

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

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

received FEB 17 1982

date entered 2/17/82 32

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

**1. Name**

historic Burt - Cheney Farm

and/or common Morrison Farm

**2. Location**

street & number U.S. Route 302 \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Bethlehem \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Second

state New Hampshire code 33 county Grafton code 009

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Catherine B. Symmes

street & number Route 302

city, town Bethlehem \_\_\_ vicinity of state New Hampshire

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grafton County Courthouse

street & number Route 10

city, town North Haverhill state New Hampshire

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title NONE has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Burt - Cheney farm (map #1) is a 1 1/2 - story rectangular building of 5x4 bays. The eaves of the gable roof are trimmed with a simple molded cornice and brief end returns. The massive central chimney is 10'x10' at the basement level, tapering to 8'x8' on the first floor, and 4'x4' where it pierces the roof. The six over six sash and panelled front door may not be original but nevertheless date from the early nineteenth century. Additions to the main block consist of: 1 - story shed projections on the gable ends, a rear elevation dormer window, and a large c. 1845 gable-roofed wing joined to the northeast corner.

The interior of the house retains its original floorplan, and to a large degree its original appearance. A small central front entrance hall backed by the central chimney opens on either side to the flanking front parlors. A string of smaller rooms extends across the rear of the building. The enclosed, free-standing staircase is located in the northeast (rear) corner. The mortice-and-tenoned frame is mostly exposed throughout the house. The walls are trimmed with molded wainscoting and molded door and window surrounds.

Related structures on the property include: a stone wall (#2) which extends along the road for the entire length of the property line, averaging 3' high by 4' wide, and constructed of two outer walls of heavy cut and field stone filled in with smaller rubble. Massive piers of cut stone frame the two driveway entrances. Three clapboard outbuildings (#3-5) behind the main house have poured concrete floors and c. 1920 Colonial Revival detail. They range in size from 12'x20' (#3) to 15'x40' (#5). Building #4 is adjoined to an old stone barn foundation which is still largely intact.

#### Building #3:

The gable-roofed building, known as the dairy, is built on a stone foundation. A one-story, three-bay wide clapboard structure, it has a ventilator on the ridge and a single stone exterior chimney on the east elevation. The gable end of the dairy that faces south has two paired twelve-paned windows on the main level and a single sixteen paned window in the attic section. Just under the roofline at the north end is a narrow single bay shed attachment connecting the dairy to a hill. The hill serves as the north wall of the entire structure except for the triangle of the roof which is at ground level on this end. The dairy measures 12' x 20'.

#### Building #4:

This building is a gable-roofed clapboarded structure with a ventilator on the ridge. It is three bays long with a smaller, similar addition to the west. This addition adds two more bays, one of which is a door. The east gable end has a door with a trelliced entry and two windows north of the door. The west wall is solid, and the building has a concrete floor. This structure is to the south east of a large, stone, barn foundation. The barn no longer stands.

#### Building #5:

The 3-car garage is a clapboard structure in a "saltbox" format with a brick chimney extending through the longer pitch of the roof, near the north east corner of the building. The three bays for vehicles are on the west side of the garage and are double-size, probably originally accomodating farm equipment. The large doors to these openings are no longer part of the structure. There is a door with six panes of glazing

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1-DESCRIPTION      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 2

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on this side to the north. The north gable end has two six over six sash windows on either side of a door. The east side of the garage has three double four over four horizontal sash windows followed by a door. The windows start at the south east and end with the door about 2/3 down the east wall to the north. The south, front wall is solid, and the floor of the garage is concrete. The garage measures 15' x 40'.

**Building #6:**

This is a small (3' x 3') brick "soap house" with a shingled gable roof, originally used to compost ashes and grease for soapmaking, and probably dating from the earliest habitation of the farm.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

<b>Specific dates</b> c. 1817	<b>Builder/Architect</b> Simeon Burt
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Burt - Cheney House is significant as an outstanding example of the Cape Cod house as it developed on the New England frontier. It represents an important stage in the evolution of this distinctive house type, which descended from the half-house of the seventeenth century, and later developed into the prolific "classic cottage" of the mid-nineteenth century. Of the few remaining central chimney capes in the area, this is one of the best preserved. It still retains the qualities of simplicity, efficiency, and heatability which made it's plan a virtual standard for New England farmhouses of this period.

The Burt - Cheney House is also significant because it typified the pioneer's approach to building a farm in the wilderness. Simeon Burt, one of the town's first settlers, erected the eastern portion of the frame c. 1810 as a temporary dwelling and then expanded this first structure to its present form c. 1817, when his farm was cleared and producing enough income to support a more substantial house. It is believed to be the second oldest building in town. The related structures on the property, particularly the large stone wall in front, make a significant contribution to the house by maintaining its appearance as a farmstead, a function which it served continuously until the construction of I-93 in the late 1960's separated the house from the fields. Today it is an integral part of the rural/agricultural landscape in the Littleton-Bethlehem area.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Child, Hamilton, Gazetteer of Grafton County, New Hampshire (1886, Syracuse)

Wilson, Gregory C., ed., Bethlehem, New Hampshire: A Bicentennial History (1973)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 16.5

Quadrangle name Littleton

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

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

C 

1	9	2	7	9	7	8	0	4	7	0	7	9	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification:** Parcel 5, sheet 4, of Bethlehem town tax maps. Beginning at the intersection of Rt. 302 & the I-93 right-of-way, the property line runs east along the north side of Rt. 302 for approx. 1750 ft. to the west boundary line of the Burch House property, thence north approx. 400 ft. to the I-93 right-of-way, thence west to the beginning point.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Page, Preservation Consultant

organization North Country Historical Foundation date June 6, 1980

street & number PO Box 54 telephone 838-6370

city or town Lisbon, state New Hampshire

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

[Signature]  
Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 9, 1981

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

William H. Brannan

date 3-25-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

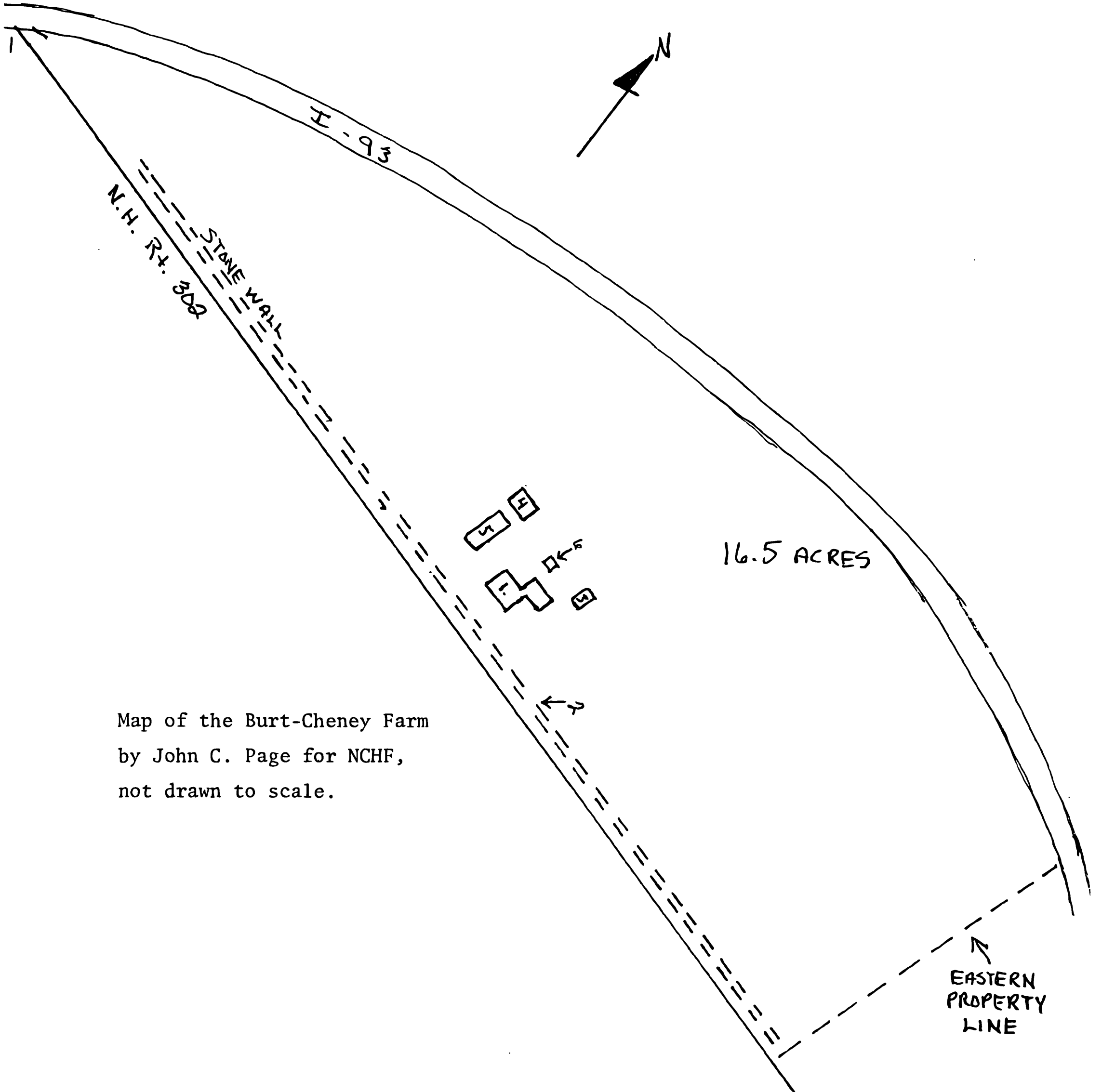
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CONTINUATION SHEET #2-SKETCH MAP

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Map of the Burt-Cheney Farm  
by John C. Page for NCHF,  
not drawn to scale.