

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 11/30/83
date entered

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

1. Name

historic REUBEN LAMPREY HOMESTEAD

and/or common REUBEN LAMPREY HOMESTEAD

2. Location

street & number 416 Winnacunnet Road, not for publication

city, town Hampton vicinity of congressional district (1st)

state N.H. code 33 county Rockingham code 015

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Meadow Pond Farm Corporation

street & number 416 Winnacunnet Road

city, town Hampton vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Hampton Road

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Reuben Lamprey Homestead, on Winnacunnet Road, Hampton, New Hampshire, is a center chimney, five bay, two and one half story house with rear ell and attached wood shed. The unaltered barn, 50 feet by 90 feet by 30 feet, stands on its original foundation to the rear and east of the house.

The exterior of the clapboarded house is a simple, even severe manifestation of rural colonial architecture. The symmetrically organized six over six windows of the south or main facade are framed by a simple moulding; the heads of the second story windows meet the fascia of the cornice. The center doorway of the south facade is composed of an eight-panelled door, framed by side lights and recess-panelled pilasters with seven-light transom and entablature above. The east facade has two symmetrically organized six over six windows on the first and second stories with the two windows at the attic level spaced more closely within the gable. On the west facade, a similar arrangement was altered by an open one story porch supported on wood columns from a concrete base, added in the 1920s. The southwest window on the first floor was removed and replaced with a door to serve the porch. The north facade had sustained the most change. In 1925, a two story ell was built to replace an earlier single story wing. The new ell extended north twice the distance of the first, thus connecting with a shingled one story wood shed which had originally been freestanding. In the 1960s, the wood shed was converted to a garage with the addition of a modern garage door. The door to the back ell is shielded by a one story porch with shed roof. The roofs of the main house and the ell are surfaced with asphalt shingles; those of the porch and the wood shed have wood shingles.

The barn, sited with its main axis running northeast and southwest, is shingled on the southwest facade, with clapboards in the gable above. The opposite or northeast facade is totally shingled; the long southeast side is clapboarded; and the northwest side has asphalt shingles at the first floor and shingles above. The roof is asphalt shingled. A large hinged double door with a narrow transom above serves as the main carriage entrance to the southwest. A smaller double door to the left gives access to the side bay. The northeast facade has a sliding carriage door. A single six over six window sits in the gable on each end wall. Five evenly spaced horizontal windows give light to the first floor along the southeast facade, while three are spaced along the northwest side. The interior of the barn has retained its original framing configuration although it has undergone the inevitable repair and replacement of timbers and surfaces to which an actively used barn would have been subjected. During its period of disuse from the 1930s on, the southerly roof and wall sustained weather damage, causing portions of the roof to collapse. When the barn was opened as an antique shop in the 1950s, repairs were made, the lofts removed, and the roof structure on the southerly side reinforced.

The interior of the house has undergone a number of alterations over the years, yet its original plan has been changed only slightly and it retains much of its original panelling. In plan, the southeast and southwest rooms flank a small entry hall with a three-landing stairway rising in front of the center chimney. Fireplaces in the two front rooms are served by this chimney as is the fireplace in the original kitchen across the back of the house. This kitchen was once flanked by small service rooms at the northeast and northwest. At sometime, probably in the early twentieth century, the wall separating the northeast room from the kitchen was removed. The northwest room was altered in the late 1940s to create the current kitchen. Upstairs, twentieth century alterations are found on the north side of the house above the original kitchen. A modern bathroom, a back hall to service the second floor of the ell, and a hall to the unchanged mortheast chamber were added.

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Continuation sheet #1 - DESCRIPTION

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The woodwork on the fireplace walls of the southeast room and the back room of the first floor is original. Raised panels with a simple moulding surmount the fireplace openings and flank them on either side. In the southeast room, a mantle shelf has been applied to the panel above the fireplace opening. The panelling of the chimney wall in this room continues onto the back wall, extending to the door leading to the back room. The remainder of this wall and the east and south walls are covered with recent plaster and beaverboard above a chair rail. The southwest room is similarly finished. The mantle in this room, an entablature with mantle shelf supported on pilasters, and the cornice are later additions.

The upstairs front chambers have door enframements that are a simpler version of those downstairs in the southwest room. The corner posts and plates in both chambers are boxed. The walls of the east room have a chair rail; the west room has none. The northeast chamber matches the detailing of the west chamber. The plate and post of the north room between this chamber and the back hall are unboxed and rough hewn. The floors throughout the house are wide planks; the only floors altered by the overlay of narrow flooring are in the bathroom and back hall leading to the ell on the second floor.

From the 1920s on, the back ell accommodated a large kitchen, bath, and small bedroom on the first floor and two bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. In 1980, the interior of the ell was substantially altered to create an apartment. This work received approval by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

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 1770s **Builder/Architect** Reuben Lamprey

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Reuben Lamprey homestead in Hampton, New Hampshire rests with its characteristic architecture, its unusual state of preservation, and its role as an anchor in a changing neighborhood.

The Reuben Lamprey homestead is stylistically typical of late eighteenth century farmhouses found in southeastern New Hampshire. Like other structures of its type, the Lamprey house is a two and one half story, wood-frame, clapboarded structure with center chimney, set with roof ridge parallel to the road. The facade, in typical fashion, is divided into five bays by symmetrically arranged windows and door. Ornamental detailing is limited to moulded window enframements, central door enframement with pilasters and entablature, and simple moulded cornice.

It is continuing evidence of Hampton's early settlement that so many houses of this type remain in the town. Of those in Hampton, all have been altered; some have had facades changed extensively; others have lost their outbuildings; others have experienced visual encroachment by later buildings. What sets the Reuben Lamprey homestead apart from the other houses which stand along Winnacunnet Road is that it retains its stylistic character, its setting, and its outbuildings. It is the only farm complex on the road about which this can be said.

Furthermore, what alterations are evidenced in the structure are fully within the vernacular of this building form: nine over six windows replaced by six over six, replacement of the central door (both carried out in the first quarter of the nineteenth century at the time of the second owner's tenancy). The wood shed was attached to the twentieth century addition of an ell in the place of the earlier one. The barn has undergone only maintenance and repair.

Built in the 1770s by a descendant of one of the early settlers of Hampton, the Lamprey house was the easterly most farmstead bordering on the tidal estuaries. Today, it continues to mark the beginning of beach development. The house is a pivotal structure in a neighborhood that has suffered twentieth century intrusions of tourist and suburban development and which is struggling to maintain its historic character. Recognition of the importance of this structure by the National Register will be a significant element in this struggle.

While a definitive date eludes research so far, stylistic evidence and historical logic point to a construction date for the Reuben Lamprey house in the early 1770s. In July 1769, barely a week before his death, Nathaniel Lamprey and his wife Ruth deeded all their holdings in Hampton, North Hampton, and Nottingham to their three sons, Nathaniel Jr., Daniel, and Reuben, for the consideration of 150 pounds each.¹ In addition to numerous pieces of land and marsh, Nathaniel Jr. was deeded one half of his parents' dwelling house. According to Hampton's nineteenth century historian, Joseph Dow, this house originally belonged to Ruth Lamprey's family, the Palmers.² Daniel, the second son, received fourteen parcels plus the land where he was currently living. The remainder of the senior Lamprey's holdings went to his youngest son, Reuben. At the time of the property transfer, Reuben

9. Major Bibliographical References

-see Continuation Sheet #5

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.24

Quadrangle name Hampton, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	5	2	0	8	10	4	7	5	14	5	12	15
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: Tax Assessor's map reference #204, lot #026. The boundaries of the Reuben Lamprey Homestead are shown by the red line on the sketch map (see Continuation Sheet #6).

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Faxon Olney

organization N/A date April 1982

street & number 29 Esker Road telephone 603-926-5511

city or town Hampton state New Hampshire

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 September 23, 1982

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

 date 11/9/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Continuation sheet #3 - SIGNIFICANCE

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In March of 1882, Clifford was still in Boston; by November of that year, he had moved to Hampton. According to family tradition, Clifford Gill lived in the Morrill Lamprey cottage, not in Reuben's larger homestead on the main road. The latter was rented to a farmer who worked the farm. In fact, an 1892 Town and City Atlas of New Hampshire lists a Mrs. Leavitt as the occupant of the Reuben Lamprey homestead.¹³

Clifford never stayed in one place for long. His youngest child was born in April 1888 in Kansas. By July 1888, the family was back in Hampton. In 1897 Clifford took a mortgage on his Hampton property with the Portsmouth Trust and Guarantee Company; he was listed as a resident of Junction City, Kansas. By 1901 he was back in Hampton again. His wife Sarah Gill died that April in Hampton after many years of illness.¹⁴

Clifford stayed on in Hampton for a while, making his final purchase of land in January 1902. In June 1914, he deeded all of his Hampton holdings, totalling by that time about 54 acres, to his youngest daughter, Vrylena F. Olney, of Boston.¹⁵ She and her husband, Wilson Olney, moved into the Reuben Lamprey house shortly thereafter where they resided until the early 1930s. Moving to the Boston area, Vrylena leased the house to a number of tenants through the depression years, one of which was a restaurant. From 1939 on, she spent summers at the house, spending only one winter immediately after World War II in Hampton. From the early 50s until 1968, Vrylena ran a successful and well-known antique shop, Reuben's Barn, in the barn.¹⁶ With the closing of the shop in 1968, Vrylena deeded the property to her son, Peter B. Olney, II, and his wife, Frances Swift Olney. At Peter's death, the property passed to Frances; in 1979 she sold the house and land to the Olney family corporation, Meadow Pond Farm Corporation, which has remained the owner of record to date.¹⁷

The Reuben Lamprey homestead has not suffered the fate of other farmsteads in Hampton and throughout southern New Hampshire, undoubtedly due to its ownership by just two families, both of which maintained the property as a farm up until 1931. The Lamprey house is the only one on Winnacunnet Road about which this can be said. The house and barn face that early road as they always did, the most easterly farm house before the Meadow Pond marsh on the way to the ocean. This is rare indeed in a town and region quickly losing its earlier architectural and agricultural heritage.

¹Book 203, p. 413-4; Book 115, p. 191; Book 205, p. 74; Registry of Deeds, Rockingham County Courthouse, Exeter, N.H.

²Joseph Dow. History of the Town of Hampton, N.H. From its Settlement in 1638 to the Autumn of 1892 (1893; reprint ed., Hampton, N.H.: Peter E. Randall, Publisher, 1977), p. 784.

³Ibid., p. 785-6.

⁴Assessments for 1798, Town Records 1638-1842, microfilm, Lane Memorial Library, Hampton, N.H.

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Continuation sheet #4 - SIGNIFICANCE

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⁵Docket #10025, Registry of Probate, Rockingham County Courthouse, Exeter, N.H.

⁶Dow, History, p. 507.

⁷Book 344, p. 401; Book 356, p. 143; Book 363, p. 51; Book 347, p. 324; Book 392, p. 70;
Book 360, p. 352; Registry of Deeds.

⁸Docket # 18744, Registry of Probate.

⁹Docket #2396 n.s., Registry of Probate.

¹⁰Book 485, p. 36, Registry of Deeds.

¹¹Docket #5156 n.s., Registry of Probate.

¹²Book 468, p. 232; Book 485, p. 36; Registry of Deeds.

¹³Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire (Boston: D.H. Hurd & Co., 1892).

¹⁴Docket #11054 n.s., Registry of Probate.

¹⁵Book 688, p. 248, Registry of Deeds.

¹⁶Interviews with Austin G. Olney, Vrylena O. Symes, and Peter B. Olney.

¹⁷Book 1945, p. 164; Book 2304, p. 120; Book 2345, p. 1755; Registry of Deeds; Docket #6071
n.s., Registry of Probate.

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Continuation sheet #5 - REFERENCES

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Dow, Joseph. History of the Town of Hampton, N.H. From its Settlement in 1638 to the Autumn of 1892. 1893; reprint ed., Hampton, N.H.: Peter E. Randall, Publisher, 1977;

Exeter, N.H. Rockingham County Courthouse. Registry of Deeds;

Exeter, N.H. Rockingham County Courthouse. Registry of Probate;

Hampton, N.H. Lane Memorial Library. Town Records 1638-1842.

microfilm: Interviews with Olney family members.

Persons interviewed:

Austine G. Olney, Boston, MA. December 1, 1981.

Vrylena O. Symes, Hants., England. May 25, 1981.

Peter B. Olney, Hampton, NH. March 15, 1982.

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Continuation sheet #6 - SKETCH MAP

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REUBEN LAMPREY HOMESTEAD/HAMPTON, NH

