

HARRISVILLE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

DISTRICT: SITE #:
IP-12

PROPERTY NAME (HISTORIC): The Timothy Bancroft House		OWNER (ORIGINAL): Timothy Bancroft	
PROPERTY NAME:		OWNER:	Carol L. Gold
LOCATION: On the north side of the access road to Mosquitobush (off the Tolman Pond Road)		ADDRESS:	7 Shady Hill Square Cambridge, MA 02138
		ACREAGE:	1.5 RANGE/LOT: NA
UTM REFERENCES: 18-736600-4760800	VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION: See site map.		
USGS QUADRANGLE: Monadnock			
DATE: 1785, c. 1850s SOURCE: "A Few Records," visual inference			

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: The Timothy Bancroft House is a large red clapboarded dwelling with a southern exposure set on a brushy lot adjacent to the remains of the Bancroft mill site. Its smaller and older, or easternmost, two-story section with leanto has a center chimney in its sharply peaked roof. Although some changes have been made to its fenestration, the location of its second story windows (as well as its roof pitch and narrow cornerboards) argue in favor of the assumption that this is the late 18th century Bancroft house. It does, however, differ in its small size and one-room deep plan from Harrisville's two other two-story 18th c. houses (cf. the Abel Twitchell House, (HVD-90 and the Farnum Upton House, PD-)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: From its construction in 1785 by Massachusetts emigré and farmer Timothy Bancroft, who needed "a newly built house to move his young, growing family into," to its current use as a summer residence for a Boston area family, this house has participated in every era of Harrisville's historical significance. Its principal and noteworthy contribution lies in its role as the primary residence for the Bancroft woodenware mill (by 1850-1875, NH42-41), earliest of a pair of nearby manufactories which, with their support buildings, made up the hamlet of Mosquitobush (also known as Mosquitoville). It is also thought to have been used as a boardinghouse for the predominantly French Canadian mill workers, probably after the Bancroft mill burned in 1875 leaving the nearby Parmenter/Tolman sawmill to the south the only manufactory in operation here.

An example of the mid-19th century intensification of the woodenware and lumber industry fueled by the availability of large quantities of white pine due to the reforestation

REFERENCES:

- Deeds and tax records
- Riley, Anna Margaret-Chandler (ed.). "A Few Records of the Past Relating to the Ancestry of Mrs. Marion Gould Thorpe Reed of Richmond, Virginia." Unpublished, n.d.
- Struthers, Parke H. A History of Nelson, NH 1767-1967. Keene: The Sentinel Printing Co., Inc. 1968
- Tolman, Kirsten. "The Ascent of the New England Sawmill...". Unpublished, 1978.

MAP: SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW:

Front elevation (south facade)
Facing north

PHOTOGRAPHER: L. Shonk

NEGATIVE FILE #: 12-21; 8/18/83

RECORDED BY: M. Meath; M. Cini

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:

Historic Harrisville, Inc.

DATE: January 1984



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Physical Description:

A covered front porch and an easterly extension have been removed from this part of the house.

To the west, a larger, gable-end-to-the-road 2 1/2 story section was added in perpendicular fashion in the mid-19th century (presumably shortly after the adjacent mill was built). It has a sidehall plan with covered entry in the righthand bay and symmetrical 6/6 fenestration. These features, in addition to its very wide cornerboards and pronounced overhanging eaves are characteristics of the locally ubiquitous Greek Revival style of the period. A small 20th century shed ('B' on the sketch map) sits northeast of the house ('A' on the sketch map).

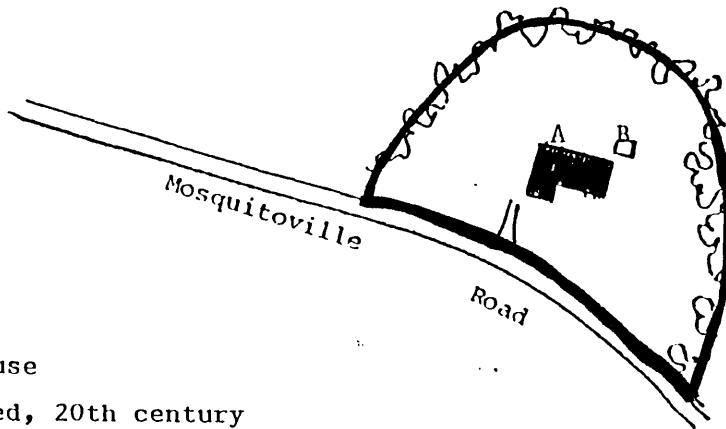
Significance:

consequent to the agricultural decline, Mosquitoville is among Harrisville's most important settlements. An active industrial site for almost a century (by 1850 until 1940), the complex at one time included 3-4 dwellings, (two of which survive, this and IP-11), possibly a smaller boardinghouse, two mills, a stable, a lumber drying shed, and various other drying sheds. The Mosquitoville mills supplied the larger, more sophisticated woolen manufacturing complex at Harrisville village (the Milan Harris Company and the Cheshire Mills) with logging service, with clothesboards on which to wind their woolen cloth, and with a large part of the sawn lumber needed to accomplish Harrisville village's major housing boom (much of it mill-owned) of the third quarter of the 19th century. The Bancroft house is of architectural interest as an example of an unusual early settler's cottage attached to a well preserved vernacular Greek Revival dwelling. It satisfies Criteria A and C.

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	ACREAGE: 2.3 RANGE/LOT: NA



- A - House
- B - Shed, 20th century
- - Contributing
- - Non-contributing



SCALE 1" = 200'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

Bounded on the north and east by the edge of trees, on the south by the Mosquitoville Road and on the west by the edge of trees.

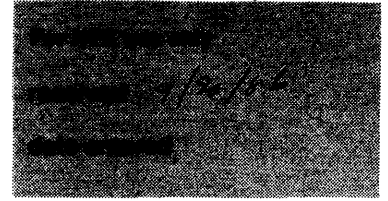
Includes the immediate visual surroundings incorporating the features contributing to the property's architectural and historical significance.

Designated as IP-12 on the Town of Harrisville Map, included with this nomination.

The boundaries of the property are indicated by the heavy black line on the sketch map above.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Harrisville MRA
State Cheshire County, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 11. Acre (The) ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 12. Adams, Moses, Farm ✓ | Substantive Review | Keeper | return S |
| | | Attest | |
| 13. Adams Farm ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 14. Aldworth Manor ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 15. Adams, John, Homestead--Wellscroft ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 16. Bancroft, Timothy, House ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 17. Beal, Persia, House ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 18. Bemis, Elbridge G., House ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 19. Bemis, George, House ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 20. Cheever, George, Farm ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |