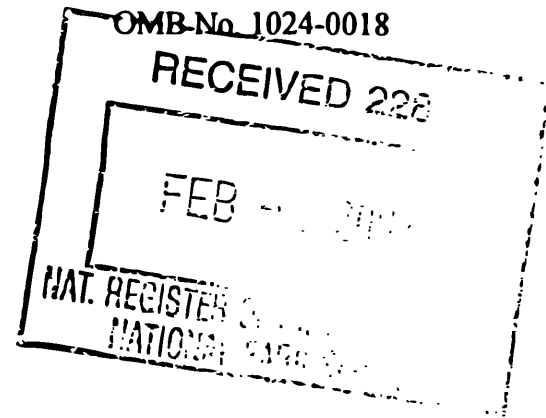


1/27/07



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 any 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 WOODBURY, LEVI, HOMESTEAD
other names/site number LEVI WOODBURY HOMESTEAD

2. Location

street & number 1 Main Street N/A not for publication
city or town Francestown N/A vicinity
state New Hampshire code NH county Hillsborough code 011 zip code 03043

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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] 1/29/07
Signature of certifying official Date
NEW HAMPSHIRE
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is
 entered in the National Register [Signature] 3-15-07
 See continuation sheet. Signature of Keeper Date of Action
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

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	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
PROFESSIONAL/law office

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/Georgian

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other BRICK

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

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 **Page** 1

Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary Paragraph

The Levi Woodbury Homestead is located on a five-acre lot on the west side of Main Street at the south end of the main village in Francestown, New Hampshire. The nominated property includes one contributing resource, a house built in four major building campaigns between 1787 and ca. 1834, and two non-contributing resources: a barn constructed in 1979 and a screen house, a mid-nineteenth century structure relocated to this site ca. 1993.

Stone walls demarcate the lot bounds, run westward up the wooded hillside behind the buildings and parallel a stream that runs through the property behind the buildings. The lot is landscaped with brick walkways, granite steps, and a small pool (a former farm pond) that is edged with stone and created from a stone dam on the stream. Due west of the barn is the west gable-end foundation of a nineteenth-century barn, which stood in part on the site of the existing barn until the early 1960s.

1. House (1787, ca. 1793, ca. 1803, ca. 1832). Contributing resource.

Summary description

The house is an east-facing, two-story, hip-roof main house with a 1 ½ story north wing that was erected over a period of forty-five years in four separate building campaigns, all undertaken during Levi Woodbury's lifetime. The earliest part, built in 1787, was a 1 ½ story, five-bay-wide structure with twin chimneys irregularly placed along the roof; this part is now the east half of the wing. The second part, built ca. 1793, extended the original house to the west, raising the roofline in the process; the existing wing is the result of these first two construction periods. The third part, built ca. 1803 and appended to the south gable end of the wing, added a 2 ½ story, 5x2 bay block oriented to face south. The fourth—and final—part, built ca. 1832, extended the ca. 1803 block to the south by another three bays, at the same time altering its roofline from a gable roof to a hip roof and reorienting it to face east toward the road.

The current appearance of the house reflects that final building campaign; since that time, the form of the house has remained unchanged. In the early 1960s, when the final members of the Woodbury family left the homestead, the house had been long neglected. The new owners undertook an lengthy rehabilitation/restoration of the house that preserved the massing, foundations, chimneys, fenestration on the three primary elevations and part of the rear, and nearly all of the structural frame. They also preserved most of the interior architectural trim and exterior siding on the main house, as well as portions of exterior entrance surrounds and doors. Doors, trim and siding that were not salvaged were

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

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Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire

replaced, for the most part replicating the historic features in materials, proportions and appearance. Windows were replaced throughout, replicating the sash that had been on the 1832 addition.

Main House (ca. 1803/ca. 1832): Exterior

The main house represents the final two building campaigns: the northern two bays date from ca. 1803, while the southern three bays were added thirty years later, at which time the roofline was altered from a gable roof to the existing hip roof, and its entire exterior reorganized to appear as if it was constructed at one period, with the primary elevation rotated to face east toward the road.¹ The main house is a two-story, 5x3 bay structure on a granite block foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and a brick chimney projects from each of the north and south slopes of the hip roof. Walls are sheathed in clapboards, most of which are lapped (and original). Trim consists of narrow corner and frieze boards dating from the early 1960s project. Window openings have molded caps and contain twelve-over-twelve sash, also dating from the early 1960s.² The openings on the first story of the 1832 section are lower than those of the earlier section, reflecting the dropped floor level inside. Windows on the two primary (east and south) elevations are flanked with blinds.³

The main entrance consists of a pedimented entablature with flat pilasters, six-panel (raised) door and four-light transom. A secondary entrance is located on the south elevation. Identical to that of the main entrance, it is the original ca. 1803 main entrance, relocated from its original position on the earlier south façade to its current position when the main house was enlarged.

The rear (west) elevation is fully exposed on the cellar level. Fenestration along the two upper stories mirror that of the front elevation, save the lack of a window opening in the south bay of the first story. Windows along the cellar level reflect the early 1960s project: three openings with fourteen-over-

¹ Physical evidence, including the 1803 three-run staircase and a surviving window that would have been above the 1803 south façade entrance, corroborate that the 1803 addition was a 5x2 bay structure oriented to face south.

² Window sash on the house and wing has been changed several times over the years. A late nineteenth century photograph of the building (attached) shows 12/12 sash on the 1832 section and 2/2 sash elsewhere. A single surviving window sash from the 1803 addition, located on what was originally the 1803 south façade and is now an interior wall that lights the secondary stairwell, is 9/6, indicating that at least the second story (and likely the first story windows) of the 1803 addition were 9/6. By the early twentieth century, all of the windows had 2/2 sash, still in place in 1960. The sole exception was the window on the second story of the south elevation (middle bay), which had retained its 12/12 sash.

³ All of the shutter dogs for the blinds were salvaged from Levi Woodbury's Portsmouth residence, which was demolished at the time the Francestown house was undergoing its early 1960s work.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 3

Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire

fourteen sash. The doorway at the north end is nineteenth century and retains its early vertical-board door (protected with an exterior overlay).

For many years, a shed with privy was attached to the rear of the house, at the juncture of the main house and expanded original house. Two additional sheds extended from the northwest corner of the expanded original house. All were removed in the first half of the twentieth century.

Main House (ca. 1803/ca. 1832): Interior

The interior of the main house retains a high level of architectural integrity from the early nineteenth century. Despite the unified appearance on the exterior, the interior clearly reflects the two construction periods. Since 1832, the floor plan has been only minimally unaltered, primarily to accommodate bathrooms. Original architectural features include four-panel (1803) and six-panel (1832) doors, sliding interior paneled shutters, door and window casings, main staircase (1832), secondary paneled staircase (built as the main staircase for the 1803 addition), chair rails, paneled fireplace walls in three of the first floor rooms and an over-mantel panel in the fourth, and mantelpieces throughout. A smoke chamber with its original cupboard door is in the south entry hall. On the second floor, the three front rooms were designed to open into a single, large ballroom; all of the paneled, hinged partition walls survive, as well as the ceiling hooks that held the walls when swung up. One of the 1832 wall elevations features stenciling executed by Moses Eaton, a local and popular itinerant painter. Historic stenciling also survives on the floor of the southwest bedroom. Many of the pine floors are original to the house, but were turned over and planed in the early 1960s.

Wing (1787/ca. 1793): Exterior

The wing is appended to the north end of the main house (and flush with it on both conjoined elevations). Like the main house, it fronts east onto the road. It is a 5x6 bay structure on a granite block and rubble foundation. The gable roof is clad with asphalt shingles. Two brick chimneys rise from the roof: one is just below the ridge on the east (front) slope toward the south end and one lower on the east slope, at the north end. (Nineteenth century photographs indicate the existing placement of the chimneys has not changed, despite their odd imbalance. It also appears likely the chimneys are in locations original to 1787 house, although their positions relative to the ridge would have shifted when the ca. 1793 addition was constructed.) Walls are clad with clapboards and trimmed with flat casings and trim boards (all dating from the early 1960s project). Windows have replacement twelve-over-eight sash and are flanked with blinds on the east (front) facade. The east elevation features two entrances, which alternate with windows along the elevation. The northern entrance is original to the wing and dates from 1787. The southern entrance replaced a window in the early twentieth century. Both entrances have doors dating from the 1960s project. Due to the sloping site, the lower level of the

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Continuation Sheet**

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Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire

wing is fully exposed on the west (rear) elevation. The cellar story has three windows and an original entrance with a late nineteenth century door. The upper story retains its original fenestration at the north end; the southernmost two window openings were replaced with a bow window in 1975.

Wing (1787/ca. 1793): Interior

The interior of the wing, whose floor plan had been altered ca. 1940 when it was converted into two units, was entirely rebuilt during the 1960s project.

2. Barn (1979). Non-contributing resource.

South of the house and close to the road stands a red-oak, timber-frame barn built by David Howard of Alstead. The side-gabled structure faces the road. Walls are sheathed with vertical boards and the roof with wood shingles. Along the east (front) elevation there is a wide, exterior sliding door made of vertical boards and mounted on strap hinges; a smaller pass door is inserted into it. A transom with two rows of lights is above the main door. Due to the sloping site, the west elevation is fully exposed at the basement level, where there are three vehicular openings with overhead doors. Above the middle opening there is a hay door surmounted by a transom. Each gable end has window openings with twelve-over-twelve sash on all levels.

The barn stands on the site of a nineteenth century, gable-front barn, that was also close to the road. Beyond the barn were several sheds, also fronting on the road. The barn was removed during the early 1960s renovation (at which time the sheds were already gone) and replaced with a one-story, flat-roof garage. The existing barn replaced the garage.

3. Screen House (mid-19th c./ca. 1993). Non-contributing resource.

The screen house is located behind the house. It is a small structure on concrete block pilings. The north and south gable ends are clapboarded, while the east and west elevations have large screen panels that join to form gabled heads. An early four-panel door with historic full-length blinds in the south gable end provides access. Windows in the two gable ends have early fixed, multi-pane sash.

The screen house was moved to this site by the Thulander family ca. 1993 from Route 47 in Francestown. It is believed to have been constructed for a school house, but moved to the Route 47 location after it ceased in that use.

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 significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

LAW

Period of Significance

1789-1851

Significant Dates

1789

1813-1819

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Woodbury, Levi

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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: _____

10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property** 5 acres**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>19</u>	<u>270620</u>	<u>4763020</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Elizabeth Durfee Hengen with Sarah Rose Dangelasorganization Preservation Consultant date October 28, 2006street & number 25 Ridge Road telephone (603) 225-7977city or town Concord state NH zip code 03301**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name O. Alan Thulanderstreet & number 1 Main Street telephone 603-547-2929city or town Francestown state NH zip code 03043**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

**Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Levi Woodbury Homestead is historically significant as the only surviving property associated with New Hampshire statesman Levi Woodbury (1789-1851). Both of Woodbury's other two residences—in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Washington, D.C.—have been razed. The Portsmouth residence, where Woodbury lived from 1819-1851, was demolished in 1961 to make way for a housing project. The Washington house stood on the west side of Lafayette Square. Purchased as a secondary residence when Woodbury was appointed Secretary of the Navy in 1831, it was razed when the area was largely redeveloped in the twentieth century. While historical references have been made to a law office of Woodbury's in the First National Bank building in Portsmouth, they cannot be substantiated. Even if Woodbury had maintained an office there, all that remains of that building are some remnants of the original brickwork in the rear walls; the building was eventually divided into two properties and rebuilt in 1885 and again between 1902 and 1904.¹

Levi Woodbury was born in and lived his formative years in the Levi Woodbury Homestead in Francestown. After graduating from college and studying law, he returned there in 1813 to begin his practice. Levi Woodbury was an exceptional public figure both in New Hampshire and nationally, with a service record unparalleled by any other from his state. On the state level, he served as clerk of the State Senate, judge of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, Governor, State Representative and Speaker of the House. Nationally, he was a two-term Senator, Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of the Treasury for two presidents, and a justice of the United States Supreme Court. Politically, he was a Jacksonian Democrat, called the "Rock of New England Democracy."²

Woodbury had a lifelong association with the family homestead in Francestown. His parents both lived there until his father's death in 1834, when his brother, Jesse, inherited it. Tradition states that Levi was born in the oldest portion of the house in 1789. His primary schooling was at Francestown Academy. His parents emphasized education for all of their eleven children and saw all but one son through college. His father's service to his community is reflected in Levi's career. His parents' examples almost certainly influenced his own character, his interest in civil service, and his career. Future United States President, Franklin Pierce, who boarded with Levi's parents while attending the local academy, recalled that Levi's father, Peter, was "a stern, but

¹ Portsmouth City Directories from 1821, 1827, 1834, 1839, and 1851 make no mention of a law office for Woodbury (though other lawyers of the time are listed with both their office and home addresses). In one of those directories (1827), Woodbury is listed in the business section as an attorney, but no office location is mentioned, although sixteen of the seventeen other attorneys listed have an office address following their name in the directory.

² Allison, 1968: 11; Cole, 1970: 242; Pillsbury, 1927: 386.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

**Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire**

most just and noble father, admired...by his neighbors for his sound sense, his frankness, and generosity.”³ Levi’s mother, Mary, was respected for her judgment and “broad grasp of mind.”⁴ Levi himself credited his early successes to the sound and loving start in life his parents gave him. “My lot in this life has thus far been a very fortunate one, and I am chiefly indebted for it to the exertions of you and my mother in my early and liberal education. Would to God I could repay you for it. All my services in my power are ever at your command; and whenever I can be useful to any of the family, you may be assured, that the inclination will never be wanting.”⁵

Levi left home for Dartmouth College in 1805 and returned in 1812 after studying law. The Homestead then became both his home and his office until 1819. That year, he moved to Portsmouth and made his home there. However, Woodbury’s connection to his boyhood home lasted throughout his life. Maintaining strong ties with and bases in both commercial Portsmouth on the coast and agrarian Francestown in the interior was no doubt a wise political move for a statesman and public servant of Woodbury’s stature. He kept correspondence with his relatives and is said to have visited regularly. Even after moving to Portsmouth, he purchased lands, including a tanyard, in Francestown and surrounding towns and loaned money to local citizens, relying on his father for assistance in these affairs. Upon his death, he bequeathed the village of Francestown \$1000, “the interest of the same to be expended annually in purchasing books to be awarded to the best scholars in the district schools of the town.” The town uses the Levi Woodbury Fund to award books to local students to this day.⁶

The period of significance for the Levi Woodbury Homestead is 1789-1851. The dates reflect the lifetime of Levi Woodbury. The significant dates are 1789, the year Levi was born in the house; and 1813-1819 when he operated his law practice out of the home.

LEVI WOODBURY (1789-1851): LEADING NEW HAMPSHIRE STATESMAN

At the time of his premature death in 1851, Levi Woodbury was the likely Democratic nominee for the office of United States President in the following year’s election. One of New Hampshire’s most illustrious public figures, Woodbury had, by that time, worked his way through the ranks of local, state and national politics. His beginnings in Francestown, New Hampshire, prepared him well for this rise.⁷

³ Quoted in Woodbury, 1880: 296.

⁴ Woodbury, 1904: 164.

⁵ Levi Woodbury papers, Box II, No. 10.

⁶ Various deeds and letters, Levi Woodbury papers, Box II; Capowski, 1966: 94; Cole: 10, 48-51; Cochrane and Wood, 1895: 197.

⁷ Allison: 2-18; Rantoul, 1852.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 3

**Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire**

Levi was born to Peter and Mary Woodbury on December 22, 1789, in Francestown. By all accounts, his childhood was idyllic and intellectual. His parents received general praise from family members, neighbors and statesmen alike for their intellect and virtue. His father Peter was a merchant and farmer, as well as a magistrate and justice of the peace for the county, and a representative in the state legislature. Levi attended Francestown Academy and then entered Dartmouth College in 1805, graduating in 1809 with highest honors. Later that year, he went on to study with Judge Gould at Tapping Reeve's Law School, in Litchfield, Connecticut, placing him among the early graduates of one of the first law schools in the country. He then studied under Hon. Samuel Dana at Boston and Hon. Jeremiah Smith at Exeter, New Hampshire. He was admitted to the New Hampshire Bar in 1812 and soon began his illustrious career.⁸

Levi set up his law practice in a room at the Levi Woodbury Homestead in Francestown in September of 1813.⁹ He soon "commanded an extensive and constantly increasing business as an advocate as well as an attorney."¹⁰ He won clients' trust and their encouragement to enter into public service. Though only in his twenties, he served his town as moderator, justice of the peace, clerk, school board member, and selectman between 1813 and 1819. He also went on to serve his alma mater when he was appointed a trustee of Dartmouth College in 1819, when their charter was reorganized.¹¹

At age twenty-seven, in 1816, Woodbury was appointed secretary of the New Hampshire Senate. Before the year was out, however, he was appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, the highest in the state.¹² At that time, he was the youngest man to take a seat in that court, a fact that earned him the derisive nickname of "baby judge." However, Woodbury proved himself in this office, serving until 1823 with acclaim. Nathaniel Hawthorne, in his biography of President Franklin Pierce had only praise for Levi: "Few young men have met with such early success in life, or have deserved it so eminently, as did Judge Woodbury."¹³ During his time on the state's highest court, Woodbury worked with Chief Justice William M.

⁸ Woodbury, 1881; Cochrane and Wood: 993.

⁹ Cochrane and Wood: 993. No documentary evidence has been found to determine which room Woodbury used for his law office. At that time, the house had undergone three of its four major construction phases. The most plausible space would have been the northeast room on the first floor, which was part of the original (1787) house: it had a separate exterior entrance that faced the road, a source of heat, and was apart from the remainder of the house.

¹⁰ Rantoul: 6.

¹¹ Woodbury, 1880: 297.

¹² Until 1876, the highest court in the state was called the Superior Court. In 1876, the name changed to the Supreme Court, and in 1901, that court was divided into the Supreme and Superior courts.

¹³ Bell, 1894: 81-84; Cochrane and Wood; Hawthorne, 1852: 20; Rantoul: 6-7.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 4

**Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire**

Richardson to prepare and edit some of the first volumes of the New Hampshire Reports (the court's decisions/opinions), which the state courts continue to use.¹⁴

In 1819, Levi married Elizabeth W. Clapp, daughter of Asa Clapp, a prosperous Portland, Maine merchant, and moved to Portsmouth. As a wedding gift, Clapp gave the couple a three-story Federal mansion on Creek Street, where Levi kept his permanent residence the rest of his life.¹⁵ Portsmouth afforded Woodbury "direct contact with the merchant aristocracy of New England and gave him a new political base in the largest Republican city in New Hampshire."¹⁶ Levi and Elizabeth had five children: Charles Levi, Mary Elizabeth, Frances Anstriss, Virginia Lafayette, and Ellen Carolina de Quincy.

In 1823, Woodbury stepped down from the state Supreme Court, when he was elected the tenth governor of New Hampshire. He served one term in this office before returning to his law practice in Portsmouth.¹⁷ He did not, however, leave politics behind. In 1825, he was elected to represent Portsmouth in the state legislature, and despite his lack of experience in that role, became Speaker of the House. Later that year, Woodbury left his position within the state to instead serve New Hampshire as United States Senator.

On March 3, 1831, Senator Woodbury left Congress and on May 23rd became Secretary of the Navy under President Andrew Jackson. As Secretary of the Navy from 1831 to 1834, Woodbury accomplished several things of note: requisitioned an important survey of the country's live oak supply; punished the Malay pirates who plundered a United States ship; revised the Navy's rules of conduct and procedure; curbed the power of subordinate officers to inflict punishment on sailors; extended American commercial interests by arranging for treaties with Siam and Muscat; and passed an order allowing seamen to receive money in lieu of their spirits ration. The final achievement reflects Woodbury's views on temperance. Woodbury also personally visited and inspected each of the country's Navy yards.¹⁸

¹⁴ Woodbury, 1880: 298. Levi Woodbury had to disqualify himself from the most contentious case of the era, the Dartmouth College controversy, as he was a trustee of the college at the time.

¹⁵ The house had been built in 1809 for Captain Samuel Ham on Creek Road (present-day Woodbury Avenue, near Boyd Road). Woodbury and his descendents owned the house until 1899.

¹⁶ Capowski: 94. The couple's three oldest daughters married well: Judge Montgomery Blair, Archibald Lowry, Esq., and Captain Gustavus Vasa Fox respectively. Neither Charles nor Ellen ever married.

¹⁷ In Portsmouth, Judge Woodbury took on Franklin Pierce as a student (ca. 1828). Their fathers had been friends, and the two older men had an influence on each other's son. Franklin lived at the Woodbury Homestead while he studied at Francestown Academy in 1820 and Levi's career was aided early on by General Benjamin Pierce, who recommended him to fill the New Hampshire Supreme Court vacancy [Hawthorne: 20].

¹⁸ Johnson and Malone, 1937: 488; Woodbury, 1880: 303-304; Woodbury, 1894: 5.

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**Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire**

In 1834, President Jackson nominated Woodbury as his Secretary of the Treasury after his nomination of Roger Taney was denied. Woodbury's appointment to the post was confirmed without objection and he served until 1841.¹⁹ While Secretary of the Treasury, Woodbury completed the difficult task of transferring government deposits from the Bank of the United States to state banks. The charter renewal of the bank was a key election issue during Andrew Jackson's campaign for president in 1828, and again during his run for a second term, in 1832 against Henry Clay. Opponents of the renewal, including Jackson, felt the bank was too powerful and exclusive, favoring the more wealthy commercial classes of the East. Jackson appointed Roger Taney first as Attorney General, then as Secretary of Treasury in 1833, to assist in the struggle against renewal. Upon Jackson's reelection, Taney began to move government money from the Bank of the United States into state banks, without waiting for the charter to expire. Clay then successfully organized the Senate to oust Taney, and Jackson appointed Woodbury to the Treasury position in 1834. Woodbury was reappointed to this position by Jackson's successor, President Martin Van Buren. During Woodbury's tenure, the national debt was fully paid off – a claim no other Secretary could claim before or since.²⁰

In 1841, Woodbury was again elected United States Senator from New Hampshire. Senator Woodbury actively continued his work defending the independent treasury system that he had launched as Secretary of the Treasury. During this term, Woodbury also resumed the practice of law, using his vacations from Congress to travel the circuits, "as was the habit of the leading lawyers of New Hampshire."²¹ This return to the legal profession helped prepare him for his appointment, in 1845, by President James K. Polk as associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. Woodbury held this position from January 1846 until his death in December 1851. His placement on the bench was notable for several reasons: he was the first Supreme Court Justice to hold a law degree; he was the first justice appointed from New Hampshire; and he is one of only two New Hampshire residents to ever hold this position.²² His decisions contributed "to constitutional law, to questions of admiralty jurisdiction, conflicts of state and federal jurisdiction, and the limits of executive power."²³ He repeatedly came down on the side of states' rights—in issues from alcohol sales to slavery, and supported eminent domain when it

¹⁹ In 1838, Woodbury turned down an offer to serve as Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, in order to continue his work in the cabinet [Pillsbury: 386; Woodbury, 1894: 6].

²⁰ Cole: 102-135; Woodbury, 1880: 306; Woodbury, 1894: 5.

²¹ Woodbury, 1894: 7.

²² David H. Souter (born in Massachusetts) was appointed from New Hampshire in 1990. Three other justices were born in New Hampshire, but appointed from another state: Nathan Clifford (1858-1881); Salmon P. Chase (1864-1873), and Harlan F. Stone (1925-1946) [Cornell, 2006 and Supreme Court, 2006].

²³ Woodbury, 1894: 7.

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**Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire**

contributed to a public, but not private, venture. His interests as justice, as when he was a politician, generally worked to provide for public welfare, rather than private enterprise.²⁴

An unsuccessful bid to become the presidential candidate in 1848 kept him on the bench. However, the New Hampshire Democratic Convention in 1851 formally endorsed Levi Woodbury as their choice for presidential candidate for the 1852 election. It was assumed he would also be the national nominee. However, by that time, his health was failing and probably had been for some time. He died at home, in Portsmouth on September 4, 1851, from what would today likely be named a cancer. In the end, a new generation took the reigns when Woodbury's junior law associate, family friend, and fellow New Hampshire native, Franklin Pierce, went on to become President—the only New Hampshire native to ever serve.²⁵

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The village of Francestown, where the Levi Woodbury Homestead is located, has served as the town center since the town was incorporated in 1772. By the close of the eighteenth century, the town was a self-sufficient, quiet and sprawling community of slightly over 1,000 residents and a variety of farms, mills, shops, and workshops of skilled tradesmen. Development escalated in the early years of the nineteenth century, thanks primarily to the Second New Hampshire Turnpike—the route between Claremont and Amherst—which came through the town center in 1800.

The new road brought materials, communication, travelers and overall sophistication to Francestown, while carrying goods and produce out. The town's population rose steadily over the next three decades, peaking at 1,541. New shops and larger residences sprang up in the village and an abundance of taverns along the turnpike route. Francestown first quarried its local soapstone for commercial purposes in 1802; its particularly fine quality made it a major industry for the town through the nineteenth century.²⁶ After eighteen years of holding classes, the Francestown Academy was formally chartered in 1819. During the 1820s, not only did New Hampshire's governor hail from Francestown, but two of the state's United States senators, as well as one of its six congressmen. Francestown's growth stunted after 1830, and declined steadily.

The evolution of the Levi Woodbury Homestead mirrored the village's growth and prosperity. When Peter Woodbury (1767-1834) arrived in the nascent Francestown in the mid-1780s, he

²⁴ Cole: 238-240; Pillsbury: 386; Woodbury, 1894.

²⁵ Allison: 17-18; Cole: 240-245; Pillsbury: 386.

²⁶ The sink and bake oven lintel in the basement summer kitchen of the Levi Woodbury Homestead are examples of local soapstone.

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Levi Woodbury Homestead
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opened a shop in a room of a local tavern, but he soon “built a small store on the spot now occupied by the north end of the Woodbury house” just northwest of the town common and across the road from the meetinghouse. The new building was rudimentary and likely contained but two rooms downstairs, one of which functioned as a shop.²⁷ Within a few years, now with four children, Peter and his wife, Mary (1770-1839), doubled the house by enlarging it to the west and raising the roof. At about the same time, Peter received a liquor license, which he sold out of the store. Circa 1803, shortly after the turnpike passed in front of the house and now with seven children, Peter erected a 2 ½ story, more formal addition to the west, oriented perpendicularly to the turnpike. In 1809, likely taking advantage of his position on the turnpike, he received a tavern license, though his business never extended to overnight guests. His last child was born two years later.

Between 1787 and 1835, Peter added over 3600 acres to his property. He had several farms in the area, raised horses and cows, made cider from the apples in his own orchards, maintained a sizeable herd of 300 merino sheep and owned a fulling mill. In addition to success as a merchant, landowner and farmer, Peter’s influence grew, and he became one of the town’s most prominent citizens. He served his town and his county in local and state politics, including as state senator from 1832 to 1834. Locally, among other posts, he was a magistrate for three decades, held the keys to the pound, and served as postmaster (1803-1805). He was an incorporator and first president of the board of trustees of the Francestown Academy, helped establish the Francestown Engine Company, and supported the building of the new meetinghouse in 1800.²⁸

In 1834, Peter Woodbury died, leaving the homestead to his son, Jesse (1807-1888), who had been groomed to take over the farm. At Jesse’s death, the property passed to his son, James Trask Woodbury and, after his death in 1931, to James’ daughter, Mary Ella Woodbury Miller.²⁹

²⁷ Woodbury: 111; Cochrane and Wood: 460. It is thought that the land on which Peter erected his house is that purchased from Peter Pearse and recorded in the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds on June 11, 1791 (Book 29/314). Cochrane and Wood record that the “third house [in the village] was built by Peter Woodbury in 1787..... An old person who remembered it said (in 1850) that it was a ‘shanty one-fourth as large as the present low part.’ It had but one room; yet in it he opened a store and also lived until he could build larger, which by his energy and prosperity he enabled soon to do” (p. 412). The 1858 Hillsborough County map, prepared when Levi’s brother owned the property, identifies it as the birthplace of Levi Woodbury.

²⁸ Woodbury, 1904: 108-115; Cochrane and Wood: 460; Schott: 48, 54-55; Thulander, 1990: 95-96. Schott surmises that he “probably used his store and residence on the Common” as the post office (p. 160).

²⁹ Book 188/75 (4/8/1836); Will 1889 Jesse to James T.; Book 905/382 (6/19/1931).

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**Levi Woodbury Homestead
Francestown, New Hampshire**

In 1960 the homestead passed out of the family, when Curtis and Barbara Prest bought it.³⁰ At the time of the Prests' purchase, the house and outbuildings had been long neglected. The last occupants used little more than two rooms in the north wing; rooms in the rest of the house were barely passable due to high piles of unwanted possessions and trash. In this pre-preservation era, local banks and residents alike assumed its only future was demolition. Instead, over the next four years, the Prests spent \$160,000 to repair and restore the house. Local craftsman cut special knives in order to replicate damaged moldings and trim; made new feathered clapboards; flipped over many of the floor boards for continued use; installed new, custom-made 12/12 windows with salvaged old glass throughout, matching a sole surviving sash in the 1832 section; jacked up the southernmost chimney in order to save it and the associated hearths; rehung each of the surviving fifty-four doors; rehung the two ballroom wall partitions; replastered all the walls and ceilings (to replace original lath and plaster); and nearly entirely rebuilt the north wing, retaining the structural frame and fenestration. Among the salvaged items that found their way into the homestead were blackboards from the Francestown Academy (pine boards painted black on one side and reused for cupboard doors and kitchen paneling) and a fireplace crane (now in the cellar fireplace), assorted door hardware and iron shutter dogs from Levi Woodbury's Portsmouth residence, which was undergoing demolition at the same time his Francestown homestead was being saved. The 90-foot barn south of the house, deteriorated from years of town road agents storing salt in the cellar, was razed and replaced with a one-story garage. (The garage was later replaced by the existing barn.) The work was recorded photographically and in a memoir.³¹

In 1968, Barbara Prest (by then divorced and known as Barbara Cowart) sold the house and five acres to current owner O. Alan Thulander.³² Under the Thulanders' ownership, a bow window was installed on the rear elevation of the north wing, the aforementioned barn erected, and a former Francestown schoolhouse moved onto the site and converted into a screen house.

³⁰ Book 1603/167 (4/28/1960) Mary Woodbury Miller to Curtis A. Prest.

³¹ The task of jacking up the chimney, which had four fireplaces and the smoke chamber, took over a week; a novel approach for the contractor, it eliminated the need to entirely rebuild it. [Cowart and Roehrig, 1996]

³² Book 1987/326 (7/18/1968).

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Levi Woodbury Homestead
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View of Levi Woodbury Homestead, ca. 1880s
Courtesy of Alan Thulander



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Levi Woodbury Homestead
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GEOGRAPHIC DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for the Levi Woodbury Homestead includes a portion of Lot 4 on Map 13 on the Town of Francestown Assessors' maps dated 2000. It coincides with the north lot line of Lot 4, then follows its west lot line for approximately 200', continuing in a straight line to the northwest corner of Lot 3. It then turns to run east along the north lot line of Lot 3 and continuing east to Main Street.

These boundaries are indicated on the attached property sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the Levi Woodbury Homestead includes the five acres (the original acreage of Lot 4) that accompanied the house when purchased in 1968. (Since then, that lot has been expanded with purchases of contiguous land were merged with Lot 4.) The five-acre nominated property includes all of the extant resources associated with Levi Woodbury.

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Francestown, New Hampshire

PROPERTY SKETCH MAP & PHOTOGRAPH KEY

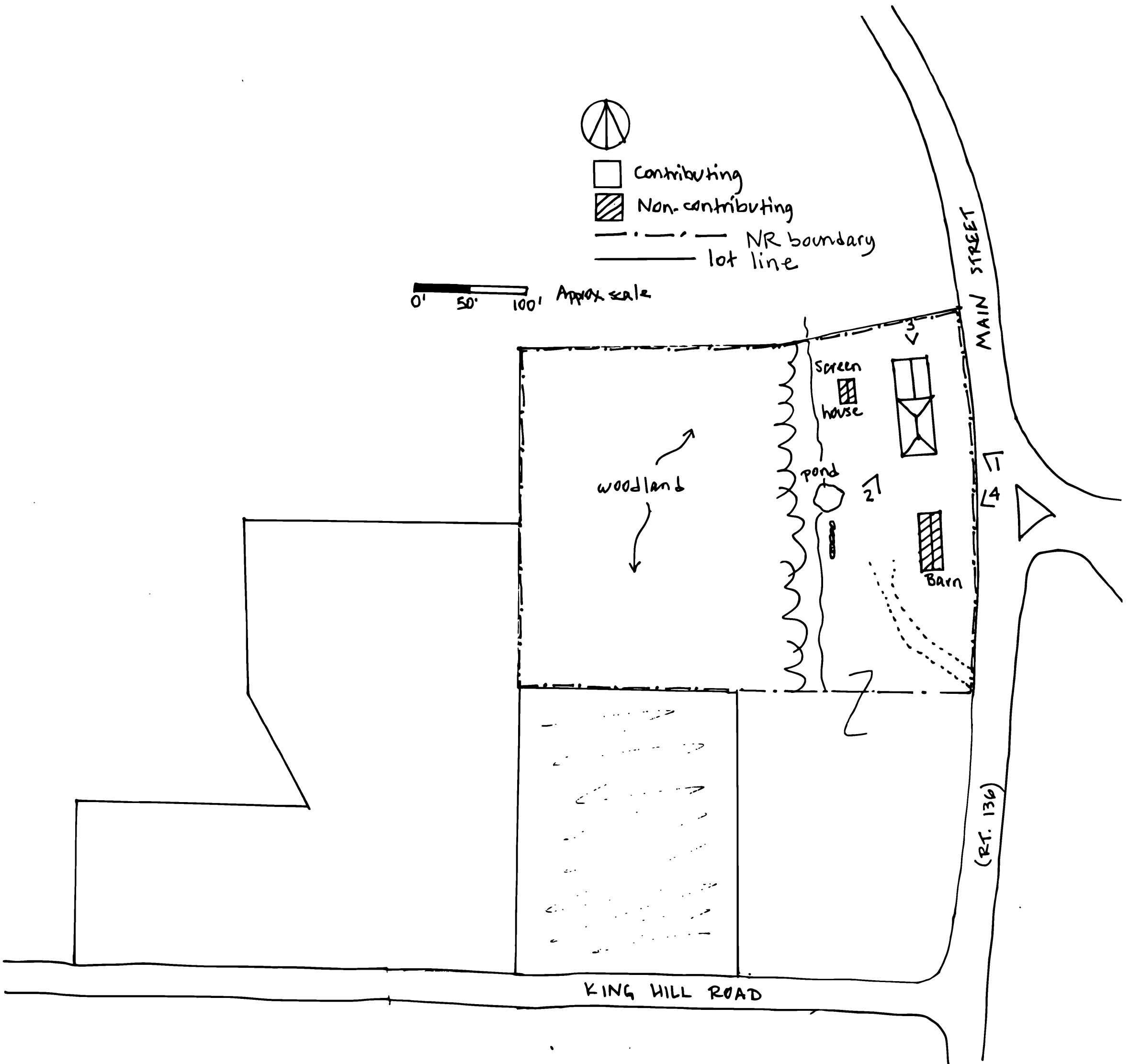


□ Contributing

▨ Non-contributing

- · - · - · - NR boundary
— lot line

0' 50' 100' Approx scale



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The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of property: Levi Woodbury Homestead
Town/state: Francestown, New Hampshire
Photographer: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen
Date of Photographs: October 2006
Location of negative: 25 Ridge Road, Concord, NH 03301

Photo #1

View: Looking northwest at the east (front) elevations of the main house (left) and wing (right). The later portion (ca. 1832) of the house are the three left bays (including the entrance bay) of the main house.

Photo #2

View: Looking northeast at the west (rear) elevation of the main house and wing. The screen house (former schoolhouse) appears in the left background.

Photo #3

View: Looking south at the north elevation of the north wing. The four bays at the right were likely part of the ca. 1893 enlargement of the original (1787) 1 ½ story house.

Photo #4

View: Looking southwest at the barn (erected 1979).