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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 04 1993

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Farmington Town Pound

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number North side of Pound Road near its intersection with Ten Rod Road N/A  not for publication

city or town Farmington N/A  vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Strafford code 017 zip code 03835

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.)

Marcy C. Miller, SHPO July 22, 1993  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
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

Delores Byers

**Entered in the  
National Register**

Date of Action

9/2/93

Farmington Town Pound  
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH  
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	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Town Cattle Pound

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls GRANITE

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**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)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance**

1823

**Significant Dates**

1823

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Colbath, Nicholas

**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:

Town of Farmington

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1/3 + Acre (120x130 Feet)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	331430	4802575
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Edmund Demers along with Christine E. Fonda\*

organization Farmington Conservation Commission date July 1993  
~~NH Division of Historical Resources\*~~

street & number 22 Spring Street telephone (603) 755-2611 & (603) 271-3483\*

city or town Farmington state NH zip code 03835  
~~Concord\*~~ PO BOX 2043\*

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 Town of Farmington

street & number Farmington Town Office telephone (603) 755-2208

city or town Farmington state NH zip code 03835

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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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7,8 Page 1

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**Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH**

**Description**

The Farmington Town Pound is a 40-foot-square rectangular enclosure of dry-laid random fieldstones situated in rural Farmington, New Hampshire. It was constructed in 1823 and replaced an earlier pound, probably wooden, built about 1802.

The pound as it survives today is a substantial structure, whose fieldstone walls are seven-feet high and three-feet wide at the base. Along the top, the walls terminate with long granite capstones. There is a five-and-a-half-foot wide opening on the southeast side (facing Pound Road). Some of the stones have been removed, the lintel has fallen and broken into three pieces, and the wooden gate is no longer extant, but the pound is otherwise similar in appearance to the photograph which appears in the 1904 publication, Souvenir of Farmington, New Hampshire. (The presence of saplings growing on the lot was evident even in 1904.)

The pound occupies a small lot measuring 120 feet by 130 feet in the geographical center of the town. The balance of the parcel supports a young growth of mixed hardwood and conifers.

**Statement of Significance**

The Farmington Town Pound is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for significance in exploration/settlement for the time period 1823, its date of construction. The pound retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Farmington Town Pound survives from the early 19th century. Constructed in 1823 it replaced an earlier pound dating from 1802, only three years after the first town meeting. This type

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**Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH**

### **Statement of Significance (continued)**

of structure was typically constructed in New Hampshire towns in the 18th and 19th centuries, and was used to contain stray livestock. The earliest pounds in New Hampshire were wooden structures; none of these are known to survive. Stone construction eventually became the norm. Typically pounds were of dry-laid fieldstone construction, roughly square in plan, with an opening containing a gate with a lintel above. These were simple structures built to meet a very practical requirement to formative agricultural communities. The Farmington Pound remains an important structure from the town's early agrarian period.

Twenty-two towns in the Farmington area were surveyed in order to assess their respective town pounds. Thirteen towns no longer have pounds. Of those which have, two survive only as ruins (Barrington and Madbury), one was dismantled and re-erected on a new site in 1946 (Milton), five have pounds in fair to good condition (Farmington, New Durham, Gilmanton, Wakefield, and Wolfeborough), and one (Durham) has a very well maintained pound, in excellent condition, having been restored in 1805 and also in 1905.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Among the elements of rural life which the first English settlers established on our shores was the town pound.

As early as 1635 the Massachusetts Bay Colony was ordering towns to construct pounds to which untended hogs were to be taken if they came within a mile of an English farm.<sup>1</sup> Within a few years of settlement in 1638, Sudbury, Massachusetts saw fit to appoint six hog wardens to be followed by the erection of a pound. It was 25 to 30 feet square, of post-and-rail construction, and

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**Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

located at the village-end of the "general field".<sup>2</sup>

Hampton, New Hampshire, was also settled in 1638. From the outset the colonists sought to acquire livestock and build up their herds, salt-meat being among the earliest farm commodities to be exported. Three years later, the inhabitants voted at town meeting to build a pound about thirty feet square to be built of sawn rails and posts; three men were to fell trees for the project. In February a crew of eleven men built the pound. A gate was made and a townsman appointed hayward and pound-keeper for the year. His fee for impounding "great beasts" was to be tuppence each, one penny per head for "small cattle".<sup>3</sup> The form of these early New England settlements usually followed the English village pattern of houses closely set along the village street or streets on their home lots, each large enough to accommodate house and barn, garden, livestock pens, and orchard. All remaining land in the town was known as "the Common", various areas being set aside for uses to which they were best suited: marshes for haying, forested upland for wood cutting, old Indian fields for crops, brush and open woodland for pasture. The usage of Exeter, New Hampshire, illustrates how livestock were managed in such a village. In May of 1649, Gowen Wilson was appointed cattle driver. Every morning he collected and drove all the village livestock down the street and out to the woods. After a day of tending the herd on the Common, the driver would drop off the animals at their respective byres in the evening.<sup>4</sup> Haywardens and fencekeepers saw to it that gardens, orchards and croplands were fenced in against roaming animals. As geese, goats, sheep and swine were added to livestock holdings, so was damage to field crops and gardens - hogs were especially troublesome. Their control would be the subject of heated debates at town meetings for more than two centuries. In this

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**Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

environment, the pound-keeper provided a very necessary function. He rounded up and impounded strays, fed and watered the impounded animals, notified owners to reclaim their animals by a certain date, animals being identified by earmarks, collected pound fees and saw that injured parties were indemnified.

The Hampton and Sudbury pounds of post-and-rail construction probably differed little from the livestock pens of individual homesteaders. Modifications of this design would take place in the New England environment, however. As settlements pressed further inland, the Common no longer provided the saltmarshes, old Indian fields and open woodland resulting from Indian seasonal burning that early coastal settlements enjoyed. Livestock, save family milk cows, were left to run free in the woods for half a year or more. Such animals were no respecters of fences and resented being penned. Town histories often record the replacement of an earlier wooden pound by a stone pound: Milton 1804-1823, Farmington 1802-1823, Lee 1784-1802. Stone lintels over gates and massively thick and high walls suggest that they were indeed required.

In 1718 the Province of New Hampshire put into law "An Act for Providing of Pounds, and to prevent Rescous, and Pound Breach." A brief summary of its provisions gives one an insight into the workings of the pound as an institution. The Province required every town to maintain a pound at public expense. If the pound-keeper or hayward was not available anyone could impound a trespassing animal "damage feasant." Any swine at large, unyoked and unrun, was impoundable. The impounder was obligated to notify the owner, if known; if unknown, notice was to be posted in a public place and the matter "cryed abroad" locally and in two neighboring towns, livestock recognizing no boundaries. If



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**Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH**

### Statement of Significance (continued)

the town, by majority vote, fenced in the better pasturage on the common for the use of milk cows, any other animal breaching the enclosure could be impounded. Fees were set for feeding and watering impounded stock, for bringing the animals in, for admission and release of livestock. Impecunious youths could be jailed for unlawful release of animals. Unclaimed livestock could be claimed as indemnity by injured parties or auctioned off by the town.<sup>5</sup>

After Independence, this legislation was brought up to date in 1791 with "An Act Regulating Pounds". The State reaffirmed the requirement that towns maintain a pound, but added penalties for failure to comply with additional fines for each year of non-compliance. In poundless towns, anyone could impound a trespassing animal to his own pen or barn, but the owner was to be notified promptly. Neglecting impounded animals on the part of the Pound-Keeper was an actionable offense. Unclaimed stock was to be disposed of by the Town after four days. Anyone attempting to seize animals being driven to the pound (Rescous) or interfering with the hayward or pound-keeper in carrying out his duties could be fined. An impecunious pound-breacher might spend up to sixty days in jail or be flogged with 30 lashes. Fees were spelled out in detail.<sup>6</sup>

In 1797 an addition to the statute dealt with pound-breach; illegally released animals, if found within six days by the impounder, could be reimposed with a doubling of pound fees. Should the owner of the enclosure refuse to give them up such action was to be considered sufficient evidence to convict him of pound breach.<sup>7</sup>

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Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH

### Statement of Significance (continued)

Thus, in farming communities, the perennial problem of straying livestock gave rise to the institution of the town pound with its laws, officials, and schedules of fees and penalties.

#### POUNDS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire's earliest pound is that of Durham constructed in 1705, repaired in 1805, and restored in 1905.<sup>8</sup> In 1923 a pen sketch of this pound appeared in one of Wallace Nutting's publications of photographs celebrating the beauty of rural New England.<sup>9</sup>

Wolfeborough has had four pounds; the first built of logs in 1771 was twenty feet square and seven feet high. In 1799 another was built on the meeting house lot; built of stone, it was thirty feet square and topped with wood timbers one foot square - cost \$14. Two pounds were built in 1814; one was thirty feet square on a forty foot square lot. Its stone walls were three feet thick at the base, two feet wide at the top, it was also capped by one foot square timbers. Complete with gate and lock it cost \$25. The other, similar in design was still standing in 1901.<sup>10</sup>

After a decade of settlement Rochester was incorporated in 1737. The first Pound-keeper was named, the pound to be built near his house. In 1786 a pound was built on Haven's Hill. The question of yoking swine was hotly debated and finally settled in 1823 - hogs to be yoked and not allowed to run at large. In 1841 a new pound was built near the meeting house on the Common.<sup>11</sup> In some

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Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

years the offices of "saxton" and Pound-Keeper were filled by the same man.<sup>12</sup>

In Concord two field-drivers were appointed and a pound ordered to be built in 1729. The following year, the pound was built and one of the field drivers named Pound-Keeper;<sup>13</sup> this pound stood on Pond Hill.<sup>14</sup> The last pound to be built in Concord was erected at the Poor Farm in West Concord in 1830 for \$62.50. Though soon falling out of use, it stands today.<sup>15</sup>

During the nineteenth century as industrialization proceeded apace and farming declined with the opening of the West, the Pound became obsolete in many New Hampshire towns. The State Legislature in 1877 amended the statutes relating to Pounds accordingly: "Any town in this State, at any meeting duly called for that purpose, may vote not to maintain a public pound in said town and to dispose of any land held by them for that purpose". In 1889 Hancock voted to dispense with the pound and donate its stones for construction of the basement of the new schoolhouse. The pound had been the first structure voted on at the town meeting of 1785.<sup>16</sup>

On the agenda at Farmington's first town meeting in 1799 was the swearing in of nine hog-reeves, five fence-viewers, and eight field-drovers. (This and all the information below on Farmington's two pounds is derived from Farmington town records.) Soon after, in 1802, it was voted to build a pound. The selectmen formed the committee charged with looking after the matter. Lt. Anthony Peavey was selected to build the pound.

Twenty years later this structure would be replaced by a stone pound. The fact that Peavey owned shares in a sawmill and

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**Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH**

### Statement of Significance (continued)

contracted to provide timbers and planking on Farmington bridges argues for wood construction of the 1802 pound. On March 22, 1822 it was

Voted that the Pound be built as near the center of town as a convenient plot of ground can be obtained and the same be built of stone.

Voted that the selectmen be a committee to locate the Pound and let out the same to be built by contract and make a report at the adjournment of this meeting.

At the adjournment of May 25, 1822, it was reported that a plot had been purchased of Hunkin Colbath, Jr. for \$5.; it was 130 wide by 120 feet deep. A contract was let out for the stone pound to be completed by June 1, 1823. The selectmen were paid \$6. for their committee work. Storekeeper Joseph Sherburne was paid \$2.84 for spirits, in part to sustain the energies of the pound builders. Nicholas Colbath was paid \$59. in part for building the pound (the amount of full pay is missing). John Roberts was named pound-keeper for the year 1824.

Farmington town records for 1878, in addition to noting the appointment of the pound-keeper and two fence-viewers, carries the following, probably inserted by the pound-keeper.

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Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

Astray Sheep! two ewes, two lambs found  
damaging enclosure - Frank Emerson. Found -  
one South Down buck. Owner can claim after  
paying charges. Orrin P. Giles.

By 1918, the pound was obsolete, and the pound lot had reverted to private ownership when it was purchased by the Raab Family from North Dakota. In 1975 the Raab heirs deeded the town pound and lot to the town of Farmington. The Farmington Historical Society then undertook to clear the brush and litter from the site. There were plans to restore some of the fallen masonry, but when a new sign marking the site and a newly installed gate were vandalized all further attempts at restoration ceased. An article in the Farmington News of July 16, 1975 on the Raab grant includes a photograph of the entrance to the pound with the stone lintel still in place.

1. William Cronon, Changes in the Land (New York: Hill and Wang, 1983), p.136.
2. Summer Chilton Powell, Puritan Village, The Formation of a New England Town (Middletown CT: Wesleyan University, 1963), p. 55, plates VI, XIV.
3. Joseph Dow, History of the Town of Hampton, New Hampshire, from its Settlement in 1638 to the Autumn of 1892 (Salem MA: Salem Press Publication and Print Company, 1893), vol. I, p.24.
4. Charles H. Bell, History of the Town of Exeter, New Hampshire (Boston: Press of J.E. Farwell and Company, 1888), pp.49-50.

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Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

5. New Hampshire Province Laws, chap. 16, p.270.
6. Ibid., chap. 49, p.629.
7. Ibid., chap. 33, p.458.
8. The pound was then in Dover from which Durham separated in 1732. Philip Wilcox, Museum Curator, Durham Historical Society, cited in Elizabeth Banks MacRury, Town Pounds of New England (Wakefield NH, 1979), p.35.
9. Wallace Nutting, New Hampshire Beautiful (New York: Bonanza Books, 1923), p. 137, p.155.
10. Benjamin Franklin Parker, History of Wolfeborough, New Hampshire (Somersworth NH: New Hampshire Printers, 1974), pp. 136, 137. (Reprint of 1901 edition.)
11. Franklin McDuffee, History of the Town of Rochester, New Hampshire 1722-1890 (Somersworth NH: New England History Press, 1988), pp.541, 542. (Reprint of 1892 edition.)
12. Ibid., p.141.
13. James O. Lyford, ed. History of Concord, New Hampshire 1725-1900 (Concord NH: Rumford Press, 1903), vol. 1, p.129.
14. Ibid., p.45.
15. Ibid., p.343.
16. Hancock History Committee, ed. The Second Hundred Years of Hancock, New Hampshire (Canaan NH: Phoenix Publishing Company, 1979), p.32.

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**Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH**

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### New Hampshire Province Laws

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Section number 9,10 Page 12

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Farmington Town Pound  
Strafford County, NH

### Bibliography (continued)

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Powell, Summer Chilton. Puritan Village, The Formation of a New England Town. Middleton, CT: Wesleyan University, 1963.

Waldron, Adelaide Cilley. Souvenir of Farmington, New Hampshire. 1904.

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is referenced as lot 15, map R-30 in the Farmington Tax Assessors records. Boundaries are indicated by the heavy black line on the attached sketch map.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property are those which have been associated with it since its initial construction.

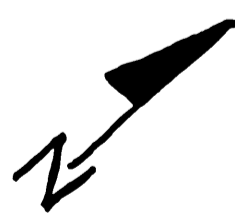
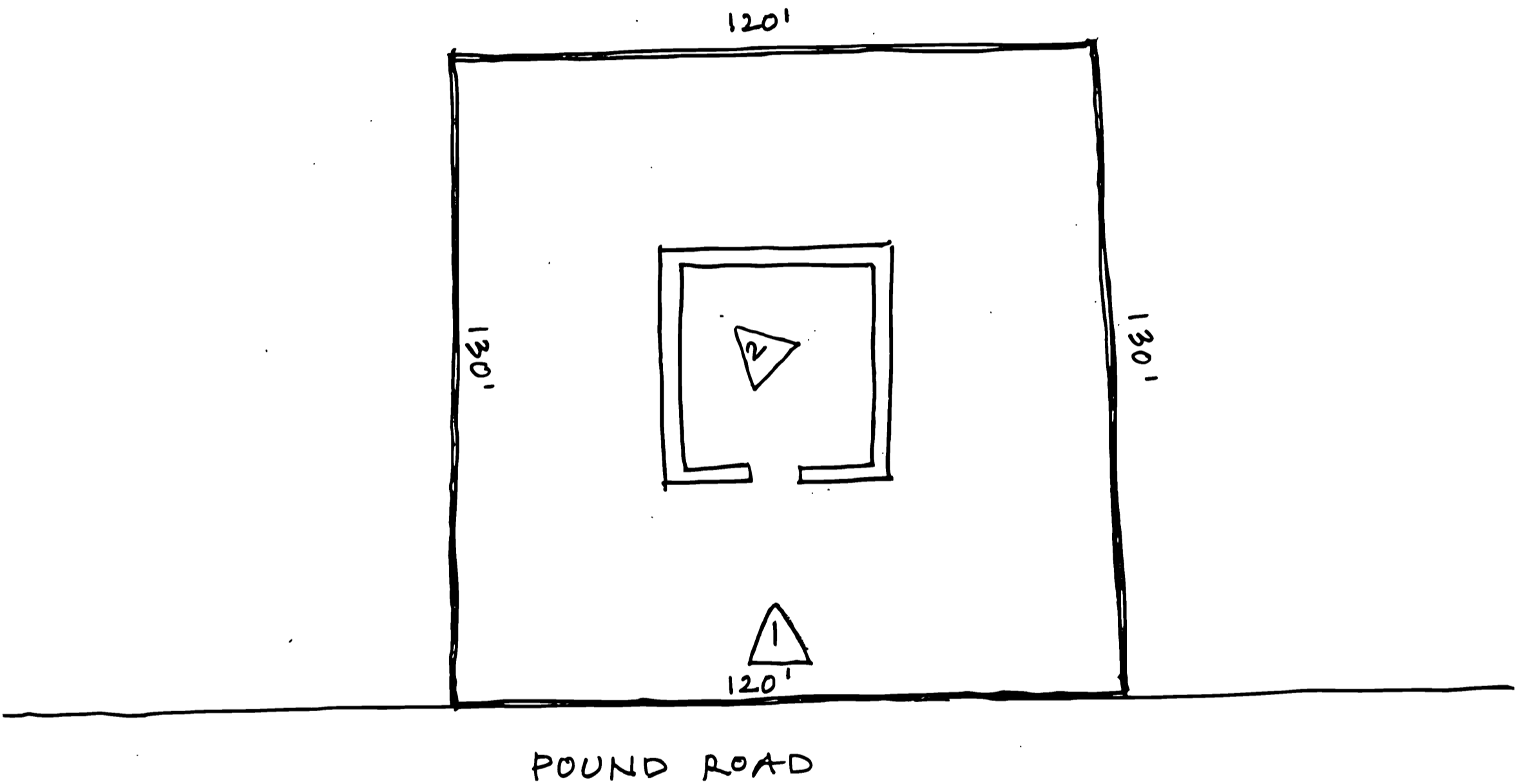
This certifies that the appearance has not changed since the photographs were taken.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Additional Documentation  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 13



FARMINGTON TOWN POND  
FARMINGTON NH

— property boundary