

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet The John Adams Homestead/Wells Item number IP-23
WELLS
CROFT

Page 2

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Its location could have been chosen to facilitate access to an early barn which old timers remember as having stood directly east of the main house. A sun porch was added across the remainder of the rear or south facade c. 1930. At the same time, the center chimney was rebuilt retaining its original generous proportions. It has also kept its original four flues and fireplaces (one a Rumford) and a dutch oven. Another interior feature of considerable historic interest is stencilled plaster in the second floor easterly bedroom which the current owners suggest may have been the work of Harrisville resident Moses Eaton, Jr. (cf. IP-3).

This working farm's impressive inventory of auxiliary structures includes an early 1800s barn ('B' on sketch map), a 1930s woodshed and several buildings built in the 1970s to support the current owners' sheep-raising operation. All but the wood shed are grouped around a handling or barn yard (cf. a similar arrangement at the contemporary Abijah Twitchell House, HRD-1A, as well as its revival at IP-10, the 1932 Clymer property).

The barn, which may have been moved, was added onto the east, for a stable, and to the north, for a shed, in the 1930s. The shed was recently enlarged. In the 1970s a gas shack ('E' on sketch map) to the west of the barn, a lambing shed ('D' on sketch map) at the eastern edge of the handling yard, and a 65' by 80' sheep barn ('C' on sketch map) at its northern boundary were added.

Wellscroft Farm now includes 36 acres, down considerable from the 600 acres which represented the combined holdings of the related Kennard and Wells (cf. IP-22) families earlier in this century. Its name derived from that of "Wellscroft", a 1919 nine bedroom "Eclectic Revival" summer residence which was taken down in 1972 or 1973. The principal landscape elements which provided the setting for the mansion are still readily discernable surrounding a rise south and west of the 1770s cape.

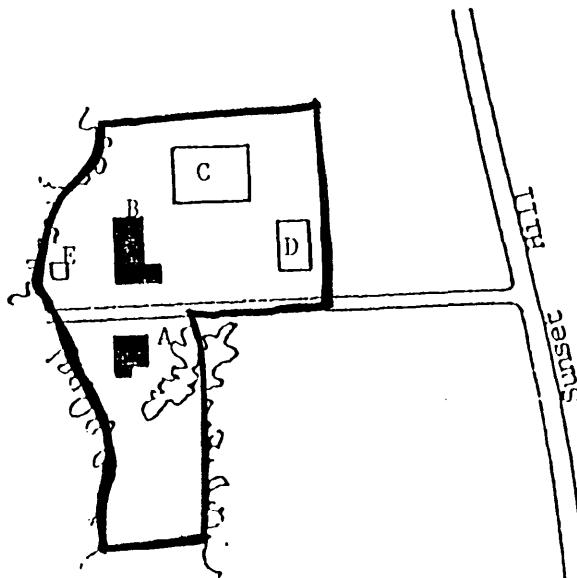
SIGNIFICANCE:

house which is said to have been visited by Calvin Coolidge in the 1920s. Now the year-round home of the Kennard family, this homestead also exemplifies a significant local trend: a return to making one's living off the land. Thus it satisfies Criteria A, B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

PROPERTY NAME (HISTORIC): The John Adams Homestead/Wellscroft	OWNER (ORIGINAL): Lt. John Adams
PROPERTY NAME: Wellscroft Farm	OWNER: David and Deborah Kennard
LOCATION: Just west of Sunset Hill Road, Chesham.	ADDRESS: RFD Marlborough, NH 03455
	ACREAGE: 2 RANGE/LOT: NA

- A - House
- B - Barn
- C - Pole Barn
- D - Lambing Shed
- E - Gas Shack

- Contributing
- Non-contributing



SCALE 1"=200'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION / JUSTIFICATION:

Bounded on the north by an arbitrary line approximately 50' north of the barn, or beginning at a point 200' north of the loom shed, on the east by an arbitrary line from the one just mentioned along the edge of the lambing shed to the driveway and along the southern edge of the drive to the edge of the trees. Continuing southeast on the edge of the trees to an arbitrary line approximately 400' south of the house to the edge of trees on the west of the field continuing north across the driveway to the bound first mentioned.

Includes the immediate visual surroundings incorporating the features contributing to the property's architectural and historical significance.

Designated as IP-23 on the Town of Harrisville Map.

The boundaries of the property are indicated by a heavy black line on the sketch map above.

SEP 30 1996

HARRISVILLE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

DISTRICT: SITE #:
-- IP-23

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PROPERTY NAME: Wellscroft Farm	OWNER: David and Deborah Kennard
LOCATION: Just west of Sunset Hill Road, Chesham.	ADDRESS: RFD Marlborough, NH 03455
UTM REFERENCES: 18-732500-4758825	ACREAGE: 2 RANGE/LOT: NA
USGS QUADRANGLE: Monadnock	VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION: See Site Map
DATE: just prior to 1773	
SOURCE: History of the Town of Nelson	

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: The house at Wellscroft Farm is a 1½ story white clapboarded center chimney, center entry cape cottage of the early 1770s. Three bays wide and a long four bays deep, it features 6/6 windows flanked by black louvered shutters and a four light transom over the principal entry door which is unusually located in the center of the north facade.

Additions and changes include an 1825 ell attached to the western of the house's rear wall. Also of note is a door with splayed lintel (and currently with clapboard infill) on the east facade which is probably contemporary with the 1825 ell. (Continued)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The house at Wellscroft Farm is of considerable architectural significance to Harrisville as one of the town's two best preserved cape cottages (comparable in integrity yet earlier than the Eaton/Richardson House, IP-3.) It is especially notable for its lack of dormer additions and fenestration alterations. Further, the farm's arrangement of separate outbuildings around a central yard furnishes a good example of a locally well accepted alternative to "additive architecture" as at the Josiah Knight Farm. (CVD-7) for example.

Wellscroft Farm makes an important, representative contribution to every period of Harrisville's cyclical historical development. An early hill farm, it was built as the home of Lt. John Adams, a prominent local citizen who held numerous important offices in the town of Nelson and served in the Revolution. Farmed for the remainder of the 19th century, this property later became the site of a large early 20th century summer (Continued)

REFERENCES:
Deed
History of Dublin
Kennard, David. Personal interviews, September and October, 1983.
Struthers, P. H. History of the Town of Nelson.
Tax Records

MAP: SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

DESCRIPTION OF VIEW:

Front elevation (north facade)
Facing south

PHOTOGRAPHER: L. Shonk

NEGATIVE FILE #: 12-10: 8/18/83

RECORDED BY: Meath/Shonk/Taves/Cin

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION:

Historic Harrisville, Inc.

DATE: October 1983



SEP 1 1986

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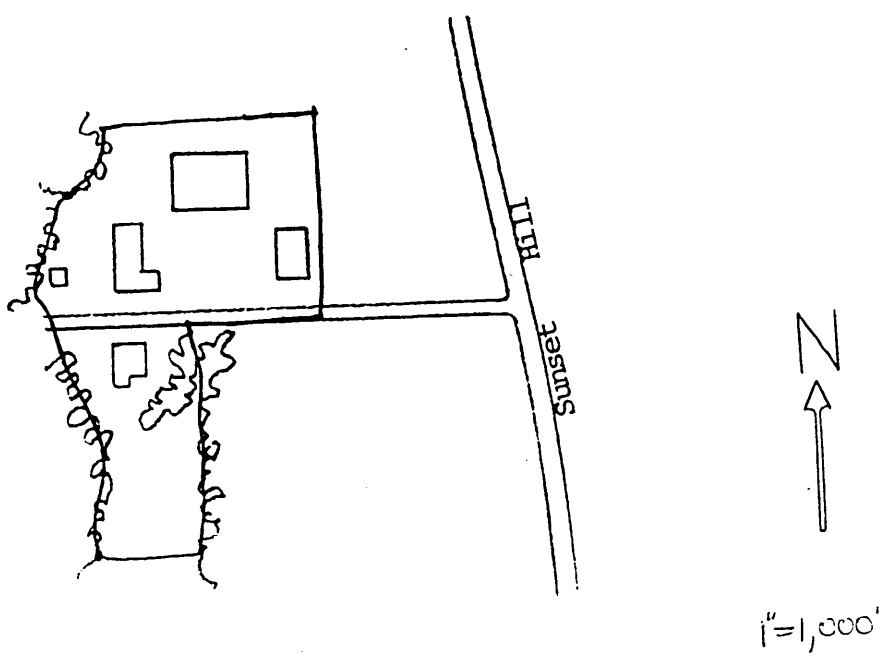
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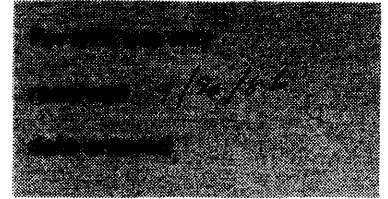
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Item number

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Harrisville MRA
State Cheshire County, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 11. Acre (The) ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 12. Adams, Moses, Farm ✓ | Substantive Review | Keeper | return S |
| | | Attest | |
| 13. Adams Farm ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 14. Aldworth Manor ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 15. Adams, John, Homestead--Wellscroft ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 16. Bancroft, Timothy, House ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 17. Beal, Persia, House ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 18. Bemis, Elbridge G., House ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 19. Bemis, George, House ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |
| 20. Cheever, George, Farm ✓ | Substantive Review | for Keeper | Patrick Andrus 1/14/88 |
| | | Attest | Beth L. Sarge 1/14/88 |