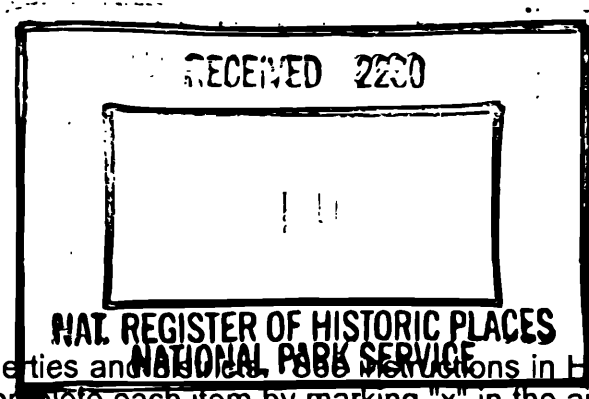


1445

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 for individual properties and districts. 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 Stephen Rowe Bradley House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 43 Westminster Street

NA not for publication

city or town Walpole

NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Cheshire code 005 zip code 03608

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

James McManis 10/31/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper
[Signature]

Date of Action
12/22/05

Stephen Rowe Bradley House
Name of Property

Cheshire County, New Hampshire
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	total

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls clapboard

roof slate

other chimneys - brick

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

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 a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See 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.)

See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT - Criterion B

ARCHITECTURE - Criterion C

Period of Significance

ca. 1808 (Criterion C)

1817-1830 (Criterion B)

Significant Dates

See narrative

Significant Person

Stephen Rowe Bradley

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

See narrative for repositories of family papers

Stephen Rowe Bradley House
Name of Property

Cheshire County, New Hampshire
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	7 0 9 2 0 5	4 7 7 2 6 3 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
See continuation sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynne Emerson Monroe, Kari Laprey

organization Preservation Company date 2005

street & number 5 Hobbs Road telephone 603 778-1799

city or town Kensington state NH zip code 03833

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name W. Bradley Willard Rev. Trust, W. Bradley Willard Jr. Trustee

street & number c/o Suntrust Bank, 1445 NY Ave. NW, Suite 600 telephone _____

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20005

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 amend 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1
Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

Narrative Description

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House is a large, ornate Federal style dwelling on the western edge of the Village of Walpole, New Hampshire, overlooking the Connecticut River valley and Westminster, Vermont on the far side. The house is prominently sited, close to the road, at the crest of "Depot Hill." Westminster Street is the historic route from the town center, which is located on a plateau above the river, down to the site of the railroad station and the bridge across the Connecticut to Westminster, Vermont.

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House was constructed ca. 1808 as a Federal period mansion. Stephen Rowe Bradley was the third owner of the house, which was his residence from ca. 1817 until his death in 1830. The house was probably little changed from its construction to Bradley's occupancy. The form, floor plan, chimneys and fireplace openings are original. The exterior of the main block retains original entry portico, and lavish ornament including pilasters and elaborate cornice, window casings and window sash. The two side entries have original fanlights. On the interior, the Federal style woodwork includes chair rails and baseboards, door and window trim, and six panel doors. The large English Barn behind the house dates from this early nineteenth century period; it was remodeled ca. 1901. The house was updated with Greek Revival style elements in the 1830s by Bradley's son-in-law Henry Tudor, a popular trend in Walpole Village. The front and back entrances were changed, adding square sidelights and transom and four panel doors. The baseboards and stair balusters of the center hall and the mantelpieces in all of the rooms date from that time. At the turn of the century, the property became part of a summer estate and it has been in seasonal/vacation use since. Ca. 1901, a kitchen ell and servants quarters were built off the south elevation, a veranda added to the west and south (rear) elevations and extensions to the east rooms on the first floor. Presently, the house is well maintained and has been preserved by Bradley descendants, with minimal changes over the past century.

Main Block – exterior

The house, like others of the Federal period in Walpole, is a large two-story structure with a broad, low hip roof. Nearly square (roughly 44' x 39'), it is 5 x 5 bays, with entries centered on each elevation. The large, rectangular brick chimneys rise through the interior, piercing the side slopes of the roof, nearly centered front to back. The chimneys are painted red with black corbelled caps, a treatment dating from the early twentieth century. The post and beam frame is supported by a granite block foundation. The walls are sheathed in wooden clapboards, the roof in slate with copper flashing. There are flat corner boards and water table in addition to the ornamental trim.

The house is strongly Federal in style and retains original features characteristic of the period. The symmetrical, three-part facade is segmented by tall Doric pilasters on the corners and flanking the center bay. The entry is defined by an original Federal style portico supported by pairs of Ionic columns. Centered above is a Palladian window. Throughout the house the windows retain original Federal period double-hung 6/6 sash.

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Section number 7 Page 2
Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

The composite Doric pilasters which define the façade are wide flat boards applied to the front wall. The bases and capitals are made up of a complex series of moldings. The pilaster bases rest on granite blocks and have a composite of inverted ovolo and inverted cavetto moldings forming the torus and apophyge. The capitals are fully developed with astragal, echinus and abacus, a series of ovolo, cavetto and ogee moldings. Above the capitals, the moldings in the frieze and cornice project, repeating the same profiles.

A narrow frieze defines the top of the walls, below the complex cornice and deeply overhanging eaves, all original Federal style elements. The frieze consists of a series of triglyphs and metopes. The former are evenly spaced blocks with four vertical grooves or reeds with a small punched circle at the top of each. This is a vernacular expression of the classical triglyphs which has three grooves. The frieze is continuous on the façade and side elevations. Across the rear is a plain frieze board. The highly composite cornice is continuous on all elevations. The cornice consists of about a dozen planes, stepped and graduating up from the frieze, covering the underside of the eaves, to below the outer edge of the roof. The bed molding and crown molding have an ovolo or echinus profile. Above the former and below the latter is a stylized rope or cable molding. Between are a series of squared bands or fillets. Viewed from the ground, the eaves have a complex and varied profile, a defining element of the house's architecture.

The house is notable for retaining original window sash in most openings. The sash measure 33" x 33" with large lights of glass, 10" x 14³/₄". The unusual muntin profile may be reflected in other sashes from the period in this area, but none like them have been documented elsewhere in New Hampshire (Garvin 2004). Second story windows meet the frieze. The window heads of first floor windows on the facade reflect the ornament of the frieze above. Each has an entablature grooved to create triglyphs and metopes, topped by a projecting cornice with a broad cavetto molding. On the west elevation, windows have similar trim, the cornice replaced by the roof of the added ca. 1901 porch. All windows are flanked by functioning louvered wooden shutters hung on pintles. Storm windows and doors date from 1990 (Campbell 2005).

Centered on the façade, the Palladian window consists of a tall 6/6 window, flanked by shorter three pane sidelights, with slender pilasters between. The central window was elongated, probably ca. 1901, to provide access onto the portico balcony. The Federal fanlight above is semi-circular like those on the side entries of the house.

The Federal portico sheltering the front entry has a shallow roof supported by two pairs of Ionic columns, and two engaged columns behind. The round columns have bases and capitals. They support a frieze of triglyphs and metopes with guttae which wraps around three sides and across the façade over the door. The ceiling is recessed above. Mutules line the underside of the cornices. On the roof of the portico is a simple paneled parapet, added in the early twentieth century (Cheney 1904; Willard 1925).

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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

Under the portico, the entry surround was replaced in the 1830s Greek Revival remodeling. The original Federal trim may have included a fanlight and half sidelights like that on the Knapp House, which was built ca. 1812 with a portico nearly identical to that on the Stephen Rowe Bradley House. The front and rear entries are now Grecian in character with wide, three-quarter length sidelights and broad, four light transoms with narrow muntins. The four panel doors in front, back and east side entries have flat panels and wide applied moldings in Grecian ovolo profile (Garvin 2004).

On each side elevation, one-story extensions were added in the ca. 1901 renovations. The enclosed area on the east elevation and the veranda on the west are nearly equal in depth, contributing to the symmetrical appearance of the façade. The enlarging of the eastern rooms was accomplished by moving the east walls of front and back rooms out 6' under a hip roof, creating two rectangular bays that embrace and shelter the original east side door. The Federal fanlight and narrow pilasters remain, sheltered under an edge-and-center bead board ceiling. Both side entries have the same semi-circular fanlight and pairs of simple pilasters rising from a single plinth to capitals in line with the top of the fan.

The ca. 1901 veranda spanning the west and rear (south) elevations overlooks the scenic view. The one-story porch has a wide-plank floor, a total of eight Ionic columns supporting a full entablature, and a bead board ceiling. The west entrance retains the Federal fanlight and pilasters. The double doors, which were closed up when a bathroom was installed inside, date from ca. 1901.

The porch wraps around the rear elevation where the back door provides access onto it. The back door was replaced along with the front in the 1830s remodeling. It has the same four-panel door, three-quarter length sidelights and transom. At the same time the back windows of the southwest room were replaced with full-length 9/6 windows, overlooking the view and receiving the late afternoon light. On this less visible exterior, the window surrounds are plain. The ell projecting from the southeast corner of the house dates from ca. 1901, but it is likely that an older ell stood in its place. Stephen Rowe Bradley's probate inventory suggests the kitchen was in an ancillary space at that time. The fenestration and configuration of the back entry and southwest room show there could not have been an appendage off this corner of the house as of the 1830s remodeling. The southeast back chamber may never have had a window on its south wall. On the south slope of the roof, a small dormer window is an original means of lighting the attic, though with sash replaced (Garvin 2004).

Framing and Foundation

The house is staunchly framed. Its projecting wall posts are visible in most corners. The roof frame has two square, 5" x 5" hewn kingposts with a short ridgepole, pentagonal in cross-section, between. Heavy, hand hewn, square, hip rafters support the ends of smaller common rafters. Hip rafters varying from 6" x 6" to 7" x 7". Typical of the Connecticut Valley, the roof consists of common rafters, with no purlins, the roof boards

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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

nailed horizontally across (Garvin 2004). The chimneystacks and underside of the roof are whitewashed to improve visibility in the attic. The roof slopes have a 7/12 pitch.

Chimney bases and caps are constructed with lime-sand mortar. The chimneys are supported by vaulted bases. The western base is 6' x 6'-9½". The larger eastern one supported the original kitchen hearth and is 11'-5½" x 8'-8". The vault within contains shelving for storage. In the northwest corner of the cellar is a brick storeroom. Brick columns support the first floor framing. The basement was renovated in 1988 with poured concrete floors and hung ceiling. The foundation under the east wall was redone with new footings (Campbell 2005). The granite block and brick foundations are visible in some areas.

Main Block – interior

The house has a typical “double house” floor plan, characterized by a broad central stair hall running through the house from front to back (north-south). On each floor are four rooms; on either side of the hallway, two rooms with a fireplace chimney between. The side entrances open into small vestibules on the outer side of each chimney, originally with access to the rooms on either side. The floor plan is not exactly symmetrical. The hallway is slightly off-center, the western rooms were larger than the east before the ca. 1901 extension.

The walls are plaster, painted or wallpapered, with wainscoting and/or baseboards. Three first floor rooms and the two front chambers have original wainscoting, each with a different chair rail. Baseboard profiles are characteristic of the Federal style, with cap moldings composites of ogee, quirk beads or quarter rounds. The two rear chambers have original baseboards. The hallways and southwest room have Greek Revival period baseboards. Picture rails were added to the top of the walls throughout the house in the early twentieth century. The floors are tongue-and-groove pine boards, 6" to 10" wide. Floorboards run north-south in the hallway and east-west in the rooms on either side. Only the floor in the dining (southeast) room has been replaced, part of the ca. 1901 dining room remodeling.

All of the interior doors are original six-panel doors on butt hinges. They have characteristic Federal period panel arrangement and profile, with a slender quirked cyma-reversa molding on inner edges of stiles and rails. Original door and window casings throughout the house are typical of the early 1800s (Garvin 2004). They are double or single architraves with quirked beaded inner edges.

The focal point of the house is the center hallway and staircase. The hallway measures 9'-11" wide by 36'-4" long. This space was remodeled in the 1830s in the Greek Revival style, the staircase and front and rear entries rebuilt. The staircase has a curved mahogany handrail that terminates in a horizontal volute supported by a nest of balusters. The round dowel balusters, rather than square rods, came into fashion in urban centers in New Hampshire ca. 1830 (Garvin 2004:9). Toward the back of the hall, framing the back entry is a segmental arch supported by load-bearing posts, trimmed as pilasters. The walls have characteristic Greek Revival period

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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

baseboards with ovolo profile. Doorways retain original six panel doors and Federal casings with cavetto a bead and fillet moldings.

All eight rooms have shallow "Rumford" type fireplaces, typical of the Federal period. They measure about 3' wide and less than 2' deep. In the 1830s, new Greek Revival style mantelpieces were installed in every room. All are identical, except that in the southeast room, now the dining room. They are similar to designs shown in Asher Benjamin's building guides of 1830 and 1833. They consist of a broadly overhanging mantelshelf with a peaked lintel above. Pilasters, flat with a recessed panel with beveled design, support a tall entablature with heavy ovolo moldings at capitals, frieze and cornice. Hearths, fireplace openings and surrounds are stone, primarily soapstone. These are probably original; the soapstone may have come from quarries in Grafton, Vermont, about ten miles away. Soapstone was used locally from the 1780s for hearths and fireplace linings. Soapstone was easy to cut and absorbed heat without cracking. However, it was heavy and damaged easily so was difficult to transport. It was replaced by other materials later in the nineteenth century (Grafton Historical Society 2000:46-49).

The northwest front room was historically the best parlor. It measures 16'-9" x 16'-2". In this room and the chamber above the walls are double studded to provide shuttered window embrasures at all four windows. These rooms have the most elaborate door and window surrounds. They are double architraves. The outer molding has a large quirked ovolo profile and a bead and fillet, the inner a small quirked ogee. In the early twentieth century, applied moldings were added to create panels on the walls above the wainscoting.

Entries on the west and east sides of the house are original. Between the front and rear west rooms, a small bathroom installed in 1990 occupies what was historically the foyer of the western entry. The ca. 1901 double doors onto the veranda remain in place. The east side entry has a small vestibule which forms a narrow passage between the front and back east rooms. This space has original flat trim around the six panel doors, and flat baseboards.

The northeast front room was historically the sitting room (Probate 1830). It is known by the current owners, the Willard family as the "Portrait Room." The room features delicate Federal style reeded moldings. The reeded door casings are unique in the house. The chair rail consists blocks of reeding creating triglyphs and metopes. The baseboard is characterized by a simple echinus molding. The windows sills are below the chair rail. The room was enlarged ca. 1901 by moving the east wall out nearly 6'. The addition is visible in the narrower floorboards. The joinery of the new side walls closely replicated the original (Garvin 2004). The resulting room is 21'-3" side to side and 16'-2" front to back. The fireplace has soapstone hearth, white marble surround and Greek-Revival mantelpiece. Above are two very early electrical fixtures. The wallpaper and paint in this room date from 1967 (Campbell 2005).

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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

The southeast room, which has been the dining room since the early twentieth century, was likely the original kitchen with a large chimney base below to support the fireplace and hearth. By 1830, the kitchen seems to have been in an ancillary space, this room used as a bedroom (Probate 1830). The Greek Revival style mantelpiece is slightly different from those in other rooms; it has a squared lintel, heavy entablature and fluted pilasters. The hearth is a raised, heavy soapstone insert. The room was enlarged ca. 1901 with the moving of the east wall. The maple flooring dates from that time. Slightly taller windows were added to the side of this extension. The chair rail and baseboards have simple beaded moldings. Casings have ogee and bead and fillet moldings. A china closet (ca. 1901) with built-in drawers and shelves is located in the space between the chimney and staircase.

The cellar stairs were originally located under the front staircase. That space was finished ca. 1901 as a closet off the dining room. Basement access is now through the cellar under the ell. On the west side of the hallway is a linen closet. At one time this was the china closet (Probate 1830) and was accessed from the southwest room.

The southwest room, now the library, was used as the dining room in 1830 (Probate 1830). The room was updated in the Greek Revival period remodeling. The floor-to-ceiling, 15-pane windows take advantage of the view and afternoon light. They are hinged to form French doors out onto the porch. The muntins are like those on the front and rear entries. The baseboards have a characteristic Grecian ovolo molding. The mantelpiece is like those throughout the house. The stone of the hearth and fireplace is soapstone. The original Federal door and window surrounds are intact. On either side of the fireplace are built-in bookcases with French doors, installed in the early twentieth century. Originally these were the doorways to the west entry (now bathroom) and the china closet, now accessed from the hallway.

The central stairhall provides access to the four chambers on the second floor. Federal six panel doors are intact. The window and door surrounds are flat, single architraves with cavetto or scotia and bead and fillet moldings. The front wall features the tall Palladian window; its center window extends to the floor, opening onto the balcony over the front portico. The window, like the hallway itself, is off-center to the east, the western rooms larger than the east ones. As on the first floor, the wide pine floorboards run lengthwise in the hallway, east-west in the bedrooms.

The south end of the hallway was divided off for a bathroom in the ca. 1901 renovations. The bathroom retains period edge-and-center bead wainscoting, marble console sink with nickel fixtures, patterned cast-iron toilet on marble stand, and a cast-iron claw-foot tub. Only the toilet tank has been replaced.

All chambers have shallow fireplaces, some with soapstone linings. The Greek Revival mantelpieces are identical to those in the first floor rooms. The northwest chamber has the same paneled window embrasures with folding shutters and same door and window casings as the parlor below. The low wainscoting lines up

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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

with the windowsills. Doorways on either side have original six panel doors, leading to closet and bathroom. The passageway between the front and rear west chambers was converted into a bathroom ca. 1901, as indicated by the nickel fixtures and heat register and grate. Toilet, sink, and claw foot tub date from a slightly later period.

The Federal style woodwork of northeast, front chamber reflects that of the sitting room below. The wainscoting has a chair rail with horizontal reeding with a large ogee molding above and a small cyma reversa below. The door and window surrounds are double architraves comprised of a series of cavetto, bead and filet and ogee moldings. The space between the east chambers, lit by an original window, is occupied by a twentieth century bathroom.

The two rear (south) chambers are more simply detailed with flat, nearly flush door and window casings. The walls have plain baseboards, no wainscoting. Within the room, doors are heavier, more utilitarian, Federal style four panel doors. They have flat panels and beaded stiles and rails. The attic stairs are located west of the fireplace in the southeast chamber. The back chambers have the same Greek Revival mantelpieces found throughout the house.

Kitchen Ell and Servant's Quarters

The kitchen ell and servants quarters, extending back from the southeast corner of the house, date from ca. 1901 and probably replaced an earlier ell. The short, 1½-story ell with gable roof connects to a two-story, 3 x 2 bay block with pyramidal hip roof, reflecting the form and massing of the main block. Both sections are on continuous brick foundation. The walls are sheathed in clapboards, the roofs in slate with copper trim. The heavy corner boards reflect the pilasters on the main house. The 6/6 windows have wide trim with molded edges. The three-bay long ell has the kitchen in the front (north) two bays. The kitchen occupies the front two bays. Off one corner is the pantry area and in the other corner is a recessed entry. A stove on the kitchen's south wall is vented into the tall, slender, brick stove chimney with corbelled cap. The recessed entry porch under a segmental arch opening provides access to the kitchen and into the hallway of the servant's block. The servant's quarters is a two-story "square house" form with a hip roof, and with a sidehall entry facing the driveway along the east side of the house. Across the front is an open, one-story porch with four Ionic columns.

On the interior, the kitchen retains original (ca. 1901) bead board wainscoting, chair rail and baseboard. A four-panel door opens into the dining room in the southeast room of the main block. The floors in the kitchen and pantry are covered with vinyl flooring installed in 1964. There are two sinks; a double bowl soapstone sink with backsplash and a deep, narrow porcelain enamel sink with drain board. On the south wall, where a cook stove probably stood, is a Victorian-era cast-iron parlor stove. The pantry is a short corridor with built in bead-board cupboards, countertop and shelves above. The countertops were replaced in 1964. Vintage appliances include a Victorian-era coffee grinder and a Frigidaire refrigerator.

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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

In the Servant's Quarters, walls are plaster with bead board wainscoting. Door and window surrounds have an ovolo-molding detail. Most floors are painted fir. First floor rooms include a ca. 1901 bathroom with marble console sink, porcelain toilet on marble base, and claw foot tub, and a laundry room with three-bowl utility sink on copper legs. Upstairs are two chambers and a bathroom, more simply finished without wainscoting or chair rail.

Barn

A large historic barn stands to the rear, oriented laterally to the driveway, its gable end toward the house and road. The barn measures 62'-3½" x 33'-6". This double English Barn was probably built ca. 1815 (Garvin 2004). Its current appearance dates from ca. 1901 when it was remodeled as a stable and carriage house. The barn was damaged by a fire ca. 1950 caused by children playing with matches and igniting the hay. The Walpole Fire Department was then located in the village center and responded quickly to save the structure (Willard 2005).

The foundation is rubble stone and brick, with concrete repairs. The walls are sheathed in narrow butt-end clapboards with slender corner and sill boards. The second story gable walls overhang slightly. The eaves are close cropped with a flat raking cornice and boxed cornice on the lateral sides. Slight eave returns were added to the front (east) corners. The roof is slate on the front (east) slope, asphalt on the rear, with a copper ridge-cap. A hole in the roof was repaired after the ca. 1950 fire. Additional repairs were made to the eaves and slates in 1976 (Campbell 2005). On the ridge is a large ventilator cupola, added ca. 1901, with louvered sides and a hip roof, topped with a horse weathervane. Door and window openings have flat trim. Symmetrically placed on the east elevation are two carriage bays. The paneled doors have chamfered stiles and rails. The upper panels are now glazed. Over each door is a hinged hayloft door of bead-board panels. The two bays between have windows with double-hung 6/6 sash. An interior brick chimney pierces the edge of the roof slope. A horizontal, rectangular window at the north end of the façade suggests a transom light, possibly an older door location. Both gable ends have old, probably original, twelve-over-twelve window sash. On each end wall are three, roughly square horse-stall windows. A door, bead-board on strap hinges, is located in the corner of the south elevation. Cellar access is through the south foundation wall. The rear (west) elevation is sheathed in board-and-batten siding. Sections of this exterior wall were replaced in 1991 to repair fire damage. The current fenestration dates from ca. 1901. There are four four-pane horse-stall windows on the ground floor and two small windows into the loft.

The barn is framed in six bents with five bays between. At the north end is a carriage room with bead board walls and southern yellow pine floor. Four standing horse stalls of the type used for draft horses are partitioned with tongue-and-groove pine boards, with cast posts and railing. At the head of each stall are a window and a grain bin with halter rings. Historically there was a gravity-fed grain bin above. The stall floors are slatted to

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drain to an under-pan that drains to the basement. The front, center space is the tack room, lit by double hung windows, once heated by a wood stove vented into the brick chimney. The room is sheathed in edge-and-center bead-board and has shelves and workbenches added. The southern bay of the barn contains three box stalls sheathed with horizontal edge-and-center bead-board, with swinging doors on heavy strap hinges. Each stall has hay net, grain bin and cast iron rod for hanging water buckets. The floor is slatted for drainage.

The loft shows evidence of fire damage ca. 1950. Much of the roof framing is replaced or sistered. The roof is supported by queen-post trusses. Principal and common rafters are spaced 4' on center, with collar ties close to the ridge. The loft story contains multiple rooms. Unfinished spaces were hayloft. Enclosed rooms are finished with tongue-and-grove pine boards.

There has been extensive work in the cellar. The foundation is mortared rubble stone with brick infill on the west wall. Repairs were made in 1988, the floor reinforced for automobile parking (Campbell 2005), with new tie beams and joists on concrete blocks posts. Under the slatted floors of the horse stalls is cement block flooring. Elsewhere the floor is dirt.

Site

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House is located on the western edge of the village of Walpole. Westminster Street runs west from Main Street, across the top of the town square at Elm Street and past the Town Hall. The house sits close to the edge of the street at the crest of the hill. The street, a dead end since the Bellows Road bypass was built west of the village in the 1960s, historically continued northwest, downhill toward the bridge.

The site retains features from the ca. 1901 period. Running the length of the property is a low, mortared granite retaining wall, probably from ca. 1901. A short herringbone brick walkway leads to the front door. A gravel driveway runs along the east side of house, ell and barn. Concrete walks lead to side entries. In the east side yard a flagpole was erected in 1991 to fly the fifteen stripe "Bradley Flag." One of the granite front steps was used to make a memorial marker for Stephen Rowe Bradley. Foundation plantings along the sides and rear of house and ell are daylilies and ferns. Lawn extends around the house on all sides. To the southwest the ground slopes down toward the river valley. A row of maples lines the crest of the hill. Southwest of the barn is an in-ground swimming pool installed in 1960 (Willard 2005). A historic photograph shows additional outbuildings south and east of the barn, which were removed sometime after ca. 1920. The east and south edges of the property are filled with mature Norway spruce trees planted in the 1950s. Along the Town Hall lot, which has always defined the east side of the property, is a fence erected in 2004 and additional trees planted (Campbell 2005).

The property contains 4.9 acres according to Walpole tax records, plus a 25' wide strip (about a quarter acre) purchased in 1970 from the neighboring property owner, but not reflected in the tax records (Willard 2005).

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This strip of land, on the dividing line between this property and the next from the time of subdivision in 1913, was probably a former right-of-way through the farm from Westminster Street to River Road, used in the early 1900s by Fanny P. Mason to access her Boggy Meadows Farm. In the 1950s, William B. Willard, apparently unclear on the boundary line, planted trees in this area. In 1970 the 25' along the west edge of the parcel were transferred from neighbor Woodward to Willard (Deed 1970). This reunited land that had historically been part of the same property, divided in 1913.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for its associations with Stephen Rowe Bradley. The property is significant on a national level in the thematic framework of Shaping the Political Landscape, and under Theme Studies - Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830. Stephen Rowe Bradley (1754-1830) was a founding father of the state of Vermont and three-term U.S. Senator, who played a significant role in the changing national political landscape of the early American republic. The period of significance under this criterion is 1817-1830, the years that Stephen Rowe Bradley owned the property. Bradley occupied this house during the later part of his life, but it is the surviving property most closely associated with him. His former home in Westminster, Vermont has been gone for over 150 years. Most of the public buildings where he practiced his career as lawyer and senator are gone, or heavily altered since his time. Although he has clearer significance to the state of Vermont, Bradley's later home in Walpole, New Hampshire was located directly across the Connecticut River from Westminster. Historically, the two towns were closely associated and Bradley had family and business connections in both.

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as an exceptional example of Federal period architecture in the Upper Connecticut Valley. Built ca. 1808, it is a fully developed example of the Federal style with characteristic form and ornament. It was constructed for Francis Gardner, a prominent lawyer and U.S. Representative, to reflect his importance. Early deeds refer to it as a "mansion house." The 44' x 39' house is expansively scaled, offering a wide center hall and large rooms. The windows are oversized with 10" x 14 ¾" panes. The ornament is compound creating exceptional depth and detail. Much of it is clearly based on the Asher Benjamin builder's guides in use at that time.

Despite remodeling in later periods, the Stephen Rowe Bradley House retains a high degree of integrity for the periods of significance, ca. 1808 and ca. 1817-1830. The house remains strongly Federal in character and details. The defining features are the hip roof form, floor plan with twin chimneys, windows, entry portico, pilasters and cornice; and all are intact. The interior retains a large percentage of original material and woodwork. Later remodelings, ca. 1835 and ca. 1901, are distinct and were considered "respectful restoration" by news accounts of the time; i.e., the quality of the original architecture was so high that it was respected even by rigorously fashion conscious owners.

Criterion B

Stephen Rowe Bradley's significance at a state and national level derives from his role in the establishment of Vermont and its state government, and as a prominent U.S. Senator during the period when Congress was

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developing a government for the new nation. Vermont statehood was a national issue, affecting the surrounding states and the country as a whole. Vermont was the first state added to the original thirteen and the first to be separated from adjacent older colonies that had claimed its land. Stephen Rowe Bradley was a long-time senator, serving three terms for a total of sixteen years, the second longest period of service of any of the senators of his time (www.senate.gov/artandhistory).

When Bradley moved to Vermont in 1779, as a young lawyer from Connecticut who had recently served in the Revolutionary War, he quickly became an ally of Judge Robinson, Ira Allen and Governor Chittenden in the struggle for independence from New York and other adjacent states. Bradley was one of the first two lawyers admitted to the bar in Vermont. Recognized for his outstanding abilities, Bradley was appointed by the Governor as an agent to the Continental Congress to plead Vermont's case for independence and to settle its land disputes with New York and New Hampshire. Late in 1779 he wrote *Vermont's Appeal to the Candid and Impartial World*, a manifesto advocating independent statehood for Vermont and against Congress's power to arbitrate the matter. This tract ended with the declaration that "Vermont has a natural right of independence; honor, justice, and humanity forbid us tamely to surrender that freedom which our innocent posterity have a right to demand and receive from their ancestors. . . . [W]hile we wear the names of Americans we never will surrender those glorious privileges for which so many have fought, bled, and died." After being read in the Vermont Assembly, it was amended, ordered published and presented to Congress in February 1780 (Kaminski 2005).

Bradley played an important role in establishing and participating in the new Vermont government. He was state's attorney in 1780, represented Westminster in the General Assembly seven years, was register of probate for ten years, became judge of the county court and associate judge on the Vermont Supreme Court. For many years he was Westminster town clerk recording deeds and other documents.

Vermont's struggle for statehood continued. In 1789, Bradley was one of the commissioners appointed to negotiate with New York over the state boundary and outstanding land claims, thus clearing the way for Vermont's admission to the Union. In October 1790 Bradley called for and drafted an act calling a state convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution. In February 1791, he served as one of the most influential delegates to that convention, strenuously arguing and voting with the majority to ratify the Constitution, making Vermont the only state other than the original thirteen to adopt the Constitution in a ratifying convention (Kaminski 2005).

After Vermont became the fourteenth state in the Union in February 1791, Bradley was elected one of its first two United States Senators. The federal government was only a few years old, in the sixth year since the Declaration of Independence. Bradley ranked as the thirtieth senator to be elected. When the 2nd U.S. Congress convened for its first session in October 1791, the Senate was comprised of thirty men, all among the most influential in their home states. This small group of men was responsible for shaping the government of the

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early republic. During this period party politics developed, westward expansion opened dramatically with the Louisiana Purchase, the new country dealt with sectional issues and slavery, and tried to avoid entanglement in the conflicts of the Old World (Library of Congress/American Memory website).

A wise statesman, active and influential senator, Stephen Rowe Bradley played an important role in the shaping of contemporary national political affairs. One of the acknowledged Jeffersonian leaders in the Senate, Bradley was held in high esteem by his compatriots as evidenced by being elected four times as Senate president *pro tempore* – the third highest position in the land at that time (Kaminski 2005).

Bradley, who drafted some forty-four bills (Annals of Congress; Journals of Congress; Journal of the 2nd Congress of the United States; Archives of the U.S. Senate), was respected for his hard work. His authorship of so many bills in the Senate (most bills then originated in the House of Representatives) indicates that he had special legislative skills and intellect which made him greatly esteemed by his colleagues. This was recognized early on in the Vermont legislature when he was asked to write the bill calling for the constitutional ratifying convention in 1791 (Kaminski 2005).

One of Bradley's first actions in the Senate was to sponsor the bill that created the fifteen-star and fifteen-stripe U.S. flag marking Vermont and Kentucky's admission to the Union. It was this flag—officially used between 1795 and 1814—that flew over Fort McHenry in 1814 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star Spangled Banner.”

In Bradley's second term, after the election of 1800 when a tie-vote resulted in a weeklong stalemate in the U.S. House of Representatives, Bradley authored the 12th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring separate ballots for the president and vice-president. In 1804 and 1808 he chaired the Republican caucus in Congress, the predecessor of national political conventions, which nominated Jefferson and New York Governor George Clinton as president and vice president in 1804, and James Madison and Clinton as the party's candidates in 1808, against a strong splinter group that wanted to nominate Clinton as president (Kaminski 2005).

One historian wrote that Bradley “was in his time a strong party leader, but not a blind party follower” (Crockett 1931). He disagreed with his party on a number of occasions. As an advocate of an independent judiciary, he opposed the impeachments of Federal district judge John Pickering and U.S. Supreme Court associate justice Samuel Chase. He opposed the threatened occupation of East Florida, and strenuously opposed a declaration of war against Great Britain in 1812, partly on the grounds that the country was ill prepared for such a conflict. Because he was not an absolute party follower, Bradley gained credibility with others in his party who disliked some of Jefferson and Madison's policies, and was more acceptable to Federalists, especially those in New England (Kaminski 2005). It is said that he was so distraught about the course President Madison took in entering the War of 1812, that after sixteen years in the U.S. Senate, he retired at the expiration of his term in March 1813 (Hall 1858; Goodrich 1856:557-558). In retiring, he honorably stepped aside and maintained his

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dignity rather than fighting a losing battle and being an obstructionist opposing President Madison's policies, which were endorsed by a majority (Kaminski 2005).

Sixteen years, although not long compared to the time spent in Congress by some modern U.S. Senators, made Bradley one of the longest serving of his era. Only two Senators of this period served longer. Few men of the Revolutionary generation devoted their lives to public service. Among those who did, their service was stellar for usually only brief periods of time. Stephen Rowe Bradley not only devoted much of his career to public service, but in whatever arena he served, he excelled (Kaminski 2005). During the early years of the republic there was about a 20% turnover in each two-year Congress. Relatively few men were re-elected to the Senate. Most served a single term, a smaller number a second or third. For example, only six men served during Bradley's second term and then were reelected during his third term. When Bradley retired in 1813 with sixteen years of service, only one Senator was his senior (Joseph Anderson of Tennessee who served twenty-eight years) (Kaminski 2005; www.senate.gov/artandhistory).

Throughout his career in politics, Stephen Rowe Bradley lived in Westminster, Vermont, directly across the Connecticut River from his later home in Walpole, New Hampshire. In January 1817, four years into his retirement, Bradley purchased this house in Walpole from his business associate David Stone and moved across the river from Westminster, where he had lived for more than thirty-five years. According to tradition, the reason for the move was a dispute with the Westminster selectmen, but no records or letters from this time contain references to prove or disprove this. Bradley made the flourishing community of Walpole Village his home from ca. 1817 until his death in 1830.

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House in Walpole is the surviving property best able to document his historical significance. His Westminster house is no longer extant. It was gone by the mid-nineteenth century and was never documented. By the twentieth century, its exact location was unknown to local historians and family members. Even his preservation-minded descendants, the Willards, did not identify or mark the house site when they returned to the area in the early 1900s.

Of the court and government buildings where Stephen Rowe Bradley worked as lawyer and statesman, only one survives. This is Congress Hall in Philadelphia, which was the meeting place of the Senate from 1790 to 1800, and has been restored to that period as part of Independence National Historic Park. Bradley attended the Senate there from October 1791 to March 1793. In Vermont, the courthouse in Westminster where Bradley practiced early in his career was closed when the county seat relocated and demolished in 1806. The 1787 Windham County Courthouse in Newfane, Vermont, where Bradley practiced from then on, was replaced in 1825, after his retirement. The present Windham County Courthouse was created by renovations to that building in 1853. During Vermont's early years, the state assembly met in Windsor. Montpelier became the site of the State legislature in 1805, while Bradley was serving in the federal government. The current Vermont Statehouse was built in the 1850s. The U.S. Capitol retains no integrity for the period when Bradley served in

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the Senate from 1801 to 1813. The North Wing where the Senate met was built in 1800, but required major work within a decade, rebuilding ongoing from 1808 to 1810. The Senate, including Bradley, occupied that space only a short time. The Capitol was burned by the British in 1814 and rebuilt by 1819. The subsequent Senate Chamber was renovated in the 1850s, becoming the Supreme Court, but was restored to the earlier period in 1976. Where Bradley resided while in Washington is unknown.

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House in Walpole, although it is in a different state from that in which he lived during his career, is located less than two miles from his former home. The towns of Walpole and Westminster on opposite sides of the Connecticut River were closely affiliated throughout their histories. Like many other Vermont and New Hampshire towns along the river valley, the villages developed closer ties between them than to those of neighboring towns in the same state. Towns on the New Hampshire side of the river were directly affected by Vermont's struggle for statehood. The connection between the town centers of Walpole and Westminster was strengthened by construction of the Village Bridge in 1807. This house, built the following year, was prominently sited above.

As the house in which Bradley spent his final years, the property reflects his success and status. At the time, Walpole was a center of social and cultural activity in the region. It contained a growing concentration of large highly fashionable homes. This house on the edge of the village offered an expansive view of the Connecticut River valley, and overlooked Bradley's former home on the opposite side. He moved from an older house, probably a large center chimney dwelling, which was then about thirty-five years old. The large Federal style house in Walpole was then less than ten years old, grand in scale and ornament and still at the height of fashion, before the rise of the Greek Revival style.

Bradley devoted his retirement to his family and to farming and real estate and undoubtedly continued some legal work. At the time of the move to Walpole, Bradley and his third wife had been married nearly fifteen years and had a young daughter. Bradley retained close relationships with his grown children and their families. His son who remained in Westminster was a prominent lawyer and became U.S. Senator after his father's retirement; his eldest daughter had lived in Walpole since her marriage in 1813. The two younger daughters later married and lived in Hartford, Connecticut where Stephen Rowe Bradley had business connections. About eight grandchildren were born during his lifetime. All were provided for in his will.

Bradley managed an extensive farming operation. In addition to the thirty acres then associated with this house, he owned several other farms in Walpole. Between 1817 and 1830, Bradley was involved in twenty-four Cheshire County deeds as grantee and nineteen as grantor. He was party to another twenty deeds in Vermont. He held several mortgages and notes and rented property. He owned shares in the Walpole Village Bridge and in the bank in Hartford, Connecticut. Real estate investment, unlike some of the large-scale speculation that went on in this period, was considered honorable and contributing to the good of society. Typically an investor would purchase a large tract of land in a developing area, "consisting of a combination of arable land, timber

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stands, and pasture. The investor would sell up to about half the land quickly with a minimal profit. When settlers moved in and improved the land, the rest of the investment would become very profitable.” Someone like Bradley might have three or four of these kinds of deals in various stages at any one time (Kaminski 2005).

Although he has received limited attention from historians, Bradley was clearly one of the key figures in the early history of the nation, especially in Republican Party politics (Muller 2005). In the future, historians will be able to gain a greater understanding of his life and career through the transcription of Bradley’s papers currently being prepared for publication by his great-great-great-great grandson Dorr Bradley Carpenter. There are a total of 2600 pieces included, from several repositories. The book will include twenty-six letters between Bradley and Thomas Jefferson, many letters to and from James Madison, thirty to and from John Quincy Adams when he was Secretary of State, and some thirty documents pertaining to Bradley’s friendship and legal services to Ethan Allen (Carpenter 2005). Letters from Stephen Rowe Bradley to others survive in the Thomas Jefferson Library and the Library of Congress. There are a number of letters to Ethan Allen during the 1780s in the collections of Fort Ticonderoga. Many of Stephen Rowe and William Czar Bradley’s papers were saved along with the law library books by Bradley descendants in the old Westminster law office and the Stephen Rowe Bradley House. The Willard family recently gave this collection to the University of Vermont Bailey/Howe Library. Earlier, another large group of papers was deposited in the Duke University Special Collections Library. There are also Bradley family letters in a collection in the Schlesinger Library at Radcliff. Clearly there were many other papers that have not survived, or possibly were sold to private collectors. That only twenty-six letters survive from the eight years in which Bradley worked closely with Jefferson is suggestive of this (Carpenter 2005). A cursory investigation of the available papers from the relevant period revealed none that shed light on Bradley’s move to and subsequent life in the Walpole house. Further study would undoubtedly yield more information.

Criterion C

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House is significant under Criterion C as an exceptional example of Federal style domestic architecture, built ca. 1808 in the Upper Connecticut Valley. Despite Greek Revival modifications made by Bradley’s daughter and son-in-law in the 1830s, the house remains predominately Federal in style. It has a two-story form, with low-pitched hip roof and twin chimney, and center hall plan, common for large Federal period houses in Walpole and throughout the region. The fully developed Federal style façade features two story Doric pilasters and elaborate composite molded cornice, a delicate Palladian window, entry portico and original large window sash. The interior has a typical 4-room, center hallway plan, focused around the spacious center hall, and interior twin fireplace chimneys. The fireplace openings, floorboards, and elements of the center staircase are original. Federal joinery and woodwork includes doors, wainscoting with chair rails, door and window surrounds, and interior shutters in the northwest rooms, all with molding profiles typical of the period.

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The symmetrical five bay façade, divided into three parts by the tall pilasters, is typically Federal. Other defining characteristics of the style are the ornamented cornice, the use of an entry portico, semi-circular fanlights and double-hung 6/6 window sash, as well as the decorative window heads, and Palladian window above the center entry. Many elements of the house were clearly drawn from Asher Benjamin's architectural guidebooks, *The Country Builder's Assistant* (1797) and *The American Builder's Companion* (1806, reprinted 1827), which had a major influence of the architecture of the period (Garvin 2004). The cornice of the Stephen Rowe Bradley House appears to be directly taken from the "fancy cornices" shown in the latter book, a combination of Figures E and G on Plate 26 (Garvin 2001:111).

Asher Benjamin (1773-1845), a native of the Connecticut Valley, published the first American builder's guide not derived entirely from English sources and aimed more at country rather than urban builders. The *Country Builder's Assistant* was published in 1797 in Greenfield, Massachusetts where Benjamin was then living. In July 1798 it was advertised for sale in a local bookshop by Walpole's *Farmer's Weekly* newspaper (Hosley 1985:463). Benjamin practiced throughout the Connecticut Valley, living a short time in Windsor, Vermont, where he advertised an architectural school for journeymen and master joiners in the winter of 1800, before relocating to Boston (Hosley 1985:121). His *The American Builder's Companion* was originally published in 1806 and reprinted several times, followed by additional publications in the 1830s.

Other elements of the Stephen Rowe Bradley House appear drawn from Benjamin's 1806 book. The bases of the pilasters incorporate molding profiles shown in Plate 35. The pronounced cornice meets Benjamin's recommendation that the ornament of the cornice be bold, and distinguishable from afar. The individual moldings are simple and uniform in shape, with all parts of nearly the same dimensions so the eye will view the composition as a whole (Benjamin 1827: 28, 29). In this period the variety of molding profiles used by builders increased and Grecian profiles became popular. Benjamin showed how to add decorative elements using drilled holes and gouged fluting in place of more expensive carving or composition ornament (Garvin 2001:109). Benjamin included designs for frieze of triglyphs and metopes, the former with triangular drops or guttae, as well as for rope moldings and mutule blocks like those on the Bradley House (Benjamin 1827:39). The double-hung 6/6 window sash with large panes and narrow muntins (less than 5/8 inch wide) are typical of the Federal style, these with a distinctive muntin profile. The side entries retain original Federal style, semi-circular fanlights; that in the east entry is identical to one illustrated by Benjamin (Benjamin 1827: Plate 38).

On the interior of the Bradley House, the original floor plan includes a broad center stairhall. This space was updated in the 1830s, but retains characteristically Federal elements. These are the curved upper railing and the scroll and nest of balusters at the bottom, very similar to an Asher Benjamin illustration. The original balusters were probably simple square rods (replaced by dowels in the 1830s). Typical of the Federal period were plaster walls with wainscoting of wide, flat boards with baseboard and chair rail at bottom and top. Room cornices were used less often (Garvin 2001:109). In the Bradley House original wainscoting and baseboards are intact in

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all but the hallway and southwest room. The molding profiles of the baseboards are nearly identical to those shown by Asher Benjamin (Benjamin 1827: Plate 35). Interior doors have the characteristic Federal period panel arrangement and profile, six panels with two small panels at top, with slender moldings on the inner edges of stiles and rails. The original door and window casings throughout the house are typical of the early 1800s (Garvin 2004). They are double or single architraves with quirked beaded inner edges. In this period, double architraves became more common for trim boards, particularly in best rooms (Garvin 2001:109, 156). Reeded architraves and chair rails like those in the northeast sitting room and northeast chamber are illustrated by Benjamin (Benjamin 1827: Plate 35). The Stephen Rowe Bradley House has original wide pine floors in all but one room. The fireplace openings with soapstone are original, the mantelpieces replaced in the 1830s. This removal of Federal style mantelpieces from the rooms was the most substantial change to the house; other changes left original material intact.

Historical Significance - Background and Context

The Bradley family's association with the house began in 1817 when Stephen Rowe Bradley purchased the house and moved across the river from Westminster, Vermont. The house had been built nine years earlier for Francis Gardner, a lawyer and U.S. Representative, who owned the property only a short time. The second owner and occupant was David Stone, a local merchant and businessman, who was actively involved in real estate dealings with Bradley. Stone expanded the property with the purchase of adjacent land, but lived in the house only briefly, later occupying a house around the corner on the west side of the Town Common. The Bradley family in Westminster had strong ties to Walpole; Bradley's son-in-law was Stone's long-time business partner. Bradley acquired this house and other Walpole properties, which were bequeathed to his children and grandchildren. The Stephen Rowe Bradley House was acquired by son-in-law Henry S. Tudor, who probably made the Greek Revival style renovations in the 1830s. After 1849 the house passed out of the family and had a series of owners during the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1901 it was purchased by Fanny P. Mason who owned a large Walpole estate. Colonial Revival renovations and additions were made to the house. In 1913, the house was purchased by Stephen Rowe Bradley's great-great grandson Henry Kellogg Willard and the family has preserved it since.

Stephen Rowe Bradley

Early Years- Connecticut

Stephen Rowe Bradley was born in Cheshire (then Wallingford), Connecticut on February 20, 1754 to Moses Bradley and Mary Row. His grandfather Stephen Bradley had settled in New Haven, Connecticut in 1650. Stephen Rowe Bradley attended Yale College where he received his Bachelors degree in 1775. While there, he published his first work the "Astronomical Diary of 1775," of which 2,000 copies were printed.

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Bradley began his career in public service upon graduation. Instead of getting a safe civilian position, easily available with his academic credentials, he joined the Continental Army, serving as Captain of the Cheshire Volunteers, a unit that fought with Washington's army in the New York campaign of 1776 (Kaminski 2005). Bradley came to the attention of George Washington and other senior officers, and soon rose to the rank of Colonel. He was primarily engaged in the commissary department, as adjutant then vendue master and quartermaster. Bradley became aide-de-camp to General David Wooster, who at the time was charged with protecting Connecticut, particularly Danbury, where large magazines of provisions and other articles were stored. After Wooster was mortally wounded in the Battle of Danbury in April 1777, Bradley left military service for several months. He returned in 1778 as a commissary officer in New Haven. The following year he was promoted to the rank of Major, but soon resigned his commission (Carpenter 2002). Bradley's close association with General Wooster is reflected in a fresco of the Death of General Wooster, painted in 1859 on the wall of the Senate Appropriations Committee room in the U.S. Capitol building, showing Wooster surrounded by Dr. Andrew Graham, Aaron Burr and Stephen Rowe Bradley (Carpenter 2005). During the lulls in fighting in the winter months and after the active war shifted to the South, Bradley obtained an M.A. from Yale in 1778, taught school at Cheshire, and read law with Judge Tapping Reeve, later the founder of the famous Litchfield law school (Kaminski 2005; Willard 1925:34; Carpenter n.d.).

Vermont

In the spring of 1779, Bradley, like many ambitious young men, moved up the Connecticut River to what was then known as the New Hampshire Grants, now Vermont. He quickly became allied with the forces seeking independent statehood.

The town of Westminster had been settled in the 1750s, originally granted by New Hampshire when Governor Benning Wentworth gave charters to a large number of towns on both sides of the Connecticut indiscriminately. However, New York claimed the Connecticut River as its eastern boundary and declared the New Hampshire grants worthless. New York demanded the settlers of the New Hampshire Grants repurchase the land, or re-granted it to New York residents. New Hampshire continued to claim the land, though offering the settlers no protection. In 1764 the King attempted to settle the controversy, declaring the west side of the Connecticut River to be part of New York. Westminster was then the county seat of Cumberland County, New York (now Windsor and Windham Counties in Vermont). In 1772-73 a courthouse was built on what became known as Courthouse Hill, north of the Westminster meetinghouse and town center. The main road on the west side of the river was "the King's Highway," defined in the village of Westminster as Upper and Lower Streets. Towns, like Westminster and Walpole, on either side of the Connecticut River, which came to define New Hampshire and Vermont, developed concurrently, and with close ties, due to their location on the river which was an important transportation corridor, with settlements clustered in the fertile intervale valley along it.

As the Revolutionary War escalated, settlers of the New Hampshire Grants struggled against the jurisdiction of New York and sought independence from the adjacent states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York.

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In January 1777, Westminster was the site of a convention at which Vermont was declared an independent state. Originally known as New Connecticut, the name of Vermont was adopted a few months later, and delegates at a convention in Windsor agreed to a Constitution. Congress dismissed Vermont's petition not wanting to be involved in the disputes with New York and New Hampshire. "The Green Mountain Boys" volunteer militia was organized to defend Vermont against New York, but soon offered its services in the war against the British. Ethan Allen (1739-1789) was "Colonial Commandant" until captured by the British in the 1775 campaign against Canada. In 1778 he was released from captivity and the following year became Brigadier General of the Vermont militia (Muller 2005).

Bradley's first appearance in Westminster was in May of 1779 (Hall 1858:342). On the day he arrived, court was being held in Westminster, and because the defendant had no lawyer, Judge Moses Robinson asked Bradley to act for the defense. All were impressed by Bradley's ability, including Ethan Allen, who was one of the opposition in the case. Later that year, 25-year-old Bradley was one of the first two admissions to the Vermont bar. Ethan Allen, about sixteen years his senior, made Bradley his personal attorney (Carpenter 2002; Hall 1858:375).

Bradley was quickly recognized for his knowledge and ability in the practice of law, as well as his popular manners and keen insight (Willard 1925:34). In October 1779, Vermont Governor Thomas Chittenden appointed a committee of five men, including General Ethan Allen and Stephen Rowe Bradley to present Vermont's position to the Continental Congress and negotiate for statehood. Bradley was asked to prepare an appeal to Congress, assembling Vermont's views on being separate and independent from its abutting colonies (Walton 1874).

In less than three months, Bradley completed "*Vermont's Appeal to the Candid and Impartial World*" and on December 10, 1779 it was presented to the Governor and Council, approved and published. Anticipating Congress's plans to adjudicate the claims of Vermont's abutters, the Governor's Council selected Bradley, Jonas Fay, and Moses Robinson as agents to travel to Philadelphia to represent Vermont's interests and defend against the claims of adjacent colonies. These men were empowered to settle the articles of union and confederation with the United States (Crockett 1931:292). On February 1, 1780, they were present to deliver "*Vermont's Appeal*" before Congress, but the matter was tabled. In September Ira Allen and Bradley returned to present the "*Appeal*" and a letter from Governor Chittenden to the President of Congress denouncing the plan that would divide Vermont between New Hampshire and New York (Carpenter 2002). Bradley was discouraged because his letters went unanswered and he was not granted an opportunity to appear before any committee of Congress. He became convinced that Congress would decide the questions without Vermont's opinion. He left Philadelphia believing that he had failed, and returned to Vermont where he requested active duty with his militia regiment. Bradley's correspondence and *Appeal* had in fact been read into the Congressional record and an invitation issued for him to appear, but not until after he had returned home (Carpenter 2005).

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“Vermont’s Appeal” was “one of the notable documents upon which Vermont rested her claim in the long controversy” for statehood (Crockett 1931:294). The Appeal was a powerful, logical defense of the Green Mountain commonwealth in its struggle to maintain its title and lands. In his manuscript, Bradley presented three arguments: Vermont’s “interest and advantage in being independent;” the “necessity” of pursuing independence; and the “advantage that has and will accrue to the other States” (Walton 1874:211). He argued that Vermont had won its right to independence by “brave and noble conduct” and service to the Colonies during the Revolutionary War.” He also suggested that it was not in the Nation’s interests to have “great, overgrown, unwieldy states” such as New York, which “would in time by the same spirit, overrun and ruin many of the United States” (Crockett 1931:296).

Despite Bradley’s articulate claims, Congress held up the issue of Vermont statehood for several years. Thus, Vermont operated as an independent entity outside the United States for eleven years. Not all local residents were in favor. In March of 1780, Bradley was appointed by the Vermont General Assembly to a committee of three to inquire why certain inhabitants of Cumberland County were opposed to Vermont Statehood.

In 1780 Bradley was appointed Clerk of the Court in Westminster and the State’s attorney for Cumberland County. Court ceased to be held in Westminster when Cumberland County was abolished in 1781. The old courthouse stood until demolished in 1806. In 1780 Stephen Rowe Bradley and Merab Atwater of Cheshire, Connecticut were married. Bradley built his house on the flat meadows just north of Courthouse Hill (Willard 1925:xxiv, 243). A son, William Czar Bradley, was born in 1782. Merab Bradley died three years later at the age of twenty-eight. For a time, young William C. Bradley went to live with his grandparents in Connecticut. In 1789, Bradley married his second wife “Thankful” Gratia Taylor. From his first land purchases in 1779 and 1780, Bradley was involved in over ninety deed transactions in Vermont over the next two decades, amassing vast amounts of land, primarily in Westminster.

Throughout the 1780s, Vermont leaders built the infrastructure of the commonwealth. Currency was coined, government structures established, and a state militia formed. Bradley’s stature and renown increased. He became a “prominent political leader, and exercised a large influence in laying the foundation of the State of Vermont” (Goodrich 1856:557). Bradley was commissioned in 1781 as lieutenant in the First Regiment of Vermont militia and was promoted to Colonel two months later. On several occasions he restored order in the southern parts of Vermont when conflict occurred between Yorkers and Vermont settlers (Kaminski 2005). Bradley resigned his commission in 1787 (Willard 1925:36; Carpenter 2002).

Bradley was attorney and personal friend of Ethan Allen throughout this period, until the latter’s death in 1789. Allen was a regular visitor in Bradley’s home and it was there he was married to his second wife in 1784 (Hall 1858:630; Carpenter 2002). Newfane, about fifteen miles away, became the seat of Windham County and a courthouse was built there in 1787. This was used until a new courthouse was built in 1825. Bradley was

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Register of Probate from 1782 to 1792. In February 1783 he was appointed a judge of the county court, and for a year from October 1788 to October 1789 he served as an associate judge on the Vermont Supreme Court—only the second lawyer to serve on that bench (Kaminski 2005). He was local selectman in 1782 and 1789. He represented the Town of Westminster in the State Assembly in 1780, 1781, 1784, 1785, 1788, 1790 and 1800, serving as Speaker in 1785 (Biographical Directory). Vermont's government met in Windsor, about thirty-eight miles north of Westminster on the Connecticut River. Vermont was unicameral, with a single House of Representatives, until the Senate was created in 1836.

By 1788, the idea of Vermont statehood was gaining strength in Congress. In correspondence, Alexander Hamilton opined "the time had arrived for effecting the accession of Vermont to the Union 'upon the best terms for all concerned'." The issue had finally ripened because Kentucky was petitioning for statehood and some in Congress were concerned about a regional imbalance of power in the federal governing body. However, New York's land claims were still outstanding, so Congress called upon Vermont to negotiate and settle the claim before it could be admitted to the Union. In 1789, Bradley was one of seven commissioners appointed by the Governor to "ascertain, agree to, ratify, and confirm a jurisdictional or boundary line" between Vermont and New York. This group was also empowered to "adjust and finally determine all and every matter" standing in the way of Vermont statehood. These men were "numbered among the ablest Vermonters of this time;" three later became governors and five U.S. senators (Crockett 1931:252-253). Probably at this time Bradley became acquainted with Thomas Jefferson, then the first U.S. Secretary of State who was instrumental in bringing Vermont into the Union.

After more than two years of negotiations, the Vermont commissioners reached an accord with New York regarding both the boundary and compensation. Before the Vermont Commission on October 22, 1790, Bradley, "in a sensible and masterly manner," gave a full recount of the New York negotiation and its outcome. On the same day, the legislature voted affirmatively on the measure and Bradley motioned for the passage of an action to call a State Convention to ratify the United States Constitution. This was held in January 1791. Bradley was one of the leaders in the debate, favoring approval, which was carried by a large majority. Bradley was a signer of the resulting document that ratified the U.S. Constitution and paved the way for admission to the Union (Crockett 1931:458). President Washington signed the bill admitting Vermont to the Union on February 18, 1791. Associated bills "set in motion the machinery of the United State Government in Vermont" and provided that the State chose representatives to Congress. Vermont's legislature elected Bradley and Moses Robinson its first two U.S. senators.

U.S. Senate

Stephen Rowe Bradley served in the Senate from October 17, 1791 to March 3, 1795, during the presidency of George Washington. The Senate met in Congress Hall in Philadelphia. Bradley authored the Act of January 13, 1794, which resulted in the United States flag being updated to 15 stripes and 15 stars to reflect the admission of Vermont and Kentucky into the Union. The "Bradley Flag" was the country's official flag from

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1795 to 1818. It was the first U.S. flag to be flown over a foreign fortress, when American Marine and native forces raised it above the pirate stronghold of Durna in 1805 (Foundingfathers.com). It was the fifteen striped "Bradley flag" that flew over Fort McHenry during the War of 1812, its powerful presence during the September 1814 bombardment inspiring Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner," which became the national anthem. It was the flag flown by American forces in the Battle of Lake Erie in September 1813 and by General Jackson in New Orleans in January 1815 (Crockett 1931:32; foundingfathers.com). Later, it became apparent that it would be unwieldy to add a stripe and star for each new state. In 1818, Congress determined that the United States flag would have thirteen stripes for the original states, with a star added for each new state entering the Union. As the political parties developed during the early 1790s, Bradley became a anti-Federalist or Jeffersonian Republican. When his four-year term ended in 1795, Vermont's Federalist-dominated legislature refused to re-appoint him to the Senate (Muller 2005).

Bradley continued to practice law and in 1793 was admitted to practice in the federal circuit court of Vermont. In 1797, he rejoined the militia, commissioned as Brigadier General of the 8th Brigade Vermont Volunteers (Walton 1874). He was proud of his military service and after retiring from the Senate, was known as General Bradley (Carpenter 2002; Bellows ca. 1820). Bradley was involved in the 1791 charter of Pearsall's Gore in northern Vermont. This unincorporated township contained nearly 4000 acres which was largely mountainous and had few residents according to Hayward's New England Gazetteer of 1839. In 1803 it was renamed "Bradleyvale" in honor of Senator Bradley. Later it was annexed to the towns of Concord and Victory. Bradley owned land there including two lots, which he sold in 1823 (Deed 1823). Further study is needed to document what role he played in the development of the town.

The Republican Party made gains in the 1800 election, winning the executive and legislative branches. When the first session of the Seventh Congress met in December of 1801, there were eighteen Republican members opposed to fourteen Federalists. Bradley was again elected to the Senate to fill the seat vacated by Elijah Paine in the Seventh Congress. Re-elected for another six years in 1807, he served until the end of the Twelfth Congress in March 1813. These were the earliest years of the federal government in Washington, D.C., the Capitol and White House newly built and the surrounding city developing. Bradley was a personal friend of President Thomas Jefferson. They presumably met while Bradley was advocating for Vermont statehood, which Jefferson supported when he was the first secretary of state. Bradley was also friendly with Dolley and James Madison for whom he conducted legal affairs (Carpenter 2002).

When Bradley returned to the Senate in 1801, construction of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. was ongoing, along with development of the city itself. The newly completed North Wing contained the Senate Chamber and Supreme Court. From 1801 to 1804, the House of Representatives met in an attached temporary structure. This was taken down and the South Wing built for the House of Representatives between 1804 and 1807. By that date, the North Wing was already in disrepair. The Senate moved from the first to second floor and the lower level was gutted and a new chamber constructed between 1808 and 1810. This space was used by

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the Senate during Bradley's final term. Little survives from that period. The building was burned by the British in 1814. The Senate Chamber was enlarged during the 1815-1819 rebuilding. The existing structure with central section and two wings was complete by 1826. The wings were extended in the 1850s, the Senate relocated, but the older chamber was restored in 1976 (The Architect of the Capitol).

Sessions of Congress lasted five-months. Senators from far away generally stayed in Washington DC for the entire session. Four or five hours a day were spent in Congress, with additional time in committee meetings. After hours was spent in meetings, dining, reading newspapers and pamphlets, writing and reading correspondence, and some social activities such as walking, horseback riding, attending plays and concerts, and social visits. Weekend excursions could be taken to friends in the not too distant countryside. On Sunday there were church services (Kaminski 2005). Bradley and most of his contemporaries stayed in boarding houses, often with other members of the House and Senate from their own section of the country. Family members rarely accompanied the men to Washington, which was still rather undeveloped, with a climate uncomfortable for New Englanders. There was informality and conviviality in these "bachelor pads" and the taverns where the political discussions of the day were continued into the evening hours, which is why like-minded men usually boarded together (Kaminski 2005). The boardinghouses generally served two meals a day--breakfast around 8:00-9:00 and dinner around 4:00-5:00. Around 8:00 p.m. coffee and tea might be served. Drinks and discussion lasted from 9:00 to 11:00 p.m., depending on what political issues were on the agenda. Senators did not benefit financially from their government service; the per diem compensation was not sufficient to pay for the lifestyle (Kaminski 2005).

Stephen Rowe Bradley's senatorial career was marked by important accomplishments, including authoring the Twelfth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. At the time, votes for President and Vice President were not listed on separate ballots. Electors voted for two men and the candidate, from whichever party, with the second largest number of votes became the Vice President. From 1796 to 1800, political rivals John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were President and Vice President. In 1800 Jefferson and Aaron Burr, members of the same political party who were running on the same ticket, received an equal number of votes. At the discretion of the Senate President Pro-Tem, the tie vote was to be decided by the House of Representatives. After a lengthy stalemate, an all night session and ballots cast thirty-six times, Jefferson was selected. In a speech on February 18, 1802, Bradley initiated the Twelfth Amendment to remedy this situation, directing Electors to vote for President and Vice President separately. The Amendment was ratified in 1804 (Rutland 1994:121; Carpenter 2005).

Bradley served on the Senate committees to which many important questions were referred (Bradley 1889:5). Major issues at the time included slavery, the Louisiana Territory, state's rights, Indian affairs, and foreign trade, particularly relations with Great Britain. Bradley's prominence in the Senate is shown by his election three times in 1802-03, and again in 1808-09, as Senate President *pro tempore* (Biographical Directory; Bradley 1889:5). The office, requiring election by a majority of the Senators, has long been considered one of the

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highest honors offered to a senator by the Senate body. The President Pro Tem is responsible for presiding over the Senate in the absence of the Vice President. As a duly elected member of the Senate, the President Pro Tem, unlike the Vice President, is able to speak and vote on any issue, so was in a position to assume leadership of the Senate, particularly in the time before the posts of majority and minority leaders and party whips were created. In case of death or removal of both President and Vice President, the President *pro tempore* would succeed to the presidency, followed by the Speaker of the House.

Stephen Rowe and Gratia Bradley had three children, Stella Czarina born in 1796, Stephen Rowe Jr. in 1798 and Adeline Gratia Bradley in 1799. Mrs. Bradley died in January of 1802. Bradley married third wife, Melinda Willard (1784-1837) in September 1803. He was forty-nine and she was nineteen. She was the daughter of William and Agnes Willard of Westminster, cousin of Joseph Willard whose son later married Bradley's great granddaughter Sarah Kellogg Bradley. In 1808, ten-year-old Stephen Rowe Bradley II drowned while away at school (Willard 1925:11, 14). Stephen R. and Melinda Bradley's first daughter Louise Agnes Bradley lived only from 1809 to 1811. In 1810, their Westminster household included two daughters, and three young men and three young women presumably farm workers and servants (Bureau of the Census 1810). Youngest daughter Mary Rowe Bradley was born in 1811.

Eldest son William C. Bradley was something of a prodigy. At age twelve he published his first work of prose "The Rights of Youth in The Candid Reader" and at thirteen he enrolled at Yale. After being expelled for a prank he always denied committing, he went to Amherst to study with Judge Simeon Strong and then returned to Westminster to study in his father's office under A. Blandford (Willard 1925:49). In 1802 William C. Bradley was admitted to the Bar at age twenty. In December of that year he married Sarah Richards. They lived in the center of Westminster village in a house built as a gift from her father Mark C. Richards, Vermont Lieutenant Governor and Senator. This house still stands in the village center, at the intersection of Main Street and West Street. A law office was located in a small building nearby. William C. Bradley managed his father's local business when the latter was away in Washington. He embarked on a political career of his own and in 1805 he was elected to the Vermont Legislature. In 1813 he was elected to Congress as his father retired (Willard 1925:51-56).

In February 1804, Stephen Rowe Bradley was elected chairman of the Republican Party Caucus at which Jefferson was nominated for a second term as President. This appointment to preside over the Congressional Caucus was an important assignment not given to newcomers or men of little reputation (Kaminski 2005). In 1808, Bradley played a major role in the election of James Madison as President. When Jefferson declined to stand for a third term in office, he endorsed Madison as his successor. Dissension within the Republican Party due the state of domestic and foreign affairs resulted in political maneuverings and multiple endorsements. Two nominating caucus were held, one in Virginia and one in Washington. In a totally unprecedented and preemptory move, Bradley called the Party together in Washington basing his authority on the fact that he had been chairman of the caucus in 1804. By way of formal circular, Bradley called his colleagues to "aid the

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meeting with [their] influence, information and talents” to nominate “suitable and proper characters for President and Vice President of the United States” (Cunningham 1963:112). His authority was questioned by other Republicans whose Presidential preference was James Monroe who was temporarily at odds with Madison. Despite the intra-party dissension, the Washington Caucus proceeded, and James Madison was nominated as the Republican candidate. Monroe supporters did not attend and registered their protest in various correspondences. It is said it took “all of Jefferson’s prestige and charm to convince dissident Republicans, who had rallied around fellow Virginian James Monroe, not to stray into the Federalist camp out of spite for Madison” (from “Presidency in History). Bradley’s actions began a custom of party presidential nomination that prevailed until the conventions were established.

Stephen Rowe Bradley was a man of “political independence” (Crockett 1931:32). He disagreed with his party and did not support Jefferson in his ongoing conflict with Chief Justice John Marshall and the Federalist judiciary, which culminated in the establishment of a powerful and independent judiciary. Issues included the impeachment of Judge John Pickering and the attempted removal of Samuel Chase, a Federalist and advocate of the Alien and Sedition Acts, from the Supreme Court.

In 1809, Bradley was one of seven men on a committee to consider war with Great Britain. Bradley became a strong opponent of the war, for which he felt the United States military was ill prepared. Jefferson and Madison had previously endeavored to avoid war, but modified their views due to political pressure. Bradley continued to disagree and counseled President Madison against war. In a speech delivered in the Senate on April 25, 1812, he protested against a declaration of war before an army was organized. Bradley was absent in June 1812, when the Senate debated the passage of a bill from the House of Representatives declaring War against Great Britain. His allies attempted to delay the vote, but Bradley had not yet returned when the Senate voted for a declaration of war on June 18, 1812. Bradley wrote, “Had I arrived twenty-four hours sooner in this place it would possibly have put off the war till the country had been better prepared” (Willard 1925:40). Bradley was reportedly so dissatisfied with the national policy of the time, that at the end of his Senate term in March 1813 he retired altogether from public service (Bradley 1889:5; Carpenter 2002).

Stephen Rowe Bradley, in addition to being a lawyer of distinguished abilities and a good orator, was popular and well liked. It was said, “Few men have more companionable talents, a greater share of social cheerfulness, a more inexhaustible flow of wit, or a larger portion of unaffected urbanity” (Bradley 1889:5). According to his son-in-law S. G. Goodrich, Bradley had a “ready wit, boundless stores of anecdotes, a large acquaintance with mankind, and an extensive range of historical knowledge. His conversation was exceedingly attractive, being always illustrated by pertinent anecdotes and apt historical references. His developments of the interior machinery of parties, during the times of Washington, Jefferson and Madison; his portraiture of the political leaders of these interesting eras in our history – all freely communicated at a period when he had retired from the active arena of politics, and now looked back on them with the feelings of a philosopher – were in the highest degree interesting and instructive” (Goodrich 1856:557-558).

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Retirement

Upon retirement from the Senate, Bradley returned to his home of Westminster, Vermont, where he lived until 1817-18 when he purchased and moved to the Francis Gardner "mansion" in Walpole, New Hampshire. He lived in Walpole until his death in 1830. Little is published about Bradley's life in retirement. He is said to have remained interested in public affairs (Willard 1925:41). Surviving correspondence shows that he stayed in limited touch with former Washington colleagues (Carpenter 2005).

History of the Property

Settlement

Walpole, New Hampshire was settled in the mid-eighteenth century by people from Massachusetts, primarily Worcester County, and Connecticut, seeking the fertile farmland along Connecticut River. The prosperity of the early settlers is evident in the large well-built homes. By 1792, Walpole had a newspaper and publisher, and had become "One of the most important education and literary centers in the county, second to Boston and Philadelphia and possibly Worcester." The residents were distinguished for educational and literary accomplishments (Cheney 1904:127, 129). More "cosmopolitan than surrounding towns," the village was a center of business with several traders, mechanics and taverns (Walpole Bicentennial Commission 1976: 10).

Walpole's town center developed near the intersection of roads running south-north along the river and northwest out of Keene. From 1792 to 1826, the meetinghouse was located on Prospect Hill on North Main Street. Walpole was always closely tied to the Cheshire County seat in Keene. A series of roads between Keene and points northwest were built. The earliest County Road to Keene was built in 1774. In 1799 this became the Third New Hampshire Turnpike, which connected to the Massachusetts Turnpike at Townsend and the Green Mountain Turnpike at Bellows Falls. This was bypassed by the Cheshire Turnpike, which opened in 1802 passing through the northeast corner of Walpole between Keene and the bridge at Charlestown. Then in 1817 another County Road to Keene was built to avoid the turnpike tolls (Frizzell 1963 I:34-38). By 1801 there was a stagecoach up and down the river to Boston once a week. In 1803 a Boston stage to Walpole opened on the Third NH Turnpike. As of 1814 a stage ran between Boston and Burlington three times a week, making overnight stops. In the 1820s there were competing lines of six horse stages. Heavy goods were transported from Hartford, upriver by scow (Aldrich 1880:97; Frizzell 1963 I:41-42).

Westminster Street originated as a road west from the village toward the river. In 1807 a new toll bridge was built over the Connecticut (the third bridge in Walpole). The bridge was built and owned by a corporation of investors, many members of the Bellows family. Westminster Street was extended to the bridge and became known as the Walpole Village Bridge road. The bridge connected the developing village in Walpole with the north-south former King's Highway (Route 5) on the Vermont side of the River. A short distance to the south was the village of Westminster, Vermont. To the north was Bellows Falls.

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The land on which the Stephen Rowe Bradley House was built, and the whole area north and west of the town square, was originally part of the large land holdings of General Benjamin Bellows, Walpole's first landowner. This was bequeathed to his granddaughter Phebe Bellows Grant wife of Major Samuel Grant, early Walpole settler, farmer and businessman (Frizzell 1963 I: 37, 164, 581; II:117). They lived on the east side of Main Street in a house built ca. 1792.

1808-1813 Francis and Margaret Gardner

In July 1808 Francis Gardner purchased a one-acre parcel from Phebe and Samuel Grant for \$200. It was located just above the town square on the road to the new bridge. Construction of what became the Stephen Rowe Bradley House presumably began soon after. Gardner (1771-1835), a lawyer, was at the time a Republican representative from New Hampshire to the Tenth United States Congress. He almost certainly was acquainted with Bradley, then a Republican Senator.

The son of Rev. Francis Gardner of Leominster, Massachusetts, Francis Gardner graduated from Harvard in 1793, studied law, and moved to Walpole, where he was admitted to the bar in Cheshire County in 1796. Gardner and Margaret Leonard of West Springfield, Massachusetts were married in 1804 and their first child Margaret Susan (Susannah) was born two years later. They lived in Walpole for twenty years. In 1807 Gardner was appointed Solicitor General of Cheshire County, and continued to serve by reappointment until 1820. Gardner served in Congress from March 1807 to March 1809. He is said to have offended his party by proving himself independent of party politics (Anonymous 1876:11). He did not seek reelection. As of 1810 the household in the new house included Gardner (age 39) and two other adult males (25-44), two young men ages 16-25 and one boy age 10-15, either hired hands or relatives. In addition to Mrs. Gardner and her young daughter, five young women ages 16-25 lived in the house (Bureau of the Census 1810). Francis Gardner Jr. was born in 1812 (Frizzell 1963 II:111).

Gardner's house was later described by a prominent local resident as "Situated near the brow of a bluff, and commands an extensive view of the beautiful valley of the Connecticut, whose course can be traced for several miles towards the south." "Directly opposite is the town of Westminster, with its wide and fertile meadows, from which rises gradually an extensive range of hills." "As you stand at the Gardner house, you see on all sides foliage-covered hills, encircling the beautiful valley. Back of you is the pleasant village." "There can be few lovelier views in New England" (Anonymous 1876:14).

However, after occupying the new house less than five years, the Gardners sold it in 1813 to merchant David Stone. From Stone, they purchased another house in town on Middle Street (#178 on Frizzell 1963 map) which they owned until 1817. In 1816, the family moved to Keene, the county seat. More children were born; Margaret Helen in 1814 and Delia in 1816 (Frizzell 1963 II:111; Bureau of the Census 1820). Gardner was "a lawyer of prominence and possessed competent professional learning, but is said by reason of some

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eccentricities not to have been very successful in attracting business or popularity” and “He was not fortunate in the acquisition of property” (Bell 1894:390-391). About 1821, the family moved to Roxbury in Boston where they were living in 1830. Francis Gardner was then age 59, Margaret was 40, Francis Jr. was 17, Margaret Helen was 15. They lived in a large household, apparently with another family (Bureau of the Census 1830). Francis Gardner Jr. entered Boston Latin School in 1822, and graduated with distinction from Harvard in 1831. After Francis Gardner Sr. died in 1835, his son became head of the household. Francis Gardner Jr. was a teacher at Roxbury Latin School where he later became principal and headmaster. His household apparently included other school faculty, possibly students. Margaret Gardner lived with her son in Roxbury throughout her life, as did his unmarried sister (Bureau of the Census 1840, 1850, 1860).

1813-1817 David and Hannah Bellows Stone

In April of 1813, David Stone acquired the future Stephen Rowe Bradley House and other buildings on a one-acre lot, with an additional small tract (nine rods) across the road. The price was \$3,000 (Deed 1813). Stone (1776-1839) was a local merchant and businessman who owned extensive property in Walpole. This was his dwelling house only about four years before he sold it to Bradley.

David Stone was born in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, son of Lt. Nathaniel Stone and Thankful Morse. About 1799 he moved to Walpole where he married Frances Bellows. She was a granddaughter of General Benjamin Bellows and daughter of Colonel John Bellows and Rebecca Hubbard. Col. John Bellows (1742-1812) was a prosperous farmer and early banker. His daughters were reportedly elegant and dressy, the best educated girls in the area (Bellows 1855:54-55). Upon arriving in Walpole, Stone purchased land on which he built a brick store in 1807 (#186 on Frizzell 1963 map), which stood until it burned in the 1840s. His long-time business partner, from 1801 for nearly 25 years, was his wife’s cousin Josiah Bellows III. Josiah Bellows III (1788-1842), son of Josiah Bellows (1767-?) and Rebecca Sparhawk, later married Stephen Rowe Bradley’s daughter (Bellows 1855:54-55). Briefly affiliated with the business was Josiah Bellows II, Stone’s brother-in-law, cousin of Josiah III.

Frances Bellows Stone died in 1803. Two years later, David Stone married her sister Hannah Bellows (Aldrich 1880:365). In 1811, Stone purchased twelve acres of land west side of the town square. He built a house on the west side of the square (#71 on Frizzell 1963 map), where he apparently lived before and after his ownership of the Stephen Rowe Bradley House (Frizzell 1963 II:149-150). Most of that twelve-acre parcel later became part of the Stephen Rowe Bradley property. Bellows and Stone operated the Walpole store and other local ventures. Stone was postmaster in 1816 and 1820-26. They opened a branch in Cincinnati, Ohio where they were involved in the western fur-trade.

In the decade 1806-1817, Stone often in partnership with Bellows, was involved in numerous real estate transactions in Walpole and surrounding towns. Stone, Josiah Bellows III and his cousin Josiah Bellows II purchased “Boggy Meadows,” a thousand acre tract of land in the southwest part of town, in 1814. The timber

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was cut and sold downriver in Hartford. In 1822 Boggy Meadows farm was sold to Jonathan Mason and it passed to his granddaughter Fanny P. Mason, a later owner of the Stephen Rowe Bradley House (Frizzell 1963 I:216). From her father John Bellows, Hannah Bellows Stone inherited a 40-acre farm (#225 on Frizzell 1963 map), which was later acquired by Stephen Rowe Bradley.

Stone lived in the future Stephen Rowe Bradley House from ca. 1813-1817. The large English barn on the property probably dates from this period. Stone purchased additional land, to create a thirty-acre farm that extended southwest of Westminster Street to the Connecticut River. When Stone sold to Bradley in 1817 he reserved out 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ acre house lot (where his house was) on the west side of the common and Elm Street (Deeds 1811, 1816, 1817). He lived there until 1828, when he moved to Dayton, Ohio, selling his Walpole house in 1830. He died in Ohio 1839 at age 63 (Frizzell 1963 II:149-150).

1817-1830 Stephen Rowe and Melinda Willard Bradley

In January of 1817, Stephen Rowe Bradley of Westminster purchased Stone's house and thirty acres and soon moved across the river to Walpole. The reason for the move is unknown, though the family history attributed it to a dispute with the Westminster selectmen (Willard 1925:44). Bradley's Westminster house is not extant, when it came down is not known. It was definitely gone by the 1860s (Willard 1925:47). No deed for his sale of that property could be located, but he no longer owned it when he died.

Bradley made Walpole his home until his death in 1830. He had had prior associations with Walpole, which was then a flourishing community. The villages of Walpole and Westminster, although politically separate entities in different states, were linked by the Village Bridge from 1807, and shared strong social and business ties. Bradley had direct ties to Walpole and to the house then occupied by David Stone; Stone's business partner Josiah Bellows III, was Bradley's son in law. Bellows and Bradley's eldest daughter Stella Czarina Bradley (1796-1833) were married in 1813. They lived in a house built ca. 1814 on North Main Street (#96 on Frizzell 1963 map) (Frizzell 1963 I:158). In 1816, Bradley and members of his family were given a certificate entitling them to pass free of charge over the Walpole Village Bridge (Carpenter 2005).

Bradley owned several farm properties elsewhere in Walpole in addition to his own home. He had been involved in land transactions in Walpole as early as 1800 and 1804. In 1816, Bradley, Stone and Bellows together purchased the Chandler or Weir Farm in the southwestern corner of town (#248 on Frizzell map, historic buildings not extant). The following year, Bradley acquired all shares of that property, which was later bequeathed to his daughter Mary Tudor (Frizzell 1963 I: 223). In 1822, Bradley purchased a 150-acre farm on River Road out of Boggy Meadow Farm. Two houses (#235 and #236 on Frizzell 1963 map) were probably built during Bradley's ownership. Bradley bought the property for his daughter Stella C. Bellows who inherited it when he died. These buildings and land were later purchased by Fanny P. Mason and again became part of Boggy Meadows Farm (Frizzell 1963 I:216). Bradley's so-called "Hill Farm" was forty-two acres near the Upper Meetinghouse, which was willed to his grandson Stephen Rowe Bellows. In 1829 Stephen Rowe

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Bradley purchased the forty-acre "Stone Farm" (#225 on Frizzell 1963 map) from David Stone, then in Ohio. Stone retained a right of redemption in the property, but did not return to Walpole. When Bradley died the following year this was willed to his grandson Henry B. Tudor.

In 1820, Stephen R. and Melinda Bradley's Walpole household included their youngest daughter Mary who was then nine. Two young women ages 16-26, one girl 10-16 and two boys ages 10-16 were probably servants (Bureau of the Census 1820). Soon after moving to town, Stephen Rowe Bradley acquired two front pews in the old Meetinghouse on Prospect Hill on North Main Street (Walpole Historical Society). Bradley's home stood off the northwest corner of the town common. At the head of the common was a brick schoolhouse. Bradley's closest neighbors included the minister, two doctors, and merchant David Stone (Bellows ca. 1820). Stephen Rowe Bradley acquired shares in the Village Bridge Corporation in 1824 (Deed 1824). In 1826 Walpole moved its meetinghouse into the village, to the northwest corner of the common immediately east of Bradley's home. Bradley acquired a small tract of ninety-six square rods between his property and the meetinghouse lot, creating the existing eastern property line. Bradley was one of those against relocation of the meetinghouse and reorganization of the church. He paid the old minister Mr. Dickinson's salary out of his own pocket for a year after the disruption of the church (Aldrich 1880:100). The opposition group formed a new society "The Independent Congregational Society" and built a new meetinghouse (torn down 1869) on the site of the old church north of the village center (Hurd 1886:437). The village meetinghouse became the Town Hall ca. 1840. In 1845, a small church, originally Methodist, was built immediately south of it.

Bradley had ties to Hartford down river on the Connecticut. He owned property there and was an investor in the Hartford Bank. His daughters attended private schools there. In 1817, Adeline Gratia Bradley (1799-1822) was married to Samuel G. Goodrich (1793-1860), Hartford bookseller and publisher, and author of children's books under the name of Peter Parley. Goodrich managed Bradley's business affairs in Connecticut. Bradley owned a house on Lord's Hill in Hartford, renovations to which were overseen by Goodrich. After Adeline Goodrich died in Hartford in 1822, her daughter came to live with the Bradley's in Walpole until Goodrich remarried a few years later.

Stephen Rowe Bradley's youngest daughter Mary Rowe Bradley attended Mrs. Beecher's school in Hartford in 1826. She was seventeen when she was married in 1828, just two years before her father's death, to Henry Samuel Tudor (1804-1864) of Hartford. He was the son of Samuel Tudor (1770-1862) a Hartford merchant and importer of British goods, also involved in banking and insurance. Henry S. and Mary Tudor lived near his father in Hartford (Bureau of the Census 1830). Their first child Henry Bradley Tudor was born in 1829 and Stephen Rowe Bradley added a codicil to his will to include the new grandson. At the time of his death, Bradley owned five acres of land in Hartford, which were willed to Mary Tudor (Willard 1925:247-248).

Stephen Rowe Bradley retained ties to Westminster throughout his life. He was involved in over twenty-five Vermont land transactions after he had moved to New Hampshire. He intended to be buried in Westminster and

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was having a family tomb erected at the time of his death. He owned land in Westminster, Lots 1 and 2 in the first division 100-acre lots, which was leased to his son-in-law Josiah Bellows III. Son William C. Bradley lived in Westminster throughout his life. His house still stands in the village center, at the intersection of Main Street and West Street. His law office is nearby. In 1825, William C. Bradley shifted politically, supporting Jackson for President and becoming a Democrat and one of the minority in Congress (Willard 1925:56). He remained active in politics many years, elected to the State Legislature at age 68 and as Presidential elector and member of State Constitutional Convention when in his seventies (Willard 1925:61). William C. Bradley's Westminster house passed out of the family during the late nineteenth century. It was purchased by the Willard family in 1909 and they owned it until 2001. The adjacent William Czar Bradley Law Office, with a collection of furnishings, manuscripts and books, remained in the family, the contents recently turned over to the State of Vermont.

As of 1830 Stephen R. and Melinda Bradley's Walpole household included two young men in their twenties, two girls age 10-15 and another 15-20 (Bureau of the Census 1830). Stephen Rowe Bradley died December 9, 1830. The funeral procession to the Westminster cemetery was over two miles long. His obituary reported he "lived in ease, independence, and honour, until he took his willing and not painful departure." "Of the extent of his public and private worth, this is not the time to speak; but there are those surviving him who doubtless will not suffer their lives to pass away without doing full justice to his name and memory" (*Bellows Falls Intelligencer and Advertiser*, December 1830).

The probate inventory taken in March 1831 provides information about Bradley's farm. His livestock included a bull, seven cows, ten steers, two heifers, three calves, four pigs, two oxen and a horse. Produce and provisions on hand included 85 bushels of corn, 75 bushels of oats, 38 of rye, 100 of potatoes, and four tons of hay. Bradley owned a chaise, a carriage, two sleighs, a horse sled, two wagons, a sled, a handcart, two saddles and five yokes and rings. Farm implements included ploughs, harrows, scythes, straw cutter, pitchforks, winnowing mill, and cider mill. Bradley owned a crosscut saw, four planes, four chisels, and two shaves. Bradley's business dealings are indicated by the outstanding notes, and rents due on six properties, totaling more than \$4,600 held at the time of his death. He also owned shares in the Hartford Bank (Probate 1830).

The contents of the house convey the family's lifestyle. There were carpets in every room but the dining room, including the stairs. Three rooms had window curtains. There were more than fifty chairs, two sofas, an easy chair, dining tables, end tables, card tables, a breakfast table and two sideboards. The closets off the sitting and dining rooms contained silver including spoons, sugar tongs, sugar bowl and creamer, two fruit baskets and a silver tankard. There were large sets of over thirty plates, soup plates, platters, tureens, coffee pot, a china tea set, cut glass decanters, wine glasses and Champaign glasses. There was a knife case, two carving sets, a tea chest, a liquor case with bottles and a medicine chest. There were several clocks, one worth \$25 in the dining room. There were cooking stoves in the dining room and kitchen, and a stove in the west back chamber. Some other rooms had andirons, shovels and tongs, and hearth brushes. Lighting was by candle in candlesticks or

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glass lamps. Bedrooms contained eight beds, two with bed curtains, most rooms had a wash stand, bowl and pitcher, a looking glass, a light stand, other tables, two had bureaus one with a dressing glass. Linens included fifteen pairs of sheets, and six fine linen sheets, plus pillowcases, nineteen blankets, three "comfortables," seven quilts and three copper plate bedspreads, towels both fine and course, fourteen diaper tablecloths and other table covers. In the kitchen were pewter platters, tin pails, coffee pot, etc., brass kettles, basins and tubs, butter churn, mortar, meal chest, coffee roaster, bottles, jars and stone jugs. Ironware included a boiler, pots, kettles, a spider (flat-bottomed frying pan), two bake kettles, a tea kettle, two grid irons, toast iron and waffle iron. Provisions included barrels of beef and tongues, pork, salt, molasses, and soap, as well as ten barrels of cider, a keg of gin and one keg of wine, plus various old casks and barrels (Probate 1830).

Bradley's extensive library, willed to William C. Bradley, was valued at over \$160. The collection survives intact and was recently given to the Bailey/Howe Library at the University of Vermont. Bradley's personal effects included a gold-headed cane, a short rifle, a fowling piece, a large bore rifle, a fishing rod, surveyors compass and chains, a spyglass, a wolf skin three raccoon skin robes. Clothing included two cloaks, three coats, six shirts, two vests, four pairs of pantaloons, and three pairs of stockings, pairs of boots, shoes, slippers and India rubbers (Probate 1830).

Bradley bequeathed the use of his house and farm to his wife Melinda Bradley during her life, after which it would revert to his oldest children William C. Bradley and Stella C. Bellows. The property consisted of the mansion house and outbuildings, the farm south of the road, and the Carleton House and land on the north side of road. The latter was occupied by tenant Roger Carleton, possibly an employee of Bradley's (Probate 1830; Willard 1925:247). Stella C. Bellows inherited the Dana and Bellows Farm. She died a few years later of consumption, followed not long after by the deaths of her daughters, son and husband of the same disease.

1830-1849 Henry and Mary Bradley Tudor

Stephen Rowe Bradley's widow Melinda Bradley continued to occupy the Walpole house. Her only daughter, Mary Tudor returned to Walpole to live with her mother, along with her husband Henry S. Tudor and their young sons. The Tudors were living in Hartford in 1830 when their second son Samuel was born (Bureau of the Census 1830, 1850). They moved to Walpole in 1831 (Deed 1831). The Tudors owned other Walpole land, inherited from Bradley: Mary Tudor inherited the 300-acre Weir or Chandler Farm (Frizzell I 1963: 214, 223) and son Henry B. Tudor inherited the forty-acre Stone Farm on the east side of River Road (#225 on Frizzell 1963 map), which was transferred the following year to his father (Frizzell I 1963: 214). In Hartford, they inherited from Bradley a five-acre lot, which had been purchased from Leonard Bacon (Willard 1925:247-248). In 1833, Henry S. Tudor purchased rights to the Stephen Rowe Bradley House and farm from his in-laws William C. Bradley, Stella and Josiah Bellows 3rd, and from the widow Melinda Bradley (Deed 1833). Henry S. and Mary Tudor and their family owned the Stephen Rowe Bradley House for sixteen years. It seems likely that they were responsible for the Greek Revival style renovations during this time.

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More Tudor children were born in Walpole. Charles Carroll Tudor was born in 1832. Edward born in 1834 died an infant. Mary Louise Tudor was born in Walpole in 1835, followed by Edward A. Tudor (1837-1864), Elizabeth (1839-1869) and Frederick (1841-1867). When Melinda Bradley died in Walpole in 1837, Henry S. Tudor was her executor and Mary Tudor inherited the bulk of her estate. As of 1840 the Walpole household included Henry S. Tudor age 36 and Mary who was 29. In addition to the children, two young men 15-20 and 20-30 lived in the house and three young women ages 15-20 (Bureau of the Census 1840). The property was reduced in size when the Cheshire Railroad was built along the east bank of the Connecticut River in the 1840s. The small parcel across from the house on the north side of the road had been sold by the Bradley heirs in 1833 to John Bellows who built the house that stands there now (Frizzell I1963: 147). The buildings previously on the site were removed at that time (Deed 1833). From 1833 to 1848 Henry Tudor owned four shares in the Walpole Village Bridge. He was involved in several land transactions and mortgages. In addition to the house in the village, the family owned what was then called "Tudor farm" (formerly the Chandler farm) in the southwest corner of town.

In June of 1849, the Tudor family sold the Stephen Rowe Bradley House. The property, reduced in size when the Cheshire Railroad was built along the river through the western part of the farm, then contained twenty-two acres. Henry and Mary Tudor appointed Charles A. Rockwood power of attorney to sell other Walpole land. By the fall of that year, they were living in Brooklyn, New York (Deeds 1849).

In the 1850 population census, Henry and Mary Tudor and several of their children do not appear to have been listed; possibly they were out of the country at the time. Living with eighty-year-old Samuel Tudor in Hartford were Charles C. Tudor (17) and Mary L. Tudor (15) presumably attending school there. Also in the house were Henry E. and Jane B. Tudor who were probably cousins. They were the children of William W. and Mary D. Tudor who lived in East Windsor. He was a farmer and merchant. She had been born in the West Indies (Bureau of the Census 1850, 1860). Henry and Mary Tudor were also apparently absent in 1860. At the ends of their lives, father and son Samuel and Henry S. Tudor lived together in Hartford (471 Main Street). The former died in 1862, his son in 1864. Mary Tudor lived in Hartford until her death in 1882. Charles C. Tudor, a musician, his wife and daughter lived with her (Bureau of the Census 1870, 1880). Most of the other children died young. Henry B. Tudor died in 1860 at 31 years of age, Samuel in 1865 at 35. Frederick Tudor was in Cuba when he died in 1867 (age 26). Edward A. Tudor was a druggist in New York, then lived in Hartford when he died in 1864. Elizabeth Tudor Wales died in Hartford in 1869. Mary Louise Tudor married a German musician and Professor Albert Woeltge. They lived in Stamford, Connecticut.

1849-1901 Multiple owners

In May of 1849, the Stephen Rowe Bradley House, then with twenty-two acres, was purchased by Abiel Chandler of Boston (Deed 1849). Chandler was a retired merchant and philanthropist, who endowed the Chandler Scientific School at Dartmouth. He owned the property only two years, but was living in Walpole at his death in 1851. Much of his estate including the Bradley house was bequeathed to the New Hampshire

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Asylum for the Insane (Frizzell 1963: 148). Chandler, whose family had a hereditary tendency to insanity, had a niece recently at the asylum (NH Asylum 1851).

The property changed hands a number of times during the second half of the nineteenth century. In 1855 it was sold to George R. and Emeline D. Makepeace of Utica, New York (Deed 1855). Makepeace ran the Wentworth House hotel in the village center (burned 1880) and owned the local tavern (#9 on 1963 map) between 1860 and 1865 (Frizzell VI 1963: 123, 148). Which they occupied has not been determined. During this period, Walpole was accessible by railroads running up both sides of the Connecticut River, built ca. 1849.

In October 1861, the Makepeaces sold the fourteen-acre property to Benjamin P. Spaulding of Boston for \$5,000 (Deed 1861). Spaulding was a native of Ludlow, Vermont where he born ca. 1807. He may have lived in Boston for a time. In 1870 he and wife Marion were living in Ludlow. Whether he occupied the Walpole house or not, Benjamin Spaulding carried on farming on the property, reserving when he sold it "the tobacco crop, hay and straw and manure in the barn" (Deed 1876).

In 1876 the property was sold to Thomas Russell and Jane Marston (Deed 1876). Marston worked as a railroad conductor and was also a farmer. The newly married couple owned the house only two years. Again the deed indicated some farming on the property; Marston reserved all but 25 bushels of potatoes and all the hay stored in the tobacco barn (Deed 1878).

From 1878 to 1887, the property was owned by James B and Louisa M. Dinsmore who were from Charlestown, New Hampshire (Deed 1878). Then in their late fifties, they farmed the property with the help of a live-in farm laborer (Bureau of the Census 1880). They briefly operated a summer boardinghouse in the Bradley house (Frizzell 1963 I: 148). The Dinsmores sold the property to Carrie E. and Edward R. Bryan, who assumed the remaining balance of a mortgage (Deed 1887).

The Bryans moved from New Haven, Connecticut where he had worked as a bookkeeper for a wholesale grocer. They were then in their thirties. Her parents were from New Hampshire (Bureau of the Census 1880). The Savings Bank of Walpole foreclosed on the property within the year and they moved back to New Haven where he was a grocer (Bureau of the Census 1900). During the interim, about 4½ acres were sold out of the northwest corner of the property.

Matthew Henry Gorham (1842-1908) purchased the house and 14½ acres from the Bank for \$4,000 in 1888 (Deed 1888). Gorham, a farmer, had been a resident of Walpole since 1876. (He lived at #184 – Frizzell 1963 map). In 1891 he sold the Bradley house and land, having purchased the local store (at #109) on Main Street which he owned some twenty years (Frizzell 1963 I: 163).

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From 1891 to 1901, the Bradley homestead was owned as a summer home by George F. Tower a St. Louis, Missouri manufacturer and his wife Carrie who were recently married (Frizzell 1963 I: 148). Tower (born ca. 1861) was the son of a St. Louis soap manufacturer, originally from New Hampshire. Father and then son owned Goodwin Manufacturing makers of glycerin and candles (Bureau of the Census 1870, 1900, 1910).

1901-1913 Fanny P. Mason

In November 1901, property was sold to Fanny P. Mason. The eighteen acres and 132 rods were bounded on the north by Westminster Street and on the east by the Town House lot (Deed 1901). Miss Mason was a resident of Boston and Walpole, whose wealthy father died in that same year. The family had long owned Boggy Meadows farm, a 1,000-acre property on the west edge of town, south of the village, along River Road. It was settled in 1822 by Fanny P. Mason's grandfather, Jonathan Mason, a U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, who had made a fortune in the development of Beacon Hill. His son William Powell Mason (born 1826) became a Boston broker and businessman. He married Fanny Peabody (born ca. 1841), and Fanny P. Mason was born ca. 1865, followed by William Powell Mason Jr. in 1868. Shortly thereafter the family moved to Walpole, where Mason turned to farming (Bureau of the Census 1860, 1870). As of 1880 William P. and Fannie Mason's household included Fannie P. age 16, William P. Jr. age 10, four servants and a groom (Bureau of the Census 1880). Fannie P. Mason was educated in Boston private schools and studied piano in Boston and Paris. She became her parents' sole heir when her brother drowned while away at school in 1881. She lived with her father on the Walpole farm until his death in 1901. In 1900, he was listed in the census as a 64-year-old "capitalist." Their household in Walpole included live-in ladies maid and chambermaid, one Swiss and one Swedish (Bureau of the Census 1900).

At the Stephen Rowe Bradley House, Miss Mason undertook renovations including construction of a new kitchen ell and servants' quarters. The barn was renovated as a stable for her renowned horses and carriages (Col. William B. Willard 2004). The house was modernized with plumbing and electricity. A 1904 article on Walpole *The Granite Monthly* reported that Fanny P. Mason had restored the interior and exterior the Westminster Street property "to their minutest lines, equipped it with modern conveniences and furnished practically every room with old colonial creations of merit and beauty" (Cheney 1904:157). This was her village house, which she considered "The grand entrance to her estate" which was located farther south along the Connecticut River (Gooding 2000). Guests arriving by rail would have come from the station, past the Stephen Rowe Bradley House and south on a right-of-way through the property toward River Road and Boggy Meadows. The 1904 description of the house notes its location at the gateway to the village, on the crest of the hill from the railroad station up to the village, and the view of the Connecticut River valley miles in extent (Cheney 1904:157). However, Miss Mason did not own the Stephen Rowe Bradley House long; it was rented for some years and then sold in 1913.

Fanny P. Mason retained Boggy Meadows Farm as her country estate. After her father died, Boston became her primary residence (Bureau of the Census 1910, 1930), but she retained strong ties to Walpole. When the Town

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Hall, east of the Stephen Rowe Bradley House, burned in 1917, Miss Mason paid for reconstruction (Frizzell 1963 I: 84). In addition to her homes on Commonwealth Avenue and in Walpole, she owned an estate in Beverly, Massachusetts. Miss Mason was active in war-relief work with the American Committee for Devastated France. She was associated with civic and philanthropic societies, including the Chilton, Mayflower, and Women's City Clubs; the Children's Aid Society; the Women's Municipal League. She was also an Associate of Radcliffe College. She supported institutions such as the Peabody Essex Museum, the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, and Harvard College. A music enthusiast, she sponsored young musicians by hosting performances in her homes. She endowed the Peabody Mason Music Foundation, endowed two Harvard College music professorships, and through an estate gift underwrote the construction of the Fanny Peabody Mason Music Building at Harvard. When Fanny Mason died in August 1948 she left a \$4 million estate for "charitable distribution." Her Walpole properties were willed to cousin Henry B. Cabot (Frizzell 1963 I:216-217). He moved from Boston where he had been President of the Boston Symphony and developed a model farm. The current owner Powell Cabot established a cheese business.

ca. 1905-2005 Willard Family

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House became once again associated with the Bradley family through Bradley's great-great-grandson Henry Kellogg Willard (1856-1926). His mother was Sarah Kellogg Bradley (1831-1909), granddaughter and adopted daughter of William C. Bradley. She married Henry Augustus Willard (1822-1909), son of a Westminster farmer Joseph Willard, who was the cousin of Stephen Rowe Bradley's third wife, Melinda Willard. Henry and Sarah Willard entered the hotel business and moved to Washington, D.C. where they established The Willard Hotel (Simmonds 1981:130). The hotel, which became a prominent D.C. landmark in the heart of the capitol, was established on the corner of 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in the 1840s and expanded over the next decades. Later Henry Willard turned the hotel over to his brother Joseph Willard and pursued other business, including co-founding the National Savings and Trust Bank. When William C. Bradley died in 1867, Sarah Willard inherited his house in Westminster. She sold the property a few years later, but retained the adjacent law office and its contents which included Stephen R. and William C. Bradley's law books and papers.

Henry Kellogg Willard was born and lived in Washington, D.C. He was married in 1901 to Helen Wilson Parker, daughter of another prominent Washington family. Shortly after their marriage, the Willards reestablished ties with the Westminster/Walpole area, which became their second home, part of the turn-of-the-century, Colonial Revival "Old Home" movement. Walpole was convenient to points south; Boston was 110 miles away, with six trains daily during this period. It was eighteen miles from the County Seat in Keene, and had a charming town center and scenic views of the surrounding hills (Cheney 1904:130). The family had strong ties to the area and ancestors worthy of honor. Beginning about 1905, Fanny P. Mason rented the Stephen Rowe Bradley House to the Willards and they used it annually. In 1909, Henry K. Willard purchased the William C. Bradley House in Westminster, his mother's childhood home. She still owned the adjacent law

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office and its contents. Her will left the books and papers to the State of Vermont, her son Henry K. Willard and grandson having a life interest (Willard 2005). Henry K. and Helen Willard continued to use the Walpole House, while the Westminster one was being renovated. In the fall of 1909, when Sarah B. Willard died, her remains were brought for burial in Westminster and a funeral held in the Stephen Rowe Bradley House. While there, widower Henry A. Willard contracted pneumonia, stayed in the Bradley house for an unsuccessful recuperation and was buried from there in December. In September 1910, Bradley's granddaughter, Mary L. Woeltge and her husband were visiting and staying in the Stephen Rowe Bradley House when they were both taken ill and died (Willard 1925:240). During 1910-1911, the Westminster house was updated with electricity and four bathrooms (Simmonds 1981:130-133). In September of 1911, Henry K. and Helen Willard held a housewarming and anniversary celebration there (Willard 1925:240).

In August of 1913, Henry K. Willard purchased the Stephen Rowe Bradley House in Walpole. His purpose was to preserve it in family ownership "*in perpetuo*" (Willard 1925: 247). The Willards owned both the William C. Bradley House and Stephen Rowe Bradley House for many years. The family's year-round residence was in Washington, D.C., the northern houses used for summer vacations about a month each year. Willard conducted some farming on the property. He owned prize-winning sheep which were sheltered in the cellar of the barn. For many years the farmer and caretaker was John Hardy, an Irishman who lived nearby and worked out of the office in the barn (Willard 2005). Willard endeavored to preserve the properties and memorialize his ancestors. Signs, which remain today, were placed on both Bradley houses and the law office. He made renovations to the family gravesites in the Westminster cemetery installing Italian marble angels at the Willard plot and marble plaques on the Bradley tomb. The Willard family established a trust-fund for cemetery maintenance and for many years Henry K. Willard was Cemetery Commissioner in Westminster.

In 1926, the properties were inherited by William Bradley Willard (1905-1991) who owned and maintained them for sixty-five years. He and wife Florence Keys lived in Washington where for more than fifty years he was Vice-President of the National Savings and Trust Bank, located across the street from the U.S. Treasury. Willard served in WWII in the South Pacific, retiring as Captain in the U.S. Navy supply Corps (Reserves) after twenty-two years of service. Florence K. Willard inherited on his death in 1991. In 2000 the Stephen Rowe Bradley House passed to the current owner Lieutenant Colonel William Bradley (Brad) Willard, Jr., retired from the Army Corps of Engineers after twenty-two years of service, founder and owner of Willard's of Saba Hotel in the Dutch West Indies, which he built in 1993-94 and named in honor of his great-grandfather's hotel "Willard's of Washington." The William C. Bradley House in Westminster was sold in out of the family in 2001. More than eleven cubic feet of papers and 1,600 books including Stephen Rowe Bradley's law library were transferred to the University of Vermont, Bailey/Howe Library by Col. Willard (Willard 2005).

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House is preserved in his memory. The house has been well maintained. In 1962, moldings for the eaves on the west elevation were replicated with extra made for future use. In 1988 the cellar was poured with concrete to help eliminate moisture damage. Storm windows and doors date from 1990. In

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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

1991, the slate roof was repaired, eaves and downspouts and copper flashing replaced, and the exterior of house and barn repainted (Campbell 2005). Since 1965, the caretaker has been local resident Walter Campbell, now assisted by his son Jeff. Bradley's great-great-great-great grandson William Bradley Willard Jr. and his son Daniel Willard hope to preserve the property for the future.

Architectural Context

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House is a significant Federal style residence in Walpole. The large well-detailed house is characterized by joinery that fully exemplifies the Federal style. Much of the ornament is clearly derived from the Asher Benjamin builders' guides, which had a major influence on architecture of the period. These details and the staunch framing of the house provide clear evidence that the Walpole-Westminster area supported experienced and sophisticated building craftsmen in the early 1800s. Walpole is known for its Greek Revival style buildings, built by local master builder Aaron Howland in the 1830s. However, the architectural details on the Stephen Rowe Bradley House and others in town show that skilled builders and joiners worked in the area during the Federal period as well (Garvin 2004). It seems likely that one was the man with whom Howland, a native of Walpole, got his training.

The large, twin chimney house with broad, low hip roof was a common form in Walpole from the 1790s into the early 1800s. This was the form used in some of the most prominent houses in town at the time. The Allen-Peck House on Main Street built 1792 is a Federal house with hip roof. Across road the Bellows-Grant House was built 1792 as a hip roofed Federal, remodeled in Greek Revival in 1840s gable roof added. The Knapp House, south of the village center on Main Street, is a brick, hip roofed house built 1812. Its original owner was Josiah Bellows II, cousin of Josiah Bellows III who was married to Stephen Rowe Bradley's daughter in 1813 (Smith 1971:147; Ranauro 1989:22). Its entry portico is nearly identical to that on Bradley House, which was built four years earlier. The door is framed by a semi-elliptical fanlight and sidelights between narrow pilaster boards, suggesting what the original entry on the Stephen Rowe Bradley House would have looked like. The house on North Main Street built ca. 1814 for Josiah Bellows III is also 5 x 5 bays with a hip roof, twin chimneys, and Federal style entry with fan and sidelights.

There has been no architectural study of the town of Walpole. The 1980s historic resources survey contains no summary or comparative analysis. Walpole contains many excellent examples of the Federal and Greek Revival styles, some were transitional between the two styles and others the result of two building campaigns. Likewise, there has been little study of the career and work of master builder Aaron P. Howland who played a major role in the development of the town.

Several houses have details similar to those on the Stephen Rowe Bradley House. On the west side of the common, the house built ca. 1811 for David Stone who occupied it before and after he lived in the Bradley

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House, has a Greek Revival wide gable presumably from a later remodel. The original builder was probably the same as that of the Bradley House built two years earlier. The front entry is Federal and the side entry with paired pilasters and fanlight is nearly identical to that on the Bradley House and the windows and the cornice have the same trim with triglyphs. The house on the corner of Middle and Main Streets was also owned by Stone and then by Francis Gardner when he moved from the Bradley House. This house is dated ca. 1786 and originally had a hipped roof. It was remodeled by later owners with a massive temple front.

The Greek Revival remodeling of older houses was a major trend in Walpole, reflected by the updating of the Stephen Rowe Bradley House in the 1830s.

Period of Significance

The primary period of significance for this property is the period of occupancy by Stephen Rowe Bradley from 1817 until his death at the end of 1830. For its Federal style architecture, the house is significant for its construction date of 1808.

Integrity

The Stephen Rowe Bradley House retains integrity for its periods of significance. It has integrity of location and setting, at the edge of Walpole village, with views of the river valley. The house has integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling from the historic period, with few changes in the last hundred years. The property has strong historic associations with Stephen Rowe Bradley and his family, and conveys its later use as the summer home of his ancestors, who have preserved it in his name.

The property retains integrity from the period of its historic associations. The majority of the original (ca. 1808) building fabric of the Stephen Rowe Bradley House survives. For the most part, what is seen today in the house is what would have been familiar to Bradley when he lived there. The Greek Revival style remodeling embellished the center stair hall, substituted stylish Greek Revival mantelpieces for the older Federal ones, and updated the southwest room, now the library (Garvin 2004:1).

The exact date of the remodeling, or whether it was done by Bradley or his successor, has not been identified. No reference to the house or changes to it has been found in the surviving Bradley papers. The work could possibly have been undertaken by Bradley himself shortly before his death in 1830. Bradley, being well traveled, would have been aware of changing fashions in more urban areas. Greek Revival detailing was known and was being employed in rural New England before 1830, but it reached its period of universal acceptance in about that year. The influential Boston architectural writer Asher Benjamin encouraged familiarity with the Grecian style when he published *The Practical House Carpenter* in 1830 and *The Practice of Architecture* in

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1833. Walpole became an early center of Greek Revival style architecture in the 1830s, particularly through the work of builder Aaron P. Howland (1801-1867) (Garvin 2004:10). It is more likely that the remodeling was done by Bradley's daughter and son-in-law after they acquired the house in 1833 and moved to Walpole from Hartford. In either case, the alterations do not diminish the essential integrity of the house as a Federal style dwelling. The changes document the advent and strength of the Greek Revival style in Walpole (Garvin 2004:12).

Although the house changed hands frequently during the latter part of the nineteenth century, the building changed minimally after the Greek Revival period. Even the considerable changes made ca. 1901 by Fanny P. Mason had little real effect on the interior of the original house. The changes to modernize the house, providing service facilities and bathrooms, were additive rather than subtractive in nature, preserving the older architectural features. On the exterior, the veranda and side extension, new ell and servant's quarters, left the original main block essentially intact. The enlarging of the two eastern rooms was accomplished by moving the walls out and retaining the original window units. The new side walls received interior detailing that closely matched the original joinery (Garvin 2004:11).

There have been few changes to the house since the Willard family purchased it in 1913. One or more additional bathrooms were installed and applied moldings added to create panels on the northwest room walls. The slate roof may date from that period; the roofing on the William C. Bradley House in Westminster, also owned by Willard, is identical. Ancillary outbuildings have been removed, but the property retains the same acreage that has been associated with it throughout the twentieth century.

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1808	Book 54, Page 95	1833	Book 122, Page 436
1811	Book 63, Page 97	1842	Book 147, Page 77
1813	Book 74, Page 154	1848	Book 193, Page 112
1815	Book 68, Page 308	1849	Book 164, Pages 343, 344
1816	Book 76, Page 11	1849	Book 165, Page 362
1819	Book 82, Page 485	1850	Book 166, Page 495
1820	Book 85, Page 24	1850	Book 167, Page 152
1822	Book 91, Pages 425, 453	1855	Book 184, Page 156
1822	Book 92, Page 159	1861	Book 204, Page 368
1823	Book 89, Page 500	1876	Book 254, Page 432
1823	Book 93, Page 44	1878	Book 260, Page 534
1824	Book 95, Page 242	1887	Book 286, Page 324
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1825	Book 99, Page 144	1901	Book 328, Page 509
1826	Book 101, Pages 192, 317	1913	Book 367, Page 291
1829	Book 109, Page 495	1970	Book 824, Page 219
1831	Book 114, Page 388		

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Stephen Rowe Bradley House Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is defined by the legally recorded lot lines of Parcel 9, on Map 20 as shown in the Town of Walpole tax records. The property contains 4.9 acres according to the current tax valuation. In addition, the property contains a 25' wide strip along its northwest and west edge which was purchased in 1970, but never reflected in the tax maps or valuations.

Boundary Justification

The 4.5+ acre parcel is the lot which has been associated with the Stephen Rowe Bradley House since it was purchased by the Willard family in 1913. The additional strip along the northwest edge reunited previously associated land with the property in 1970. This is the core of the historic homestead.

At one time, the property contained thirty acres, extending southwest and west as far as the Connecticut River. The farm was reduced in size when the railroad was built along the east bank of the river in the 1840s. From that time, the railroad formed the property boundary. In the early 1900s, adjacent land to the southwest and west (Parcels 10, 11 and 11-1 on current tax maps) was subdivided to essentially create the existing parcel. The former western edge of the property is now the location of Bellows Road, a new stretch of highway built in the 1960s. The property divided for the sale of the house to Willard in 1913 was defined on the western edge by a former roadway. In the 1950s, trees were planted in this area along the property line. In 1970 this strip of land was purchased by William B. Willard. The property is presently being surveyed to update the records (Willard 2005).

The south side of Westminster Street has always been the northern edge of the property, except for a small lot of land on north side of the street, which was associated with it early on. The east and southeast lot lines have not changed since the property was owned by Stephen Rowe Bradley. The property abuts the rear of the Town Hall lot as it has since the Meetinghouse was moved to this location in 1826. The rear (west) lines of house lots along the west side of Elm Street have been in place since David Stone sold Bradley the house and thirty acres in 1817.

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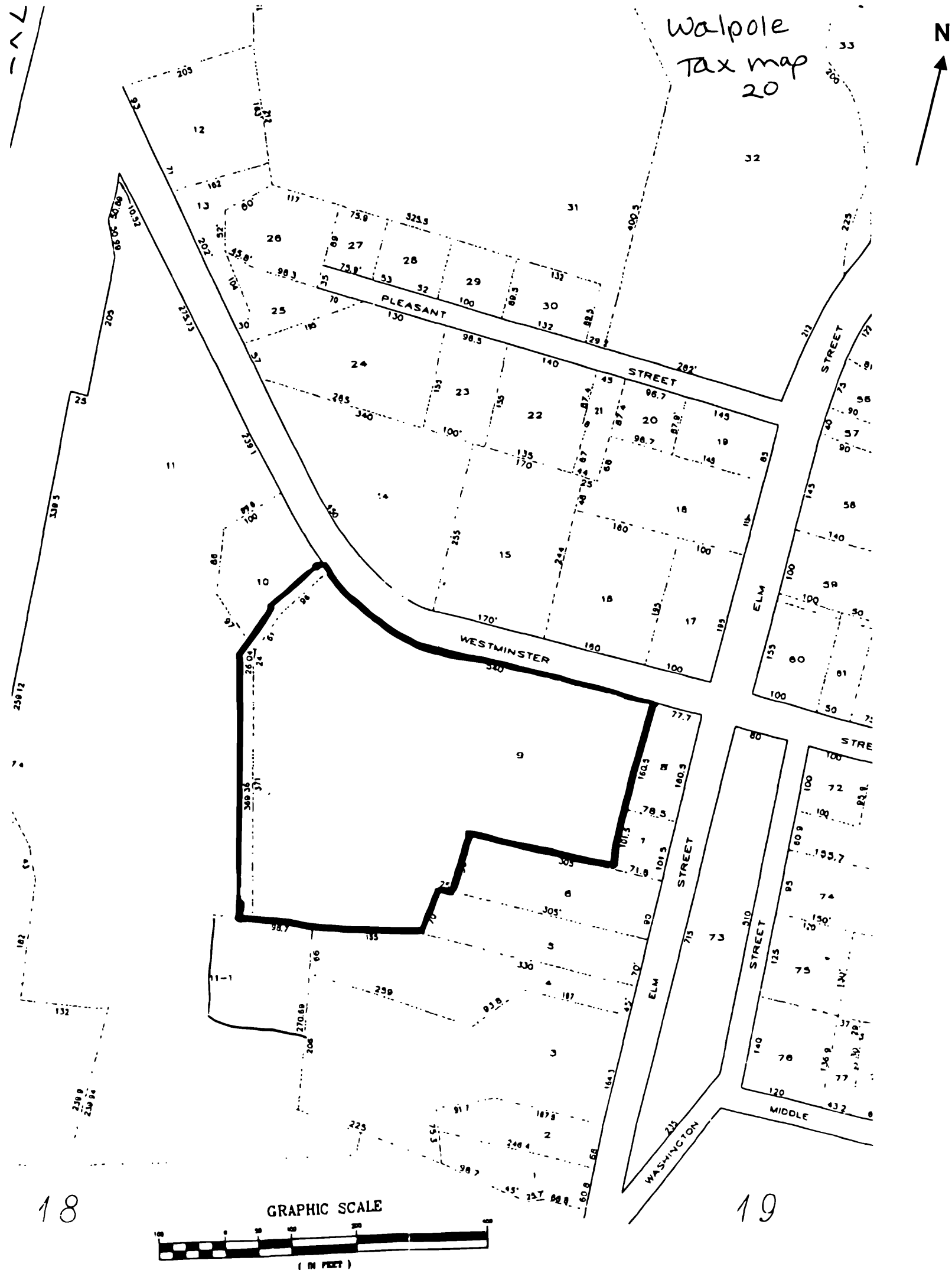
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

Boundary Map – to scale



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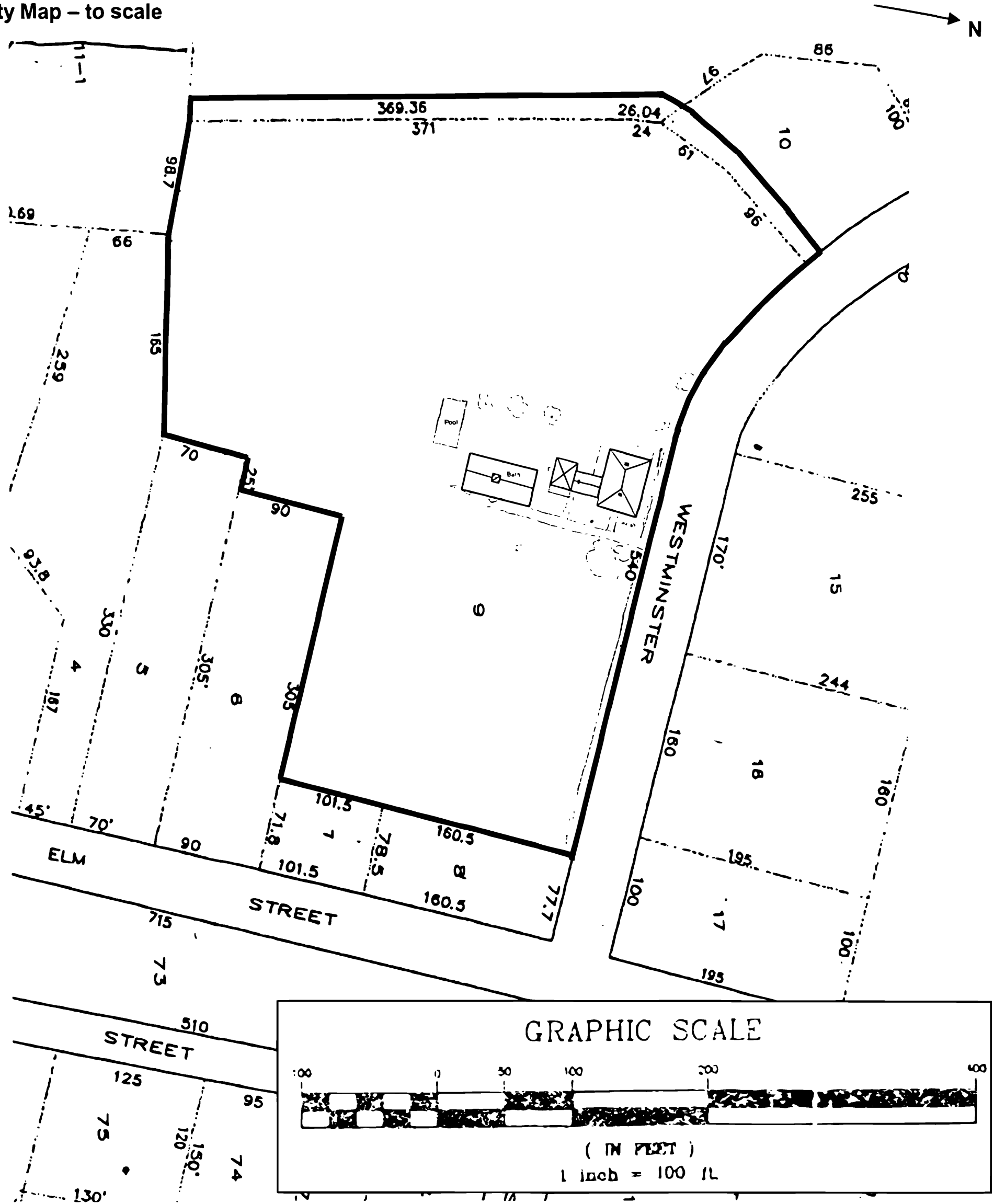
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

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Property Map - to scale



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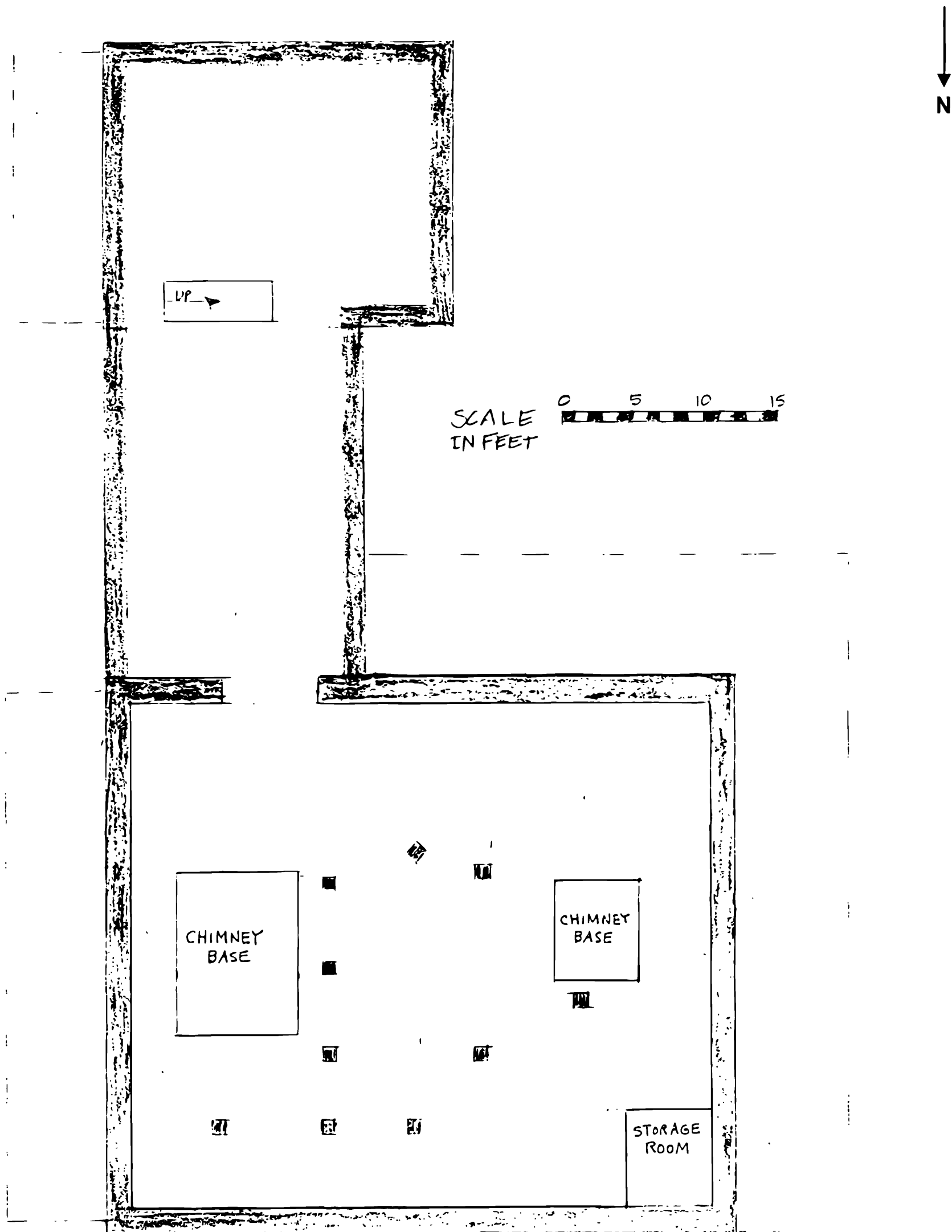
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

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House Plan - Basement



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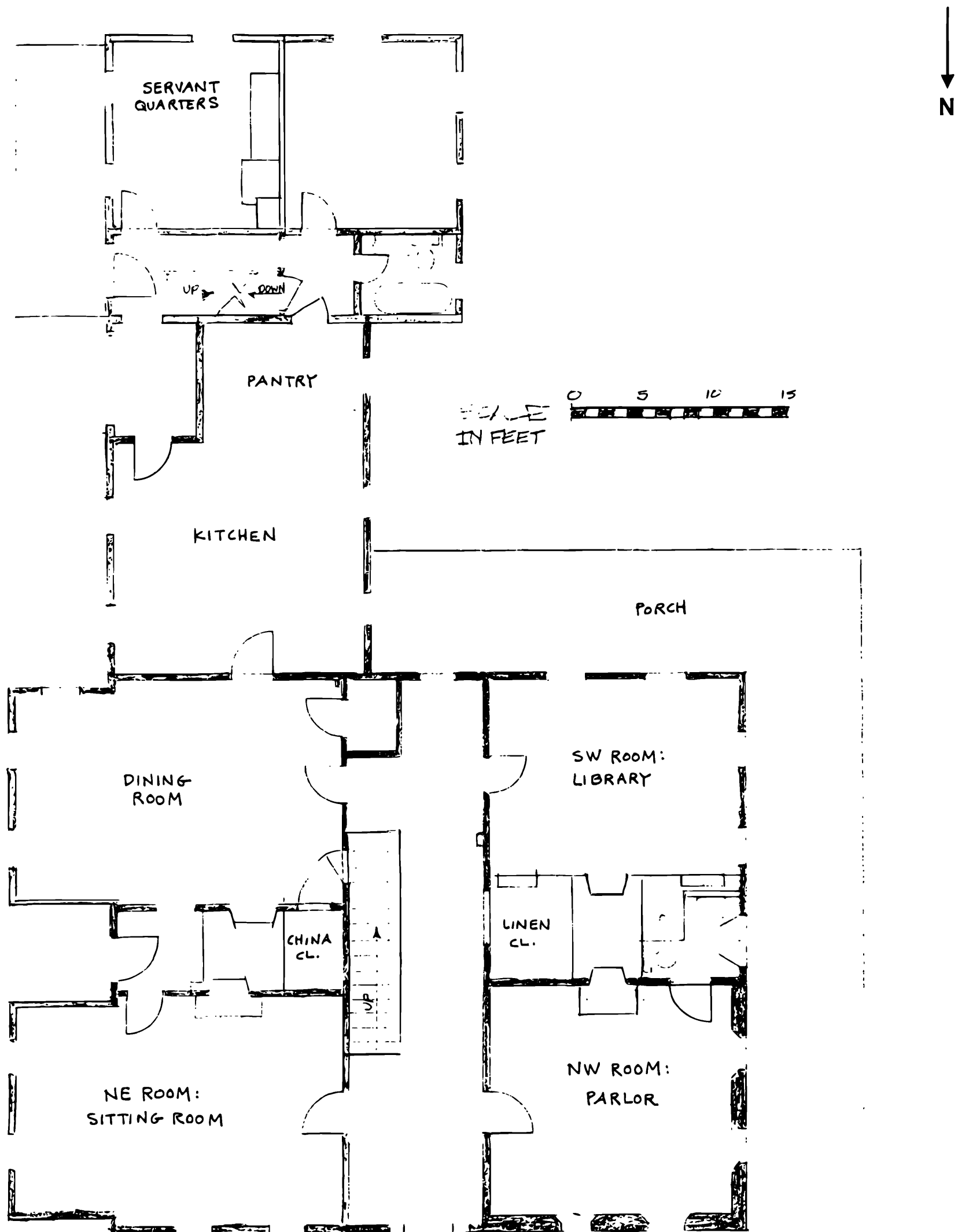
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

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House Plan – First Floor



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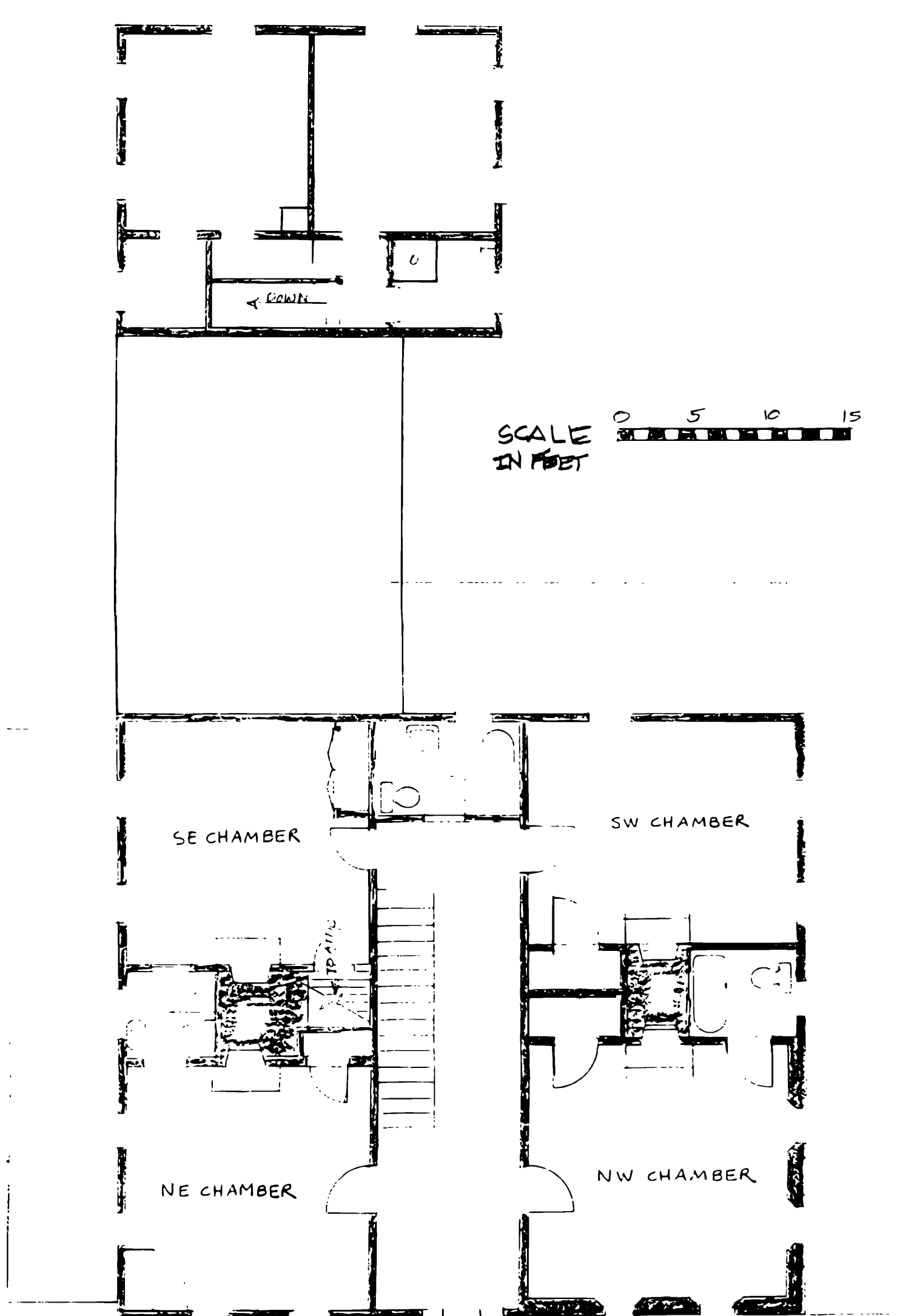
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

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House Plan – Second Floor



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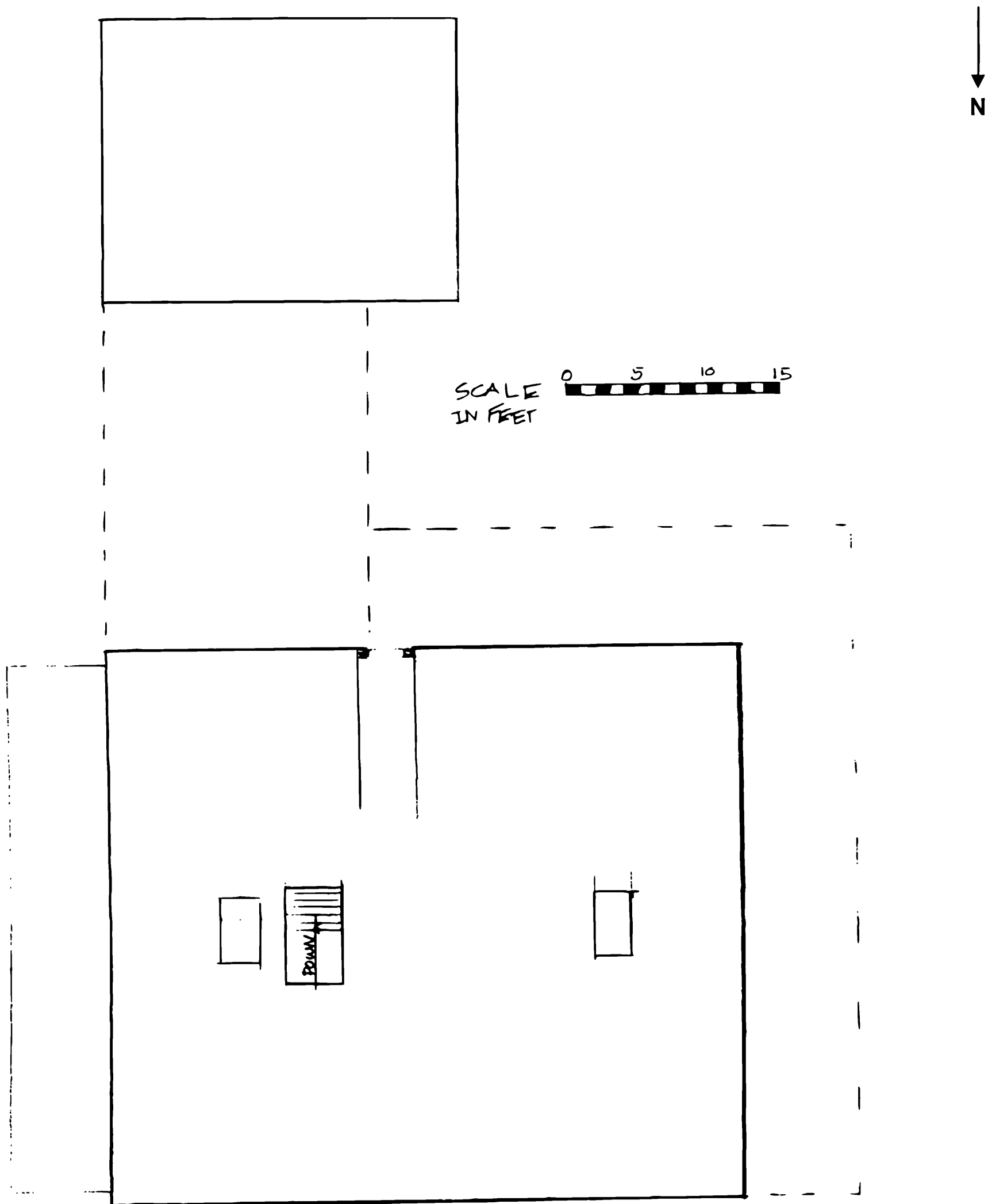
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

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House Plan – Attic



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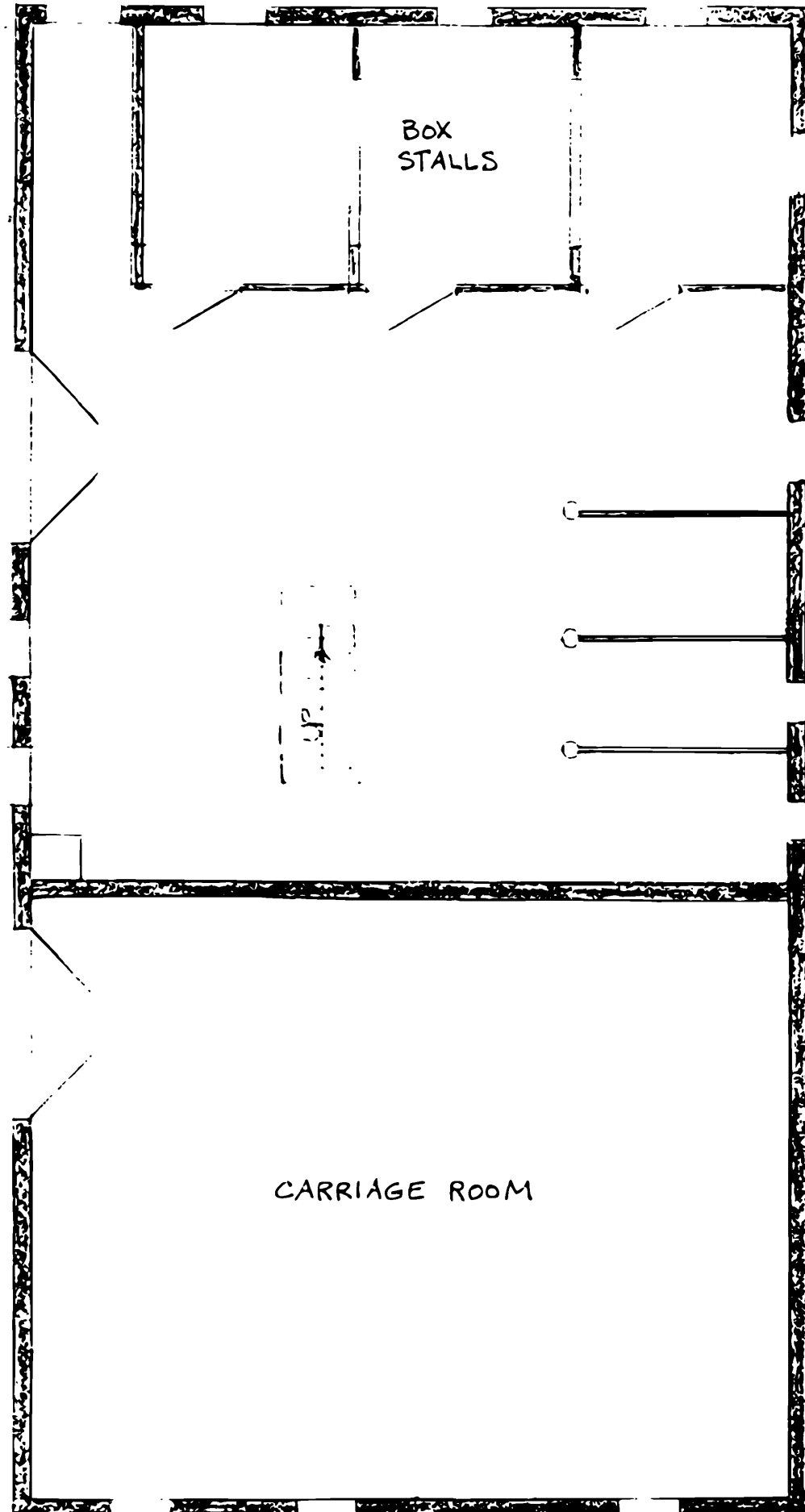
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

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Barn Plan – First Floor



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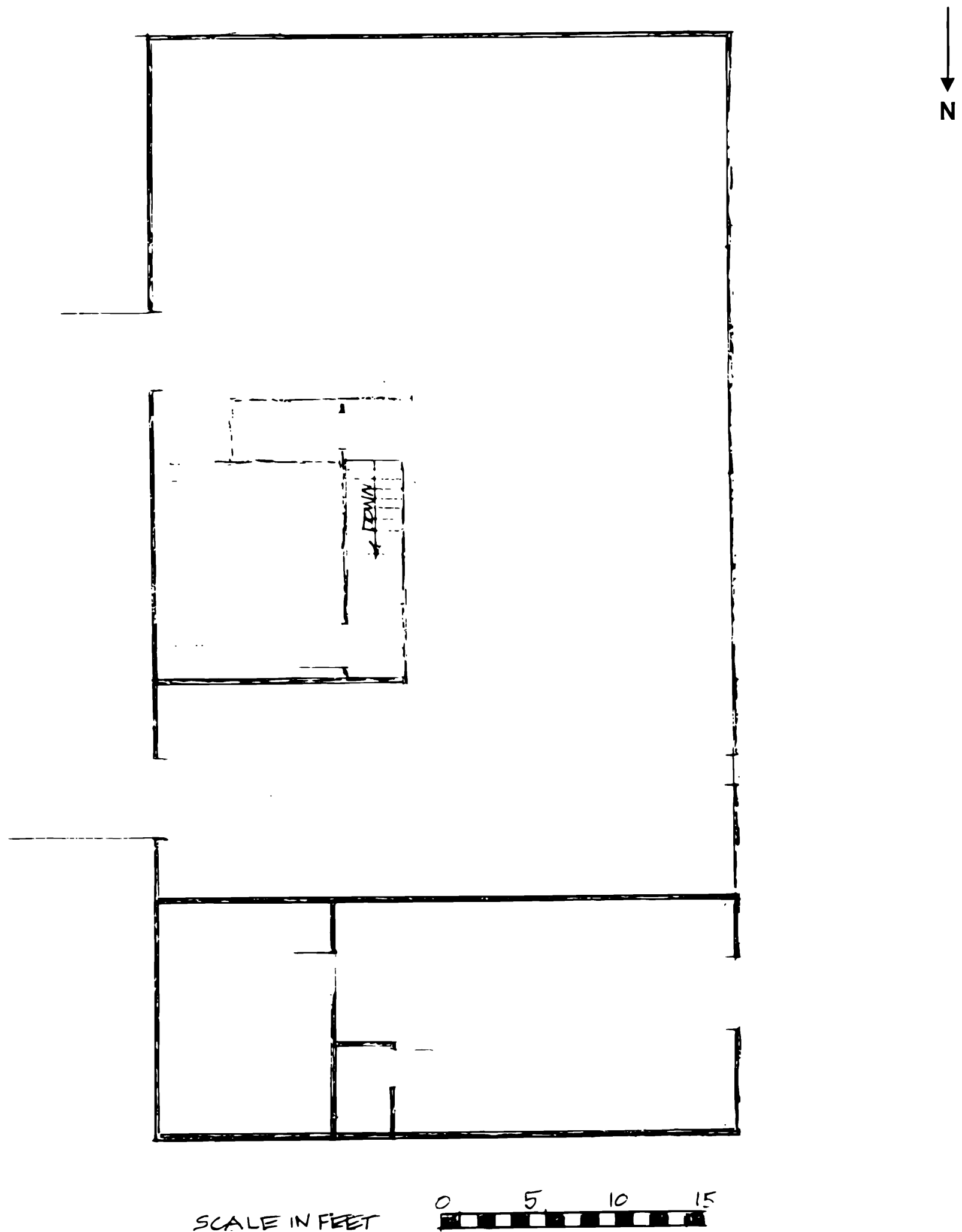
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

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Barn Plan – Second Floor



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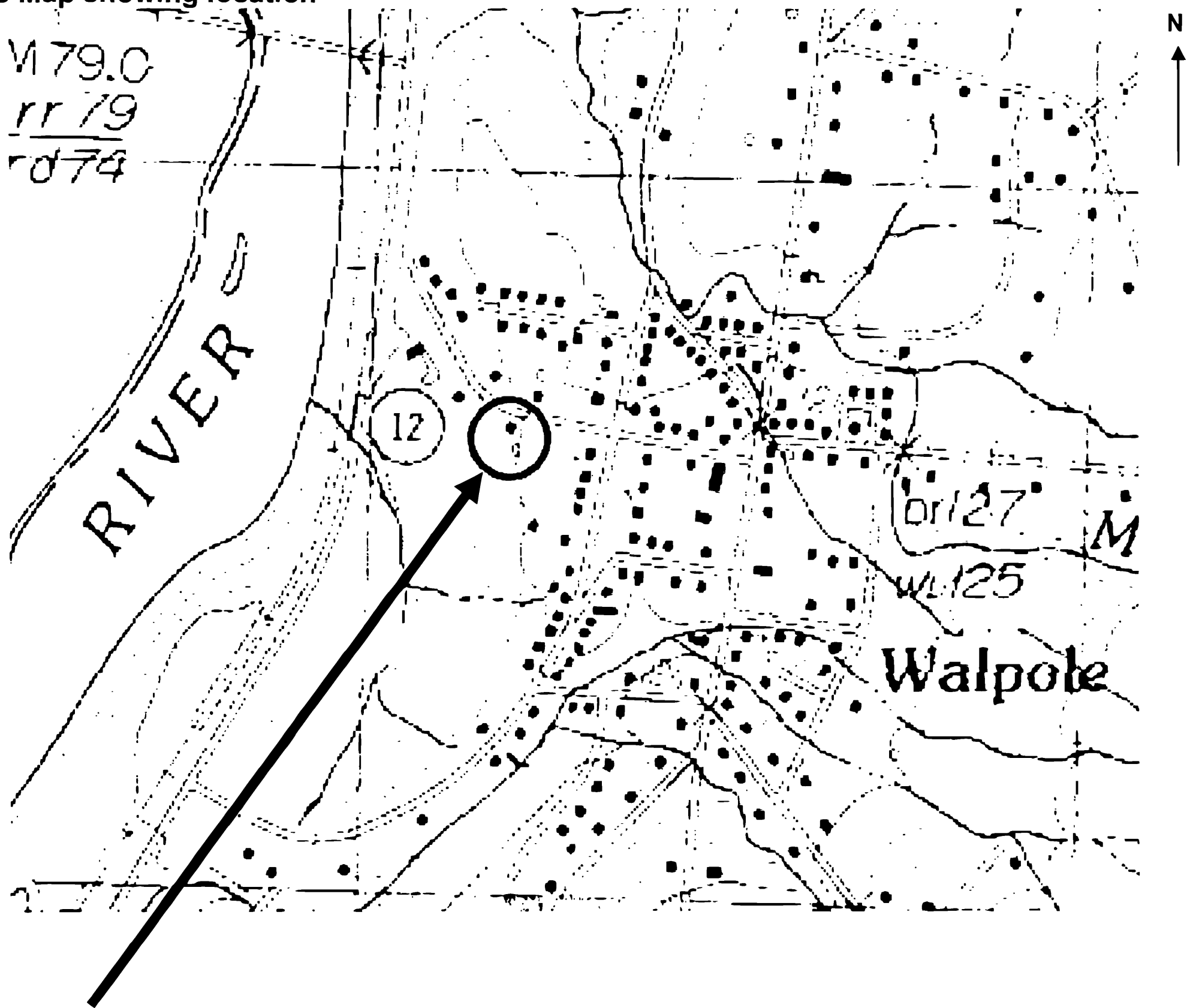
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

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USGS Map showing location



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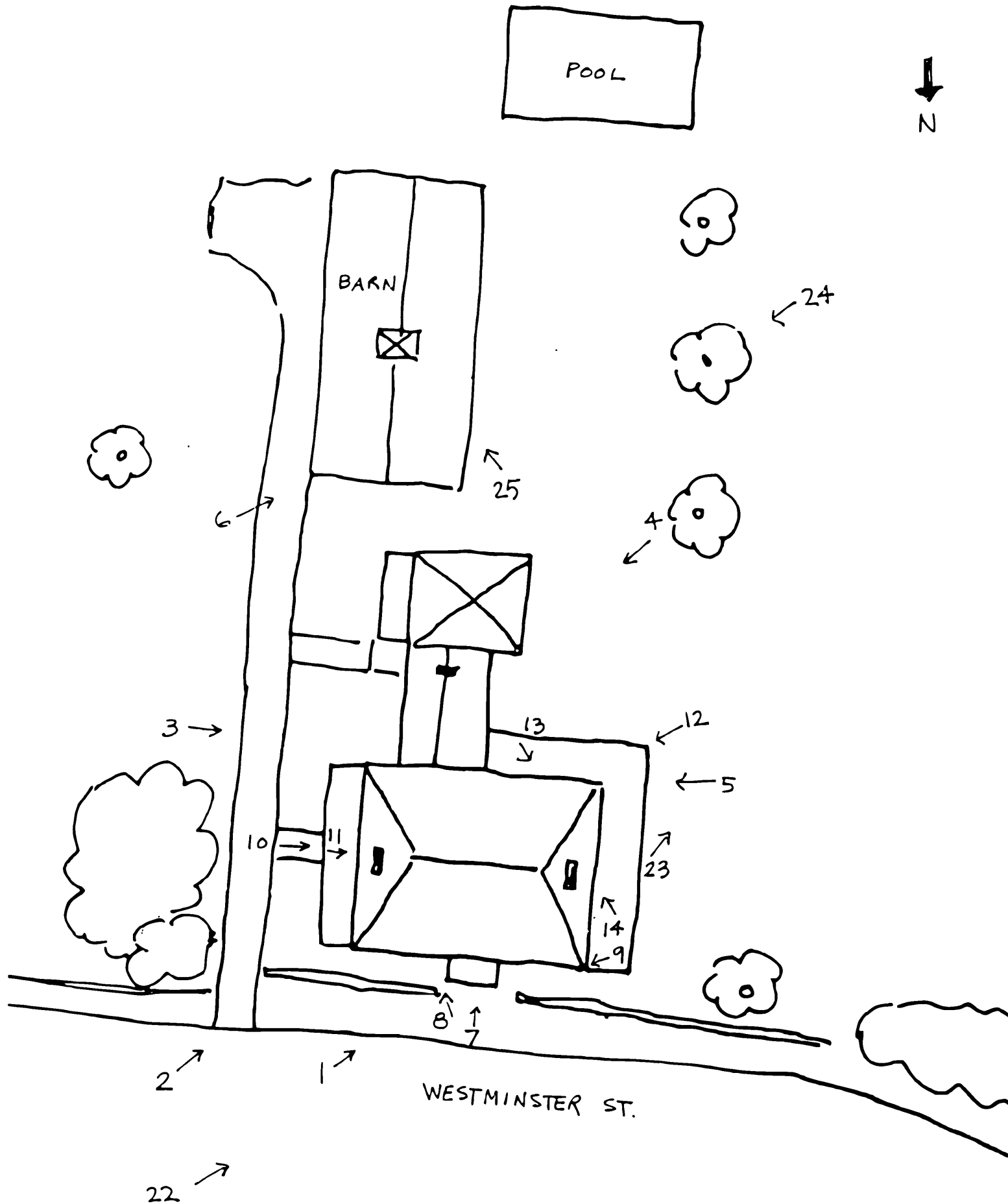
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

Photo Keys

Exterior, not to scale



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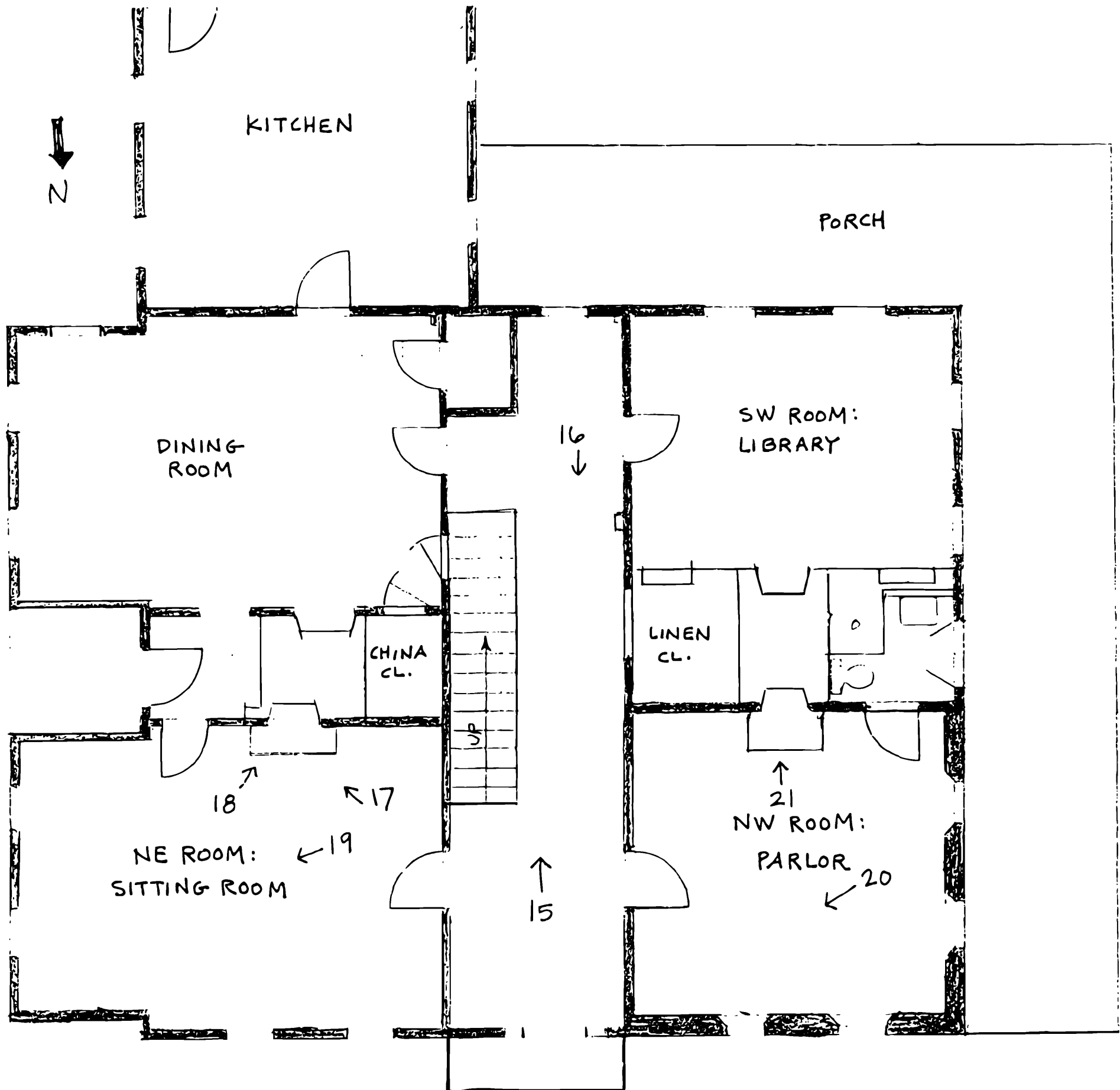
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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

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Interior, first floor, not to scale



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Stephen Rowe Bradley House

Walpole, Cheshire County, NH

Photo List

Date of photography: 2004
 Photographer: Charley Freiberg
 Location of original negatives: with property owner

Photo #	Direction (Facing)	Description
8 1/2" x 11" photographs		
1	SW	Façade (north elevation)
2	SW	East elevation of main block, ca. 1901 ell, and servant's quarters. Detached barn visible in rear.
3	W	East elevations of main of main block, ell, and servant's quarters .
4	NE	Rear (south) elevation of main block and servants' quarters.
5	E	West elevations of main block, ell, and servants quarters.
6	SW	East and north elevations of barn.
5" x 7" photographs		
<i>Exterior</i>		
7	S	Front entrance portico
8	SE	Detail of portico
9	E, up	Detail of cornice and eaves
10	W	East elevation of main block
11	W	Detail of east elevation showing original Federal entrance.
12	NE	West and rear (south) elevations of main block showing veranda.
13	NW	Detail of rear (south) elevation showing back entry and elongated windows of southwest room.
14	SE	West elevation showing windows and side entry on veranda.
<i>Interior</i>		
15	S	Central hall and staircase, looking back (south) door.
16	N	Central hall and staircase, looking to front entry.
17	SE	Sitting Room (northeast room), showing fireplace and door to east entry vestibule.
18	SW	Sitting Room (northeast room), showing detail of fireplace surround, wainscot and chair rail.
19	NE	Sitting Room (northeast room), general view.
20	NE	Parlor (northwest room), general view.
21	S	Parlor (northwest room), detail of fireplace surround, wainscoting and chair rail.
<i>Context</i>		
22	SW	Site: house in relation to street.
23	SW	Site: view of the yard from the veranda on west elevation.
24	NE	Site: view of yard, looking toward house and barn.
25	SE	Site: north and west (rear) elevations of barn