

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY - 8 1984

date entered JUN 7 1984

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

1. Name

historic Kennedy Hill Farm

and/or common Kennedy Hill Farm

2. Location

street & number Kennedy Hill Road, N/A not for publication

city, town Goffstown N/A vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use                                     |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input checked="" 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               |
|   | N/A   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. William Zopfi

street & number Kennedy Hill Road, RFD #2

city, town Goffstown N/A vicinity of state New Hampshire 03045

5. Location of Legal Description

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

Hillsborough County Courthouse

street & number P.O. Box 370

19 Temple Street

city, town Nashua state New Hampshire 03060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A 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

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## 7. Description

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|   |                                       |   |   |                 |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| <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 | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date <u>N/A</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |                 |

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

The Thomas Kennedy House is a two-story, hip-roofed frame dwelling with a five-bay facade and a central chimney. It stands on Kennedy Hill, on part of the lot which was owned by Thomas Kennedy's uncle, Robert, as early as 1772. The present house, thought to be the second on the lot, dates from about 1800. Across Kennedy Hill Road, to the east, stands a large barn. Other features include a shed, orchard, and open land.

Thomas Kennedy, a skilled joiner, married a niece of John and Samuel Dunlap, locally famous as cabinetmakers and joiners and the originators of a distinctive regional style of furniture; Thomas' house bears many of the distinctive hallmarks associated with Dunlap furniture and architectural joinery. The front doorway is surmounted by a triangular pediment with denticulated bed mouldings. The pediment is supported by two fluted pilasters with modified Tuscan capitals decorated with the "flowered ogee" moulding seen in Dunlap furniture and architectural carving. The main cornice of the house and the heavy moulded window caps on the south and east elevations have bed mouldings with prominent fret dentils. A side doorway on the eastern elevation of the house is in the later Greek Revival style. Attached to the rear (north) elevation is a gambrel-roofed kitchen wing; connected to this is a small shed and modern garage. The main house retains original clapboards on the south and east elevations. The dwelling stands on a fieldstone foundation, with blocks of hammered granite above grade.

The frame of the house is predominantly chestnut. The roof frame consists of hewn chestnut rafters and sawn chestnut purlins; the two king posts that support the hip rafters are pine, hewn to octagonal cross-sections. The chimney is supported on an unusual base of closely-spaced chestnut timbers, hewn to a rectangular cross-section and measuring in some cases as large as 12 by 17 inches in section. These timbers are supported at each end by double tiers of squared chestnut logs of equally large dimensions which, in turn, rest on stone piers that rise about two feet above the cellar floor. The chimney stack itself is built of bricks laid in clay.

Although the rooms in the rear of the house have been altered through remodeling over the years, the front (south) rooms are largely intact and retain some of the most elaborate joiner's work in the Merrimack Valley of New Hampshire. The southeast front room on the first floor is embellished with a cornice having a double ogee crown moulding supported by closely-spaced dentils. Beneath the dentils is a bed moulding enriched with the "flowered ogee" carving that is characteristic of the work of the Dunlap family and their associates.

The southwest first floor room, which is in nearly original condition, contains some of the most inventive and complex detailing of the early Federal style in New Hampshire. The cornice of the room has a small crown moulding consisting of a cavetto and bead, beneath which is a row of shallow dentils formed by grooves incised in the face of the corona. Beneath the corona is a frieze of fine horizontal reeding inset with ornamented blocks reminiscent of metopes. These blocks are alternately decorated with cut-out hearts and incised concentric squares. The mantelpiece consists of a heavy ovolo-edged shelf supported by a cavetto bed moulding, beneath which is a corona decorated with horizontal reeding and with blocks having cut-out quatrefoils. The shelf is supported by reeded pilasters having capitals with a serpentine outline and reeded decoration. A quilloche of interlaced circles runs across the lower third of the

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mantelpiece frieze. Above the mantelpiece is a flat rectangular panel with a border consisting of alternating blocks of vertical and herringbone reeding.

The window casings in this room are decorated with alternating blocks of horizontal and vertical reeding, while the chair rails and door casings have incised fluting. The doors are flat-paneled but have moulded beads applied about two inches inside the margins of the panels.

Attached to the rear (north) elevation of the house is an addition constructed in the early 1940's. The first element consists of a 1½ story gambrel-roofed addition with white clapboard siding and six over six double hung windows to match those on the main block. Beyond this is a one-story sun-room/summer dining area measuring roughly 15 feet long and 13 feet wide. Finally, there is a gable-roofed, two stall garage whose approximate dimensions are 24 feet long by 22 feet wide. The white clapboard siding is carried through to this portion of the structure as well.

Across the road and slightly northeast of the main house is the barn. Originally, a rectangular structure measuring about 70 feet in length, this gable-roofed structure was modified in the early 1870's to roughly its present appearance. At that time, the structure was extended about 23 feet to the length of about 94 feet and the cupola added. At the same time, a one level carriage shed was added to the northwest corner. It too, is of frame construction with clapboard siding and a gable roof. This structure measures 20'6" X 18'6" and like the barn, rest on a stone foundation.

Slightly to the northwest end of the garage, stands a one-story wood framed shed dating from about the mid-19th century. The shed measures 12' x 30' and sets in a fieldstone foundation with some more recent concrete blocks installed to secure the foundation and to provide for replacing a section of the original wood floor with concrete. The structure is sheathed in clapboards and has a shed roof. The windows are 6/6. There are two doors to the shed, one on the east side and one on the south side which has five hammered granite steps from this door to grade.

The balance of the nominated property is noteworthy for the maple trees lining Kennedy Hill Road (which bisects the property) and the open land which lies to either side of the roadway. From the southwest corner of the shed continuing for about 60 feet to the south is a spread of pine and maple trees. To the west of these, also running northsouth is an orchard of apple, pear, and peach trees extending about 300 feet. These grow along the beginning of a slope which travels downward in a westerly direction. At the base of this slope is a level area containing a modern in-ground swimming pool and small wooden shed.

## 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/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900–                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates** c. 1800

**Builder/Architect**

Thomas Kennedy

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Kennedy Hill Farm is significant as an extremely well-preserved complex of buildings which reflect the evolution of farming on the property over a period of 150 years. The main house is additionally important as a rural farmhouse built under the influence of a distinctive school of joinery. Not only does it display fine proportions and exterior detailing, but also retains interior joiner's work that is exceptional in its complexity, inventiveness, and fidelity to a local decorative style.

Goffstown, New Hampshire, was largely settled by Presbyterian Scots who had migrated from northern Ireland to nearby Londonderry, New Hampshire, in the early eighteenth century. The earlier generations of these settlers retained habits and attitudes that differed from those of the English settlers who had predominated in New Hampshire since the seventeenth century. Among the contributions that the Scots-Irish made to their locale was a distinctive sense of style, exemplified in their architecture, furniture, gravestones, and other decorative arts. These people settled in the upper Merrimack Valley, which felt the influence of an equally strong (and in some ways similar) English-derived decorative style that had long persisted in the arts of the lower reaches of the river in Essex County, Massachusetts. Thus, settlers in Goffstown and its vicinity were exposed to a rich double heritage which eventually melded and flowered in a distinctive decorative tradition. While this decorative style was first perceived in the furniture of the region, it permeated all the decorative arts.<sup>1</sup>

The originators and best-known practitioners of the local style as seen in joiner's work were John Dunlap (1746-1792) and his brother Samuel (1752-1830), both of whom lived in Goffstown for a number of years. Dunlap furniture and house joinery have been the subject of research since the 1920's, and examples of both have been installed in major American museums.<sup>2</sup> The Dunlaps, like other eighteenth-century joiners, assembled a circle of apprentices and journeymen who adopted and perpetuated the local style, eventually propagating that style over a wide area of central New Hampshire.<sup>3</sup> By practicing cabinetmaking, house joinery, farming and a variety of related activities through the appropriate seasons of the year, the Dunlaps and their co-workers were able to gain a prosperous livelihood while maintaining a high production of woodwork.<sup>4</sup>

Thomas Kennedy (1772-1840) was one of the local joiners who was allied with John and Samuel Dunlap. Like the Dunlap brothers, Kennedy was a Scots-Irish Presbyterian; he married Sally Dunlap, niece of John and Samuel, and one of his sons also married a Dunlap cousin.<sup>5</sup> Locally famous as a builder and joiner, Kennedy built his own house about 1800 on a lot which had earlier belonged to an uncle. Like others in the community, Kennedy remained active as a builder almost until his death, designing (though not constructing) the Piscataquog Meeting House in the neighboring town of Bedford in 1820 and building and finishing the new Presbyterian meeting house in that town in 1831.<sup>6</sup>

Kennedy's house is remarkable in incorporating two distinct styles of joinery, both unique to the region. The first style, seen in the southeast front room on the first floor, is characteristic of the more ornate examples of Dunlap house joinery as seen in

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(footnotes listed at the bottom of section 8)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 8.98 acreas

Quadrangle name Pinardville Quad

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

|      |   |   |         |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 9 | 2 | 9       | 3 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 4        | 7 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Zone |   |   | Easting |   |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |  |         |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |  |         |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |  |         |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a rectangular lot bounded on the south, in part, by Addison Road; its other boundries are indicated on the attached "Sketch Map of Kennedy Hill Farm, Goffstown, New Hampshire", at a scale of one inch equals 160 feet. The east and west... continued...

### 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 James L. Garvin

\*John A. Saba

organization N.H. Historical Society

\*N/A

date August 23, 1984

street & number 30 Park Street  
\*78 Liberty Street

telephone 225-3381  
\*663-8876

city or town Concord  
\*Manchester

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

for Commissioner, Dept. of Resources and Economic Development  
Deputy New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

date MAY 2 1984

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6/7/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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other buildings of the region. It is basically Georgian in derivation and is marked by moulding profiles and other detailing inspired by eighteenth-century New England practice and by builder's guidebooks of that period. The cornice of this room incorporates the moulding referred to by John Dunlap as the "Flowered ogee"; this enriched ogee is also seen in such coastal New England towns as Portsmouth, Newburyport, and Marblehead and derives ultimately from illustrations in such English guidebooks as Abraham Swan's The British Architect (first London edition, 1745; first Philadelphia edition, 1775; first Boston edition, 1794). This moulding has long been recognized as a hallmark of Dunlap woodwork.<sup>7</sup>

The southwest first floor room, on the other hand, reflects the Federal style. The interpretation of Federal forms seen in this room is unique. Many of the fanciful details of the woodwork may derive from William Pain's The Practical Builder (first London edition, ca. 1787; first Boston edition, 1796). The guilloche on the mantel-piece frieze, in particular, suggests the influence of Pain. Asher Benjamins's The Country Builder's Assistant (first edition, 1797) may also have contributed ideas to the detailing of this room. Whatever the sources of inspiration, however, the final result is an individualistic synthesis of ideas from books, of the older decorative forms of the Dunlap circle, and of new devices apparently invented spontaneously by Kennedy.

The style of the Dunlap school as it developed in the eighteenth century has been studied indepth. There exists very little knowledge, however, of the changes to that style brought about by the introduction of Federal forms. Since the rooms of the Kennedy House are among very few unaltered chambers constructed at the turn of the century by a member of the Dunlap circle, the dwelling is an important landmark in the architectural history of the upper Merrimack Valley.

The outbuildings reflect the evolution of farming on the property over a period of 150 years. Like all members of the Dunlap group of joiners, Thomas Kennedy supplemented his craft-derived income by farming. Later occupants of the property continued Kennedy's farming tradition, making the estate increasingly productive and in keeping with the trend toward progressive agriculture in mid-nineteenth-century New England, adding to the original agricultural buildings on the property.

Thomas Kennedy was succeeded as proprietor of the farm by his son, Joseph D. Kennedy (1809-1868), who was a mechanic and millwright as well as an intelligent farmer. The younger Kennedy maintained a herd of milk cows in the barn, as well as a horse and a pair of oxen.<sup>8</sup> His small dairy herd (five cows in 1860) produced some 250 pounds of butter and 100 pounds of cheese each year. To accommodate his herd, Kennedy carried out a program of improvements on the 70-foot-long barn which had been built at the same time as the dwelling. During the 1850's, Kennedy repaired the barn foundation, covered the walls with clapboards, and replaced the hinged doors with sliding doors in the spirit of improved farming techniques espoused by progressive journals like the American Agriculturist, The New England Farmer, and The Farmer's Monthly Visitor (the latter published in Manchester, the city adjacent to the Kennedy farm).

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Following Kennedy's death after the Civil War, his son-in-law, Andrew J. Hazen (1833-1903) inherited and developed the farm. Hazen increased the dairying aspects of the operation and also engaged extensively in apple growing, maintaining an orchard of 1,000 trees. In conjunction with his improvements, Hazen extended the length of the barn some 23 feet in the early 1870's, bringing the structure to its present length of almost 94 feet. At this time, Hazen installed the simple hip-roofed cupola in the center of the barn's ridge. Hazen used the enlarged barn to house eight milk cows, two oxen, and two horses, selling 1,460 gallons of milk in 1879, producing 200 pounds of butter in the same year, and slaughtering some animals for meat.<sup>9</sup> Hazen also added the carriage house which is attached to the barn's northwest corner.

Except for a few modern changes and additions, these improvements of the 1870's were the last substantial additions to the farm and reflect the complex at its period of peak prosperity under the care of three generations of owners.

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<sup>1</sup> New Hampshire Historical Society, Plain & Elegant, Rich & Common: Documented New Hampshire Furniture, 1750-1850 (Concord, NH: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1979), pp. 17-18.

<sup>2</sup> Currier Gallery of Art, The Dunlaps & Their Furniture (Manchester, NH: Currier Gallery of Art, 1970)

<sup>3</sup> Donna-Belle Garvin, "Two High Chests of the Dunlap School," Historical New Hampshire 35 (1980), pp. 163-185.

<sup>4</sup> Ann Dibble, "Major John Dunlap: The Craftsman and His Community," Old-Time New England 68 (1978), pp. 50-58.

<sup>5</sup> George Plummer Hadley, History of the Town of Goffstown, 1733-1920, 2 vols. Volume 11 (Goffstown, NH: by the town, 1924), pp. 251-253.

<sup>6</sup> (Peter P. Woodbury, Thomas Savage, William Patten), History of Bedford, New Hampshire (Boston: printed by Alfred Mudge, 1851), pp. 169-170; (John A. Riddle, William M. Patten, Quincy Barnerd, Arthur W. Holbrook, Gordon Woodbury), History of Bedford, New Hampshire From 1737 (Concord, NH: Rumford Printing Company for the town, 1903), pp. 236-237, 348-353; Bedford Historical Society, History of Bedford, New Hampshire., 1737-1971 (Bedford, NH: by the Society, 1972), pp. 59-214.

<sup>7</sup> The Dunlaps and Their Furniture, p. 11.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census of 1860, Agriculture, Hillsborough County, "Goffstown".

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census of 1880, Agriculture, Hillsborough County, "Goffstown".



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cont.

boundaries run parallel to Kennedy Hill Road, about 240 feet from the center line of the road; the northern boundary is about 856 feet from Addison Road. This property includes the complex of structures associated with the Thomas Kennedy farm which are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.



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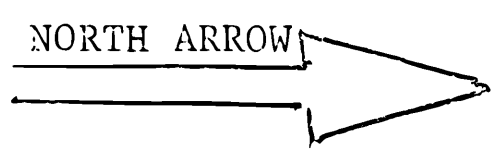
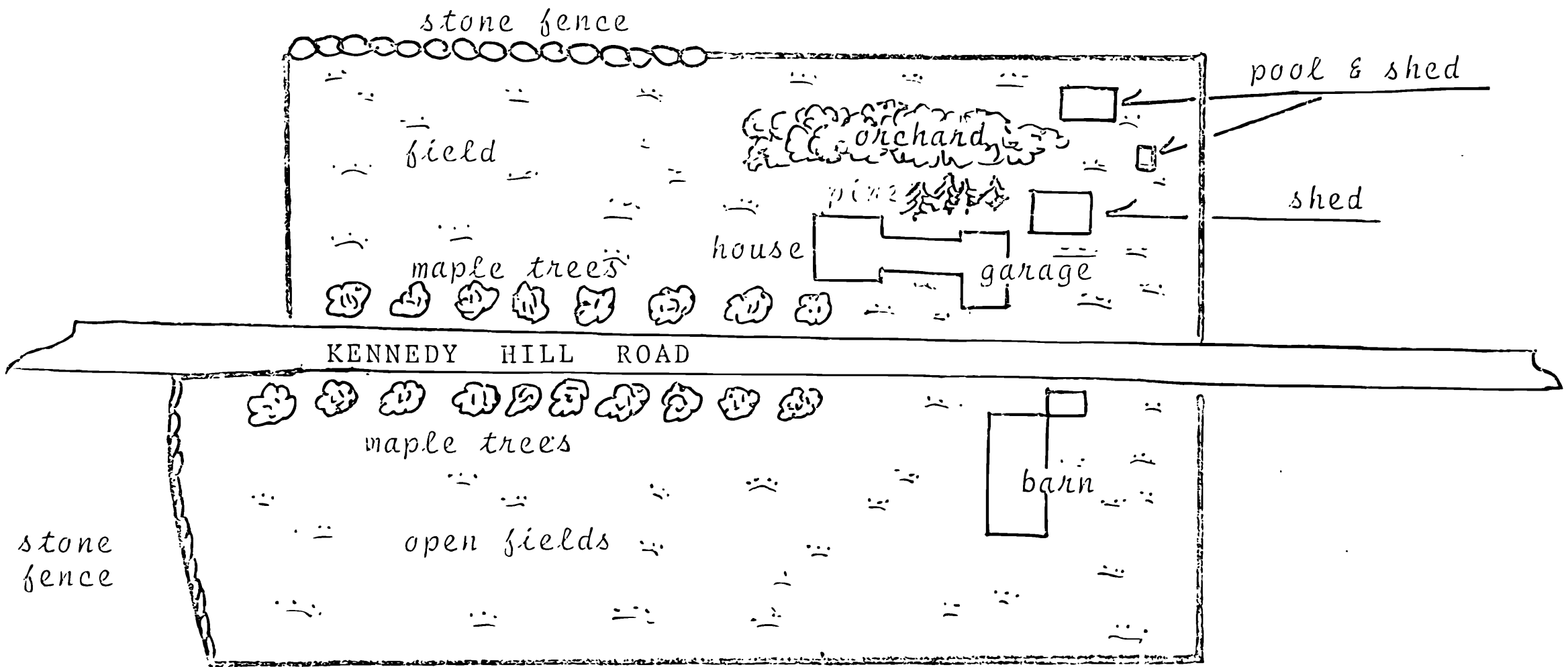
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This certifies that the appearance of the photographs has not changed.