

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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received FEB 13 1984

date entered

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

## 1. Name

historic Philbrook Farm Inn

and/or common Philbrook Farm Inn

## 2. Location

street & number North Road, ~~(North side of North Road, one mile east of  
bridge crossing north of Rte. 2)~~ N/A not for publication

city, town Shelburne N/A vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Coos code 07

## 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Constance Philbrook Ledger/Nancy Philbrook

street & number North Road

city, town Shelburne N/A vicinity of state New Hampshire

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 148 Main Street  
P.O.Box 286

city, town Lancaster state New Hampshire

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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

Overlooking a large expanse of intervale land along the Androscoggin River in Shelburne, New Hampshire, the Philbrook Farm Inn forms the nucleus of a property that includes six other smaller and much later structures set in a landscape of several low hills and upland forest tracts which include pathways, dirt roads, stone walls, a few minor streams and several fine overlooks. Located as it is in the foothills of the Mahoosuc Mountain Range of New Hampshire, the Inn, a large, wooden, white-clapboarded structure consisting of five major segments running from east to west, faces south on some dramatic and historically famous views of the Carter-Moriah Mountain Range, as well as a portion of the Presidential Range.

The main Inn is the product of several additions to a two-and-a-half storied farmhouse constructed by a Hodgdon family ca. 1834. The original five-bay house now forms the core of the present building and is central to the four basic areas of the Inn: the twenty guest rooms in the oldest section and in the wing to the east built during 1861 and added to in 1906; the dining area in the west wing constructed in 1934 after a fire destroyed everything west of the original structure, including a large attached barn; the kitchen and related work areas running along the north side of the 1934 addition; and the private quarters of the Philbrooks which consist of kitchen and dining space on the first floor and living quarters on the second and third of the west wing.

Though a rambling structure, the Inn forms a rather solid unit with a gabled portion of the dining area and the entire 1861/1906 wing jutting out from the rest of the building some ten feet. As such, these two extensions, which break up the southern facade, give the Inn an interesting charm and allow for the placement of a wide porch between them and in front of the ca. 1834 segment. This single-story porch with its asphalt-shingled roof like the remainder of the Inn, was, before the fire of 1934, an open porch, but has since been closed-in with windows which, for the most part, match the six-over-six-paned sash found throughout the Inn. Only a triangular dormer over the westernmost ell, in the south gable of the 1934 wing, and in a bay window in the second story center of the 1861/1906 wing, do we have a different form. However, though the number of panes per window may grow or shrink, the overall pattern remains the same, as does the window pane size.

The Inn, for the most part, has a full basement running underneath its entire length with the portion furthest to the west and beneath the 1934 dining room used for a recreation area. Single stack chimneys are located as follows: one in the center of the 1934 wing providing for a fireplace in the main dining area, one in the 1834 section with a fireplace in the room east of the main entrance hall, and three in the 1861/1906 wing, two of which provide for fireplaces on the main floor south rooms off the central hallway of 1861. Though the fireplaces are in working order and are frequently used, the Inn relies on steam heat during the colder months.

The trim style of the Inn is inspired by classical revival forms, with dental work appearing under the eaves of the ca. 1834 and 1861/1906 sections, and duplicated on the exterior of the wing that replaced that destroyed in 1934. Likewise, on the latter wing single dormer windows were constructed in the fashion of those on the rest of the Inn. In fact, the exterior of the 1934 wing duplicates almost exactly the old structure. There are seven dormers on the west wing, four on the central (ca. 1834) portion and ten on the 1861/1906 wing. In 1906, when three more bays were added to the east of the original five-bay 1861 section, another hallway was constructed to match that already in existence to the west. Though the

(See Continuation Sheet)

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Continuation sheet #1 DESCRIPTION

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1906 addition did not keep the east wing in perfect balance, the placement of doors, windows, chimneys and dormers retained an almost symmetrical southern facade. In that same year, a larger single-story porch (open) was added to the front of the east wing. This has a short flight of steps leading down to the ground directly in front of the 1861 doorway with its sidelights, and a rather squat mansard roof with railing above to match that on the first floor level. Access to the roof of this porch is through doors off both second story hallways. Except where space does not allow, all the windows at the Inn have double shutters, including the dormers.

The Inn also retains most of its original interior woodwork, including window and door molding, fireplace mantles and stair rails. When the new dining room was constructed, the old one on the north side of the 1861 section was converted to a spacious parlor. This is the only exception to the fact that all the rooms at the Inn serve their original purpose.

Except for the loss of many of the elms on the property and the reduction in size of the garden plots, the overall appearance of the Inn and its immediate surroundings is the same as it has been for decades. The conscientious preservation of the nearby intervale land between the Inn and the Androscoggin River by the five generations of Philbrooks that have operated a hotel here has meant the protection of some of the finest scenic vistas in northern New Hampshire.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** c.1834, 1861, (1906 **Builder/Architect** Hodgdon family/Philbrook family members  
(1934

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Philbrook Farm Inn, one of the last of the large resort hotels remaining in northern New Hampshire, is, by tradition, considered to be the oldest hotel in the United States operated by the same family at the same site (1861-1983). Architecturally, the Inn demonstrates the rambling but picturesque qualities of a typical New England farmhouse, turned summer boarding house, turned year-round hotel. As such, the Inn is one of the best remaining examples of hotel-era construction which often saw the combination of late nineteenth and early twentieth century building styles used to create an eclectic whole. The Inn is, of course, most important for its associations with the development of tourism in the White Mountains. Like members of the Crawford family, the Philbrooks were typical of first-generation innkeepers who were expected to be as dramatic and original as the nearby mountain scenery. Unlike the Crawfords, however, the Philbrooks chose only moderate expansion during the coming of second-generation inn managers and the "golden era" hotels in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. With careful planning and a returning clientele, the Philbrook Farm Inn survived the era of the automobile, which, in improving means of transportation in the White Mountains, accelerated the pace of visitation and ultimately spelled doom for many of the large "grand" hotels serving the urban rich. While the Inn has been a favorite for artists and writers, mainly because of its location some miles from heavily-traveled highways, it also has become the seasonal home to numerous professionals from Harvard, and to their descendants. Many families are in the fourth generation of visitors. Reflecting the popularity of indoor pasttimes of the nineteenth century, the hotel contains one of the most extensive collections of White Mountain memorabilia in existence. Brought to the hotel by successive generations of the Philbrook family, the items include prints, maps, first edition books, paintings and photographs which document for the visitor, as well as the scholar, the life and economy of a century-and-a-half of White Mountain tourism.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2 acres

Quadrangle name Shelburne, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the nominated property are indicated by the dashed line on the attached sketch map. The nominated property consists of the building which housed the first family operated inn and accretions to it.

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

state None code county code

state None code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Randall H. Bennett

organization N/A date 9/22/83

street & number 509 Crescent Avenue telephone (207) 364-7077

city or town Rumford state Maine

# 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 

title Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development date JAN 26 1984  
New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

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

 date 3/15/84  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet #2 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Continuation sheet #3 SKETCH MAP

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The Philbrook Farm Inn

