

# DATA SHEET

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

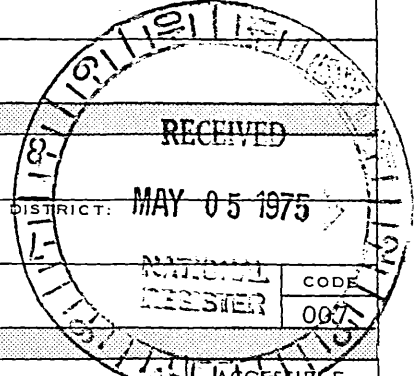
STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Coos
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 11 1975

### 1. NAME

COMMON: Holton House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Wilder-Holton House <i>use this</i>

### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 226 Main Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second
STATE: New Hampshire	CODE: 03584
COUNTY: Coos	CODE: 007



### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments Tenant is caretaker

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Lancaster Historical Society	STATE: New Hampshire
STREET AND NUMBER: 226 Main Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster	CODE: 33
STATE: New Hampshire	CODE: 03584

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Registry of Deeds, Coos County Courthouse	COUNTY: Coos
STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Lancaster	CODE: 33
STATE: New Hampshire	CODE: 03584

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: New Hampshire's Historic Preservation Plan	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State of New Hampshire, Department of Resources & Economic Development	
STREET AND NUMBER: PO Box 856, 317 State House Annex	
CITY OR TOWN: Concord	CODE: 33
STATE: New Hampshire	CODE: 03301

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Hampshire	FOR NPS USE ONLY
COUNTY: Coos	
ENTRY NUMBER: 111	DATE
DATE: JUN 11 1975	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Description

The Wilder-Holton House was constructed in 1780 by its original owner, Jonas Wilder.

Architecturally, the two story clapboarded house with its attached shed is an excellent example of a typical Northern New England Colonial Farmhouse. The main building is nearly cubic in volume, with a hipped roof, simple detailing and of an elegantly straight-forward design.

The basic structure appears to be of the heavy-timber frame variety, similar to barn construction. It is constructed with mortise and tenon joints and hand-wrought nails, and is three bays wide; the two end bays being seventeen feet each and the central one is nine feet; the 12 x 12 vertical members being highly visible on the interior. This frame was set around a single large chimney which was offset to the Northwest of the center of the house. The ten foot by eleven foot granite fieldstone foundation for this chimney still exists up to the first floor level in the cellar.

The exterior of the house is distinguished by its cubic shape, and a facade treatment which is common to the three exposed sides, consisting of a fenestration pattern of two-one-two. There are five openings on each floor, two grouped near each corner and one in the center. The windows are all shuttered. There are presently three corbelled brick chimneys which extend about five feet above where they enter the roof as they are near the outside walls on the north, south and west sides.

The ground floor is still basically intact with well-proportioned major rooms in the four corners with entry halls and accessory spaces intersecting in the middle. The clarity of the plan leads one to suspect that the one wall which is offset from one of the central bays was a later alteration of the original construction.

The upstairs was originally a convertible space which was used as a meeting hall. The interior space is characterized by being low, ceiling heights being about seven feet-three inches and door heights six feet-six inches.

The building is situated at its original site and it is interesting to note that it is oriented four square with the points of the compass. The site is now surrounded by commercial property, but steps have been taken and further plans are underway to insure the integrity of the site, primarily through a landscaping program and possible designation as a local historic district. The grounds are well laid out with a spacious yard surrounding the house and many large trees including blue spruce and a large pine which is believed to be virgin growth.

The house with attached shed probably remains in outline as originally constructed. Many interior changes were made 1893-1915. It is the desire of the Lancaster Historical Society to eventually restore the house to its original condition.

Continued on Continuation Sheet 1

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY COOS	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 11 1975

(Number all entries)

7. Description, continued.

Roof has been rebuilt, date uncertain; if after the 1917 fire, the style remained as before (as shown in photographs prior to that date.) There are no very early pictures to verify original type of roof...or anything else.

Cellar originally under less than half of the house, gradually extended, completed in early 1900's. Furnace installed, date unknown.

Doors. Original front door in southwest side replaced by two windows (about 1920-1930); original back door in northeast side replaced by a window at an earlier period. Originally the back door is said to have had a porte-cochere; no evidence remains. The present front door, on the southeast side, may have been a side door from the beginning, or may have been added some years after the house was built. A door, once the front door, now serves the shed.

Stairway, enclosed, leading up from the kitchen, remains but is blocked off at ceiling level. Very probably this was at first the only stairway, the present hall staircase being added later.

Windows, originally of 24 panes (12 over 12), were at some time replaced by windows of 12 panes (6 in each sash) everywhere except in the shed, where there are still two 24-paned windows.

Floors of soft wood have been covered upstairs and down by hardwood boards except for one ground-floor room and some closets.

Second floor was at first one large room, with swinging partitions which converted it into several smaller rooms, or fastened to the ceiling when the place was used as a hall. The partitions were made permanent at some time after the early 1790's, and the second floor remodeled into a separate apartment in 1928. A closet still contains a section of the bench which once ran all the way around the entire space used as a hall.

Outbuildings, including several large barns and sheds were destroyed by fire in 1917. Only a small, brick smoke-house remains. A four-car garage was constructed, using as much as possible salvaged material from the barns.

Since 1965, changes made by the Lancaster Historical Society have included removing the bathtub and sink from the ground floor, adding a small pantry sink and a facsimile (unconnected to chimney) of the old kitchen hearth, fireplace and oven. Also a cement floor was poured in a portion of the attached shed, which had no floor, although the larger part of this shed is floored with wood.

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1780

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | ... losophy                             | <u>Museum</u>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | <u>Historic</u>                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian                                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance

Exploration/Settlement

The prime significance of the Wilder-Holton House is that of age and its relation to the settlement of the area. It was the first two-story house built in that part of New Hampshire, which became Coos County and was then a part of Grafton County. It is now considered the oldest house in the county, one-story houses known to be older having been lost by fire.

Social/Humanitarian

The part this structure has played in local social and historical development is significant. From 1780 it was the home of a family operating a good-sized farm, beginning with over 800 acres, having become somewhat less by the time the 1917 barn fire put a stop to active farming.

From the outset until the 1791-1794 erection of a Meeting House, the Wilder-Holton house served as a place in which to hold both town and church meetings. For some years after 1810 it was a boarding house during the periods when court was in session; the courthouse being at that time just across the street.

It has been traditionally accepted that the Wilder-Holton house was a station on the Underground Railway of slavery days, the owner being an ardent abolitionist.

Architecture

The Wilder-Holton house is architecturally significant in that it exhibits the characteristics intrinsic to the early northern New England colonial farmhouse; four square, cubic in volume, central chimney, pitched roof, heavy-timber frame construction, and simplicity and clarity of design. It is a representation of the self-sufficient pioneer entity which still managed to possess a great deal of grace, while meeting the pragmatic necessities which were so demanding of it because of the time and climate in which it was built.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Merrill, Mrs. Georgia, compiler (?) History of Coos County (Syracuse, New York: W. A. Fergusson and Company, Boston, 1888).

Somers, Rev. A. N. History of Lancaster, New Hampshire. (Concord, New Hampshire: The Rumford Press, 1899).

Bicentennial Committee, Historical Sites and Houses of Lancaster, NH. (Lancaster, New Hampshire, 1964.)

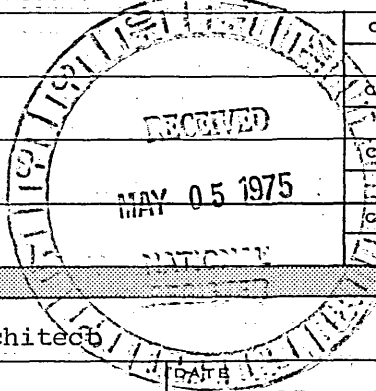
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44 ° 29 ' 50 "	71 ° 34 ' 38 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 9/10 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Cecile M. Costine, President; Fritz Griffin, Architect

ORGANIZATION  
Lancaster Historical Society

DATE  
March 17, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
226 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Lancaster

STATE  
New Hampshire 03584

CODE  
33

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name [Signature]  
Commissioner, DRED  
Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date April 30, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/11/75

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 10 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 2

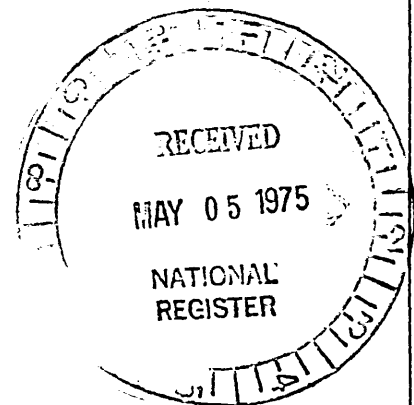
STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY COOS	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance, continued.

Education/Preservation

It is further significant in that it was preserved for nearly one hundred and sixty years by one family who refused many temptations to sacrifice it and who recently saw fit to convey it to the Lancaster Historical Society to be able to preserve it for perpetuity. It is now an historical museum serving the community, area and state as a depository and source of historical information and education.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 3

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Coos	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

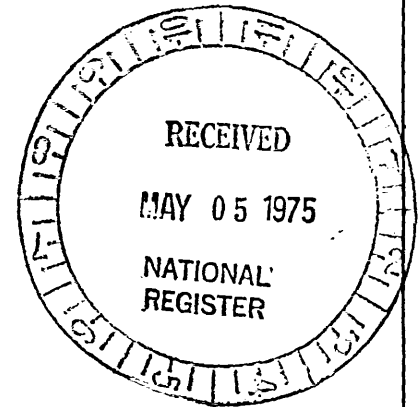
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued

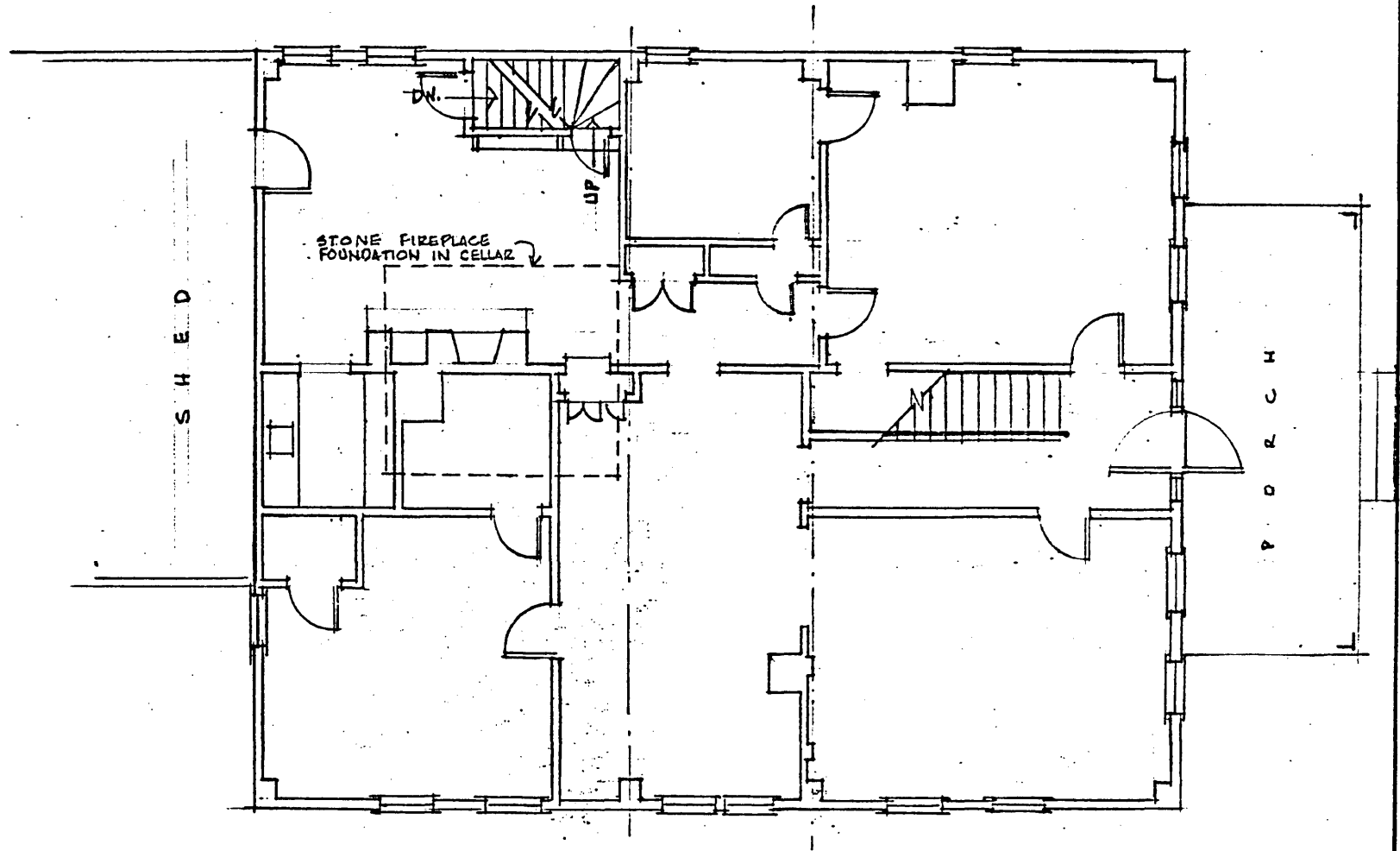
10.2 UTM References

Zone 19

Easting 2-95-~~425~~ 050

Northing 49-30-760





**WILDER - HOLTON HOUSE**  
 LANCASTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 226 MAIN STREET • LANCASTER, N.H. • 03584

EXISTING  
 GROUND FLOOR PLAN

DRAWN: FG

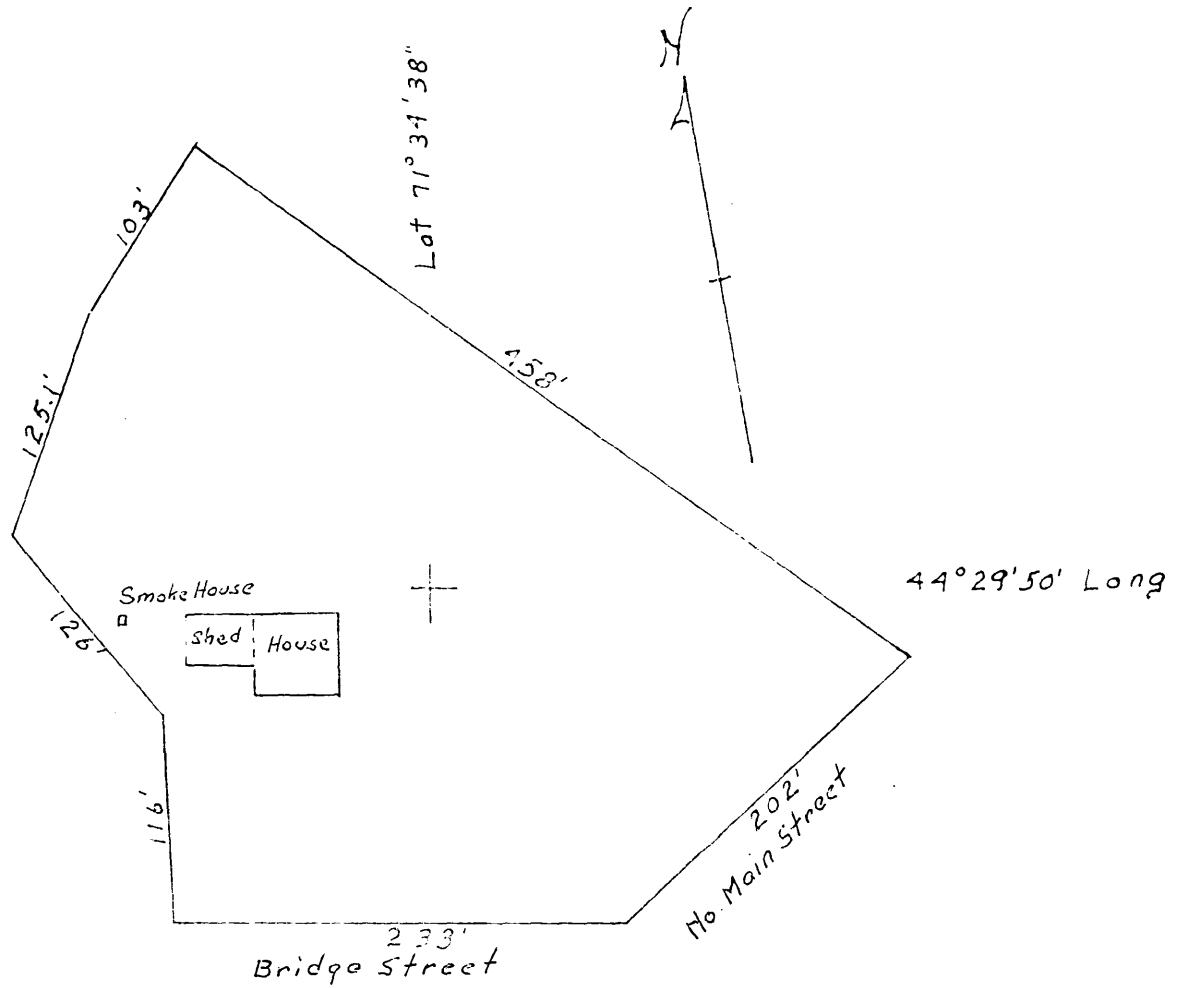
SCALE:  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$

DATE: 3-17-75





Plan of Lancaster Historical Society Property  
Lancaster, New Hampshire



Scale 1" = 100'