

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 25 1983  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic JOHN CROCKETT HOUSE

and/or common KENNISTON TAVERN

2. Location

street & number 245 Portsmouth Avenue not for publication

city, town Stratham vicinity of ~~congressional district~~ (1st)

state N.H. code 33 county Rockingham code 015

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 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 Richard V. & Elizabeth T. Palmer

street & number Box #293

city, town Stratham 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 Preservation of Historic Areas has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date June 1, 1973  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Southeastern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire

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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	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>n/a</u>

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

The John Crockett House is a simplified Georgian style dwelling located at the intersection of New Hampshire State Route 101 and Depot Road in Stratham, New Hampshire. The dwelling is a five by two bay, two and one half story, frame structure measuring 34' by 24'. The building terminates in a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. A central, brick chimney with straight stack and corbelled cap straddles the ridge line of the roof. This chimney has been rebuilt. The building's exterior walls are sheathed in feather edge clapboard and further defined by narrow cornerboards terminating in cap moldings. A narrow frieze articulates exterior walls and slightly projecting eaves. Gable end elevations include raking boards. The dwelling is supported by a cut granite foundation.

The principal entrance is located in the center bay of the south facade. The original panel door is lit by a five light transom and flanked by wide pilasters which support a narrow architrave and cornice. An original projecting pediment has been removed.

First story windows are nine light over six light sash set in simple architrave molded surrounds terminating in simple cap moldings. Window units include modified, wooden, label moldings. Second story windows are six light over six light sash set in simple surrounds accented by label moldings similar to those found on the first story.

Adjoining the east elevation of the dwelling is a one story, two by one bay wing which terminates in a gable roof. This wing is similar in design to the principal block with the exception of wing windows. The original sash windows have been replaced with casement units.

The interior spaces of the principal block are divided into a simplified, Georgian plan which includes a center hall flanked by single chambers. Original, interior features of interest include a first story, center hall staircase with original balustrade.

The rustic shed associated with the Kenniston Tavern measures approximately 12' X 15', is "salt box" in configuration, has raw clapboard siding, irregular fenestration (3 windows with 6/6 and 2/2 sash), two vertical plank doors, and a tar paper roof. The exact date of its construction is unknown and difficult to surmise by inspection though it would appear to have a sufficient quantity of 19th century remnants to fall into that time frame. The shed does not detract from the character of the site and could in fact be said to contribute to the overall rural historic flavor.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input 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. 1760 **Builder/Architect** Ephraim & John Crockett

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The John Crockett House, a mid-eighteenth century, Georgian style dwelling, is significant for its association with the architectural and commercial history of the town of Stratham, New Hampshire. The building survives largely intact and is representative of local, residential architecture of the period.

The John Crockett House was built circa 1760 by Ephraim Crockett and his son, John, as a dwelling for the latter and his wife, Mary Lane. Mary Lane was the eldest daughter of Deacon Samuel Lane, a prominent Stratham tannery owner whose journal records the Lane-Crockett marriage on October 20, 1762. Deeds dating from the late 1760's and 1770's indicate that the original, sixteen and one fourth acre Crockett House site was subdivided from land owned by Ephraim Crockett who retained a right-of-way across the property to his own dwelling. (The property submitted for nomination is less than four acres. See Item #10.)

The architectural composition of the Crockett House is indicative of local residential structures of the period in its simplified adaptation of Georgian forms. These forms include bilateral symmetry, graduated proportion and the application of exterior detail. The structure's interior plan similarly reflects an emphasis on symmetry and balance in its incorporation of a center hall flanked by single chambers.

The building is architecturally important in two respects. First, it provides a tangible document illustrating regional architectural development and the inland migration of architectural form through design similarities with New Hampshire seacoast dwellings of the period. Second, the dwellings construction by Ephraim and John Crockett offers the possibility of localized study of local construction techniques.

The dwelling's historical, commercial significance is documented through its active use as an inn serving a local clientele. Owing to the inn's central location on the road connecting Portsmouth and Exeter, the inn may have also provided services to regional travelers.

The Crockett family are notable as early settlers in the seacoast region. The family emigrated from England in the 1630's and initially settled in the Crockett's Neck section of Kittery, Maine. Richard Crockett, Ephraim's father, purchased a tract of land in Stratham, New Hampshire in 1714. The family moved to the town in that year.

Three generations of the Crockett family have been associated with local building. Richard and Ephraim Crockett were employed in the construction of the Deacon Samuel Lane House in 1743 (d. c. 1800). John Crockett was employed as a joiner during the construction of the Northwood Meeting House in Northwood, New Hampshire. Comparative study of the Crockett House with other local buildings involving members of the Crockett family in their construction may be useful in documenting the evolution of local building techniques.

In 1779 John Crockett purchased a sixty acre farm in Northwood, New Hampshire. He and his family moved to that community the same year. Henry Kenniston purchased the Crockett property in Stratham in 1780.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Newmarket, N.H.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>
	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 :** One acre parcel located at the junction of Route 101 and Depot Road in Stratham, N.H. Parcel currently owned by Richard V. & Elizabeth Palmer. Stratham Tax Map #12, Parcel #32.

See Continuation Sheet #3

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

state	n/a	code	county	code
state	n/a	code	county	code

state	n/a	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn M. Kuranda, Preservation Consultant

organization Strafford Rockingham Reg. Council date November 1981

street & number One Water Street telephone 603-778-0885

city or town Exeter 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 February 8, 1983

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 3/24/83

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet #1 - SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

Page 2

Kenniston, a tailor, converted the dwelling to an inn, thus capitalizing on the building's prominent, central location on the principal road connecting the seaport of Portsmouth and the inland town of Exeter. Although an Inn Keeper's License was not issued to Kenniston by the town of Stratham until 1803, a town map executed by Phineas Merrill in 1793 records the building as "Kenniston's Inn".

The estate inventory compiled in 1832 following Henry Kenniston's death indicates that the inn also operated as a tavern. Included in this inventory are an assortment of bar equipment, beds, linen and kitchen utensils exceeding in quantity the furnishings expected for an inventory of the dwelling's size and number of permanent occupants. Also included in Kenniston's estate inventory is a list of small debts owed to the estate by local residents. This list indicated active patronage of the establishment by Stratham residents.

The Kenniston Tavern remained in the Kenniston family until 1883, at which time the building returned to exclusive residential use. The intact quality of the surviving structure's design, location and workmanship contribute to the dwelling's local significance to the historical, architectural and commercial development of Stratham, New Hampshire.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

Continuation sheet #2 - REFERENCES

Item number 9

Page 1

Merrill, Phineas, 1793 Map of Stratham.

Nelson, Charles, History of Stratham (1866).

Stackpole, Everett, S., Old Kittery and Her Families.

Stratham Town Records, Vol. I & II, Stratham Town Hall.

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Page</u>
1713	9	378
1714	9	652-653
1733	23	77
1749	47	147
1756	84	45
1768	148	143
1774	148	374
1778	149	26
1780	160	308

Probate Records, Rockingham County Courthouse, Exeter, N.H.

1803 Will of Samuel Lane.

1832 Will of Henry Kenniston, Innkeeper.  
Inventory estate of Henry Kenniston.

1867 Will of Lydia O. Kenniston.

1883 Will of Fairapilia Kenniston.

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Continuation sheet #3 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Item number 10

Page 2

The property associated with the John Crockett House is approximately 1 acre. The pentagonal plot is bounded on the south by New Hampshire Route 101, west by Jason Drive, northwest and north by the surveyed property line, and on the east by Depot Road. The parcel is congruent with the tax maps of the Town of Stratham, New Hampshire. Additionally, the boundaries work visually as the original tract has been subdivided, and recent development has isolated the site.

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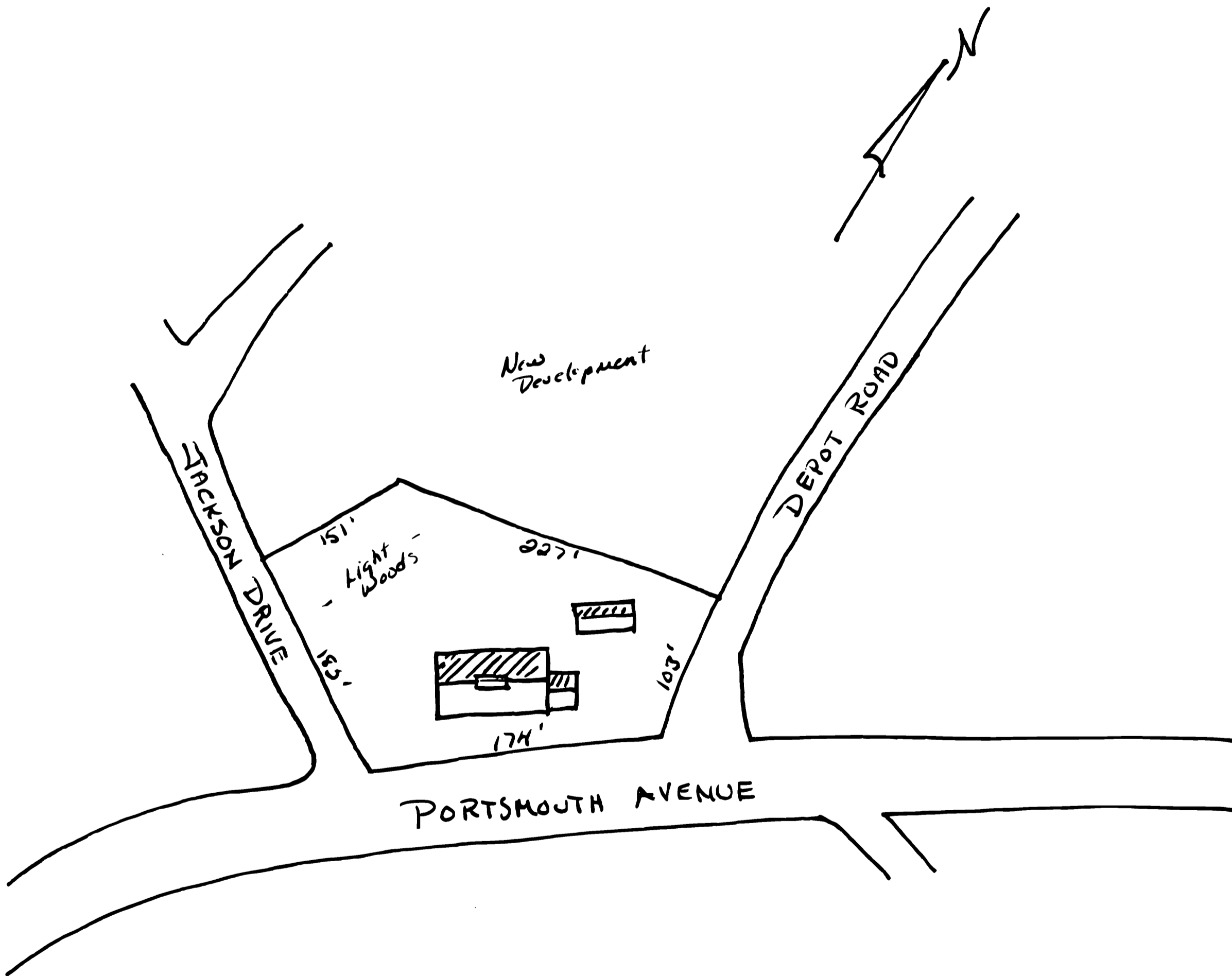
date entered

Continuation sheet #4 - ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION

Item number --

Page 1

SKETCH MAP - John Crockett House, Stratham, N.H.



Accompanying Documentation:

Photographs: The photos of the John Crockett House are still representative of the site. No changes have taken place since they were taken.