

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Leavitt Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Leavitt Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

103 Old Loudon ^{Rd.} Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Concord

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE

33

COUNTY

Merrimack

CODE

013

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Concord Coach Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 26

CITY, TOWN

Concord

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire, 03301

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Merrimack County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

North Main Street, P.O. Box 248

CITY, TOWN

Concord

STATE

New Hampshire, 03301

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Leavitt Farm buildings include three primary structures of varied domestic, agricultural and commercial uses. All are gable-roofed frame buildings dating from the nineteenth century; together they present a rare profile of a self-sufficient New Hampshire farmstead of an unusually diversified nature.

The dwelling house, dating from about 1847, is a small 1-1/2 story central-chimney structure with a rear kitchen wing. It has a foundation of split granite and a braced frame which combines sawn and hewn timbers. It is finished on the exterior in a simplified Greek Revival style. End elevations are each two bays wide on first and second stories, while the facade is five bays wide. The central doorway has two sidelights and an unusual enframing topped with three decorative blocks that bear incised ornamental stars. Other exterior trim consists of simple square-edged casings. The walls are covered with clapboards.

The interior of the house is also characterized by simple Greek Revival trim which includes flat door and window casings and four-paneled doors with unmoulded stiles and rails. The central chimney provides three fireplaces, the one in the kitchen having a brick oven at the right of the hearth. There are two front rooms, and the fireplace in the east parlor has a simple but well-designed Greek Revival mantelpiece. The second floor of the house has a room on the east end, without a fireplace, which was finished as a chamber in the nineteenth century. The west end was finished in the twentieth century.

In front of the house is an original dooryard garden which is surrounded by a wooden picket fence supported by granite posts. This garden retains traces of its early plantings.

East of the house, near a small pond, is a two-story gable-roofed shop (ca. 1888) with a braced frame. The western end of this building has a chimney and was originally used as a blacksmith and wheelwright's shop by Jonathan P. Leavitt (1824-1903), the builder of the house. On the property are the stone water trough and the reworked millstone that were used by Leavitt in sweating iron tires on wooden wheels. The eastern end of the shop building was used for house and sign painting by Almah C. Leavitt, who also maintained a painter's shop about three miles distant in the city of Concord.

The entire second floor of this building is a single large room measuring 20 by 40 feet and reached by an outside stairway that ascends on the west gable end. This room, used as a dance hall for local parties, is fully plastered and is painted with ornamental stencilling on walls and ceiling. It has square-edged door and window casings and wainscoting that consists of matched and beaded ceiling board laid vertically. The room retains one of the hinged plank seats that were once attached to the wainscoting around the perimeter. A large paneled door on the east end of the second floor is said to have been used to move pianos in and out of the hall. The shop building is oriented with a long elevation facing the road to the south. This elevation has five windows on the second floor and three windows and two large wagon doors on the first. Both gables of the structure are covered with wooden shingles, some of which have curved butts; the remaining portions of the walls are clapboarded.

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7 DESCRIPTION, continued:

To the west of the house is a large wooden barn oriented with its gable end facing south toward the road. This elevation has sliding doors topped by a long transom sash; similar doors at the opposite end allowed hay wagons to be driven through the structure. The barn retains three cow stanchions and portions of horse stalls. Attached at right angles to the east elevation of the barn is a somewhat lower gable-roofed wing which in recent years has served as an automobile garage. To the west of the barn is a fenced enclosure for animals. The barn is clapboarded.

Also on the property are a small privy, now converted to a pumphouse, and the foundation of a former hen house.

Original appearance: The Leavitt Farm buildings have undergone little alteration since their original construction. Among the few changes that can be detected are the removal of the upper portion of a stove chimney in the wing of the house (the stack remains intact below the roof), and the removal of some horse and cow stalls in the barn. Most of the window sashes in the house, originally 6/6, were replaced by 2/2 sashes in the late nineteenth century.

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 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 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 1847 (house)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Leavitt Farm retains an unusually complete collection of buildings that exemplify the diversified nature of the nineteenth-century New Hampshire farm. The complex is important not only for its vernacular domestic and agricultural buildings, but also because it retains aspects of a commercial and social history not often preserved so nearly intact.

Architecture: The Leavitt house is a characteristic New Hampshire vernacular structure in a simplified Greek Revival style. Little changed over the years, the dwelling retains virtually all of its mid-century exterior and interior detailing. The adjoining barn, likewise well preserved, is an excellent example of a nineteenth century horse, cow and hay barn. The two buildings together exemplify the types of structures that characterized mid-century farms throughout New Hampshire's Merrimack Valley.

The nearby shop is unusual in preserving virtually unchanged areas that were used as blacksmith and paint shops in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The blacksmith shop was operated by Jonathan P. Leavitt (1824-1903), who bought the present Leavitt Farm property in 1846 and built the primary structures on the land. Originally a farmer, Leavitt had turned to blacksmith's and wheelwright's work as his primary trade by 1870 and continued in this business until his retirement in 1898. The paint shop was operated by Almah C. Leavitt (1865-1946), Jonathan's son, who purchased the homestead from his father in 1888. Almah Leavitt was a house and sign painter who maintained shops at various locations in the city of Concord as well as the one at the family farm.

The finished ballroom on the second floor of the shop is unique in the area. Such halls were found in taverns in the early nineteenth century and sometimes in Grange buildings in the post-Civil War era, but seldom in other types of structures. The existence of this hall at the Leavitt Farm is probably related to the traditional role of the neighborhood as a social center. Located on the First New Hampshire Turnpike, the direct route between Concord and the New Hampshire seacoast, this district was long known as the "Break O' Day." A popular area for rural entertainment and the location of the Merrimack Hotel in the early 1870s, the "Break O' Day" may derive its name from the night-long dances that were held in the neighborhood in the period after the Civil War.

The Leavitt Farm was acquired in 1980 as the headquarters and museum of the Concord Coach Society, Inc. This non-profit organization was incorporated in 1977 to interpret the history and collect artifacts of the Abbot Downing Company of Concord, New Hampshire, manufacturer of stage coaches, express and passenger wagons, gig wagons and other horse-drawn vehicles.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John G. Ferland, "A Place to Park the Coaches," Concord Monitor, June 20, 1980.
The Leavitt Farm to Become a Home for the Concord Coach Society, Inc. (brochure)
 n.p., n.d. [Concord, N.H., 1980].

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 12.7

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	2,9,8	6,2,0	4,7	8,9	5,4,5	B	1,9	2,9,8	6,6,5	4,7	8,9	3,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C	1,9	2,9,8	4,5,0	4,7	8,9	2,1,5	D	1,9	2,9,8	3,7,5	4,7	8,9	4,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See sketch map.

Tax map #112, parcel # 4165.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<i>N/A</i>			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James L. Garvin, Curator

ORGANIZATION

DATE

New Hampshire Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

September 15, 1980

TELEPHONE

30 Park Street

CITY OR TOWN

(603) 225-3381

STATE

Concord

New Hampshire, 03301

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 November 6, 1980
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Braithwaite

DATE 3-11-82

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Justification for nomination of the entire tract:

Parcel #4165, as defined on the Concord, NH, City Assessor's Map #112, is nominated for the following reason :

It is the core of the original Leavitt Farm property, lying contiguous to the First New Hampshire Turnpike and being the same land along that historically important road the Jonathan P. Leavitt purchased from various owners between 1846 and 1857. In addition, this tract represents the last surviving property still associated with the Leavitt Farm complex.

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SKETCH MAP, LEAVITT FARM, CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Scale: 1" = 400'

Based on Concord City Assessor's Map #112 and on boundary survey for Elmer A. Resse and Norma A. Resse by Richard D. Bartlett, surveyor, October, 1979, on file as Plan #5999 in the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Concord, N.H.

