

010-10-900-110
E.N.P. 10/1/81

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 25 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ELI MORSE FARM

and/or common CLARK/SPENCER PROPERTY

2. Location

street & number Lake Road not for publication

city, town Dublin vicinity of ~~congressional district~~ (2nd)

state N.H. code 33 county Cheshire code 005

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>n/a</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<u>n/a</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Louisa C. Spencer &
Grenville Clark, Jr.*

street & number 133 E. 64th Street
88 Clyde Street*

city, town New York City vicinity of New York state New York 10021
Brookline* Massachusetts 02146*

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cheshire County Courthouse/Registry of Deeds

street & number 12 Court Street

city, town Keene state New Hampshire 03431

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Dublin Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 10, 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office

city, town Concord state New Hampshire 03301

Portions of this property are included as part of the Latin Quarter Hist. Dist./DOE 10/16/81.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>1928 Peter Morse House moved</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Eli Morse Farm is situated on a rise of land at the outlet of Dublin Lake, with fields and woods sloping southward to the base of Mount Monadnock. The property consists of the main house, a two-story brick federal built in 1822, with a one and one-half-story ell to the west and a gambrel ell to the south. Other buildings on the property are a barn, grist mill, several small cottages, outbuildings and 226.5 acres of farm and woodlands. This property was used by three generations of the Morse family as a working farm, and later became the farm and summer property of four generations of the Clark family. A few buildings were introduced to the complex in the early twentieth century when the farm became the summer estate of Grenville Clark, an international lawyer and legal architect of world organizations. These additions are sympathetic as they contribute to the continued use of the property for farm conservation purposes.

The main house is a two-story federal style brick structure, built in 1822. It is set on a granite foundation, with a low hipped roof and three corner chimneys. It is five bays wide and two bays deep, with windows articulated by simple wooden framing and eight-over-twelve and twelve-over-twelve sash. The front entrance has a five pane transom light, and an entablatured portico which was added in 1886. The portico is supported by slender paired columns and is capped by a balustrade. A brick porch with field stone foundation was also added in 1886, and has a wooden balustrade flanking the portico. The house faces north towards Dublin Lake (see photographs number 1 & 8).

Extending to the west from the 1822 block is the oldest part of the house, a one room, one and one-half-story clapboarded structure built in 1764-1765. (See photograph number 2.) It has a gable roof and large chimney in the center of the south facing elevation. The west wing is four bays long, with twelve-over-twelve windows and an entrance enclosed in a shed roofed addition. A gabled dormer with two-over-two sash was added to the north elevation. A balustraded screened porch was added to the west end of the ell in 1970, with columns and a roof balustrade matching the detail on the portico. A doorway was added to the first and second story of the west elevation to provide access to the porch. The south side of the ell faces the formal garden (constructed in the 1930's) and has three windows of nine-over-nine and twelve-over-twelve sash and a central doorway with simple wooden detail. An exterior door with four-pane transom light on the east side of the ell has been incorporated into the wall where it joins the main house.

A brick gambrel roof addition extends to the south of the main house, added in the early 1900's. (See photograph number 3.) It is two stories high, has one chimney, and is eight bays long and two bays wide. The east elevation has three shed roofed dormers with nine-over-six sash, and two entrances enclosed in separate shed roofed additions. An additional three bay shed roofed one-room addition is on the east side, with windows of six-over-six sash. The west elevation faces the formal garden, with eight windows in the first story with eight-over-twelve sash, and three pairs of shed roofed dormers in the second story with nine-over-six sash.

See Continuation Sheet #1

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1765, 1822 **Builder/Architect** Eli Morse, Thaddeus Morse

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Morse Farm property in Dublin, New Hampshire is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because it is an intact early settlement whose original configuration is still evident; it is one of the oldest farms in continuous use in Dublin. It was the home of a founding family of Dublin, and later was expanded to become the summer estate of the Clark family. It is further eligible because of its association with Grenville Clark (1882-1967), who was an international attorney prominent in world peace affairs. The main house is a distinctive example of federal period architecture and is one of three surviving nineteenth century brick houses in town. The west ell is one of the oldest structures in Dublin.

Architecture

The main house of the Morse farm is a fine example of vernacular federal period architecture in brick. It was built in 1822, when construction of residences in the federal style flourished in the Monadnock region. Features of the house typical of this period are the low hipped roof, large corner chimneys, and the delicate treatment of the cornice and windows. There are only two other brick houses in Dublin dating from the nineteenth century. In addition, the west ell is the original Eli Morse farm house and is one of the oldest existing structures in Dublin.

Exploration/Settlement

The Morse Farm is one of the earliest settlements in Dublin, established in 1764-1765. It was settled by Eli Morse, who was a leader in the early establishment of the town, and played an important role in town affairs. The records which Eli Morse kept as proprietor's clerk from 1764-1773 have been preserved, and are an invaluable primary source documenting early life in the history of Dublin.

Social/Humanitarian - Politics/Government

The Morse family played a significant role in the political and social life of early Dublin, as outlined in the history. The property was later owned by Grenville Clark, an international attorney who was active in world peace efforts and an advisor in governmental affairs.

Clark was a drafter of the United Nations Charter, author of A Plan for Peace and co-author of the acclaimed World Peace Through World Law. He was an advisor to four United States Presidents, founder of the Military Training Camp Association (1917) and leader of the Plattsburg movement, and author of the Selective Service Act of 1940. Clark organized the two Dublin Peace Conferences, held at the Morse Farm in 1945 and 1965, out of which grew the United World Federalists. Grenville Clark died in 1967, and the Dublin home became the property of his children, Grenville Clark, Jr. and Louisa C. Spencer.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #5

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 226.5

Quadrangle name MONADNOCK, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

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

E

1	8	7	3	7	8	7	5	4	7	5	2	1	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

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

G

1	8	7	3	7	7	5	0	4	7	5	4	1	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

1	8	7	3	7	9	8	5	4	7	5	3	9	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet #6

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state n/a code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Fernald Niles, consultant

organization date Dec. 6, 1982

street & number 9 Dana Street telephone 617-876-4503

city or town Cambridge state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 8, 1983

For NPS use only

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

date 4/11/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet #6 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Town of Dublin Assessor's Map: Map #6, Parcel #12, 12a.

Also see Sketch Map of Morse Farm.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries as shown on the sketch map represent the original holdings of Eli Morse, who settled in Dublin in 1764-1765. The Morse Farm was later acquired by the Clark family, who have maintained the original configuration of the farm.

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Continuation sheet #1 - DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

Page 2

Just to the south of the gambrel addition is the 1793 Peter Morse House, which was moved to this site in 1928 from its original location across the road and one-quarter mile to the west. Fannie Clark, granddaughter of Mrs. Peele, had the house moved to create more living space for her family. The addition of the Peter Morse House to the complex has made minimal changes to the property. It was built by another member of the Morse family (son of Eli Morse and older brother of Thaddeus Morse, Sr.), who settled on a lot nearby. The Peter Morse House has been incorporated into the Morse Farm in a sympathetic manner.

The Peter Morse House is a one and one-half-story gabled roof center chimney cape, approximately square in plan, being five bays long and five bays wide (see photograph number 4). The entrance is capped with a four-pane transom light and has very simple detailing. The original frame walls were faced with brick in 1936 to match the main house and gambrel wing. Other additions include the shed roof dormer on the east and west elevations, a one room hipped roof addition to the north end, and an enclosed hipped roof entry-way on the west elevation.

A two-story gambrel roofed barn with full basement is situated to the south east of the main house (see photograph number 5). It was built in the 1930's, replacing the 1885 barn which stood on the same site. It is a wood frame building, with clapboards on the first story and wood shingles above. It is seven bays long and is articulated by six-over-six and single six-pane sash. The barn has a two-story shed roofed extension to the south, and a single-story shed roofed extension to the east and west. A one and one-half-story gabled roof shed is appended to the west side of the barn, with vertical board siding and six-over-six sash.

A shingled cottage sits to the south of the barn, and was built in the 1920s. It is a wood frame gabled roof structure, one and one-half-stories high with shed roofed dormers to the east and west. It is four bays long and three bays wide, with six-over-six sash and a center chimney. The doorways on the north elevation are enclosed in arched entry ways. The building has a simple narrow board cornice with a slight return in the gable end. (See photograph number 6.)

To the northwest of the farm complex is a small grist mill, built in the 1830s to 1840s, and situated at the lower end of a small pond fed by Dublin Lake. It is a one and one-half-story post and beam frame building with vertical board siding and a field stone foundation. It has a gable roof and window sash of twelve-over-eight and single six-pane configuration. The stone wall dam and penstock are still intact, although the grist mill works are no longer in the building. This structure stands on the foundation of the original 1767 mill, and has framing timbers salvaged from the earlier building. (See photograph number 7.)

A small one-room carriage shed is situated to the north of the grist mill, constructed in the early 1900s. It is rectangular in plan, has a gable roof, vertical board siding, no windows, and a doorway in the east elevation.

A sugar house is set in a glade of woods just south of the vegetable garden and the farm complex. It is a simple one-room wood frame structure with a shed roof.

See Continuation Sheet #2

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Continuation sheet #2 - DESCRIPTION

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The Morse Farm is surrounded by fields, orchards and woodlands, carefully maintained by the present owners. There are eighteen and one-third acres of fields, seeded, fertilized and hayed by a local dairy farmer. The formal garden located to the southwest of the house was added in the late 1930s. It is bounded on the east and north by the house, and is lined with a pergola of slender columns with fluted capitals. Formal stone walls of fieldstone and mortar border the garden to the south and west. The garden has a center pool, fruit trees, and flower beds lining the stone walls. Several other small flower gardens are set off from the vegetable garden with formal stone walls. These walls were built in the 1930s, and range in height from two to six feet. They surround the farm buildings to the north, east and west, and also border the Dublin Lake Road. In addition, early stone walls mark the entire boundary of the original Morse settlement. The Morse Farm buildings are in a choice location, with clear views of Dublin Lake to the north and Mount Monadnock to the south. (See photographs number 8 & 9.)

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Continuation sheet #3 - SIGNIFICANCE

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History

Eli Morse moved to Dublin from Sherborn, Massachusetts in 1764, and settled on Lot Thirteen, Range Five. He built his house by 1765-1766, which is the west ell of the main house. Morse was a leader in the settlement of Dublin, and an important figure in town affairs. Prior to Dublin's incorporation, he served as the first proprietor's clerk, tax collector, treasurer, and was one of seven officers of the first political organization in the township as ordered by the General Court in 1768. By 1766 Eli Morse had built a saw mill and grist mill on the stream near his house (site of present mill), which were the earliest erected in the township.² The first sermon preached in the township was at the Eli Morse House in 1767, and was given by Reverend Samuel Locke of Sherborn, Massachusetts, later president of Harvard College. After Dublin's incorporation in 1771, Eli Morse served as town clerk, moderator, selectman, commissioner of assessment, and was the first deacon of the first church in Dublin, the First Congregational Church.

Thaddeus Morse, Sr., (1763-1841) son of Eli Morse, acquired Range Five Lot Thirteen Number One from his father in 1804 for fifteen hundred dollars. In 1822 he built a brick federal residence next to the original one-room house of Eli Morse. Thaddeus Morse, Sr. was a farmer and operated the grist mill by the house.³ He was most likely the builder of the present mill on the Morse property, which stands on the crude stone foundation of the original mill. The use of sawn timber in this structure confirms that it was constructed in the early to mid-nineteenth century. Thaddeus Morse was also a prominent member of the community, serving as selectman, treasurer, agent for school and ministerial funds, school inspector and Justice of the Peace.⁴

Thaddeus Morse, Jr. (1800-1882) continued to live on the property after his father's death in 1841. He was engaged in farming and served the town as selectman and state representative.⁵ In 1857, he and his wife, Serena Appleton Morse, opened the house to summer guests and started one of the first established summer boarding houses in Dublin (the first near Dublin Lake). This marked the beginning of the transition of the use of the property from a working farm to a farm-summer estate. From 1857 to 1881 the house was filled with guests every summer, and "many persons of distinction were entertained".⁶ After the death of Thaddeus Morse in 1882 and his wife's death in 1884, the property was sold to Mrs. Sarah A. Peele of Boston, and it has passed down through four generations of her family. (See Exhibit A for map of Morse Farm property purchased in 1885.)

Mrs. Daniel A. Dwight, daughter of Mrs. Sarag A. Peele, added the gambrel addition soon after the turn of the century. In 1914 it became the residence of her daughter Fannie D. Clark and husband Grenville Clark. During their ownership, there were several buildings constructed on the property for farm use, including the barn, a shingled cottage south of the barn, and a sugar house.

See Continuation Sheet #4

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Continuation sheet #4 - SIGNIFICANCE

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The Morse Farm is an unusual and unique estate complex. It began as a working farm settled by a family significant in the history of the founding of Dublin, and later became a farm-estate associated with a nationally prominent figure. The present property includes the original boundary lines and configuration of the Eli/Thaddeus Morse Farm as established in the 1760s. The land continues to be used for agricultural and conservation purposes, and maintains the historic site lines and vistas to Dublin Lake and to the state landmark of Mount Monadnock. The Clark family is taking measures to assure the permanent protection of this property by making this application. Furthermore, they are donating conservation easements on their lake front land to the Town of Dublin, and on their woodlands to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

The Morse Farm is a rare example of an early farm established in Dublin, without obtrusive development. The property was settled by a family of local importance, is associated with a figure nationally known for his world peace efforts, and contains a house which is a fine example of vernacular federal period architecture in brick. The continued physical use of land for farm and conservation purposes since its settlement in the 1760s contributes to the significance of the property. The land and the buildings should be included in the nomination, as together they maintain the fabric and character of the Morse Farm.

FOOTNOTES:

¹Fortune Magazine, "Grenville Clark, Statesman Incognito", February, 1946, pp. 188, 190.

²L.W. Leonard, The History of Dublin, New Hampshire, (The Town of Dublin, 1920), p. 6.

³Ibid., p. 579.

⁴Ibid., pp. 474, 567.

⁵Ibid., p. 842.

⁶Ibid., p. 606.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

Continuation sheet #5 - REFERENCES

Item number 9

Page 1

Fortune, February, 1946, "Grenville Clark, Statesman Incognito".

Gleason, George W., Letters to Mr. Daniel A. Dwight, 1885-1886, Private Collection of Louisa C. Spencer.

Leonard, Reverend Levi W., The History of Dublin, New Hampshire, Dublin: The Town of Dublin, 1852.

Leonard, Reverend Levi W. and Seward, Reverend Josiah L., The History of Dublin, New Hampshire, Dublin: The Town of Dublin, 1920.

Morse, Herbert N., Letter to Mrs. Fannie D. Clark, December 4, 1928, Private Collection of Louisa C. Spencer.

Dublin Historic Resources Inventory Form, 10/10/1980.

Interview with Louisa C. Spencer, 12/2/1982.

MAPS:

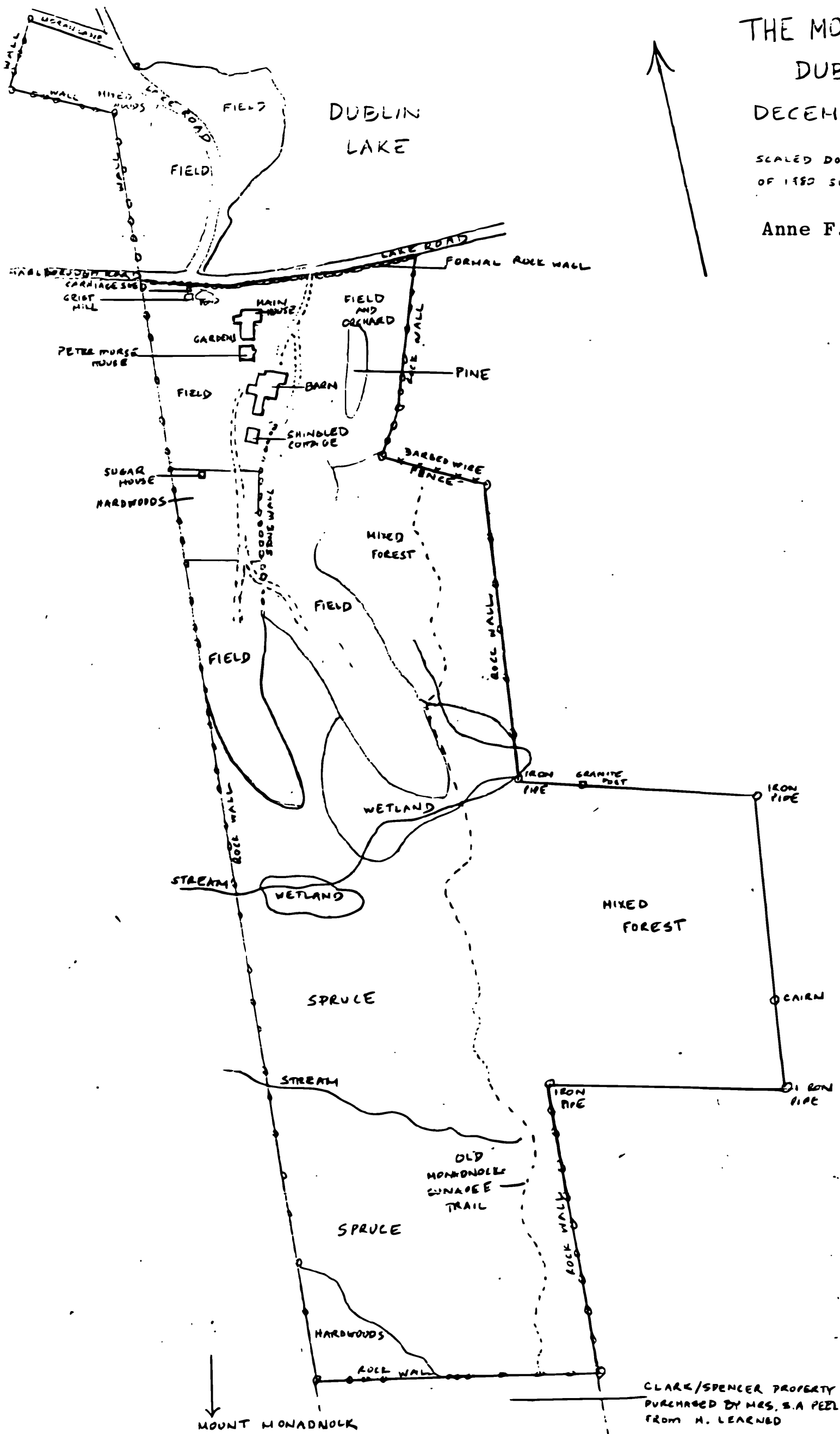
1. Plan of Part of Grenville Clark, Jr. and Louisa C. Spencer Lands, Old Marlborough Road, Lake Road and Moran Lane; Dublin 12/24/1980 by William A. Bean, Jr. R.L.S.
2. Plan of Sunset Hill Lots, Dublin, N.H., owned by Mrs. S.A. Peele. Surveyed August, 1885 by A.P. French, Keene, N.H.
3. Plan of Morse Farm, Dublin, N.H.. owned by Sarah A. Peele, Surveyed August, 1885 by A.P. French, Keene, N.H.
4. Plan of Land formerly of Mrs. S.A. Peele, Dublin, N.H., Samuel Wadsworth, Surveyor, Keene, N.H., undated.
5. Plan of Land of Mrs. Grenville Clark in Dublin, N.H., The Dublin Associates, undated (twentieth century).

SKETCH MAP

THE MORSE FARM
DUBLIN, N.H.
DECEMBER 1982

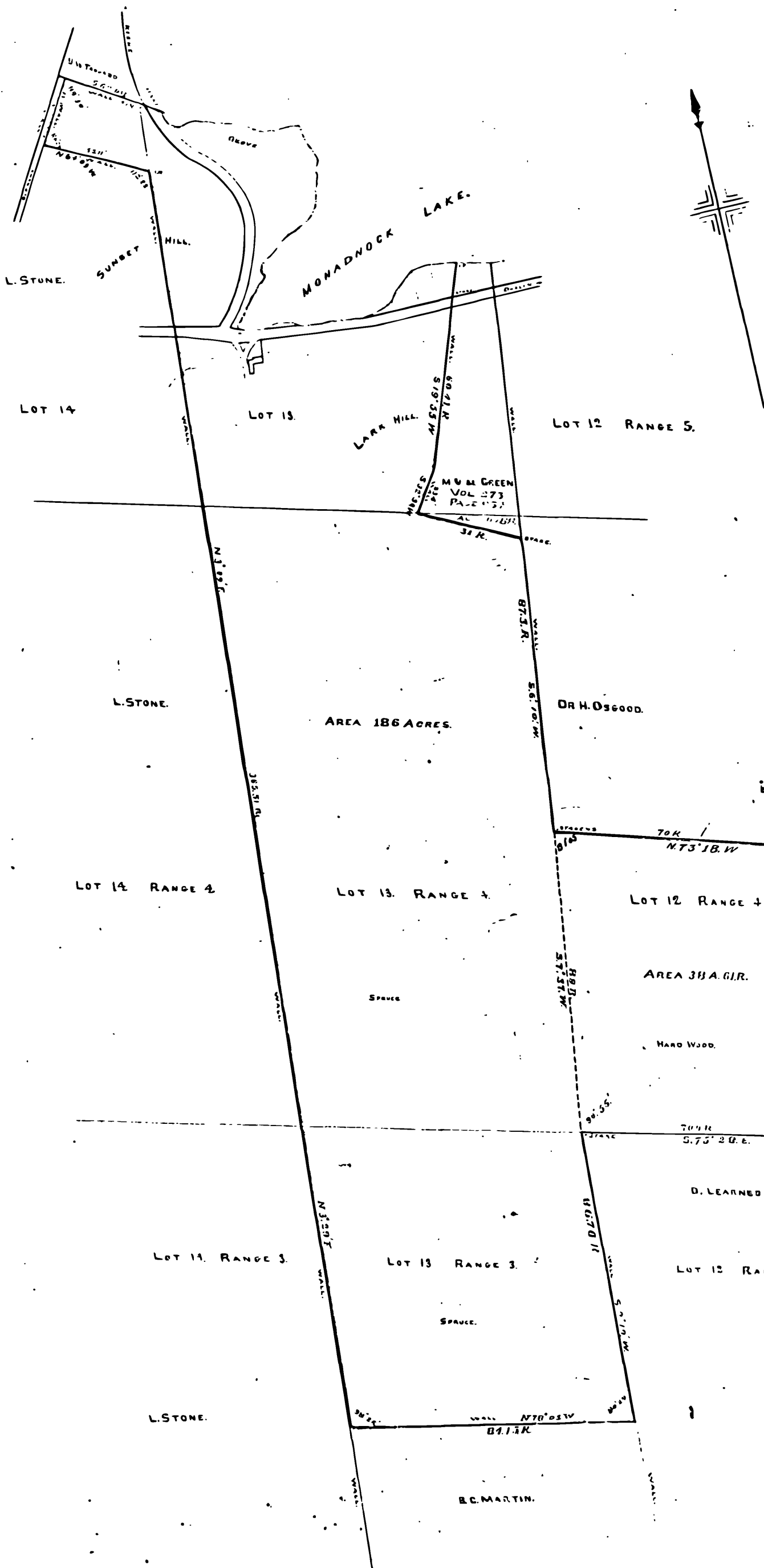
SCALED DOWN VERSION
OF 1980 SURVEY OF PROPERTY

Anne F. Niles

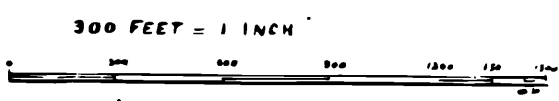


CLARK/SPENCER PROPERTY
PURCHASED BY MRS. S.A. PEELE IN 1897
FROM H. LEARNED

Exhibit A: 1885 Survey of Morse Farm



PLAN
of
MORSE FARM.
DUBLIN
N. H.
OWNED
BY
SARAH A. PEELE.



MRS. GREEN.
R. 1. 2. 3.

SURVEYED
AUG 1885
BY
A. PEELE

KILNE N. H.