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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting 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 HOSFORD-SHERMAN FARM

other names/site number "Home Among the Hills"

2. Location

street & number Vermont Route 30 N/A not for publication

city or town Poultney N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Rutland code 021 zip code 05764

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.)
Eric Selts OSHPD April 3, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 or 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 Robert Savage Date of Action 5/12/95

Hosford-Sherman Farm
Name of Property

Rutland County, Vermont
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	
3		buildings
1		sites
1		structures
1		objects
6	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Agriculture/storage

" /animal facility

" /agricultural outbuilding

" /agricultural field

Funerary/graves/burials

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Agriculture/agricultural outbuilding

" /agricultural field

Funerary/graves/burials

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Early Republic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation slate

walls brick

weatherboard

roof slate

other marble

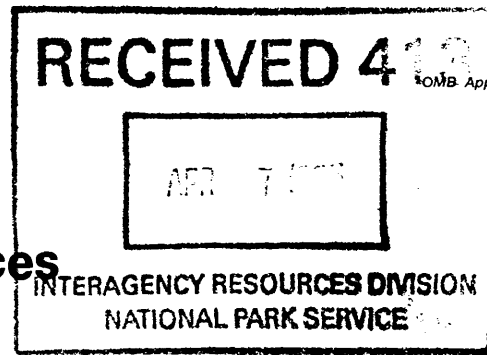
ceramic tile

Narrative Description

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

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Hosford-Sherman Farm
Rutland County, Vermont

DESCRIPTION

The Hosford-Sherman Farm lies in the Lewis Brook valley, its open fields surrounding the cluster of farm buildings and extending from the valley bottom northwestward onto the moderate slopes of a partly forested low ridge. The vernacular farmhouse (#1) consists of a two-story, brick, gable-roofed main block dating from 1829 and one-and-one-half- or one-story, wood-sheathed, gable- or shed-roofed rear appendages; the ell attached to the brick block dates probably from the late 1780s. A c. 1850, two-and-one-half-story, novelty-sided, gable-roofed tool shed (#2) with an added shed-roofed chickenhouse wing stands behind the house. Across the highway from the house, the post-and-beam-framed dairy barn (#3) has a c. 1910, two-and-one-half-story, novelty-sided, gable-roofed, banked main block with a ground-level stable; it is encrusted with later two- or one-story, shed-roofed wings plus a c. 1875, one-and-one-half-story, mostly vertical-boarded, gable-roofed east block with a hip-capped ventilating cupola. A 1949, cylindrical tile silo (#3A) is linked to the barn's main block. Slate appears as foundation material and roof shingling in most of these buildings and appendages. An 1844 family tomb (#4) surmounted by a marble obelisk is sited on the hillside behind the barn. Typical of the active farm, numerous minor alterations have been made to the buildings during the historic period but the property retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Hosford-Sherman Farm straddles Vermont Route 30 in the northwest corner of Poultney township about three miles north of Poultney village. The property lies on the northwest side of the minor valley drained by Lewis Brook, a tributary of the Poultney River. The terrain slopes gradually to moderately upward in a generally northwest direction away from the brook, rising to a low ridge that extends north-south and reaches an elevation of about 200 feet above the brook.

Roughly bisecting the farm, the two-lane, paved highway (Vermont Route 30) follows a north-south direction. On the west side of the highway, the south edge of the property adjoins the right-of-way of Town Highway 7, a narrower paved road that leads westward. At the intersection of the two highways, the Hosford Cemetery

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(excluded from this National Register nomination) occupies a small area in the northwest quadrant.

Open fields lie along each side of the highway in the vicinity of the farm buildings. These fields are now mowed for hay by another farmer in the vicinity. The fields are generally bounded along the edges by fence lines and hedgerows of mature deciduous trees. In some rougher and more sloping areas around the perimeter, brush and trees are invading formerly open land that was used for livestock pasture. A tract of second-growth woodland extends northward from the fields along the low ridge west of the highway.

Near the east edge of the property, the arbored embankment of an abandoned railroad traverses the meadow in a northeast-southwest direction. The railroad right-of-way isolates a small triangular wedge of land from the remainder of the farm. The track of this former Delaware and Hudson Railroad branchline was removed during the 1980s, and the embankment has been adapted to a multi-purpose public trail. The railroad grade intersects Route 30 near the southern extremity of the farmland at the Town Highway 7 intersection, a locality known as Hosford Crossing.

Lewis Brook flows generally in a southwest direction along the southeast edge of the farmland. Immediately upstream of the culvert carrying the brook under Route 30, there exists on the north bank the site of a small water-powered sawmill built originally by John Ransom probably about 1800. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1870, rebuilt the same year, heavily damaged by a flood in 1927, and finally removed about 1951.

The cluster of extant farmstead buildings is bisected by the highway. The house surmounts a low knoll on the east side, its brick main block facing westward and fronting a series of appendages extending eastward. A combined tool shed and chicken house stands to the rear (east) of the house, banked against the sloping ground. The barn with its multiple additions and a silo stand on the west side of the highway, slightly north of the house and closer to the paved surface.

A short distance directly west of the barn, the Hosford family tomb is sited on the moderately sloping hillside. The south front of the tomb aligns with an east-west line of medium-sized deciduous trees. The treeline delimits an expansive meadow on

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the south and a former pasture now overgrowing with brush on the somewhat steeper slope to the north.

At least five other outbuildings are known to have existed near the house on the east side of the highway. A 19th-century, wood-framed barn stood at the edge of the field north of the house; it was destroyed by fire in the late 1800s. A corn crib originally stood next to the north side of the extant shed; the one-story, vertical-boarded, gable-roofed structure with flared sidewalls was moved during the early 20th century across the road to a site near the northwest rear corner of the barn, and then was dismantled during the 1950s.

A one-story, wood-framed, double-walled icehouse was built about 1918 northeast of the house next to a small pond used for cutting ice and supplying water; it was removed about 1940 after electric refrigeration became available. In the north yard of the house, a small one-story, horizontal-boarded, gable-roofed wellhouse sheltered a dug well until the 1920s. A small one-story, gable-roofed, brick smokehouse stood in the south yard of the house until the 1940s; it was used for curing meats raised on the farm.

The farmland has been used for a variety of purposes. Prior to the conclusion of dairy farming in 1963, the relatively level fields on the east side of the highway north of the farmhouse were used for growing crops, especially corn for feeding the cows during the winter. Areas south of the farmhouse and along the stream courses were used as pasture for livestock grazing. The sloping fields on the west side of the highway were generally used for mowing the hay needed for livestock feed. Rougher areas along the southwest edge of the property and northwest of the dairy barn also served as pastures. Several specialty crops or fruits, including potatoes and raspberries, have been raised during shorter periods of time.

The woodland north of the fields on the west side of the highway was used historically for the primary purpose of cutting fuelwood. It was burned to heat the farmhouse, and larger quantities were sold to neighboring residents. The woodland also supplied the material for building construction or repairs, fenceposts, tools, and other farm needs. Near the north edge of the property, a small slate quarry was worked sporadically during the middle 19th and early 20th centuries; some of the slate used in the farm buildings may have come from this source.

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1. Farmhouse; late 1780s, 1829, c. 1920

The vernacular house consists of the two-story, brick main block from 1829; an earlier (probably late 1780s), one-and-one-half-story, wood-frame rear (east) ell; and two one-story, wood-frame east wings connected to the ell. During the 20th century, three additions have been made to the ell and the first east wing.

Oriented parallel to the highway, the two-story main block of the house possesses a simple rectangular plan extending five by two bays and measuring 31 feet 3 inches (north-south) by 18 feet 4 inches (east-west). It rests on a low foundation of mortared rubble slate. The brick walls are laid in an irregular American bond with eleven or more stretcher courses between adjacent header courses, and the header courses include some stretchers.

The shallow-pitch gable roof is shingled with slate predominantly blue in color but interspersed with red. The horizontal eaves project somewhat beyond the wall plane while the raking eaves are closely cropped. A simple molded wood cornice follows both the horizontal and raking eaves with short returns on the gable ends. The front (west) cornice has been covered with aluminum behind a gutter of the same material. At each end of the roof, a broad rectangular chimney straddles the ridge; each chimney has two corbeled courses below a thin concrete cap.

The door and window openings lack lintels, being surmounted instead by stretcher courses of brick. The window openings share wood sills and narrow smooth surrounds with perimeter torus moldings. The original first-story sash are not known; they had been replaced by two-over-two sash by about 1900, and the latter were subsequently replaced by the present one-over-ones. The original twelve-over-eight sash on the second story were replaced by the present two-over-twos about 1900. Louvered wood shutters are hung at each window.

The five-bay main (west) eaves facade is arranged symmetrically around the central entrance. The slightly recessed six-panel door (plus a metal storm door) is enframed by a plain surround with perimeter torus molding. Built about 1960, the present concrete steps have treads inlaid with red slate, and are protected by iron railings.

The two-bay north and south gable facades share similar appearances. On the north facade, a window opening occurs on the

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right of the first story and another on the left of the second story. The south facade differs only by having a window on the left of the first story, and two such bays on the second story; the right-bay window was added apparently during the 1920s when the interior stair was moved to this corner of the main block.

Only partly exposed, the rear (east) facade projects 2.5 feet beyond the north facade line of the east ell. The brickwork rises to the horizontal eaves of the ell; above that level, the east facade is sheathed with clapboards.

The interior plan of the main block now contains two rooms on each floor, reflecting alterations made mostly during the historic period. On the first floor, the main entrance opens into the south parlor while a partial partition created during the 1910s delimits the north parlor. The stair to the second floor ascends the southeast corner, shifted here during the 1920s; it leads to a hall along the east side of the second floor. One bedroom occupies the southwest quadrant of the second floor while a larger bedroom spans the north half. The original partition between two small bedrooms in the north half was removed during the 1920s. About 1950, a half-bathroom was installed in the place of a former linen closet above the stair.

The north and south parlors are finished with common materials. The floors are laid with pine boards of medium width. The walls are plastered while the ceilings have been sheathed with fiberboard probably applied over the original plaster. The window openings have splayed smooth reveals with molded surrounds. Excepting the opening between the parlors, the interior doorways are hung with four-panel doors and molded surrounds. The partial partition separating the parlors has a broad central opening enframed by Tuscan columns standing on paneled bases.

The somewhat more formal north parlor possesses the only fireplace in the house. Centered on the north wall, the fireplace incorporates a brick hearth, a firebox with splayed sidewalls and lintel of marble, and a Federal style wood mantelpiece. Smooth pilasters flank the firebox and support a molded entablature including a wide frieze with a central panel and a narrow cornice shelf. Above the shelf, the chimney breast is covered by a single molded panel behind a large oval mirror with a beveled perimeter. On the right of the fireplace, a

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built-in book cabinet with five open shelves projects slightly forward of the chimney breast.

The south parlor has been altered by the addition of the stairway to the second floor. Built of varnished yellow pine, the two-flight open stair turns at a landing near the upper end. A beadboarded bench seat is built into the room side of the stair below the dimension balustrade with beveled hand rail and boxed newels.

The second-floor bedrooms exhibit plainer finish than the parlors. Their floors are laid with wide pine boards, and both the walls and ceilings are plastered. The windows have molded surrounds but the four-panel doors have flat surrounds. The shallow chimney breasts in the north and south walls are fitted with thimbles for stovepipes.

The east ell differs from the main block by its one-and-one-half-story height, post-and-beam frame (albeit infilled with brick), and clapboard sheathing but it also carries a slate-shingled gable roof. A boxed cornice follows both the horizontal and raking eaves. A short interior brick stove chimney emerges from the east end of the roof ridge.

The ell extends three bays along its north eaves facade. The left-center entrance has a door with four molded panels (plus a metal storm door) approached by concrete steps with inlaid red slate on the treads and iron railings like those at the main entrance. The one-over-one sash with plain surrounds are coupled in the right bay while two small two-light fixed sash punctuate the kneewall.

The ell's opposite (south) facade is entirely concealed by a one-story, two-by-one-bay, clapboarded wing on a concrete foundation that was added c. 1910. A molded cornice follows the eaves of its rolled-asphalt shed roof. The wing's two-bay south facade is lighted by one-over-one sash while the east facade has only a small four-light fixed sash. Probably contemporary to the wing, a large three-bay gable dormer with clapboarded cheeks and a slate-shingled roof interrupts the south slope of the ell's roof. The original dormer windows have been replaced with jalousie sash.

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The ell's rear (east) gable facade is exposed only above the gable roof of the lower east wing. A one-over-one sash lights the left side of the ell's second story.

The interior of the east ell has been largely altered from its original appearance. The floors have been laid with narrow tongue-and-groove maple boards and the ceilings covered with fiberboard. The plywood-paneled west room next to the main block now serves as a den while the larger plaster-walled east room has been adapted to the dining room. The east room was used as the kitchen until the 1910s when the adjoining west room of the east wing was adapted to this use. On the second floor, a small former harness room in the west end next to the main block has been adapted to a bedroom like the east room on this level.

The one-story east wing repeats the clapboard sheathing and slate-shingled gable roof (with a boxed cornice) of the east ell. A tall interior brick stove chimney with a conical metal cap rises from the east end of its ridge.

The east wing extends four bays along its south eaves facade but only the right bay is not sheltered by a three-bay, shed-roofed porch. The porch incorporates tapered boxed posts standing on the clapboarded apron, and the openings are screened. This porch was added during the late 1940s to replace an earlier counterpart with an enclosed outhouse at its east end. Inside the porch, the left-center entrance has a five-panel door (plus a wood combination storm door) flanked by one-over-one sash. Outside the porch, another entry in the right bay has a door with four molded panels.

The wing's opposite (north) facade has been altered on the left half by the addition about 1958 of a one-by-one-bay, clapboarded garage extension with a rolled-asphalt shed roof. A paneled overhead door enters its north front while a four-light-over-three-panel pass door marks its west side. To the right of the garage extension, the original wall surface is punctuated by coupled small three-over-one sash (for the kitchen) that replaced a single larger window in 1947.

The wing's east gable facade is in turn exposed only above the roof of the east shed wing. Unlike the rest of the wing, this gable is clad with flush wide horizontal boards below closely cropped raking eaves. The single remaining six-over-six sash on the house is centered in the gable.

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The interior of the east wing now contains the kitchen in the west half and a one-bay garage in its east half. The latter was converted about 1958 from a small meat market; the walk-in cooler with a heavy insulated hinged door remains at the southeast corner of the garage space, projecting into the attached woodshed wing.

Attached to the wing's east facade, the smaller one-story, one-bay woodshed wing stands at a lower level on the downward sloping ground. This wing differs by being novelty-sided on its north and east facades while its south facade is clapboarded. It rests on a dry rubble slate foundation, and its shed roof is shingled with slate. A vertical-boarded, hinged pass door enters its south eaves facade.

2. Tool Shed/Chicken House; c. 1850?, c. 1920

Sited near the rear (east) end of the house's woodshed wing, this gable-roofed detached shed follows the orientation of the house's gabled appendages. The ground slopes downward such that the shed is banked against its one-and-one-half-story main (west) facade and gains a full basement story on the other facades. Attached to the south eaves facade and also banked on its west front, a shed-roofed wing was added c. 1920 for use as a chicken house.

The main block rests on a dry rubble slate foundation except for the c. 1945 concrete replacement under the west facade; the wing has a concrete foundation. The main block is novelty-sided with corner boards in place of the original cladding of its post-and-beam frame; the wing is shiplapped. Both roofs are shingled with slate, and a boxed cornice follows the eaves.

The west gable facade of the main block is entered by a vertical-boarded exterior sliding door at the higher ground level (the main interior floor) and a novelty-sided, hinged loft door in the gable. The flush west front of the south wing includes a vertical-boarded pass door with HL hinges next to the joint with the main block. Both entries are approached by broad slate slab steps.

The main block's north eaves facade is fenestrated by two bays of six-light fixed sash. The wing's opposite (south) facade contrasts by its four closely spaced bays of four-light fixed sash on the first story and six-light counterparts on the second

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story, all with plain surrounds. The rear (east) facade includes a vertical-boarded, hinged pass door at the left corner of the lower ground level, where pigs were kept.

3. Dairy Barn; c. 1875?, c. 1910, 1958

The wood-frame dairy barn incorporates several attached sections that were constructed at different times during a period extending from the late 19th century to the 1950s. Adjacent to the highway, the east block marked by a cross-gable roof was built first (possibly c. 1875); indeed the framing of its roof indicates that its north half was built prior to the south half. The larger gable-roofed main block was erected probably in the early 1900s, concealing most of the east block's original west facade. Subsequently the shed-roofed north and south wings were added to the main block. Connected by a hyphen to the barn's southwest corner, the present tile silo was erected in 1949; it superseded two earlier wood-stave silos that were blown down the same year.

The east block rises one-and-one-half stories from a dry rubble slate foundation to a slate-shingled roof. Its post-and-beam frame is constructed of circular-sawn timbers connected by mortise-and-tenon joints with wood pegs and wire nails. It is clad mostly with flush vertical boards except for shiplap on the altered first story of the east facade.

The gable roof on the south half is oriented parallel to the highway while that on the north half is perpendicular. The north roof has been raised and the ridge offset southward from its original position. A boxed cornice follows all the eaves. Near the right end of the south half, a square ventilating cupola straddles the ridge; the cupola has twin segmental-headed, louvered openings on each face and a boxed cornice encircles the eaves of its slate-shingled, hipped cap.

The east block's main (east) facade presents an irregular arrangement of five bays on the first story, the result of a 1958 alteration. A paneled overhead door provides vehicle access in the left-center bay while a vertical-boarded, hinged pass door enters the right corner. Coupled horizontal four-light sash with the plain surrounds common to the barn's openings occupy the other first-story bays. On the upper level, a vertical-boarded, hinged loft door is roughly centered on each half of the facade.

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A six-over-six sash lights the (right) gable; the name of the farm, "Home Among the Hills," is painted in block letters in an angled position over the window.

The three-bay south gable facade is fenestrated on the first story by six-over-six sash in the right and center bays but a small four-light fixed sash on the left. The gable is mostly occupied by large double-leaf, vertical-beadboarded, hinged loft doors; a beam supporting the steel track of a hay fork projects from the gable peak. The three-bay opposite (north) eaves facade is lighted by a six-over-one sash on the left and two small four-light sash on the right.

The two-and-one-half-story main block of the barn was erected probably in the early 1900s. Its east gable facade abuts the rear of the east block, rising a full story above the latter's roof. Its opposite (west) gable facade is banked against the gently ascending ground such that only the upper one and one-half stories are exposed. Furthermore the main block's north and south eaves facades are almost entirely concealed by added wings.

The main block rests on a rubble slate foundation laid without mortar except in the west wall exposed inside the ground story; the foundation has been faced with concrete on the north facade. The post-and-beam frame is constructed of circular-sawn timbers connected by mortise-and-tenon joints with wood pegs and wire nails; it is clad with novelty siding. The gable roof is shingled with slate.

The west gable facade contains the primary entrance to the main block at the level of the hay loft. Approached by an earth-fill ramp, the wagon entrance occupies the right half of this facade; the original large exterior sliding door was replaced about 1980 with double-leaf, vertical-boarded (with overlaid X-braces), hinged doors. Centered in the gable are smaller double-leaf, vertical-boarded, hinged hay doors below a beam supporting a steel hay fork track projecting from the gable peak.

The opposite (east) gable facade is exposed at the ground level only at the right corner where a four-panel pass door provides access. Above the roof of the east block, the gable peak is punctuated by a six-light fixed sash.

The main block's north eaves facade is exposed only within the open-sided ground story of the north wing. Its seven-bay

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arrangement includes an entry with a beadboarded, hinged pass door near the left corner flanked by six-over-six sash, all with plain surrounds. The right half of this wall is lighted by two pairs of six-light fixed sash.

The two-story, four-by-one-bay, shed-roofed north wing was added to enlarge the hay loft on its upper level and to serve as an equipment shed on the ground level. The ground story is open-sided between timber posts standing on concrete pedestals; the open bays have canted upper corners. The upper story has a balloon frame clad with novelty siding. Shallower-pitched than the main north slope, the wing's roof is also shingled with slate. The upper-story openings are limited to a vertical-boarded, hinged pass door on the west facade (reached by a vertical wood ladder) and a two-light fixed sash on the east facade.

On the south side of the main block, the shed roof of the two-story, balloon-framed, novelty-sided first south wing abuts the wall just below the level of the main eaves. Also shingled with slate, this wing's roof has only a slightly shallower pitch than the main slope, and it extends eastward to intersect the south slope of the east block's roof. This wing has exposed wall surface only at the southwest corner where a six-light fixed sash marks its one-bay south facade.

Concealing all but the left-corner bay of the first wing's south facade, a one-story, six-by-one-bay, shed-roofed second south wing was added in 1958 to expand the ground-level milking parlor. This wing differs by its concrete-block construction below the level of the window sills and shiplap siding above that level. Slightly below the plane of the first wing's roof, the second wing's roof is covered with partly corrugated sheet metal.

The second wing's six-bay south facade is entered at the left corner by a vertical-boarded, exterior sliding livestock door. A band of five linked bays of coupled horizontal four-light fixed sash illuminates the remainder of this facade. The one-bay west end has a single four-light sash.

The interior of the barn retains its appearance from the renovations made in 1958. A concrete floor was installed in that year throughout the ground level, including all wings. The milking parlor occupies most of the floor area. Two parallel rows of stanchions or tie stalls extend the entire east-west

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length of the barn, and a shorter north row corresponds to the length of the main block; longitudinal gutters in the concrete floor parallel the rows. The full-length south row consists of steel and wood stanchions with water bowls oriented southward while the middle row consists of steel tie stalls with water bowls oriented northward. The north row has steel stanchions with water bowls oriented southward. An adjacent calf pen with plank sides occupies the northwest corner of the east block. Wood and steel posts are spaced throughout the ground floor to support the loft floor.

The hay loft extends virtually throughout the upper level of the entire barn. Its primary access is provided by the plank drive floor that leads from the ramp entrance on the west facade the entire length of the main block under the south slope of its roof. Immediately inside the entrance, a large hand-built wood pulley is mounted on a timber axle above the southwest corner of the drive floor; it was formerly used to hoist animal carcasses for slaughter. A steel hay fork is suspended from a track extending the length of the roof peak, paralleling the north side of the drive floor.

Attached to the barn during the 1930s for a milkhouse, a smaller-scale, one-story wing spans the joint between the southeast corner of the main block's second south wing and the southwest corner of the east block. The two-by-one-bay milkhouse rests on a concrete foundation and is clad with shiplap. Its shallow hip roof is shingled with slate. A novelty-sided, hinged pass door enters the east end while two single-light sliding sash (replacing the original vertical six-light sash) are set under the eaves of the south facade. The interior has a single room with a two-level concrete floor.

The milkhouse - or at least its constituent materials - was built originally as a shed next to a house a short distance south of the farm. The shed was moved here during the 1930s for conversion to a milkhouse. While being drawn by a tractor along the road, it struck a tree and collapsed. The materials were salvaged to construct the present building.

Banked on its north side against the south side of the highdrive ramp, a small one-story, one-by-one-bay hyphen of irregular plan provides a connection between the west end of the main block's first south wing and the base of the adjacent silo. The hyphen is shiplapped and its shed roof is covered with rolled asphalt.

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A four-light fixed sash punctuates both the south and west sides. The hyphen was built in 1949 when the present silo was erected; it served also as a motor room for the milking machine and other barn equipment.

3A. Silo; 1949

Linked to the southwest corner of the barn by the hyphen, the Korok-brand tile silo was erected in 1949 to replace two previous wood silos destroyed by a windstorm. This silo was manufactured by Craine Inc. in Norwich, New York, and cost about \$2,000. A crew traveled from the factory to Poultney to assemble the structure.

Standing on a polygonal concrete base, the cylindrical silo has a diameter of 14 feet and rises to a height of 30 feet. It is constructed of glazed tile both cemented together and bound by multiple horizontal steel hoops. An exterior ladder ascends the northeast side, protected by a half-cylindrical sheet metal enclosure; an exposed steel ladder ascends the southwest side to a steel catwalk. The silo is capped by a ribbed aluminum dome.

The silo constitutes an essential component of the middle 20th-century dairy farm, serving to store a large quantity of silage (usually chopped corn or grass) for feeding cows during the winter.

Historic Appearances

A photograph taken about 1948 shows the barn at the end of the historic period. It differed from its current appearance in several significant respects. The second south wing had not yet been added to the main block; the south facade of the first wing, however, looked remarkably similar to the present second wing. The same livestock door existed at the left corner but the band of windows spanning the remainder of the facade consisted of coupled vertical six-light sash.

The east block's east facade retained its historic appearance in the c. 1948 photograph. The left (eaves) half was entered by three sets of double-leaf, vertical-boarded, hinged doors; this section was used as a garage for motor vehicles and a mechanical workshop. On the right (gable) half of the facade, a wagon

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entrance with a single large vertical-boarded exterior sliding door was positioned under the left half of the gable, the door sliding to the right. This facade was altered to its present appearance in 1958.

The same photograph shows the two silos that preceded the larger present one. Erected probably during the 1910s, both silos were constructed of vertical wood staves bound together by multiple horizontal steel hoops. The southwest silo was connected to the first south wing's west end by a horizontal-boarded, shed-roofed rectangular enclosure of a vertical ladder; an example of the Unadilla brand, it carried a conical cap with a small ventilator at the peak. The second silo abutted the north facade of the east block; made by the Green Mountain Silo Co. (possibly while that firm was located in Poultney), it was then distinguished by a conical gambrel cap installed in 1947 after the original cap had been blown off. Both of these silos were blown down by a violent windstorm in 1949.

The extant milkhouse appears in the c. 1948 photograph together with its predecessor. The latter was a small detached one-story, one-by-one-bay, horizontal-boarded, gable-roofed building that stood next to the silo at the southwest corner of the barn. The earlier milkhouse was destroyed in 1949 when the southwest silo toppled onto it.

4. Hosford Family Tomb; 1844

The small family tomb incorporates a burial chamber and a marble obelisk to commemorate the family members interred here. The chamber is partly excavated from the moderately sloping hillside and covered with a mound of earth. Along the south front, a low wall of rubble slate laid without mortar retains the mound. The entrance to the chamber interrupts the wall at its center, and the obelisk rises directly above the entrance.

The rectangular entrance opening has been permanently sealed by infill of mortared rubble slate between the original marble slab sides. The heavy marble lintel is incised with the date 1844 above the former opening. Resting on the lintel, a marble plinth of square plan has a hipped upper surface around its perimeter; the phrase "Erected by Philo Hosford" is incised on its south face. Resting in turn on the plinth, a marble base of reduced

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plan lacks lettering. The base bears the upright marble obelisk, whose square section tapers upward to a hipped peak.

The shaft of the obelisk is incised with lettering both on its south and west faces. The lettering on the west face is original, reading "Mary, wife of C. H. Dustin & daughter of P. Hosford, died Feb. 9, 1844, Aged 25 Yrs. & 4 Ms." The lettering on the south face was added three decades later in a slightly different style; it reads "Philo Hosford died Jan. 15, 1876, AE 91 yrs. & 10 Mos. - Azubah, Wife of Philo Hosford Died Feb. 7, 1872, AE 83 yrs. & 6 Mos." The position of the lettering indicates that the obelisk was turned 90 degrees toward the west in the 1870s after the senior Hosfords were interred. Presumably the face with the earlier lettering for Mary would originally have been oriented toward the south, corresponding to the front of the tomb.

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 past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

c. 1785-1949

1829

c. 1875

Significant Dates

c. 1785

1829

c. 1875

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sherman, Olcott

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Hosford-Sherman Farm
Name of Property

Rutland County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 122.8

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	643320	4825900
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	18	643920	4825920

3	18	643850	4824250
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	18	642970	4824740

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 Hugh H. Henry, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization N/A date November 1994

street & number Route 2, Box 226 telephone 802-875-3379

city or town Chester state Vermont zip code 05143-9418

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 Glen Sherman Carlson

street & number 90 Laurel Forest Circle, N.E. telephone 404-816-7208

city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30342-4106

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 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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Rutland County, Vermont

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hosford-Sherman Farm possesses significance for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a small diversified farm in Vermont whose extant buildings span the period from the late 18th to the middle 20th centuries. The farm is being nominated under the multiple property submission, "Agricultural Resources of Vermont," and meets the registration requirements for the farmstead property type. The original wood-framed farmhouse was built probably c. 1785, and then became the rear ell in 1829, when Olcott Sherman constructed the present vernacular brick main block. The outbuildings, dating from c. 1850 to 1949, represent the diverse agricultural activities conducted by four generations of Hosford-Sherman family members. The dairy barn itself incorporates original (c. 1875) and later (c. 1910) main blocks plus several additions whose construction spans the entire period and reflects the expansion of the dairy herd especially during the first half of the 20th century. The Hosford-Sherman Farm represents the historic contexts of Dairying and Diversified Small-Scale Agriculture in Vermont, and ranks among the longest-active farms in continuous family ownership in the state. The Hosford-Sherman Farm thereby also possesses significance for contributing to the broad patterns of Vermont agricultural history during the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries.

Three brothers, Reuben, Isaac, and Aaron Hosford, came about 1781 from Connecticut to the area of this farm in North Poultney. Reuben Hosford (born October 13, 1758) and his wife, Anna Thomas (born 1761), settled here, and their first son, Philo, was born April 1, 1784. Possibly about 1790, Reuben purchased from Ebenezer Smith the small farm with the one-and-one-half-story, clapboarded, gable-roofed house that survives as the rear ell of the later brick main block. He not only farmed; he also owned a large hip-roofed house (destroyed by fire about 1950) at the crossroads south of the farmhouse and kept a tavern where stage coaches stopped. Reuben died in 1801 (his wife lived until 1838), and Philo inherited the small farm.

Philo Hosford and his wife, Azubah Lynch, lived in the modest clapboarded farmhouse and continued running the farm on a small scale. Five children were born to them, including a daughter by the name of Maria on May 29, 1811. It was her marriage to Olcott Sherman in Poultney on January 26, 1830 that brought together the

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families whose members have now (1994) owned this farm for two centuries.

Born on June 17, 1800 at Barre, Vermont, Olcott Sherman came to East Poultney in 1825 and started a harness-making shop with a partner. He had also learned the trade of a brick mason, and became what a later biography described as "the acknowledged champion bricklayer of the vicinity." Among other projects, Olcott worked on the Bunker Hill Monument and constructed in 1836-37 a multi-story building (destroyed by fire in 1908) for the Troy Conference Academy, a Methodist Episcopal secondary school in Poultney village.

In 1829, just before his marriage to Maria Hosford, Olcott enlarged the Hosford-Sherman farmhouse by building the vernacular brick main block. He made the bricks from clay along the brook behind the house. It is uncertain whether Olcott ever lived in this house; probably he acted simply as a professional mason and built it for his future father-in-law, Philo. It is known that Olcott's only son, Solon, was born on April 7, 1832 at East Poultney. (Two daughters, Ann Maria (1834-71) and Henrietta (1836-93), would follow; both departed Poultney after their marriages.) Furthermore, in 1835, Olcott and Maria moved into Poultney village, where he built a substantial brick house on Main Street and lived the remainder of his life. His obituary in the local newspaper states that "almost to the day of death he followed the trade of mason." He also held several town offices for various terms.

Like his relatives and contemporaries, Philo Hosford engaged also in activity other than farming. Probably around 1800, John Ransom built a water-powered sawmill on Lewis Brook just south of the Hosford-Sherman farmhouse. Philo became a dealer in lumber products sawn at the mill. The income from both farming and lumber dealing probably enabled him to hire the leading local brick mason, Olcott Sherman, to build the new brick house. Indeed, that may have been the origin of the relationship between the mason and the owner's daughter, Maria.

In 1844, another daughter of Philo and Azubah, Polly (who was also known as Mary), died at the age of 26. Aggrieved by this loss, Philo erected the marble monument and tomb for her body on the hillside west of the farm buildings. The tomb overlooks an older cemetery at the south edge of the farm fields where both of Philo's parents are buried.

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Solon Sherman received his secondary education at the Troy Conference Academy building erected by his father. In 1853, at the age of 21, he left Vermont to settle in Michigan where he pursued his trade of harness-making along with farming. He was married there in 1861 to Isabella Lyon (1842-77). Among their eight children, only three reached maturity: Thankful, Harry L., and Charles B.

A different kind of activity was initiated on the Hosford farm in the early 1850s. The completion of the Rutland and Washington Railroad through Poultney in 1852 enabled a rapid expansion of the regional slate industry that had been started during the 1840s. The slate quarrying district extends along a north-south axis a short distance west of the farm, and the low ridge along the west side of the farm is composed largely of that stone. In 1853, a group of Poultney entrepreneurs rented a quarry site from Philo Hosford near the farm's north boundary, and agreed to pay him six cents per square (100 square feet) to extract the slate for use as roof shingles. It is not known how long the quarry was active or how much stone was removed.

Philo and Azubah Hosford retained ownership of the farm until April 2, 1864, when they transferred title to their daughter, Maria Sherman (although she would never live there again). On the same date, the Hosfords leased the right to live on the farm the remaining "terms of their natural lives." Azubah would live until the age of 83 in 1872. Later the same year, Solon and Isabella Sherman returned to Poultney from Michigan, and joined the grandparent Philo on the farm.

Philo lived four years after Azubah, dying January 15, 1876 at the advanced age of almost 92 years. Both he and his wife were interred in the family tomb on the hillside overlooking their farm. The obelisk atop the tomb was apparently turned 90 degrees at that time such that the added inscriptions for Philo and Azubah face south (the front of the tomb) while the original inscription for Mary faces west away from the farm buildings.

Solon acquired title to the farm from Olcott and Maria Sherman in 1875, and may have built the original main block of the extant barn about that time. Two years later, Solon's last son, Charles B., was born on June 1, 1877 at the homestead. However, the death of his mother, Isabella, the following month disrupted family life. Charles and his older brother, Harry, stayed with Solon on the farm for a few years after their sister, Thankful,

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Hosford-Sherman Farm
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moved into Poultney village to live with the Sherman grandparents, Olcott and Maria. Then, in 1880, Solon married his second wife, Abbie Paige, and a change in his vocation followed.

Hamilton Child's business directory for Rutland County published in 1881 records that Solon was a farmer with 100 acres of land. Maria is listed as the widow of Olcott (who died on December 25, 1880), residing on Main Street in Poultney village (she would live until August 20, 1893). Solon's pursuit of farming, however, was nearing its end. Later in 1881, he purchased a grist mill in the village. In the spring of 1882, he left the farm and moved into his father's house on Main Street. He became a prosperous merchant and the owner of a larger grist mill and coal elevator. He died on April 10, 1915 at the age of 83.

The last male Sherman to own and operate the family farm, Charles received his education in Poultney schools. Not yet 20 years old, he departed Vermont for Alaska to join the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898. He gained many memorable experiences and a nickname, "Plucky," but little gold during the year-long trip.

After returning from the Klondike, Charles married Helen Gorman on September 28, 1899. The couple then settled on the family farm (they would actually acquire title to it from Solon in 1913). The farmhouse had been rented to tenants for several years previously, and the land had not been actively used. Charles and Helen needed to repair the buildings, especially to replace the window sash in the house, and to reclaim the land for a full range of agricultural uses, clearing brush and removing stones.

Three children were born to Helen and Charles. The first, a daughter by the name of Hilda, came in 1900. The name of the farm, "Home Among the Hills" is credited to Hilda; she painted it on the front gable of the barn during the 1920s. The only son, Solon Olcott Sherman, was born in 1908. A second daughter, Lethea, joined the family in 1918.

The Hosford-Sherman Farm underwent a marked expansion of activities and outbuildings during the early years of this century. Charles chose to raise Ayrshire cattle for his primary enterprise. To accommodate the herd, the barn was more than doubled in size by the addition of the west block to the original structure. The large loft of the new block provided greatly increased space for storing hay. A ramp enabled wagons to enter

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the west gable facade at loft level for easier unloading. Probably during the 1910s, a different type of structure appeared next to the barn representing a technological advance in the storage of animal feed. Actually two wood-stave silos were erected on opposite sides of the barn, presumably at different times. One, an example of the Green Mountain brand, was fabricated by a company that was located initially in Poultney; by 1910, the company had moved to Rutland. The other was a Unadilla model. (Both were replaced by the extant larger glazed-tile silo in 1949.)

About 1920, Charles started a retail meat business to augment his dairying. He altered part of the house's shed wing into a small butcher shop with a walk-in cooler. The ice for cooling was cut in a small pond northeast of the house and stored in a sawdust-insulated icehouse with a capacity of 1800 blocks that Charles built about 1918. Some of the meat came from livestock raised on the farm, and the rest was supplied by Swift and Co. from Rutland. Charles peddled the meat through Poultney and adjoining towns, driving a horse and wagon at first and later a truck. Charles and Helen churned some of the fresh milk to make butter for sale with the meat. The meat business ended about 1930.

The Shermans raised a variety of crops both for feeding the livestock and for human consumption. The field crops included corn, oats, red clover, alsike clover, and timothy for hay. Potatoes were grown for sale as were raspberries in the field southwest of the barn. A large garden near the house supplied quantities of vegetables both for fresh and canned uses. A few apple trees scattered around the farm provided apples for making cider that was "hardened" in kegs kept in the cellar.

Electricity was introduced at the farm during the 1920s before commercial distribution lines were extended through the vicinity. Charles installed a small water-powered turbine at the sawmill on Lewis Brook and generated electricity for lights and small machinery in the barn and house. Wood remained the fuel for heating the house; it was stored in the shed attached to the rear of the house. The woodlot north of the barn provided a plentiful supply of cordwood that Charles cut for heating and for sale to neighbors. Also during the 1920s, the slate quarry was worked again to a limited extent.

The diversity of activities on the farm was further increased in the 1920s when Charles added a wing onto the tool shed for

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raising chickens. The responsibility for tending the chickens was given to Solon Olcott, partly to enable the youth to learn about managing farm tasks. The following decade, Solon acquired his own farm about one mile to the north but he continued to help his father on this farm until the early 1940s.

The last generation of Hosford-Sherman family members to operate the farm moved here in August, 1943 to assist Charles, whose health was then deteriorating. Lethea married a Massachusetts resident, C. Wendell Carlson, in 1940 and lived in that state for a few years. Previously a machinist in a shipyard, Wendell knew little about farming when he and Lethea arrived at the farm. Charles Sherman died less than two years later, on January 5, 1945; his wife, Helen, would live until 1961.

The Carlsons assumed operation of the entire farm, learning much about the multiplicity of agricultural tasks simply by doing them. In 1948, they purchased the dairy herd from Helen Sherman. After starting with mixed breeds of cows, the Carlsons gradually changed to Holsteins. The dominant trend in Vermont agriculture by then had shifted away from diversity of activities and toward the specialty of dairying. Furthermore, there was a steady increase in the scale of operation on individual farms, especially in the size of the dairy herd, and Holsteins were becoming the most prevalent breed owing to their high productivity of milk. The Carlsons followed this trend, and dairying became the focus of their enterprise.

The Carlsons' efforts received a setback in 1949 when an extraordinary storm struck the valley. The high wind toppled the southwest silo and it struck the first milkhouse, leaving both in ruins. The north silo was blown against the side of the barn and was dismantled; subsequently it was moved to a farm in Sudbury, Vermont and re-erected.

The wood silos were obsolete by that point in time, and the Carlsons chose to replace them with a larger glazed-tile silo. The new Korok brand silo was erected by a crew from the Craine Inc. factory in Norwich, New York. Standing next to the southwest corner of the barn, the tile silo constitutes the most prominent middle 20th-century improvement made by the Carlsons in the farm buildings and equipment.

The new silo was used to store corn silage. Corn and hay were the principal crops grown on the farm during the Carlsons'

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operation. The specific forage crops were clover, timothy, alfalfa, and some brome. To augment the harvest of these crops on their own relatively limited cropland, the Carlsons rented other land in the vicinity for growing additional quantities to feed their expanding dairy herd.

The Carlsons acquired title to the farm from Helen Sherman in 1958. The same year, they undertook another significant improvement by altering the interior of the barn to create a larger milking parlor and stable for young stock. The second south wing was added, and a concrete floor was extended throughout the ground level. Three rows of metal stanchions and tie-ups were installed for the cows. The herd ultimately expanded to 42 milkers among a total of 60 head; most of these cows were registered Holsteins.

By the early 1960s, family farms in Vermont were being buffeted by many adverse factors in addition to windstorms. The 20th-century decline in agriculture was accelerating and the prospects for small family-operated dairy farms were not encouraging. The Carlsons responded in 1963 by deciding to cease dairying. After selling the herd of cows in February of that year, Wendell Carlson returned to industrial employment until his retirement.

Since the conclusion of dairying, agricultural activities have been limited on the Hosford-Sherman Farm. The primary activity has been the mowing of the fields for hay by other farmers living in the vicinity. The equipment and techniques used in that haying have changed markedly in recent years; rather than the small rectangular bales that were stored in barns, the baling machines now produce huge round bales that are movable only by tractors and are stored outdoors. The Carlsons continue to cut fuelwood from the woodlot, and to keep a garden near the house for growing vegetables. The barn and shed are being maintained in good condition, and are being used mostly for storage.

Although the agricultural activities have diminished, the buildings and landscape of the Hosford-Sherman Farm retain essentially intact their character from the final years of active dairying. The multi-part barn lacks only cows in the ground-level stable and hay in the loft along with the related machinery and tools, and the tile silo stands as emptied of corn silage. Bounded by the historic tree and fence lines, the fields surrounding the buildings are being entirely mowed for hay rather than being partly tilled for crops. Only the pastures are losing

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their open character; the lack of grazing cows has allowed them to revert to brush and trees. The vernacular farmhouse shows minor 20th-century changes on the brick main block and wood-framed rear appendages, reflecting changes in family needs and activities; it remains the residence of the last members of the Sherman-Carlson family to operate the farm. The Hosford-Sherman Farm, therefore, continues effectively to represent the historic contexts primarily of Dairying and secondarily of Diversified Small-Scale Agriculture as practiced in Vermont during the first half of the 20th century.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property being nominated consists of the Hosford-Sherman Farm incorporating its cluster of buildings and 122.8 acres of surrounding land roughly bisected by the north-south right-of-way of Vermont Route 30. The boundary is shown as the solid line on the accompanying survey map entitled "Land of C. Wendell & Lethea S. Carlson," dated September 1985. The deed to the property is recorded in Book 52, Pages 323-325 of the Poultney Land Records.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses the farmhouse, outbuildings, fields, and woodland that have been part of the Hosford-Sherman Farm since at least the latter 19th century and that maintain historic integrity.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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The following information applies to all photographs except where noted:

Hosford-Sherman Farm
Poultney, Rutland County, Vermont
Date: July 1994
Credit: Hugh H. Henry
Negative filed at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photograph 1
Setting of farmstead buildings; view looking northeast across
Lewis Brook valley.

Photograph 2
Farmhouse (#1) - west and south facades; view looking northeast.

Photograph 3
Farmhouse (#1) - south and east facades; view looking northwest.

Photograph 4
Tool shed (#2) - north and west facades; view looking southeast.

Photograph 5
Dairy barn (#3) and silo (#3A) - south and east facades; view
looking northwest.

Photograph 6
Dairy barn (#3) - east and north facades; view looking southwest.

Photograph 7
Dairy barn (#3) and silo (#3A) - south facade; view looking north.

Photograph 8
Date: c. 1948
Credit: Lethea S. Carlson
Dairy barn (#3) and silo - south and east facades; view looking
northwest.

Photograph 9
Hosford Family Tomb (#4) - south face; view looking north.