

AUG 31 1987

JAN 12 1988

| HARRISVILLE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY<br>INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM  |  | DISTRICT: | SITE #:<br>IP-22 |
|---|--|-----------|------------------|
| PROPERTY NAME (HISTORIC)<br>The Willard Homestead   | OWNER (ORIGINAL): Ebenezer Babcock                         |           |                  |
| PROPERTY NAME:  | OWNER: Wellington Wells, Jr.                               |           |                  |
| LOCATION: On Sunset Hill Avenue south of<br>Wellscroft Farm. (note that the present<br>driveway was the old Willard Road from Dublin<br>to Roxbury.)  | ADDRESS: P.O. Box 308<br>Marlborough, NH 03455             |           |                  |
| UTM REFERENCES: 18-732051-4758042   | ACREAGE: 2.2 RANGE/LOT: X-21-1                             |           |                  |
| USGS QUADRANGLE: Monadnock  | VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION:<br>See Site Map |           |                  |
| DATE: 1787<br>SOURCE: <u>History of Dublin</u>  |  |           |                  |
| <p>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: The Wells house ('A' on sketch map) is a late 18th century white clap-board cape cottage which was altered in the early 20th century to reflect the affluence and lifestyle of the owner, Wellington Wells. Built in 1787 as an upland farmhouse, the structure was typical of the 1½ story rectangular cape plan used throughout Harrisville. In the 1880s, a large, 2-story gabled addition converted the house plan to a T-shaped one. Shortly after the house was converted into a summer residence in 1900, a covered porch was added running the entire width of the principal entry facade (1902). In 1906, a pair of dormers was added to the same facade. At approximately the same time, a large four-bay rectangular garage ('E' on sketch</p>  |  |           |                  |
| <p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The historic importance of this property lies in its association with two of the town's most important periods and several of its most illustrious citizens. Built in 1787 as an upland hill farmhouse, it became the home of the Rev. Elijah Willard, respected pastor of the Baptist Church (PD-18) shortly thereafter (1794). It remained in the locally active Willard family until 1889.</p> <p>In 1900, the house was purchased for use as a summer residence, a turn of the century trend of pivotal economic and social significance. Its new owner, Wellington Wells, Sr., was President of the Massachusetts State Senate in the 1920s and the donor of approximately half of the cost of the Wells Memorial School (PD-16) in 1950. United States Supreme Court Justice David J. Brewer, a friend or possibly a relative of the Wells family which still owns the property visited here often between 1905 and 1910.</p> <p>Architecturally, this house most significantly reflects the converted use of the farmstead</p> |  |           |                  |
| <p>REFERENCES:<br/>Armstrong, John Borden. <u>Factory Under The Elms</u>. Cambridge (MA): The MIT Press, 1969.<br/>Dublin Town History<br/><u>New Hampshire Sentinel</u>, October 1889.<br/>Wells Family Photos (1901 to present)<br/>Wellington Wells, Jr. Personal Interview.</p>   |  |           |                  |
| MAP: SEE CONTINUATION SHEET   | PHOTOGRAPH:  |           |                  |
| DESCRIPTION OF VIEW:<br>Front Elevation (south facade)<br>Facing North  |  |           |                  |
| PHOTOGRAPHER: L. Shonk  |  |           |                  |
| NEGATIVE FILE #: 12-6, 8/18/83  |  |           |                  |
| RECORDED BY: Shonk/Taves/Cini   |  |           |                  |
| SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:<br><br>Historic Harrisville, Inc.  |  |           |                  |
| DATE: October 1983  |  |           |                  |

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

|                         |
|-------------------------|
| <b>For NPS use only</b> |
| received                |
| date entered            |

Continuation sheet    The Willard Homestead    Item number    IP-22    Page    2

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**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

map) was built some distance to the north and east of the house. In 1962, a small detached guest house ('D' on sketch map) was built on the site of a paint shed ('F' on sketch map) which had been moved early to a location north of the garage. The guest house retains the same proportions and scale of the old paint shed. In 1977, two early horse sheds ('B' on the sketch map) were attached to the southwest corner of the house by a barely visible connector. Recently, a lumber storage shed ('G' on sketch map) was constructed beyond the garage. The horse sheds were converted into usable living space at this time. A large barn ('C' on sketch map) with cupola, which is reputed to predate 1800, completes the building inventory. It stands to the west of the main house. South of the barn a stone "pound", probably for horses, is still extant as are all of the field and boundary stone walls of the 18th and 19th century farmstead.

While there have been many changes to the house, they have been made in a careful, sympathetic manner. Much of the original interior fabric remains, including wide pine board walls, ceilings and floors. Hand-hewn steps lead to the cellar.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

into a summer residence by the Wellington Wells family 1900-1910. The barn, outbuildings and stone walled fields retain the historic integrity of the 18th century farmstead. The overlay early 20th century additions such as the porch, dormers, garage and converted living spaces reflect the affluent and leisure days of the Wells family.

This homestead satisfies Criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

HARRISVILLE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
 INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

DISTRICT

SITE

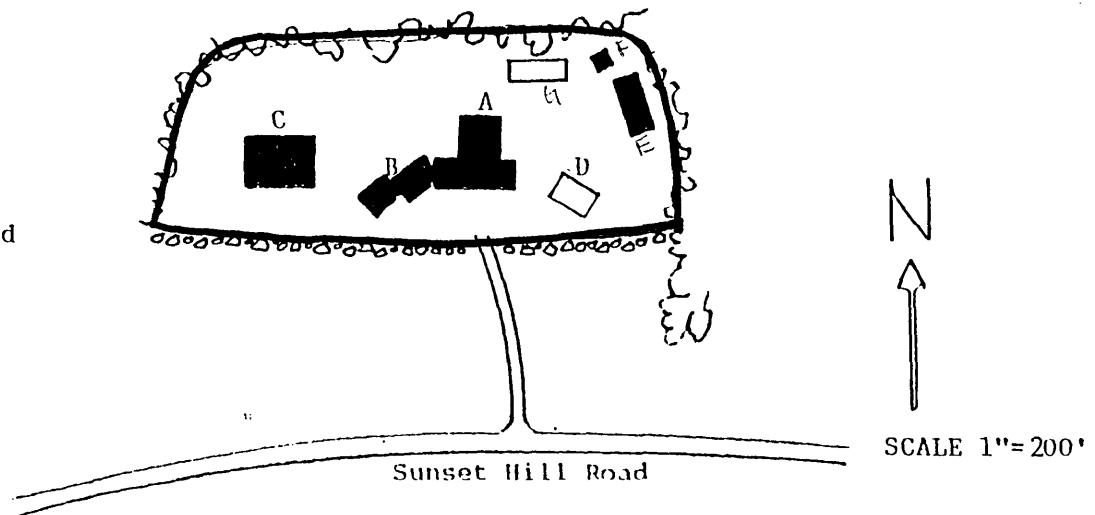
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IP-22

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|   | ACREAGE: 2.2 RANGE/LOT: X-21-                   |

- A - House
- B - Horse Sheds
- C - Barn
- D - Guest House
- E - Garage
- F - Paint Shed
- G - Lumber Storage Shed

- - Contributing
- - Non-contributing



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

Bounded on the north and east by the edge of trees, on the south by a stone wall.

Includes the immediate visual surroundings incorporating the features contributing to the property's architectural and historical significance.

Designated as IP-22 on the Town of Harrisville Map.

The boundaries of the property are indicated by a heavy black line on the sketch map above.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Harrisville MRA  
State Cheshire County, NEW HAMPSHIRE

| Nomination/Type of Review | Date/Signature                         |
|---------------------------|--|
| 31. Wildwood Cottage ✓    | Keeper <i>Patricia Andrews 1/14/88</i> |
|                           | Attest <i>Bob L. Swartz 1/14/88</i>    |
| 32.                       | Keeper _____                           |
|                           | Attest _____                           |
| 33.                       | Keeper _____                           |
|                           | Attest _____                           |
| 34.                       | Keeper _____                           |
|                           | Attest _____                           |
| 35.                       | Keeper _____                           |
|                           | Attest _____                           |
| 36.                       | Keeper _____                           |
|                           | Attest _____                           |
| 37.                       | Keeper _____                           |
|                           | Attest _____                           |
| 38.                       | Keeper _____                           |
|                           | Attest _____                           |
| 39.                       | Keeper _____                           |
|                           | Attest _____                           |
| 40.                       | Keeper _____                           |
|                           | Attest _____                           |