 2 swine. Hay and barley, wheat and corn were also produced, though solely for feed, not for profit. Apples from a small orchard, potatoes, and wood were produced during this time as well. The varying types of farm buildings on the farm reflect the varying types of agricultural production, from dairy cows to swine and chickens.

While in 1860 the Doolittle Farm had over 200 head of sheep, no direct physical evidence of sheep farming remains on the farm, perhaps because sheep were

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typically raised in sheep sheds, which were not always very permanent structures. The number of sheep on the farm began to decline in the later 19th century. Dairying began to replace sheep farming across Vermont as the protective tariffs were repealed and western states began to compete with Vermont for wool production. Also, there was greater demand for dairy products, such as cheese and butter.

The early bank barn (c. 1870) on the Doolittle Farm, could accommodate the dozen or so milk cows the Birchards owned in the second half of the 19th century. The "gravity flow" design of these types of barns allowed for the easy transport of the manure from the basement area to the fields. The hay to feed the cows was stored in the upper story and the stables were on the first floor. In 1860 the Birchards had 11 milk cows, which produced 1200 lbs. of butter and 300 lbs. of cheese in one year. This was not typical of most farms in Shoreham, which did not have such large dairy operations.

By the late 19th century the small dairy farms that had facilitated the early bank barn type gave way to larger numbers of dairy cows in an operation. The manifestation of this change can be seen on the Doolittle Farm, with the construction of a large ground level stable barn on the property. It is two stories tall and over seventy feet long, so far more dairy cows could in production than before. This barn also has an original period concrete floor.

In the early 20th-century fluid milk began to replace butter as the preferred dairy product produced on dairy farms in Vermont. Refrigerated railroad cars and better storage capabilities allowed for milk to be transported without risk of souring. To accommodate the need for cold storage facilities and as health official became concerned with milk handling, most dairy farms built milkhouses separate from the barn. The milkhouse on the Doolittle farm, which is attached to the ground level stable barn, was typical of the milkhouses being built in the 1920's with gable roof, concrete foundation and high doorway for easy wagon access.



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Around 1900 the large hay barn on the Doolittle Farm was built adjacent to the ground level stable barn. This large open frame structure with large entrances for wagon drive-throughs, provided additional storage for hay and is a common farm building type on Vermont farms of the late 19th and early 20th century.

Two other buildings exist on the Doolittle farm: a small, one-story chicken coop and a small, one-story, gable roof pig house. Both were probably built c. 1900 and reflect the diversity of the livestock on the Doolittle Farm. In the early 1900's poultry and egg ranching was being promoted to farmers by the State of Vermont Agriculture Department. Farmers also kept pigs, particularly if they made cheese and butter or sold cream because they would eat the whey.

The Doolittle Farm was purchased by Charles and Eleanor Clemens in 1969, and continued to function as a farm into the 1970's. Today the property that Colonel Doolittle acquired in 1788 is still very much intact. The Prickly Ash Brook flows in torrents every spring, rushing past the historic mill foundations that served as the center of manufacture in the early settlement of Shoreham. The Federal style Georgian plan home built for Colonel Doolittle is intact, as are the farm buildings that reflect the farm's diverse agricultural history. Much of the land around the farm is managed today, with pasture land and hay production on the property. The rich and fertile land of the Champlain Valley provides sustenance for farmers in the region and the Doolittle Farm gives testament to the rich tradition of Vermont agricultural life.

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Doolittle farm is located in the town of Shoreham, approximately five miles north of Shoreham village. The farm encompasses 180 acres. The western boundary of the property is state highway 22-A, and starting at the intersection of Doolittle Road and 22-A, the boundary travels northerly along the highway till it comes to the Bridgport town line. At the town line the boundary heads easterly 48 acres. The boundary line then travels southerly till it comes to the intersection with Doolittle Road. The line then heads westerly along Doolittle Road, returning to the intersection with highway 22-A.

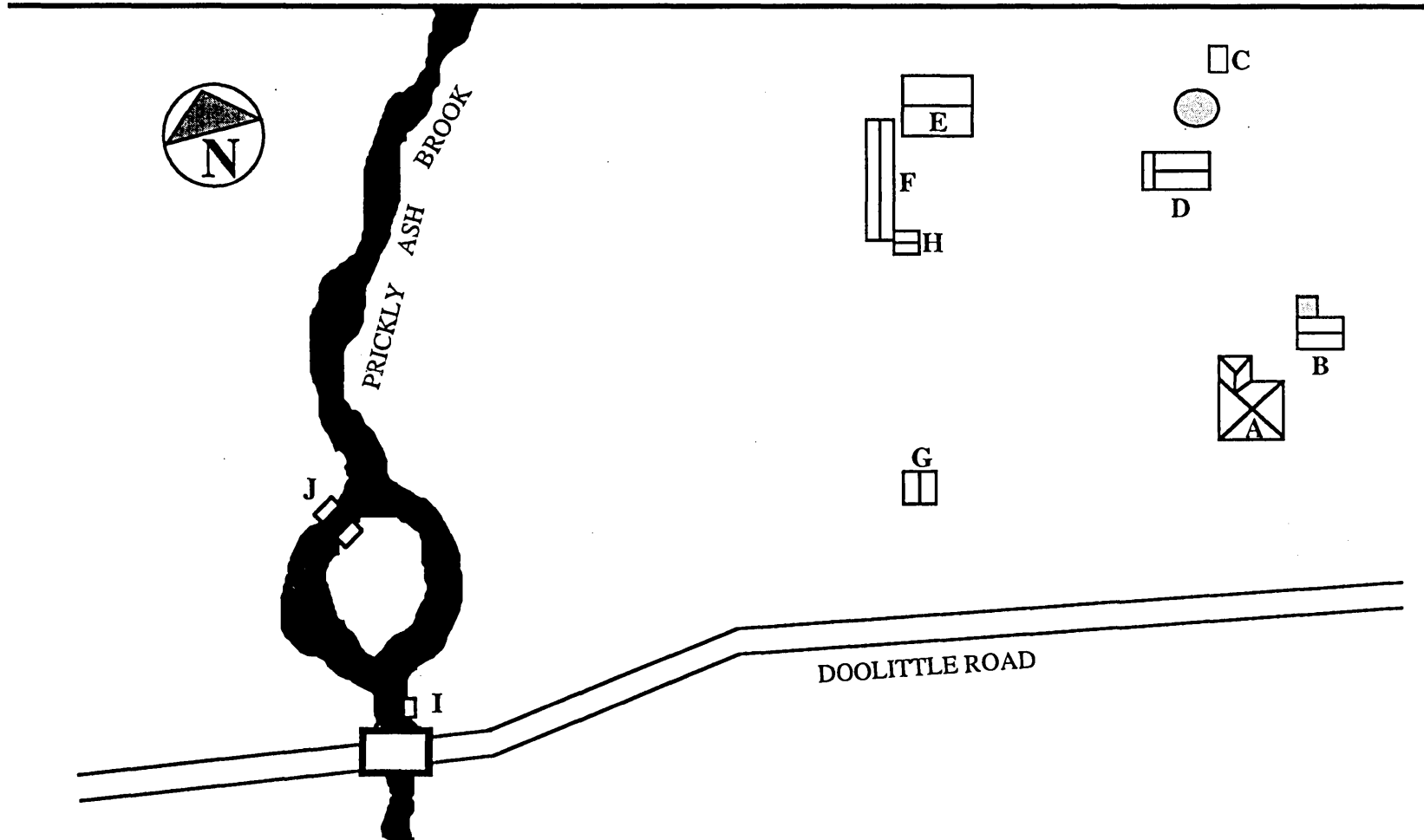
### VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The farm includes 2 acres that encompass the farm buildings and main house. Forty-four acres of tillage and 70 acres of pasture are located to the east of the main house and 64 acres of woodland are located to the west of the main house with the Prickly Ash Brook running through the western and northern areas of the property. Col. Ephraim Doolittle, the original founder of the farm, had 500 acres of land, that was laid out when the charter for the town of Shoreham was signed. The farm's acreage has declined over the year, but continually has included some of the pasture, woodland and cropland that Colonel Doolittle formed. Ten acres of the current owners property is located in the town of Bridgport. It is not included in as part of the farmstead because it has not been historically associated with the property.

SKETCH MAP  
COLONEL EPHRAIM DOOLITTLE FARM  
SHOREHAM  
ADDISON COUNTY  
VERMONT  
KRISTINA VAN VLECK



**KEY**

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| A MAIN HOUSE         | H MILKHOUSE                   |
| B CARRIAGE HOUSE     | I SAW MILL FOUNDATION         |
| C CHICKEN COOP       | J GRIST MILL FOUNDATIONS      |
| D EARLY BANK BARN    | □ NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES |
| E HAY BARN           |                               |
| F GROUND STABLE BARN |                               |
| G PIG PEN            |                               |



SKETCH MAP  
COLONEL EPHRAIM DOOLITTLE FARM  
SHOREHAM  
ADDISON COUNTY  
VERMONT  
KRISTINA VAN VLECK

**KEY**

-  WOODLAND
-  PASTURE AND TILLAGE



SCALE 1: 5,000

