

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

30 00 00

date entered

FEB 27 1986

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

1. Name

historic THE JACOB NOYES BLOCK

and/or common The Keeler Block

2. Location

street & number 48 Glass Street n/a not for publication

city, town Suncook, n/a vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Merrimack code 013

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 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 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 Duane & Norma Keeler

street & number 48 Glass Street

city, town Suncook, n/a vicinity of state New Hampshire 03275

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Merrimack County Courthouse  
Merrimack County Registry of Deeds  
street & number 163 North Main Street

city, town Concord, state New Hampshire 03301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Suncook Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1983  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office

city, town Concord, state New Hampshire 03301

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered (minimal)	<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 Jacob Noyes Block is a stately, well proportioned, Italianate brick commercial block in the mill village of Suncook, New Hampshire. Noyes built the block c. 1865 somewhat apart from the rest of the downtown, probably anticipating commercial expansion in that direction. It never happened, and today the structure has a monumental presence in this section of the village, which highlights its fine Italianate decorations.

The flat roofed structure is a large square box, 40' on each side, but this regularity of proportion increase of a scale higher than its three stories. Because of its corner location the building's design presents two, well detailed primary elevations. On the south and east, the north and west sides are less visible and therefore secondary and quite plain. The Italianate Style is most fully articulated on the primary elevations, e.g. the projecting bracketed cornice, the heavy, segmental - arched brick hoods/labels over each of the 2/2 windows, and the series of seven arched bays on the street level facade.

The 5 x 4 bay block is composed of load-bearing, red brick in a common bond pattern. It is supported by a cut granite foundation. The seemingly flat roof is actually a very shallow gable, the ridge running north/south. There are four stove chimneys, placed symmetrically near the edge of the east and west elevations.

The facade, south elevation, fronts on Glass Street. It is divided vertically in a 1/3 (first story), 2/3 (second and third stories) ratio. This division is achieved through the use of brick panels as corner posts and saw-tooth, corbeled belt courses to frame the upper stories. A heavy, bracketed wooden cornice tops a corbeled brick cornice for additional weight. The seven equal bays at street level include three entries; one for each of two storefronts and one in the center for access to the upper levels. The entries are raised and recessed beneath an arch highlighted by a single header course and supported by fluted cast iron columns. The entries are approached by two granite steps equal to the height of the granite foundation. The only original door remaining is in the center bay. It has double-leaf, paneled doors with a romanesque, arched light in each door. These doors are topped by a glass transom with a decorative wood tracing. The walls of the recess are paneled like the doors. The store fronts have center entries, recessed, flanked by glass display bays flush with the facade.

The east elevation is the other primary elevation. It is identical to the south elevation except that it is only four bays wide (the spacing between the windows is increased to achieve this), and it has irregular design on the first story. The bay at the southeast corner continues the storefront, but then the wall is not opened again except for a loading dock of double-leaf doors with rectangular lights. A small gable roofed shed covers the stairs to the basement. The foundation is pierced by two arched cellar windows.

The north rear elevation five bays wide. The windows are topped with flush, segmental arches formed by two rows of headers. A wooden stair tower covers the center bay. It has a shed roof, pressed metal and asphalt, brick pattern siding and is in very poor condition. It has a 6/6 window on both upper levels and a 2/2 window at ground level. On the second story, covered wooden porches extend to each side of the tower. They have plain square posts, and railing and ballustrade. On the north side of the tower at ground level, a wood

## 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 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. 1865 **Builder/Architect** Jacob Noyes

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1865 Jacob Noyes Block in Suncook, New Hampshire is a handsome Italianate, brick commercial building which still retains integrity of design, setting, materials and workmanship. It is architecturally significant as a well designed, vernacular interpretation of an urban building form. It is locally significant as a prominent example of the architectural development during the "building boom" which took place in the village of Suncook between 1860 and 1870. Historically, the building is significant as the location of the formation of La Société Sainte Jean Baptiste in 1881, which was an early effort to integrate the Yankee and French Canadian factions of the population.

### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Jacob Noyes Block is the largest, free standing commercial building in the village of Suncook. Partially due to its separate location, it appears imposing. Its symmetry, vertical harmony and fully expressed Italianate details make it the finest local example of this popular style.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Jacob Noyes, born, 1825, died, 1909, built this commercial block around 1865. He is listed in the 1867 directory as "Jacob Noyes, trader: brick block, stores and tenements."<sup>1</sup> The building's three stories have three distinct uses: first, two commercial units; second, two apartments; and the third is a large meeting hall. This hall was used as a meeting place for the Société Sainte Jean Baptiste.

In the decade following the construction of the mills in 1860, the population of Suncook nearly tripled (from 1,313–3,172).<sup>2</sup> Most of this increase is traceable to the immigration of French Canadians who left the agricultural recession in Canada to seek jobs in the new mills. This influx, therefore, radically altered the character of the population as well as its numbers. In fact by 1875, Suncook is unique in the state for having the population composition with the highest ratio of French Canadians to Yankees.<sup>3</sup> The need to realistically integrate these diverse factors was addressed by Reverend Davignon. The vehicle chosen was to organize La Société Sainte Jean Baptiste, a French Canadian Benevolent Society. He chose for the leadership four prominent French Canadian businessmen and professionals, and in 1881 the society was organized. (One of these was Pierre S. Rainville, father of Joseph E. Rainville, a later owner.) Secret societies such as the Masons and Oddfellows were particularly popular during this period and by encouraging similar practices Reverend Davignon brought prominence and acceptance to the French Canadian community. (The meeting hall is elegant and has a door with an elaborate bronze "peep-hole".) It is interesting to note that this society was organized in a building owned by a representative

<sup>1</sup>Rev. N.F. Carter, asst. by Hon. T.L. Fowler, History of Pembroke, New Hampshire: 1730-1895 Vol. I: Historical, (Concord, New Hampshire: Republican Press Association, 1895).

<sup>2</sup>Artelia Lyn Wilson, Suncook Village, Pembroke, New Hampshire: Cultural Resource Survey, Inventory, And Plan. (June 1983-Sept. 1983, Central N.H. Regional Planning Commission).

<sup>3</sup>Gerard Blazon, A Social History of the French Canadian Community in Suncook, New Hampshire: 1870-1920, (Thesis for the Master of Arts Degree: Department of History, U.N.H., May, 1974), p. 3, Foreword.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Suncook

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UTM References

A 

1	9	3	0	0	5	8	0	4	7	7	8	0	2	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

See continuation sheet

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 Lynne Emerson Monroe

organization Preservation Consultant

date October 1985

street & number Sunny Knoll

Shaw Hill Road

telephone (603) 778-1799

city or town Kensington

state New Hampshire 03833

# 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 *Shirley G. Adamovitch*

title New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/24/86

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

*for*  
*Allyson Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/28/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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frame room has been added, extending the mass of the tower on one level to the corner. This single cell addition has a simple wooden door and storm door. The tower and addition are supported by a concrete foundation.

The north elevation is identical to the east in its simplicity and to the south in its configuration. It is four bays wide on the upper stories and has two irregularly spaced windows on the ground level.

Since the boundaries of the site of the Jacob Noyes Block are coterminous (or nearly so) with the sides of the building, there are no landscape features to describe. The building is bounded by two streets, an alley and an abutting vacant lot with a fine mature maple tree.

The Jacob Noyes Block nomination represents one (1) contributing building.

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of the Yankee faction, thus beginning steps toward the desired integration from the inception.

Jacob Noyes owned the building until his death when it passed to a Mary Collins who sold it in 1919 to Joseph E. Rainville. Rainville reached political prominence in the community, e.g. he was a selectman from 1914-1916, State Representative 1911-1912, and Town Clerk 1918-1932.<sup>4</sup> From that time the building has changed hands several times, having both French Canadian and Yankee ownership. The merchants and tenants have changed often as well.

One prominent French Canadian merchant was the grocer, P. A. Letendre (nicknamed "Pal"), who ran a grocery for many years in the southeast storefront. (The southwest storefront was a barbershop.) Mr. Letendre's mark is on the building in the form of a cast iron door sill with his autograph: "P. A. Letendre".

<sup>4</sup>Town of Pembroke, Bicentennial Commemorative Booklet, (Pembroke: 1959), p. 68.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Aldrich, Frank L. . "Suncook Today." Granite Monthly: A New Hampshire Magazine. Vol. XXIX, No. 1. Concord, New Hampshire: Granite Monthly Co. July, 1900.

Blazon, Gerard. A Social History of the French Canadian Community in Suncook, New Hampshire: 1870-1920. Thesis for the Master of Arts Degree: Department of History, U.N.H. May, 1974.

Carter, Rev. N. F., asst. by Fowler, Hon T. L. History of Pembroke, New Hampshire: 1730-1895. Vol. I: Historical. Concord, New Hampshire: Republican Press Association. 1895.

Ibid. Vol. II: Genealogical.

Conway School of Landscape Design. Old Suncook Village Vitalization. 1982.

Pembroke, Town of. Bicentennial Commemorative Booklet. Pembroke: 1959.

Suncook Valley Times. Oct. 15, 1868 - Oct. 27, 1870.

Wilson, Artelia Lyn. Suncook Village, Pembroke, New Hampshire: Cultural Resources Survey, Inventory, And Plan. June 1983-Sept. 1983. Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission.

DEEDS

Merrimack County Court House, Registry of Deeds and Probate Records:

1909: Jacob Noyes et ux. to Mary L. Collins. Book 389, pp. 1, 2.

1919: Mary L. Collins to Joseph E. Rainville. Book 445, p. 91.

MAPS

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

Sanborn Map Company. Map of Suncook Village. New York: 1929.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The Jacob Noyes Block lies on the parcel designated Village East (V. E.) map, parcel 162 in the tax records of the town of Suncook, New Hampshire. This square parcel contains less than .5 acre of land and the boundary is close to the dimensions of the building. The Jacob Noyes Block is bounded on the south by Glass Street, east by Church Street, north by an alley and parcel VE 163, and on the west by parcel VE 161.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the property being nominated are concurrent with the boundaries of the total property associated with the conveyance of ownership of the structure. They encompass the commercial block and small amount of city lot historically associated with the site.

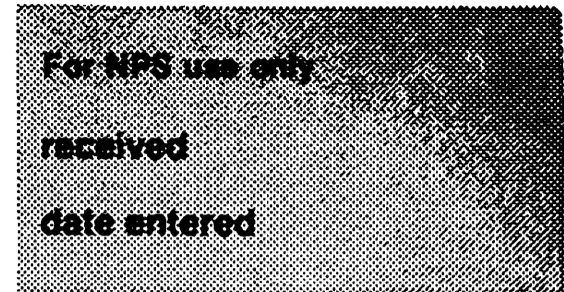
Sketch Map Note

The boundaries of the nominated property have been highlighted in yellow on the attached sketch map.



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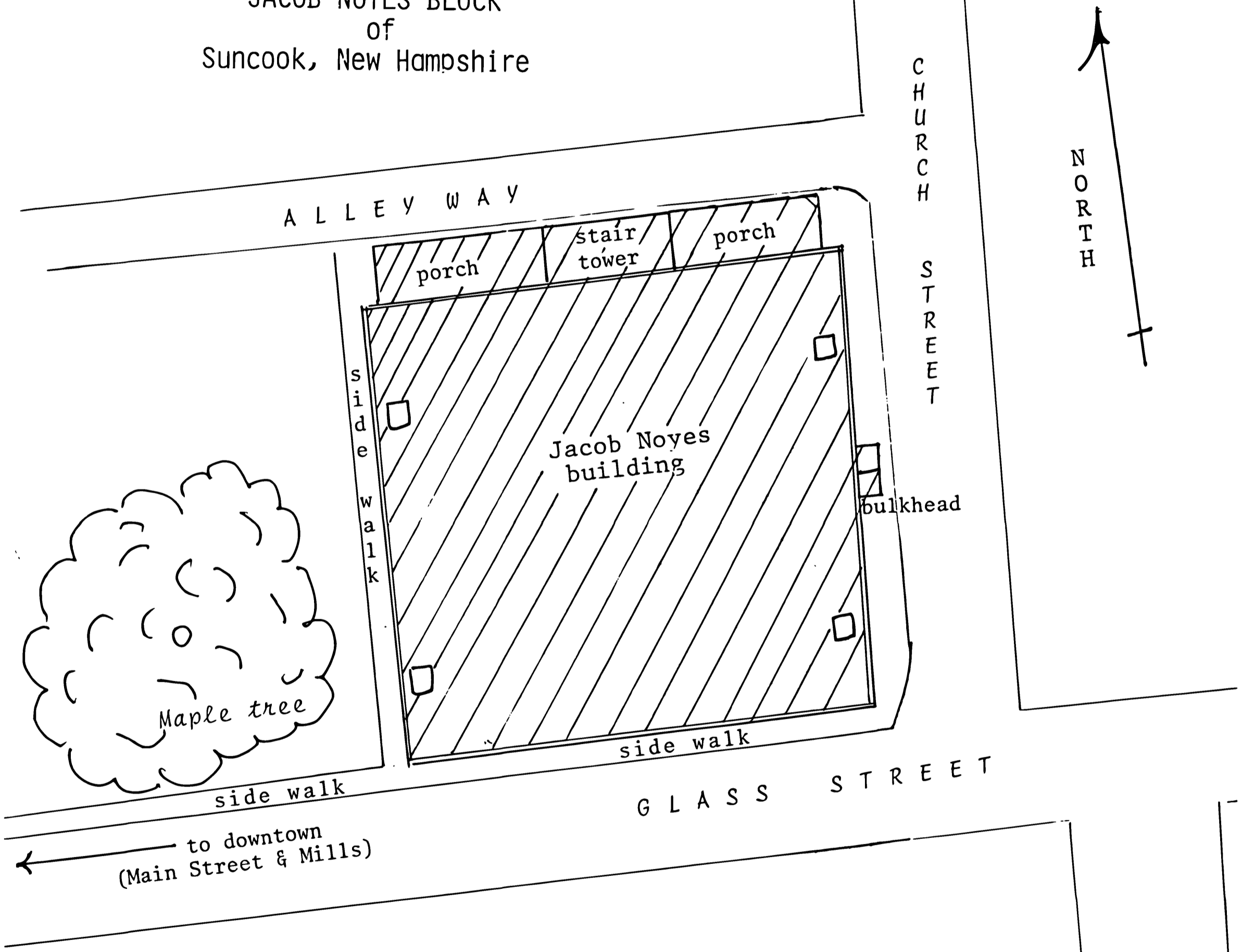


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THE  
JACOB NOYES BLOCK  
of  
Suncook, New Hampshire

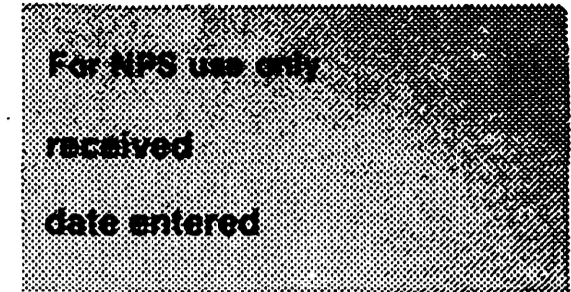


1" = 12'

SCALE (sketch map not to exact scale)

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