

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

received JAN 29 1981

date entered 24 1981

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Lamson Farm

and/or common The Lamson Farm

2. Location

N of Mont Vernon on

street & number Lamson Road Ed. ___ not for publication

city, town Mont Vernon vic. ___ vicinity of congressional district 2

state New Hampshire code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| * <input type="checkbox"/> complex | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> complete | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: town conserva- tion property |

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Mont Vernon

street & number Lamson Farm Commission/Town Office

city, town Mont Vernon ___ vicinity of state New Hampshire 03057

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds

street & number P.O. Box 370 19 Temple Street

city, town Nashua ___ vicinity of state New Hampshire 03060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NONE has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date ---- ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records ----

city, town ---- ___ vicinity of state ----

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>c. 1770 and later</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

I. Community Context: Mont Vernon, N.H.

The town of Mont Vernon is a small, rural hilltop community in the rapidly developing south central portion of New Hampshire. Mont Vernon was originally part of the neighboring town of Amherst, which lies to the west, until 1803, when it was declared an independent township. The community was first settled in the mid-18th century. William Lamson, patriarch of the farm which has borne the family name for five generations, moved to Mont Vernon from Ipswich, Mass. about 1770. The first William Lamson came from the County Essex in England and settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in May, 1637. The Lamson Farm is about 1.5 miles north of the village center.

II. Natural/Cultural Landscape Features

The Lamson Farm is a complex of vernacular farm buildings situated in the south-central portion of a 310 acre parcel of land which is roughly rectangular in shape and oriented on a north-south axis abutting the New Boston town line. The property is principally composed of open fields in the center, with second and third growth and transitional woodlands circumscribing the boundary perimeter.

The topography is rolling in the areas which remain open, and the slope of the landscape generally inclines from south to north. Elevations range from 740' (in the ravine east of the farm complex) to approximately 950' feet above sea level. The dominant landform is McCollom Hill (elev. 922') north of the farm complex, which is principally wooded, with some oldfields, including an apple orchard and blueberry plantation, which are both in transition. East of the house and barns is an unnamed wetland, approximately 15 acres in size, which contains standing deadwood and drains into Beaver Brook to the southeast.

Soils are stony to sandy loam, moderately well drained to poorly drained and are classified by soil type under the U.S. S.C.S criteria (see Appendix 1). Drainage is generally from north to south and southeast.

Vegetative cover on the Lamson Farm property is mixed hardwood species of the maple-beech-ash and oak association, especially in the transitional and some upland areas, while a pine-hemlock forest is nearing maturity in the extreme northern portion of the property.

The apple orchard, located in the central western portion of the farm, is approximately 400' x 500' in size and contains approximately 100 standing trees (Fancy Baldwins) planted in a grid plan, but now unmaintained and rapidly becoming overgrown.

The blueberry plantation found at the extreme west central part of the property on the boundary line is approximately 100' x 200' and exists partly on abutter's land. The plantation is of the low-bush variety, whose definition is also rapidly being lost by competitive successive hard and softwood growth.

A former maple sugar orchard, portions of which remain, existed east and northeast of McCollom Hill. It is not known when this orchard was planted or the major trees removed for sawlogs.

The overall ratio of open space to wooded land is approximately 34% or 106 acres, based on analysis of the U.S. Geological Survey map and aerial photographs. Of this, there are 13 open fields, 10 of which are leased and cropped for hay, the balance being used for pasture. Density of residential development in the immediate area (1/2 mile radius) is approximately one dwelling per 50 acres.

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II. Natural/Cultural Landscape Features, contd.

The landscape of the Lamson Farm, when viewed from a central location (i.e., the house/barn complex) consists of an expansive, 360 degree vista extending at the extreme distance 2200' to the northeast, 1000' to the west, and 1600' to the south. Each of these vistas includes open, productive, rolling agricultural land which is articulated in a well-defined pattern by an irregular grid of stone fences and drainage swales, abruptly terminated by the interface with the treeline at the edge of the wood. Overall, it is estimated that the property contains several miles of stone fences, dating successively from the first settlement, c. 1770, to the early 20th century and the decline of outfield expansion.

Landscape pattern and quality is additionally defined by public ways, principally by Lamson Road, which divides the property linearly from the north to the south boundaries. The road is nearly straight and relatively narrow, lined in portions with sugar maple trees and is gravel surfaced. The maintained portion of Lamson Road is terminated at its intersection with Cross Road, a corridor of similar character which runs due west. The unimproved segment of Lamson Road continues northward with a road surface of diminishing quality, to the property (and Town) line, thence passing into the town of New Boston, where it eventually intersects McCollom Road. Both roads afford near and mid-range vistas of the property's fields and woods and, because of their scale, surface texture and color, as well as other perceptual differences from main traveled highways, contribute to the ambience of the property and reinforce its distinct rural/agrarian quality.

The features described in this portion of Item 7 are illustrated on the sketch map Lamson Farm: Landscape and Cultural Features.

III. Built Environment Elements

Buildings, structures and objects which comprise the real property assets of the Lamson Farm consist of the following:

East side of Lamson Road

1. Lamson Farmhouse and Appendages
2. Tool/Machine Shed
3. Ice House
4. Garage
5. Main Hen House
6. Small Chicken Coops or Hog Pens
7. Pump House
8. Spring House

West side of Lamson Road

9. Main Cow Barn and Attached Sheds
10. Wooden Stave Silo
11. South Chicken Coop

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III. Built Environment Elements, contd.

Each of these buildings/structures is depicted by corresponding number on the sketch map: Lamson Farm: Built Environment Elements.

Individual descriptions of each of the built resource elements is included below.

1. Lamson Farmhouse and Appendages

The exterior appearance of Lamson Farmhouse is composed of three principle elements which form a "T" shaped plan. The earliest portion is a one and one-half story, gable-roofed Cape Cod Style structure which is oriented on a north-south axis. This building is five bays wide by two bays deep with window openings located hard beneath the eave line, suggesting its 18th century origin. A square brick stove chimney on the ridge in the end position (north) and a gabled dormer on the west pitch near the main block are the sole features which articulate the steeply pitched, asphalt shingled roof. Early lightning rods with milk glass globes are located on the ridge of the main roof and dormer as well as on the main block and several of the outbuildings. A gabled entry vestibule with four-panelled Greek Revival Style door is located on the west elevation below the roof dormer. A rear door (east elevation) is also extant in the second bay position.

The structure is sheathed with wooden clapboards painted white and has plain corner boards and trim on the raking eaves. Window sash are two over one on the first floor and six over six in the gable end on the upper story. Window heads have a narrow, slightly projecting wooden cap. The foundation is concrete block, a replacement for the original granite rubble wall, part of which may still be seen in the cellar.

The main block is joined to this structure perpendicularly, forming the cross in the "T" plan. Built after 1800, this two story gable-roofed structure may be defined as an "I" house in form and with Federal architectural details. Oriented on an east-west axis, the building is five bays in length and only one bay deep, suggesting the original floor plan of a center hall flanked by single-room parlors. This is a vernacular form derived from the foursquare Georgian plan of the 18th century but executed in half-form.

The roof bears a massive, square brick fireplace chimney behind the ridge on the north pitch and in the center position. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles while the chimney is flashed with lead. The eaves of the north-east corner are extended but in the same plane, and cover a portion of a later

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addition. The building is trimmed with plain corner boards rising to a boxed cornice which is carried under the eaves and is the principle Federal Style exterior feature. This element is constructed with a crown molding which is partially returned on the west gable wall. Raking eaves are closely cropped and applied over the clapboards to gain relief and shadow. Window trim is plain and similar to that of the original Cape Cod Style structure (hereafter called the Cape). The building is sheathed with clapboards, painted white, which appear to be graded on the south and east elevations.

The center entrance (south elevation) dates from the Greek Revival period and is composed of full length sidelights enframed with heavy pilasters. The door has five panels including a large, square center light and dates from c. 1910. All of the window sash in the main block are uniformly two over one.

The major exterior feature of the main block which contributes breadth to its massing and expresses the evolutionary aspects of the complex is the Stick Style porch, which circumscribes the south and west elevations. Added in the 1880's, the porch is designed with slotted piers with caps supporting a plain but broad architrave, capped with a molded projecting cornice.

The third element of the Lamson Farmhouse is the East Addition, built after 1850. Originally a one story structure, the roof on the extreme east end was raised in 1931 to form a second story to accomadate the occupancy of Frank (and Leona) Lamson, who had recently married. Three bays by two bays, the structure also served a residential function, similar to an apartment. The irregular gable roof is steeply pitched on the north, with the incline less severe on the south. The ridgeline is parallel to the roof of the main block and there is a single, tall brick stove chimney with corbelling on the ridge in the center position. A cast iron toilet ventilating flue is present near the eave line at the junction of the two buildings. The building has plain board trim and like the abutting structures is exteriorly finished with white clapboards. Trim boards are plain but there is a heavy fascia beneath the eaves on the north side, suggesting the influence of the Greek Revival Style.

On the first floor there are two entrances to the structure, on the southwest corner abutting the main block and in the center bay on the north side. Window fenestration is regular with the exception of the triple or grouped opening on the second floor of the 1931 addition (south elevation). Window sash are mixed including two over one and six over six units. A pair of eyebrow windows are located at differential levels beneath the eaves on the north side.

It is in the interior of the Lamson Farmhouse that the range and level of detail

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bespeak more clearly the continuity and evolutionary character of the complex which contributes to its cultural significance. The original building is presently used as the kitchen and contains a large pantry on the west side. A secondary staircase with panelled door is across from this room. The door has a forged iron latch of the Suffolk pattern and the stair enclosure is comprised of hand planed vertical board sheathing without a bead. The balance of the kitchen is finished with flush board wainscoting with a simple chair rail. Wall cabinetry is of early 20th century design. The door to the porch has 4 panels and bears a Norfolk pattern latch. Door and window trim are plain.

The cellar, as already described, has three walls of contemporary concrete block (c. 1960) but interconnects with the granite walled chamber beneath part of the main block. Floor framing is composed of a mixture of hewn and milled hard and softwoods and has been reinforced at various periods.

The garret above the kitchen is partially finished with an early wallpaper (circa unknown) enframed within boxed exposed rafter pairs which identify the principle rafter and purlin roof framing system. The floor is exposed wide pine boards and is circumscribed with a plain baseboard about the perimeter of the room.

There is a transitional space between the Cape and the main block formed by a through partition dividing the former structure. The area in the south end of the Cape and behind the chimney of the main block appears to have been the principle kitchen when the focus of activity was removed out of the former structure. In this room is found an exposed summer beam with chamfering and stops, flush-board wainscoting with a chair rail, and plastered walls. There are five doors about the room, all with 4 panels. The most significant detail is the shallow kitchen fireplace with side oven and internal flue. The fireplace measures seven feet across while the breast of raised field panelling, contains a single nine foot long feather-edged board enframed within quarter round moldings.

The southwest parlor is treated similarly in the Federal Style idiom but is expressed in a more high-style fashion. Corner posts are cased and door and window trim have Federal molding profiles. The ceiling perimeter bears a crown molding and the door to the front hall has 4 raised field panels. The windows on the south have interior sliding, two-panelled shutters which recess in the wall behind the window casings. (Three additional shutters of this design were found in the barn and are believed to have originally been used in this room.) The base board is plain but the configuration of the east wall appears to have been modified. A simple stove flue hole exists where one would expect to find a fireplace.

The center entry hall contains a panelled stair with a closet below. The newell

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posts and balusters are square and appear to be a 20th century element. A small door part way up the stairs opens into a very large internal smoke chamber within the center of the central chimney stack. Here meats were smoked in a space which is large enough for several persons to stand.

The southeast parlor is significant because it contains Federal and Greek Revival details. The fireplace wall, and hall and closet doors are entirely composed of vertical raised field panels of a superior quality of workmanship. Fireplace and door trim are also Federal Style. Posts are cased and beaded and the crown molding is repeated at the ceiling level. There are HL hinges on the closet door and an early forged latch while the hall door has a Bennington ceramic knob and machined latch.

Greek Revival features are concentrated principally on the east side of the room and include door and window trim, panelled closet doors and beaded wainscoting. Floors are pine evidencing both wrought and cut nails. These features are significant because of their association with the east addition which, while built after 1850, apparently exerted sufficient influence to warrant a partial remodeling of this adjacent room with Greek Revival Style details.

The two upstairs room flanking the central chimney are finished similarly to their downstairs counterparts. The southwest room has the least detail but does contain a recessed fireplace surround with Federal Style trim and mantel. The wide board floor is unpainted, corner posts are cased and walls are finished in plaster. The room is currently used by the Mont Vernon Historical Society and serves as a repository for historical memorabilia.

The southeast bedroom duplicated features found downstairs but also has a recessed fireplace. The outline of a former stairwell may be found on the floorboards near the north wall of the room.

The hall leading to the rear and to the Cape is of significance because of the protrusion of the great mass of the chimney stack, particularly the throat which rises from the kitchen fireplace and oven below. This passage leads to the the garret , previously described and may contain significant remnants of early wall-paper(s).

The attic is unfinished and the principle rafter and purlin roof framing system is clearly visible. Purlin and ridge members are sawn, most likely with a water-driven sash saw, judging from the vertical kerf pattern.

There are three rooms on the second floor of the post-1850 addition and for the

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most part these are finished with Greek Revival Style door and window trim details. It is not clear what the small room with the eyebrow windows (north elevation) was used for but a storage or drying use is probable. The walls are heavily covered with layers of old newspapers, applied ostensibly, for wind-proofing.

Downstairs there are also three rooms. These are clustered about the central stove chimney and finished in the same vernacular architectural vocabulary of the Greek Revival period; simple beaded trim boards and light, panelled doors. A cast iron sink remains in the small kitchen service area which contributes to distinguishing this building as an independent living unit.

Lamson Farmhouse Site Features

The Lamson Farmhouse is buffered on the north and west elevations by multiple outbuildings relating to the centuries of agricultural use of the property. To the east and west the land slopes off sharply beneath the ridge upon which the house is situated. To the south, in front of the house, there are several mature hardwood trees which are significant because they provide scale to the setting and, in the summer months, shade for the dwelling unit.

Behind the Cape (east elevation) there is a deteriorated concrete patio beneath which exists an exterior bulkhead cellar entry. On the east side of the patio there are located two large flat stones with a circular channel cut approximately three-fourths of an inch deep. These contribute to the significance of the dwelling site as they were used for leaching wood ashes in the production of lye, a product used for soap making, dyeing and tanning leather.

Slightly to the east, and somewhat overgrown, are a pair of Black Cherry trees, two pear trees and a quince bush. Two additional cherry trees are located further to the south. Remnants of raspberry and asparagus grow among the outbuildings. The original garden site is not readily identifiable.

The farmhouse is located approximately 60' off Lamson Road.

Intrusions

Principle intrusions include utility poles and overhead wires (although the farm had been electrified earlier in this century); a television antennae on the east gable end of the roof of the main block and electric service meters attached to the north gable wall of the Cape.

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Significant Alterations

Only alterations to the Lamson Farmhouse are considered here because it is the single structure of the 11 present which has a defined architectural style. Changes/alterations to farm buildings are considered in the context of utilitarian adaptation for physical, technological or normal wear/maintenance reasons.

These changes include:

- porch addition, c. 1880
- Cape entry vestibule addition, (19th century)
- oversize southwest parlor window, (late 19th century)
- triple window, east addition, 1931 or later
- Cape dormer, date unknown
- Cape stove chimney, mid-19th century
- front door, c. 1910
- two over one sash, 1890 or later

2. Tool/Machine Shed c. (prior to 1880)

Rectangular in plan, this building is approximately 55' by 32' and is framed with post and beam construction. There are two main bays with sliding doors for storage of vehicles/equipment. The east end of the building was used for a shop. Line shafting remains extant and is attached to the overhead girts in the east section. The building is painted gray and has an asphalt shingle roof.

Fair to Good Condition

3. Ice House c. 1900-1930

Approximately 16' by 14' in size, this building has exterior exposed studs and is sheathed on the inside with pine boards. There are remnants of ventilating louvers in the gable peaks of the moderately pitched roof. The south end of the building is entirely open, likely the result of the conversion of the building for use as an equipment shed after the advent of artificial refrigeration. The roof of the building is asphalt shingled and the structure is unpainted.

Poor Condition

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4. Garage c. 1915-1930

Approximately 26' by 18' in size, this gable-roofed building is platform framed and sheathed with vertical boards (now unpainted). There are two bays with sliding doors facing Lamson Road. There are no significant interior features. A c. 1920 gasoline pump is located slightly southwest of the building. The roof is asphalt shingled.

Poor to Fair Condition

5. Main Hen House c. 1930

Approximately 24' by 22' in size, this gable-roofed two story hen house is platform framed and was undoubtedly built in response to the expanding poultry and broiler market subsequent to World War II. Large windows are located on the south side, manure scuttles on the north. Entrance to the second floor is via an external stair on the east wall. The roof is asphalt shingled. With the exception of the main cow barn and tool/machine shed, this is the third largest out-building.

Fair to Good Condition

6. Small Coops or Hog Sheds c. 1945 (2)

Identical in size, these stud-framed 10' by 12' structures both have shed roofs and are oriented to the south and west respectively. Walls have vertical board sheathing and roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. A single door provides access to each structure.

Good Condition

7. Pump House c. (post 1900)

This 6' by 6' shed-roofed structure is stud framed and sheathed with vertical boards. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building encloses water pump apparatus serving the house/barn complex.

Good Condition

8. Spring House c. (post 1900)

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This gable roof A-frame structure is approximately 12' by 14' in size and has an asphalt shingle roof. The structure is framed with dimension lumber and is sited atop a large circular stone cistern of unknown depth. Water is piped from here to the house/barn complex.

Fair to Good Condition

9. Main Cow Barn and Attached Sheds c. (early 19th century or late 18th century)

Approximately 80' by 30' and rectangular in plan, the main cow barn appears to be two independent structures joined together or an early structure with an addition. The north portion of the gable-roofed structure appears to be the older element and is distinguished by flared two story corner posts with hewn timbers throughout the superstructure. This portion is not partitioned and was evidently used for hay storage. Recent (sympathetic) repairs have been made to the gable end girt and braces and a portion of the west foundation wall has been repaired.

The southern half of the barn, identical in size and roof pitch, contains an aisle and stanchions for a dairy herd. The space above this was used for hay storage also. On the west side of the barn and on a slightly lower level there is a storage space for farm vehicles. At the southwest end there is a small shed with a shed roof which housed draft animals. Next to this on the south side is a free-standing stave silo. A similar silo, in very poor condition, stands near the northwest end of the barn. A small milkroom is appended to the barn on the southeast corner near the road. The entire structure is situated quite close to Lamson Road. The roof is asphalt shingled.

Fair to Good Condition

10. Wooden Stave Silo(s) c. 1900 (2)

Cylindrical in shape, these structures are 10' - 12' in diameter and are located south and west of the main cow barn. Bound with iron hoops and turnbuckles, they stand approximately 30' and are painted gray. The western silo has no roof while that of the southern structure is cone-shaped and intact and covered with asphalt shingles.

Poor to Fair Condition

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11. South Chicken Coop c. unknown

This shed-roofed structure is approximately 12' by 14', is stud framed and has an asphalt shingled roof. Windows front on the south and there is one door on the east.

Poor Condition

Even in their varying physical condition, each of these structures contributes to the evolution and continuity of the property's development from a diversified, self-sufficient farm to that of a more specialized dairy operation. The close grouping of the outbuildings and their proximity to the farmhouse clearly relate the association between the place of work and the center of family life as it existed in 18th, 19th and early 20th century New England.

IV. Historic Archaeological Resources

Remains of ancillary or possibly pre-existing settlement are found on the Lamson Farm primarily in the northern portion of the property. These include:

A. Cellar Hole/Foundation - Henry H. Trow Farm

Located approximately 200 yards east of the unmaintained Lamson Road extension at the end of a stone fence-lined drive, the Trow site is prominently located on a terrace amid open fields now returning to woodland. The ruin is "L" shaped in plan and measures approximately 96' long overall. The main house, apparently a half or two-thirds Cape Cod Style dwelling, measured approximately 34' wide and 28' deep.

The actual granite walled cellar hole is on the east side of the house site and measures approximately 12' in width and 28' deep. A large flat granite door step on the north identifies where the main entrance may have been. A heap of brick rubble behind this suggests the location of the central chimney.

The 62' long east wing was attached to the main block adjacent to the cellar and measures about 20' deep. A stone lined well with a later concrete cap is still extant in the northwest corner of this former structure.

At the extreme east end, the outline of a smaller shed and passageway are defined by the foundation outline and measure 12' by 20' in plan.

The house was occupied by Henry H. Trow from 1866 to 1903 and subsequently by his son, Charles H., until being destroyed by fire in 1907. The property was acquired in 1908 by Frank O. Lamson. (See Appendix 2).

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B. Barn Foundation - Henry H. Trow Farm

Rectangular in plan, this structure was designed as a bank barn and measured approximately 72' long and 41' deep. The ridgeline was oriented east-west paralleling the house plan. A ramp of fieldstone, 26' long and 13' wide provided access from the south to the upper levels in the bay left of center. A bay approximately 44' long was undoubtedly open at grade to permit access to the cellar level for animals and/or vehicles.

The uncoursed granite foundation is approximately 6' in height and is located about 150' north/northwest of the house ruins. All four walls and the ramp are intact and in good condition.

This barn, surviving the burning of the Trow farmhouse in 1907, was sold and moved, and subsequently re-erected in New Boston in 1913. (See Appendix 2).

C. Foundation/Ruin - North District School and Sugar House Site

Located on the northwest corner of Lamson Road and Cross Road, the dry granite foundation of the North District School is rectangular in plan and approximately 18' wide by 20' deep.

This site has evolved through three identifiable periods commencing with construction of the original schoolhouse in the early 19th century. Discontinued in 1886, the building and land were sold to Frank O. Lamson who used the structure for storage until 1920, when he had it torn down. Presently there is a collapsed wooden, platform framed structure on the site which measures 18' by 40'. Local authorities indicate that this building was formerly used for a maple sugar house. The remaining walls are sheathed with vertical boards painted brown and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. (See Appendix 2).

V. Artifacts

This section should not be construed as a complete inventory of historically significant artifacts associated with the Lamson Farm but as a partial listing of observable and easily identifiable objects noted during field inspection.

1) International Harvester Grain Threshing Machine

Having a painted (red) wooden body with pinstriping, this iron wheeled, belt-driven machine dates from c. 1885-1910. It is presently stored in the garage and is in excellent condition. The object is significant because it suggests the nature of diversified farming which characterized the pre-dairy era before the advent of specialization and monoculture.

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2) Miscellaneous Farm Machinery/Equipment

A partial listing includes a manure spreader, bean winnower, carriage parts, horse drawn equipment. Condition varies widely and these items are located about the barn complex both under cover and exposed. These artifacts are significant because of their association with horse-drawn motive power, the principle power source for machinery until the late 1940's.

3) Leaching Stones

Described in Lamson Farmhouse Site Features, Section III, 1.

4) Gasoline Pump

ibid.

5) Workbenches (2)

Rectangular wooden work benches stored in the loft of the Tool/Machine Shed suggesting, along with the unique differential floor level of the loft, that the use of this portion of the complex included repairs as well as home industries.

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APPENDIX I: SOILS DATA

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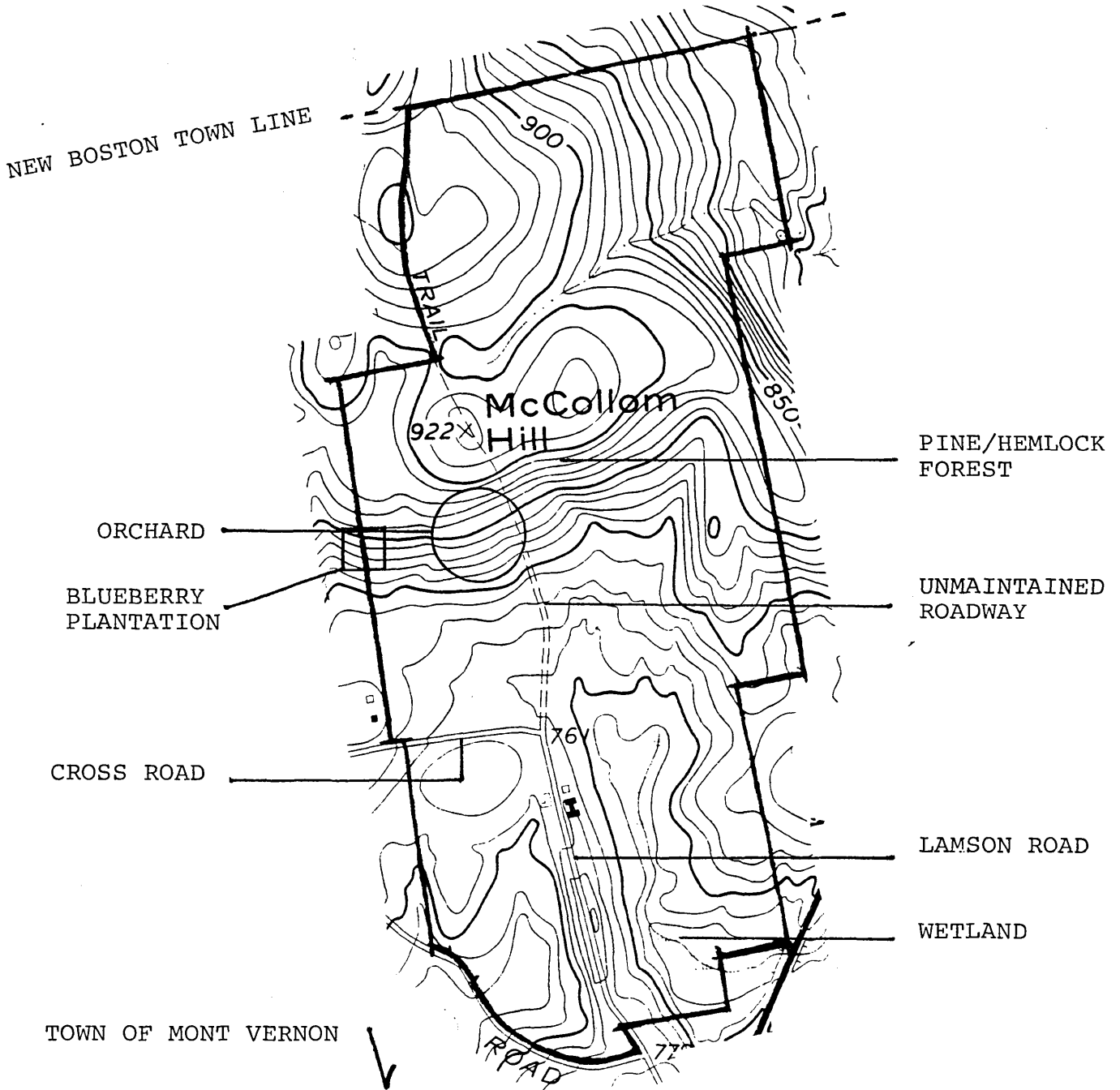
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21

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Item number 7

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| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | SCALE: 1' = 1000' | 1980 | 7.5 MINUTE SERIES |
| NORTH | LAMSON FARM: LANDSCAPE & CULTURAL FEATURES | Prepared by: Christopher W. Closs, mnrp | SOURCE: USGS 1968 New Boston Quadrangle |

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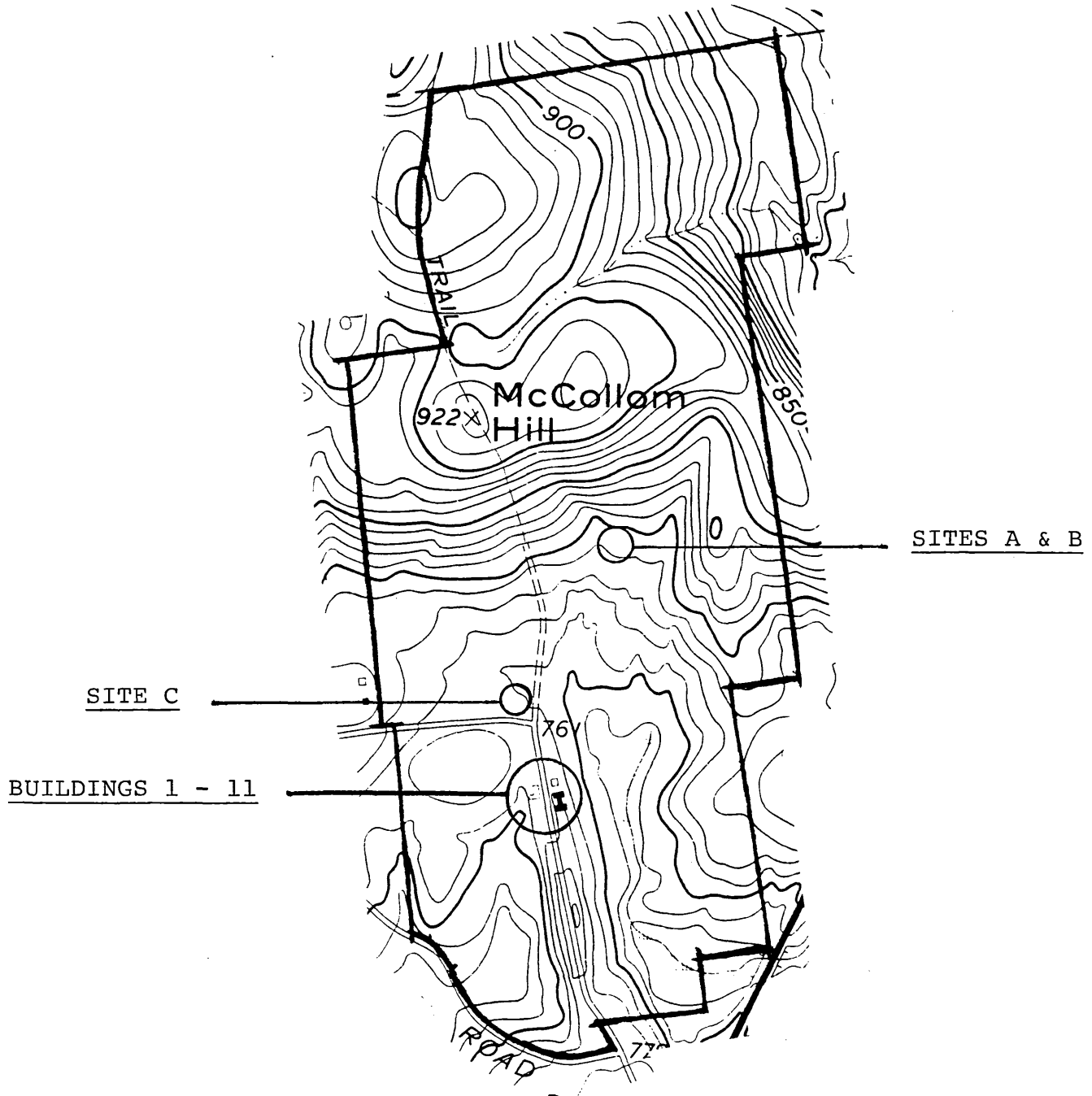
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|--|--|--|--|
|  | SCALE: 1' = 1000' | 1980 | 7.5 MINUTE SERIES |
| NORTH | LAMSON FARM: BUILT ENVIRONMENT FEATURES | Prepared by: Christopher W. Closs, mnrp | SOURCE: USGS 1968 New Boston Quadrangle |

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APPENDIX II: HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) single family ownership |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |
| Specific dates | c. 1770, 1976 | Builder/Architect | | |

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lamson Farm is significant for its association with native agriculture in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries and is representative of the rapidly disappearing self-sufficient, family operated system of farming. A diversified operation in the 19th century, the Lamson Farm after 1880, responding to the increasing trend in New England agriculture toward specialization in milk and dairy products, was by 1957, one of the largest cattle farms in the community.* While still in production on a lease basis, the farm's substantial land resources continue to serve an important role in the town's agricultural economy and maintenance of the rural atmosphere. The land is currently cropped for hay by the sole remaining commercial dairy farmer in the community, which reflects both the present trend toward ever-larger farm units and the need for preservation of this specific property. Additionally, as the surrounding area becomes developed, the future agricultural resource potential of the Lamson Farm will be amplified.

The architectural elements of the Lamson Farm are significant not only for their utilitarian design but because they form a material record of farm planning and successive responses to advancements in agricultural technology (i.e., the ice house; pump house; garage and gasoline pump; draft animal shed). Technologically, all of the farm buildings are related both in time and by their inter-dependent functional relationships. The orientation of these buildings is also important because the group forms a buffer from the most severe climatic conditions associated with the north and northwest exposures.

The architecture of the farmhouse complex is regionally representative of 200 years of stable but evolving rural family life and vernacular cultural taste. Most significant is the architectural form of the complex which reflects clearly the family farm system of management with the consolidation of all farm members in one dwelling. The relationship among the various elements of the farm complex illustrates the full integration between the place of work, the business of farming and the independent rural lifestyle maintained on a 19th century New Hampshire farm.

The ownership of the property by the Lamson family over five generations is significant because of the stabilizing influence this has exerted upon the community and its development. Historically, the Lamson family roots extend to 17th century England and the progenitor, William Lamson, was an early settler in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Lamson Farm was operated by the family continuously for 205 years and was one of the last commercial dairy farms in Mont Vernon.

The historic archaeological remains on the property are significant because they document both an earlier pattern of settlement and the gradual process of enlargement and consolidation made possible by advancements in agricultural technology. The Henry H. Trow farm site is representative of the pattern of smaller hillside settlement which, because of marginal output and cultural change, gradually disappeared beginning in the mid-19th century. The acquisition of the property by the Lamson's suggests that Lamson Farm was an uncharacteristically large operation by 1905. The importance of site artifacts is unknown at this time.

*Source: History of Mont Vernon, New Hampshire (1958), p. 67

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this time.

The site of the North District School is important because it forms part of the pattern of the town's decentralized district school system which operated during the 19th century. Secondly, the site was re-used in the 20th century as part of the farming operation for producing maple sugar.

The artifacts (machinery, tools and equipment) which remain extant within and about the farm building complex are important because they document the farming technology employed up to c. 1945.

Finally, the open lands of Lamson Farm are of extraordinary importance because they exist as a unique, partially preserved 19th century agricultural landscape. The visual diversity over the varied topography on the property, which remains publically accessible through field management, is rare in such a rapidly developing area. At present, no modern development is visible from the farmhouse complex which underscores the nearly pristine integrity of the property.

The farm landscape is unusual and also historically significant compared with many New England farms for the following reasons: 1) its large scale and uninterrupted long-distance vistas, 2) because the open space ratio is relatively high, compared with the region as a whole. Historically, the New England forest was reduced to approximately 20% by 1880. Today nearly 80% of the region is covered with successional growth, which has for the most part, eliminated contemporary human perception of the landscape created and maintained by 19th century inhabitants. Ironically, the rolling character of the Lamson Farm landscape has also become obsolete - with respect to modern farming practices. The landscape represents a surviving example of the type of cleared terrain to which draft animal-powered technology and equipment was applied during the peak of this phase of agricultural development.

In conclusion, the significance of Lamson Farm to the community, region, state and nation is complex inasmuch the property provides an important and irreplaceable physical and visual record of the pattern of rural settlement in New Hampshire during the period 1770-1975.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Smith, Mary E., (compiled by), Mont Vernon Houses, (unpublished manuscript),
 Mont Vernon, New Hampshire 1957 (pp.133-136)

(see Continuation Sheet)

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

AGREEMENT NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 318.07

Quadrangle name New Boston

Quadrangle scale 7.5 Minute Series

UTM References (see continuation sheet Item #10 page #2)

A

| | | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

C

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

D

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| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

G

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|------|---------|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Town of Mont Vernon Tax Records
 Map #7, Lots-#4, 7 and 74

(see continuation sheet Item #10 page #1)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| | | | | | |
|-------|------|------|--------|------|------|
| state | NONE | code | county | NONE | code |
| state | NONE | code | county | NONE | code |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles E. Buckley, Vice Chairman and Christopher W. Closs, Community and Preservation Planning Consultant
 organization Lamson Farm Commission 4 Bicentennial Square, Concord, N.H. 03301
 street & number c/o Town Office date December 5, 1980 (tel. 603) 224-6714)
 telephone (603) 673-6080
 city or town Mont Vernon state New Hampshire 03057

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local


As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, Department of Resources & Economic Development
 title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date December 9, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register



date 2/24/81

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Smith, Mary E., History of Mont Vernon, New Hampshire, Town of Mont Vernon, N.H., 1958 (pp. frontispiece map (date unknown), 67, 123, 179, 180)

Smith, Hon. Charles J., History of the Town of Mont Vernon, Blanchard Printing Co., 27 Beach Street, Boston, Massachusetts 1907 (pp. 101-103, 106, 107, 160)

Lamson, William J., Wright, Tobias A., Descendants of William Lamson of Ipswich, Massachusetts 1634-1917, New York 1917

Broadside written and compiled by Joan and Jack Dwyer for the Mont Vernon Historical Society's tour of the Lamson Farmhouse, July 29 and 30, 1978

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APPENDIX III: LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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The legal boundry description of the Lamson Farm property is found in Appendix III: Legal Description.

The justification for designating the perimeter of the 310.46 acre property as the boundry for the historic resource is complex and based upon both visual landscape analysis and historic/economic functions.

As noted in Item 7, woodland surrounds the open portion of the property forming a visual and sound buffer from any new development which may occur beyond the periphery of the property. Presently, no modern development is visible from the farmhouse complex site, the "center" of the property. To insure the integrity of this space and the vistas afforded from within the open portion and the public ways, it is necessary to maintain the boundry of the historic resource at the maximum possible distance from the center. The legal boundry reasonably coincides with this objective and also averts controversy from abutting landowners who may not wish to have their property included within the area being designated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Designating the legal boundry as the perimeter of the historic resource may also be justified within the functional historic/economic context. Over the period of the property's development as a farm, both woodlands and (cleared) open space were utilized for the extraction of their natural resource potential. These activities included timbering for lumber, wood for fuel, maple sugar production and to some extent, woodland pasture use. While reduced in scale, the development of woodland resources on the farm is continuing under the direction of the Lamson Farm Commission (Town of Mont Vernon). In 1978, a selective timbering and woodland management program was begun to improve the quality of the timber stand and watershed characteristics. Proceeds from this activity continue in part, to support the maintenance of the property, as they did historically.

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CONTINUATION SHEET GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

UTM References:

| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
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| B | 19 | 281300 | 4755930 |
| C | 19 | 281170 | 4755910 |
| D | 19 | 281270 | 4755070 |
| E | 19 | 281170 | 4755060 |
| F | 19 | 281220 | 4754560 |
| G | 19 | 281120 | 4754550 |
| H | 19 | 281120 | 4754460 |
| J | 19 | 280880 | 4754430 |
| K | 19 | 280920 | 4754360 |
| L | 19 | 280700 | 4754340 |
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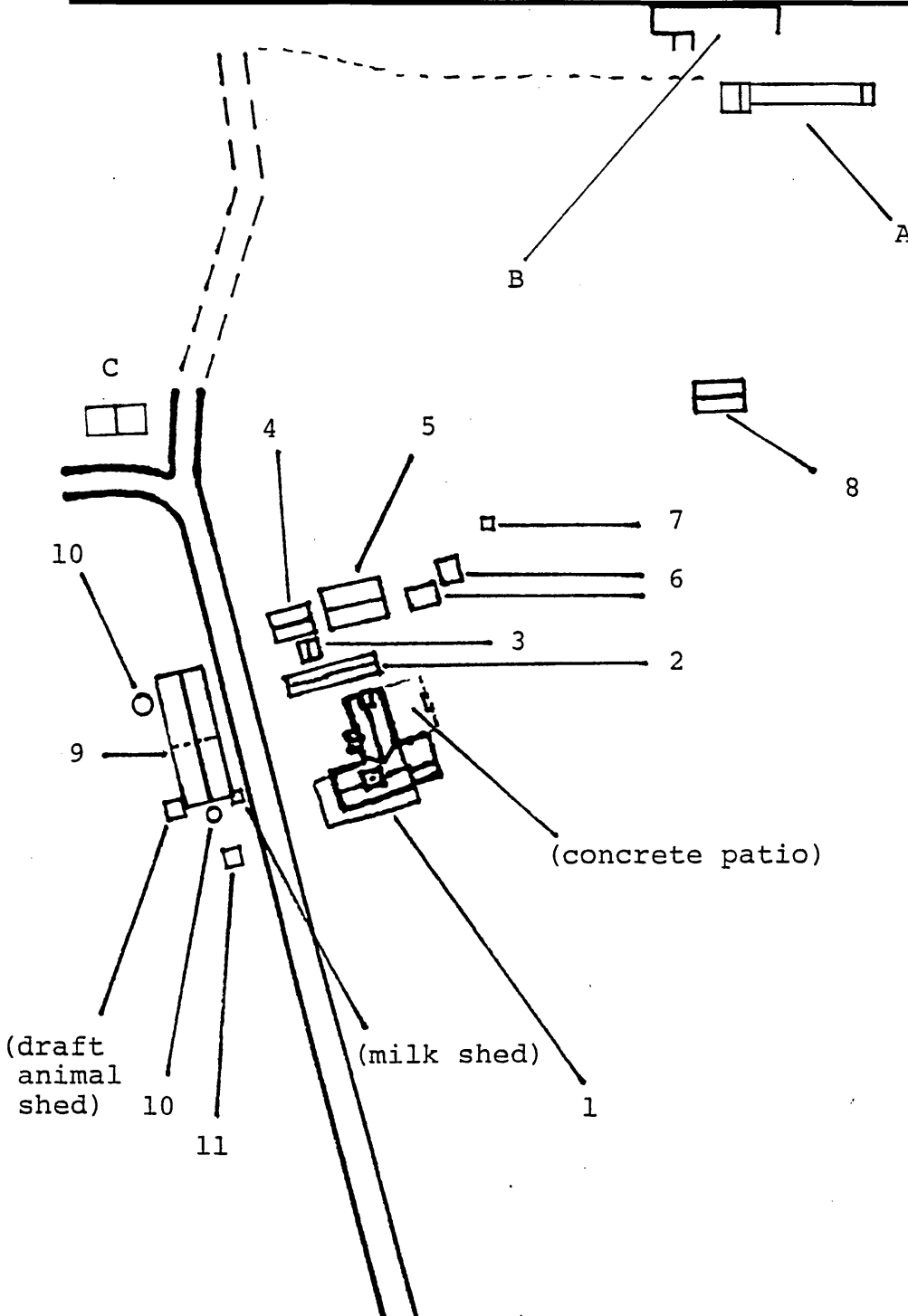
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LEGEND

- 1. Lamson Farmhouse and Appendages
- 2. Tool/Machine Shed
- 3. Ice House
- 4. Garage
- 5. Main Hen House
- 6. Small Coops or Hog Sheds
- 7. Pump House
- 8. Spring House
- 9. Main Cowbarn and Attached Sheds
- 10. Wooden Stave Silo(s)
- 11. South Chicken Coop

- A. Cellar Hole/Foundation
Henry H. Trow Farm
- B. Barn Foundation
Henry H. Trow Farm
- C. Foundation/Ruin
North District School
and Sugar House Site

| | | | |
|-------|--|--|--|
| ▲ | SCALE: 1' = 1000' | 1980 | 7.5 MINUTE SERIES |
| NORTH | LAMSON FARM: SKETCH MAP of SITE LAYOUT PLAN | Prepared by: Christopher W. Closs, mnrp | SOURCE: USGS 1968 New Boston Quadrangle |