

SEP. 28 1989

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NOV 9 2 1989

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Killicut-Way House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2 Old House Lane

N/A not for publication

city, town Nashua

N/A vicinity

state New Hampshire

code NH

county Hillsborough

code NH 011

zip code 03062

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

R. Stuart Wallace
Signature of certifying official

OCT. 26 1989
Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Alvina Byrum

12/1/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Fieldstone

walls Wood Shingle

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Killicut-Way property consists of a small tract of land measuring less than one acre upon a one and one-half story, Cape Cod style structure and a modern utility shed are situated. The area immediately surrounding the house consists of a level, grassy lawn; vegetation along the west and north property lines buffers the house from adjacent highways. The nominated property possesses a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Typical of its period, the Killicut-Way House is oriented to face south. Today, the house is sheathed in wooden shingles which extend nearly to the ground, obscuring the foundation. A photograph of the building and written description from about 1920-30 indicate that at that time the house retained an unpainted plank exterior of boards varying from fifteen to eighteen inches in width, with one end covered with narrow strips of wood. These planks survive underneath the present shingles. Centered on the ridge of the asphalt-shingled roof is a large brick chimney. The three top courses of brick on the chimney project slightly. The windows and doors are placed close under the eaves, which along with the rakes project only a few inches beyond the walls.

The facade (south elevation) measures three bays wide. The central entrance contains an exterior outer wooden door constructed of vertical beveled boards and displays large iron hinges. The door is capped by a four light transom. Windows on the building predominantly contain doublehung 6/6 sash with exterior storm windows. These replacement windows are thought to have been added about 1960. Again, a c. 1920 photograph shows the building with what are probably its original 6/9 windows. On the facade, the window sash extends nearly to the eaves, typical of the 18th century. As a result of reconstruction of the raking in recent years, the raking now extends slightly over the transom lights.

Projecting from the rear of the west side of the building is a lower gable roofed extension containing the burning room and pantry on the interior. A single 6/6 window is located on the gable end of the projection. An entrance previously located on the south face of the projection has been boarded over. The first floor of the west elevation of the main structure is lit by a single window to the south of the projection. Upstairs, three windows punctuate the attic level.

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Centered on the east gable end is a four panel door capped by two bullseye glass panes. The door does not appear to fit the opening and thus would seem to be a later replacement. A 6/6 window flanks each side of the side entrance. Two additional windows are located in the attic above.

The rear (north) elevation of the main house measures three bays wide. The central opening contains a two part door consisting of an upper section punctuated by nine panes of glass, three to a row. The lower leaf has two vertical panels. A doublehung 6/6 window flanks each side of the doorway and is capped by a sloped wooden cap. A smaller 6/6 window lights the rear elevation of the projecting section.

A slight depression in the rear yard and remnants of a line of stones suggest that this structure may have at one time had a rear ell.

Interior Description

In a typical full Cape Cod floor plan, the interior arrangement of the rooms is grouped around a central fireplace/chimney block. To either side of the small entry are two front rooms, virtually identical in size, each with its own fireplace and matching symmetrical windows. These two front rooms were typically known as the parlor and hall. The parlor, containing the best furniture, was used for funerals, weddings, visits by the minister and the like. Extending along the back of the house is the kitchen, dominated by a larger fireplace suitable for cooking. At each end of the kitchen is a small room, one of which often functioned as a buttery for storage, separating milk and churning butter and for food preparation. The other room was a bedroom, which often housed the sick and infirmed as well as the newborn. The second floor was reached by a steep stairway. The living space upstairs in the garret was usually left open. As shall be seen, the interior of the Killicut-Way House closely conforms to this typical floor plan.

Hidden by the outer door, the front door to the house actually consists of a pair of two narrow panel doors which have been fitted into a single door opening. Despite the replacement of the original door, the opening retains what appears to be its original threshold and the molding of the transom lights above also seems to be fairly old. A modern set of louvered doors provides access to the cellar stairs. To the right, the original steep and narrow staircase leading upstairs and resting against the central chimney block, has been replaced by a modern set of stairs.

The southwest room is noteworthy for the original paneling which it retains. The east wall of the room including the fireplace surround is completely paneled, remaining walls are plastered. Three horizontal, raised panels are located above the fireplace opening. That on the bottom has been partially cut to accommodate a new brick fireplace opening. The

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wood paneling flanking the fireplace is vertical. Gunstock posts are evident in all four corners of the room. The wood flooring in this room does not appear to be original, as there is an additional, undoubtedly older layer underneath the present floor. A plain baseboard runs around the perimeter of the room. The plaster ceiling in the room has also been replaced and according to the owners, there are beams underneath.

The twenty four foot wide kitchen, extending along the rear of the house, retains its original wide board flooring and wainscoting. The centerpiece of the kitchen is the large brick fireplace surrounded by wooden paneling. To the side of the main fireplace opening are a small oven opening and below this, an additional smaller opening. Suspended over the fire is a large metal crane from which cooking kettles were suspended. Some of the fireplace bricks have also been replaced. Above the fireplace is a breast of raised vertical panels. Modifications in the early 1960s to add central heat to the building resulted in the addition of a small box over the fireplace at the ceiling level and the addition of a curvilinear wood molding along the ceiling. Wooden beams span the ceiling, transversing in a north-south direction. With the exception of the two handhewn beams flanking the fireplace, which are wider than the rest and supported by wooden posts, the ceiling beams are decorative rather than structural. The original plaster in the kitchen has also been removed. The plain wooden moldings surrounding the door and window openings is flush with the plaster wall. Doors opening into the room include a four paneled door from the southwest room, a two panel door constructed of two wide vertical doors leading to the pantry and a four panel door leading into the adjacent burning room in the northwest corner. The eastern end of the kitchen has seen the addition of appliances and cabinetry dating to the late 1950s-early 1960s.

Opening from the southwest corner of the kitchen is a windowless pantry area. On the exterior much of this room corresponds to the section projecting from the west wall. The unpainted walls are sheathed in wide board paneling over accordian lath. A gunstock post is located in the southwest corner. A former entrance on the south wall of the room has been boarded over and shelves now line this entire side. Given the relative coolness of its orientation and its lack of windows, this room may well have functioned historically as the buttery.

The adjacent room to the north was undoubtedly used as a room for the sick and newborn. Although it is failing, the original horse hair plaster still survives in this room, covered with a milk coat. There is a gunstock post in the northwest corner of the room. A narrow board encircles the room at eye level; its function, if historic, is not known. The north and

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west walls are each punctuated by a single 6/6 window. Like the other windows in the house, these date to the 1960s. It is possible that the room originally only had one or even no windows, based on the belief that light was harmful to infant eyes.

To the east of the kitchen, what was probably formerly a small chamber, has been converted to a laundry room. A gunstock post is located in the northeast corner of the room. A narrow hallway separates the laundry room from the larger southeast room. The north partition of the hallway is sheathed in wide boards with beveled edges. At the end of the hallway there is an exterior door opening. The door opening appears to have been modified to accommodate the present door which is of a six panel construction, the two upper panels are filled by bulls eye glass.

Nearly identical in size to the southwest room, the southeast room is also notable for the fine paneling it retains. With the exception of the brick fireplace, the west wall is totally sheathed in paneling. Centered on the wall is the fireplace opening which is capped by a large raised panel. The area to the left displays four long vertical panels, that closest to the fireplace is a "secret panel" behind which is a shallow cupboard. To the right of the fireplace opening are three additional vertical panels over shorter panels. This portion of the wall is angled out somewhat from the remaining west wall. According to an inspection by Brian Pfeiffer from the Architecture Conservation Trust of Boston several years ago, based on the moldings, the paneling dates to 1740 or earlier.

The north wall of the room is punctuated by a four panel door with HL hinges. It is not original to the house. The east wall has a single window opening. What is thought to be an original built-in cupboard projects from the east wall. It does not extend all the way to the ceiling and there is no gunstock post in the southeast corner as there is in the northeast. The cupboard has four open shelves with a plaster rear wall. Below the shelves there is a door with two vertical panels. A single 6/6 window is centered on the south wall. Modern double doors have been introduced to the opening leading in the front hall.

Wide boards cover the floor in this room. Judging from the modern subfloor underneath, these are not original to the house but may have been salvaged from another house. A simple wooden base molding surrounds the room. In addition to its fine paneling this room is also distinguished by its beamed ceiling. The summer beam, running in an east-west direction is cased and decorated by a beaded molding. Six secondary beams, laid in the opposite direction meet the main beam.

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The upstairs of the house has seen significant changes over the years to meet modern needs. What was originally an open loft has been converted and partitioned for additional bedrooms and a bathroom. One of the few remaining significant features is an original brick fireplace in one of the bedrooms. The fireplace displays brick from floor to ceiling. There is a small asymmetrical fireplace opening and one side of the fireplace displays a sloping edge of corbeled brick. Four original handhewn beams span the ceiling in this room. Partitions on this floor are of sheetrock; doors are of modern six panel construction.

A full cellar with a dirt floor extends under the entire house. Visible in the basement are old oak beams, a number of stone partitions and the brick chimney block. Various stone partitions run under the house in a somewhat random fashion with no apparent relation to the rooms above. There is an area under the kitchen which is accessible only through a trap door in the kitchen and may have functioned as a cellar for winter storage of vegetables and summer storage of perishables.

Site Features

The Killicut-Way House is located on a fairly level, grassy lot. Although the house at one time included considerable acreage, subdivision over the years and the construction of the Everett Turnpike about thirty years ago has left the house on a lot measuring about 12,000 square feet. The lot is bordered on the west by East Dunstable Road and on the north by the ramp for Exit 4 of the Everett Turnpike. Historically the house had an address on East Dunstable Road. A much later road, (c. 1980) Old House Lane, which formerly fed onto East Dunstable Road, runs in a north-south arc just to the east of the house. The backyard has been fenced off by a tall wooden fence. The area to the southwest of the house is wooded.

To the northeast of the house is a modern storage shed constructed by the Ways in 1984. It is clad in shiplap, siding with an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The remains of an older shed were removed at that time.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
C. 1740

Significant Dates
1740

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Killicut-Way House is significant under National Register criterion C as an excellent example of the Cape Cod house type of the mid to late 18th century. The house has undergone few changes over the years, and still retains a considerable degree of architectural integrity, especially in terms of its paneling and woodwork. It is an increasingly rare example of an intact house of its period, surviving on its original site and is all the more significant due to the relative lack of comparable structures in this rapidly growing area of New Hampshire.

The building's period of significance has been determined to be C. 1740, a period which coincides with the apparent construction of the house.

According to local historians, the Killicut-Way House is one of, if not the oldest, surviving residential structures in the City of Nashua. The history of the City goes back to the establishment of the town of Dunstable, Massachusetts on October 16, 1673. The town was incorporated upon petition of twenty-six proprietors of lands along the Merrimack, Nashua and Souhegan Rivers and as such included areas in both present day Massachusetts and New Hampshire, comprising 200 square miles on both sides of the Merrimack River. In 1680, there were thirty families in the community, including settlers Simon Willard, Jonathan Tyng and Joseph Wheeler. Earliest settlement in the town occurred in proximity to Salmon Brook and the Merrimack River. In 1741, the geographic area was divided between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, but both towns continued to bear the name "Dunstable". Parts of the old township broke away as separate entities beginning about 1730. These included Hollis, Merrimack and Nottingham West (later Hudson) in 1733 and Litchfield in 1734. Amherst was incorporated in 1760 and Milford in 1794. Nashua was known as Dunstable until 1836.

The exact date of construction of the Killicut House is not known. Local legend states that the house was built by a person named Killicut between 1680 and 1700. (1) Locally, the house has been nicknamed the "1700 House" for many years. More recent estimates have estimated its construction date to be between 1700 and 1740. Based on research by Killicut,

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Nashua Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A

1	9	2	9	7	7	2	0	4	7	3	3	8	0	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies lot 0000B-00429Q in the local tax assessor's records with a frontage of 200 ft. along East Dunstable Road and a frontage of 87.5 ft. along the F.E. Everett Turnpike. Boundaries of the nominated property are indicated by the heavy dashed line on the attached sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all that remains of the original historic building lot. Boundaries as drawn, are sufficient to convey the historic context and also sufficient to protect it. Additional acreage originally associated with the property has lost its historic integrity, due to subdivision and development of the highway.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Mausolf, Senior Regional Planner
organization Nashua Regional Planning Commission date September, 1989
street & number 115 Main Street telephone (603) 883-0366
city or town Nashua state New Hampshire zip code 03061

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family descendants, the first local Killicut was Thomas Killicut (1723-1784) who was probably born in Ireland. It is not clear when he reached this area, but he married his wife, Mary about 1743 and subsequently had seven children. (2) Killicut was definitely in Nashua by 1746 when the charter for the town of Dunstable, New Hampshire was accepted and Killicut was chosen to hold the position of field driver. (3) Based on these facts, it would be doubtful that the house was constructed much before 1740. Inspection of the interior paneling by Brian Pfeiffer of ACT in Boston, has suggested that the paneling is no newer than 1740. (4) Killicut served as one of "Roger's Rangers" in the French and Indian War. According to the Revolutionary Rolls of New Hampshire, during the Revolutionary War he attained the rank of private while serving in Captain Barron's Company, Colonel Wyman's Regiment, raised for Canada. (5)

According to information gathered by Nashua historian Charles H. Lund earlier in this century, the occupancy of Thomas Killicut was followed by that of his son-in-law, Wincol Wright. (6) Research by Killicut descendants confirms that Wright married Thomas' oldest child, Submit (b. 1744). (7) Lund goes onto claim that the Killicut House was built and had housed two generations before the nearby Lund House was built in 1767, although these would seem to be extremely doubtful. (8) According to Lund, the Killicut House was also the site of the Killicut Pine Tar Works, although no additional information concerning this has surfaced. Several sites in Nashua were known to have been used for the manufacture of pine tar by which the roots were heated until sap ran out. The sap was then boiled to get tar. (9) During the early to mid 19th century, the Killicut House apparently passed onto members of the Blodgett family who were apparently related to the Killicuts as up until the 1960s the house was still reportedly owned by descendants of Thomas Killicut. Mrs. James H. (Nora) Mulvanity inherited the property, which had been in her family for about ninety years, from her great grandparents, Walter and Mary Blodgett. (10) According to City directories, Mrs. Mulvanity's sister, Miss Mary Nute, lived in the house for many years and as recently as 1964. Since then a number of families have occupied the house including Nathaniel Carmen and Daniel Posnansky. (11) The house was sold by Frederick Beake to John and Joyclyn Hudgins in 1977. The present owners, Alan and Christine Way purchased the property in 1982.

Within the region, the Killicut-Way House is relatively unique in terms of its age and integrity. The house is one of only two 18th century houses remaining in the City of Nashua. The other, the Lund House, on Robinson Road is a two story dwelling dating to 1767. In comparison, the Killicut-Way House is typical of the more humble dwellings which predominated during the first period of settlement.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Nashua History Committee, Nashua Experience, (Canaan, NH: Phoenix Publishing Co., 1978), p. 165.
2. Hoffman, Sarah Paine. Application for Membership to the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Killicut Family), 1979.
3. Parker, Edward E. History of the City of Nashua, NH. (Nashua, NH: Telegraph Publishing Co., 1897), p. 570.
4. Information from Alan and Christine Way, July 1989.
5. Parker, p. 299.
6. _____. "The Old Seventeen Hundred House", manuscript at Nashua Public Library, n.d. (c. 1930?)
7. Hoffman.
8. "The Old Seventeen Hundred House"
9. Lund, Charles H. "Index to the Map of Dunstable-Nashua Showing Points of Interest", manuscript at Nashua Public Library, 1933?
10. "The Old Seventeen Hundred House"
11. Manning, City of Nashua Directories.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fox, Charles J. History of the Old Township of Dunstable, Nashua:
Charles T. Gill, 1846.

Hoffman, Sarah Paine. Application for Membership to the National
Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Killicut Family).
Washington, DC, 1979.

Lund, Charles H. "Index to the Map of Dunstable - Nashua Showing
Points of Interest" manuscript at Nashua Public Library, 1933?

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Phoenix Publishing, 1978.

"Old Houses" compiled by William T. Gasclar (WPA) Unpublished
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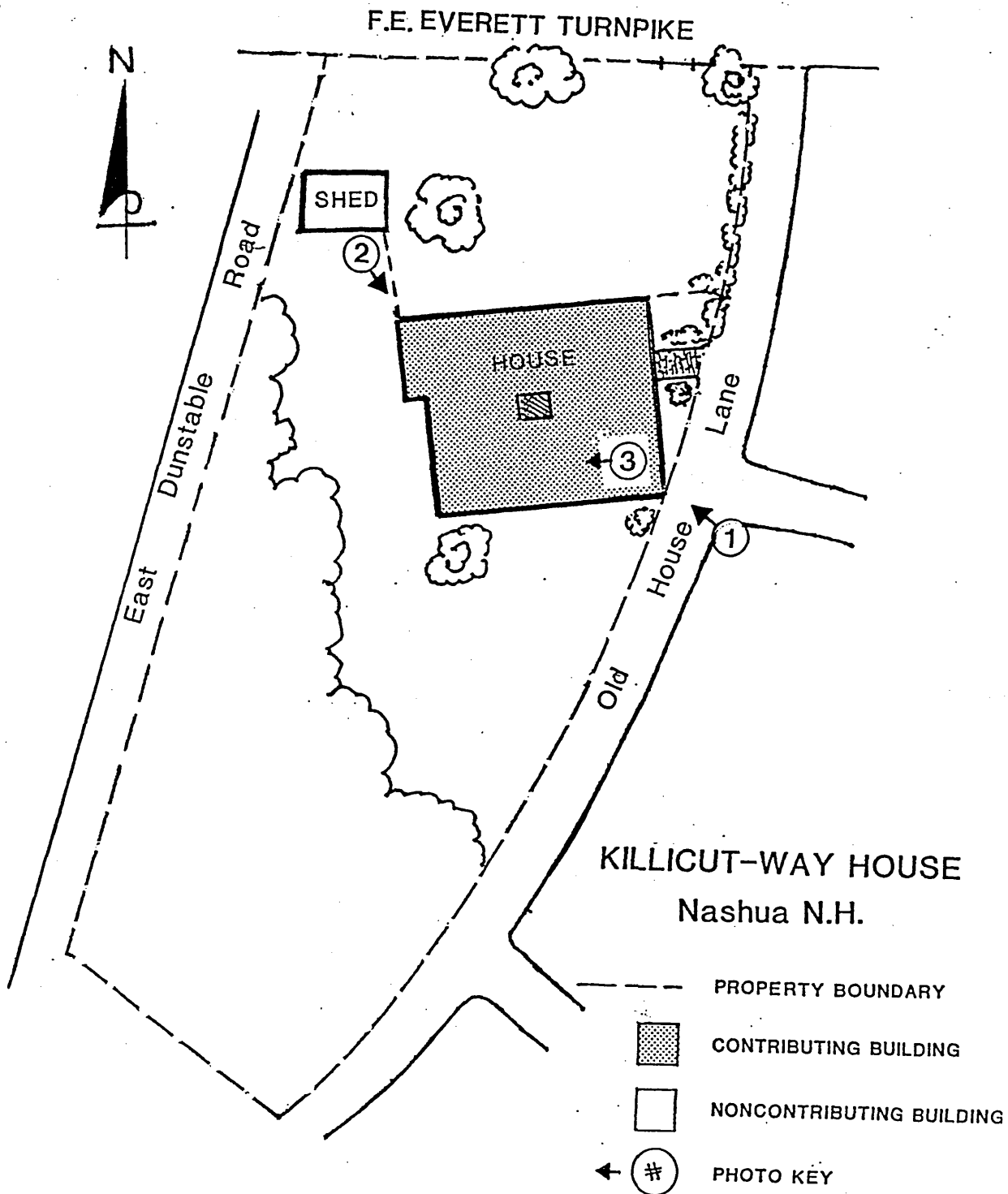
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Telegraph Publishing Co., 1897.

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Approximate Scale: 1"=33'

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OWNER OF PROPERTY

C. Alan and Christine Way
2 Old House Lane
Nashua, NH 03062