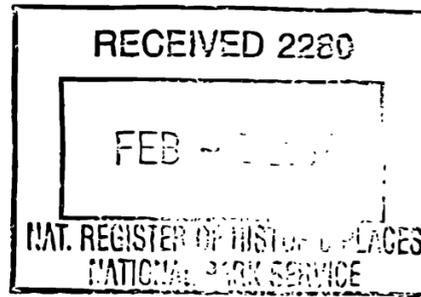


11/27/07

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



153

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name DIMOND HILL FARM  
other names/site number n/a

#### 2. Location

street & number 314 Hopkinton Road N/A  not for publication  
city or town Concord N/A  vicinity  
state New Hampshire code NH county Merrimack code 013 zip code 03301

#### 3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Thomas W. Beall* 1/29/07  
Signature of certifying official 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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is  
 entered in the National Register *Edwin H. Beall* Signature of Keeper 3-19-07 Date of Action  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
1	0	sites
1	7	structures
0	0	objects
6	8	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding  
AGRICULTURE /agricultural field  
AGRICULTURE /animal facility  
AGRICULTURE /storage

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding  
AGRICULTURE /agricultural field  
AGRICULTURE /animal facility  
AGRICULTURE /storage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Colonial Revival

foundation BRICK  
STONE

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

METAL

other N/A

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Dimond Hill Farm is located on Hopkinton Road (NH Route 202), approximately four miles west of downtown Concord. The property includes 112 acres of fields, pasture and woodland: thirty-eight acres on the south side of the road and seventy-four acres on the north. Included on the property are six buildings, all of which relate directly to the farm; only one is a non-contributing resource (due to age). Four of the buildings are located on the north side of the road. The main complex consists of a house with rear ell built in 1892; an attached shed consisting of a wood shed, wagon shed, harness room and milk room and all built sometime between 1882 and 1892 and most likely in 1892; and an attached gable-front barn erected in 1882. All of these buildings are aligned to front on the road. Behind the barn is a corn crib built ca. 1850s. On the south side of the road—directly across from the barn—stands a shop built ca. 1830. South of the shop is the sole non-contributing building, a storage shed erected in 1973. The property also includes seven non-contributing structures erected within the past twenty years: four plant houses and three sheds, all located clustered on the north side of the road. A variety of historic landscape features are on the property, including stone walls and granite work of varying types, barn ramps, cow path, fields, pasture, woodland and viewsheds.

**1. House, 1892. Contributing building.**

The house is comprised of a 2 ½ story, side-gable, 5x3 bay main house and a 2 ½ story, gable-roof rear ell, both with vernacular Queen Anne and Colonial Revival features and constructed in a single building campaign. The building is a balloon-frame structure that sits on a brick foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two ridge chimneys with stepped bases and corbeled caps rise from the main block and a third from the ell. Copper lightning rods also rise from the roof ridges. The walls are clad with clapboard siding. Trim consists of flat window and door casings with molded caps, narrow, baseless corner pilasters, and a flat frieze board. The gable ends of the main block are pedimented and sheathed with decorative, octagonal wood shingles; a continuous flat trim board extends the width of the gable, above the windows. Except as noted, windows have double-hung, two-over-two sash and are flanked with modern vinyl blinds.

The main house features a centrally positioned entry porch surmounted by a 2 ½ story pedimented pavilion on the south (front) elevation. The porch has exposed chamfered rafters, a truss in the gable with curved and scalloped infill trim, chamfered posts, curved brackets, turned balusters, and a handrail with peaked cap. The deck is wood boards, and the steps include a granite bottom step and wood upper step. Double wood-and-glass-panel doors with raised molding (glass panel above two horizontal wood panels of differing sizes) lead into the front

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7      **Page** 2

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

hallway of the house. The pavilion has two two-over-two sash windows on the south face and a single one-over-one sash window on the east and west faces. A sunburst motif distinguishes its pediment.

The east elevation has a two-story, angular bay window with a two-over-two-sash window in the outer face and a one-over-one-sash window in each side face. A flat-roof porch extends from the southeast corner to the middle of the bay window; its posts, brackets and balustrade match that of the façade porch. Two deep granite steps, followed by two wood steps, lead to the porch. (A ca. 1903 photograph shows a single granite step and the half-round mounting block directly in front of it. The block is now located next to the front walkway.) Wooden lattice shields the area beneath the porch. The side door leading inside from the porch has paired, elongated, vertical glass panels above wood panels.

The west elevation mirrors the east, minus the bay window and porch. A bulkhead (which is original to the house) with brick side walls and double, hinged doors made of vertical boards is found at the southwest corner.

The ell is similar in appearance to the main house, though lacks a pedimented gable with decorative shingles. The fenestration on the west wall was altered in the late 1960s: two of the windows on the first story were removed and replaced with a shallow one-over-one window and a shallow tripartite window. On the north wall there is a shed-roof enclosed extension that appears to be original. In 2001 a pressure-treated deck was built abutting the rear of the ell and shed.

Alterations to the exterior of the house are limited to replacement blinds (historic photographs indicate the house, shed and barn had wooden blinds when built – tripartite on the house and two-part on the shed and barn); fenestration on the west elevation of the ell; enclosure of the rear ell porch; and deck attached to the rear of the ell and shed.

Like the exterior, the interior of the house is little altered. Simply fitted out, its architectural features include a carved newel post on the front stairway, molded, baseboards, molded door and window casings with corner blocks, five-panel doors, and two Colonial Revival fireplaces, one with a two-color tiled hearth.

**2. Shed, ca. 1892. Contributing building.**

The shed is a lengthy (50'), one-story, gable-roof, multi-purpose building that connects the ell of the house to the barn. Physical evidence and documentary materials indicate it was constructed

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

after the barn, most likely contemporaneously with the house. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles; on its ridge are a corbeled brick ridge chimney near the east end and a small iron bell near the center. Walls are clad with clapboards and trimmed with flat boards. The south (front) elevation is recessed for much of its length; a segmental arch wagon opening with a keystone and a rolling, vertical-board door, is the dominant feature. To its west are two windows: the one closest to the house has two-over-two double-hung sash, while the one within the shed proper has six-over-six, double-hung sash. The easternmost portion of the elevation – the milk room—is flush with the eave and has two six-over-six windows.<sup>1</sup> All of the south elevation windows have replacement vinyl blinds (the only exterior alteration to the shed). The north (rear) elevation has a single six-over-six window in the main block. Extending to the north is a gable-roof, clapboard-clad wing on concrete piers. An original part of the shed, it has six-over-six-sash windows.

The interior of the shed is divided into several functional spaces. The west end, closest to the house, is the wood shed. North of it is the harness room. The middle section, which extends into the wing, is the wagon shed. In the southeast corner is the former milk room.

**3. Barn, 1882. Contributing building.**

The 90' x 40' bank barn is attached to the east elevation of the shed and oriented gable front to the road. It is a timber-frame structure on a stone and granite block foundation. The roof is sheathed with corrugated metal; lightening rods and a square ventilator project from the ridge. The ventilator has a single, two-over-two sash window in each face. Atop its hip roof is a weathervane with a large cow – a replacement for the original, stolen vane. The walls are clad with clapboard; trim consists of flat cornerboards, door and window casings, and cornice returns. The south-facing façade features a wagon entrance with paired rolling doors that are faced with diagonal boards and a twelve-light transom above. A low-pitched concrete ramp leads to the entrance. Over the transom, the name of the farm is painted in black letters. Small, six-light sliding windows flank the entrance. Two standard-size windows with two-over-two sash are over the transom, and a third is located in the gable peak.

The north elevation mirrors the south, except the paired doors are hinged and the ramp is earthen. Three small, six-pane windows and a vertical-board door found at the north end puncture the west elevation. The east elevation has two small six-pane windows and one standard-size

---

<sup>1</sup> When first constructed, this part of the shed had a single window and the entire south wall of the shed was recessed. Sometime between 1909 and 1930, the milk room wall was brought out flush with the eave and a second window inserted.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 7 **Page** 4

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

window. All of the window openings on the south and east elevations have vinyl replacement blinds. (Historic photographs show blinds on all but the two small openings on the east wall.)

A one-story, clapboard-clad wing, built between 1882 and 1904, extends from the northeast corner. It was originally a carriage and tool house but later used as a stable for heifers and calves. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles on the north slope and standing-seam metal on the south. Two small, six-pane windows pierce the north elevation and two standard-size windows with two-over-two sash the south elevation. The basement level is open on the south. At the east end of the wing, there is a higher, one-bay, clapboard-clad extension with a perpendicular ridgeline built ca. 1906 to house two internal silos.

The interior of the barn has a 12' center drive floor. A cow stable extends along most of the west bay (metal stanchions remain). Five horse stalls (later changed to calf pens and now used in part for farm stand operations) occupy the south end of the east bay, while the north end of the east bay has two bays dedicated to hay storage. Additional hay storage is provided in hay lofts and in the scaffold over the drive floor. Both the hay fork and track are in place and serviceable. The wing is undivided open space. At its east end are two interior silos, built in a ca. 1906 extension. The silos are round, steel-banded, vertical-wood-stave structures measuring 20' in height and 10' in diameter. They replaced an earlier exterior silo that stood on the site of the corn crib.<sup>2</sup>

**4. Corn Crib, ca. 1850s. Contributing structure.**

Located behind (north of) and close to the barn, the corn crib is a small, timber-frame structure that rests on wood posts set on low concrete piers. Its side walls are only slightly slanted. The west (front), east and part of the south walls have clapboard siding, while the north wall and remainder of the south are sheathed with vertical wood slats. Trim is limited to corner and frieze boards and consists of flat boards. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The sole opening is the west door, which is made of vertical boards and hung on strap hinges.

The interior of the corn crib is partitioned along the side walls with horizontal slats to create three cribs (and more as needed). Chalk marks on the slats count bushels stored in past years, with dates as early as 1870. Family records indicate the structure could accommodate approximately 475 bushels of ear corn.

The corn crib was moved to this location ca. 1906, when the existing silo on this spot was dismantled and replaced by two interior silos in an eastern addition to the barn. While the

---

<sup>2</sup> A photograph in the Presby family collection shows the earlier silo being dismantled.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

original location of the corn crib is unknown, it likely stood on the site of that addition, which would have been both close by and had the necessary northwest exposure to expedite drying.

**5. Shop, ca. 1830. Contributing building.**

The only contributing building on the south side of Hopkinton Road, the shop stands directly across from the barn, fronting onto the road with no setback. It is a two-story, timber-frame structure oriented gable front to the road that rests on granite and stone blocks placed at each corner. Walls are covered with clapboards and the roof with asphalt shingles. A brick stove chimney with a pointed arch cap rises from the ridge. Flat trim boards articulate the corners, frieze and window openings. Spanning the north (front) elevation are two sets of paired, hinged doors, distinctively made of beaded-board panels with chamfered braces and a single row of small lights across the mid-section. (The doors appear to date from the late nineteenth century, when the rest of the farm buildings were erected.) In front of the doors, there is a concrete pad, and above them is an elongated, vertical-board, loading door.

Both the east and west elevations have two pairs of horizontal, twelve-light sliding windows on the lower story and two six-over-six-sash windows on the second. Vinyl blinds flank the side window openings. (Historically, these windows lacked blinds.) The rear (south) elevation lacks openings.

The interior of the shop reflects its historic functions. The first floor was used for metal working and, in later years, also as a garage. Metal latches and pins produced here were used by Amoskeag Manufacturing Company in its mills and tenements.<sup>3</sup> The forge, workbench and wall cabinets are extant interior features. The second floor, reached by stairs along the south wall, was the carpentry shop, where several employees produced sash, blinds, doors and finish for buildings in the Concord vicinity.

**6. Storage shed, 1973. Non-contributing building (due to age).**

Midway down the south field, set toward the west edge in a grove of trees, is a 60' wood-frame storage shed. The roof is covered with corrugated metal and walls with vertical boards. The entire east (front) elevation is comprised of two pairs of rolling doors made of vertical boards.

The storage shed replaced a smaller equipment shed and is used to store machinery.

---

<sup>3</sup> Jane Presby interview.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

**7a-d. Plant Houses (4), 2000, 2003, 2005. Non-contributing structures (due to age).**

Four plant houses are located west of the cow path. Known as high-tunnel houses, they are temporary structures made of curved metal frames covered with plastic. The ends are enclosed with plywood.

**8a-c. Sheds (3), ca. 1970-90s. Non-contributing structures (due to age).**

North of the plant houses are three small sheds. The westernmost shed, a poultry house (a), has a gable roof covered with corrugated metal, vertical-board siding, an opening along the south side and a full-width canopy on that side. The middle shed, a pump house (b), has plywood walls and a gable roof covered with corrugated metal. The easternmost shed, an animal pen (c), has vertical-board wall sheathing, gable roof covered with corrugated metal, and a shed-roof extension to the west.

**9. Site. Contributing site.**

All of the land included within the boundary of the Dimond Hill Farm nomination has been historically associated with the farm since the early nineteenth century and is typical of northern New England farms in terms of its diverse nature and supportive role in the functioning of the farm. The property includes 112 acres of farm yard, fields, pasture and woodland.

*Front yard*

The front yard lies between the house and the road and set off from the road by a low, dressed granite wall with square posts at each break in the wall and two granite steps on axis with the front entrance of the house. The wall was built shortly after the house was constructed. Granite curb stone defines the west edge of the driveway. Near the walkway to the front entrance are a curved granite mounting block and a granite hitching post.

*Door yard*

The door yard is the sheltered, south-facing space in front of the shed and barn; like the front yard, it is set off from the road by a low, dressed granite wall. Historically a grassy area, the door yard is now largely paved to provide parking for the farmstand in the barn. On the remaining lawn is a wooden well cover with an iron pump on top.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 7

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

*Barn yard*

The barn yard lies east of the barn, extending to the road. Set at a lower level than the front and door yards, its western edge is defined by a retaining wall constructed of field boulders and split granite capstones. A wagon road marks its eastern edge. Currently, much of the yard is enclosed by a wood, vertical-board fence supported by a variety of granite and wooden posts.

*Pastures*

A five-acre pasture bounded by stone walls is located north of the farmstead, along the west property line. Leading to it is a cow path marked by a stone wall on either side. A large – and contiguous pasture – lies north and east of the small pasture. Now somewhat overgrown, this twenty-one-acre area is bounded by stone walls on the north, west and part of the east sides.

*Fields*

Two fields accompany the farmstead. Directly east of, and extending behind the barn is the north field, approximately eight acres in size. Stone walls bound its Hopkinton Road frontage, as well as its east and north edges. Just part the north edge of the this field is a ledgy knoll, the highest point on the farm and the site of a equipment shed and playhouse, both since removed.

Across Hopkinton Road is the thirty-eight-acre south field. A swath of woodland divides the larger, north section from the south section. A wagon road leads from the road down the length of the field and on to adjacent fields at one point owned by the family. Stone walls bound the north and east perimeter and most of the south and west perimeter.

*Woodland*

The northernmost portion of the property, which fronts on Currier Road, is woodland, comprising slightly over thirty-seven acres. It is bounded by stone walls along the west edge (also the property lot line), part of the road frontage and on the south, where it abuts the larger pasture. A woods road that originates in the larger pasture runs north through the woodland to Currier Road.

On the west side of the road, near the south stone wall, is a small pond made by damming a stream; the sluiceway made of stepped granite blocks survives in the northeast corner. A fieldstone wall capped with granite blocks serves to detain water in the pond. The Abbott-Presby family harvested ice from the pond into the mid-twentieth century. (The ice house, which stood

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section   7   Page   8**

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

on a flat spot immediately north of the pond, is no longer extant.) Below the pond, the stream spread into wetlands and provided drinking water for the cows.

### 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory history.

**Criteria Considerations**  
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
AGRICULTURE

**Period of Significance**  
1827-1956

**Significant Dates**  
1827 – the year the Abbott-Presby family purchased the farm  
1882 – barn constructed  
1892 – house and shed constructed

**Significant Person**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**  
N/A

**Architect/Builder**  
Hutchinson, E.B. (builder)

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography**(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data****Acreage of Property** 112 acres**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>19</u>	<u>287000</u>	<u>4786235</u>	3	<u>19</u>	<u>287410</u>	<u>4785980</u>
2	<u>19</u>	<u>287410</u>	<u>4786080</u>	4	<u>19</u>	<u>287260</u>	<u>4786000</u>

xx See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Elizabeth Durfee Hengen with Sarah Rose Dangelasorganization Preservation Consultant date October 30, 2006street & number 25 Ridge Road telephone (603) 225-7977city or town Concord state NH zip code 03301**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Equity Trust, Inc., c/o Ellie Kastanopolousstreet & number PO Box 746 telephone 413-863-9038city or town Turners Falls state MA zip code 01376**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Dimond Hill Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for its significance in the area of agriculture. The property possesses an exceptionally high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Dimond Hill Farm's significance in the area of agriculture stems from its continuous use as a family farm since 1827. Passed down through six generations of the Abbott-Presby family, the farm has adapted with both the times and the particular interests of the property's owners. The historic farm buildings, which include a house, shed, barn, corn crib and shop, together with farmyards and 112 acres of surrounding fields, pasture and woodland, reflect the interrelationships of domestic and agricultural functions on a farm property. The farmstead is a virtually unaltered example of a connected house, shed and barn. This connected farm building property type, which allowed its occupants to undertake a wide range of farm activities without exposure to the harsh weather, was a popular building form found in much of northern New England during the nineteenth century. Though a late example of its type, the Dimond Hill farmstead was recognized on a New England level for its exemplary design and practical arrangement.

The period of significance is 1827-1956. The earlier date reflects the year the Abbott-Presby family first farmed the property. The later date reflects the fifty-year cut-off for the Register, a moving date since the property continues to evolve as an agricultural resource. The significant dates are 1827, the year the family began to farm the property; and 1882 and 1892, the two years when the family replaced the primary farm buildings—the barn and house respectively—in an effort to modernize the farm.

**Agriculture**

Dimond Hill Farm is a highly significant agricultural landscape within the City of Concord. It is one of the few farms within the city limits from any era to remain in agricultural production. Dimond Hill Farm is also significant for being continuously farmed by the same family for six generations – over 175 years. The landscape of Dimond Hill Farm illustrates typical building arrangements and agricultural land use patterns in the region during the period of significance.

The farm lies on a hilltop on the western edge of Millville, an early village within Concord, four and a half miles from the State House in the city center. Millville was a small mill community in the nineteenth century, with a school, saw mill, brickyard, and cemetery. Hopkinton Road, a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

well-traveled eighteenth-century stage route leading from downtown Concord to Hopkinton, passed through Millville.<sup>1</sup>

The farm itself, including the buildings and its cultivated landscapes, typifies family farm culture in the region. The farm began modestly for subsistence and perhaps local sales, but like most in central New Hampshire became known for dairying toward the end of the nineteenth century. The first Abbott, Joseph Story, combined farming with carpentry work. From the shop he erected on the property ca. 1830, shortly after purchasing the farm, he made windows, doors and blinds, employing others to assist him. During the growing season, he raised a variety of grains, maintained livestock and made butter and cheese from his milk. The next generation gradually shifted toward dairying, paralleling the increase in dairy operations throughout the state in the post-Civil War era and continuing into the mid-twentieth century.

Although Dimond Hill Farm was fairly typical in terms of its size and output, the Abbott-Presby family was forward thinking. Between 1882 and 1892, Isaac Abbott replaced all of the major farm buildings with new, up-to-date, spacious structures, after which the farm was twice singled out to stand as a commendable example for farms of its type. In 1904, a regional periodical, *New England Homestead*, ran a feature on the farm after soliciting entries for a farm buildings contest. Though it is unclear whether Dimond Hill won the award, the journal published Isaac's submission of a floor plan and photograph of the farm, along with an article, aptly titled "For Comfort and Convenience," which applauded the design's success in combining modern improvements and home comfort with a practical arrangement of farm buildings. Ultimately, the article concluded that, "Farmers who contemplate building might do well to consider a similar arrangement."<sup>2</sup>

The second instance was in 1909, when Dimond Hill Farm and the Abbott family were featured in *The Granite Monthly*, the preeminent New Hampshire magazine. The farm was chosen for this article to represent a farm "capable with intelligent management and industrious cultivation, of maintaining families in comfort and independence, and insuring ample means of support when laboring days are over." The increasing turnover of farms to summer homes for wealthy outsiders was threatening enough to editors at the state magazine, that this article was commissioned to show by example that a family farm could be both comfortable and, more

---

<sup>1</sup> Until 1823, Hopkinton was the county seat, and for a period, it hosted the state legislature. Concord eventually assumed both functions.

<sup>2</sup> "For Comfort and Convenience." *New England Homestead* 48, no. 2 (January, 9, 1904): 34-35. This article indicated that the award winners had been announced the previous month (that issue has not yet been located). However, that the Abbott's farm was featured in this issue, suggests it received an award.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 3

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

important, profitable. The new farmhouse at Dimond Hill was described as “commodious and first class in all respects, making it one of the best farm homes in the state.”<sup>3</sup>

The Abbotts’ and Presbys’ interests extended beyond their farmstead. They were active in local granges, regional and statewide agricultural clubs, and kept abreast of developments in dairy farming. In the 1920s, Joseph Abbott was a founder and later vice-president of a local dairy cooperative. Family members also served on city boards and represented their district in the state legislature.

### Historical Background

Dimond Hill took on its name after Ezekiel Dimond and his family settled there in the mid-eighteenth century.<sup>4</sup> Dimond’s descendants continued to live in the vicinity of the hill for generations. Ca. 1800, Ezekiel’s son, Isaac Dimond, built a home on the site of the current Dimond Hill Farm.<sup>5</sup> He did not inhabit the place long, however. In 1809, shortly after his parents’ deaths, Isaac Dimond sold this property and joined his brothers in Warner, NH. The property was then advertised as a ninety-acre farm, four miles from Concord’s meetinghouse and three miles from Hopkinton’s court house, with a house “partly two story, well calculated for public use.”<sup>6</sup> The property changed hands once or twice until May of 1827, when housewright Joseph Story Abbott (1800-1878) purchased the property from Washington Berry for \$1,850. The purchase then included 147 acres, with buildings thereon, “on road leading to Hopkinton.”<sup>7</sup>

Joseph S. Abbott was the second son of Mary T. Story and Samuel Abbott, a third-generation Concord farmer, who resided near Long Pond. At age fourteen, he left home to learn the carpentry trade in West Concord. He learned quickly and became “one of the smartest tradesmen in Concord.”<sup>8</sup> He is credited with building one of Concord’s early railroad depots, but

---

<sup>3</sup> "Dimond Hill Farm." *The Granite Monthly* 41, no. 5 (1909): 153-56.

<sup>4</sup> Amsden, 1930s-50s: Chapter 17: 1-5; Lyford, 1903: 25.

<sup>5</sup> This is the house that Isaac Abbott had moved across Hopkinton Road in the 1890s and still stands at 327 Hopkinton Road.

<sup>6</sup> Amsden: 17:4. Although “public use” suggests a tavern, it is not known if it was so used.

<sup>7</sup> MCRD Book 10/484 (1827). Washington Berry was born ca. 1800 and was also a farmer. The property, less seven acres, was “the same farm [Berry] bought of Ezra Hutchins,” or his heirs, in 1823. The grantor on the 1823 deed is Dolly Hutchins, who may have been Ezra’s daughter. The deed records that she received the “lands and buildings” from her mother, Sarah Hutchins. It also notes that Dolly was a “single woman and spinster” from Andover, NH [U.S. Population Census, 1860, 1870; MCRD Book 12/126 (1823)].

<sup>8</sup> *Biographical Review*, 1897: vol. XXII, 89-90; Stearns, 1908: 361.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 4

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

primarily built houses.<sup>9</sup> One of the first homes he built was for a man in Amherst, New Hampshire. Joseph immediately received a favorable letter from the man, praising his work and person: "You are the best mechanic and most industrious man I ever had in my employ in my life."<sup>10</sup>

On December 24, 1827, Joseph married Esther Farnum (1803-1890) of West Concord. Their daughter, Almira F., was born in 1831 and died, still living on the farm, in December of 1862. Their second and last child, Isaac Newton, was born on the farm January 4, 1835.<sup>11</sup>

Joseph S. Abbott was foremost a craftsman and builder, not a farmer. He hired out farm work so he could continue to pursue construction and carpentry.<sup>12</sup> In 1830, he built himself a workshop on his property that stands today.<sup>13</sup> There, he operated a sash and blind shop. Using lumber from a nearby mill and hired help, he made doors, windows, blinds, and other finish work throughout the winter to sell when the market was right for building in the spring.<sup>14</sup> The shop was notable enough to be labeled a "shop" on Concord's maps in 1858 and 1892. The ground level of the shop contained a small foundry, where the Abbotts crafted hardware, horseshoes, and other metalwork for the farm and buildings.

Although Joseph S. Abbott concentrated on his building trade, the farm was far from neglected. For the 1850 agricultural schedule of the federal census, the Abbotts reported 100 improved acres (with 90 unimproved) and a cash value for the farm and equipment at \$7,150. The farm had six milk cows, a horse, four working oxen, and four swine, valued altogether at \$450. The cultivated land brought in 70 bushels of corn, and 100 bushels each of oats and potatoes. The family also produced 400 pounds of butter and 300 pounds of cheese.<sup>15</sup> These figures, when compared with the other forty farms recorded on that page – farms of the Millville neighborhood

---

<sup>9</sup> The *Biographical Review* (1897: 90) credits Abbott with building the "station of the Concord Railroad that was burned some years ago, and also the machine shop, which is still in use." Amsden (1950s) writes that Joseph S. Abbott "was identified with the building of Concord's first railroad station" [Amsden, Chapter 17, page 5].

<sup>10</sup> Stearns: 361.

<sup>11</sup> All of the deceased Abbotts mentioned in this nomination (except Mildred Abbott Dodge) are buried in Millville Cemetery, east of the farm on Hopkinton Road.

<sup>12</sup> "Dimond Hill Farm," 1909: 154.

<sup>13</sup> *Biographical Review*: 90.

<sup>14</sup> Stearns: 361; Amsden: 154.

<sup>15</sup> Agricultural Schedule for the Federal Census, 1850.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 5

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

– show that Dimond Hill was slightly above the average for the area in size and value, conventional in what and how much it produced.<sup>16</sup>

In 1870, the agricultural schedule reported little change in habit, and some growth since 1850. The acreage remained about the same, at 180 acres, with 100 of those improved. The farm value (including implements) was up to \$7,800. The Abbotts reported \$150 in wages paid, including board value.<sup>17</sup> For livestock, they had one horse, eight milk cows, two working oxen, three other cattle, one sheep, and six swine totaling \$900 worth. The Abbotts registered eighteen bushels of wheat, ninety bushels of oats, 100 bushels of potatoes, and one bushel of beans. They produced twice as much corn in 1870 as in 1850, with 150 bushels. Hay yield remained constant at thirty tons. The agricultural schedules for the census did not include milk until 1870.<sup>18</sup> That year, Dimond Hill Farm produced 600 pounds of butter, no cheese, and 2,000 gallons of milk—an average amount in the neighborhood—for market.<sup>19</sup> All told, the “estimated value of all farm produce including betterments and additions to stock” for Dimond Hill came in at \$2,100. Only three of the other thirty-nine farms recorded on the same page in that 1870 census recorded a higher amount, and the average value for the thirty-nine farms on that page came in at \$1,192.<sup>20</sup>

Isaac Newton Abbott (1835-1912) inherited the farm from his father when he died in 1878, but had been managing it for some time.<sup>21</sup> By 1860, at age twenty-five, he had established himself as a farmer and ten years later, his father had retired leaving him solely in charge of the farm. Since childhood, Isaac devoted himself to the farm. He was born on and he died on Dimond Hill Farm,

---

<sup>16</sup> Agricultural Schedule for the Federal Census, 1850. Dimond Hill Farm’s dairy production did not stand out at this time, although several farms in the area were apparently doing a good dairy business. Twelve farms of the forty had five or more milk cows, enough to indicate they produced dairy products for market (butter or cheese during this period). A. Webster’s 300-acre farm had twelve milk cows and forty other cattle. Moses Gill’s 130 acres was valued at an impressive \$10,000 and he had eleven milk cows and twelve other cattle. Five farms reported 1000 pounds of butter and Moses Gill was most prolific at 1500 pounds. Gill also led the cheese production for the farms in the area, with 1000 pounds of cheese, far above the others.

<sup>17</sup> Agricultural Schedule for the Federal Census, 1870; U.S. Population Census, 1870. This was the first schedule to ask about wages. In 1870, at least one farm laborer, John Frye, age 20, boarded on the property according to the population census. Most likely, the family also hired seasonal help for the farm.

<sup>18</sup> In the 1860 schedule, the census taker made a note on the page containing the Dimond Hill area that he added milk production figures to the “cheese” column. However, no milk was recorded for the Abbotts.

<sup>19</sup> Agricultural Schedule for the Federal Census, 1870. Twenty of the thirty-nine farms reported on this census page (Concord, Ward 7) sold milk for a total of 44,450 gallons. John Hall’s farm had the most, with 9,000 gallons coming from his twenty milk cows.

<sup>20</sup> Agricultural Schedule for the Federal Census, 1870

<sup>21</sup> “Dimond Hill Farm:” 154.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

spending time away from it only to complete his schooling. He attended local schools as well as the Hopkinton and New London academies. He became a teacher for a short while before returning to Dimond Hill to resume farming and start a family.<sup>22</sup> Isaac married Martha Smith of Hopkinton in 1862. They had three children: Almira F., born in 1864; Joseph Newton, born in 1866; and Helen Smith, born in 1873.<sup>23</sup>

Isaac N. Abbott's "intelligent management and industry" helped make Dimond Hill "one of the best farms of its size in the county of Merrimack."<sup>24</sup> The 1880 population census and the agricultural schedule recorded in tandem reveal some of the activities of the farm at the time. Acreage had not yet grown beyond the 100 improved acres (30 tilled and 70 pasture) and eighty unimproved, and the recorded value of the farm and implements real estate had actually declined to \$6,275.<sup>25</sup> The value of all of the produce, however, had risen to \$3,900, placing it second only to St. Paul's School in the Millville area.<sup>26</sup> Livestock included two horses and six swine, as well as thirty chickens that produced 260 eggs in 1879. The cattle figures became more detailed in the 1880 census: nine milk cows, two oxen, and five other cattle were recorded, along with ten calves dropped, five cattle sold living, and five cattle purchased in the previous year. The livestock was valued at \$900. There were also bees on the farm, producing fifty pounds of honey and two pounds of wax. Cultivated produce included 25 bushels of corn, 72 bushels of oats, 1 bushel of beans, 150 bushels of potatoes, and 200 bushels of apples. Butter production was down to only seventy-five pounds, while milk was up to 2,460 gallons.<sup>27</sup>

The 1880 census recorded Isaac as the head of household, with his wife Martha keeping house, their children Almira, Joseph and Helen all at school, and his mother Esther living with them. A

<sup>22</sup> U.S. Population Census, 1860, 1870, 1880; *Biographical Review*: 89-90; "Dimond Hill Farm:" 155; "New Hampshire Necrology: Isaac N. Abbott," 1912: 95.

<sup>23</sup> Almira F. Abbott married Alfred Clark (a laborer and boarder at the farm) ca. 1890. They had at least two children: Esther F. and Mabel. Clark was a Road Commissioner in 1897 and highway commissioner for the city by 1909. Helen Smith Abbott lived her whole life on Dimond Hill—for many years at the farm and after ca. 1930 in her own house at 331 Hopkinton Road just west of the farmstead. She died in 1965.

<sup>24</sup> "Dimond Hill Farm:" 154.

<sup>25</sup> This was recorded before the barn and new main house were constructed.

<sup>26</sup> The other 18 farms' production was valued between \$550 and \$2849.

<sup>27</sup> Agricultural Schedule for the Federal Census, 1880; U.S. Population Census, 1880. Additional figures in 1880 include: orchard produce valued at \$110, thirty tons of hay reaped, \$50 spent building and repairing fences in 1879, \$50 spent on fertilizers in 1879, eighty cords of wood cut at a total value of \$440, and \$150 in wages paid. Acreage for produce was broken down thus:  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre for potatoes,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre for corn, two acres for oats, one acre of orchard (fifty apple trees), thirty mown acres.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 7

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

dressmaker, Clarisa Abbott, was boarding on the property, as were two farm laborers, Alfred Clark and Samuel Wilson.<sup>28</sup>

After 1880, there were many changes at the farm. Under Isaac's management, the farm turned to the dairy business in earnest, and within a decade became his "leading specialty" there.<sup>29</sup> By 1897, Isaac was doing "a large milk business" in addition to cultivated produce.<sup>30</sup> Under his direction, the farm had a growing herd of cattle and a new barn to make their dairying more efficient. Although the farm had registered milk cows since at least 1850, what was "known as general farming [had] been pursued." It was only after the 1880s that "the production of milk for the Concord market has been mainly followed."<sup>31</sup> Advances in refrigeration and science, including pasteurization, had increased the ability of farmers to store and ship milk in the later years of the nineteenth century. Dairying led the agricultural economy statewide from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century.<sup>32</sup>

Isaac had the Dimond Hill barn constructed in 1882, presumably to shelter his growing herd of milk cows and hay. Ten years later he replaced his father's house with a grander, up-to-date farmhouse constructed by E.B. Hutchinson, a local and prolific contracting company responsible for many of the city's most notable buildings. Building materials for both the house and barn came from the property.<sup>33</sup> The original house on the farm (built ca. 1800) was moved to a small lot across Hopkinton Road at this time.<sup>34</sup> Isaac's peers credited his new house as a "substantial and well-finished residence."<sup>35</sup> Within a few years, his farm earned a feature in and award from *New England Homestead*, a leading agricultural journal. In the January, 1904 issue, the journal

---

<sup>28</sup> U.S. Population Census, 1880. Esther Abbott continued to live with her son and his family at Dimond Hill Farm until her death in 1890. It is not yet determined whether Clarisa Abbott was a relative of Isaac Abbott.

<sup>29</sup> "New Hampshire Necrology: Isaac N. Abbott:" 95.

<sup>30</sup> *Biographical Review*: 90.

<sup>31</sup> "Dimond Hill Farm:" 156.

<sup>32</sup> John Porter, interview; Moyer, 2003: 101.

<sup>33</sup> *Granite Monthly*, 1909:154. Hutchinson Building Company built many residences throughout Concord, ranging from the familiar Concord duplex to commodious houses in the West End. It also erected City Hall, State Library, South Congregational Church, and several business blocks and schools, including nearby Millville School.

<sup>34</sup> In January of 1894, Isaac Abbott purchased about one acre from Samuel Page. The lot was on the south side of Hopkinton Road and abutted Abbott's land on the East. It is possible this was the lot to which Isaac had moved the old house. [MCRD Book 309/192 (1894)]

<sup>35</sup> *Biographical Review*: 90.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8 Page 8**

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

published a photograph and a measured drawing of Dimond Hill's new house, shed, and barn, and described it thus:

The comfortable farm home here pictured typifies many in northern New England, where house and barn are suitably connected by other structures, well arranged for comfort and economy. The photographs and drawings were submitted in The Homestead's prize competition the past season, descriptions of farm structures, awards announced last month. The farm home here described is situated on Diamond [sic] hill, Concord, NH. The farm contains 200 acres, about 33 acres of which are under the plow, while the remainder is wood and pasture land. Isaac N. Abbott, the owner, writes that he is 68 years old and that his father bought the place in 1827. Dairying is the principal industry of the farm.

Modern improvements are to be found in the house, including hot and cold water, furnace, bathroom, etc. The main building is 24x28 feet. The floor plan shows the convenient arrangement of rooms, together with wagon shed and barn. On the second floor of the house are six large bedrooms and a bathroom. The house complete cost close to \$5,000.

There is a good basement under the barn, which will accommodate 20 cows and four horses. The barn was built in 1882 and is 40x90 feet with 16-foot posts. A carriage and tool shed connects with the house. The total cost of barn, including tool shed and cellar, was \$3,000.

A driveway 12 feet wide and 14 feet high extends through the middle. Mr. Abbott writes that if he were building again he would make the driveway only 12 feet high; this would be high enough to admit a large load and would have the additional advantage of giving more room on the overlays over the barn floor.

How frequently farmers are caught in a rainstorm and must get out into the wet to unhitch, and before the horses and wagon are under cover the farmer is soaked to the skin! This is all avoided by the open shed shown. Mr. Abbott says he can drive in here under cover and unhitch, put everything in place, and be in the house inside of three

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

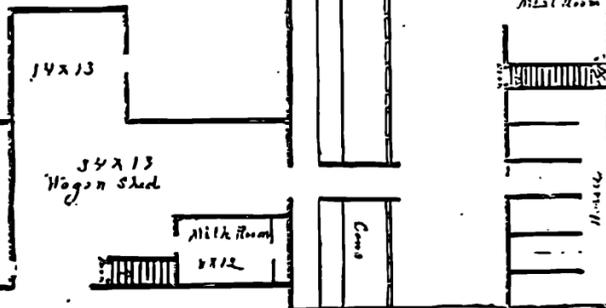
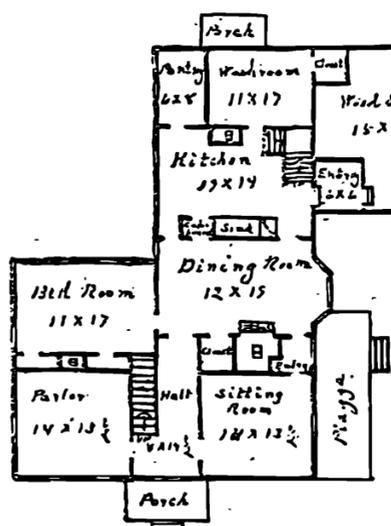
minutes. Farmers who contemplate building might do well to consider a similar arrangement.<sup>36</sup>

importance in this, or any other system of orchard management, is the resulting crops of fruit. While it is not safe to draw any conclusions from the first and only crop of an orchard, yet the results obtained in this case show certain tendencies which have considerable value as bearing upon the treatment of young orchards. Nineteen of the Gravenstein trees which were cultivated bore an average of 72 barrel apples per tree, while 14 of the mulched trees bore fruit and produced an average of 59 barrel. Nine of the cultivated Falman trees and six of those which were mulched produced fruit. The latter averaged a trifle more per tree owing to the fact that four of those which were cultivated produced not over half a peck each. This bears out the claim of advocates of cultivation that cultivation tends to produce early bearing.

So satisfactory was the result, we had and wagon are under cover the farmer  
cucumbers this year to give away. This success may have been owing to the season or some other cause, but until our scientific friends find a remedy, it might be well to try the soot. Our melons failed to grow enough to experiment with as I intended, but I propose to try muskmelons another year.—(R. S. Hinman, Fairfield County, Ct.)

Succulent Feeds are absolutely necessary for best results in the dairy.

Thinning of Peaches has increased the value as much as \$171 per acre.



FLOOR PLANS OF HOUSE AND BARN

Owned by Isaac N. Abbott.

is soaked to the skin! This is all avoided by the open shed shown. Mr. Abbott says he can drive in here under cover and unhitch, put everything in its place, and be in the house inside of three minutes. Farmers who contemplate building might do well to consider a similar arrangement.

Cheddar Cheese has about the following composition: Water 32%, butter fat 35%, casein 25%, milk sugar and mineral water 7%. Roughly estimated, full cream cheddar cheese consists of one-third of water, butter fat and casein. As the milk contains about 3.5% of butter fat, 100 pounds of milk usually produces 11 pounds of cheese. As a rule, however, only nine to ten pounds are secured from the average sample of milk.

The Homestead is still the "best ever"—long may it be so.—(U. F. A. W., Norfolk Co, Mass.)

Floor Plan of Dimond Hill Farm buildings, showing the new farmstead shortly after it was constructed. From New England Homestead, 48, No. 2 (1904)

Isaac was well-respected by his community and known as a "prominent farmer and dairyman."<sup>37</sup> He was also known for his commitment to public education in Concord. Isaac served on the

<sup>36</sup> "For Comfort and Convenience." The article references that awards were announced in a previous issue. That announcement has not yet been located for verification of the winners and rules of entry. That this article, written in 1904, does not mention the interior silos, suggests they were not added until later.

<sup>37</sup> Biographical Review: 89.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

School Board and as School District Clerk fifty-two years. He was lauded at his retirement in 1910 as the state's longest serving public officer. A feature in *The Granite Monthly* stated that Isaac "takes more pride in his school district service than in any other work outside his career as a New Hampshire farmer." Isaac also served his community as common councilman for Ward 7 in 1864 and alderman in 1875. In 1887 he was a state representative for Concord from his ward.<sup>38</sup>

Isaac retired from farming after the turn of the century and turned to probate and estate settlement work for others.<sup>39</sup> In 1905, when he was seventy years old, Isaac Newton Abbott sold the farm to his son, Joseph Newton Abbott, for "the sum of one dollar and love and affection." The transaction included "all of my homestead premises, except about one and one fourth acre of land on the Southerly side of said "Old Road" [Hopkinton Road] on which are my old buildings."<sup>40</sup> Isaac continued to live on the property, perhaps in his "old buildings," until his death there in 1912.<sup>41</sup>

Although Isaac had sold his son the farm, he still had some real estate (valued at \$3,800) and \$13,116 worth of personal property upon his death, including \$12,660 in stocks and notes. His estate was divided among his children. Daughter Almira inherited stocks and her father's half share in a house on Warren Street. His other daughter, Helen, inherited only stocks. Son Joseph inherited the 1¼-acre and original house at Dimond Hill, some of the stocks, and all of the vehicles.<sup>42</sup>

Joseph Newton Abbott (1866-1948) was thirty-eight when he bought the farm from his father in 1905, but he had probably been managing it for some time.<sup>43</sup> Joseph was involved with statewide and national agricultural organizations, including the Capital Grange in Concord (of

---

<sup>38</sup> "Isaac N. Abbott, Clerk Retires after Fifty-Two Years," 1910; "New Hampshire Necrology: Isaac N. Abbott;" Stearns; "Dimond Hill Farm:" 155; Hurd, 1885: 121-122; *Biographical Review*: 90.

<sup>39</sup> Stearns: 362.

<sup>40</sup> MCRD Book 363/361-362 (1905). The "old buildings" likely included the original Dimond-Abbott home that was moved across the road, ca. 1892.

<sup>41</sup> Upon his death, the 1¼-acre parcel and the house upon it went to son Joseph Newton Abbott. Joseph used the dwelling to house hired hands until it was sold out of the family around the time of his death. [Jane Presby interview]

<sup>42</sup> According to his probate inventory, the vehicles were: carry all (valued at \$40), covered buggy (\$20), wagon (\$40), two sleighs (\$20 each), and a democrat wagon (\$35). Merrimack County Registry of Probate, docket 22641.

<sup>43</sup> Joseph Newton Abbott is often referred to as J. Newton Abbott.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8 Page 11**

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

which he was a member for fifty years), the Pomona Grange, milk dealers associations, the New Hampshire Farm Bureau, and the New Hampshire Ayrshire Club. In community service, he followed his father's lead: he was a longtime school board member and an elected public official, serving in the state legislature.

During Joseph N. Abbott's tenure, the farm grew to at least 204 acres.<sup>44</sup> Until 1900, all of the land appears to have been within the Concord limits. In 1902, Joseph made one of the larger purchases—eighty acres of pasture and woodland on nearby Beech Hill in Hopkinton.<sup>45</sup> Several other real estate transactions raised and lowered the farm's acreage throughout the rest of the century. Joseph purchased wooded or pasture lands as he needed them – for building materials, for his growing herd, or for changes in crops. He also sold off lands when he no longer needed their timber or fields. The acreage of the farm thus rose and fell, sometimes dramatically, through the years.<sup>46</sup>

In 1909, there were twenty-five milk cows, as well as fifteen to twenty other cattle, at Dimond Hill Farm on about seventy acres of pasture. There were also five horses, five acres of corn, and two tons of hay per acre on the average. Two year-round farm laborers were employed to help with the work. The farm was averaging \$4,000 dollars in milk sales annually.<sup>47</sup> Joseph brought Ayrshire cattle to the farm sometime before 1909, subscribing to the opinion that the breed is "the more profitable for the purpose."<sup>48</sup> Ayrshire cattle first came to the United States from Scotland in 1822. They were popular in New England because they could tolerate the landscape and climate, as it was similar to Scotland's. Joseph became active in the New Hampshire Ayrshire Club, which was founded in 1914 in Concord, even hosting the club's large meetings or parties at Dimond Hill Farm.<sup>49</sup> Ayrshires produced the primary revenue at Dimond Hill Farm through the 1960s, when there were sixty Ayrshire cows on the property.<sup>50</sup>

---

<sup>44</sup> "Dimond Hill Farm:" 154.

<sup>45</sup> MCRD Book 350/344 (1902); 1892 map.

<sup>46</sup> At some point, probably under Joseph Newton's tenure, approximately 90 acres of hemlock forest on the north side of Currier Road was added to the farm. The family used the timber for the construction and repair of its buildings.

<sup>47</sup> "Dimond Hill Farm:" 156, 154; U.S. Population Census, 1900, 1910. In 1900, John Cochran, age 24, is listed with the family in the US Census. In 1910, Herman Hadley is boarding on the property.

<sup>48</sup> "Dimond Hill Farm:" 156.

<sup>49</sup> Ayrshire Breeders Association, 2002.

<sup>50</sup> "[Speech for the Presentation of the] Century Farm Award of the New Hampshire State Grange to Mr. And Mrs. Abbott A. Presby and Family," 1967.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 12

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

Joseph N. Abbott established milk delivery service sometime around 1889.<sup>51</sup> Milk delivery came about with the advent of urbanization. Local dairy farmers had a stable market they could reach with their horses and wagons on regular routes. In 1900, the number of milkmen listed in the Concord city directory peaked at thirty-one. An undated photograph in the Abbott-Presby family's collection shows a young milkman standing before a horse and wagon lettered "J.N. Abbott 2 / Dimond Hill Farm." Even long after motorized vehicles became widespread, "horses and wagons could compete economically with gas-driven vehicles on shorter milk routes."<sup>52</sup> When Isaac Abbott died in 1912, he left to his son two sleighs, a carry all, a wagon, a covered buggy, and a democrat wagon. All but the democrat wagon may have been used with the farm's horses for deliveries, which included produce, poultry and meats, as well as dairy products, dropped off at private residences in Dunbarton, southeast sections of Hopkinton, south sections of Concord and neighborhood stores.<sup>53</sup> The Dimond Hill milk route and store deliveries continued at least to the middle of the century. In 1934 a picture of Joseph Newton proudly standing with his new milk truck found its way into the national *Ayrshire Digest*. The truck is lettered "Dimond Hill Farm / Grade A Milk."<sup>54</sup>

Up until the First World War, milk was processed and bottled at dairy farms for distribution to the local community. In the 1920s, improvements in refrigeration at home and in stores brought about the rise of the supermarket and less need for daily milk and cream deliveries. Joseph, like other dairy farmers, turned to dairy cooperatives. He was involved with establishing a new cooperative dairy plant in Concord in the early 1920s. The plant received and distributed local milk, from and for local farmers, who held shares and a voice in the company. In 1921, Joseph was vice-president of the company, with George M. Putnam as president.<sup>55</sup>

Joseph also brought the farm's milk to Flanders Dairy, off Clinton Street, which processed, pasteurized, and bottled milk for smaller, local farms like Dimond Hill. Bringing the milk to Flanders each day freed up time at Dimond Hill. Without having to take up time and space with processing, Joseph could allot more time for milking and thus increase his herd and delivery routes.<sup>56</sup>

---

<sup>51</sup> In 1889, Abbott is first listed in the Concord city directory as "milkman." In 1897, he was one of seventeen milkmen listed in the Concord city directory.

<sup>52</sup> Moyer: 113.

<sup>53</sup> Merrimack County Registry of Probate, docket 22641; Jane Presby interview. A "democrat wagon" is a lightweight, open wagon, typically drawn by just one horse and usually having two bench seats. The sleighs were necessary for winter deliveries. Some of these farm vehicles remain on the farm.

<sup>54</sup> *Ayrshire Digest*, 1934: 29.

<sup>55</sup> "Farmers Will Distribute as Well as Produce Milk and Dairy Products," 1921: 1, 4.

<sup>56</sup> Jane Presby interview.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

As Joseph aged, he sold off some of the peripheral lands he could no longer work. He died in 1948, shortly before his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday, having celebrated over sixty years "in the milk business" and a lifetime in agriculture.<sup>57</sup> Joseph's estate went to his two daughters, Marion Chase Abbott Presby (1898-1991) and Mildred Smith Abbott Dodge (1902-?). In 1950, Mildred sold her half interest in the farm to her sister, who, in turn, gave it to her son.<sup>58</sup> Marion's husband, Austin B. Presby (1890-1966), a chemist who worked locally as a restaurant inspector and a state milk inspector, was not a farmer. However, their son, Abbott Austin Presby (1923-1996), had long worked alongside his grandfather at the farm and delivered milk for him. The farm at that time consisted of four tracts: the two parcels totaling 112 acres that are the subject of this nomination, the ninety-acre woodland tract on the north side of Currier Road (sold in 2001 for estate purposes), and the eighty-acre tract of pasture and woodland on Beech Hill in Hopkinton (sold by Mary Presby ca. 1998 after her husband's death).

In 1951, Marion sold her son all of the farm's personal property, "including the cattle, trucks and farm machinery, tools and equipment, milk room equipment, milk route and good will operated by said Farm, household furniture and furnishings...hay, and grain and all other tangible personal property."<sup>59</sup> Abbott Presby and his wife, Mary (1920-2004), moved to the farm and there raised three children: Susan, Jane, and Abbott, Jr.

The Presbys were dedicated to the farm and spent the remainder of their lives there. Abbott Presby diversified the produce and increased the milk production. In 1967, the New Hampshire State Grange honored the couple for their commitment with a Century Farm Award for the farm's "achievements over the past century."<sup>60</sup> Presby was also active in the New Hampshire Ayrshire Club, even serving as its president. Both Abbott and Mary were 4-H Club leaders, and their children were active members.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>57</sup> "Abbott, Milk Dealer for Half Century, Dies Here," 1948; "Abbotts Mark Anniversary," 1947.

<sup>58</sup> MCRD Book 689/259 (1950). Mildred lived across the road at 321 Hopkinton Road. [Jane Presby interview]

<sup>59</sup> Bill of Sale of Personal Property, Marion A. Presby to Abbott A. Presby, May 15, 1951. Concord City Clerk's Office, Vol. 209/177. A letter dated October 28, 1950, suggests that Marion stopped the milk delivery route due to the loss of too many regular subscribers and perhaps due to other circumstances [Matson and Page, 1950]. Selling her son the "milk route" may indicate that there were hopes to revive it in the future.

<sup>60</sup> "[Speech for the Presentation of the] Century Farm Award".

<sup>61</sup> "Concord, Loudon Farmers Are Honored in Nashua," Newspaper clipping in the collection of Jane A. Presby, October 28 1967; Jane Presby interview.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8 Page 14**

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

In 1968, after the last of his children left home, Presby sold his beloved dairying herd, then numbering near sixty heads, to a farm in Iowa. He kept just a few milkers on Dimond Hill, but they soon multiplied into a small herd again. He sold the last cow off the farm in 1981. Dairying gave way to food crops at this time, and grains, hay, and vegetables became the primary activity at Dimond Hill Farm. Pumpkins, sweet corn, pansies, hay, and raspberries allowed Presby to round out the seasons, bringing customers to Dimond Hill all year long.<sup>62</sup>

Since her father's death in 1996, Jane Abbott Presby has managed the farm and cared for the buildings. After her mother's death in 2004, she worked with local, statewide, and national organizations to ensure permanent protection for the land and buildings. In 2006, the 112-acre farm was sold to Equity Trust, a non-profit organization, dedicated to making farms available and affordable for farmers. With the sale, preservation and conservation easements were placed on all but ten acres of the property.<sup>63</sup>

---

<sup>62</sup> Jane Presby interview.

<sup>63</sup> The ten acres excluded from the conservation easement are both on the north side of the road and may ultimately be folded into the easement.

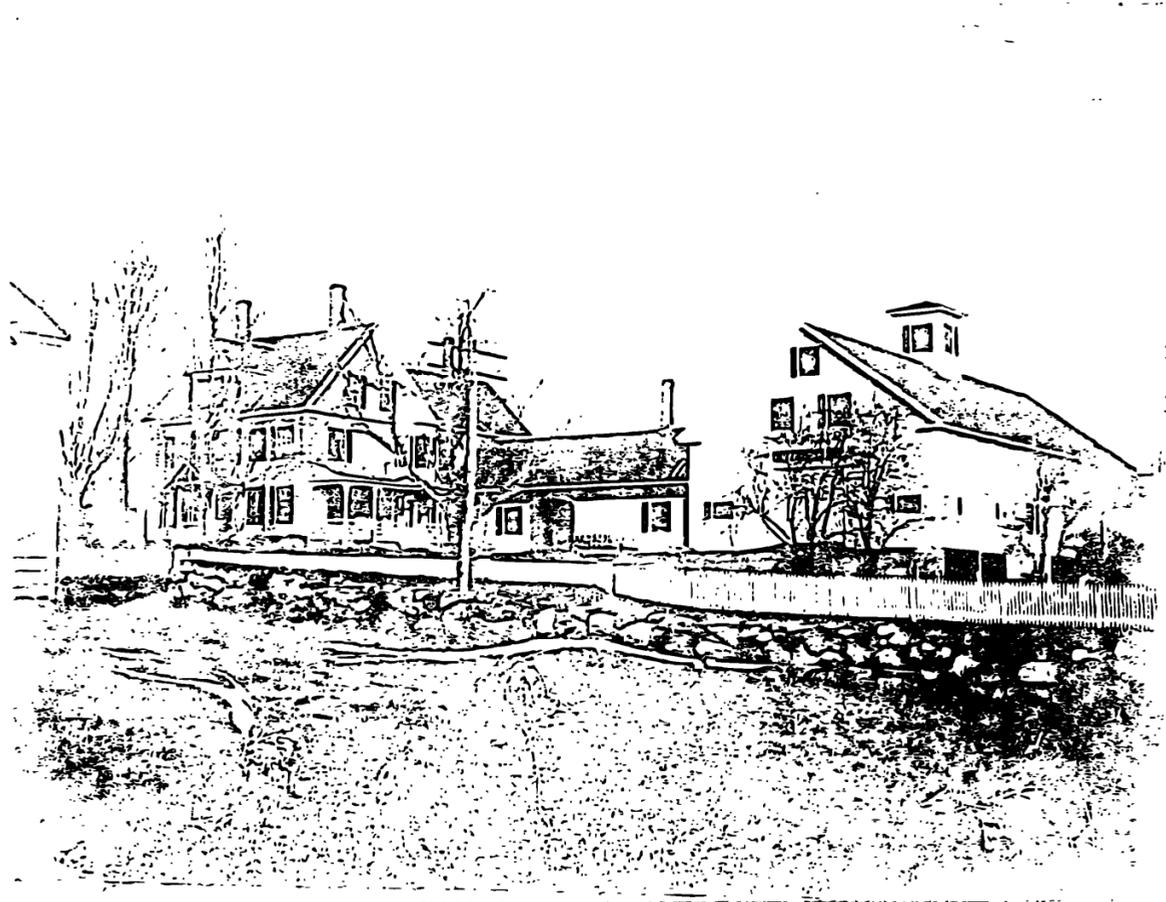
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 15

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---



*Dimond Hill Farm, ca. 1909.  
Courtesy of Jane Abbott Presby.*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 9                      **Page** 1

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

**Major Bibliographical References**

"Abbott, Milk Dealer for Half Century, Dies Here." Newspaper clipping in the collection of Jane A. Presby, 1948.

"Abbotts Mark Anniversary." *The Concord Daily Monitor and N.H. Patriot*, March 17, 1947.

Amdsen, Grace P. "A Capital for New Hampshire (History of Concord)." Concord, NH, 1930-1950s.

Ayrshire Breeders Association. *Breed History*, 2002 [cited August 29 2006]. Available from  
<http://www.usayrshire.com/history.htm>.

*Biographical Review Containing Life Sketches of Leading Citizens of Sullivan and Merrimack Counties, New Hampshire*, Vol. XXII. Boston: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1897.

Concord City Directories, 1874-1920.

"Concord, Loudon Farmers Are Honored in Nashua." Newspaper clipping in the collection of Jane Abbott Presby, October 28, 1967.

"Dimond Hill Farm." *The Granite Monthly*, vol. 41, no. 5 (1909): 153-56.

"Farmers Will Distribute As Well As Produce Milk and Dairy Products." *New England Homestead*, vol. 83, no. 2 (1921): 1, 4.

"For Comfort and Convenience." *New England Homestead*, vol. 48, no. 2 (1904): 34-35.

Hurd, Duane Hamilton, ed. *History of Merrimack and Belknap Counties, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1885.

"Isaac N. Abbott, Clerk Retires after Fifty-Two Years." *Concord Evening Monitor*, March 12, 1910, p. 3.

Lyford, James O., ed. *History of Concord, New Hampshire from the Original Grant in Seventeen Hundred and Twenty-Five to the Opening of the Twentieth Century*. Concord, NH: City History Commission, Vols I & II, 1903.

Matson, Donald G., and Elwin L. Page. Letter to Milk Route Customers. Collection of Jane A. Presby, October 28 1950.

Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, deed and plan files.

Merrimack Country Registry of Probate, probate files.

Moyer, Judith N. "From Dairy to Doorstep: The Processing and Sale of New Hampshire Dairy Products, 1860s to 1960s." *Historical New Hampshire*, vol. 58, no. 3&4 (2003): 101-22.

New Hampshire Department of Agriculture. *New Hampshire Agriculture: Report of the Board of Agriculture (from September 1, 1912-September 1, 1913) and of the Department of Agriculture (from September 1, 1913-September 1, 1914)*. Concord, NH, 1914.

"New Hampshire Necrology: Isaac N. Abbott." *The Granite Monthly*, vol. 44, no. 7 (1912): 95.

[Picture of Joseph Newton Abbott with Milk Truck]. *Ayrshire Digest* vol. 19 (1934): 29.

Porter, John C., Michal Lunak, Michael Sciabarrasi, and Peter Erickson. "The History and Economics of the New Hampshire Dairy Industry (Manuscript)." 2006.

"[Speech for the Presentation of the] Century Farm Award of the New Hampshire State Grange to Mr. And Mrs. Abbott A. Presby and Family." Paper presented at the NH State Grange, Nashua (Hudson), NH, 1967.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 9                      **Page** 2

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

Stearns, Ezra S., ed. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire*. Vol. 1. New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1908.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Schedules 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1910.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Schedules 1850, 1870, and 1880.

**Maps and Plans**

1892 "Map of Concord." *Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*. Boston: D. H. Hurd.

Undated hand-drawn surveys of the property and adjacent lands. Collection of Jane Abbott Presby.

**Interviews**

John Porter, UNH Cooperative Extension and dairy farming historian, August 29, 2006.

Jane Abbott Presby, current farmer and Abbott-Presby family member, September 21, 2006.

Florie & Linwood Huntington, New Hampshire Ayshire Club members, September 13 & 14, 2006.

**Photo and Archive Collections**

Jane Abbott Presby Collection, Concord, NH.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** 10                      **Page** 1

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

**GEOGRAPHIC DATA**

**UTM REFERENCES (cont.)**

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5	<u>19</u>	<u>287680</u>	<u>4784440</u>
6	<u>19</u>	<u>287475</u>	<u>4784380</u>

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary for Dimond Hill Farm includes land on both sides of Hopkinton Road (NH Route 202), a total of 112 acres.

On the north side of the road, the City of Concord's Tax Map 98, Block 2, Lot 23 (73.7 acres) is included in its entirety. On the south side of Hopkinton Road, the City of Concord's Tax Map 98, Block 3, Lot 5 (38.4 acres) is included in its entirety.

These boundaries are shown on the attached property sketch map.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary for Dimond Hill Farm is defined by the legally recorded lot lines of the two parcels that constitute the farm. On these two parcels are all of the historic resources associated with the farm, as well as the open fields, pasture and woodland that have formed the backbone of the farm since it first came into the Abbott-Presby family. Over the decades, additional land, both contiguous and noncontiguous, has been purchased and sold by the Abbott-Presby family to support their farming activities, but the two nominated parcels have always constituted the core farm.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

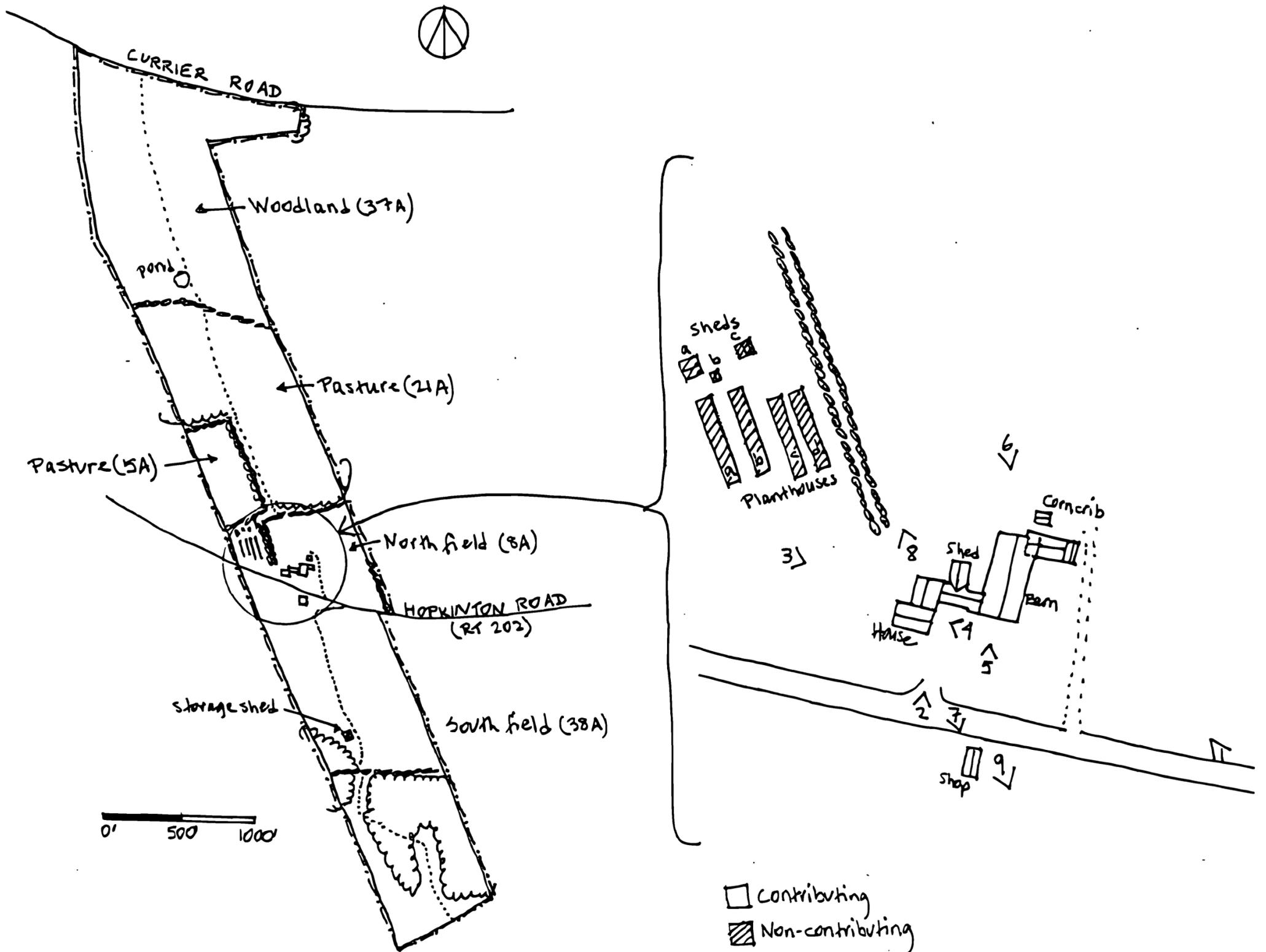
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10

Page 2

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

Prepared by Sketch Map and **PHOTOGRAPH KEY**



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Continuation Sheet

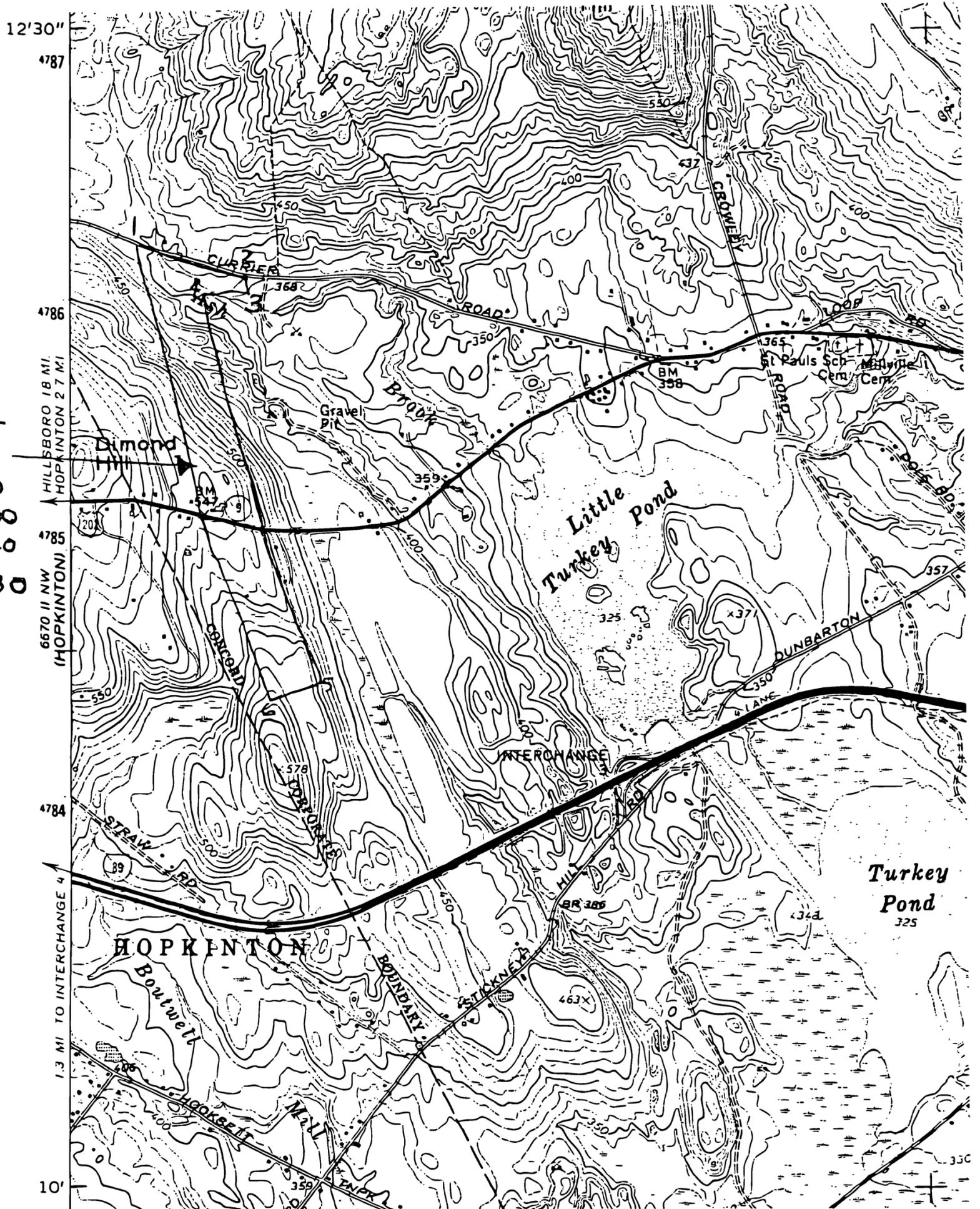
Section 10

Page 3

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

USGS MAP

- DIMOND HILL FARM  
Concord (Merrimack  
Co.), N.H.
- 1 19/287000/4786235
  - 2 19/287410/4786080
  - 3 19/287410/4785980
  - 4 19/287260/4786000
  - 5 19/287680/4784440
  - 6 19/287475/4784380



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** Photograph List      **Page** 1

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

The following information is the same for all photographs:

**Name of property:** Dimond Hill Farm  
**Town/state:** Concord, New Hampshire  
**Photographer:** Elizabeth Durfee Hengen  
**Date of Photograph:** April 2006  
**Location of negative:** 25 Ridge Road, Concord, NH 03301

**Photo #1**

**View:** Dimond Hill farmstead buildings and the barn yard, looking northwest from Hopkinton Road.

**Photo #2**

**View:** Looking north at the south (front) elevations of the connected house, shed and barn, including its interior silo addition at far right.

**Photo #3**

**View:** Looking east at the west elevation of the house, including ell, and, at far right, the shop.

**Photo #4**

**View:** Looking west at the east elevation of house, including ell and part of the south (front) elevation of the shed.

**Photo #5**

**View:** Looking north at the south (front) elevation of the barn.

**Photo #6**

**View:** Looking south at the north (rear) elevation of the barn, including its attached carriage and tool house left of the wagon door. The corn crib is shown in the left foreground.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Section** Photograph List      **Page** 2

Dimond Hill Farm  
Concord, New Hampshire

---

**Photo #7**

**View:** Shop, looking south at its north (front) and west elevations from Hopkinton Road.

**Photo #8**

**View:** Looking north from the rear of the house, showing the cow path, plant houses and north field.

**Photo #9**

**View:** Looking southeast from Hopkinton Road at the south field. Storage shed is at far end of field road.