

DATA SHEET

PH0687782

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RECEIVED NOV 28 1978
DATE ENTERED MAR 23 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME *Plumer - Jones Farm*
HISTORIC JOSEPH PLUMER FARM

AND/OR COMMON JONES FARM

2 LOCATION *11 of Milton Ave*
STREET & NUMBER NH Route 16, 1 1/4 miles south of Laskey's Corner

CITY, TOWN Milton *vic.* VICINITY OF NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE New Hampshire 03851 CODE 33 COUNTY Strafford CODE 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <i>Conservation</i>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

STREET & NUMBER 5 South State Street

CITY, TOWN Concord VICINITY OF STATE New Hampshire 03301

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Strafford County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Strafford County Courthouse, County Farm Road

CITY, TOWN Dover STATE New Hampshire 03820

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present appearance: The Jones Farm buildings are a connected group of structures that are oriented in a generally east-west direction at right angles to the present Route 16 on Plummer's Ridge in Milton. Extending several hundred feet, this row of buildings preserves a record of several different chronological and stylistic periods, beginning with the first settlement of the Northeast Parish of Rochester (now Milton). The Jones Farm buildings are among the best-preserved examples of connected or "continuous" farm architecture in New Hampshire.

The structure nearest the road is a medium-sized barn, which appears to date from the early nineteenth century. Constructed with a well-preserved hewn pine frame, this barn has doors at each end, the rear (north) doors providing access to a small stone-walled pasture or yard. The first floor framing has been removed; the second floor is completely framed and boarded (except for a stairwell on the east side), but has large trap doors to permit hay to be passed up for storage.

Connecting the barn to the dwelling units to the west is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ story gable-roofed wing nearly 100 feet in length. Although this wing is constructed with a braced frame and a purlin roof, its heavy pine framing members were sawn on a reciprocating saw. This fact, and the Greek Revival character of the woodwork in this portion of the row of buildings, suggest a date range of 1830-1850 for the wing. The first story of the wing is divided into a number of rooms which appear to have been used for a number of purposes, including wood storage and shop space. The portion of the wing adjacent to the dwellings is a modern kitchen, which originally may have been a summer kitchen. The second floor (attic) of the wing is a single open room, said to have been used to dry and store corn. This room is ventilated by a series of four-light transom sash placed at its floor level, below the eaves of the roof, on both the north and south elevations. The modern chimney in this wing vents a furnace which heats the modern kitchen and the $2\frac{1}{2}$ story dwelling to the west.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ story dwelling is said to have been constructed about 1810 and used as a tavern. Although this building has a traditional braced frame of hewn pine, its rooms were planned in an asymmetrical manner that contrasts with the layout of the typical free-standing dwelling of the period. The entrance and stairhall are on the west side, while the chimney was close to the eastern wall. Much of the exterior trim is intact, including the 9/6 sash in most windows and a fully-developed cornice with a cavetto crown moulding and returns on the ends of the building. The interior woodwork is especially fine for the locale and the period, and includes single-run stairs that lead from the first floor to the attic and are embellished with Federal-style stringer brackets and square balusters. The doors have six raised panels with quirked ovolo mouldings. Some have heart-shaped glass inserts in their upper panels; these reflect the shape of the original tavern sign, which is now owned by the Currier Gallery of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire. Several rooms have plaster wainscoting with elaborated baseboards and chair rails. The focal point of the large parlor on the first floor is a complex mantelpiece whose shelf is supported by a heavy moulded cornice. A similarly decorated parlor on the second floor may have been used as a small ballroom, and has two antechambers or dressing rooms on its north side. The original chimney was removed in the nineteenth

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

century and replaced by a stove chimney, but clear evidence remains to indicate its details and all of its mantelpieces have been retained. The original front doorway of this building was removed, probably in the period 1830-1850, and replaced by an entrance in the Greek Revival style.

The $1\frac{1}{2}$ story dwelling to the west is the last of the truly attached structures in the group. It is the earliest of the buildings (said to have been constructed in the 1780's), and has a hewn pine frame.¹ Most of its original trim was replaced in the early 1800's, though some vertical pine sheathing, evidently dating from the period of the dwelling's construction, remains in the rear rooms. The room to the right of the front door is especially well finished, having six-panel doors with raised panels, sliding window shutters, and a large Federal-style mantelpiece supported by attenuated colonnettes. All of these features probably date from the early 1800's, and may have been installed when the adjacent $2\frac{1}{2}$ story dwelling was added. Many early features of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ story house remain, including hand-forged door hardware and pine flooring, but the central chimney was replaced by a single-flue stove chimney, and the original front stairs appear to have been replaced by closets. Access to the attic is now gained by a small stairway behind the present chimney.

The largest barn of the Jones Farm group is separated from the southwest corner of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ story dwelling by a space of about two feet. This massive $2\frac{1}{2}$ story gable-roofed structure is said to have been constructed at some distance from the main row of buildings and moved to its present location in the late nineteenth century. At that time, it was enlarged to a length of over 100 feet, with loft space capable of storing some 30 tons of hay. Most of the stalls remain in place. The frame is in excellent condition; the outer walls are supported on a fieldstone foundation, while the inner posts rest on split granite columns in the cellar. Extending at right angles from the south side of the barn is a $1\frac{1}{2}$ story gable-roofed wing which covers a well used for watering the stock (the well used for domestic purposes is near the southeast corner of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ story dwelling).

Adjacent to the wing of the barn is a detached $1\frac{1}{2}$ story gable-roofed shop of undetermined date.

Original appearance: The original dwelling on this site was the $1\frac{1}{2}$ story house now at the western end of the connected group of buildings. This house was built by Joseph Plumer (1752-1821), whose brother Beard Plumer (1754-1817) built a similar dwelling on an adjacent lot to the south. It is likely that the $1\frac{1}{2}$ story dwelling originally had simple interior woodwork, most of which was replaced in the early 1800's. The house had a large central chimney, which has been removed but is easily traceable throughout its former location. It is not presently known what

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

auxiliary structures accompanied the small dwelling, but parts of these structures may be incorporated in the remaining buildings on the site.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Town Planning
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1782

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture: The Jones Farm presents a nearly complete profile of the evolution of domestic and agricultural architecture in an early New Hampshire community. Rochester, chartered in 1722,² was the northernmost of a line of five towns which were laid out when the demand for new land forced the Province of New Hampshire to expand beyond its original constricted boundaries. Plummer's Ridge, in the Third Division or Northeast Parish of Rochester (now Milton) was not settled until about 1772 or 1773; the Jones Farm (originally the Joseph Plumer Farm), and the Beard Plumer Farm adjacent to the south, may have been the first homesteads in this district.³ Thus, the earliest element of the Jones Farm (the 1½ story dwelling) represents the earliest form of domestic architecture in this section of New Hampshire. The adjacent 2½ story dwelling, dating from about 1810, was built at a time when the farm's owner, Joseph Plumer, was purchasing surrounding lots to create one of the largest farms in the area. It is significant both for the high quality of its Federal-style woodwork and for the fact that it represents a relatively rare building type, the tavern. Its plan and detail are important indications of the level of workmanship that might be lavished on a country inn, and of the level of amenity available to the early nineteenth century traveller. Both the quality of detail and the conveniences of this tavern are comparable to those of larger inns in the coastal towns of New Hampshire.

The agricultural units of the Jones Farm--the two barns and the mid-nineteenth century wing to the east of the dwellings--are important and well-preserved examples of farm architecture. The eastern barn appears to date from the early nineteenth century. Its frame is intact except for the removal of its first floor and the replacement of the bottom of the northeast corner post and an adjacent section of sill, due to damage from an automobile accident. This barn presents an excellent example of nineteenth century framing practices and layout. It is said to have sheltered the coach and horses used on the stage route through Milton.⁴

The western barn is one of the largest structures of its type in the region, and provides an excellent example of heavy timber framing. Its bents (framing units) are braced in four directions, and are further reinforced with wrought iron straps. It is in an excellent state of preservation.

The wing that connects the dwellings to the eastern barn has an unusually massive pine frame which is sawn on a reciprocating saw rather than hewn. Probably dating from the period 1830-1850, this structure illustrates the persistence of traditional framing practices in an era of technological change. Its attic, supported by unusually massive joists, is a single room of striking size.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Randall, Peter E., "Along Plummer's Ridge," New Hampshire Profiles, XXIV, 3 (March, 1975), pp. 40-43.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY -60- 30 (see Continuation Sheet #5)

UTM REFERENCES farmhouse only Revised UTM references provided below

A	1 9 1 9	3 38 5 5 0 3 3 8 8 7 5	4 8 1 4 1 5 0 4 8 1 4 0 0 0	B	1 9 1 9	3 3 8 9 0 0 3 3 8 9 0 0	4 8 1 4 1 5 0 4 8 1 4 1 5 0
C	1 9 1 9	3 3 8 9 0 0 3 3 8 9 0 0	4 8 1 3 6 0 0 4 8 1 3 6 0 0	D	1 9 1 9	3 3 8 5 5 0 3 3 8 5 5 0	4 8 1 3 6 0 0 4 8 1 3 6 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Coextensive with the Jones Farm property now owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. (see Continuation Sheet #5 for complete verbal boundary description of the 30-acre parcel, as revised in December 1978.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James L. Garvin

ORGANIZATION

New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Survey Staff

DATE

March 5, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

134 Lincoln Avenue - NH Historical Society, 30 Park Street

TELEPHONE

Revised 12/78

CITY OR TOWN

Portsmouth

Concord

STATE

New Hampshire 03801-03301

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 Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE OCT 6 1978

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 3-23-79

ATTEST: *[Signature]*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3/23/79

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SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The Jones Farm buildings are one of the finest sets of connected farm structures in New Hampshire and reveal how the typically "continuous" northern New England farm often evolved over several decades as agricultural activity and prosperity increased and brought the need for new and specialized buildings.

Conservation: Much of the Jones Farm has been utilized as a tree farm since the 1950's. The land is now owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, a leading regional conservation organization.

Theater: The Jones Farm was the birthplace and residence of Robert Edmond Jones (1887-1954), author and stage designer. Jones designed sets for various productions of Macbeth, Richard III, The Birthday of the Infanta, The Jest, Green Pastures, The Iceman Cometh, and a number of other plays. He also designed scenes for color motion pictures, including La Cucaracha and Becky Sharp. Theatre Arts Monthly published a number of his designs in April, 1932 (XVI, 4). He was the author of Drawings for the Theatre and The Dramatic Imagination.⁵

Town Planning: New Hampshire was one of the first colonies to adopt a system of town planning based upon a rectangular grid of roads that intersect at right angles and provide access to ranges of lots of uniform size.⁶ This range township system made the surveying and allocation of lands a much more uniform procedure than in the traditional nucleated township of seventeenth century New England, and was adopted, with improvements, as the basis for the Federal Land System after 1784.⁷ Rochester was one of the first New Hampshire towns to adopt this system; the results of this form of planning are highly visible in the Third Parish (now Milton), where the Jones Farm is located. The farm was created between the 1780's and the early 1800's, as Joseph Plumer acquired rectangular proprietor's lots, or parts of lots. By the early 1800's, the farm included the lots originally granted to Philip Chesley and Ensign Israel Hodgdon, and parts of the lots originally granted to Samuel Willey, Capt. Stephen Jones, Joseph Jenkins, Richard Pinkham, and the first ordained minister to settle in the Third Division or Parish.⁸ The Jones Farm provides, then, an excellent and intact example of the way in which range townships were settled and is a proto-⁹ type for countless western farms that were purchased and settled in the same manner.

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Footnotes:

¹Peter Randall, "Along Plummer's Ridge," New Hampshire Profiles, XXIV, 3 (March, 1975), p. 43. A variety of dates have been suggested for the construction of the first houses on this farm and on the Beard Plumer Farm to the south. John Plumer, father of Joseph Plumer (who built the Jones Farm) and Beard Plumer, owned some of the Jones Farm land as early as 1765 (Strafford County Deeds Vol. 79, fol. 73). John Plumer gave several lots, the core of the Jones Farm, to Joseph in 1782 (Deeds Vol. 46, fol. 12).

²Franklin McDuffee, History of the Town of Rochester, New Hampshire (Manchester, N.H.: John B. Clarke Co., 1892), p. 34.

³Arthur Thad Smith, Historical Address Delivered at the Centennial Celebration, August 30, 1902, of the Town of Milton, New Hampshire (Boston, 1902), p. 17. Joseph Plumer's father, John, had owned some of the Jones Farm land as early as 1765 (Strafford County Deeds Vol. 79, fol. 73).

⁴Peter Randall, "Along Plummer's Ridge," New Hampshire Profiles, XXIV, 3 (March, 1975), p. 41.

⁵Who Was Who in America, Vol. 3 (Chicago: A.N. Marquis Co., 1960), p. 458.

⁶Charles E. Clark, The Eastern Frontier (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970), chapters XII, XIII, and XX; James L. Garvin, "Portsmouth and the Piscataqua: Social History and Material Culture," Historical New Hampshire, XXVI, 2 (Summer, 1971), pp. 43-46.

⁷William D. Pattison, Beginnings of the American Rectangular Land Survey System, 1784-1800 (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1957, 1964), pp. 39-43, 86-96.

⁸Strafford County Deeds, Vol. 46, fol. 11-13, 14-16; Vol. 50, fol. 234; Vol. 78, fol. 700.

⁹H.B. Johnson, "Rational and Ecological Aspects of the Quarter Section: An Example from Minnesota," Geographical Review, XXXVII (1957), pp. 330-348; Margaret B. Bogue, Patterns from the Sod, p. 50; Michael P. Conzen, Frontier Farming in an Urban Shadow, Fig. 3-4.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage: The thirty acres of land attached to the Jones Farm buildings comprise the core of the lot described as "the third division of the right of Capt. Stephen Jones except 30 acres," which was conveyed by John Plumer of Rochester, New Hampshire, to his son Joseph on 16 February 1782 (Strafford County Deeds, Vol. 46, fol. 12). This land became the "home lot" of the Joseph Plumer (Jones) Farm and remained in the Plumer and Jones families until the farm was conveyed to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in 1976 under the will of Elizabeth Jones. This lot is therefore of historical significance as the focal point of the Joseph Plumer (Jones) Farm throughout the existence of that farm.


UTM references: See accompanying USGS maps, and revised original NR form, Item #10.

VBD: The boundaries of the Jones Farm home lot as surveyed for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in December, 1978, are indicated on the accompanying sketch maps entitled "Sketch Map/The Jones Farm/Milton, New Hampshire/Surveyed December 1978/Scale: 1 inch = 200 feet."

12. State Historic Preservation Office Certification: see original National Register Nomination Forms.

Photographic coverage:

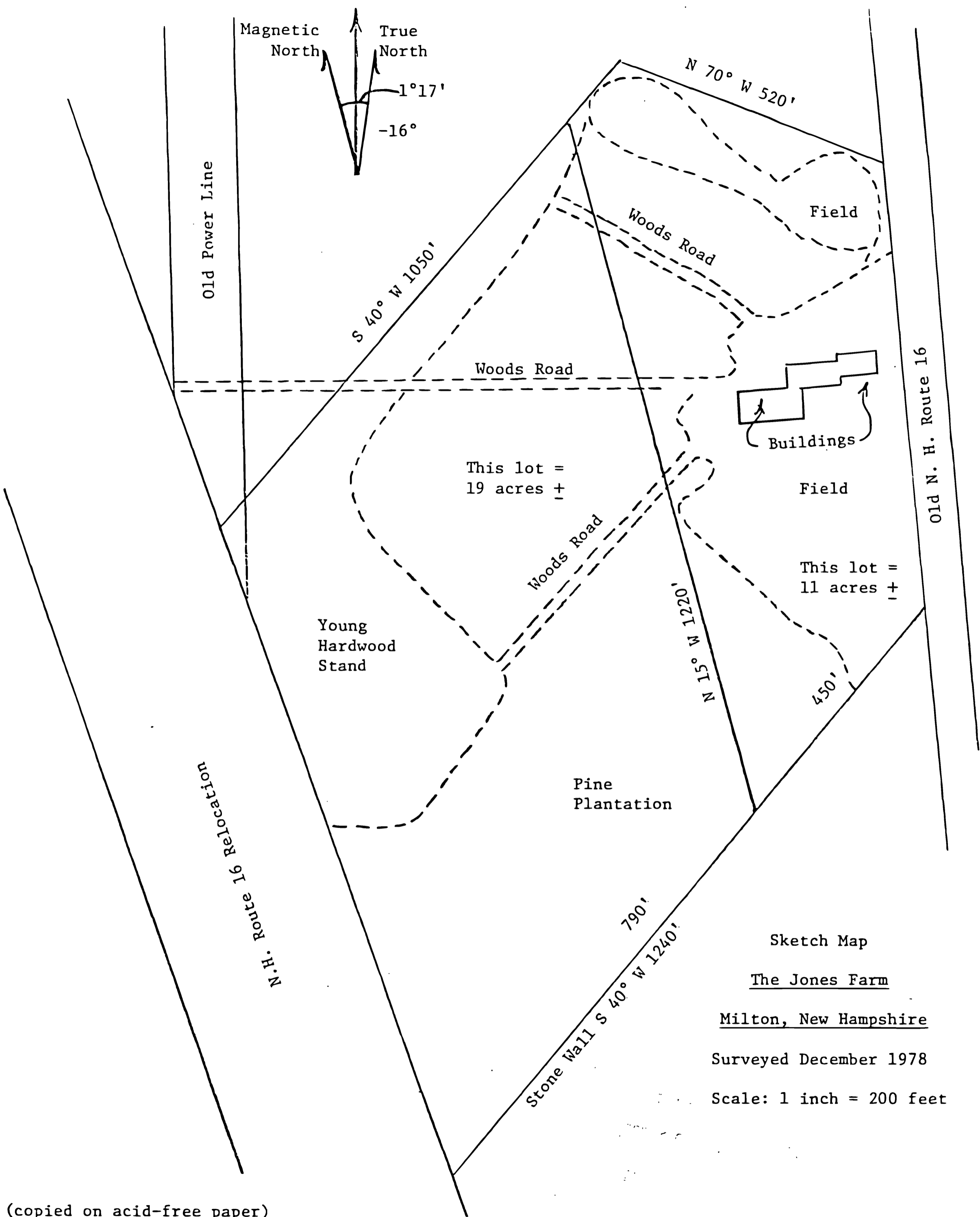
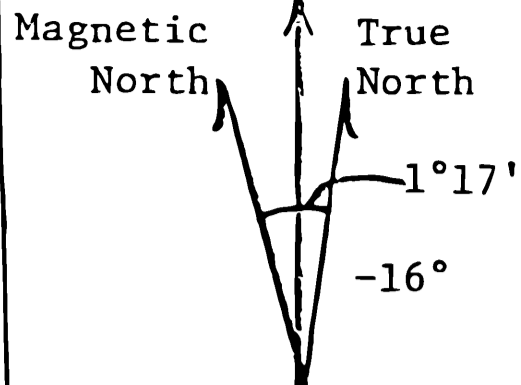
This certifies that the appearance and condition of the Joseph Plumer (Jones) Farm have not changed since the National Register Nomination Forms were prepared for the property on 5 March 1976.


Preparer of National Register
Nomination Forms
February 9, 1979

Map coverage: See accompanying USGS maps and sketch maps.

Other: See 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Acreage (above).

Grid North



Sketch Map

The Jones Farm

Milton, New Hampshire

Surveyed December 1978

Scale: 1 inch = 200 feet