

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

For NPS use only

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

received 6/27/83

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic CALEB WHITTAKER PLACE

and/or common OLD MILLIE PERKINS PLACE

**2. Location**

street & number Perkins Pond Road n/a not for publication

city, town Weare n/a vicinity of

state N.H. code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input 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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Gordon & Barbara Russell

street & number Perkins Pond Road

city, town Weare n/a vicinity of state New Hampshire 03281

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number 19 Temple Street (Vol. 2518, p. 784)

city, town Nashua state New Hampshire

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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	n/a moved date n/a
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Town History of Weare, New Hampshire, 1735-1888, first mentions Caleb Whittaker as residing at this dwelling in the early 1770s, but the exact date of its construction is not known. What now appears to be a center chimney Cap-Cod style cottage started out as an end-chimney structure, with the large off-center chimney standing at the western end. The original house, which has undergone few changes, is a simple gable-roofed clapboarded dwelling of one story with an unfinished loft.

Shortly after the original house was completed, an addition of equal length and height was constructed at its western end. There are no indications that this addition was ever finished off. As-blade cuts on the floor and stanchion mortises in the summer beam, suggest that this section (renovated in 1977 and now used as a living room/kitchen) probably was used to shelter wood and livestock. It is of post and beam construction, braced with 2 7/8" x 7 1/2" joists at 30" on centers, between larger 8" x 8" and 8" x 11" beams. A well house (c. 1875-1900) projects from the north elevation. It is equipped with a windlass complete with stone counterweight and hollow hub. In 1902, the house was clapboarded and dormers, new sash and an open porch on the east elevation were added.

There is a small attached barn to the west of the early addition which was constructed c. 1845. It is a simple gable roofed structure with a large door on its south and north elevations.

The Caleb Whittaker homestead is located on a 6-acre parcel on a private shoulder of a mountain, surrounded by ancient trees and fieldstone walls. Twenty percent of the tract north and south of the buildings has been cleared and is used for vegetable and flower gardens and small fruits and berries. The balance of the property is mixed forest.

It is the interior of the house which is most noteworthy. The original interior of the original house remains intact in an excellent state of preservation. The front door opens into a small vestibule. Two doorways appear on the inside wall; the first leads to a small dirt cellar. The cellar is enclosed with a fine example of dry-rock stonework; (photograph #3). The base of the brick with clay mortar chimney measures 13' x 11'. At the chimney base a doorway opens into an 11' long, 7 1/4' wide, 4 1/4' high root cellar, the ceiling of which is composed of massive 8" x 17" x 13' white pine timbers. The second vestibule door leads up a narrow sheathed stairway to the loft; (photograph #2). The wide board floor, the rafters (some hand-hewn and others simply tree poles) and purlins together with cross-ed and diagonal windbraces are all original.

A formal sitting room is first entered at ground level from the vestibule. Georgian panels cover the fireplace wall; (photograph #5). Wide pine horizontal panels make up the remaining walls; (photograph #6). The ceiling is plaster over thin laths. The "keeping and borning rooms" are similarly paneled. The cooking fireplace opens to 7' x 4'; being complete with cook-oven and coals bin. The simple flat-stone hearth measures 32" x 11'; (photograph #7).

The western addition to the original three-room house dates from about 1777 and was modified in 1977. The floor was replaced and the area renovated to a large living room and kitchen. A window and door were added in the south wall of this addition. None of the hand-hewn timbers in this section were disturbed.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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The 1902 renovation, which changed the exterior (described in original inventory) remains to this day. It is the interior of this dwelling that has been unaltered and it is the interior that is the "survivor". This home was vacant for approximately fifty years (1920s-1960s) due to estate litigation, thereby escaping a period when most "old-fashioned" homes were updated. Leather-pinned door hinges, deeply worn flooring, wide-horizontal panels throughout, flat stone hearth, original loft - these are all still intact. Other examples of such a dwelling are not known to exist in this town or this area. The State Preservation Office is not aware of a comparable building type.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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. 1765      **Builder/Architect** unknown

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

The Caleb Whittaker Place is significant in architecture as a well preserved example of an eighteenth century settler's home. Of particular note is the interior of the original house which retains its original configuration and finishes, as well as remaining on its original site. It is the most intact and undisturbed interior of period in Weare or the region. In fact, no other comparable example is known.

The building was vacant for approximately 40 years (1930's through 1960's) due to estate litigation, thereby escaping a period when many homes of its vintage were modernized, restored, or demolished. This structure is truly a survivor not even worn parts have been updated, the original interior is almost completely intact. Leather-pinned door hinges, deeply worn flooring, wide horizontal paneled walls, wooden door latches, root cellar, unfinished loft - all survive.

The property's association with Caleb Whittaker is also of interest. Its first inhabitant, and probably its builder, Whittaker lived here for 30 years. One of Weare's earliest settlers, he was also a signer of the New Hampshire Declaration of Independence in 1776, and fought in the Continental Army at the battle of Quaker Hill in Rhode Island.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Little, William, History of the Town of Weare, 1735-1888, (printed by the Town of Weare, 1888)  
Judith Conway, "Settler's Cabin Preserved", New Hampshire Sunday News, July 23, 1978.  
Letter from David M. Hart to Gordon Russell, Jr., April 14, 1976, reporting findings of site inspection.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 6

Quadrangle name Weare, NH

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

### UTM References

A 

1	9	2	7	6	7	0	0	4	7	6	2	3	8	0
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 nominated property includes all the surviving land still associated with the Caleb Whittaker Place. Weare Tax map sheet #10, lot #910.

### 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 Gordon A. Russell, Jr.

organization n/a date June 1983

street & number Perkins Pond Road telephone 603-529-7457

city or town Weare state New Hampshire 03281

## 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.

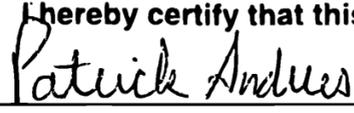
State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date June 28, 1983

### For NPS use only

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

 date 8/3/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 2

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If thirty families did not settle in Weare (then called Beverly, Canada) by September 20, 1753, the grant would be forfeited. By 1753 only four settlers had arrived but forfeiture was postponed by hostilities between the French and the Indians. The required complement finally was fulfilled in 1764 and incorporation was formerly carried out. Among those original settlers came William Whittaker, Caleb's father. It is not clear when Caleb moved into this dwelling, however, the records are clear that this simple homestead was among the first in town. Caleb and Suzanne Whittaker's spirit most certainly add to the significance of this place:

- a. Caleb's father served in the French and Indian War.
- b. Caleb signed the New Hampshire Declaration of Independence, June 6, 1776.
- c. Caleb enlisted in the Continental Army, April 1777.
- d. Caleb served with Captain Quimby's Cavalry Company in Rhode Island and saw "severe" action at Quaker Hill, Newport, Rhode Island.

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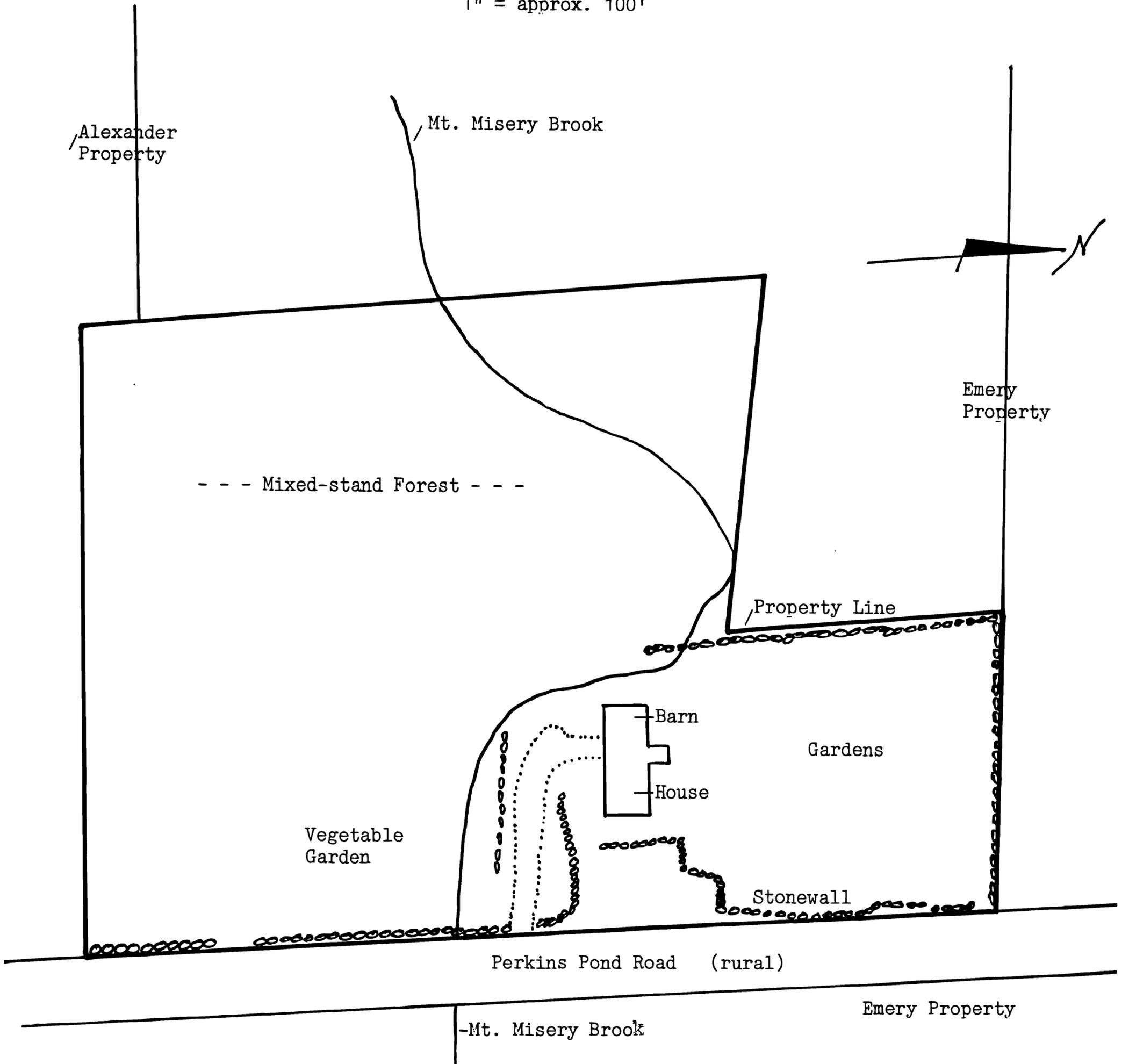
Continuation sheet

SKETCH MAP

Item number --

Page 1

CALEB WHITTAKER PLACE  
Weare, N.H.  
1" = approx. 100'



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Continuation sheet #1 - ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION

Item number n/a

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PHOTOGRAPHS:

Appearance of the property has not changed since the photographs were taken.