

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02000960 Date Listed: 09/14/02

Bennett Farm Property Name Merrimack County NH State

N/A Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

9/16/02
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

5. Classification: Category

"BUILDING" is the appropriate category.

8. Statement of Significance: Criteria Considerations

Criteria consideration b is not necessary because the barn was moved during the property's period of significance.

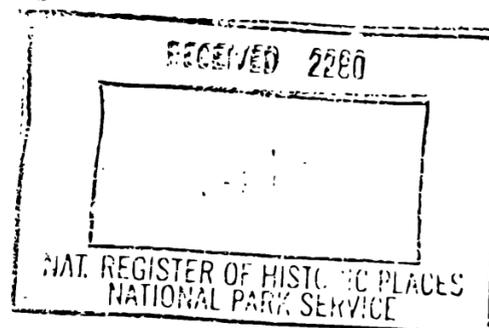
This information was confirmed with Christine Fonda, National Register Coordinator, NPSHPO, staff by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



960

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Bennett Farm

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 11 Bennett Road N/A not for publication

city or town Henniker N/A vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Merrimack code 013 zip code 03242

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 Mulrooney 7/29/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
New Hampshire
State of 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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Bennett Farm
Name of Property

Merrimack, 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)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	1	buildings
1		sites
	1	structures
		objects
7	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(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)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE;

Animal Facility

Agricultural Outbuilding

Agricultural Field

Processing

LANDSCAPE/Forest

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE;

Animal Facility

Agricultural Outbuilding

Agricultural Field

LANDSCAPE/Forest

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Weatherboard

roof Metal

other Wood

Narrative Description

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

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Continuation Sheet

BENNETT FARM, HENNIKER NH

Section number 7 Page 1

Bennett Farm is the surviving core of a property initially granted in the 18th century. Typical of the diversified farm of a century ago it raised a mix of crops and products for local use and sale. The farm is comprised of a main house, barn, agricultural outbuildings, as well as barnyard, fields, and woodland.

1.) Main House. c.1780. Contributing building:

The main block is a southeast-facing 2.5 story side-gable dwelling with five-bay front façade. The house rests on a granite foundation and terminates in a metal-clad gable roof with center chimney. Sheathing is wooden shingle on the first story and clapboard above. The center entry door is Italianate in style, with a pair of elongated round-arched glazed panels in the upper section. Windows are 2/2 with simply molded window heads. The northeast (side) elevation has two windows on each story and one in the gable. The southwest (side) elevation has a gable window and two windows lighting the second story. On the first story, there are four evenly spaced windows sheltered by an open porch supported by chamfered posts. The porch spans the entire southwest elevation and provides entry to the offset ell that extends back from the main block.

The interior of the main block is organized around the massive center chimney. The entry hall is flanked by a room on either side, each containing a fireplace. The rear section of the main block is dominated by the former tavern room with its large cooking fireplace and bake oven. A narrow stair with two sets of treads leads to the second floor. Dancing and other public functions at the tavern took place in the west meeting room on the second floor. The west end of this floor has built-in benches with storage space under the seats. Two additional fireplaces are located on the second floor.

Renovations took place approximately 1900 when the sills were replaced, new windows installed, and the siding was replaced. At that time the 12/12 windows were replaced with 2/2. The earlier clapboard exterior was changed to wooden shingles on the first story and clapboards above. The west porch was also added at this time.

The 1.5 story ell/summer kitchen (that replaced the original ell in the early 20th century) rests on granite defining a crawl space. It is clad similarly to the main block, with shingles on the lower level and clapboards above. On the first story a new oriel window lights the southeast end and a modern 6/6 the northwest. The ell's gable roof runs perpendicular to that on the main block and is punctuated by a gable dormer on the northeast slope. On the southwest elevation there is a cross gable near the center of the structure; it contains a modern 6/6 window.

Beyond the ell is sweet room, used for maple syrup finishing and honey extraction. This area is sheltered by a shed roof extending off the ell. Beyond the sweet room is the shed-roofed woodshed.

The main house served as an informal farm market. Garden produce, apples, and other products would be placed on the porch where purchasers could look them over and make selections. Milk was bottled and sold from a refrigerator in the ell. Customers would help themselves to what they needed and leave payment in a tray set out for that purpose.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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BENNETT FARM, HENNIKER NH

Section number 7 Page 2

2.) Barn. 1834/c.1860. Contributing building:

This three-level gable-roofed barn faces northeast toward Bennett Road and is supported on granite piers. Siding is clapboard and roof cladding is metal. A square ventilator rises from the ridge in the center of the barn. The gable front is dominated by a pair of vertical-plank sliding doors that provide access to the center aisle. Above them, a loading door accesses the second level. In the gable is a round window. There is only one window on the northwest (side) elevation; it is located near the rear of the rectangular barn. On the southeast (side) elevation are a band of modern 6/6 windows on the first and second levels.

The rear (southwest) elevation has a loading door in the gable. Off the rear is a shed-roofed addition with clapboard siding on its side elevation and roofing paper on the rear. Two other additions extend off the rear addition toward the southeast. These are clad with vertical boards and roofing paper. The section closest to Elm Street is lighted by fixed individual units of old 6/6 windows.

The 40' x 50' main section was built in 1834 as a clear-span religious meeting house. Six bents define the conventional gable structure. The roof system is rafter and purlin with a 7/12 roof pitch. The original roof cladding was wood shingles; a steel roof was applied in 1937.

The church was moved here and converted to a barn c.1860, after the original barn burned down. At that time, new sawn posts were installed to define the hay mows. The original queen posts of the roof system were removed and replaced with new ones to facilitate hay mobility in the upper loft. A hay fork system was attached to the pentagonal ridge post; it survives to this day. The top of the steeple blew off during the hurricane of 1937. A monopitch roof was then installed and remains on the building today. The result is a structure with the appearance of a cupola, consistent with barn design during the period of significance. Prior to 1900 a 12' x 40' monopitch shed was added to the southwest end of the barn to house equipment and poultry. Two other additions to house poultry followed in the 1930s.

2.) Corn Crib/Garage. c.1900. Contributing building.

This single bay garage was originally a corn crib. It was relocated about 200 feet to this site around 1930 when it began use as a garage. It is a gable front building that faces southwest toward Bennett Road. The walls are of vertical planks and the gables of horizontal planks with some remains of roll asphalt cladding in evidence; the roof is covered in metal. A pair of hinged doors provides vehicle entry. On each of the other three elevations are two 9/6 wooden windows installed horizontally. On the interior the vertical slats characteristic of a corn crib are still intact. In addition to siding introduced for garage use, a poured concrete ramp was added so a vehicle could be driven into the building.

3.) Tool Shed. c. 1960. Non-contributing structure (due to age):

The tool shed is a three bay pole barn open to the northeast. It stands in the field southwest of the barn, just northwest of the stone wall along Elm Street. Side and rear walls are sheathed in vertical planks. The gable roof is clad in metal. The (southeast) side, facing the road, is lighted by two two-light sashes placed side by side. The tool shed is used for farm equipment storage and other storage in the loft above. It blends well with the farm complex.

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BENNETT FARM, HENNIKER NH

Section number 7 Page 3

5. & 5A.) Brooder Pens. c.1935. Contributing buildings:

Northwest of the barn are two brooder pens constructed c.1935. These wood frame structures are clad with horizontal planks and roofing paper. The gable roofs are covered with corrugated metal and roofing paper. There are glazed and screened openings for light and circulation. These structures housed baby chickens from the day of hatching to 30 days of age.

6.) Range Pen. c.1945. Contributing building:

This small shelter is dominated by its metal clad gable roof extending almost to the ground. It is open to the north, facing the field; the other three sides are of corrugated metal set horizontally. This pen and others like it housed the older chicks when they were ready to begin laying eggs.

7.) Yellow House. 1973. Non-contributing building (due to age):

This side gable residence rests on a concrete block foundation and is clad in aluminum imitating clapboards. Its shallow gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles. Windows are 1/1 as well as large plate glass units. A screened porch shelters the front door. To the rear, a shed extension shelters a garage bay.

8.) Site. Contributing site.

Barnyard:

Southeast of the barn, between the barn and Elm Street, is a small barnyard defined by a row of granite slabs set on end. It was historically used as a barnyard and manure storage area. Today it is the site of a vegetable garden.

Fields:

Open fields are located near the intersection of Elm Street and Bennett Road. These areas of planted to hay and, south of Elm Street, raspberries.

Woodland:

Pines and Hemlock are found in the western area of the parcel.

Name of Property

County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1848-1952

Significant Dates

1848

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Bennett Farm

Bennett Farm
Name of Property

Merrimack, New Hampshire
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 21 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

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

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

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Spencer Bennett

organization Bennett Farm date July 2002

street & number 11 Bennett Road telephone (603) 428-4286

city or town Henniker state NH zip code 03242

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 Spencer Bennett

street & number 11 Bennett Road telephone (603) 428-4286

city or town Henniker state NH zip code 03242

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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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BENNETT FARM, HENNIKER NH

Section number 8 Page 4

Bennett Farm in Henniker, New Hampshire is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for significance in Agriculture. It is a fine representation of the late 19th-early 20th century diversified farm. In agricultural use since 1848, the complex survives as the last intact 19th century farm in the community. The farm was actively operated from the mid-19th century until the 1960s, when some activities were reduced or curtailed. Bennett farm retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the period 1848 (when it began in agricultural use) to 1952 (the 50-year cut-off date). During the period of significance, Bennett Farm produced dairy, beef, poultry, eggs, hay, corn, grain, firewood, produce, tree fruits, small fruits, honey, and maple syrup. Its buildings, structures, and land use characterize the diversified farm of this time period. (Pursuant to Criteria Consideration A: The barn contributes to the agricultural significance of the property for its use as a barn. Its integrity as a meeting house was lost c.1860 when it was moved to this site and converted. It failed to be a religious building or under the ownership of a religious organization at that time. Pursuant to Criterion Consideration B: The barn was moved in c.1860, during the period of significance, and is, therefore, a contributing building on that basis also.)

The original land allocation in Henniker was on July 11, 1733, when John Clark was awarded the sixth lot in the eighth range. This land passed to Thomas Wallace, the son of "Ocean Born Mary" Wallace, who sold the land to Joseph Lewis in 1777. Tavern operations began here in 1780 under the proprietorship of John Goodenow who purchased the property in 1779. In 1801, the tavern and property were purchased by Nathaniel Noyes. It was operated as a tavern until his death in 1848. At this point the property became strictly agricultural in use. Rufus Howe acquired the property in 1848 and farmed it until 1865, when it was bought by William Hardy. Hardy sold the property to Frederick Martin in 1870. Martin sold the property to James Wilkins who sold it to Mark Bennett in 1902. When Mark Bennett died in 1925, his son, Stephen Carl Bennett, took over operations. Stephen Carl ran the farm actively into the 1960s when agricultural activity was reduced. Today the farm is owned by Stephen Carl Bennett's son who operates the woodlot, raises some produce and fruits. The fields are cropped by neighbors and, thus, continue in agricultural use.

Poultry raising and egg production were long a part of the farm's operations. The heyday of this activity was from the 1930s to mid-1960s. Each February 7,000 to 10,000 day-old chicks were purchased and placed in brooder pens. As they grew, they were placed in other buildings (most now gone) that provided protected enclosures from the late winter weather. In spring, the chicks had grown large enough to fill all the brooder pens and range pens. During the summer the yards/range pens were expanded and egg collection began. The eggs were sorted in the basement of the main house. Each week the 30-dozen egg crates were taken to market. In the fall, the mature hens were sold except for 800 to 1200 which were kept in the barn. During the fall hens were sold from the barn with some remaining for the winter.

The farm's dairy herd consisted of milk cows, heifers, several beef steers, and calves. Cows occupied the southeastern portion of the barn's first floor. Hay was collected loose and stored in the upper mows/lofts of the barn; it was passed down from the mows twice daily for feed. Prior to the 1940s the dairy herd was larger and output greater. Milk was transported to Henniker Junction, a mile away, for the 6:30 AM "milk train"; it was taken to Manchester NH for processing. Later, milk was sold on an honor system out of a refrigerator in the ell of the main house. Butter was produced when excess milk was available; it was churned by hand for the family's use and limited sale.

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BENNETT FARM, HENNIKER NH

Section number 8 Page 5

Forty beehives were kept on the site and at nearby farms. During apple blossom time, Carl Bennett rented the hives to various orchards; the hives would be taken to those orchards for pollination. Beehives at Bennett Farm were kept in the field west of Bennett Road. Honey was extracted and processed in the ell off the main house. It was sold from the farm as well as utilized by the family. MacIntosh apple trees as well as pear trees were located behind the barn and the tool shed. A number of very productive plum trees were near the garage. The one-acre field at the east of the property was one of the farm's best gardens; squash, strawberries, raspberries, and general produce were grown here.

Bennett Farm as it survives today conveys the character and scale of a late 19th – early 20th century diversified family farm. It is an important reminder of the type of agriculture that was ubiquitous in this area into the early 20th century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**Bennett Farm
Merrimack NH**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 6

Bibliography and/or References:

Cogswell, Leander W., History of the Town of Henniker, 1735 to 1880,
Republican Press Association, Concord, NH, 1880.

Henniker History Committee, The Only Henniker on Earth, by the Henniker
Historical Society, Phoenix Publishing, Concord, NH, 1980 (history of Henniker
from 1880 to 1980).

Henniker Historical Society, *History of Henniker* (Web site).

Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds, Nashua, NH. (This facility houses the
records prior to 1823 when Merrimack County was established.)

Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Concord, NH.

Porter, John C. and Gilman, Francis E., *Preserving Old Barns*, NH Division of
Historical Resources, 2001.

State Library, Concord, NH for Town of Henniker records c. 1780 to 1850.

Town of Henniker tax maps.

1892 Maps of Merrimack County, compiled by D.H. Hurd & Co., Boston, MA
(reprinted by Saco Valley Printing, Fryeburg, ME).

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BENNETT FARM, HENNIKER NH

Section number 10 Page 7

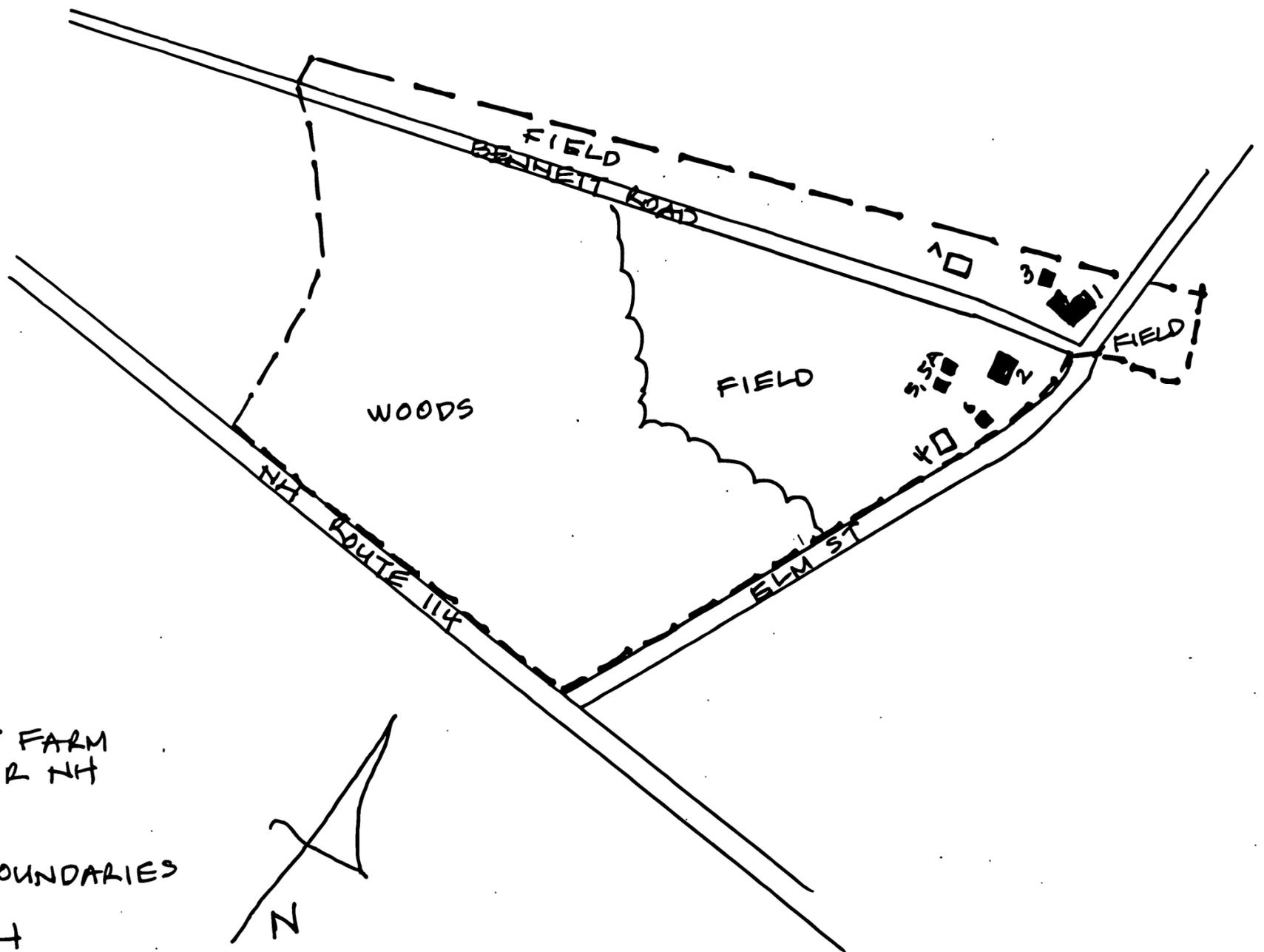
Boundaries of the nominated property are indicated by the dashed line on the attached sketch map.

The nominated property is the surviving core associated with the Bennett Farm complex and having the ability to convey the farm's significance.

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SKETCH MAP
Section number _____ Page 8



BENNETT FARM
HENNIKER NH

--- BOUNDARIES

388'

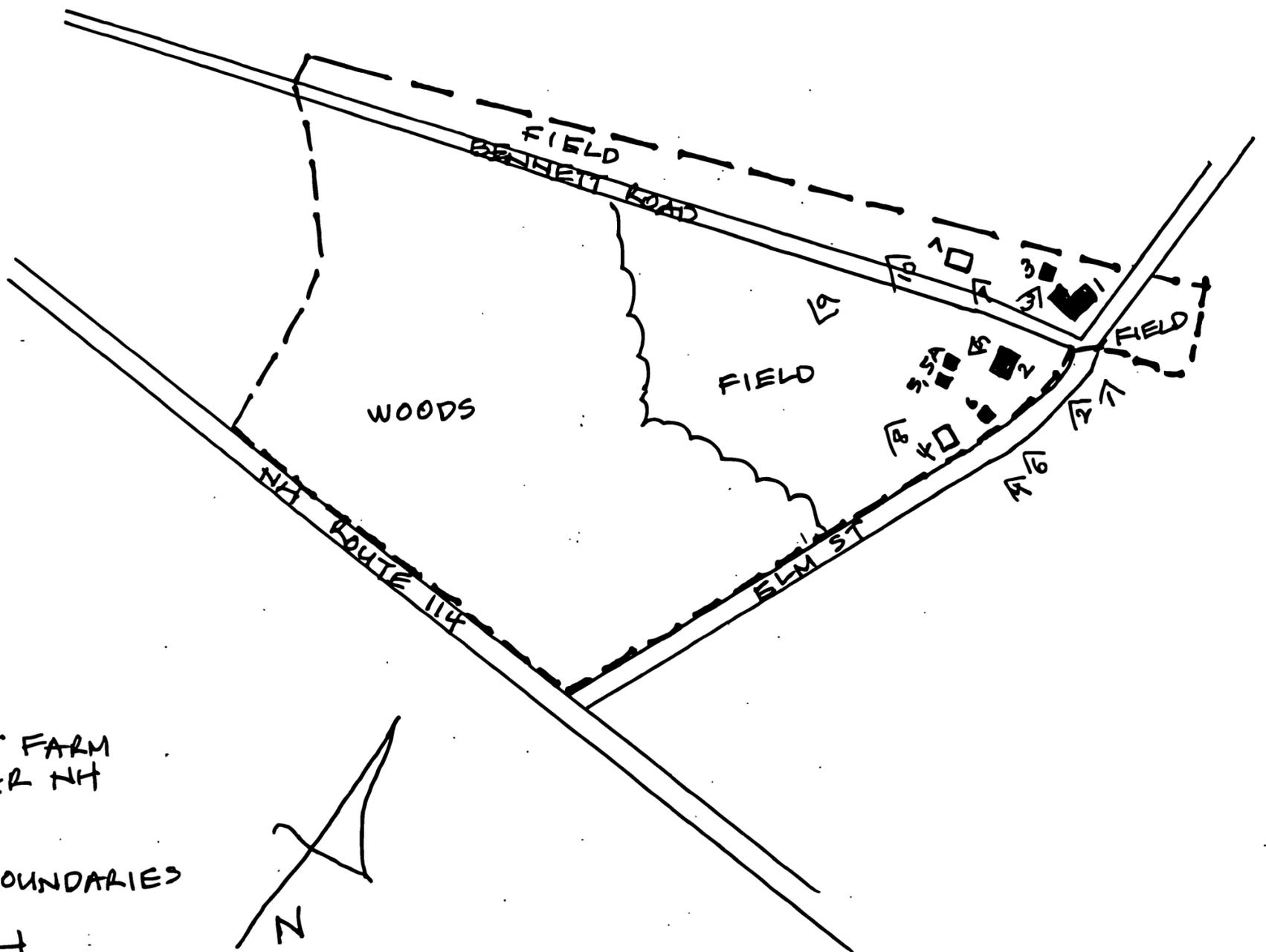
■ CONTRIBUTING

□ NONCONTRIBUTING

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PHOTO KEY
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BENNETT FARM
HENNIKER NH

--- BOUNDARIES

388'

■ CONTRIBUTING

□ NONCONTRIBUTING

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BENNETT FARM, HENNIKER NH

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PHOTOGRAPH LABELS

PHOTOS 1 - 7

Property: Bennett Farm
Location: Henniker (Merrimack County) NH
Photographer: Spencer Bennett
Photo taken: February 2002
Negative at: NH Div. of Historical Resources

- 1.) main house (site #1), looking NW
- 2.) barn (site #2), looking W
- 3.) garage (site #3), looking N
- 4.) toolshed (site #4), looking W
- 5.) brooder pens (site #5, #5A), looking SW
- 6.) range pen (site #6), looking W
- 7.) yellow house (site #7), looking NW

PHOTOS 8 - 10

Property: Bennett Farm
Location: Henniker (Merrimack County) NH
Photographer: Christine Fonda
Photo taken: June 2002
Negative at: NH Div. of Historical Resource

- 8.) south field with woods beyond, looking S
- 9.) south field with woods beyond, looking W
- 10.) north field, looking W