

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received OCT 30 1985

date entered DEC 2 1985

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

1. Name

historic Burgess-Hill House

and/or common HILL-LASSONDE HOUSE (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 269 Hanover Street n/a not for publication

city, town Manchester 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Omer Lassonde

street & number 269 Hanover Street

city, town Manchester, n/a vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County Courthouse

Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds

street & number Box 370

city, town 19 Temple Street

Nashua, state New Hampshire 03060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Hill-Lassonde House is a two-and-a-half-story wood frame dwelling on a foundation of cut granite. Although located in a small city, the house stands on a well shaded lot filled with sugar maple, butternut, basswood, white birch and hemlock trees which afford considerable privacy. Constructed in 1850, the building is an exceptionally fine example of the vernacular Italianate style. It is heavily framed; its walls are double-studded, providing deep window embrasures within, and its roof is framed with common rafters laid 36" on centers.

The facade of the house is 3 bays wide, having a broad central doorway with two doors, flanked by large windows which extend nearly to the floors of the rooms within and are filled with 2-over-2 sashes. The doorway is sheltered beneath a portico which rises from the massive curbs of hammered granite. The portico has two columns and two antae with panelled pedestals; the columns are square in section, chamfered and fluted, and terminate in moulded capitals. The roof of the portico is of a low, concave Mansard profile, and is supported by an entablature with brackets at each end.

Window detailing on all elevations of the house consists of simple square-edged casings with horizontal caps topped by small cornice mouldings. The windows are fitted with louvered blinds.

The end (east & west) elevations of the house have two windows on each floor and one rectangular window in the attic. Each attic window has a section of arched wooden casing above the cap, suggesting that the attic windows were originally arched.

The eaves of the house project deeply on the front and ends, and are supported by widely-spaced brackets in the form of sawn consoles.

The roof, covered with asphalt shingles, is pierced just behind the ridge by two chimneys which rise near the central bay of the house. The chimney on the east retains its elaborate corbelled cap, while that on the west has a cap of different profile and may reflect changes made to this chimney in the 1890s or early 1900s.

The front of the house is bordered by a cast iron fence with a repetitive lyre motif and with posts bearing Gothic detailing and poppyhead finials. The gates of the fence have anthemion ornaments and a date of "1850" cast into the upper rails.

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Extending from the rear elevation of the main block of the house is a shed-roofed extension. This in turn is intersected by a 40' wing with a gable roof and detailing which matches that of the front section of the house. The eastern elevation of this wing is unbroken by architectural features other than windows. The west elevation, by contrast, has a one-story porch which is supported on two columns of a quatrefoil cross-section and shelters two kitchen windows and a doorway. The roof of this porch, accessible from a second floor door, is surrounded by a classical balustrade. Immediately behind (to the south of) this porch is a two-story bay window added about 1900.

The interior of the house has excellent nineteenth-century detailing overlaid by a few features added at the turn of the twentieth century. The house has undergone almost no alterations since about 1902.

Most of the rooms have mid-nineteenth-century marble mantelpieces of varying types and colors of stone. The original woodwork included moulded casings and caps surrounding each window embrasure, folding window shutters with delicate Grecian ovolo mouldings around their panels, and deep baseboards with heavy Grecian ogee caps. The front and rear rooms of the west side of the house are connected by wide double sliding doors. Some of the doors of the house retain original painted graining, imitating mahogany. Most rooms have their original gas chandeliers, installed when the house was new and subsequently electrified.

Most of the ceilings of the dwelling are covered with stamped metal panels of elaborate design. These ceilings were added about 1900, and vary in pattern from room to room. That in the northeast front room on the first floor, for example, is marked by Gothic tracery and has a full cornice of enriched mouldings; that in the northwest room opposite has panels filled with anthemion ornamentation, and a deep cove at its juncture with the walls.

Several original marble mantelpieces have been removed from the second floor rooms of the house and replaced with wooden mantelpieces having colonial revival detailing and overmantel mirrors. The fireplaces in these locations have been surrounded with borders of glazed ceramic tiles characteristic of the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

The staircase of the house is characterized by rich detailing and large scale. The walnut newel post is square in section and is decorated with panels and bosses of a light burl wood. The heavy hand rail curves at the second floor and is supported by a set of two turned balusters on each tread. The soffit of the staircase is plastered and presents a dramatic rising curve in the central hallway.

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At the southeast corner of the houselot, facing a service alley now named Londonderry Street, is a two-story gable-roofed stable with a gable end facing the street and clapboarded walls. The first floor facade has wide panelled doors, with a window to the west. Above is a panelled hayloft door, and two windows. In the center of the roof ridge is a hip-roofed cupola with louvered sides. The interior retains stalls for four horses. Attached to the west elevation of the stable is a one-car garage, formerly a carriage house. This shed-roofed addition has clapboarded walls and a modern overhead garage door facing Londonderry Street.

At the southwest corner of the lot, connected to the stable by a fence which combines sections of tall pickets with sections of solid boards, is a one-room tool shed. This small, gable-roofed building has good Greek Revival exterior detailing and clapboarded walls. It has an unbroken rear (west) wall; two windows with 6-over-6 sashes on the south or Londonderry Street elevation; a door on the east (front) elevation, with a small attic window above; and a single window on the north, facing the side yard of the house.

Original Appearance: The house retains its original appearance in most respects, both inside and out. The window sashes may originally have been 6-over-6 rather than 2-over-2; the western chimney has been rebuilt above the roof; a few original marble mantelpieces have been replaced by colonial revival examples; and several of the plaster ceilings have been covered with pressed metal. Otherwise, the house preserves its appearance of 1850 almost unchanged.

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The Hill-Lassonde House nomination contains three (3) contributing buildings.

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 1850 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hill-Lassonde House is one of New Hampshire's least altered and most typical vernacular Italianate dwellings. Built by a rising manufacturer and continuously owned thereafter by the family and descendants of another local businessman, the house is a middle-class reflection of the ideas of Andrew Jackson Downing and other American architectural writers of the period before 1850. Long term ownership in a single family has preserved in the house an extraordinary number of original features, with the addition of a few changes that reflected the family's increasing prosperity in the late 1800s.

Architecture: The Hill-Lassonde House was constructed in 1850 for Alpheus Dwight Burgess (1815-1889). A native of Massachusetts, Burgess came to the textile manufacturing city of Manchester in 1843 to work as a machinist.

At about the time that he built this dwelling, Burgess established himself as a successful manufacturer of power-loom pickers. By about 1855, Burgess had moved to another address in Manchester; within a few more years, he would retire from manufacturing and devote his remaining years to the management of extensive real estate holdings. Burgess sold the house to Varnum H. Hill (1820-1859), son of a part owner of a livery stable which eventually expanded into an express business. Although Hill died of tuberculosis a few years after purchasing the house, his widow and their descendants have owned the dwelling to the present day. This continuity of ownership has preserved in the structure almost every detail of its original construction, rendering the building an exceptional document of middle class architectural taste at the mid-nineteenth century. The house also retains a few alterations made at the turn of the century, when changing family fortunes were reflected in the remodeling of some interior features. In 1891, at the time of some of these changes, the owner of the house, James W. Hill, commissioned a local artist Henry Walker Herrick to paint a portrait of the dwelling; this survives in a local museum.

The Hill-Lassonde House is an urban reflection of many of the stylistic attributes and features suggested to rural readers by A.J. Downing. The simple Italianate detailing of the house, its broad overhanging bracketed eaves, its large windows overlooking a pleasant yard and a park opposite, and its secluded side porches all reflect an urban acceptance of Downing's rural ideals.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet 4-9-1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (.22)

Quadrangle name Manchester South, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UMT References

A

1	9	2	9	9	7	8	10	4	7	6	2	5	10	10
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 5-10-2)

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

organization New Hampshire Historical Society date August 1985

street & number 30 Park Street telephone (603) 225-3381

city or town Concord, state 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 New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/24/85

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


Keeper of the National Register

date 12-2-85
National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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The house was built on a lot 95' by 100', purchased in the fall of 1847 by Alpheus D. Burgess from the Amoskeag Company. The corporation owned most of the territory of present-day Manchester and developed a policy of laying out streets and selling house lots to encourage private development, reserving for public use five squares or public commons of varying dimensions. The corporation sold house lots in a series of four public sales, beginning in 1838.

Whithin a few years, spurred by the activity of the corporation's mills and other manufactures, Manchester grew from a town to the first city incorporated in New Hampshire. An immense building activity accompanied this evolution of the community. Most of the dwellings in the neighborhood of the Hill-Lassonde House result from the same subdivision of Amoskeag Company land, and the neighborhood exhibits a strong consistency in its architecture of a vernacular Italianate character. No other dwelling in the area, however, has survived in the intact condition of the Hill-Lassonde House.

The dwelling stands south of and opposite the four-acre Hanover Square, one of the five commons donated to the city of Manchester by the Amoskeag Company on the condition that these lots be landscaped and preserved from development. Hanover Square originally held a large pond (now filled), which was created by the damming of a brook and was used to supply other ponds that served as fire reservoirs throughout the city. The presence of this landscaped common and body of water rendered the Hanover Square neighborhood one of the most desirable in the city. The integration of nature into the urban landscape encouraged the aesthetics promoted persuasively by A.J. Downing, and conformity of the Hill-Lassonde to many of these principles renders the house a characteristic expression of its era.

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9. Major Bibliographical References:

Burgess, E., comp., Memorial of the Family of Thomas and Dorothy Burgess, Who Were Settled at Sandwich, in the Plymouth Colony, in 1637. Boston: Press of T.R. Marvin & Son, 1865.

Clarke, John B., Manchester: A Brief Record of its Past and a Picture of its Present (Manchester, NH: by the author, 1875).

Manchester Union, April 18, 1889 (obituary of Alpheus Dwight Burgess).

Manchester City Directories, 1850-1856.

New Hampshire Vital Records, New Hampshire Department of Health & Welfare.

Potter, Chandler Eastman., History of Manchester, Formerly Derryfield, in New Hampshire (Manchester, NH: by the author, 1856).

United States Census Returns, Hillsborough County, 1860 (New Hampshire State Library).

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10. Geographical Data:

The nominated property is indicated on the Manchester City's Assessor's Map #83 as lot #24. It is bounded 95' on Hanover Street and carries that breadth northerly 100' to Londonderry Street, contains 9,500 square feet.

The nominated property is the original lot purchased from the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company in 1847; boundaries are highlighted in yellow on the attached sketch map.

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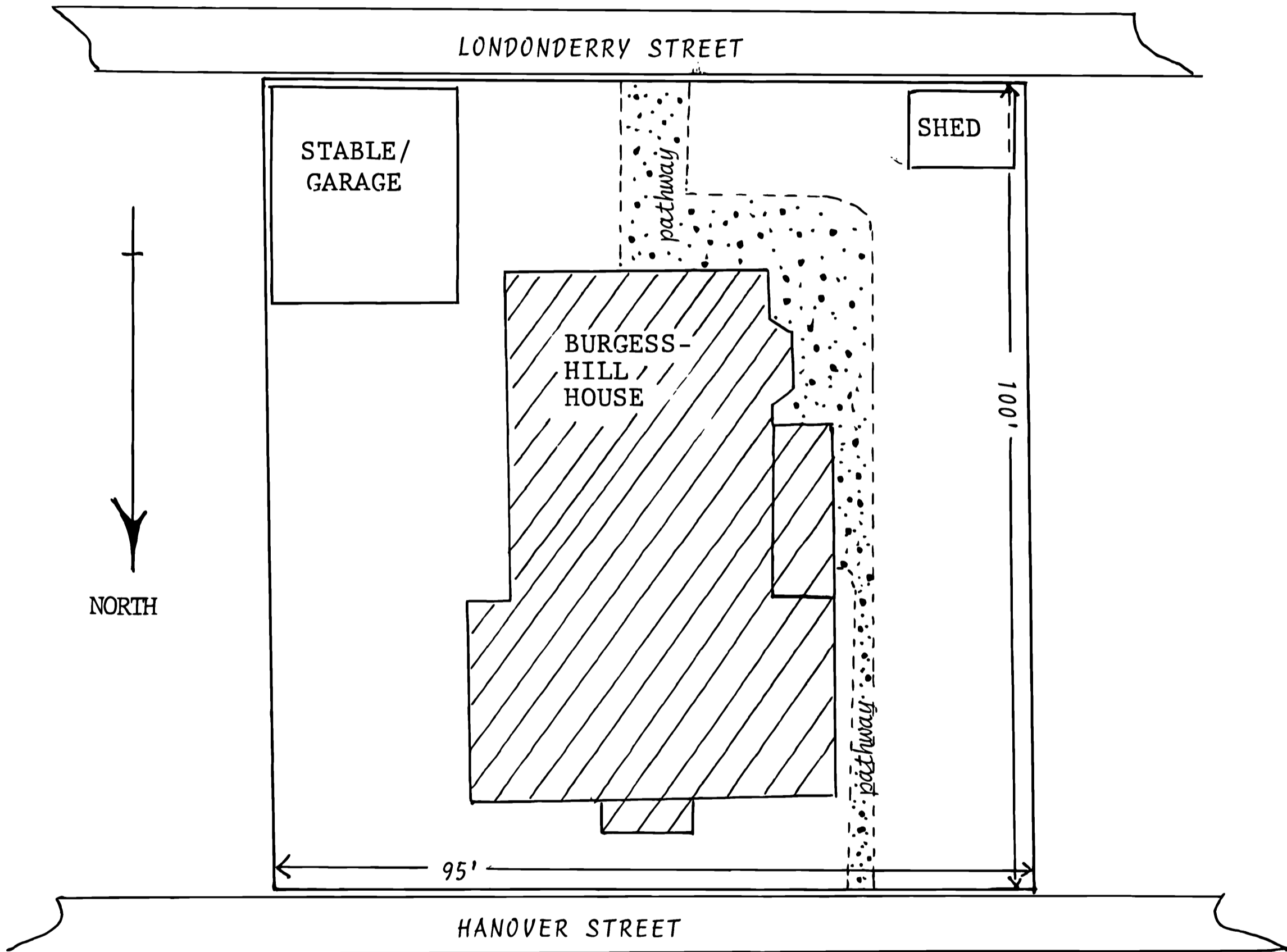
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SCALE
1" = 20'

BURGESS-HILL HOUSE
of
Manchester, N.H.