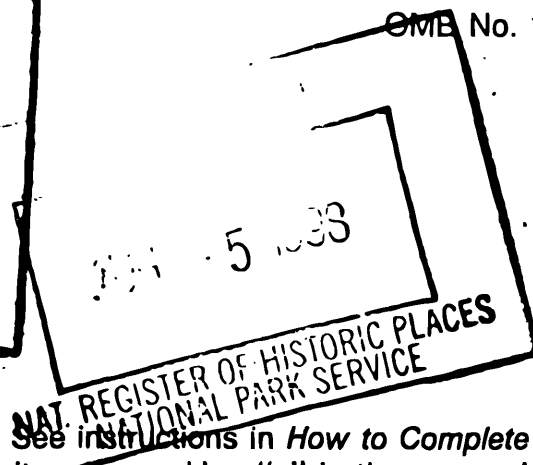


JUN 22 1998

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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 Martin Homestead

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 3 mi. n. of North Stratford on US route 3 not for publication

city or town North Stratford vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Coos code 007 zip code 03590

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

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:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Patrick W. Andrews

Date of Action

10/30/98

Name of Property

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	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
		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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

~~DOMESTIC: single dwelling~~
~~AGRICULTURE: field, animal facility, outbuilding~~
~~EXTRACTION: firewood~~

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

~~DOMESTIC: camp~~
~~AGRICULTURE: field~~
~~LANDSCAPE: forest, unoccupied land, natural feature~~
~~EXTRACTION: forestry~~

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL

~~OTHER: vernacular~~
~~New England cape~~

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation ~~STONE: fieldstone~~
walls ~~WOOD: weatherboard~~
roof ~~ASPHALT: shingle~~
other ~~BRICK: chimneys~~

Narrative Description

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

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.

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1834 - 1944

Significant Dates

1834

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Joseph Austin Martin

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 112 1/2

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 119 2934310 496102510
Zone Easting Northing
2 119 294460 49610610

3 119 2959110 496104815
Zone Easting Northing
4

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 Frederick W. Martin

organization date

street & number 50 Village Ave. telephone

city or town Dedham state MA zip code 02026

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

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Martin Homestead, Coos Co., NH

7 -- DESCRIPTION

The Martin Homestead is a relatively intact example of an early riverside farm in Stratford, New Hampshire, a town that has seen most similar farms either disappear or suffer severe compromise. There were 7 dozen farms in 1860, less than 3 dozen in 1950, and less than half a dozen now. The homestead comprises an early 19th century vernacular farmhouse with 19th century appendages, an early 19th century freestanding barn, and the associated lands consisting of 112.5 acres of field and woodland that run along the Connecticut River for nearly 3/4 mile just south of the Columbia town line. The nominated property consists of the house, barn, and lands.

7 -- Description -- Rural Historic Landscape

The house (#1 on the sketch map) and barn (2) are located in the Connecticut river valley, three miles out of the village of North Stratford on the first and only road (3). With the completion of the Grand Trunk railroad from Portland to Montreal in 1853 (T, 232), North Stratford became a supply point for the long-log river drives, operated by the Connecticut Valley Lumber Company. It also was the shipping point for dairy products, epitomized by the ton of butter per day manufactured by the North Stratford Creamery Company in 1900 (T, 219). In 1920, as the log drives ended, the New Hampshire Stave and Heading Mill Company purchased their lands and built the largest barrel manufacturing company in the United States, bringing logs over the railroad bridge from Vermont. The growth of North Stratford, peaking the population of Stratford at 1128 in 1890 (MP, 2), overshadowed town centers of importance in earlier history. One mile to the north of the house is the now-vanished water-powered mill complex of Tinkerville; ten miles north is the town of Colebrook; eleven miles south is Stratford, site of the first church, schoolhouse (T, 155), and the Indian trading post (T, 23).

The Connecticut, known for its colorful history of log driving (Ho, 52), flows south from the Canadian border and is joined at North Stratford by the Nulhegan, which drains the swamps of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. From a narrow pass south of the house, the river valley opens out northwards to flat bottomland, where the house sits next to a major spring (4). Its acreage is bounded to the east by a long narrow lot proceeding up the hillside

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Martin Homestead, Coos Co., NH

from the boundary of the plain. To the north its flat land extends along the riverside until it meets an unusually steep collection of glacial eskers.

The boundaries of the long narrow lot were determined in the first division of the town (T,51), and lot 67 was "made legal" in 1773 to John Wendell (T, 58), one of the original proprietors (T,55). Shown on the attached 1911 survey, they were resurveyed in 1961 by Hugh Johnson, town surveyor for 40 years, who still used an 8" diameter brass compass mounted on a single stick. Wood cornerposts are maintained at the two easterly corners, on the painted and blazed line maintained by paper company surveyors.

The narrow nature of the lot was a result of the plan of division of the land along the river valley, which gave each owner a piece of bottomland to clear for agriculture and enough hillside for perpetual regrowth of firewood to keep warm. The plan of division of the town is shown on a map in the appendix.

7 -- Description -- Features of the Landscape

Northern reach - The main door of the barn opens to the north, where a plain of flat, well-drained fine sandy soil stretches from the boundary of the hills to the boundary set by the river. In 1887 this plain was bisected by the coming of the single-track railroad (5). Presently a dirt access road (6) leads from the highway, turns right onto a straight segment aligned on the barn door, and then turns left to a crossing over the railroad. Trees line the railroad on both sides, and the crossing opens out onto the River Field (7), the farms's best current hay field. Since the whole-herd buyout of the US Department of Agriculture in 1986, this 3-acre field is no longer fertilized from the neighbor's winter manure pile, but some 200 bales of hay are still cut and sold annually into the local specialty market, keeping the established clover, timothy, and grasses free of hardhack and trees. At the edge of the field along the riverbank, fir, poplar, gray and white birch, and other trees have grown up. Towering above them opposite the railroad crossing is a 48" pine which would have been young in 1800. This tree is prominent in the public view up the river from the highway as it curves through the narrow pass south of the property. At the north end of the field there are several large white birch.

Beyond the north end of the field the flat land continues

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Martin Homestead, Coos Co., NH

between the river and the railroad track. The wet ground adjacent to the mild river rapids is favorable for vigorous growth of rot-free fir, and for at least 70 years has been a woodlot (8). A slightly elevated woods road (9) leads from the center of the field into this woodlot. This region was formerly crossed by a power-line clearing for two lines of 3 cables each that swung across the river, installed in about 1895. These led to the 3,000 kW hydroelectric plant at the end of a canal on the Vermont side, which brought water from the Lyman Falls dam a mile upstream. This dam was breached in about 1950, and now no trace of the clearing exists, although industrial archaeologists might marvel at a complete wooden crossarm with six 12" diameter porcelain insulators which lies abandoned on the ground.

On the east side of the railroad track the plain is progressively narrowed by an unusual extremely steep and double-terraced landform, said to be a glacial esker. The peak of the ridge (10) runs from the highway to the edge of the river, where a very steep bank leads down to the railroad grade and the mild rapids. These hills have a drier microclimate, and are stocked with mixed hard maple, gray birch, hemlock, spruce, and poplar. At the south end of the esker, part of the plain is maintained as the Small Field (11), producing some 50 hay bales. A photo of this 2-acre field from the highway side is attached, showing the line of trees along the railroad track at the rear.

The farmyard cluster - The farm originally may have had a dooryard (H, 77) facing the plain on the north side of the barn. The barn is itself separated from the house by about 90 feet. An "English" or "Connecticut" barn (H, 54) with its original siding, framed in the traditional three bays, it has a wood floor in the middle bay, a hay mow on the highway side, and an animal bay on the river side. A low door leads out to what probably was the barnyard (H, 80) on the warmer south side. The 1911 map in the appendix shows a shed perhaps for the buggy off the dooryard and a larger structure in the barnyard. The kitchen garden presumably would have been on the south side of the house.

The late-nineteenth century expansion adding two ells to the house created a second dooryard on the south side near the highway, connected to the new kitchen, woodshed, and extra apartment. Work still spills out into this dooryard today. There may have been a new front yard, as there was a rose trellis on the south side of the main house in 1950, and an extensive network of small-

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Martin Homestead, Coos Co., NH

flowered, pink wild roses still exists.

Major plants presently around the house are clumps of blue iris, woodbine, clumps of orange day lilies, an enormous clump of purple lilac, ferns and raspberries at the rear, and high-bush cranberry (viburnum) and apple trees on the bank leading to the spring. On the river side, both the door in the shed wall and a door in the river side of the kitchen opened out to the spring.

Between the buildings and the river there is a 12-foot dropoff to marshy land. At the foot of the bank the spring pool (4) with its stone walls is followed by a small wooden springhouse, from which a 1-foot-wide brook flows under the railroad in a stone culvert, turns left in a thicket of blackberry and sawgrasses, and reaches the river, where the cool water entering the river is said to attract big fish. Trees in this area are alder, poplar, maple, and black cherry.

At the top of the bank north of the barn an archaeological find occurred (DHR 27-CO-40). A rhyolite cobble and two stone tools were recovered about 40 cm below the surface. In the context of other finds these materials were dated to 8,000 BC (CD, Bu). There may well be other such sites within the boundaries of the property on the glacial terraces which are noted in this description. The two dooryards, the barnyard, and the area south of the buildings may also rate as archaeological sites: indeed the prehistoric find near the north dooryard was overlaid by shards of whiteware and windowglass.

Eastern reach - To the east of the farmhouse the level plain continues across the highway until it meets a swale. Traditionally believed to be the best area on the farm for growing corn, this Front Field (12) was dedicated to pine growth rather than pasture in 1960 and is now producing 24" and larger knotty pine, except where a clearcut maintains the view and will enable growth of Christmas trees instead. By further clearcutting and bulldozing the front field could be returned to agriculture. Near the highway in the front field on a line between the farmhouse and the next farmhouse are several "pasture pine" trees (13), the largest of which is 28", having many low branches and surrounded by new growth: behind them 6 to 12" pines grow in the former powerline clearing, where a shiny galvanized "dead-man's anchor" for the power poles still protrudes from the ground. The only stone wall (14) on the property (a luxury item on good ground (Be, 456))

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defines the north boundary of the property across the front field.

The NH agricultural census shows the crops grown on the farm:

year	1850	1860	1870	1880
improved acreage	30	30	25	60
cows	4	4	4	4
oxen	4		2	2
cattle	2	1	3	3
sheep	26		9	24
rye, bushels		10		
indian corn, bushels	50		40	
oats, bushels	55	40	120	70
wool, lbs	40		35	65
irish potatoes, bushels	100	100	200	100
barley, bushels		15		
buckwheat, bushels	50	50	65	45
butter, lbs	250	300	300	400
hay, tons	15	12	15	30
maple sugar, lbs	300	300	150	300

In 1850 the northern of Mr. Wendell's two lots was sold (SI, 12), so that the front field became the main field of the farm. In 1870 the northern part between the road and the river was purchased (SI, 12), accounting for the jump in improved acreage. The primary use of the 30 acres seems to have been hayfields and pasture, which together with the grains fed the stock. Cash crops seem to have been butter, potatoes, wool, and sugar. The more detailed 1880 census includes 8 cords of firewood and 21 poultry.

The swale (15), a landform that must once have been a river channel, curves around more or less parallel to the edge of the plain, and in springtime is drained by a culvert under the highway. Trees will not grow in this wet depression of mud and clumps of coarse grass, and it harbors deep-voiced frogs and shrill peepers in springtime. Beyond the swale the land rises again some 15 feet to a higher plain before the hillside begins. In this area the long narrow Swale Field (16) has been maintained, producing another 50 or more bales of hay annually. A wood road (17) leads westerly from the southern end of the swale field through the narrow forested area between swale and hill, providing access to the highway.

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The first hill rises to a broad knoll and falls off again into a steep narrow ravine eroded in gravelly soil. At the upper end of the ravine there was a single basswood tree located on the property line, at one end of a gateway. Between the edge of the plain and the ravine are about 20 acres, here called the Hill Pasture (19). A 1910 photograph once seen by the writer shows this area dotted with small trees, and in 1950 there were "pasture" trees with thick low branches in the woods at the top of the hill. Presently it is forested with balsam fir, spruce, and pine, with some admixture of gray, yellow, and white birch. A wood road (18) leads from the corner of the square portion of the swale field upwards around the knoll, providing access to higher land across the least precipitous portion of the ravine.

Beyond the ravine the land rises again to a flat plateau, suggestive of the beach of a former glacial lake. "The higher terraces, especially along tributary valleys, mark the locations of postglacial ice-margin lakes that were held against a hillside by a remnant of melting ice lying in a valley trough." (Th, 145). On the south side of the property the rise to the plateau is steep, and on the north side it is precipitous, leading down to a spring (20) which is piped to the neighbor's house below. Between the east edge of the plateau and the ravine there are about 30 acres, here designated the High Pasture (21). This gravelly land is presently forested with a mixture of maple, hemlock, birch, beech, spruce and fir. However on the north the neighbor continues to mow his high pasture, which has a stone wall at the lower edge of the plateau, and even continues up the steep hill above. There are no stone walls across the plateau along the property line, which may have been defined by a less durable wood fence (Be, 454).

Beyond the plateau there is another steep pitch which levels off some but keeps climbing until it meets a rocky bluff. In 1938 this 20-acre area was clearcut, and said to yield 4-log (64') spruce. It reseeded to pin cherry and maple, the cherries died out, and now it is a uniform-age stand of hard maple, being thinned at 15-year intervals, except at the upper margin where there is a heavy admixture of beech. It is likely that this area has always been a woodlot (22), originally for firewood.

Just beyond the end of the property is the top of the prominent local hill, producing rock ledge on the south property line and a talus of 3-foot sharp-cornered stones on the north line. Almost the only thing that will grow on this 10-acre rocky bluff

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(23) is spruce.

Integrity of landscape - The railroad is infrequently used - perhaps twice a month. Bordered by trees or hidden in the woods by the riverside, it passes through the property in an environmentally friendly manner compared to a modern superhighway. Noisier, smokier, and wafting cinders during the property's period of significance, it provided fast transportation downstate and northward to Colebrook. The Grand Trunk depot and interchange at North Stratford to the south stands restored, and the flag-stop station northward at Cones was still remembered in 1950. On balance the railroad contributes to integrity.

Likewise the highway is an original feature, probably responsible for the orientation of the house. The widening during the depression did not appreciably change its location, and view of the asphalt highway surface is presently screened by apple, lilac and cedar hedging that do not interfere with distant views. Tire and engine noise of high-speed vehicles is a major problem at the front of the house, but it is not a factor behind the house or anywhere in the fields, and it is essentially absent from 6 pm to 5 am. If the property ever became a museum, it would have an ideal location. On balance, because it is as old as the house, the highway contributes to integrity.

The property is bisected by an electric transmission line in a 100-foot-wide clearing (24), which crosses the hill at the southern border, reaches the highway, and travels north parallel to the highway. In the 1890's power lines crossed the river from the generator and turned both north and south at the clearing. As described above, these lines and poles passed behind the pasture pines and were not a major factor at the house. However they were removed from that location in 1959 and larger wooden poles were erected about 100 feet from the barn. Here they interfere with the view of Lightning and Teapot Mountains, 2 and 3 miles distant, an aesthetic factor that could not have been ignored by those who set their oxen to delivering the 5-foot rectangular granite door step; likewise, standing in the former north barnyard, the corner pole of the transmission lines is not an original feature. There is a positive factor, that the 100-foot swath remains open, but on balance the new location of the poles lacks integrity.

Lastly the property is threatened by a 30" natural gas pipeline following the new route of the powerline. This permanent

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installation will involve two new parallel construction roads, a 12-foot wide trench, and a deep tunnelling operation under the highway near the barn. It will remove the pasture pines. The loose backfill around the pipe or the deep holes for the drilling rigs may well divert the underground flow of water into the spring, which is a major characteristic of the house. The pipeline installation will create a permanent utility corridor through the center of the farm, and make any relocation of the temporary utility poles unfeasible, creating a permanent noncontributing visible structure. A route on the terrace in the high pasture is a mitigation which connects well with the other planned segments of the pipeline and keeps the utility corridor out of the area of public view at the property. If the pipeline route is changed to the hillside location' then the electric transmission line, when next enlarged, may well be built along the pipeline and out of view because of screening by the trees.

7 -- Description -- House

The farmhouse faces southeast, parallel to the highway. It consists of three distinct gable-roofed masses: an early low cape and two offset wings. The cape dates to the first or early second quarter of the 19th century, although parts of the frame may be earlier. The center section dates to the third quarter of the 19th century, and was built to assume the kitchen function from the cape. Its ridge is set back from that of the original cape. The southmost section dates to the late third or the fourth quarter of the 19th century and contains a shop/shed below and finished living quarters above. Its ridge is set back from that of the center section.

Cape - The cape, 32 feet long and 24 feet deep, sits on a low fieldstone foundation. Its exterior is clapboarded, save for the upper portion of the northeast gable, which is covered with wooden shingles; the clapboards are early 20th century replacements of the originals. The house has plain cornerboards and boxed cornices. The five-bay facade includes two 9/6 double-hung windows on each side of a modern door, which has four panels below and two single-light windows above. The four double-hung windows are 20th century replacements of earlier windows of the same basic design in the same locations. The door is surrounded by a plain new frame and is flanked by the original five-pane sidelights set in the new frame above recessed panels. The door and sidelights are slightly

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recessed; the recess is trimmed out with plain boards. The entry is served by a large granite step, apparently a selected boulder buried with its flat face level. The northeast gable has two windows on the first floor, one window above; the southwest gable, partially obscured by the kitchen wing, has one window above and one below. The rear of the cape has three windows. A plain large-flue brick chimney pierces the ridge slightly northeast of center; it is a 20th century reconstruction to fit the original roof opening. The asphalt-shingled roof is trimmed by verge boards with returns.

The house's plank-walled construction is of great interest. Square-hewn sills support a system of sleepers at cellar level that are hewn top side only. Vertical 2-inch-thick, 10-inch-wide planks form the exterior bearing walls of the cape, with each plank pegged individually into sill and plate. Front-to-rear joists, which may be of earlier date than the present construction of the house, measure about 9" by 9".. They run in a single span from the front to the rear plate and are tenoned and pinned into the plates. Perhaps the most unusual and important framing feature is the complete redundancy of wall plates, with an upper set resting directly atop a lower set. The outer planking is pegged into the upper plates (and perhaps the lower plates as well; this remains to be investigated) and the sills. On the rear wall and gables, the upper and lower plates are of the same scantling; on the front, however, the upper plate is several inches wider than the plate beneath it, creating the overhang visible on the exterior. The roof framing consists of a range of principal rafters without purlins that is united by horizontal sheathing.

Inside, the cape has a dirt-floored cellar under its southmost half, with dry-laid fieldstone walls. The original subflooring survives. In plan, the first-floor has two parlors in front with three smaller rooms behind, including two small bedrooms and the bathroom between. The first-level and loft floors were replaced in 1969, at the same time the 19th-century plaster ceiling was removed. An enclosed stair, ca. 1830-50, occupies the southeast corner of the south parlor and leads to the cellar and unfinished loft. Its door has the narrow square grooves around its panels which are characteristic of the 1st quarter of the 19th century (see photo #9 attached). There is evidence on a pair of ceiling joists near the chimney that a header was once let between the joists; it probably carried an earlier stair string. (It is common in early capes to find garret stairs running from one of the rear

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rooms; it is uncommon to find the stair in the forward corner of a parlor.) The southmost parlor retains its 1830-50 wainscoted dado and complement of seven doors of five-raised-panel style, although they were stripped of paint in the 20th century. The present fireplace, chimney, and hearth were built in 1967 to replace the deteriorated originals, removing a fireplace converted for stove access from the northeast parlor and reusing the 3-foot hearth stones, the stone lintel, and the existing cooking crane. In the southmost parlor, the wall that separates the parlor from the rear file of rooms still retains its 1830-50 horizontal wide-board sheathing to ceiling height. The ceiling joists (see photo #10) are heavily smoke-stained, indicating a long period of exposure that predates the ca. 1830-50 period of the wainscoting, present stair, and plaster. The joists were re-exposed in this century. It is possible that they predate the 1834 increase in valuation of the property, and that the unusual double plate arrangement may have been put in place when a higher roof was added, creating the spacious attic.

Kitchen ell - The kitchen wing, 12 feet long and 20 feet deep, also sits atop a low fieldstone foundation. Its exterior walls are clapboarded, save for the southmost gable end, which is sheathed in novelty siding. Corner boards trim the walls. The facade contains two 9/6 modern replacement windows of the same type seen in the cape; these replaced original 6/6 windows that were at the same locations in 1967. However, an early sash is still set parallel to the roofline in the southmost gable wall in the small space between the higher roof of the kitchen wing and the lower roof of the adjacent shed (a feature commonly seen on capes of the same period regionally.) The rear kitchen wall contains three adjacent double-hung windows with 9/6 sash; this replaced a single central door in the same location in 1967. In the short section of the northmost gable end that projects beyond the rear of the cape is a door with two lower panels, a nine-light window, and a shed-roofed hood; this entry replaced an original window in the same location in 1967. The kitchen has an asphalt single roof whose ridge once had a small brick chimney at its southmost end. It has a conventional post-and-beam frame; the later date of this frame is attested to by the butted joints at the rafter apices. Inside, the wing contains a single room, a kitchen renovated in 1967, and an unfinished loft above lit by the angled gable window.

Shed/shop ell - The shed wing, 30 feet long and 20 feet deep, sits on a fieldstone foundation, low at the front, but quite tall

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at the rear where the terrace bank falls away from the building. Its exterior is sheathed in 20th century novelty siding, with the exception of the rear wall and northmost gable end, which retain their original circular-sawn board-and-batten siding. The clapboarded portions of the walls are trimmed with corner boards. This wing has two distinct sections. The northmost bay is a shed served by a large double barn-type door; the doorway and doors were enlarged ca. 1960 to accommodate modern vehicles. The southmost bay is a shop. A postcard postmarked 1923 (see appendix) shows the front of the shop with a single door and a 6/6 window; these were later replaced by the present double doors. The southmost gable has a single plain-framed window, now covered with tarpaper. The rear wall has a shop window to the south, and a smaller untrimmed opening for the shed to the north; both now have tarpaper-covered wooden shutters. There is a door in the part of the northmost gable wall that protrudes beyond the kitchen. The roof is asphalt-shingled; a small brick chimney that once served woodstoves in the shop and bedroom protrudes from the southmost end of the ridge. The major framing members are hewn, but the rafters are butted, as in the kitchen wing.

Inside, the northmost bay is a dirt-floored shed open to the rafters; the southmost bay has two plaster-walled rooms, a shop below and a bedroom above. The wooden lath behind the plaster is circular-sawn and square-nailed, indicating a date late in the 19th century. A plaster-walled staircase descends from the bedroom between the bays, ending at a boardwalk across the back of the shed, which formerly connected to the aforementioned exterior door at one end and to a door into the shop at the other. Presumably this arrangement allowed the dweller of this independent part of the house direct access to the spring, woodshed, and outhouse. The shop workbench, a 4" x 18" x 10' timber along the southwest wall, faces an interior plaster wall with a window and a door frame which were boarded over with the novelty siding. The three known window openings and three known single doors of the shop suggest that it may once have been a living quarters, and that it was converted to a farm shop when the wide double door was installed.

7 -- Description --Barn

The barn, of so-called English or Connecticut type, 41 feet long and 30 feet deep and of traditional three-bay construction, sits on a low fieldstone foundation, gable to the road. The barn appears to be contemporary with the early section of the house, ca.

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1830. The exterior is sheathed in heavily weathered vertical boards; the gable boards overlap the main-level boards below. The main entry is in the northmost lateral side; it consists of untrimmed double doors installed in 1960. Above and beside the present doors, however, are vertical boards infilling the earlier entry; an original wrought pintle from the larger original door system is still in place. On the southwest side there are two doors. An ancient low door with a heavy frame at the corner of the building leads into the bay at the river side, and a door of weathered planking leads into the central bay. Two small square untrimmed windows appear in the gable end facing the road. The present roof is of aging but still relatively intact corrugated metal.

Inside it can be seen that the barn is framed with hewn posts and beams. It retains the 30x40 dimensions of the standard 18th century barn, but its posts, which are straight rather than jowled at the heads, attest to a 19th century construction date. With the exception of two replaced sills, its frame is intact and original, although much of it is in contact with the ground. The roof is supported with the major-rafter, minor-purlin system, supplemented with modern diagonal braces formed from spruce logs. There is a hay mow platform in the bay on the road side. The two windows provide dim light to the low-roofed, dirt-floor space beneath. The central bay retains the remains of a wooden floor, and the bay of the river side is open, earthen floor to roof.

7 -- Description -- The Victorian family farm and industrialization

Joseph Martin, born in Bethlehem CT in 1799, came to Stratford with his father and first appears on the tax records in 1820, as owning one cow and 2 stock (M 168, RI 420). In 1826 he married Elvira Lyman, whose father owned the next house north to the present one; in the same year he contracted to build the town pound, a 30 x 30 foot structure. The town history says that Joseph also built the present house (T, 153): he certainly purchased lots 67 and 68 for Elvira's step-grandmother in 1830, and its tax value increased sharply in 1832-34. Although the house seems first to have been occupied by one of Elvira's brothers, Joseph and Elvira came to live in it and to raise 13 children there (SI, 11).

The history of the children who grew up on the farm in its period of significance illustrates both the viability of the

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Victorian family utilizing its agricultural surplus, and the lure of the high wages of industrialization, as it was fed by the reach of the railroads. Of the 13 children, 3 sons remained in the area. The fourth son John was married in Ohio, where two of his uncles had gone in the 1860's. An older group of Elizabeth, John, and Parthenia eventually lived in New England's prime city of cotton mills at Lowell MA, bringing up two children who graduated from Harvard and a third who became a homeopathic surgeon. It is recorded that Clara and Arabella graduated from high school and attended Tilton Seminary (M174, 176) located a day's railroad journey downstate; Clara married George Parsons of Columbia, who owned the Hampshire House and later the Balsams, summer hotels served by the railroad upstate to Colebrook. Jane married Julius Converse, the governor of Vermont, whom she probably met at the hotel, and moved to Woodstock VT. Mary, Ada, and Arabella spent much of their married lives in the bigger town of Woodstock VT, also a day's railroad journey away.

In their old age, the farm afforded Joseph and Elvira a secure home. John, domiciled in Lowell, deeded the property to his mother, father, and youngest brother, on the condition that he care for their parents. The present shed/shop ell shows evidence of expansion of the house for this domestic purpose in the late nineteenth century.

"That there was an opportunity for greater wealth in the city, whether realized or not, cannot be denied, but the desire for increased wealth and material comfort is in itself a cultural choice." (Be, 465) Most of the 13 children left home to participate in industrialization; but the Victorian family still took care of its aged in the pre-industrial mode. While it seems the property might possess significance under criterion A in the area of social history for its illustration of these typical events in the rural Victorian family, satisfactory evidence to prove the hypothesis cannot be presented here. There appears to have been a wide variation of the impact of industrialization on New Hampshire communities, depending on natural resources, the luck of railroad service, and the ability to engage in division of labor (MoMo, 150), and there are no data at hand to establish what was typical for Connecticut valley farmers, who had fertile land, a major railroad, and the North Stratford creamery.

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8 -- STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Paragraph

Considering the 112-acre district, the State inventory form judges that "The Martin Homestead is eligible [for the National Register] under criterion A in the area of Agriculture as a still intact 19th century farmstead." (Ru, 14) It further is significant for its typical illustration of the four-field system, for the arrangement and sequence of use of the fields, and particularly for their maximum expansion in the 3rd quarter of the century. The alignment of the buildings, the separation of the house and the "English" or "Connecticut" barn, and the spatial organization of barnyard and dooryards are historically significant as illustrations of early 19th century building patterns. The easterly portion of the acreage is further significant under criterion A in the area of community planning and development, because it retains boundaries from the first division of the town, which were set out with the four-field system in mind.

Considered as a building, the Martin homestead is most significant for its earliest bay, a typical center-chimney, two-rooms deep, one story house, the "most popular type of pre-1830 big house" (H, 36) The State inventory form judges the house to be eligible under criterion C in the area of architecture as "the town's best example of this important building type." (Ru, 14) It is also of significance because of its non-solar orientation, its probably earlier framing as a plank house, and its original 1834 interior parlor walls.

Supporting Paragraphs on History and Historic Context

According to National Register Bulletin #30, "Understanding the forces that have shaped rural properties, interpreting their historical importance, and planning for their protection are current challenges in historic preservation." (MKKM, 1) In New Hampshire, "The land use patterns which develop over time are read as a series of historic land use 'layers'. Combined these layers result in the accidental landscape design which give the character to a region or a town, and provide the historical evidence for a way of life that is not usually documented in written form." (B, 2) However to demonstrate significance, it is necessary to "view landscape characteristics as integral parts of overall economic or social systems rather than isolated features." (MKKM, 7)

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Stratford was settled in 1767 by migration up the river valley from Litchfield and Fairfield counties in southern Connecticut (T, 31). The farm presents significance under criterion A in community planning and development because its upland boundaries have been the same since they were first surveyed in the 1760's, and still indicate the pattern of woodlot and bottomland which was chosen then, and in fact are still filled by the upper maple stand (22) and the three bottomland hay fields (7, 11, 16).

Likewise the wooden plank house in a geographical region full of stones (Fi, 63) is an example of a center-chimney, two-room deep house, "derived from English vernacular precedents perfected in the 17th century in New England. From 1760 to 1830 ... these houses were the most common choice of settlers for their major dwelling." (H, 36) In at least one such structure "a half-cellar with stacked boulder walls was dug under the eastern parlor side of the house" (H, 87) just as here. Central seacoast Connecticut also built plank houses, and there was likely a sawmill to make planks easily in Tinkerville. It is thus possible that a house existed when Joseph Martin purchased the property at tax sale in 1830, and that the plank construction clearly visible in the interior attic walls indicates a remnant from the settlement period, which is of significance under criterion C in the area of architecture.

"Between 1770 and 1830, most rural New England builders gradually came to favor an alignment in which the principal facades of new houses and barns ... faced the major road without any regard to southern exposure." "It was almost as if the traditional building alignment of medieval origin was suddenly tugged out of its agrarian orientation by the increasing pull of economic and social influences of the town." (H, 115) The roadside alignment of the house and barn are significant in their adherence to this trend, under criterion C in the area of architecture, and provide a rationale for the contributing status of the road. The social influence of the town can further be seen in the history (SI, 12) of sale to and rental of the house from Judge Marshall of Stratford, a Methodist church elder.

Most farms built or modified in the latter part of the nineteenth century had connected barns and houses. There was "the pre-1820 detached house and barn system and the post 1850 attached house and barn system". (H, 87) The distance between the barn and the house, the north-facing dooryard, and the south-facing barnyard with its low entry door to the animal bay are patterns of spatial

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organization possessing significance under criterion A in the area of agriculture.

While its central chimney was modified for stoves in the two parlors and rebuilt for safety in 1967, and some alteration of partitions has taken place around the chimney, the house still retains in their original location the wainscoting, chair rail, wide-pine-board staircase housing, and wide board walls of its larger parlor, and especially its 5-panel doors, some of which are dated to the first quarter of the 19th century by the square, narrow grooves at the edge of the door panels. These are easily visible distinctive interior features which add to significance under criterion C in the area of architecture.

By comparison to 27 other buildings, comprising all the two-rooms deep, center-chimney "Cape Cod" houses in the town of Stratford, it was judged in a NH survey for eligibility that the house "is eligible under criterion C in the area of architecture as the best preserved, indeed the only well preserved, early 19th century vernacular cape in Stratford, the town's best example of this important building type."(Ru, 14) (Many similar buildings have major porches or dormers, vinyl siding, asbestos or asphalt siding.) "The buildings ... have seen relatively little exterior change" "basically, the buildings appear today much as they did in the 19th century. The Martin homestead therefore retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association."(Ru, 14)

New England farmers followed a four-field system of crops, grains, pasture, and woods from at least 1791 onwards (H, 82). The arrangement of the front, small and river fields near the house, followed in sequence by more distant hill and high pasture, and by most distant woodlots at each end of the property is a pattern of spatial organization of significance under criterion A in the area of agriculture because it is so typical.

New Hampshire agriculture rose through a maximum in period after the Civil war. Contrary to reports that New England was finished off by the (Mid-)West before 1850, more land was in use for agriculture (60%) in 1910 than in 1850 (45%). The maximum was 65% in 1870 (Be, Fig. 7). Although the higher wages of industrialization and the good railroad transportation drew the population to the cities, there was still a surplus in the countryside, creating a high Victorian prosperity, and the real decline of agriculture did not occur until 1950-70, when land in

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such use fell to 10%. There was however a shift in crop and land use. "The sharp decline in wool prices after the Civil War, especially after 1890, ... led to the abandonment of many high rocky pastures.." "Between the 1870 and 1900 censuses in New Hampshire ... the output of milk rose from 2 million to 29 million gallons." (Be, 460).

These economic trends are exemplified in the landscape and in the social history of the farm. The agricultural censuses of 1850, 60, 70, and 80 show that about 60% of the area of the farm was "improved acreage", similar to New Hampshire (Be, Fig. 8), and New England as a whole (Be, Fig. 8). The census shows that the farm had sheep in 1850 and 1880, and the High Pasture (16) was probably abandoned as the shift to dairy production occurred. The Hill Pasture (14) was open during the rise of dairy production after 1890, otherwise there would have been trees or stumps in the 1910 photo. The farm was apparently retired as Joseph approached old age, and his son managed other properties for his brother-in-law in Dixville and married in Colebrook, resulting in an atypical early decline of large-scale dairy farming in Stratford and in preservation of the intact English barn. After his son's death, the house and barn were rented out for smaller-scale farming. Most recently the front field has converted to large pines. The maximum expansion of the four-field system is of significance under criterion A in the area of agriculture because it was typical; the subsequent abandonment of the worst land is also typical, although mostly later than the period of significance.

The site retains integrity, as the location, design, setting, and associations of these areas of cultivation, ranging from the front field (12) up the hillside to the upper woodlot (22), can be pointed out from either dooryard, or hiked in search of further information. A sense of association with the standard four-field farming system in an original location can be gained from walking any of the 3 hay fields. Such a walk in the setting of the hillside, the river, and the buildings, which retain their original materials and workmanship, creates an aesthetic and historic feeling of the late nineteenth century family farm.

Thus because it is typical of Stratford farms in the mid-nineteenth century and because it "clearly possesses the defined characteristics required to be strongly representative" of the four-field context (NR15, 9), the arrangement and sequence of use of the surviving fields (7, 11, 12), pastures (19, 21), and

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woodlots (10, 23) possesses significance under criterion A in the area of agriculture.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

[(T, 55) in the text means Thompson, page 55.]

Be: Michael M. Bell, "Did New England Go Downhill?" Geographical Review 79 (October 1989) 467-74.

Br: Lucinda A. Brockway, Nominating New Hampshire Rural Districts to the National Register, NH Div. of Historical Resources, Concord NH, Sept. 30, 1987.

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CD: E. Tucker, "More details unearthed on Colebrook Paleo-Indian archaeological discovery," Coos County Democrat, Oct. 7, 1997, page 1.

DHR 27-CO-40: this is the site number in the NH Archaeological Inventory (NH Div. of Historical Resources), Concord NH, filed Oct. 30, 1997.

Fi: D. H. Fischer, Albion's Seed, Four British Folkways in America (Oxford, NY, 1989)

Ho: Stewart Holbrook, Holy Old Mackinaw (Comstock, Sausalito CA, reprinted 1980; ISBN 0-89174-039-2)

M: Thomas Arthur Hay, Martin Genealogy (no press given, New York City, 1911).

MKKM: L. M. McClelland, J. T. Keller, G. P. Keller, and R. Z. Melnick, Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes, National Register Bulletin 30, undated.

MoMo: E. F. Morison and E. E. Morison, New Hampshire, a Bicentennial History (Norton, NY, 1976)

H: Thomas C. Hubka, Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn (University Press of New England, 1984; ISBN 0-87451-356-1 pbk)

MP: Comprehensive Plan, Stratford Planning Board, 1992, (referring to US census data).

NR15: National Register Bulletin 15, How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (USGPO, 1991).

Ru: state inventory, Martin Homestead (NH Division of Historical Resources, Individual Resource Survey Form). In this form, the Architectural Description, Comparative Evaluation, Statement of Significance (p. 14), and Statement of Integrity (p. 14) were written by David Ruell.

SI: state inventory, Martin Homestead (NH Division of Historical Resources, Individual Resource Survey Form). In this

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form, the Historical Background was written by Frederick W. Martin.

T: Jeanette R. Thompson, History of the Town of Stratford
(Rumford Press, Concord NH, 1925)

To: Betty F. Thompson, The Changing Face of New England
(Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1977)

New Hampshire Agricultural Censuses, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1890
(N. H. State Archives, Concord).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description -- The legal boundaries of the farm as surveyed by Charles Tucker in 1911 (see attached map).

Boundary Justification -- These were the boundaries of the farm from 1870 onwards in the period of significance. The eastern boundaries survive from the first division of the town.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION (list of attachments)

1. Layout of the Town of Stratford in 1773 -- from J. R. Thompson, pages 51, 58, and 100-101.

2. USGS map segment, Averill VT-NH (edition of 1929), with site boundaries marked.

3. Property map, 1911 survey of Charles Tucker (book 342, page 181, Coos Co. Registry of Deeds)

4. Aerial Photograph segment, 11 x 17", 1981 (NH Dept of Public Works and Highways, Morton Building, Concord NH 03301)

5. SKETCH MAP OF SITE, 11 x 17", 1998 -- overlay to aerial photograph

6. PHOTO OF HOUSE (#1), 5 x 7", 1997

7. Photos of house from south and east, 1997

8. Postcard of house from south, prior to 1923

9. Photo of attic staircase door, 4 x 6", 1998

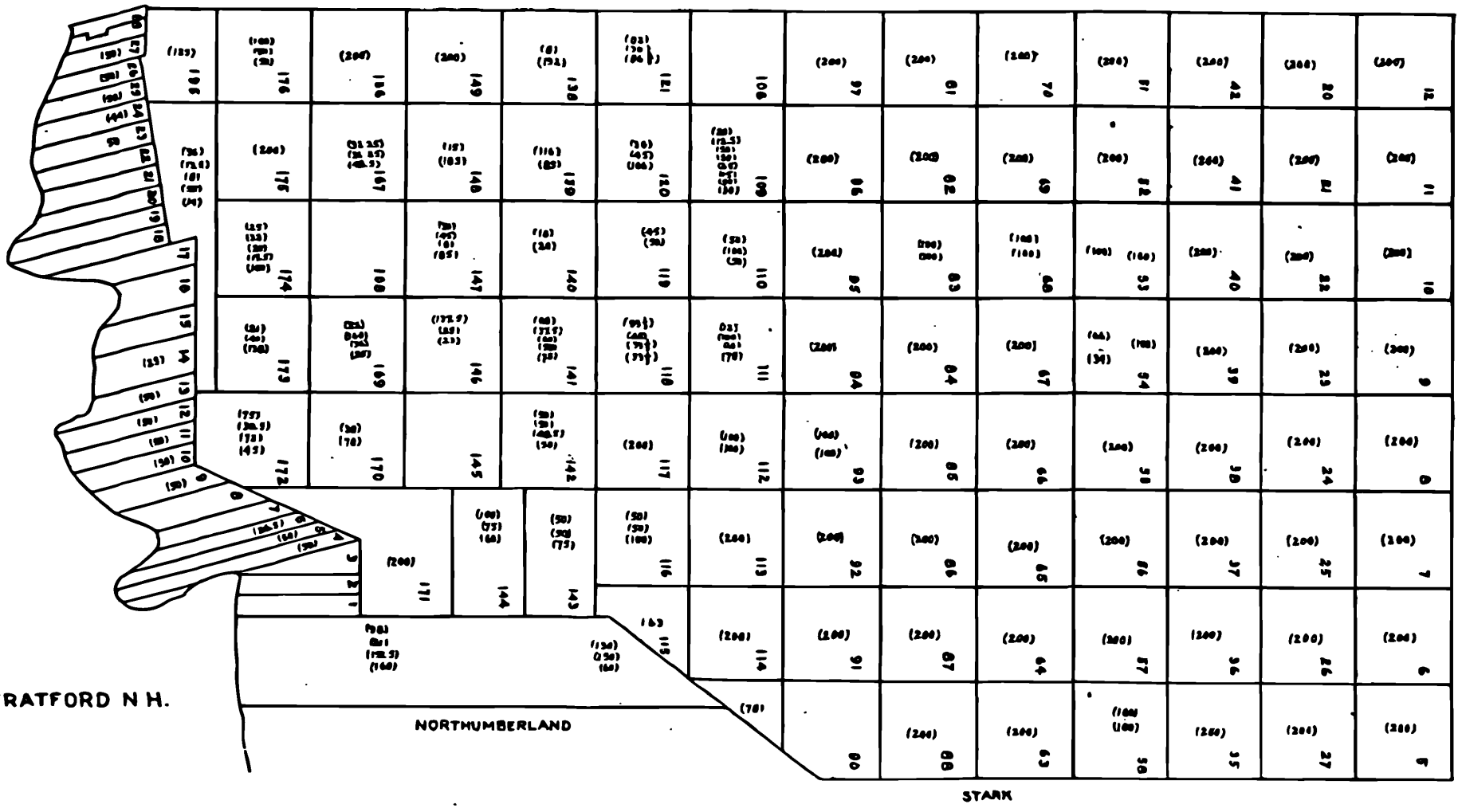
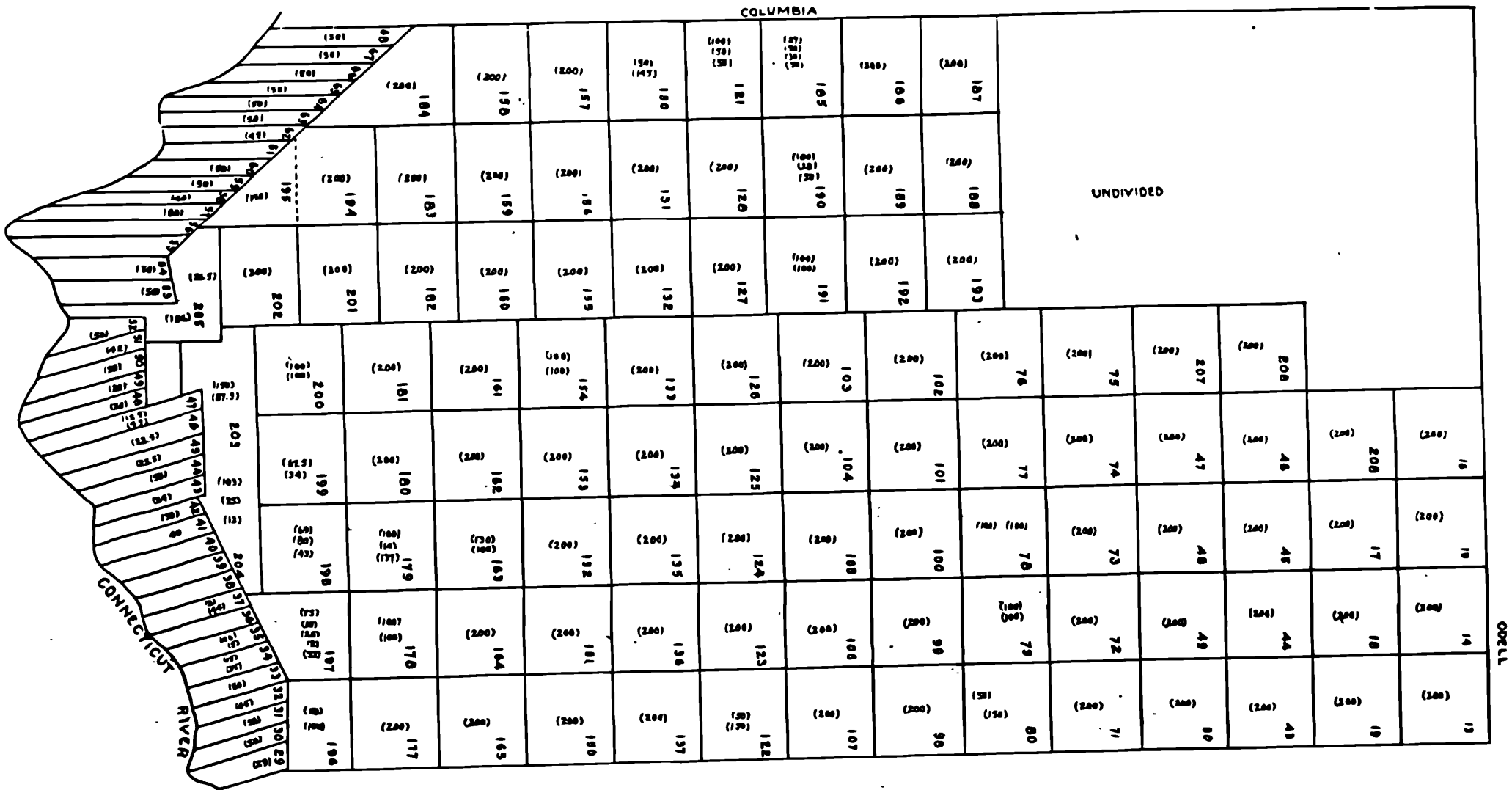
10. Photo of parlor rear wall and rafters, 4 x 6", 1998

11. Photo of door to "office" (small parlor), 4 x 6", 1998

12. Eastman family photo at similar house, circa 1905.

13. Photos of BARN (#2) from west and southwest, 1997

14. Small field (#11) from south, 4 x 6" photo, 1998

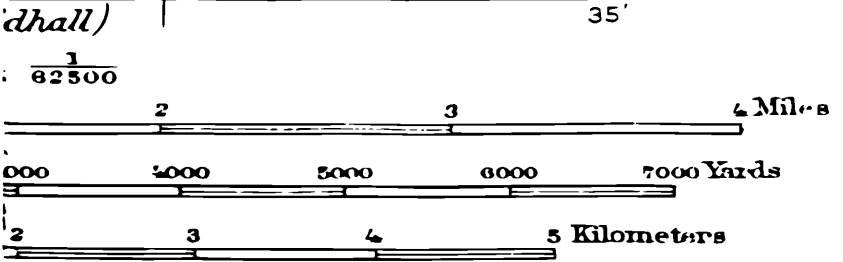
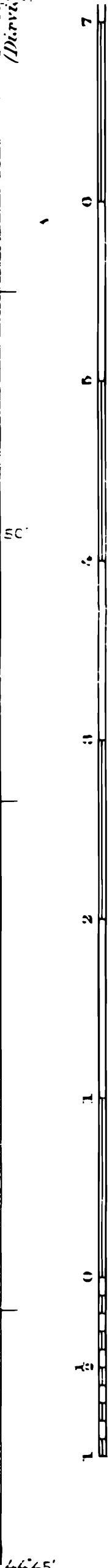
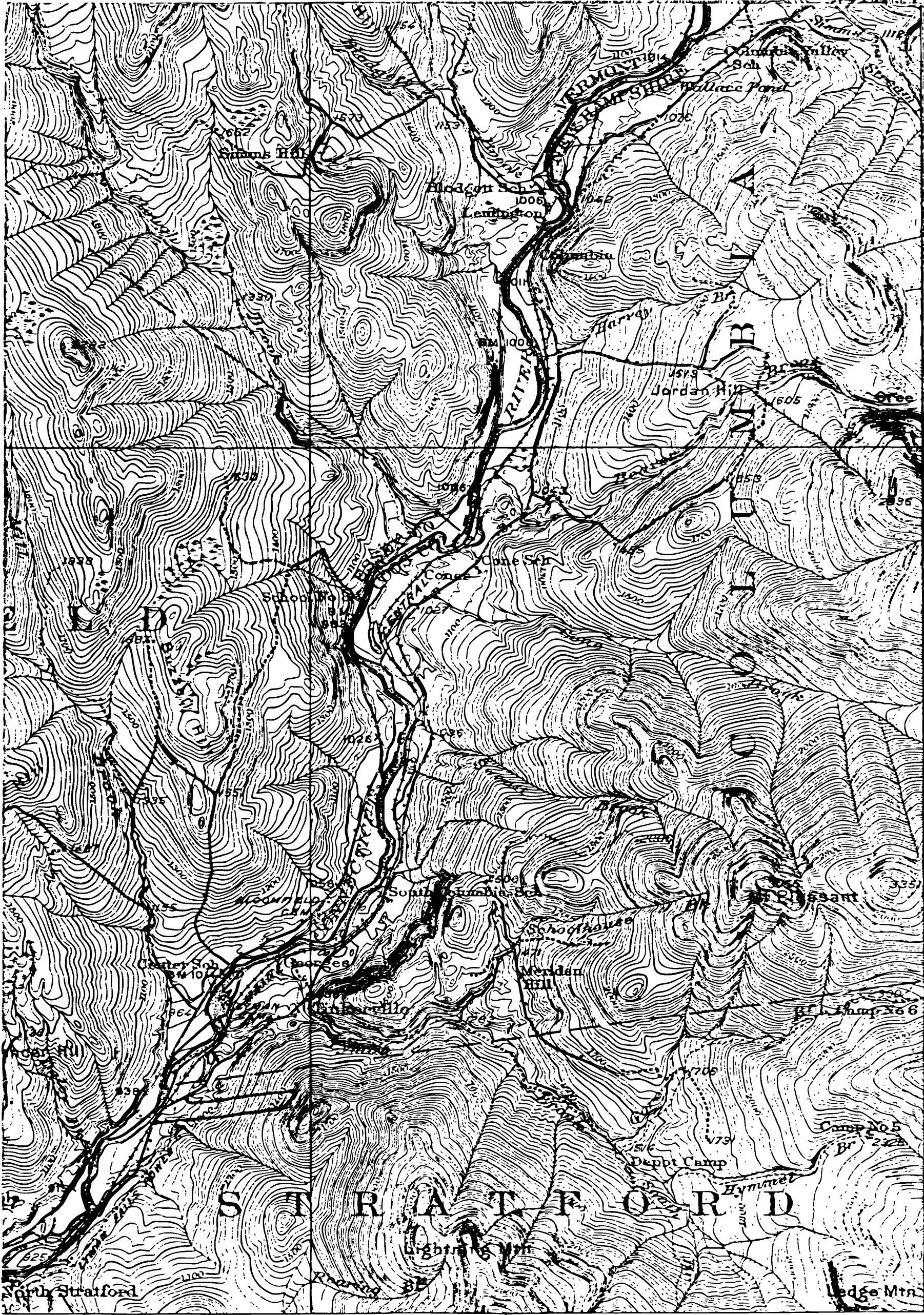


PLAN OF STRATFORD N.H.

1. ~~THE~~ HOMESTEAD
COOS CO., NH

Town layout in 1773

Source: Thompson p 100-101



Interval 20 feet.
 above sea level.

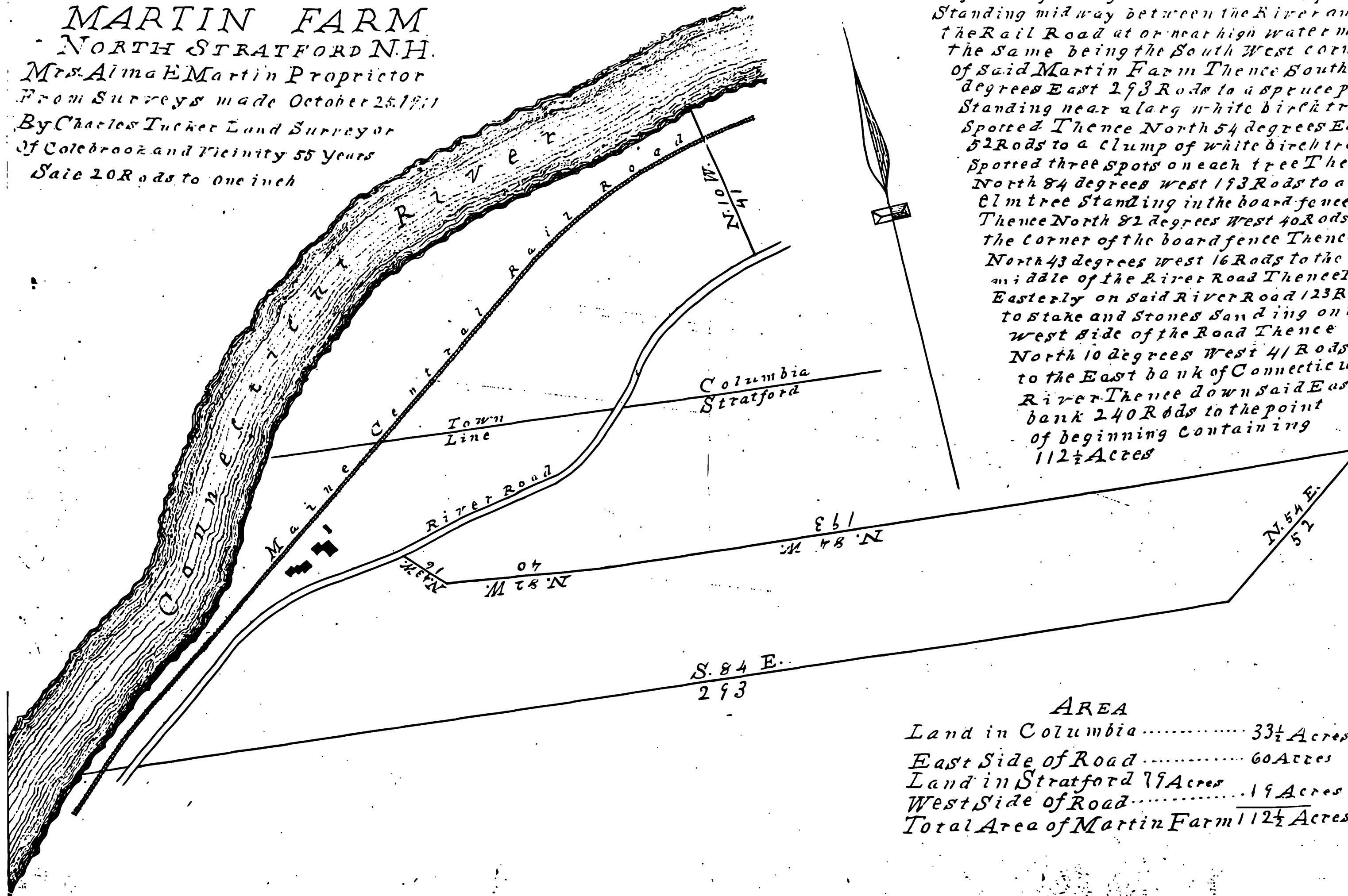
Polyconic projection. North American datum
 5000 yard grid based upon U.S. zone system. A

AVERILL, VT-N.H.
 Edition of 1929
 reprinted 1942
 14445-W713C/15

44°45'
 71°30' (Tully)

2. MARTIN HOMESTEAD Coos Co., NH

MAP OF THE
MARTIN FARM
NORTH STRATFORD N.H.
Mrs. Alma E. Martin Proprietor
From Surveys made October 25, 1911
By Charles Tucker Land Surveyor
of Colebrook and Vicinity 55 Years
Scale 20 Rods to one inch



Return of Martin Farm Survey
Beginning at a yellow birch tree Spott
Standing midway between the River and
the Rail Road at or near high water m.
The same being the South West corner
of said Martin Farm Thence South
degrees East 293 Rods to a spruce p.
Standing near a large white birch tree
Spotted Thence North 54 degrees Ea
52 Rods to a clump of white birch tree
Spotted three spots on each tree Thence
North 84 degrees west 193 Rods to a
Elm tree standing in the board fence
Thence North 82 degrees West 40 Rods
the corner of the board fence Thence
North 43 degrees west 16 Rods to the
middle of the River Road Thence N
Easterly on said River Road 123 R.
to stake and stones standing on t
west side of the Road Thence
North 10 degrees West 41 Rods
to the East bank of Connecticut
River Thence down said East
bank 240 Rods to the point
of beginning containing
112½ Acres

AREA

Land in Columbia.....	33½ Acres
East Side of Road.....	60 Acres
Land in Stratford 79 Acres	19 Acres
West Side of Road.....	19 Acres
Total Area of Martin Farm	112½ Acres

3. MARTIN HOMESTEAD COOP. SO., ILL

Property map

Source: Book 302, page 181 Coop Registry

4. MARTIN HOME STAY COOC Co., NH

NH Dept of Highways

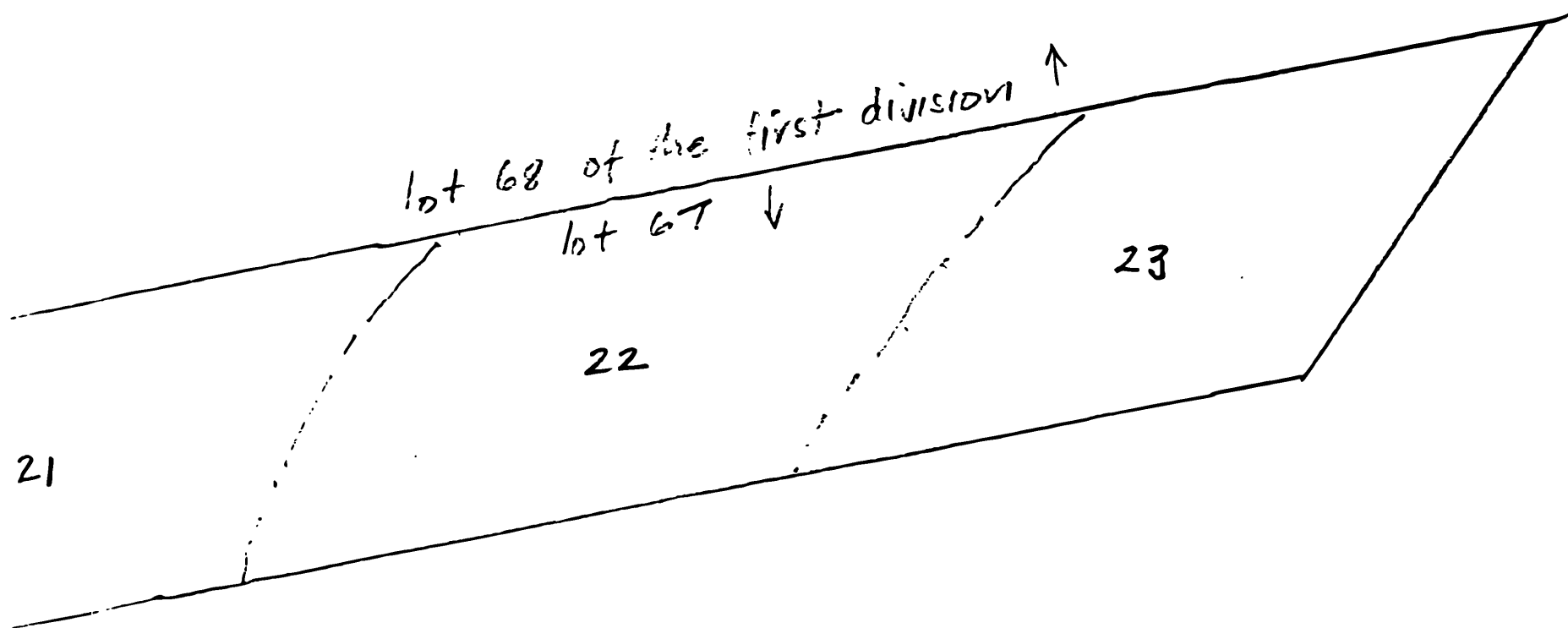
1981

negative at Morton Bldg, Concord NH

aerial photo

photo number 0





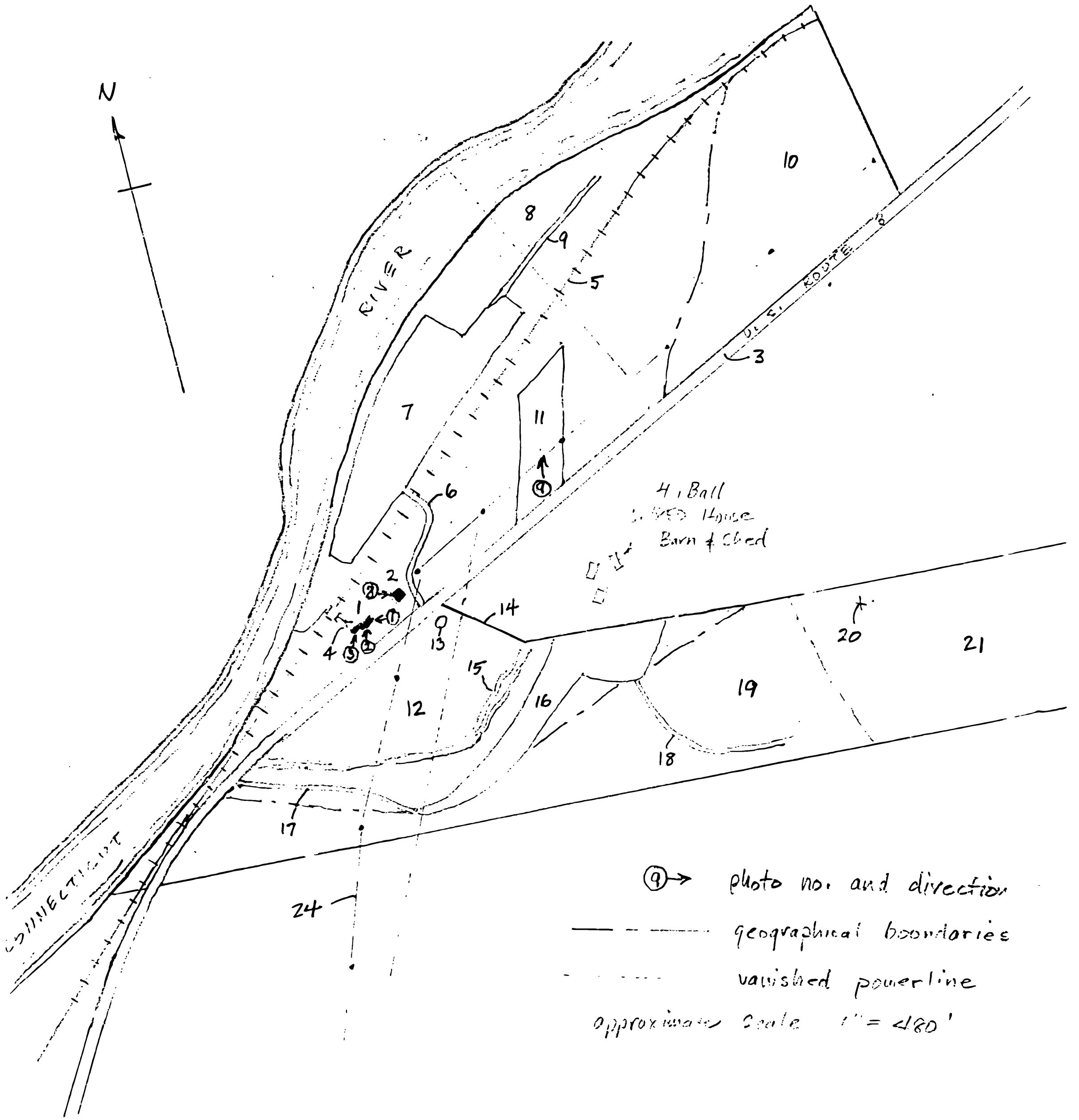
5. MARTIN HOMESTEAD

Contributing
District:
The interior of the 1870 boundaries

Contributing District:
The interior of the 1870 boundaries

Contributing Buildings:

- #1 1834 or earlier house
- #2 "English" or "Connecticut" Barn



⑨ → photo no. and direction

— geographical boundaries

- - - vanished powerline

approximate scale 1" = 480'

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The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources finds the Martin Homestead to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Agriculture, although not for the reasons cited in the documentation. This property is a good representative of a traditional family farm of the early to mid 19th century. It is unusual for this type of agricultural property to survive, as those which did not evolve into progressive farms in the late 19th or early 20th century generally failed and disappeared as a result. It is also considered eligible under Criterion C for Architecture, as the best representation of a 19th century vernacular cape in the town of Stratford, and as a good representation of a plank house.

We find the documentation to be wanting both in terms of its adequacy of documentation and its technical and professional correctness and sufficiency. These comments are not intended to be a comprehensive discussion of those shortcomings, but to provide a general representation of the problems noted during our review.

The narrative fails to provide a thorough, accurate, clear and specific discussion of the property's current and historic appearance, physical evolution, chain of title, and land use; nor is there a statement of significance that makes the case for eligibility. Assumptions and assertions are often unsubstantiated or inappropriate. We are not aware that the author has the training or expertise to make all of the assessments contained in the material. Maps and photographs are not adequate to document the resource. No context is provided evaluating the resource against comparables. Boundaries of the nominated property are not adequately described or justified.

All procedural requirements have been met.

Nancy C. Muller October 8, 1998
Nancy C. Muller, State Historic Preservation Officer
New Hampshire