

100-5001-2012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received NOV 25 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Allen's Cottage

and/or common Allenwood Farm (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Route 2

N/A not for publication

city, town Plainfield

N/A vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state Vermont

code 50

county Washington

code 023

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 type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Harold Townsend

street & number N/A

city, town Plainfield

N/A vicinity of

state Vermont

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Town Clerk

street & number Town Hall

city, town Plainfield

state Vermont

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier

state Vermont

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Allenwood Farm includes an 1827 brick, Classic Cottage farmhouse and several outbuildings, all of which have been owned since their construction by various members of the Martin family. The focal point of the complex is the well-preserved Federal/Greek Revival period house. It measures 5 x 3 bays, rises 1½ stories to an eaves-front gable roof and on the east end, has a recessed smaller scale wood-frame wing with a yet smaller clapboarded ell. To the rear of the house are located three 19th century post and beam barns and a 1940's shed. Although somewhat altered, together with the surrounding environment of open fields and forests, the outbuildings provide an appropriate agricultural backdrop for the house.

The farm is located just west of the village limits of the Town of Plainfield, Vermont. Although close to the village, a rural environment, provided by rolling agricultural fields, forests and a few scattered houses, surround it on three sides. Immediately south of the farmhouse, running parallel to it, is Vermont Route 2. Between the house and the busy road is a tall and very thick coniferous hedge and the remains of a picket fence. The hedge, although almost totally isolating the house from traffic, makes it very hard to record the structure in a photograph. (Historic photographs are included with the nomination form. The house retains the appearance it had in the historic photographs with a few exceptions noted in Section 7 of the nomination.)

The farmhouse's 5 x 3 bay, 1½ story gabled brick form is extremely popular in Plainfield. (There are 12 relatively contemporaneous examples in the Plainfield Village Historic District entered on the National Register of Historic Places, February 3, 1983.) Its sturdy walls are laid in American bond and have a double thickness with an air space between. Hay was originally used as insulation. The foundation and entrance steps are constructed of rough and smooth cut granite blocks and the roof is sheathed in standing seam sheet metal on the front slope and asphalt shingle on the rear.

Stylistically the house combines Greek Revival and Federal details. The windows and doors have rectangular, Greek Revival granite lintels. The front Christian Cross panel door is flanked by 2/3-length, multi-paned sidelights sandwiched between attenuated recessed paneled pilasters. Behind the sidelights are additional panes detailed with curvilinear tracery added late in the nineteenth century. Topping the entrance is a Federal style frieze that features small punctuated dentils. The present owner, Mrs. Harold Townsend, a descendent of the Martins, reports that the original front cornice had a Federal denticulated design similar to the entrance frieze. Due to deterioration, it was recently replaced with a plain molded returning cornice and narrow frieze board. Windows are 8/8; the present sash replaced former, but not original 1/1 windows earlier in this century.

This combination of Greek Revival and Federal features continues on the interior where the parlor's molding and fireplace reflect the Federal period, while the moldings in the wing are less delicate in relief and have corner blocks more representative of the Greek Revival.

A gabled, wood frame, 1½-story wing with a wraparound Queen Anne porch with turned posts, pendant drop scroll brackets, and a modern criss-cross board rail is attached to the east facade of the main block. Mrs. Townsend believes that this section predates the house and is of log construction beneath the present clapboard sheathing. The wing's original kitchen fireplace and bee hive oven remain, although the interior chimney has been rebuilt and the mantel replaced. Like the main block, the wing has 8/8 sash that replaced earlier 1/1 windows. The wing's exterior window and door surrounds are plain and are topped by cornice

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moldings. There are some scalloped shingles and a large, modern, single pane window in the wing's east gable peak.

On the north facade of the wing is a small wood frame gabled ell. It originally served as a wood shed but was given an interior finish by the Townsends and 19th century 12 pane casement windows were added. Appendages on the ell include a small open wood shed on the east facade and a deck on the west facade that abuts the rear of the main block.

There have been a minimum of changes to the house since its construction. On the interior, the floor plan is virtually intact. The central entrance and steep stairway are flanked by a front parlor and rear parlor bedroom on the left and a front kitchen and rear bedroom, buttry and pantry (buttry and pantry are now combined into a bathroom) on the right. The wing still serves as a kitchen. Reproduction wood paneling has been added around the parlor chimney and the front kitchen fireplace has been removed and rebuilt. During the late 19th century, the front rooms' hardwood maple floors were covered over with wide-board pine floors. On the exterior, besides the addition of the wing's Queen Anne porch, a door replaced a window on the north end of the rear facade of the main block sometime in the 19th century, and a shed roofed dormer was added on the rear facade. The "new" door is a large recycled raised panel door with strap hinges and bean handle latch. It probably predates the house.

1. Shed

A deteriorated, long shed-roofed shed constructed during the 1940's lies northeast of the house. The eastern end of the front facade has two open bays while the western portion is enclosed and faced with large fixed pane windows. There is a wide eaves overhang with exposed log rafters on the entire front facade. Attached to the west end of the structure is a shed roof supported on poles; it shelters the owners wood pile. The structure does not contribute to the historic significance of the property.

2. Barn

Behind the house is a gabled, post and beam barn that Mrs. Townsend believes predates the house. It has, however, been altered to accommodate an office. The exterior has a recent vertical board finish and a slate roof. Corner and frieze boards and a plain non-returning cornice detail the outbuilding. The added entrance is flanked by wide multi-paned sidelights and side panels, and is topped by a lintel board. Sash is irregularly placed and consists of 6 pane and diamond pane fixed windows. Although altered, the barn retains its original form and massing and contributes to the agricultural context of the house.

3. Barn

Northeast of the house is a gabled post and beam barn that is of larger size and scale than barn #4, less than 1 foot to the northwest of it. Barn #3 has vertical board siding and a gable roof clad in slate on the front slope and sheet metal on the rear. Frieze and corner boards detail the barn, which has only a few randomly placed square windows. On the south

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eaves facade, a large central entrance is topped by a long multi-paned transom. An additional entrance lies to the right of it. On the north eaves facade is a large sliding barn door. Two overhead garage doors have been inserted in the west gable end, below a second story hayloft door. The barn was constructed during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

4. Barn

Barn #4 is a late 19th century post and beam gabled structure of smaller size and scale than Barn #3, less than 1 foot to the southeast of it. The barn is sheathed in vertical boards and has a sheet metal roof and added concrete foundation, an open interior and random door and window placement. It recently was used as a stable and may be slightly newer than Barn #3.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1827 **Builder/Architect** Allen Martin, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Allenwood Farm represents the typical home environment of a 19th century Vermont hill farmer. It is one of an unusually large number of similar brick houses in Plainfield, which together provide the village's unique historic architectural character and is a significant resource related to the history of one of the town's most important families. The house was built in 1827 by Allen Martin, the son of an early settler of Plainfield/Marshfield. Allen, a farmer, retained the place until the 1870's when successful businessman Willard Martin took it over. By the turn of the century, the hill farm took on a very different role as an adjunct to Willard's nearby estate, Greatwood. During the 20th century, after Greatwood was converted to a college campus, it was the home of Willard's daughter who still resides in the house today.

Jesse Martin, a Revolutionary War veteran who fought at Bunker Hill was one of the early settlers of Plainfield and Marshfield Vermont at the turn of the 19th century. During his early years in the state, Jesse raised a large family that went on to settle prosperous farms along the fertile Winooski River intervalle. One of these farms, the present Allenwood farm, was built by Jesse's son Allen in 1827. Plainfield, at that time, was a well-established, agriculturally based township.

The Martin family history indicates that William, Allen's brother, was a brickmaker who undoubtedly helped with the house's double wall, brick construction. The bricks are believed to have been made in a kiln on William's farmstead just over the town line in Marshfield. The total cost of construction was \$700.00. Its style and construction is similar to a number of contemporaneous brick houses in Plainfield, some of which the Martins are believed to have built.

It has always been thought that the house's wing, with its presumed log construction, predates the house, although its exact building date is not known. Jesse Martin is said to have lived in the wing after Allen finished the house, but was only there a few short years before his death in 1831. Allen remained on the farm until his death in 1876. Throughout the 19th century the house was dubbed Allen's Cottage.

Today, the well-preserved farmhouse reflects the presence of the original occupant and his lifestyle. The tall ceilings are said to have been built to accommodate Allen's large size. Although the 1827 detail is not elaborate, it is not as spartan as many 19th century farmhouses of the region and indicates Allen's modest economic success. The lack of alteration or additions throughout his long occupancy reveals that changes were not desired or affordable, but upkeep was important.

Allen's nephew, Willard S. Martin, the son of his brother Joshua, was a successful judge, farmer, legislator and director of the National Bank in Barre. He lived on a farm to the west of Allen's. With Allen's death, the farm became part of Willard's estate. In the ensuing years, Willard's son, Willard Jr., became associated with the Mead-Morrison Manufacturing Company of Boston, New York and Chicago. He greatly increased the family fortune and expanded the family estate, Greatwood, in grand turn-of-the-century style. The estate

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 2.5 acres

Quadrangle name Plainfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gina Campoli, Architectural Historian
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
organization Preservation date January, 1983
street & number Pavilion Office Building telephone 802-828-3226
city or town Montpelier state Vermont 05602

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.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eric Silbats*

title Director, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation date 11/22/83

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
for *Shelores Byer* Entered in the National Register date 12/22/83
Keeper of the National Register
Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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included a shingled mansion, barns, a garden house, a clock house, and acres of formally landscaped gardens and grounds. Allen's Cottage became the home of Greatwood's head vegetable and flower gardeners. Despite the opulence of the main house and barns, the modest early form of Allen's Cottage was not altered to conform to the grandeur of the rest of the estate.

Willard Jr. died suddenly in the 1930's and Greatwood was converted into the main campus of Goddard College. Allen's house, however, was deeded to Willard's daughter, Mrs. Harold Townsend, the present owner.

Through the careful stewardship of the Townsends, Allenwood remains today a very good example of an early 19th century rural Vermont farmhouse. Its barns and fields recall the historic setting of the house when the property was farmed by one of the town's prominent families. Its brick construction places it within a group of similar masonry dwellings in Plainfield Village that have been noted for their unusually large concentration and their association with a small number of early local brick masons, including the probable builder of the Allenwood farmhouse. The house is especially notable in this regard for its double wall construction.

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Beer's, F.W. Atlas of Washington County, Vermont. Charles Tuttle and Co., Rutland, Vermont, 1971. (Reprint of 1873 map)

Child, Hamilton. Gazetteer of Washington County, Vermont, 1783-1889. Syracuse Journal Company, Syracuse, New York; pp. 434-444.

Plainfield Village Historic District, National Register Nomination, June 30, 1981.

Oral interviews with Mrs. Harold Townsend, January 10, 1983 and January 14, 1983, Plainfield, Vermont.

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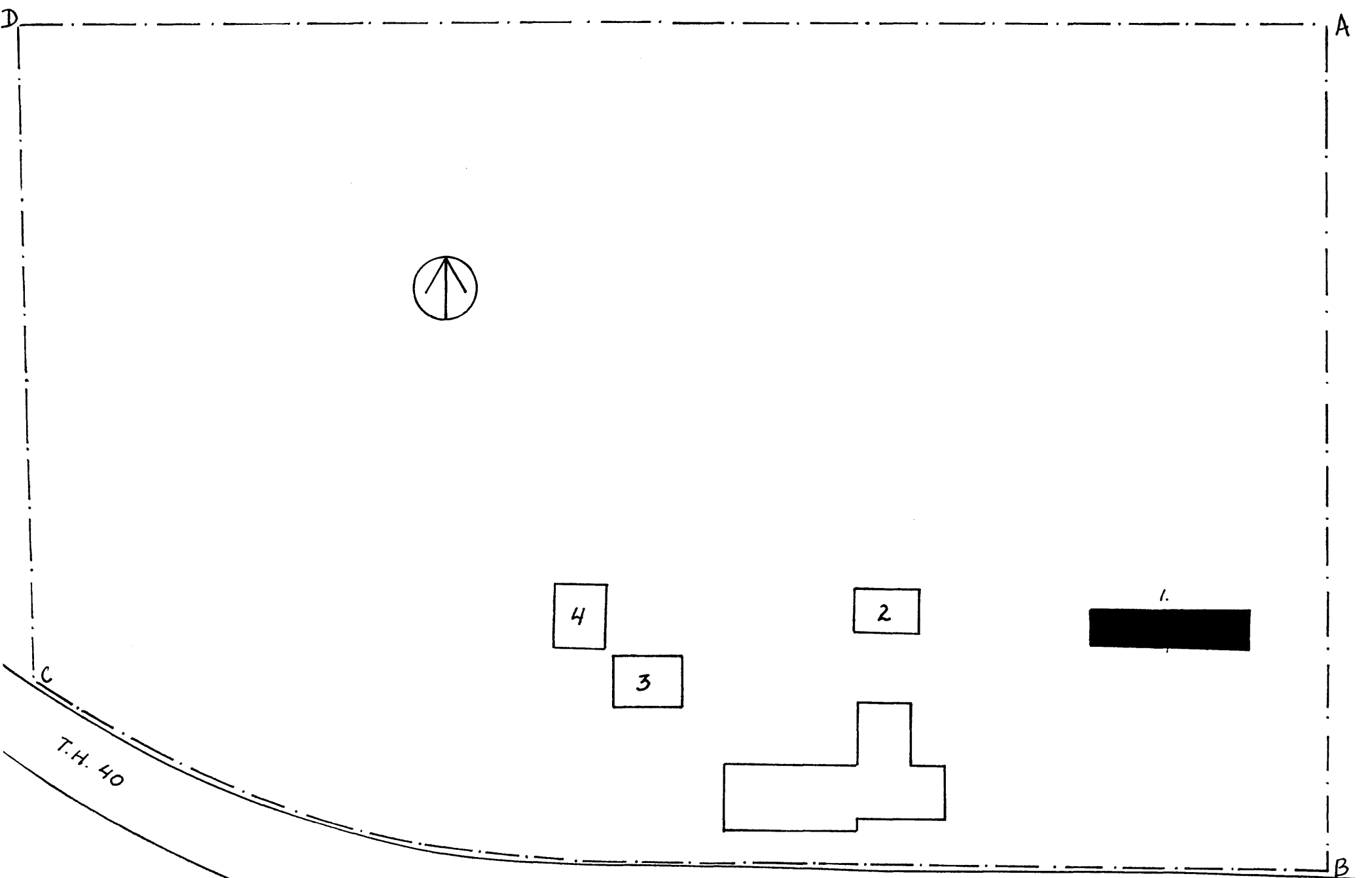
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The boundary of the nominated property begins at Point A, the intersection of an eastern extension of a line 100 yards north of and parallel to the north wall of the Allenwood farmhouse and the eastern boundary of the Townsend property. From Point A, the boundary proceeds in a southerly direction along the eastern boundary of the Townsend property to Point B, the intersection of said property line and the northern edge of the right-of-way of U.S. Route 2. The boundary thence proceeds in a westerly direction along said edge of said right-of-way and the northern edge of the right-of-way of TH 40, to Point C, the intersection of the northern edge of the right-of-way of TH 40 and the western boundary of the Townsend property. From Point C, the boundary proceeds in a northerly direction along said boundary to Point D, the intersection of said boundary and the western extension of a line 100 yards north of and parallel to the north wall of the Allenwood farmhouse. From Point D the boundary proceeds in an easterly direction along said extension, line and an eastern extension of said line to Point A, the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the historic structures of Allenwood Farm and the gardens, fields, and pastures which provide the farm's historic environmental context. To the east of the property is land never associated with the farm and a later Italianate style house. Busy U.S. Route 2 forms the southern boundary of the nominated property. The western boundary includes a large pasture that was always part of the farm, and that separates the property from Goddard College. The northern boundary includes a hilly field which surrounds and rises above the house and barns to provide an appropriate pastoral backdrop to the property. The nominated property is a small portion of larger holdings once associated with the farm. The legal description of those holdings, some of which have been sold in sections during the past 30 years, is located in Book 20, page 108A of the Plainfield Land Records.



ALLENWOOD FARM Plainfield, Vt.

- KEY
- contributing structure
 - non-contributing structure
 - - - Nomination boundary

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE