

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to 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 John Elkins Farmstead
other name/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 156 Beach Plain Road NA not for publication
city or town Danville NA vicinity
state New Hampshire code NH county Rockingham code 015 zip code 03819

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.)
Nancy E. Miller 7/25/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
NEW HAMPSHIRE
State or 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 or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered into 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:) _____

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8-30-96
Entered in the
National Register

John Elkins Farmstead
Name of Property

Rockingham County, NH
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Agriculture: agricultural outbuildings

Domestic: secondary structure

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

foundation granite

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other N/A

Narrative Description

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

John Elkins Farmstead
Name of Property

Rockingham County, NH
County and State

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 the 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 last 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1850-1879

Significant Dates

See narrative

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Biographical 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 Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

John Elkins Farmstead
Name of Property

Rockingham County, NH
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 9 3 2 8 5 2 0 4 7 5 6 5 4 0
Zone Easting Northing

3 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
Zone Easting Northing

2 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

4 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Lynne Emerson Monroe and Kari Ann Federer
organization Preservation Company date May 1996
street & number 5 Hobbs Road telephone (603) 778-1799
city or town Kensington state NH zip code 03833

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 Anne and George Chaudoin
street & number 156 Beach Plain Road telephone (603) 642-5368
city or town Danville state NH zip code 03819

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 for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing for 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 Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

John Elkins Farmstead
Rockingham County, NH

Description

The John Elkins Farmstead is a significant "L"-shaped connected farm complex composed of four sections: a large late 18th century 5 X 2 bay, 2¹/₂ story house connected to a very large, unusual late 19th century barn with two entries on the lateral elevation by a six bay long wing, and a carriage shed connected to the barn at right angle to form the dooryard. The main section is oriented parallel (laterally) to the road. The long orientation was necessitated by the site which drops rapidly behind the buildings. The composition of the parts was achieved in the second half of the 19th century when the farm was reconstructed to be a model of then current ideals as a connected farm. No information could be found regarding the construction and function of the original farm.

The 2¹/₂ story, 5 X 2 bay, center chimney house has the heavy massing, and broad low roof of the Georgian period, but other details are of the Federal period in which it was constructed. It received two significant remodelling campaigns, c.1900 and 1974, which have affected its integrity and significance as a representative of Federal period detail and style. The massive post and beam frame is supported by a granite block foundation above grade and elaborate mortared stone foundation below; some of the stones are of boulder size. The walls are sheathed in clapboards, trimmed with a narrow water table and narrow corner boards. The eaves of the low-pitched gable roof are close-cropped with a two-part frieze and slight returns on the gable ends. The second story windows are located close under the eaves. The roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. A tall, square, brick fireplace chimney pierces the center of the ridge. The chimney is supported by two high arches in the basement and is topped by a late 20th century brick cap. The focal point of the facade is the center entry which was remodelled in 1974. The doorway is trimmed with plain boards and topped by a transom; it has a new multi-panel door. Historically, the doorway was wider and examination of historical photographs shows sidelights and possibly a semi-elliptical fan, surrounded by a decorative projection of undetermined detail. The entry was remodelled c.1900 with a narrow entry and an Italianate door hood (historical photograph, collection of Forest Griffin). These were replaced with the present doorway in 1974. The large, tall windows are evenly spaced across the facade. They have original board trim with molding around the edges, and contain double-hung 9/6 sash, which were totally rebuilt in the 1974 remodelling using the old glass panes. Those in the western bays of the facade were replaced in 1974 when the turn-of-the-century rectangular Italianate bay with brackets was removed. The c.1900 remodelling also involved repainting of the house and barn to a contrasting scheme popular in that period. In each gable is a pair of small rectangular windows, lighting the attic, with 4/4 sash (replacements) with a square vent above. Fenestration on the rear (north) elevation is irregular. Three windows have 9/6 sash. The western bays on the first story contain a modern three-part picture window. All of the windows are now flanked by decorative shutters consisting of three vertical boards installed in the 1990's. A one

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John Elkins Farmstead
Rockingham County, NH

Description (continued)

story porch, probably added in the mid-19th century as an important component of the connected farm, spans the west end elevation of the house. The porch has a hip roof supported by square posts, and is enclosed by new screens of lattice and a balustrade installed in the 1990's. Under the porch is the side entrance. A bulkhead with concrete block walls and gable roof provides access to the basement through the east wall of the foundation.

The interior was the focus of the 1974 remodelling. According to Lloyd Tibbets, the carpenter who did most of the work, the interior was gutted to the framing and rebuilt completely, maintaining significant historic features and carefully copying others where possible. Therefore some of the Federal style doors and woodwork, while new, do indicate what was there. Mantels, some doors and second floor woodwork was left. A careful inventory of original and replacement parts was not conducted for this report. The roof framing system, composed of six rafters, four purlins and the ridge pole, is intact. The rafters are hewn, and the purlins sawn with an up and down saw. The framing shows in boxed exposed framing, including cased corner posts and additional posts at the center dividing walls. The triple-run staircase (not replaced in 1974) is located in front of the chimney, in the small entrance hall; it has square posts and balusters. The wide pine board floors, present in most rooms, were not replaced in 1974 (Tibbets 1996). The doors are four panel with fine narrow mold, original or copying the late 18th century originals, and have flat-board trim edged with a simple molding. A Federal period mantel and fireplace surround as well as a fireplace with large single panel above, are original and were not replaced in 1974. Wainscoting with a projecting chair rail was added to all first floor rooms in 1974 (Chaudoin 1995; Tibbets 1996). (The basis for this addition is not known.) Windows in the front rooms of the first floor and the east front chamber have pocket shutters that were rebuilt in 1974. The west front room had a 19th century bay window, which was removed and replaced by two 9/6 windows in the 1970's (Chaudoin 1995). The original kitchen spans the central section of the rear of the house, with the fireplace on the rear of the chimney. The very large cooking fireplace retains its bake oven. It has a brick hearth. A mantel was added above, but original feather-edged boards sheath the wall above and around it. The other walls of the historic kitchen are covered with wooden shingles, added recently. A large picture window is centered on the rear wall. A small room is located in the northeast rear corner of the house, off of the kitchen.

The long, two story wing projects from the northwest corner of the main block. The date of the wing was not identified, but it logically falls to the mid-19th century connection of the buildings. Kitchen ells became common between 1820 and 1850, and were often built when the use of a cook stove was adopted rather than installing the stove in the old

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John Elkins Farmstead
Rockingham County, NH

Description (continued)

kitchen (Hubka 1984:48, 126). The choice of a wing rather than an ell reflects the topography of the site as the ground slopes down behind the house. This portion of the house is supported by a brick foundation, which is a full story high, exposed on the rear. The modern kitchen is located in the wing, probably in the same location as the 19th and early 20th century kitchen. At one time, pigs were housed in the cellar of the wing (Chaudoin 1995). The wing has the same simple board trim as the main block, and has flat window trim. Two entrances on the facade contain modern wood panel glazed doors. Fenestration across the six bay facade is irregular and historic photographs show that the pattern is original. Windows have flat board trim and contain double-hung 6/6 sash, flanked by decorative shutters. A brick stove chimney pierces the ridge. Two skylights were inserted in 1974 on the front roof slope. The rear elevation has several windows with 6/6 sash and a three-part picture window. A screen porch, added 1974, supported on high posts spans the eastern end of the wing's rear elevation. In the corner of the rear elevations of the main block and wing is a small one story extension with a shed roof.

Historically, on the first floor, the wing contained the kitchen, milk room, workroom, wood shed and other unfinished space, a typical connected farm arrangement (Griffin 1995; Sanborn 1996; Hubka 1984). The intact barn-board walls, stone sink and boiler are indicative of those historic functions. Some additional walls were added in 1974 (Tibbets 1996). On the second floor of the wing one large room, restored in 1974, has a vaulted plaster ceiling. Some stories suggest that it replicates what was there prior to restoration, then in very poor condition (Chaudoin 1995). However, the restoration carpenter, Lloyd Tibbets, cannot remember an older arched ceiling, but he also cannot remember a reason for incurring the expense of arching the new one (Tibbets 1996). Long-time neighbors interviewed for this report were not aware of an arched room on the upper floor (Sanborn 1996; Griffin 1996). Material investigation was not undertaken for this report.

The west end of the wing abuts the east gable end of the barn, with unusual enclosed bridge connections, i.e., the first floor of the wing and barn are connected on the front (south) elevation and the second story is connected on the north. The massive 2¹/₂ story barn is oriented laterally to the road, with its ridge parallel to those of the house and wing. The barn, erected in the 1870's, at the same time as a neighboring barn (Griffin 1995) has heavy beam framing, supported by a very well-executed mortared fieldstone foundation, and massive granite posts in the basement. The roof has later balloon framing. The facade of the barn is essentially symmetrical with two large barn doors topped by transoms. Flanking the entries are small square windows and vertical board doors. The walls of the barn are sheathed in clapboards and have narrow corner boards and frieze, and a molded cornice below the projecting eaves and returns. Most windows have

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John Elkins Farmstead
Rockingham County, NH

Description (continued)

flat board trim and double-hung 6/6 sash. A cupola/ ventilator was removed from the ridge in the 1960's and replaced by a smaller decorative ventilator (Chaudoin 1995). The function of the farm changed when the cellar of the barn was converted for use as the cow tie up in the mid-20th century (Griffin 1995). (Cows were housed on the main floor earlier.) It has cement floors and troughs; the cow stanchions were removed in the 1980's (Chaudoin 1995). The rear elevation has an exposed basement level, lit by a series of square windows. Access is through an opening with a modern overhead garage door. The ground floor has windows with fixed nine-pane sash and the second story has 6/6 sash. On the west gable end is a side-rolling door, which allowed for access in and out of the barn when the cattle were housed on the first floor (Griffin 1995). The full story above was probably used for hay and grain storage.

Projecting toward the road at a right angle from the southwest corner of the barn is a one story structure with shed roof. This was originally a stable and carriage shed, probably built along with the barn in the mid-19th century. The interior was remodelled in the late 1970's and now contains an apartment, however, bead board wainscoting and many details were retained which document the historical function of the structure. The additions made to create the apartment are mostly reversible. Centered on the front is a wide entrance with clipped corners. The entry has been filled in with vertical boards and a large multi-pane window. Other doors are of vertical boards. On the north end of the shed, at the corner of the barn, is an entrance with a small modern wooden deck. A dug well is said to be located under the end of the shed (Chaudoin 1995; Griffin 1995).

The property is divided into several zones. The ground slopes down immediately behind the house and barn, and the basement walls are exposed on the rear elevations. The buildings are located close to the edge of the road. The formal front yard is located across the front of the house and to the west across the front of the wing. In front of the barn, in the courtyard created by the carriage shed, is now a gravel driveway. The buildings are surrounded by trees and shrubs, heavily shaded and screened from view. Maple trees planted in 1896 shade the front and side yards (Chaudoin 1995; Griffin 1996). A picket fence, very similar to the one shown in historic photographs, but with gates and a trellis built in 1974, lines the road and encloses the historic front yard (Tibbets 1996). The landscaping surrounding the house is recent. A row of shrubs is located close to the front of the house. Shrubs also line the rear foundation wall, and smaller shrubs are located around the walls of the wing and barn. Below the back of the house is a terraced yard with rows of shrubs, mortared stone retaining walls and a large in-ground swimming pool, surrounded by a chain link fence, and a small pool house.

The parcel of land presently legally associated with the Elkins House contains 32.77

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**John Elkins Farmstead
Rockingham County, NH**

Description (continued)

acres, with an additional 26.4-acre lot subdivided on the north. Combined, the lots form the core of the historic farmstead, plus twelve acres at the corner of Cross and Back Road, added to the farm in the 1930's. The long narrow lot extends north toward Back Road. Presently, a long narrow open field extends to the rear (north) of the house. This is kept mown for use as an airplane landing strip. The field is lined on the sides by woods. The western property line, just west of the buildings, is defined by the tree line along a stone wall, and a farm lane, which leads to the rear of the property. Historically, the property included fields behind the house where hay and crops were raised, pasture to the north, additional fields beyond, and a wood lot at the northern end along Back Road (Griffin 1995). The vegetation patterns were changed in the 1970's when additional land was cleared for the airstrip (Sanborn 1996).

The edge of the property along Beach Plain Road is lined by stone walls and mature one hundred year old maples; the neighborhood includes other historic houses and some open fields. The land on the south side of the road was historically part of the hundred acre Elkins farm. Immediately opposite the John Elkins Farmstead is a mid-19th century Greek Revival farmhouse historically on a fifty acre tract of the farm occupied by John's brother, Abel Elkins. This is an excellent example of a Greek Revival style sidehall house, with ell and a separate barn.

Statement of Significance

The John Elkins Farmstead is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, significant within the context of farm architecture in Danville, New Hampshire. Although its original construction date is earlier, this property is significant for the period of ownership and improvement by John Elkins between c.1850 and 1879, when it became a connected farm reaching its peak of agricultural productivity. John Elkins was considered one of the best local farmers, progressive in farming methods and the architecture of his property; as reflected by his massive farm complex. The town contains many large farmsteads, but the John Elkins Farmstead is the only fully-developed example of the connected farm configuration. Its form, plan, layout, orientation, and use of the various structures are all hallmarks of this regionally significant building type. The defining characteristics of a connected farm, included the alignment of buildings parallel to or at right angles to the road; staggered in a row or in an L-shaped plan, sheltering a south facing dooryard from the north winds, providing a dry sunny place to work. The construction or reconstruction of the complex in several stages was also characteristic of the trend. The property retains integrity of those qualities that result in its significance.

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John Elkins Farmstead
Rockingham County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

Historical Background and Significance:

The John Elkins Farmstead is located in the northeastern corner of the town of Danville. Danville, formerly Hawke, which received its present name in 1836, was part of the town of Hampton when it was first established. In 1694, Danville was included in the town of Kingston when it was set off from Hampton. It was divided into lots at that time, but no records exist for the division and granting of land. Kingston was settled in the early 1700's, mainly by families from Hampton; the first church in Kingston was organized in 1725 (Hosier 1993:xii). Settlement in the area that is now Danville began c.1735. In 1760 it separated from Kingston as the town of Hawke. The rectangular town consists of a single north-south road (Route 111A) through the center of the town, with east-west roads crossing at various points (Tewksbury c.1805). Beach Plain Road and Back Road are parallel at the southern and northern edges of the Elkins property; they are early range roads indicative of the original division of land in a grid pattern. Another early north-south road known as Cross Road connects Beach Plain and Back Roads along the east side of the property. This portion of the town is known as North Danville; it developed distinctly from the centers of Danville and South Danville, farther south on Route 111A. An early center of the town, it contained many 18th century farmhouses, the original meetinghouse (1760) and burying ground.

The exact construction date of the John Elkins Farmstead has not been identified, because no recorded deed to the original owner of the property was found, and the map and records of early land division for this area have not survived. The original occupant of the property was farmer and blacksmith Thomas Elkins and his wife Anna who moved here from Hampton prior to 1760, and lived in a house on the opposite (south) side of the road (State Papers 1760). On Thomas' death in 1790, the 125 acre farm was inherited by his son Jeremiah Elkins (Probate 1790). Physical evidence (arched chimney base, granite block foundation, cased corner posts, Federal style mantels, and late Georgian/early Federal interior door trim) suggests that the existing house was built at the end of the 18th century for Jeremiah Elkins (1759-1837) and his young wife Elizabeth Towle (1770-1852). Their only son Henry Elkins was born in 1796, and married in 1820 to Susanna Clough. They had two sons, John born in 1821 and Abel born in 1822 (Anonymous 1979:26). The Elkins family also owned a house and 103-acre farm nearby in Kingston, and confusion arises over the sequence of occupants of the Danville farm, because Jeremiah and Henry moved back and forth between the two properties at various times. After Jeremiah's death in 1837, Henry Elkins owned both properties (Probate 1837).

John and Abel Elkins inherited their respective portions of the large family homestead upon the death of Henry Elkins in 1850, at which time both were already living on the

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John Elkins Farmstead
Rockingham County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

property, John in the older house and Abel in a new house on the south side of the road (Chace 1857; Deed 1850; Probate 1850). The total size of the farm had been about a hundred acres. John Elkins' share of the property was a forty acre parcel with buildings including this house, encompassed by the current property boundaries, plus thirteen acres nearby. He also received a separate twenty-eight acre parcel south of Abel's land, with the privilege of passing across Abel's land to get to it. Abel Elkins received fifty acres, with the recently constructed Greek Revival house on it on the south side of Beach Plain Road (Probate 1850). Six acres of salt marsh in Hampton was divided, but all shares were later acquired by John Elkins (Probate 1850; Deed 1855).

The property's period of significance dates from John Elkins' ownership during the second half of the 19th century (Meigs 1995a; Hurd 1882:164). John Elkins was educated at Strafford and Kingston Academies. In 1843 he was married to Luella Badger Philbrick, when he was twenty-one years old and she was nineteen. They had five children, three of whom died before reaching adulthood (Anonymous 1979:178). John Elkins was a prominent local resident, serving as selectman and town clerk for many years, and was also a representative to the state legislature. He was of sufficient importance to merit a biographical sketch in the county history published just after his death. Notably, almost half of the sketch was devoted to the ancestry of his widow, Luella B. Philbrick Elkins. He was a successful farmer, considered one of the best in the town. "With no conservative ideas on any subject, he kept pace with the rapid strides made in architecture and farming." The sketch states that he "built a fine residence," resulting in confusion as it also says he lived on his grandfather's homestead (Hurd 1882:164). One explanation might be that John Elkins built and occupied the new house across the road for a short time prior to his brother Abel or that he so substantially remodelled this house that it became identifiably his.

The year John Elkins legally acquired his farm, 1850, it consisted of eighty acres of improved land and ten unimproved. Livestock included a horse, a pair of oxen, four milk cows and three swine. In 1860 he also had two sheep, and a pair of oxen. Annual crops included about forty bushels of corn, ten bushels of oats, three of beans, twenty tons of hay, a hundred bushels of potatoes, ten dollars worth of apples, two hundred pounds of butter and a one hundred pounds of cheese. Production rose to twenty bushes of wheat, forty of rye, forty of corn, four of beans, and 150 of potatoes in 1860. Elkins also made three gallons of wine, which was an unusual product. Production remained relatively constant through 1870. Forest products from the wood lot were also important; \$150 worth of cord wood was sold in 1869 (Bureau of the Census 1850, 1860, 1870).

Elkins replaced older outbuildings with a very large new barn and carriage shed (Photo

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John Elkins Farmstead
Rockingham County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

collection of Forest Griffin). According to local tradition, this was built at the same time as the barn on the Towle farm next door, c.1875 (Griffin 1995). John Elkins did not use the new buildings for long, however; he died in 1879 at the age of fifty-eight. His probate inventory taken in late summer and the agricultural census of 1880 documents the farm at that time. Of the total land, twenty acres was tilled, nineteen acres was mown for hay (twelve to fifteen tons annually), and twenty acres was meadow and pasture. Two tons of salt hay were cut from the six acres of salt marsh. Eighty-seven acres of the property was considered woodland, and at the time of his death, John Elkins had on hand twelve cords of wood, lumber in a shop, lumber and shingles, and pine boards at Fellows' mill. Livestock included a horse, a pair of oxen, two to three cows and one or two other cattle, as well as two hogs. Fifteen sheep were sold in 1879. Other products included fifty bushels of corn annually from one acre, ten bushels of oats from a half acre, twelve bushels of wheat from a half acre, and 130 bushels of potatoes from two acres. The orchard contained fifty apple trees, which produced a hundred bushels annually. Equipment included mowers, a cultivator, a harrow, a cutter, ice chains, numerous sleds and carts, yokes, saws and planes, a sleigh, a phaeton and two wagons (Probate 1879; Bureau of the Census 1880).

The homestead farm, inherited by the widow Luella B. Elkins, contained about seventy-five acres, of which forty acres was considered the home farm. The sixty acre Hook lot on the north side of Back Road, and the six acres of salt marsh in Hampton were willed to his daughters; Sarah Francis ("Fannie") Cook lived in Exeter, and Nellie M. Spofford in Boston (Probate 1879; Meigs 1995a; Hurd 1882:164).

Luella B. Elkins remained on the farm throughout her life. For some years following her husband's death, her elderly uncle Colonel Aaron Quimby lived with her (Hurd 1882:164). In 1881 she sold a 12.5 acre lot out of the eastern edge of the farm, along the Cross Road (Deed 1881). She maintained the farm on a very reduced scale throughout her life, owning a cow and a flock of more than twenty hens at the time of her death in 1899 (Probate 1899). The homestead contained fifty-five acres, with an additional fifteen acres south of the Abel Elkins property (Probate 1899).

During the early 1900's, the property was owned by Luella and John's children and grandchildren. The house changed hands between family members several times and the purpose of the transactions was not determined (Deed 1913a; Deed 1913b; Deed 1917a, Deed 1917b; Deed 1919). It was operated as a summer boardinghouse by son-in-law Alden E. Spofford, the widower of Fannie Elkins Spofford who died in 1898 (Meigs 1995a; Griffin 1995). This was one of five or six boardinghouses located along Beach Plain Road, which was popular with summer visitors for its scenic, rural location. The house was updated

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John Elkins Farmstead
Rockingham County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

with the addition of a bay window and new doorway (since removed) (Griffin 1995). "Maple Farm," as it was called, offered one or two week vacations. Free transportation was provided to and from the East Kingston depot. Guests were amused with picnics, boating, evening entertainment, and scenic drives (Photograph collection of Forest Griffin). Dairy farming continued to provide guests with fresh milk, and a vegetable garden was maintained (Sanborn 1996). Spofford also raised and sold fruits and vegetables (Anonymous 1906). Deeds suggest that the property was occupied only during the warmer months, while Massachusetts was the residence of most family members.

In 1919, the property was purchased by the Taatjes family, from Holland. The Taatjeses operated a good-sized dairy farm with twenty-five to thirty head of cattle (Sanborn 1996). In the early years, fresh milk was taken to the depot in East Kingston where it was shipped by rail to Boston (Sanborn 1996). Emma Taatjes owned the property after her husband's death, but used it only occasionally (Griffin 1995). In 1936, she sold the house and farm to Alfred and Mabel Swain from Melrose, Massachusetts (Deed 1936).

The Swains moved to Danville to operate a modest dairy farm. They later enlarged the farm with the purchase of twelve acres (Griffin 1995; Deed 1944). The carriage shed/stable was used for the work horses, wagons, and mowing machines. Chickens were housed upstairs in the barn. From 1947 until 1969, the farm was owned by the family of Rosa J. French who moved to Danville from Lynn, Massachusetts (Deed 1947; Deed 1969). They operated a larger dairy farm, with about twenty head of cattle. The cellar of the barn was converted for milking and housing the cows. The Frenchs, like most farmers in the area, sold milk to a larger processor who made local pick-ups with a milk truck (Griffin 1995).

The buildings were vacant and in poor condition in 1969 when the property was bought by Wallace and Rosaline Lee of Westwood, Massachusetts (Deed 1969). Over the next five years, the Lees made major repairs and improvements to the house. The property has been owned by George and Ann Chaudoin since 1974. George Chaudoin is a retired pilot and maintains a private landing strip in the field behind the house (Chaudoin 1995).

Architectural Significance:

Connected farm buildings were created throughout northern New England during the 19th century. Although they may appear somewhat haphazard, connected farm buildings shared similar patterns of spatial organization and usage (Hubka 1984:6). In the typical arrangement the house and barn are joined by a series of ancillary structures to form a continuous complex. The resulting complex contains four components: the main farmhouse, the kitchen and workroom, the wood and storage shed, and the barn. This connected farm

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Statement of Significance (continued)

configuration was the product of an intensive period of farm modernization and building experimentation that occurred during the 19th century (Hubka 1984:x). "To the farmers who made them, the connected farm building arrangement was eminently practical and was even a symbol of progressive agricultural improvement in New England" (Hubka 1984:3). The John Elkins Farmstead is an excellent example of this architectural type.

The original late 18th century house would have had a detached barn, the location of which has not been identified. The wing was constructed in the mid-19th century to provide additional work space and to create a sheltered door yard. This probably coincided with the installation of a cook stove, which was common. The stove chimney with boiler intact documents the technology at the time of the wing's construction, and suggests that it dates from after 1830 (Hubka 1984:123, 128). The plan of the wing was typical of the connected farm, with kitchen, summer kitchen or workroom, milk room, and wood shed. The division of these rooms is intact, though additional walls have been added.

The huge barn, built in the 1870's, reflects Elkins personal prosperity, as well as larger trends in agricultural history: "Greater mechanization and improved methods of agriculture on the New England farm between 1850 and 1890 increased crop yields and animal production for most farmers and, consequently, increased the overall need for storage and animal shelter space" (Hubka 1984:130). The construction of the barn and carriage shed in the 1870's completed the connected farm arrangement. (The location of the earlier barn is unknown). In this case, the choice of a laterally-oriented barn, rather than one with entries on the gable ends, was probably required by the steep drop-off immediately to the rear of the house. The transoms above the doors and clapboard-sheathed walls date the barn from after 1850, while the former cupola reflected the last quarter of the 19th century (Hubka 1984:58). The interior space would have been used somewhat differently due to the lack of a continuous central drive floor, but this barn had two drive floors instead of one. The doorway on the west end of the barn provided access to the barnyard and to the lane leading to the pasture. It was not until the mid-20th century that the cow tie-ups were moved to the cellar of the barn, which had previously been used for the storage of manure and machinery. The carriage shed provided additional space for housing horses and vehicles, reflecting the replacement of oxen with horses as draft animals during the second half of the 19th century (Hubka 1984:62). In this case, a carriage shed may have been desirable because there was no similar space in the wing.

The John Elkins Farmstead retains the pattern of differentiated yards, common to connected farm complexes. The formal front yard in front of the house is defined by a picket fence as it was historically and retains mature maples, while the space has been altered somewhat by modern landscaping. In front of the wing and outbuildings, the south facing

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Statement of Significance (continued)

door yard provided work space sheltered from the north wind, a characteristic feature of the connected farm (Hubka 1984:71). The enclosed barnyard area may have been located on the rear of the barn, but was restricted due to the topography.

The property has the design elements that contribute to the connected farm, including the main house with center chimney, and large late 19th century barn connected by a wing. The house was never highly embellished and retains its historic appearance, the main change being the replacement of the entry. The structural systems, massing, fenestration pattern and arrangement of spaces are intact. The choice and combination of materials is important to the integrity of a property. The Elkins house retains the types of materials, though some are replacements. Much of the interior, particularly on the first floor, was removed during the 1974 restoration, but significant elements were retained and others were replicated in kind. The highly significant framing and foundation materials are intact, and sufficient ornament and woodwork remains to provide and authenticate the historic structure. The fine workmanship of the framing, foundation, and chimney stack is clearly evident, and the craftsmen's skill is also shown by the barn and carriage house. The property retains integrity of feeling and the ability to convey its historic associations as a farmstead.

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Forest Griffin, former Danville resident, December 1995 and January 1996.
Jeannette Kimball, local historian, September 1995.
Peter Meigs, Hawke Historical Society, September 1995.
Milton Sanborn, Danville resident, January 1996.
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Historical Photographs

Collection of Forest Griffin, North Hampton.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The John Elkins Farmstead is located on map 2, parcel 48 as recorded in the tax records of the Town of Danville, New Hampshire. The boundary of the National Register property is rectangular and is defined to include the footprints of the historic buildings and their immediate setting. The western bound is defined by the legally recorded side lot line of the property, which is marked by a stone wall. The southern bound is the legally recorded front lot line of the parcel, along the north side of Beach Plain Road. The eastern bound is defined by a line, approximately ten feet east of and parallel to the eastern elevation of the house and perpendicular to Beach Plain Road. This line extends from the edge of the road, north to a point approximately thirty feet northeast of the northeast corner of the house. The northern bound of the National Register property is defined by a line parallel to Beach Plain Road and the ridges of the buildings, approximately thirty feet

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Geographical Data (continued)

from the back wall of the farmhouse and ten feet from the rear elevation of the barn.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the historic farmhouse, connected outbuildings, and yards that comprise the significant connected farm complex. The yards between the buildings and the road and their immediate surroundings to the sides and rear provide the associated setting for the historic architecture. The boundary is defined to exclude modern landscape elements in the back yard, including the swimming pool, which do not contribute to the significance of the property. The John Elkins Farmstead retains associated tracts of land, but these are not integral to the architectural significance of the farm buildings.

JOHN ELKINS FARMSTEAD
156 BEACH PLAIN ROAD
DANVILLE, NH

