

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Allen's Cider Mill

other names/site number

2. Location 7 Mountain Road

street & number

not for publication

city, town Granby

vicinity

state Connecticut

code CT

county Hartford

code 003

zip code 06060

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

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1.

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.

Signature of certifying official Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

Date 3/13/92

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. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing

SOCIAL/meeting hall

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/storage

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
manufacturing facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

other

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Overview

Allen's Cider Mill (c.1783) is an operating cider mill situated on a 1.5-acre lot on the west side of Route 189 and south of Mountain Road, which intersects Route 189 at this point (See Site Plan). The cider mill building is a 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed, wood frame building 36' x 30' with a 1 1/2-story 15' x 36' shed attached (Photograph 1). The building faces north about 200' up the steep incline of Mountain Road from Route 189. The cider mill lot has always been transferred along with what is now the North Granby Post Office lot and acreage on the north side of Mountain Road in deeds since Captain Ranna Cossitt first gave the land to his son Silas at the end of the 18th century.¹ The cider mill building has been moved three times on these related parcels, first from the parcel immediately north of Mountain Road to the present Post Office lot c. 1860, then a short distance west on the Post Office lot c.1875, and finally to its present location, another 75 feet west, sometime before 1880.² Since 1783 it has been used for a number of different purposes, and there is still evidence of all of these uses in the building, including framing, woodwork, plastering, and material from cider-making operations dating to the beginning of the 20th century. Some of the cider-making material is stored in buildings of the same owner on the north side of Mountain Road.

The land, on both sides of the road, is cleared, and although the property on the north side of Mountain Road is undergoing some improvement as a Garden Center, an older barn complex and the cider mill itself rise well above all this on the hill and the general rural and agricultural atmosphere is maintained. The neighborhood is rural residential and agricultural. The village of North Granby is in a picturesque valley and consists mostly of 18th and 19th-century houses. A fairly large dairy farm nearby still uses the meadows on the east side of Route 189 to grow silage, and most of the buildings are in good condition. The backdrop to the west is a wooded hillside with a few contemporary houses.

Cider Mill Building: Exterior

The front of the building is 36' long. On the first floor is one square 12-pane window with a plain casing, and two doorways; the second floor has three of these square 12-pane windows with plain casings. The window sash itself and some of the glass appear to predate the siding, which is vertical tongue-and-groove pine board painted gray on the outside. Similar windows and sash are found on both ends of the building on both floors. Graffiti on the inside of the siding suggests that the current siding was put on before 1906, although it would appear from the materials that it was not long before that.³

On the south side (rear) of the cider mill building is a 15' x 36' 1 1/2-story shed addition. This was added around 1900 to house a distillery for cider brandy when George Beach first used the building for a cider mill. The siding on this shed addition appears to be of the same age as the rest of the building's siding, although it is in poorer condition because the shed is mostly open on the south side, exposing the interior of the siding. The sills on the shed addition are mostly rotted away.

South of the cider mill building there are remnants of an orchard which the owner says was in place and

¹Town of Simsbury, *Land Records*, Vol.14, Simsbury Town Vault, p. 426. Town of Granby, *Land Records*, Vol.5, Granby Town Vault, p. 95.

²Carol Laun, "Granby Heritage: Allen's Cider Mill," *The Granby Drummer*. April 1983, pp. 5 & 19.

³The date "1906" is painted on the interior of vertical tongue-and-groove siding on the north side. See continuation sheet

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Allen's Cider Mill
Granby, Ct.Section number 7 Page 1

once provided apples for the mill when her grandfather originally purchased the property. Otherwise the lot is open land.

Cider Mill Building: Interior

The first floor of the mill building has undergone substantial improvement during this century and now houses an electric grater (installed new in the 1950s) which grinds the apples into pulp, an electric hydraulic cider press, for squeezing the juice from the pulp (installed in 1975 - the steel frame, according to the owner, dates to the 1920s and was brought in from Westfield, Massachusetts, in the 1940s - see Photograph 2), a boiler to heat the mill, a refrigerator room, and storage areas in the main part of the building and in the shed (see Floor Plan). Most of the interior is painted with silver paint, and the floor is poured concrete at ground level with no joists on the ground. In the shed is a crumbling brick chimney, which leads to a metal pipe above the roof. In the northwest corner a staircase ascends to the second story. This was constructed by the present owner, who remembers no access to the second story other than a ladder on the interior of the west wall. All the posts and beams of the frame that are visible in the first story are hand hewn and measure about 12" x 10". The floor joists for the second story are sawn 2" x 10" boards. In the shed the posts, beams, and joists for the loft floor are round, and the rafters are sawn.

The second story of the mill is currently used for storage and has many interesting features that provide clues to the multiple uses of the building over the centuries. The floorboards are hard pine of varying width, some as wide as 15", and are fastened with square-head nails. A large trapdoor near the center of the building was once an opening for apples to drop into the original grater after being carried to the second story via a wooden elevator which is currently lying intact on the floor (Photograph 3). There is no finish, nor even studs, on the outside walls, although on several of the posts can be seen vestiges of plaster that once seeped through wood lath. As in the first story, the posts and beams are hewn and massive. The ceiling was plastered completely at one time, but much of it is now in crumbling condition or fallen from the wood lath. In the center of the front half of the second story ceiling is a large cylindrical depression, made by plastering the interior of a barrel set above the ceiling (Photograph 4). Apparently a lamp once hung there out of the way of dancers' heads when the building was used as a dance hall.⁴ There is also a 4' square opening into the attic almost directly under the center of the roof.

A partition which runs from the center of the west end of the second story about 24' east, then turns south to the rear of the building contains some of the most intriguing features (see Floor Plan). There are two full-length doors and a cupboard door, which by their raised panels, H&L hinges, and moldings on the cases, appear to be of 18th century vintage (Photograph 5). Wide-board wainscot below a chair rail all the way along the partition also appears quite old. Above the chair rail on plaster in very poor condition can be seen vestiges of stenciling in red and gold (Photograph 6) in a bell-and tassel and flower design. Apparently, though, at least some this partition was constructed for the hall from older materials, for there is a long closet built into the partition near the center of the building and a hole in the partition for a stovepipe.

The attic contains remnants of plastered rooms used for storing and aging cider at one time. The framing consists of a system of hewn purlins and braces with a square ridge pole about 10" x 10" into which the rafters are mortised. This ridge pole is broken in the center where a chimney originally went through the roof. The rafters are also partially cut away at this point to accommodate a chimney approximately 3' x 4' (Photograph 7).

Stored in the second story there is a number of pieces of older machinery used by the Allen family and George Beach in the past for the manufacture of cider (Photograph 8), and on the owner's property on the north side of Mountain Road is a large cider barrel that was in use as early as the 1920s and the wooden frame from the cider press that preceded the present steel-framed press (Photograph 9).

⁴Laun, p. 19.

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)

Industry
Architecture

Period of Significance

1899-1942
1783-1899

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Silas Cossitt Willis Phelps
Willis Reed George Beach

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

Criteria

Allen's Cider Mill is significant, first, because, as one of the few currently functioning cider mills in Connecticut, and as a mill that dates to the turn of the 20th century, it is representative of an industry that has been important to New England for centuries (Criterion A). Secondly, the Cider Mill building is an unusual structure, first as a wood-frame cider mill, and secondly because the surviving early material and architecture in the building is evidence of domestic, community, and now commercial use, and provides an illustration of adaptability of structure for multiple uses (Criterion C). Although the building has been moved four times in close proximity to its original site, these moves have not compromised its historical or architectural significance (Criteria Exception B). The various uses of the property over the years were responses to important trends, turning points and constants of regional social and economic history, and thus the building and its history serve as a unique illustrations of New England's past. The building is also important for local history because the people associated with it were local political and economic leaders.

Historical Background

Since Revolutionary times cider making has been of great importance to North Granby, as it has been to New England generally. On the north side of Mountain Road, across from Allen's Cider Mill, Silas Cossitt first operated a cider mill as of 1783. At that time the frame of the present Cider Mill building was the frame of his house and sat on that side of the road. Cider continued to be manufactured on the north side until approximately 1857. In 1899, George Beach began to manufacture cider in the present Cider Mill building on the south side of Mountain Road. Currently, Allen's Cider Mill is the only cider mill left in North Granby, and one of only a few still operating in Connecticut.

The Cider Mill lot was originally part of a large grant of 1733 to the heirs of Captain Thomas Holcomb.⁵ Captain Ranna Cossitt, the son of a French immigrant and one of the first settlers in the area, acquired portions of the grant in the 1750s and 1760s, apparently perceiving the value of land at what was developing into a crossroads of routes north from Simsbury into Massachusetts, and east-west between Hartland and Suffield.⁶ The Cider

⁵Simsbury, *Land Records*, Vol. 6, p. 166ff. For distribution see District of Windsor, "Estate of Thomas Holcomb" (1733), Connecticut State Library Archives.

⁶Simsbury, *Land Records*, Vol.6, p. 532, 630; Vol. 7, p.120, 210, 506, 651, 722; Vol. 11, p. 262.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Allen, Francis B. "Allen's Cider Mill." Unpub. ms., 1969, in possession of Lois Allen Longley, North Granby, Ct. Bloomfield, Town of. *Vital Records*. Bloomfield Town Vault.
- Brainard, Homer Worthinton. *A Survey of the Scovils or Scovills in England and America; Seven Hundred Years of History and Genealogy*. Hartford: By the Author, 1915.
- Cossitt, Pearl Steel. *The Cossitt Family*. Pasadena, Cal.: F.H.Cossitt, 1925.
- Cotton, Henry. "Survey of Property of Francis B. Allen" (1958, rev. 1968). Town of Granby, Maps, Vol. 12, p. 727 and Vol. 19, p. 1072. Granby Town Vault.
- First Congregational Church of North Granby. Records. Conn. State Library Ms. Collection.
- Godard, George S.,B.D. "Granby Grange, No. 5." In *The Connecticut Granges*. Edited under the supervision of a committee of the State Grange. New Haven: Industrial Publishing Company, 1900. pp. 32-37.
- Godard, Harvey. Account book. Salmon Brook Historical Society Archives.
- Granby, District of. Probate Records. Granby Town Vault.
- Granby, Town of. *Land Records*. Granby Town Vault.
- _____. *Town Meeting Records*. Vols. 1-3. Granby Town Vault.

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:

Granby Town Vault
Salmon Brook Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property about 1 1/2 acres

UTM References

A 18 67 19 51 60 46 51 13 51 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property in "The Cider Mill Lot" described in Vol. 94, p. 628, and Vol. 97, p. 480, of the Granby Land Records (see Site Plan).

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property has been the site of Allen's Cider Mill for over 70 years. Between 1858 and 1899 the Cider Mill building sat on the present North Granby Post Office lot (see Site Plan), but that lot and the present Cider Mill lot were a single parcel since 1783. Prior to 1858 the frame of the Cider Mill building was a house frame probably located on the northwest corner of Mountain Road and Route 189, directly north from its present location. That parcel has been associated with the present Cider Mill lot and Post Office lot from 1783 to the present in that they were always transferred together.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

name/title Mark Williams, Consultant
 organization _____ date Sept. 1, 1991
 street & number 68 Simsbury Rd. telephone 203-653-7193
 city or town West Granby state CT zip code 06090

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetAllen's Cider Mill
Granby, Ct.Section number 8 Page 1

Mill now sits on what was the northeast corner of his homelot. He gave a small houselot on his northeast corner to his son Silas in 1783.⁷

There is no evidence of any buildings on the property prior to 1783. An analysis of Silas Cossitt's deeds in Simsbury and Granby (incorporated from Simsbury in 1786), of census listings, and of Cossitt family records, leaves no doubt that that was the year in which Silas built his house on the northwest corner of the intersection of Mountain Road and Route 189 (Granville Road).⁸ He also had a "sider mill" [sic] on this property, and operated a store across Granville Road. However, there is no evidence of any construction, at this time, on the southwest corner of the intersection, the present site of the Allen's Cider Mill.⁹ Judging from the center-chimney construction, the size of the frame, the evidence of plastered walls, the type of woodwork and hardware still in the structure, and the subsequent history of the property, it is very likely that the frame of the Cider Mill building was the frame of Silas Cossitt's house that once stood on the north side of Mountain Road.

Silas's father ran a tavern at his home all this time and no doubt was supplied with drink from his son's mill. When the Granby Turnpike Company was formed in 1802, it set up its northern tollgate a quarter mile north of Silas's house. Then when the Barkhamsted Turnpike Company proposed a route through Cossitt's intersection, it appeared that Ranna and Silas had chosen their spot well. By 1804, however, either things did not develop as fast as planned, or the new roads actually took people away from the area, for Silas himself packed up his family and left for Ohio in that year.¹⁰ Eber B. Clark, originally from Hartland, next tried to develop the tavern business at the crossroads between 1804 and 1810. He made considerable improvements, but he soon followed the steady stream of westward travelers himself, settling with Silas Cossitt in Vernon, Ohio, in 1810.¹¹ As of that date, there were still no structures on the present site of the Cider Mill building, although Clark continued to use Silas Cossitt's mill on the north side of Mountain Road.

After a brief period of absentee ownership, the property fell into the hands of John Willey. Willey, a prosperous blacksmith who had come to North Granby in 1797, apparently was not inclined to give up on New England, and soon became one of the wealthiest and most respected men in town. Besides his blacksmith business, he held partnerships in a local sawmill and the "Cragg" gristmill, was a Representative to the General Assembly, a Justice of the Peace, and a postmaster, and operated a cider mill, distillery, and tavern.¹² James R. Hayes referred to him in his memoirs written in 1907:

This used to be called Case's Corner Old Sqr Willey on the West kept Hotel on small scale it was fashionable in the old dayes to have [a] Tavern [in] Every little neighborhood and [a] Cider Brandy Still and it was pretty freely used in almost every family and the Tavern a common resort for bad weather dayes and evenings but although every body drank it was Cider Brandy which I think was the principal drink of the common people.¹³

After Willey's death in 1832, the property came into the hands of an even wealthier man, Abner Case, who actually had been living, and continued to live, on the east side of Granville Road in a house that is no longer

⁷Simsbury, *Land Records*, Vol. 14, p.426-7.

⁸Simsbury, *Land Records*, Vol.13, p. 169; Vol. 18, p. 558. Granby, *Land Records*, Vol.5, p. 95, and 540. U.S. Bureau of Census, *First Census of the United States (1790)*, C.S.L. Archives. Pearl Steel Cossitt, *The Cossitt Family*. (Pasadena, Cal.: F.H.Cossitt, 1925), p.47.

⁹Granby, *Land Records*, Vol. 5, p. 30; Vol. 6, p. 191.

¹⁰Granby, *Land Records*, Vol.6, p. 428. Cossitt, p. 152. Granby, Town Records, Vol.1, Granby Town Vault, p.9, 40-56.

¹¹Granby, *Land Records*, Vol. 7, p. 174, 296. Vol. 8, p. 170, 185.

¹²Granby, *Land Records*, Vol.5, p.29, p.119; Vol.9, p. 125,147; Vol.13, p. 289; Vol. 17, p. 53; Vol.18,p.496; Vol. 20, p. 1. Granby, *Probate Records*, Vol.5, p.119ff. Oren Lee, Account Book 1812 -1840, Archives of the Salmon Brook Historical Society. Granby, Town Records, Vol.1, p. 17.

¹³James R. Hayes, Journal (1907), Archives of the Salmon Brook Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetAllen's Cider Mill
Granby, Ct.Section number 8 Page 2

standing. Case was a business partner of Willey's and pretty much bought up all of Willey's holdings after his death. What he did with Willey's house and the land west of the road before his own death in 1856 is not altogether clear. He did have quite a few enterprises going at once. He was a militia captain, a tavern owner, a general storekeeper, a cloth draper, a postmaster, a Justice of the Peace, a Representative to the General Assembly, a gristmill and sawmill owner, and, apparently, a one-man mortgage financier.¹⁴ Therefore, it is conceivable that he had some employees in these various pursuits who might have lived in the Willey house. On a detailed map, dated 1855, eight years after Case retired from postmastering, the Willey house is labeled "P.O.," suggesting Case may have kept the Post Office in that building when he was postmaster.¹⁵ His estate of \$75,000 on his death in 1856 is clear evidence of a skilled merchant who had benefitted greatly from his strategic location at a crossroads bustling with a young nation's growth.¹⁶

For some, like Willey and Case, these years between the War of 1812 and 1856 were good years to live in a place like Granby. These two "squires" demonstrate the business opportunities that were available in a small town in Connecticut at that time, even while a massive exodus of New Englanders to the Ohio valley was underway. Others were not so fortunate - this was a time of great dislocation, and business enterprises were not at all safe ventures. That they were both engaged in manufacturing of cider and distilling of cider brandy was certainly responsible for a good deal of their success. Even though temperance was, along with roads, one of the two most important issues on the agenda of antebellum Granby, North Granby led Hartford County in production of cider brandy with over 40 stills working overtime.¹⁷

It was shortly after Abner Case's death and the sale of his property to Wilbert Reed that Silas Cossitt's house (c.1783) was replaced by a new house in the Italianate style.¹⁸ The 1860 Manuscript Census, showing Reed's family of five living on the property and running the local poor house, suggests Reed may have continued to use the old house for the poor house. By 1864, however, Reed had ceased to be the contractor for the town poor, and from an item in an inventory of the estate of his father, who lived near and worked with Wilbert ("a lot of old doors and windows"), it would appear that the father and son had dismantled the old house.¹⁹ In Wilbert Reed's deed of purchase of 1857, there is a "barn" listed on the southwest corner lot, but that seems to have been removed by 1867 when Reed sold the property to Willis Phelps.²⁰ Possibly it was Phelps who reconstructed the old Silas Cossitt house on the southwest corner to use it for a barn.²¹ A more likely possibility is that it was left out of the 1867 deed by oversight, and that Reed had dismantled a good deal of the house in 1858, and had moved the frame to use it to house the paupers.

Whatever the case, Phelps did have the Cider Mill building on the southwest corner early in his tenancy. In the early 1870s, he moved it a short distance west and remodelled it for a dance hall, and again, before 1880, he moved it to its present location in anticipation of its use as a hall for the grange that was formed in 1875. During all the time of Reed's and Phelps' ownership there is no indication of cider manufacturing on the premises,

¹⁴Granby, *Land Records*, Vol.16, p.251; Vol.12, p.155, 484; Vol.11, p.221; Vol.24, p.147. Granby, *Town Records*, Vol. 1, p .23 .

¹⁵"Smith's Map of Hartford County, Connecticut," (Philadelphia: H.&C. Smith, 1855).

¹⁶Granby, *Probate Records*, Vol. 10, p. 31-41.

¹⁷Carol Laun, "A Temperance Song for Granby, Connecticut," *Southwoods*, 4(2) (July 1983), p.6ff. U.S.Census, *Compendium of Statistics*, (1840). C.S.L.Archives.

¹⁸This house later burned, but is shown in pictures owned by the present owner, whose grandfather lived in the house. Lois Allen Longley, Interview, 23 February 1985. Granby, *Land Records*, Vol. 27, p. 374.

¹⁹Granby, *Probate Records*, Vol. 11, pp. 82-92.

²⁰Granby, *Land Records*, Vol. 30, p. 41.

²¹Reed must not have completely disassembled it, since it is unlikely Phelps would use the same discontinuous ridge pole or replace the rafters in the same manner to show accommodation for the chimney.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetAllen's Cider Mill
Granby, Ct.Section number 8 Page 3

although it continued to be a major industry for North Granby in general. In fact, it was about the only industry in the area that did do well, for, as the creation of the grange indicates, these were rough times for farmers as they battled price declines and the rising cost of machinery necessary to do their work efficiently.

After Phelps died in 1894, the property passed through heirs until it was purchased in 1899 by George Beach, who moved his cider brandy distillery here from West Granby.²² He built the shed addition for his still and used the attic, which he reinforced, for aging his brandy, even after the town had made the manufacture of "ardent spirits" illegal in 1900. In 1912 he shut down his operation and sold the copper still for salvage because of the high metal prices of the time. In 1919 he sold his property to Arthur Allen of West Hartford, who, with his son, Francis Allen, father of the present owner, began to make sweet cider. They first used Beach's steam engine (the boiler of which is still used to heat the Cider Mill) and wood-framed press, and kept the cider in the large barrel that sits on the present owner's property on the north side of Mountain Road. Customers would draw the cider directly from that barrel. In the 1940s they installed electrical machinery and a steel-framed press purchased from a mill in Westfield, Massachusetts. The hydraulic system and the present grater are more recent renovations.²³ Thus, cider has been manufactured in this building since 1899, and on property associated with the building since 1783, except for the period between 1857 and 1899. The Allen family has operated the Mill for over 70 years.

Architecture

There are numerous clues, within the Cider Mill building in particular, to the multiple uses of the structure over the centuries. The square ridge pole in the roof, cut in the center to accommodate, as the cuts in the rafters indicate, a large chimney stack (Photograph 7), and the vestiges of plaster that seeped through lath onto posts show that the frame of the structure was once the frame of an 18th-century center-chimney colonial. It may be that some of the hardware and paneling that are found in the second story, and appear to be at least two centuries old, are original to the house, even though they may not be in their original locations within the house. The decorative stenciling on the partition appears to be early 19th-century work (Photograph 6), suggesting that at least that section of the partition north of the closet is in its original location.

The structure was moved probably four times around the intersection of Mountain Road and Route 189, each time to transform it for a different use. Between 1858, when Wilbert Reed built his new house on the northwest corner and dismantled the Cossitt house, and 1870, it was in use possibly as a barn, or possibly as a poor house, on the present North Granby Post Office lot (see Site Plan), and then moved short distances west twice between 1870 and 1880 and remodeled for a grange hall and social center.²⁴ In the second story the hole in the ceiling for the overhead lamp (Photograph 4), the arrangement of partitions for a large "hall" area and a meeting room, and the built-in closets and cupboards for grange "paraphernalia" noted in various accounts all illustrate this phase of the building's history.

Today the more apparent aspects of the structure, the vertical tongue-and-groove siding, the hole in the floor of the second story for the wooden apple elevator, the various pieces of old machinery stored in the building and on the north side of Mountain Road, the machinery on the first floor, the room divisions and plastering in the attic, and the shed addition all illustrate the structure's adaptation and readaptation during the past century for the manufacture of apple cider, its current use.

²²Granby, *Land Records*, Vol. 35, p. 596; Vol. 34, p. 203, 495. *Probate Records*, Vol. 14, pp. 19-23.

²³Francis B. Allen, "Allen's Cider Mill." Granby, *Land Records*, Vol. 38, p. 179; Vol. 44, p. 135. Laun, "A Temperance Song for Granby."

²⁴Granby, *Land Records*, Vol. 30, p. 41. Francis B. Allen, "Allen's Cider Mill." Unpub. ms., 1969, in possession of Lois Allen Longley, North Granby, Ct., p. 1. "Granby Grange No. 5 Again After Two Reorganizations." *Hartford Times*. 10 January 1940. Laun, "Granby Heritage: Allen's Cider Mill," p. 5.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Allen's Cider Mill
Granby, Ct.

Section number 8 Page 4

Summary

Allen's Cider Mill is one of the few surviving wood-frame cider mills currently operating in Connecticut. The Allen family has operated the Mill since 1919, and, prior to that, cider was manufactured in this building since 1899. The Mill represents a long tradition of cider making that dates to 1783 on this and associated neighboring parcels, and it is symbolic of an industry that has long been important to North Granby and New England in general. The building also provides a good illustration of adaptation and readaptation of material and structures for various uses, including a dwelling house between 1783 and 1858, a dance hall in the 1870s, and a grange hall in the 1880s; documentary evidence suggests the possibility of use as a barn or a poor house.

The sequence of uses since the 18th century - residence of taverners, possibly poor house, barn, community gathering place, grange headquarters, and finally cider mill, - marks off important turning points in the history of New England. The trends in New England history represented here include the development of New England back-country after the Revolution, the "Yankee Exodus" to the old Northwest, efforts to battle decay in the depleted villages through industrial development and reform movements (including temperance and poor relief), the emergence of the "Granger" response in rural communities to the dislocation of the modernizing economy, and the urbanization of small-town culture. Over the years the Cider Mill building changed in response to these trends, and thus the architectural evidence is good illustration of these developments in the region's history. Finally, some of its owners were important political and economic leaders in the Granby's history.

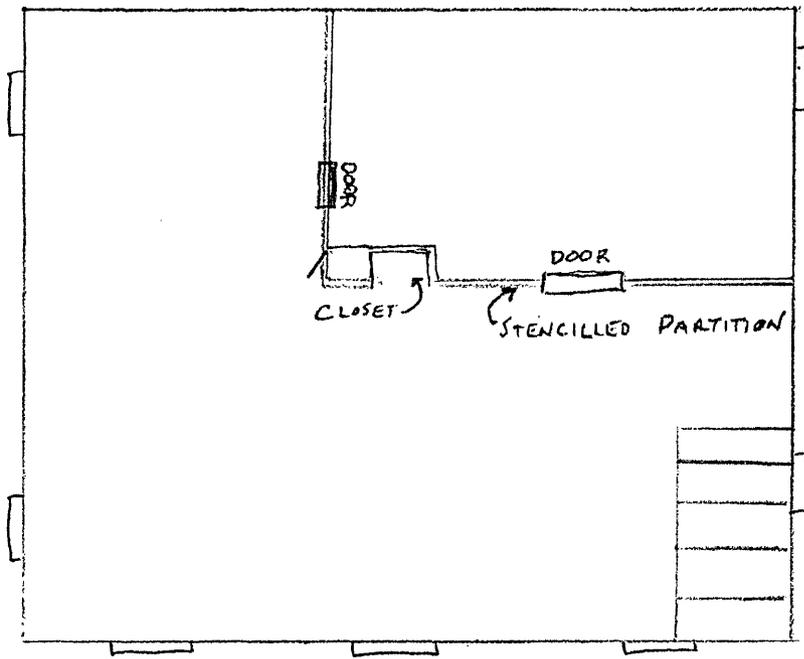
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

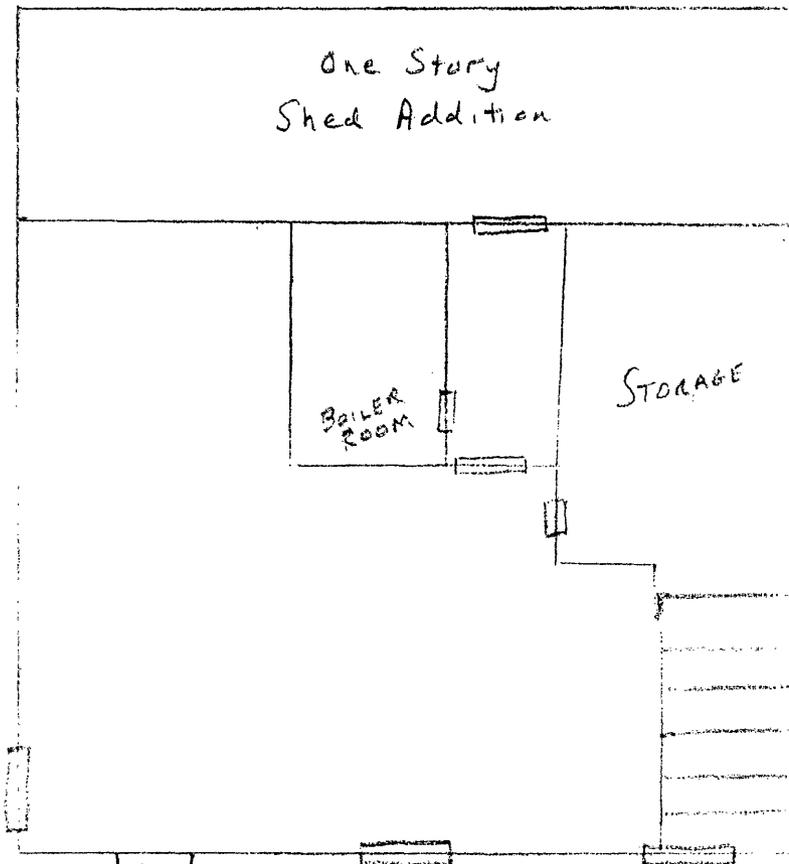
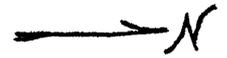
Allen's Cider Mill
Granby, Ct.

Section number 9 Page 1

- _____. *Vital Records*. Granby Town Vault.
"Granby Grange No. 5 Again After Two Reorganizations." *Hartford Times*. 10 January 1940.
Hartford, District of. Probate Records. On microfilm, Conn. State Library.
Hillyer, Pliny, et.al. "Petition...for incorporation as the Granby turnpike co." Conn. State Lib. Archives: Second Series, Vol. XI, pp. 17-18.
Laun, Carol. "A Temperance Song for Granby, Connecticut." *Southwoods* 4(2) (July 1983): p.6ff.
_____. "Granby Heritage: Allen's Cider Mill." *The Granby Drummer*, April 1983, p.5ff.
Lee, Oren. Account book. Salmon Brook Historical Society Archives.
Longley, Lois Allen. Interview, 23 February 1985.
Reed, Willis. Account book. Salmon Brook Historical Society Archives.
Root, James Pierce. *Root Genealogical Records 1600-1870*. New York: R.C.Root, Anthony & Co., 1870.
Salmon Brook Historical Society. *Heritage of Granby*. Granby, Conn.: By the Society, 1967.
Simsbury, District of. *Probate Records*. Simsbury Town Vault.
Simsbury, Town of. *Land Records*. Simsbury Town Vault.
_____. *Town Meeting Records*. Vols. 1-4. Simsbury Town Vault.
_____. *Vital Records*. Simsbury Town Vault.
"Smith's Map of Hartford County, Connecticut. From Actual Surveys by C.M Woodford, C.S. West Avon."
Philadelphia: H. & C. Smith, 1855. Connecticut State Library Archives.
"Town Grange to Celebrate 102nd Anniversary." *Hartford Courant*. 29 November 1969.
United States, Department of Commerce. Bureau of Census. Manuscript Census returns for 1790-1900. On microfilm, Conn. State Library.
Willey, Henry. *Isaac Willey of New London and his Descendants*. New Bedford, Mass.: Henry Willey, 1888.



SECOND STORY



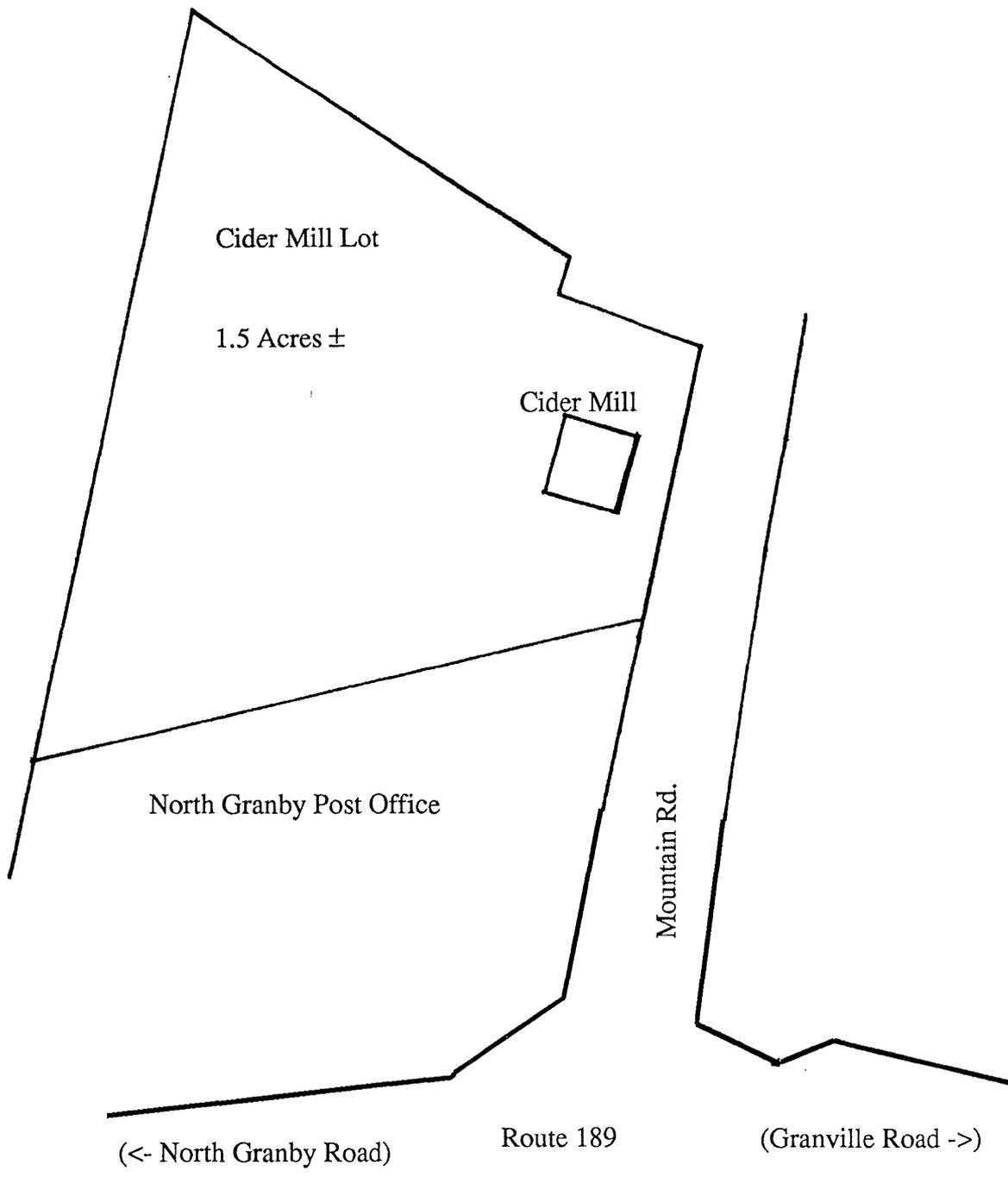
FIRST STORY

Floor Plan

Allen's
Cider
Mill

Granby,
Hartford County,
Connecticut

1" = 4'



Site Plan of Allen's Cider Mill, 7 Mountain Road, North Granby, Connecticut. Owned by Lois Allen Longley. Sources: Survey of Property of Francis B. Allen, July 7, 1958, Granby Maps, Vol. 12, p. 727; Survey of Property of Francis B. Allen, Feb. 22, 1968, Granby Maps, Vol. 19, p. 1072; Granby Land Records, Vol. 94, p. 628 and Vol. 97, p. 480.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Key to Photographs
ALLEN'S CIDER MILL
7 Mountain Road, North Granby, Ct.

1. CIDER MILL BUILDING, EXTERIOR, FRONT ELEVATION, VIEW NORTHEAST
Mark Williams Photo 6/89
Negative: Ct. Historical Commission
2. CIDER MILL BUILDING, INTERIOR, FIRST STORY, SHOWING CURRENT CIDER PRESS WITH STEEL FRAME, VIEW NORTH
Edmund Longley Photo 10/91
Negative: Ct. Historical Commission
3. CIDER MILL BUILDING, INTERIOR, SECOND STORY, SHOWING WOODEN ELEVATOR FOR LIFTING APPLES TO TOP OF FORMER GRATER
Edmund Longley Photo 10/91
Negative: Ct. Historical Commission
4. CIDER MILL BUILDING, INTERIOR, CEILING IN SECOND STORY SHOWING PLASTERED RECESSED AREA FOR LAMP TO HANG
Mark Williams Photo 6/89
Negative: Ct. Historical Commission
5. CIDER MILL BUILDING, INTERIOR, SECOND STORY, DOOR IN PARTITION SHOWING RAISED PANELING, H & L HINGES, AND STENCILING ON WALLS, VIEW NORTH
Mark Williams Photo 6/89
Negative: Ct. Historical Commission
6. CIDER MILL BUILDING, INTERIOR, SECOND STORY, CLOSE-UP OF STENCILING SHOWING BELL-AND-TASSEL DESIGN WITH VERY FAINT FLOWER (LOWER RIGHT), VIEW NORTH
Mark Williams Photo 6/85
Negative: Ct. Historical Commission
7. CIDER MILL BUILDING, INTERIOR, VIEW OF ROOF FROM SECOND STORY BENEATH, SHOWING BREAK IN RIDGE POLE AND CUTS IN RAFTERS TO ACCOMMODATE FORMER CHIMNEY STACK
Edmund Longley Photo 10/91
Negative: Ct. Historical Commission
8. CIDER BARREL, C.1920, FORMERLY USED BY ALLEN'S CIDER MILL, BARREL NOW ON PROPERTY OF CIDER MILL OWNER ON NORTH SIDE OF MOUNTAIN ROAD
Edmund Longley Photo 10/91
Negative: Ct. Historical Commission
9. WOODEN FRAME OF FORMER CIDER PRESS, NOW LOCATED ON PROPERTY OF CIDER MILL OWNER ON NORTH SIDE OF MOUNTAIN ROAD
Edmund Longley Photo 10/91
Negative: Ct. Historical Commission