

SEP 19 1984

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 30 1984

date entered DEC 29 1986

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

1. Name Pottersville District

historic

and/or common

2. Location Harrisville, New Hampshire

street & number _____ not for publication _____

city, town Harrisville _____ vicinity of _____

state New Hampshire code 33 county Cheshire code 5

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Multiple

name _____

street & number _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cheshire County Courthouse - Registry of Deeds

street & number Court Street

city, town Keene state NH

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

In addition to Harrisville multiple resource nomination survey

Draft Environmental Impact Statement
title NH Rt. 101, Dublin/Harrisville, NH has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records State of New Hampshire Department of Public Works & Highways

city, town Concord state NH

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pottersville District survives into the late 20th century as a cohesive upland New Hampshire village which includes 20 historically and/or architecturally significant buildings and at least four important early industrial (archaeological) sites. Its current configuration, a linear grouping of residences along western Brown Road making a southerly curve onto Chesham Road at the Baptist Church, continues to reflect the modest scale and moderate density of its period of significance: 1765-1923. Its visual integrity of location and setting is echoed in the substantially wholesome survival of its individual resources as well. Primarily residences now as well as in the past, they share considerable integrity as well as consistency of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. They are complimented by the survival of the community's church (PD-18, the Baptist Church, 1797) and School (PD-17, 1840), each one of the oldest in Harrisville.

There are very few non-contributing structures in Pottersville and only one intrusion.

Set in rolling terrain between Minnewawa and Pratt Brooks along the western and northern overlooks of Russell Reservoir, Pottersville continues to reflect its historic geographical character. The boundaries, except in the case of the easternmost line which was extended to include the important Russell pottery site, of the village district are clearly visible along the road as the point where the preponderance of cleared land gives way to natural woodland. Mature hardwoods and conifers interspersed with hedgerows and fences continue to line the roadway in front of houses of moderate and approximately even setback.

Pottersville is now as it has always been predominantly residential. Its buildings continue to reflect a full range of living patterns basic to the history of upland New Hampshire as well as a glossary of simple vernacular interpretations of popular styles of the late 18th to the early 20th centuries. Structures modest to moderate in size, they are worked out in local materials, almost always wood. This village contains outstanding as well as representative buildings knit into a fabric which continues to reflect the responsiveness to topographical considerations which was the major factor in the choice of initial as well as subsequent settlement location.

Pottersville's earliest houses are all small center chimney cape cottages except one, the 1779 Farnum/Upton House (PD-9), a 2-1/2 story late Georgian Farmhouse which can be compared in basic form to the Abel Twitchell House (PD-90). They share the additional common characteristics of white clapboarded exterior wall treatment, simple central doorway with 3 or 4 light bar transom but no sidelights, narrow windows (9/6 or 6/6) and an attached ell or shed. They range in date from 1765-1807. The Rollins/Phelps House (PD-7) is reputed to be the oldest house in Harrisville (1765), an honor which further research may require it to relinquish to the Benjamin Mason House (HRD-13A) in the Harrisville Rural District.

These houses are all located at the eastern or Brown Road end of the district. They were dwellings on the homesteads of early hill farmers (similar to Silver Lake Cottage, IP-24, the three early homesteads in Eastview, IP-1, IP-2, and IP-3, and several in the Harrisville Rural District) and represents a valuable surviving example of

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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 checked="" 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/		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates 1765-1923 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Pottersville is a well-preserved upland New Hampshire village with good surviving examples of late 18th to early 20th century vernacular architecture. Its historical and architectural significance, both local and regional, is focussed on three issues:

1. It is the location of the first non-native settlement in Harrisville and contains Harrisville's oldest church and school, and one of the community's two oldest surviving houses.
2. It is a locally important and unusual example of a linear community settlement pattern. A sense of visual architectural cohesiveness and/or identity persists in Pottersville (now commonly referred to as Chesham, a late 19th century designation) which survives essentially intact so that its development can be traced through its standing structures. Like the Rural District, there is considerable evidence of the responsiveness of built resources to topographical considerations.
3. It is the site of an early regionally, if not nationally, significant pottery manufacturing center.

The Pottersville District satisfies Criteria A, B, C, and D of the National Register of Historic Places. It presents an extant visual record of upland New Hampshire settlement patterns from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries. Its significance thus derives from its display of an entire range of representative as well as outstanding resources in which the entire picture is more important as a whole than the sum of its individual components. Further, it contains the home and studio site of a nationally known artist (PD-7) that of an important poet (PD-4) and has been the home from the earliest settlement period of several families which have made major contributions to the civic, economic and social history of Harrisville (cf. the Bemis and Russell families).

In addition, sites in Pottersville have already yielded information pivotal to the early history of pottery manufacture in the United States and it is certain that there is more information yet to be uncovered.

Although it is unlikely that any permanent Indian settlement was ever established within the present day boundaries of Harrisville (or Pottersville), one trail, the Nebinasok, crossed directly through Pottersville on a path which appears to correspond to Chesham Road. The earliest settlers of English descent were emigrants from Massachusetts who began road work in Pottersville c.1762. One dwelling, one of Harrisville's two oldest, survives from this period (PD-7, 1765). A small center

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9. Major Bibliographical References

See overall nomination

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 93

Quadrangle name Monadnock

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A	1 8	7 3 3 7 5 0	4 7 5 7 1 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

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

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

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

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

state	NA	code	county	code
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state	NA	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marcia M. Cini, Project Director, and Project Staff

organization Historic Harrisville, Inc.

date May 1984

street & number Box 79

telephone (603) 927 3334

city or town Harrisville

state NH 03450

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

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

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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POTTERSVILLE DISTRICT: OWNERS LIST, ALPHABETICAL

PROPERTY OWNER	ADDRESS	SITE #	HISTORIC NAME
ANDERSON, MR. E. K.	RD 2, BOX 698, KEENE, N.H. 03431	PD-23	
BAPTIST CHURCH	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-18	BAPTIST CHURCH
BEMIS, MR. & MRS. W. F.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-02	WALLINGFORD/RUSSELL HOUSE
BEMIS, MRS. C. C.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-12	MARGARET BUSH HOUSE
BEMIS, MRS. N. D.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-14	
BEMIS, MRS. P.	BOX 5, RD 5, TROY, N.Y. 12180	PD-13UL	
BEMIS, MRS. R. B.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N. H. 03455	PD-20UL	
BEMIS, MRS. R. B.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-07	ROLLINS/PHELPS HOUSE
BEMIS, MRS. R. B.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-08UL	
BISSELL, MR. & MRS. E.	37 ALLEN CT., KEENE, N.H. 03431	PD-26	
CAHILL, MS. J.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-34	JOSIAH LEWIS HOUSE
CARTER, MRS. M. C.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-11	
CHAMBERLAIN, MRS. B./CHAMBERLAIN, MRS. A.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N. H. 03455	PD-22	CALVIN SMITH HOUSE
DOYLE, MR. & MRS. A.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-15	PERCY W. RUSSELL COTTAGE
FLESSA, MR. S./LaROCHE, MS. B.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-06	
GIBBS, MRS. V.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-33	EDWARD G. RUSSELL HOUSE
HARRIS, MR. & MRS. P.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-24	J. F. SOUTHWICK HOUSE
HARRISVILLE, TOWN OF	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-16	
HARRISVILLE, TOWN OF	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-17	DUBLIN UNION DISTRICT SCHOOL #7
HEATH, MRS. V.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N. H. 03455	PD-21	AARON SMITH HOUSE
HEATH, MRS. V.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-36UL	SITE OF WIGHT POTTERY
KALLMAN, MR. & MRS. S.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-28	MORRIS M. HEATH HOUSE
McWETHY, MR. & MRS. D.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-27	WORSLEY/RUSSELL HOUSE
OLMSTEAD, MR. & MRS. F.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-25	
OLSON, MR. & MRS. P.	9 MEADOW BROOK RD., R2, GRANBY, CT. 06035	PD-19	BAPTIST PARSONAGE
PARKER, MR. H.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-32	
PARKER, MR. H.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-35UL	SITE OF RUSSELL MILL
PUTNAM, MR. & MRS. P.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-05UL	
RAYNOR, MR. & MRS. W.	BOX 109, HARRISVILLE, N.H. 03450	PD-10	MARY BUSH HOUSE
SAARI, MR. A.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-29	LUTHER CARLTON HOUSE
SMITH, MR. K./SMITH, MRS. S.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-01	
SOBEL, MR. D. T./ELLIOT, MS. W.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-03	CORNELIUS TOWNE HOUSE
SPILOIR, MR. & MRS. C.	1160 DEVON RD., VENICE FL 33595	PD-01AUL	
STARR, MRS. N. C./STARR, MS. P. C.	333 E. 68 ST., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021	PD-04	JAMES BEMIS HOUSE
SWASEY, MR. & MRS. C.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-30	MERRILL RUSSELL HOUSE
UPTON, MR. & MRS. R.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-09	JOHN FARNUM HOUSE
WILLIAMS, MRS. M.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PD-31	JONATHAN RUSSELL, JR. HOUSE

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POTTERSVILLE DISTRICT: OWNERS LIST, BY SITE NUMBER

SITE #	PROPERTY OWNER	ADDRESS	HISTORIC NAME
PD-01	SMITH, MR. K./SMITH, MRS. S.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	
PD-01AUL	SPILTOIR, MR. & MRS. C.	1160 DEVON RD., VENICE FL 33595	
PD-02	BEMIS, MR. & MRS. W. F.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	WALLINGFORD/RUSSELL HOUSE
PD-03	SOBEL, MR. D. T./ELLIOT, MS. W.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	CORNELIUS TOWNE HOUSE
PD-04	STARR, MRS. N. C./STARR, MS. P. C.	333 E. 68 ST., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021	JAMES BEMIS HOUSE
PD-05UL	PUTNAM, MR. & MRS. P.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	
PD-06	FLESSA, MR. S./LaROCHE, MS. B.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	
PD-07	BEMIS, MRS. R. B.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	ROLLINS/PHELPS HOUSE
PD-08UL	BEMIS, MRS. R. B.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	
PD-09	UPTON, MR. & MRS. R.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	JOHN FARNUM HOUSE
PD-10	RAYNOR, MR. & MRS. W.	BOX 109, HARRISVILLE, N.H. 03450	MARY BUSH HOUSE
PD-11	CARTER, MRS. M. C.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	
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PD-13UL	BEMIS, MRS. P.	BOX 5, RD 5, TROY, N.Y. 12180	
PD-14	BEMIS, MRS. N. D.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	
PD-15	DOYLE, MR. & MRS. A.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	PERCY W. RUSSELL COTTAGE
PD-16	HARRISVILLE, TOWN OF	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	
PD-17	HARRISVILLE, TOWN OF	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	DUBLIN UNION DISTRICT SCHOOL #7
PD-18	BAPTIST CHURCH	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	BAPTIST CHURCH
PD-19	OLSON, MR. & MRS. P.	9 MEADOW BROOK RD., R2, GRANBY, CT. 06035	BAPTIST PARSONAGE
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PD-21	HEATH, MRS. V.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N. H. 03455	AARON SMITH HOUSE
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PD-23	ANDERSON, MR. E. K.	RD 2, BOX 698, KEENE, N.H. 03431	
PD-24	HARRIS, MR. & MRS. P.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	J. F. SOUTHWICK HOUSE
PD-25	OLMSTEAD, MR. & MRS. F.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	
PD-26	BISSELL, MR. & MRS. E.	37 ALLEN CT., KEENE, N.H. 03431	
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PD-30	SWASEY, MR. & MRS. C.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	MERRILL RUSSELL HOUSE
PD-31	WILLIAMS, MRS. M.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	JONATHAN RUSSELL, JR. HOUSE
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PD-35UL	PARKER, MR. H.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	SITE OF RUSSELL MILL
PD-36UL	HEATH, MRS. V.	RFD CHESHAM, MARLBOROUGH, N.H. 03455	SITE OF WIGHT POTTERY

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that important yet ephemeral period of New Hampshire history. The Baptist Meeting-house (PD-18) was built in 1797 across Brown Road from (PD-2 and 3) in a traditional form and a style which has since been obscured by several major remodellings.

The first quarter of the 19th century, the height of the pottery manufacturing activity from which this area derived its name, was the first period of architectural diversity in Pottersville. The Jedediah Kilburn Southwick House (c.1808, PD24 on Chesham Road, home of a prominent potter, is the village's only extant contributing brick building. Built of bricks made of locally dug clay, it stands out as a premier and exceptionally early example of the "chaste Neoclassical Style of early 19th century New England so beautifully preserved at Harrisville."¹

Only three other houses from this period survive, all directly associated with pottery manufacture (PD-21, 27 and 34). The first, the Josiah Lewis House of 1824 (PD-34) continues to reflect Federal style proportions unusual in Harrisville but more common in neighboring Dublin. The Aaron Smith House (1822, PD-21 is the earliest surviving example of Pottersville's most popular style: Greek Revival. It shares with other local examples its wood frame construction, clapboarded exterior, its orientation (gable-end-to-the-street or temple form), and its sidehall plan. It is, however, distinguished by its deeply recessed doorway with transom, sidelights and surround embellished with reeded molding and corner blocks, and its excellent state of preservation.

Pottersville's schoolhouse (1840, PD-17, once Dublin #7, later Harrisville #2), surviving although unused since 1950 also reflects Greek Revival influence through its corner pilasters and projecting box cornice.

Greek Revival continued to be the style of choice during the second quarter of the 19th century, a period of declining pottery production but increased woodenware manufacture. Four surviving examples (PD-31, the Jonathan Russell, Jr. house of 1832; PD-29, the Luther Carlton House, c.1836; PD-28, the Morris Heath House of 1849; and PD-22, the Calvin Smith House of 1849) demonstrate a range of sizes from modest to fairly generous (PD22) plus considerable variety of interpretation representing local vernacular tradition. Note especially the use of the partially recessed first story at PD-31 which can be seen as a simpler version of the fully recessed porches of the Mohadnock Hotel (HVD-100) & the Milan Walter Harris House (HVD-23), Harrisville Village. The very broad, gable-end-to-the-street or temple form 1849 Calvin Smith House (PD-22) with its shortened side walls is Harrisville's best example of a vernacular variation found primarily along the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border (cf. CVD-1 in the Chesham District and HVD-17, the M.K. Perry House, in Harrisville House, in Harrisville Village). The Calvin Smith House (PD-21), survives in equally outstanding condition. A full 1-1/2 of its 2-1/2 stories are incorporated into its broad gables, its five-bay facade enlivened by a center entry identical to that of the Aaron Smith House except unrecessed. The property is complemented by a handsome and original barn.

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Only one house (PD-30, the Merrill Russell House, 1859) survives from the third quarter of the 19th century, the period during which Pottersville's population was exceeded by that of Harrisville village. It is the latest Pottersville example which can be called an adaptive survival rather than a revival of the cape cottage, a manifestation of the persistence of colonial imagery and identification with the town's early settlers.

The Baptist Church's (PD-18) current configuration also represents a remodelling from this period (1867) as well as one of 1910.

The multiplicity of post-Greek Revival Styles seen in other communities is not represented in this remarkably homogenous district. As an alternative, the Greek Revival idiom persists in Pottersville to an extremely late date as reflected in the unpretentious Baptist Parsonage (PD-19, 1886) on Chesham Road just south of the Church itself.

Another very late example of its style is the 1897 Edward G. Russell House (PD-33) a picturesque rural cottage suggestive of the Downing tradition of mid-century. The man who built the Russell House, attracted to Pottersville by family ties to the owners of the large and active Russell woodenware mill (PD-35) was initially a summer residence.

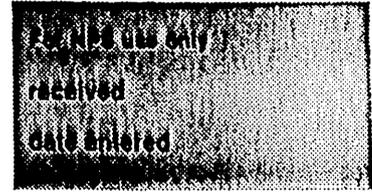
The first quarter of the 20th century would see a marked interest in Pottersville sites as summer vacation retreats. Locations on Brown Road, probably named for a c.1910 owner the Cornelius Towne House (PD-3) were especially prized for their view of Monadnock.

The Mary Bush house (1906, PD-10) with its suburban quality and sleeping porches, and the Margaret Bush House (1910, PD-12) similar enough to the Sherman Thayer House (SHD-6) to suggest the same architect, are solid examples of shingle style summer residents' houses. They represent the latest period of Pottersville's significance and a revival of interest in its original settlement location. The culmination of this movement was the use by landscape artist William Preston Phelps of the oldest house in Pottersville and possibly Harrisville (PD-7, the Rollins/Phelps House) and his own birthplace as his residence, with studio across the road, during his most productive period.

Pottersville survives as a catalogue of vernacular interpretations of a very limited number of conservative styles through which its development from an area of hill farms to a village supported by small industrial enterprises to an artists'/summer residents' colony can be traced.

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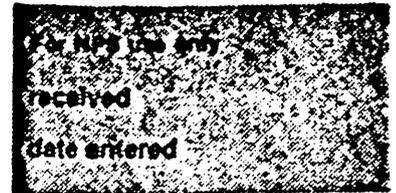
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Pottersville District

There are 40 contributing buildings, 10 non-contributing buildings,
and 2 contributing sites (archeological) in this district.

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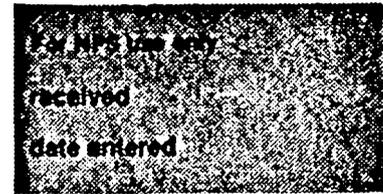
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Sites Contributing to the Significance of the Pottersville District:

- PD-1 Ebenezer and O.N. Russell Pottery Site (on the north side of Brown Road):
A field, the southwestern portion of which contains an area measuring approximately 60 meters square which is rife with waster sherds of over-fired or badly prepared pottery. Nearby to the east, an as yet unnumbered pottery manufacturing site also associated with the Russells was discovered after the Project Archaeologist had completed his investigation. The rest of this property (across Brown Road) is an undeveloped wooded lot.
- PD-2 Wallingford/Russell House (on the south side of Brown Road): c. 1807 1-1/2 story center entry, five bay Cape Cottage. The house is rectangular with an ell added to the east and a shed dormer along the back roof. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There are two chimnies, one interior. The foundation is stone and the sheathing is painted clapboard. This cottage was built by a blacksmith and was later the home of Ebenezer Russell, Pottersville's last potter.
- PD-3 The Cornelius Towne House (on the southside of Brown Road just west of PD-2): c. 1807, 1-1/2 story center chimney, center entry, white clapboard cape cottage built by a cabinet maker and owned in the early 20th century by Mrs. Samuel M. Brown descendent of the original owner for whom the road was named. The windows are particularly interesting in this house: The transom light over the front door, the palladian adaptation on the westside and the little side ways window on the west. The long side of the cottage faces the road. The foundation is stone. The ell to the east has a chimney like the main part of the house. There is a detached rectangular roof, clapboard barn.
- PD-4 The Bemis/Starr House (on the north side of Brown Road): c. 1794 1-1/2 story center chimney center entry white clapboarded cape cottage. It has an ell to the east with chimney and a shed dormer. Two gabled dormers pierce the south roof. The street facade has a front porch with a gabled roof and plain columns. The foundation is stone, the roof is steeply pitched. The facade has five bays. The windows are 6/6. The house was built by a revolutionary soldier and was occupied at one time by Samuel Dana Bemis, longtime chairman of Selectmen for Harrisville and later by poet and Professor Nathan Comfort Starr and photographer Nina Howell Starr.
- PD-30 The Merrill Russell House (east side of Chesham Road): A c. 1859, 1-1/2 story red frame late survivor of the three bay center entry cape cottage. Windows are 2/2 flanked by black shutters. The gabled roof is now asphalt shingles and a long rectangular one story ell runs off the north gable end of the house. Its west facade consist of a series of eight windows, a door and a one car garage door. One owner of this house was associated with the mill site at PD-35.

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Continuation sheet Description

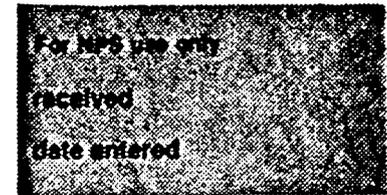
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- PD-7 The Rollins/Phelps House (on the south side of Brown Road, west of PD-3): c. 1765, 1-1/2 story center chimney off center entry, white cape cottage one of Harrisville's two earliest surviving houses and birthplace/residence of artist William Preston Phelps. This house is clapboarded and has a stone foundation and the pitched roof is covered with wooden shingles. There are two gabled dormers and the roof projects in a shed like fashion over the front door a modern window, a covered entrance to the east and an ell to the west have been added to the front facade without distroying the simplicity of line and austere charm of this small house.
- PD-9 The Farnum/Upton House (on the south side of Brown Road): c. 1779, late Georgian, two story five bay, center chimney house with prominent center doorway with full entablature. The clapboards are painted dark red. This house is the home of Mary Upton, pastor of both the Baptist and Harrisville Congregational Churches for the past quarter century.
- PD-10 The Mary Bush House (north side of Brown Road): 1906. two story, hip roofed rectangular, centerentry shingle style house with flanking porches on both stories. This was built as a summer house and has been insulated to make it a year round residence.
- PD-12 The Margaret Bush House (on the north side of Brown Road just west of The Mary Bush House): This is a dark stained shingle style house, built in 1910 as a summer residence. The building is rectangular, gambrel roof with four shed dormers in front and a center chimney. The entrance is protected by a shed roofed portico. There is a detached garage.
- PD-15 The Percy Russell Cottage (on the southeast corner of Brown and Chesham Roads): A 1-1/2 story frame house with rear ell. It is clapboarded with a pitched roof; gable end to the street. It was built by millowner Percy Russell to rent to various tenants.
- PD-17 The Chesham Schoolhouse (on the northwest side of Chesham Road at Brown Road): 1840, one story Greek Revival schoolhouse, formerly Dubln # 7 and the oldest schoolhouse standing in Harrisville. The building is painted white and clapboarded. The gable end is to the street and the foundation has been repaired with cinderblock.
- PD-18 The Baptist Church (on Chesham Road, just south of the schoolhouse): 1797 (although twice removed and remodeled at least four times), large rectangular frame meeting house of one monumental story, with Greek Revival details, topped by two stage steeple with metal spire and weathervane.

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- PD-19 The Baptist Parsonage (on Chesham Road, just southwest of the Church): 1886, 1-1/2 story white clapboarded Greek Revival Temple form house. The foundation is granite, the ell juts to the south and has a front screened in porch added to its front facade. The house is a side hall plan three bays wide and has an attached barn.
- PD-21 The Aaron Smith House (on the west side of Chesham Road): c. 1822, yellow frame Temple form Greek Revival recessed entry and one story ell. Home of an early potter. The gable end of this house turns toward the street, the walls are sheathed with clapboards, the foundation is stone. The windows appear original. Aaron Smith was a successful farmer, selectman and representative to the general court. He was related to a daughter of Mary Willard Mason.
- PD-22 The Calvin Smith House (on Chesham Road, just south of PD21): 1849 ochre clapboard, foreshortened temple front 2-1/2 story Greek Revival house with complementary original barn with cupola and round window. The foundation is stone, there is one chimney. Calvin Smith was a son of Aaron Smith and a box maker.
- PD-24 The Jedediah Kilburn Southwick House (on the west side of Chesham Road): 1808, 2-1/2 story Pottersville brick five-bay center entry Neo-Classical house, in outstanding condition and the earliest example in Harrisville. The foundation is granite, the windows are 12/12 and the roof is shingled in wood with cornice and moulding.
- PD-27 The Worsley/Russell House (on the east side of Chesham Road): An early 18th century 2-1/2 story white clapboarded gambrel roofed house. An 1891 remodeling gave it a large wraparound porch and a colonial revival look. It is painted white and has 2/2 windows and an exterior chimney and asphalt shingled roof. Originally associated with a potter and subsequently with a sawmill operator.
- PD-28 The Morris Heath House (on the west side of Chesham Road): 1849, 2-1/2 story white clapboard side hall plan Greek Revival farmhouse with a small attached barn at the rear west side. The house sits with its gable end to the street. Windows are 2/2, flanked by shutters. A glass enclosed porch faces the driveway on the south side of the house. This house may have been an operating store c. 1907.
- PVD-29 The Luther Carlton House (on the west side of Chesham Road): c. 1836, two story white clapboard side hall plan Greek Revival farmhouse, with ells extending to the south, north and west sides of the main house. Windows are mostly 6/6; all roofs are gabled without dormers. A detached clapboard 1-1/2 story barn with gabled roof is situated west of the main house. This house was built for the owner of the Greenwood mill complex (PD-35) and is reported to have been used as a store at one time.

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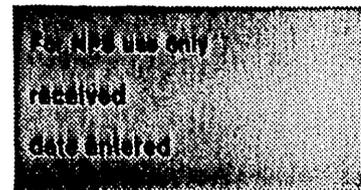
Archaeological sites contributing to the significance of the Pottersville District:

- PD-1 Ebenezer and O.N. Russell Pottery (on the north side of eastern Brown Road): a field, the southwestern portion of which contains an area measuring approximately 60 meters by 60 meters which is rife with waster sherds of overfired or otherwise badly prepared pottery. (Note: nearby, to the east, at an as yet unnumbered location, a pottery manufacturing site also associated with the Russells was discovered after the Project Archeologist had completed his investigation. The Pottersville District boundary has been redrawn to include this important resource.)
- PD-36 The Wight Pottery (on the west side of Chesham Road near PD-21 and PD-22): a representative site of a short-term pottery operation, which is now partially situated in the lawns of two homes and a pasture. It is characterized by a large quantity of waster sherds.
- PD-35 Russell's Mill (on Pratt Brook west of PD-33): the heavily overgrown site of a longlived and prosperous woodenware factory of which only portions of the stone and brick foundation remain. Part of the drain channel for the water power system is traceable in the floodplain of the stream bed.

Structures which do not contribute to the significance and/or integrity of the Pottersville District:

- PD-6 Flessa-LaRoche House (on the south side of Brown Road): a 1982 two-story reproduction "saltbox" house with two small barns.
- PD-11 Grey Cottage (on the north side of Brown Road): a one story T-shaped house with a stepped gabled wing on the north side. The roof of the main section is of moderate pitch, side gabled, clad in grey asphalt shingles. The siding is grey wood shingles. The trim is painted white. The windows are modern with glass doors on the south and west. There are two chimneys, one exterior on the south gable wall and one interior on the north slope. A two-car garage with a sloped extended roof sits to the south of the house.
- PD-14 Mrs. N.D. Bemis House (on the north side of Brown Road): a rectangular house built on a west facing slope so that a two-car garage is placed in the building making the south east section two stories high. The roof has a low pitch, is side gabled covered with composition shingles. There is a deck to the north. The windows are double hung modern with single panes. On the front facade to the west, they are placed on the left in two pairs and to the right there is a picture window flanked by two sash windows. The trim is painted white. The siding is wood shingles stained light brown.

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PD-16 The Wells Memorial School (on the west side of Chesham Road just north of its intersection with Brown Road): a 1950 one-story brick school with center entry and cupola.

PD-23 Anderson House (on the east side of Chesham Road at the corner of Old South Road): a one-story gable roofed "cape-like" house. The gable end is finished with cornice molding and returns. The building is clapboarded and painted white. There is a two-car garage.

PD-25 Olmstead House (on the west side of Chesham Road): a 1-½ story dwelling built c. 1871 but radically altered by the application of yellow vinyl siding and a 1950s or 1960s addition.

PD-26 Bissell House(On the east side of Chesham Road): a relocated 1-½ story small early 20th century gambrel roofed dwelling which is overwhelmed by a large garage addition.

Non-conforming intrusion detracting from the integrity of the Pottersville District:

PD-32 Parker House (on Meadow Road near its intersection with Chesham Road): a large rectangular two-story dwelling clad in grey-painted wood siding built in the late 1970s.

The following properties represent undeveloped, primarily wooded lots, in the district.

PD-1AUL Undeveloped Lot(on the south side of Brown Road between PD-3 and PD-6): it is approximately 2 acres in area, and wooded.

PD-5UL Undeveloped Lot (on the south side of Brown Road between PD-3 and PD-6): it is wooded.

PD-8UL Undeveloped Lot (on the north side of Brown Road between PD-4 and PD-10): it is a field surrounded by woods. The site of W.P. Phelps' studio.

PD-13UL Undeveloped Lot (on the south side of Brown Road between PD-9 and PD-15): it is wooded.

PD-20UL Undeveloped Lot (on the south side of Brown Road between PD-15UL and PD-23): This is scrubby brush.

FOOTNOTE:

1. Pierson, William H. Jr., American Buildings and Their Architects: Technology and the Picturesque, the Corporate and the Early Gothic Styles (New York: Doubleday & Co., 1978), p. 82.

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chimney, center entry frame cape cottage, it bears a marked resemblance to other houses of the period and location along the ridge which carries the lower road between Harrisville village and Dublin. These capes, dwellings of upland hill farmsteads, represent Harrisville's best surviving group of standing structures from the hill farms' period of self-sufficiency. The Baptist meetinghouse (PD-6) built among them in 1797, is the earliest extant church in both Harrisville and Dublin. Its many remodelings and two subsequent moves enhance its importance to the community's history as a highly visual demonstration not only of changing architectural taste but also of the village's linear settlement pattern which began at the eastern end of Brown Road and travelled west then turning south on Chesham Road, eventually filling out as far south as the early industrial sites on Pratt Brook.

Other occupations and industries in addition to farming played an early and important role in Pottersville's history. As is common in upland farming communities, a sawmill (c.1790 of Moses Adams) at the outlet of Russell Reservoir and a c.1796 grist mill (of Moses Whitaker at approximately the same location) were early necessities. By 1800 a sawmill operation was established by Eli Greenwood at (PD-35) which would see considerable growth and diversification (including a wheelwright and carpenter's shop, and a grist and a starch mill).

Other early occupations included blacksmithing, cabinetmaking and boxmaking. Several early Pottersville residents fought in the Revolution as well.

Pottersville's major contribution to manufacturing history derives from its role as "the most important community of clay workers in southwestern New Hampshire,"¹ according to recognized authority Lura Woodside Watkins in Early New England Potters and Their Wares. David Thurston, one of a number of potters who emigrated to Pottersville from South Peabody, Massachusetts, had established a pottery shop there by 1795. The industry reached its height locally during the War of 1812 when as many as 12 shops, supplied with clay from an area which is now at the bottom of Russell Reservoir, were operating. Prominent potters included Jonathan Flood Southwick, his son Jedediah Kilburn Southwick (who lived at (PD-24), William and Daniel Greenwood, Aaron Smith (who lived at PD-21), and Osgood N. and his father Ebenezer Russell, the last potters, whose Dublin Earthenware Manufactory (PD-1) had succumbed to competition by 1861. Most of these sites operated during the mid-19th century when dairy, storage and food preparation wares were in great demand. The community of clay workers at Pottersville supplied these wares to the New Hampshire, Vermont, and western Massachusetts markets.

The limited testing and surface reconnaissance conducted at the Russell (PD-1) and Wight (PD-36) sites verified the presence of large numbers of wasters related to pottery manufacture. No indications of the workshops or kilns were verified at the Wight pottery, although discussions with the property owner did identify an undisturbed area of the yard as the workshop site. The Russell pottery also produced large quantities of wasters. At this location, there were also indications

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of a structure which may have functioned as a workshop. Cultivation has disrupted any surface remains.

While no positive indications of the buildings that housed the pottery operations were identified during the archaeological investigations, the limits of the associated waster dumps were defined. It is within these areas that a large collection of wares were discarded for reasons of imperfection or the potter's personal preference. The range of vessel forms identified at both sites includes: cups, bowls, milk pans, crockery for dairy goods and other storage, jugs and flower pots as well as other kiln furniture. Many of these vessels demonstrate poorly manufactured glazes, while others were apparently fired improperly, flaws which disqualified them for market sale.

The materials located in these waster dumps provide a good indication of the variety of ware being produced by Pottersville potters. It can be anticipated that the full range of production wares will be better represented in these dumps than adjacent to the kiln and workshop sites. The recovered materials demonstrate problems encountered in manufacturing and it may be possible to determine how these problems were overcome or avoided as the production process evolved. The integrity of the waster deposits at both the Wight and Russell sites are of major importance in identifying the varieties of wares being produced and their methods of production. This understood, it should be possible to define the changes which occurred over time in the production process and to identify which potter was producing which materials. The extent of the Pottersville potters' trade networks should also be determinable. Note that the precise locations of other principal elements of the Wight and Russell operations are still being refined.

The social and commercial life of the village began to quicken in the late 1830s, a parallel development to that which was occurring in Harrisville village. A store, the first in Harrisville, was established in the house of Levi Willard. A second church, the Methodist Episcopal, was built in the lower village near Pratt Brook. Unfortunately, it only survived to the early 1860s. In 1844, the Baptist Church was moved to the northeast corner of the intersection of Brown and Chesham Roads and was remodelled. It was moved to its present location (cf. PD-18) in 1867.

By 1870, outside influences began to leave their mark on the history of Pottersville. In that year Harrisville declared its intention to become an independent town, taking with it two ranges in Nelson and three in Dublin, including Pottersville. The issue over which the division was made, the railroad, would have a marked influence on western Harrisville but only indirectly on Pottersville in that the station was located to the north in the Chesham District.

In the late 1870s, Frances Willard, cousin of the Rev. Elijah Willard and international president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, visited in Pottersville. Shortly thereafter, an influx of summer visitors, attracted to all of

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Harrisville's scenic locations but later and in fewer numbers than in neighboring Dublin, was spurred on by the completion of rail service. The Mary Bush (PD-10) and Margaret Bush (PD-12) Houses are examples of dwellings which illustrate the period's new reorientation toward the landscape for its mentally and physically therapeutic qualities. The culmination of this trend was the professional residency of nationally known landscape painter William Preston Phelps in the home of his birth, the Rollins/Phelps House (PD-7) one of the two oldest houses in Harrisville.

FOOTNOTE

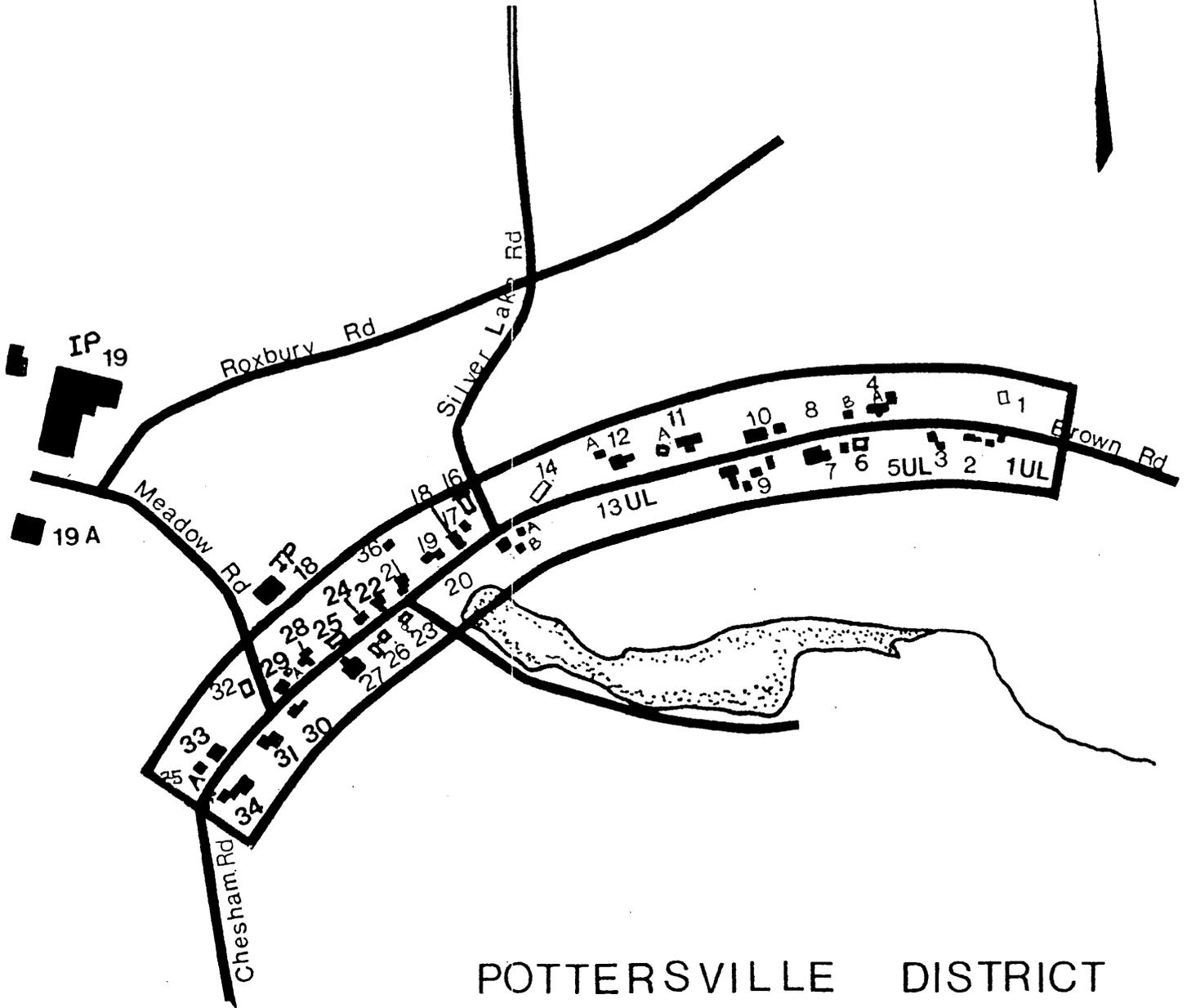
1. Watkins, Lura Woodside, Early New England Potters and Their Wares (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1950), p. 113.

C. Verbal Boundary Description

The eastern boundary of the Pottersville Village District begins 350' north of Brown Road on the northeastern property line of Spiltoir (PD 1) and continues 350' south to the Brown Road. The line continues from this point south 350' on an arbitrary line. The southern boundary of the district is an arbitrary line 350' south from the center of Brown Road. The western boundary is a point 100' west of the junction of the Chesham and Old Marlboro Roads. The northern boundary is 350' north of the Chesham and Brown roads on an arbitrary line to the point first mentioned.

D. District Boundary Justification

The boundaries include the furthest extent to which the Pottersville village developed (by 1830) still readily identifiable; they encompass the original potteries, mills, school, church and residences connected with the village. The 350' setback provides protection for the pottery site on the northeast, includes the Raynor (PD-10) residence with the furthest setback, includes the Wells Memorial School, takes in the northern edge of the Russell Reservoir, location of early clay sources and on the western edge, provides for the Russell Mill. This area of Pottersville developed along the Brown and Chesham Roads and so the boundaries include the visual as well as the historically appropriate boundaries.



- Contributing
- Non-contributing

Scale 1"=1000'

Acreage: 93

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Harrisville MRA
State Cheshire County, NEW HAMPSHIRE

~~Substantive Review~~ *over*

Patrick Andrus 1/14/88

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Beech Hill Summer Home ✓
District

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Patrick Ward Andrus 1/14/88

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1/14/88

2. Chesham Village District

~~Entered in the National Register~~ Keeper

Shelton Byers 1/24/88

Attest

3. Eaton, Moses, Jr., ✓
House

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/14/88

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1/14/88

4. Gilchrest Homestead ✓

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/14/88

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1/14/88

5. Glenchrest ✓

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/14/88

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1/14/88

6. Harrisville Rural District

~~Substantive Review~~

Keeper

J. Rogers 2-18-87

Attest

7. Pottersville District

~~Entered in the National Register~~ Keeper

Shelton Byers 1/24/88

Attest

8. Silver Lake District

~~Entered in the National Register~~ Keeper

Shelton Byers 1/24/88

Attest

9. Stationmaster's House ✓

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/14/88

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1/14/88

10. Townsend, Jabez, House ✓

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 1/14/88

Attest

Betty L. Savage 1/14/88

- 50
revised