

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE

Page 1

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 288 Shaker Road Not for publication: N/a
City/Town: Canterbury Vicinity: N/A
State: NH County: Merrimack Code: 013 Zip Code: 03224

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property Private: X
Public-local:
Public-State:
Public-Federal:
Category of Property Building(s):
District: X
Site:
Structure:
Object:

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing 24
Noncontributing 0 buildings
0 sites
0 structures
0 objects
0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 28

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: N/A

4. 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.

Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ____ Entered in the National Register _____
- ____ Determined eligible for the _____
National Register
- ____ Determined not eligible for the _____
National Register
- ____ Removed from the National Register _____
- ____ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 3**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic	Sub: Multiple dwelling
Domestic	Secondary structure
Religion	Religious structure
Education	School
Agriculture	Processing
Industry	Manufacturing facility
Health Care	Clinic
Current: Recreation	Sub: Museum
Domestic	Dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Other (Shaker adaptations)

MATERIALS:

Foundation: granite, brick
 Walls: wood, brick, metal
 Roof: Asphalt, slate, tin, wood
 Other:

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 4**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Canterbury Shaker Village is a complex of communal religious, residential and workshop structures located in central New Hampshire, approximately 12 miles northeast of Concord. Set high on a hillside, the village consists of twenty-four contributing buildings clustered on approximately thirteen acres of land, surrounded by approximately 681 acres of fields and woodlots. The buildings of the Shaker village were constructed between 1792 and 1923, retaining a high level of integrity and thus, there are no noncontributing structures in the village. All of the extant buildings are associated with the Church Family, historically the ruling ministry of the community and today, the sole survivor of the four families which at one time comprised the Canterbury Shaker Society.

The layout of the Church Family village at Canterbury reflects two primary objectives - the separation of buildings according to spiritual or earthly functions and the distinction between spaces used solely by Shakers and those open on occasion to the outside world or the "world's people". The main axis of the village is perpendicular to the public access road, Shaker Road. The buildings oriented along Shaker Road are primarily those for dealing with the "world's people" while the residences, workshops, farm and utility buildings are arranged in five rows running in a west-east direction perpendicular to Shaker Road. Maple trees and stone walls line Shaker Road.

The first and highest use row of buildings in the village was the Religious Row, consisting of the Meeting House, Ministry Shop and the Ministry Barn (no longer extant). Set back from Shaker Road, at the end of Meeting House Lane, the buildings also marked the southernmost extent of the village and are the first sighted when approaching the village from the usual southern access. The spiritual focal point of the village, the Meeting House (Photo # 1) is set apart from most of the village by its east-west orientation, spatially by its distance, at the end of a blank row, from Shaker Road and visually by the fence which has surrounded the structure since at least the 1840s. (Photo #2)

Facing the Religious Row and located just to the north is the Residential Row (Photo #5), dominated by the cupola capped Dwelling House as well as the Sister's Shop, Children's House, Enfield House and Infirmary. The Enfield House, moved to its present site in 1918, replaced the Second Dwelling and the Brother's South Shop. The brick Trustees' Office is set perpendicular to the other buildings, on the west side of Shaker Road. (Photos #3 & 4)

The third row might also be called the Workshop Row and consists of the Brethren's Shop, Creamery, North Shop, Syrup Shop, the former Spin Shop, now part of the Laundry and the Carriage House. (Photo #7)

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 5**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

A line of smaller utility buildings, many of which were constructed in the twentieth century, comprise the fourth row. Structures in this category include the Carpenter's Shop, the Fire House, the Power House, the Steel Garage and the Laundry. (Photo #8)

The fifth row of buildings was devoted to farming and was once dominated by the massive Cow Barn and related structures. Destroyed by fire in 1973, only the foundations remain today of the 240 foot structure, the largest of its kind constructed by Shakers in the United States and probably the largest barn in New Hampshire.

With the exception of the brick Trustees' Office, the pressed metal covered fire house and power house, and the wood plank wood shed and cart shed, the buildings at Canterbury are sheathed in clapboards. White clapboards predominate with the exception of the light blue schoolhouse and yellow bee house. Early buildings feature feathered clapboard joints. The Infirmary appears to have been the last extant building constructed in the village with feathered clapboard joints. Subsequent building projects display butt joint clapboards. Almost all of the buildings rest on granite block foundations. The Enfield Building's yellow brick foundation corresponds to its relocation in 1918. A variety of roof coverings including asphalt, slate and wood shingles are found on the buildings today. Many of the roofs were originally shingled, in the case of the Meeting House using white pine shingles with birch bark underneath. The first slate roof appears to have been installed on the Trustees' Office in 1830-2 and slate continued to be used through the 1910s. Building records indicate that many of the buildings in the village were reroofed with "Bird" asphalt shingles about 1917.

All of the buildings in the village have evolved over the years, subjected to constant reworkings and additions to meet changing needs. The vast majority of the village buildings (20 out of 24) predate the Civil War, including four structures which, at least in part, are of the 18th century. Relatively little building activity took place in the second half of the 19th century and this was almost exclusively in the form of alterations or additions such as ells, chimneys and extra stories rather than totally new structures. The burst of new construction which resulted in the four 20th century village buildings was in response to the introduction of new technology as well as the closing of other Shaker communities, necessitating the alteration or expansion of facilities at Canterbury that occurred in the early 1900s. Of the Shaker villages which survived to the 20th century, the investment in new buildings initiated by the Canterbury Shakers after the turn of the century is unique. Typical of the evolution of the village, these early 20th century structures in many cases required the clearing out of older structures. Combining common New England practice and Shaker practicality, buildings within the village were often moved to serve new purposes. It must be stressed that although the Canterbury buildings witnessed continual updates and improvements such as new windows, porches, plumbing, wiring and linoleum, the

end results were fundamentally small changes which in no way compromise the integrity of the structure, but rather serve to provide additional layers of information. This philosophy which emphasizes the significance of each accretion, is one which continues to guide the work which occurs on the buildings today under the ownership of Shaker Village, Inc.

Canterbury's four historian recorders, Henry Blinn (1824-1905), John Witcher (1779-1855), Francis Winkley (1759-1847) and Irving Greenwood (1876-1938) documented much of the community's architectural development and their writings, combined with photographs and physical evidence, provide comprehensive coverage of the village evolution. The following building descriptions begin at the southern end of the village with the Meetinghouse and the Religious Row, proceeding northward, describing each successive row from west to east.

1. Church Family Meeting House (1792)

The 2 1/2 story gambrel-roofed Meeting House measuring 34 by 44 feet, was the first building erected by the growing Shaker community in Canterbury and is among the least changed of all the structures in the village. Built in reverent silence with no talking louder than a whisper, the frame of the building was raised on May 9, 1792 and the building was completed on September 20. Construction of the Meeting House was supervised by Moses Johnson (1752-1842) who served as master builder of seven Shaker meetinghouses beginning with the 1786 house in New Lebanon. The Canterbury Meeting House was closely modeled on the New Lebanon structure in terms of size, shape, color and finish. As originally constructed, the interior woodwork was painted dark blue and there were two stairways, one for men and one for women, located in the northwest and southwest corners of the building and leading from the first floor meeting room to the second story sleeping lofts for the Brothers and Sisters. The stairways were removed in 1815, replaced by a new stairwell on the east side of the building. (Photo #11) The Ministry of the village continued to sleep and dine here until they moved to Ministry Shop in 1878. The third floor of the meetinghouse retains its 1815 paint finish while the finish of the first floor meeting area dates to 1878. Today, the meetinghouse, like many of the buildings in the village, is open to the public. (Photo #10)

1A. Meeting House Fence

Enclosing the Meetinghouse is a white picket fence reinforced by granite posts at regular intervals. The historic fence is currently undergoing restoration.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 7**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

2. Church Family Ministry Shop (1848)

Located just east of the Meeting House, the Ministry Shop is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded building measuring 36 by 24 feet, used initially as a workshop and after 1878 as sleeping quarters for the Ministry. The building rests on a granite foundation and is capped by a gable roof, the first in the village to have been covered in tin. Its architectural detailing is simple and functional. Embellishment on the exterior is limited to a door hood over the recessed entrance. Although the building was erected in 1848 to replace an earlier ministry shop that had become too small, the ministry continued to live in the upper floors of the Meeting House until 1878. The single story ell dates to 1858 and was used first by the physician and, beginning two years later, by the dentist. The building is currently used as public exhibition space.

3. Privy (before 1850)

Located within the stone foundation wall, which is all that remains of the 1794 Ministry Barn, is this small clapboarded privy measuring 6.5 x 13 feet. The clapboarded privy consists of two equal-sized compartments, accessed by single doors on the south side of the building.

4. Church Family Trustees' Office (1830-1832)

The only brick building in the village, the Trustees' Office (Photo #3) is a 2 1/2 story structure measuring 72 x 42 feet, oriented with its broad eastern facade fronting the Shaker Road. The third office to have been built for the Trustees, building served as the office of the Lead Ministry and also housed a U.S. Post Office beginning in October 1848. The building was made of bricks manufactured by the Church Family. The Trustees' Office was also the first building in the village to have a slate roof. Since its construction the exterior of the building was updated several times by the Shakers. The original 12/12 and 12/8 window sash were replaced by modern 2/1 sash in 1904. The Colonial Revival style pedimented porches and porte cochere supported by Doric columns were installed in 1914 to update earlier porches. A single story kitchen was added on the southern end of the building in 1880 while the annex or express office, measuring 30 x 30 feet, was added on the north end in 1906 for packing and storage. The granite blocks used for the annex foundation were reused from Second and North Family buildings which had been torn down. The second story porches on the west elevation and a bridge connecting the Trustees' Office with an adjacent office woodshed were constructed in 1909. The bridge and woodshed are no longer extant and were removed c. 1940. Inside, the

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 8**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Trustees' Office contains a number of fine finish details including vertically sliding paneled window shutters. The dining room in the basement displays a wide variety of manufactured pressed metal finishes including ceiling, cornice, walls, frieze, chair rail, dado and baseboard pieces. One of the most impressive features of the building are the two interior staircases, set apart by load-bearing double brick walls and rising four full stories from the sub-basement level. The Trustees' Office presently serves a number of functions including staff residence, admissions center and overnight accommodations.

5. Church Family Infirmary (1811)

Built on the east side of the Shaker Road, opposite the Trustees' Office, this 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure was built as a guest house and as living quarters for the Trustees on nights and Sundays. The building was intended to functionally replace the Carpenter's Shop which was built as a guest house just five years previously, but was soon considered too small. As originally constructed the building measured 40 x 32 feet with a south facing five-bay facade and side elevations two bays wide containing 12/8 windows. The building was constructed according to a typical Georgian, center hall residential floor plan with two interior chimneys punctuating the gable roof ridge.

Shaker records indicate that in 1849 the building was converted to an infirmary and the next year the roof was tinned and the portico over the front door, called a "jet" by the Shakers, was added. In 1852 the first water closet in the village was installed in the north end of the upstairs hall. The 2 1/2 story ell measuring 3 x 2 bays was constructed at the northwest corner of the main building in 1892.

The northeast room of the original structure was used as an office while the east front room housed the village library. Later, after 1892, the first floor housed the nurses' quarters, pharmacy (Photo #12), nurses' sitting room and office and the dentist's office. Upstairs, the patients' rooms were fitted with lavatories and running water. The attic was used to store medical supplies and as a mortuary. A kitchen was added in the northeast corner of the basement in 1854 but moved to the ell following its construction.

Since it began serving as a Shaker Hospital in 1849, the infirmary is considered to be one of the oldest and most intact medical facilities in the State. Use of the infirmary began to decline in the 1920s. Following the death of the last nurse in 1937, the building ceased to be used as an infirmary and was used as living quarters for sisters. The infirmary building

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 9**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

sat empty beginning in the 1970s. Interpretative use of the building to document Shaker medical history is currently underway.

6. Enfield House (1826)

Originally constructed as the Second Family's Office in 1826 and located about 400 meters north of its present location, this 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure measuring 62 x 29 feet was moved to its present site in 1918. It is known as the Enfield House because it provided living quarters for the sisters who moved to Canterbury after the disbanding of the Shaker Society at Enfield, New Hampshire in 1923.

Resting on a basement of yellow brick, various embellishments in a Colonial Revival style were made to the simple Shaker building following its move in 1918. These include the addition of two elevated entrance porches on the south side featuring bracketed pediments, recessed panelled trim, urned newel posts, square posts and matching pilasters. A similarly detailed at-grade entrance porch is located on the north side with a lower level covered patio projecting from the west. The total cost of relocating the building was \$7,405. The Shakers moved into the building in November 1921. The Enfield House is significant as the principal residence of Canterbury's twentieth century sisters, who largely favored it over the less-modern Dwelling House. The basement was the center of the village's poplar ware industry. Today, Enfield House is used as a collection/storage center.

7. Church Family Dwelling House (1793)

Dominated by a domed cupola containing a Paul Revere bell, the three story Church Family Dwelling House (Photo #2 & 6) is the largest building in the village and historically served as a focal point for the community. The T-shaped structure containing 56 rooms is the result of numerous additions and alterations over the years; however, the basic original structure survives, making this the only Shaker Dwelling of the surviving Shaker villages that includes portions of its original 18th century structure.¹

Construction of the original Dwelling House occurred just a year after completion of the Meeting House and closely followed its form. As first constructed, the exterior of the Dwelling House, 2 1/2 stories with a gambrel roof, was almost identical to the Meeting House and its dimensions only slightly smaller -- 32 x 42

¹ June Sprigg and David Larkin, *Shaker Life Work and Art*. New York: Stewart, Tabori and Chang, 1987, p. 256.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 10**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

feet. A series of minor additions were made to the building in 1798, 1805, 1806 and 1807, culminating in major changes and enlargements in 1814. Eighteen foot long wings were added to the east and west ends and in the process the earlier additions were demolished or possibly incorporated. Also at this time, the roof was rebuilt in its gable form and a twenty foot square wing was added on the north side. Even more dramatic alterations occurred in 1837 including the relocation of the north wing to the east side and the construction of a new 52 by 43 foot meeting room or chapel wing in its place. The belfry was added in 1832 to call the Family to meals and meetings. After the New Lebanon Ministry expressed disapproval over the belfry's size, it was lowered 5.5 feet in 1842. The village library, begun in 1853 was moved here in 1917 and the school was here from 1921 until its closing in 1934. The first floor contained the village butcher shop, bakery, communal kitchen and dining room, still visible today. Four staircases order the interior of the building; that in the center is a double open staircase rising four stories. The other two staircases are separate and traverse three floors. For many years the second floor consisted of four bedrooms, two for elders and two for the sisters and the brethren. The third floor is also devoted to dwelling rooms. The attic served largely as storage for out-of-season clothing and is lined by two long under-eaves storage spaces, six closets, fourteen cupboards and 101 drawers built in symmetrical arrangement down the length of the wing. This handcrafted storage area is considered by some as the crowning achievement of Shaker architecture in Canterbury and epitomizes the Shaker love of order. The Dwelling House was the residence of Canterbury's last remaining Shaker sister who died in September 1992.

8. Church Family Sisters' Shop (1817)

Built on the site of the 1795 spin shop which was moved north to become part of the laundry, the Sister's Shop is a 2 1/2 story structure measuring 50 x 32 feet. After spinning was discontinued in the 1830s the building was used by the sisters for a variety of functions including musical instruction, making dresses, and other tasks. The Shop was the center for tailoring activities in the village. Tailoring counters survive on the first and second floors and are two of the largest pieces in the village collection. The cellar was considered the best storage place in the village for winter apples and sauces. The Sisters' Shop also contained the Eldresses' Confession Room, where the Shaker Sisters made their weekly confession to the Eldresses.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 11**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Alterations to the building include the replacement of many of the 9/6 first floor windows and 6/6 upper story windows with 2/2 sash. The portico over the front door and tin roof were added in 1850, at which time similar additions were made to the Infirmary. Today, the Sisters' Shop is open to the public.

9. Church Family Children's House (1810)

Originally located on the site of the Trustees' Office, the Children's House is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure measuring 28 x 38 feet. It was built to replace the first Trustee's House which was moved to the North Family. In order to make room for the present Trustee's Office, the building was moved east of the road in 1831 or 1833 to its present location where it was first called the "East House" and later, the "Children's House". For a period in the mid 19th century the basement was used to spin wool while garden seeds were sorted, papered and packed in the loft. Later, the whole building was used as a dwelling for girls. On the first floor there is a large instruction room running the depth of the house and lined by a blackboard shelf at which the girls pulled their chairs and benches to work or write. Upstairs there were quarters designed to accommodate eight girls at a time as well as two Sisters who lived with them. Today, the Children's House serves as a staff residence.

10. Church Family Carriage House (1825)

Set parallel to the Shaker Road the carriage house is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure measuring 40 x 70 feet. The east elevation is punctuated by three sets of double carriage doors made of vertical beaded board with strap hinges and fronted by granite ramps. An additional set of double doors is located on the north side. The gable roof is sheathed in slate shingles, first installed in 1906 over a shingled roof.

Soon after its construction in 1825 the Carriage House became known as the Yellow Building, because of the color it was painted until about the turn of the century. Carriages occupied the north end of the first floor with painters using the south-east end and wood storage for the Infirmary occupying the south room. A three-holer privy is located in the southwest corner of the building. The second and third floors were used to store medicines, lumber, herbs and grains while potatoes and mason's supplies were stored in the cellar. Today, this building contains the Shaker Village gift shop, craft center and exhibition area.

11. Church Family Brethren's Shop (1824)

Housing a variety of functions over the years, the Brethren's Shop is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure, measuring 36 x 48 feet, capped by an asphalt, gable roof. Constructed in 1824, the building originally contained spaces utilized by the farmers, physicians, shoemakers, and spinning wheel makers. Later occupants included a printing office (1869-1877) and the carpenters' shop. The first floor of the building still contains an impressive vault, its doors painted with scenes of the village, built in this space in 1921.

Shaker accounts substantiated by physical evidence suggest that originally there was a nine foot wide wagon door opening centered on the south elevation. The present center entrance containing a four panel door flanked by 4/4 sidelights and capped by a gable door hood supported by oversized brackets appears to date to the mid 19th century. Other alterations include the replacement of many of the second story windows, originally containing 8/8 sash, with early 20th century windows consisting of three upper sash lights over a single light lower sash. These windows would appear to correspond with interior renovations to the carpenters' area in 1920. Today, this building contains the administrative offices of Shaker Village, Inc.

12. Church Family Creamery (1905)

Constructed between 1903 and 1905 under the direction of a non-Shaker carpenter, S.H. Mead, the Creamery is a rare example of Shaker building construction affected by late 19th century styles. The 2 1/2 story structure is capped by a clipped gable roof of slate with hipped roof dormers. Simplified Victorian moldings outline the doors as well as windows containing 2/2 sash. Other restrained turn-of-the-century details include machine-turned balusters, Roman Doric columns, cornice brackets and urn newel posts.

A steam heating plant was installed in the building in 1905. A new boiler installed in the cellar in 1919 was sized to heat the creamery, power house and garage. The single story ells projecting from the north side of the building served as cold storage. Upstairs were the living quarters of those Sisters engaged in dairying. Today, the Creamery Building houses a restaurant, although it retains most of its original woodwork on the first and second floors.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 13**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

13. Church Family North Shop (1841)

Constructed in 1841 on the site of an earlier wood shed, the North Shop is a 2 1/2 story clapboarded structure measuring 40 x 80 feet. The building is unusual in that it was built under the direction of a non-Shaker, master workman Lynus Stevens of Claremont. Most of the first floor was used as a wood house, accessed by two sets of wide door openings on both the north and south elevations. The west end of the first floor served as a store room for the Deacons and Deaconesses while the second story contained workrooms for the Sisters and was equipped with hand looms for the weaving of cloth. The second floor workrooms feature some of the finest built-in drawers and cupboards in the village. (Photo #13) Sills of windows with good light for sewing are extra wide with small wooden knobs on the apron underneath, intended to provide storage for sewing equipment. Lofts in the attic was used for the drying of herbs, especially those needed for sarsaparilla, which was distilled in the adjacent Syrup Shop.

The North Shop is significant as one of the most pristine structures in the village, virtually unchanged since its construction. The building retains some of the Village's finest examples of red and yellow interior finishes, characteristic of those used in the early-mid 19th century.

14. Church Family Carpenter Shop (1806)

Built in 1806 as a dwelling house for visiting Shakers, what is today known as the Carpenter Shop or Wood Shop is a 1 1/2 story structure measuring 32 by 24 feet, sheathed in wide weatherboards, resting on a granite block foundation. Narrow cornerboards with a round corner molding give rise to projecting eaves and a wood shingled gable roof. The building was built according to a common New England residential plan with a large central chimney, center front and rear entrances and two rooms up and down on either side of the center entrances. The facade measures three bays wide with 9/6 doublehung windows flanking a central entrance consisting of a four panel door sheltered by a late 19th century gable door hood supported by large wooden brackets. Three shed roofed dormers punctuate the facade roof.

This building was originally located where the Children's House now stands. Following its initial use as a guest house from 1806 to 1815, the structure was converted to a spin shop for the sisters, coinciding with the conversion of the previous spin shop to a laundry. The building was moved to its present location in 1832 to be used for the storage of herbs.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 14**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The village broom-making business was located here from 1877 until its demise in 1890. The building temporarily served as housing for hired men from 1901 to 1903. The east room was later converted for use by the carpenters and the rest of the building was used for storage. In 1951 the building was renovated for use as a residence by a non-Shaker caretaker. Today, it serves once again as a wood shop.

15. Church Family Fire House (Garage) (1908)

As the first Canterbury Shaker Village building to make full use of modern building materials, the Fire House exemplifies the Shaker's fascination with new technology. The original building, measuring 28 x 28 feet, was built in 1908 at a cost of \$1,000 and was intended to serve dual use as a fire house and garage for the Shaker Village's first automobile, a 1908 Reo. In 1916 the single story garage was enlarged by cutting it apart in the center, moving the eastern half twelve feet further east and filling in between. The exterior of the wood framed structure is sheathed in pressed metal shingles primarily used for roofs, manufactured by the Cortright Metal Roofing Company of Philadelphia. The hip roof is covered in slate and a hip-roofed tower used for drying hoses, rises from the southwest corner. Inside, the building is finished with sheets of tin and asbestos.

16. Church Family Power House (1910)

Constructed adjacent to the garage, the power house similarly features a wooden frame clad in pressed metal shingles with a slate-covered hip roof. The single story building measures 24 x 36 feet and was constructed to contain a state-of-the-art electric generating system consisting of a Nash 30 horsepower gasoline engine and a 125 volt 144 amp. Crocker Wheeler direct current generator with attendant cooling tanks, air compressor and storage battery. Weighing seven tons, the engine and generator were brought from the Belmont, NH railroad station by a combination of wheels, sled and four yoke of oxen. The cost of the complete plant, which predated the electrification of the state capitol in Concord, was approximately \$8,000. After the equipment was sold in the late 1930s, the building was renovated for use as an office for the farm manager. Today the building is open to the public as a summer kitchen.

17. Church Family Steel Garage (1923)

The last building built in the village also reflects the Shakers' love of new inventions. This 30 x 24 feet prefabricated steel garage was purchased in 1923 from the Pennsylvania Metal Company of Boston for \$618 with

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 15**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

an additional charge of \$250 to erect it. The one room structure with three pairs of double doors was picked up by the Shakers at the factory in Cambridge, Massachusetts. It arrived by truck in May 1923, although the concrete foundation was not laid until September. Construction was completed less than a month later. Details on the exterior of the steel building include the simulation of wooden vertical boards, clapboards, and cornerboards as well as an imitation stucco and timbered effect in the gable ends.

18. Church Family Syrup Shop (c. 1775 & later)

Until recently it was believed that the oldest part of this two story clapboarded structure, the 22 x 24 foot section in the center, was constructed in 1797 as a grain store. Recent work on the Syrup Shop, which required exposing the sills and foundation, however, appears to suggest that this section may actually be the earliest extant building fragment in the village, dating back to the ownership of the farm by Benjamin Whitcher, who donated his property to the Shakers. Current investigations are attempting to prove whether this building could be Whitcher's residence or a granary, also known to have been on the site. There is considerable evidence to suggest that this is definitely a pre-Shaker building as it exhibits a completely different construction style consisting of huge white pine logs, 8-10 inches thick and 30 inches deep, placed on end. In addition to three sills, one original gable wall also survives. It is known that Benjamin Whitcher constructed his residence sometime between 1775 and 1782, with the arrival of the first Shakers occurring in 1783. By 1787 Shaker families were living on the farm; the 1790 Census counted 35 people on the Whitcher property.

At least part of this structure appears to have originally stood northwest of the North Shop; the building was moved to its present location in 1841 and was used for distilling sarsaparilla syrup for medicinal purposes. Subsequent to the move a 13 foot addition was made to the north end with an 18 foot addition, containing spaces for bottling and packing the syrup, constructed at the south end in 1848.

The manufacture of sarsaparilla syrup drew to a close in 1920 when the kettles were removed. A brick wood-burning stove was added at that time and canning continued here until 1958. The southernmost room on the second floor was used as a painting studio by the Shaker artist Sister Cora Helena Sarle (1867-1956). The building is presently the center for the Village herbalist and garden program.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 16**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

19. Church Family Laundry (1795 & later)

A large 2 1/2 story L-shaped collection of buildings, some of which stand on a brick first floor, the Laundry is the product of numerous additions and technological improvements over the years to serve the expanding village. The oldest section of the existing building is the first floor of the south wing, originally a 1 1/2 story, 24 x 32 foot structure, built on the site of the Sisters' Shop in 1795 as a Spin Shop. In 1816, following the demolition of the original wash house, the Spin Shop building was moved to its present location. A second story was added to it at this time, as well as an extension connecting the building and clothes drying shelter. In 1844, the horse-powered machinery was replaced by a boiler and engine, necessitating an addition on the north end of the building to house the new equipment. A steam drying room with movable racks was added in 1852. The addition of a new flue boiler in 1860 required the addition of a tall brick smokestack. A new Dry House, used to dry food supplies was constructed east of the clothes drying section of the Laundry in 1879, only to burn and be rebuilt in 1880. The northern end of the Laundry became a commercial knitting shop in 1886 and by 1890 the Dry House was used by the sisters for finishing sweaters and storing yarn. The buildings remained separate until the early 20th century. Later, the combined first floor of the Laundry and Dry House was used to repair automobiles and was known as the Engineer's Room. At about the same time (1912-13) the area beyond the Engineer's Room was outfitted as a mechanized, power-driven woodworking shop. Most of the original equipment remains today. (Photo #14)

The Laundry underwent a series of major repairs in 1902 including a new frame and floors while the drying room was completely rebuilt in 1908. The resulting drying room, which can still be seen today, features asbestos and sheet tin-clad walls, twenty-five 2" steam pipes, twelve feet long, on the floor and drying racks running on overhead track. The older, southern section of the building was used for sorting, mending and ironing.

An improved washing machine inspired by Shaker communal needs was designed and manufactured for sale at Canterbury, one of the few inventions patented by the Shakers. The renovation of the Laundry, along with the Syrup Shop, is currently underway.

20. Church Family Horse Barn (1819)

Located on the west side of the road, north of the Trustees' Office is this large shingled horse barn. The original section, measuring 60 x 40 feet, was constructed in 1819. The north ell, measuring 27 x 49

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 17**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

feet, was added in 1824. The Church Family horses were primarily kept in the south section of the barn, with the Trustees' horses in the north section. The barn underwent various remodellings in 1880, 1901 and 1927. In 1927 the interior configuration of the barn was greatly altered, including the removal of stables, moving doors and the installation of 8 stalls, 2 box stalls and a harness room. In 1991 the horse barn was remodeled to its 1901 appearance.

21. Church Family School House (1823 & 1863)

Part of the present two story clapboarded schoolhouse is actually the original single story schoolhouse, measuring 24 x 34 feet and built in 1823. In 1863 the schoolhouse was moved three rods south to its present location and then jacked up twelve feet to become the second story with a new school room built underneath. At the same time, a single bay enclosed stair porch was added to the second floor and a wood shed was added to the east. Doublehung 9/9 sash compatible with the original 9/6 window sash. The move was prompted at least in part by the policy of allowing outside children to attend the Shaker school. The relocation of the school is consistent with the clustering of facilities open to the World in proximity to the Shaker Road as in later years, local children were also accepted at the school.

As originally constructed, the school had two entrances on the south side, one for boys and one for girls, each of which opened into a small vestibule. These vestibules serve today as closets on the second story. After the move the second story was converted to a gymnasium and was later used as a meeting and recitation room. Beginning in 1921 the second floor of the Dwelling House was used for the school to save wood and because of the difficulty in keeping paths open during the winter snows. The Shaker school finally closed in 1934.

22. Church Family Cart Shed (1840)

Located just east of the schoolhouse is this 110 x 25 feet structure constructed of vertical planks with a granite foundation and granite posts supporting the gable roof. The north end of the shed was primarily used as an ice house and the center for the storage of farm wagons. The Cart Shed was extensively rebuilt after the roof collapsed in the winter of 1982-83.

23. Church Family Bee House (1837)

The original purpose served by this small clapboarded building built in 1837 and measuring just 12 x 25 feet is subject to some debate, although it was definitely

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 18**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

used as a drying house. The writings of Elder Henry Blinn indicate it was built as an apple-drying house while according to Irving Greenwood, the original purpose was to dry lumber. The present off-center gable-roofed cupola rising from the asphalt sheathed gable roof was originally a ventilator.

In 1865 the building became the headquarters of the bee keepers. After bee keeping was discontinued in the early 20th century, the building was used for general storage. In 1940 it was moved about 400 feet west to its present location, turned 180 degrees and connected to the Cow Barn for use as a milk house. The building was damaged in the 1973 fire which destroyed the Cow Barn. In 1977 the building was repaired and alterations were made to open it to the public. These include installation of the front concrete ramp and the replacement of a window on the east side with a door to make a second means of egress. The building's original stone foundation is still visible to the east of its present location.

24. Church Family Woodshed (1861)

Standing today in poor condition, this woodshed was one of two which once stood south of the great Cow Barn, destroyed by fire in 1973. The companion woodshed to the west was also burned at that time. Of post and beam construction sheathed in vertical boards, the woodshed originally had three open bays, corresponding with the roof ventilators and alternating with four closed bays. The present configuration with the western half divided into four open bays with two doors to the east, appears to be an early twentieth century alteration.

25. Church Family Cow Barn foundation (1858)

Two partial walls of granite blocks, marked only by chisel marks, and a later concrete wall are all that remain of the Cow Barn. Built in 1858, the structure measured 200 feet long and 45 feet wide. It was destroyed by fire in 1973.

26. Shaker Road Stone Wall (1797 and later)

The east side of Shaker Road from the Trustees' Office north to the Second Family is lined by a dry stone wall, laid in 1797 and 1798 and rebuilt in 1834 and 1903. The stone walls flanking the road from the Trustees' Office south to the foot of the hill were laid in 1793 and rebuilt in 1851. The stone wall on the west side of the road, north of the Trustees' House, was rebuilt in 1851 and again in 1903.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 19**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

27. Shaker Cemetery

The Shaker Cemetery is an open grassy area with a simple granite monument located in the center of the cemetery. It has the word "Shakers" carved in raised letters on the side facing Shaker Road and was presented to the Society by Mrs. J.O. Shaw, Jr. in 1904. Originally individual tombstones marked the Shaker graves. These were removed in 1900. The stone wall around the cemetery dates to 1798. In 1903 the cemetery was enlarged and walled with a 32" high iron fence.

The remaining acreage included in this nomination consists of fields and woods as well as an extensive system of mills and artificial millponds that the Shakers created along the eastern side of their village and which has remained virtually undisturbed since the Shakers' tenancy. Five of the nine manmade ponds -- Meadow, Factory, Turning Mill, Sawmill and Carding Mill -- are located on the land currently owned by Shaker Village, Inc.

Other resources included on the property are dams and other structures related to the operation of the mills including overflows, ditches, headrace, tailrace and foundations of sawmills and other structures.

In 1982 over 600 acres of the original Shaker holdings were the subject of an historic landscape survey and mapping project under the direction of Dr. David Starbuck. As a result of this project, comprehensive documentation of virtually every significant natural and cultural feature was completed, resulting in the preparation of 61 contour maps, divided into blocks of 200 x 200 meters. Delineated on the maps and described in site reports are all standing structures, foundations, wells, millponds, dams, marshes, dumps, borrow pits, roads, lanes, stone walks, wire fences, stock fences, wood rail fences, granite fence posts, stone walls, ditches, orchards, herb gardens and fields, including both the present holdings of Shaker Village Inc. and lands that have passed into private hands. For more information please refer to the site inventory and maps contained in David Starbuck, "Canterbury Shaker Village: Archeology and Landscape", *The New Hampshire Archeologist* vol. 31, 1990.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National Register Criteria: A X B C X D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria: 1, 4

NHL Theme(s): XVI. Architecture (X: Vernacular)
 XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements
 A. Communitarianism and Utopianism

Areas of Significance: Architecture
 Religion
 Social History

Period(s) of Significance: 1792-1942

Significant Dates:

Significant Person(s):

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect/Builder:

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 21**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Canterbury Shaker Village is nationally significant in the area of architecture under National Historic Landmark criterion 1 (National Register criterion A) and criterion 4 (National Register criterion C). Possessing an exceptionally high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, Canterbury Shaker Village is considered among the most intact and authentic of the surviving Shaker villages -- the largest, most successful and best known of America's 19th century communal, utopian societies. The stark harmony of the well ordered, practical structures erected by the Canterbury Shakers illustrate well the Shaker principle of simple beauty through function.

Designed, built and inhabited by Shakers for 200 years, Canterbury Shaker Village is also significant as one of only two still-functioning Shaker Villages of the nineteen original villages established in the United States. Among the Shaker Villages which endured into the 1900s, Canterbury occupied a preeminent position, both as home of the central ministry from 1947 on and as one of the more progressive centers of Shaker ideology. As a Shaker village which continued to thrive well into the 20th century, Canterbury offers a unique perspective into the evolution of the Shakers from 18th century beginnings to the changes in society, technology and leadership experienced in the 20th century. The last brother at Canterbury, Irving Greenwood, died in 1938 and the Village's survival as well as its importance among the surviving Shaker communities owed much to the strength of Canterbury's women's community. In 1965 the Shaker Lead Ministry voted to close the covenant, in effect ruling that no new Shakers could join. Although the last Canterbury Shaker Sister recently died, Canterbury was the first Shaker Village to reach its 200th anniversary with a Shaker in residence. Since 1969 the site has been owned and administered by a non-profit educational organization, Shaker Village, Inc. The last four Shaker Sisters reside at the Shaker community in Sabbathday Lake, Maine.

The Shakers or the United Society of Believers in Christ's First and Second Appearing, were founded in 1774 by a working class Englishwoman named Ann Lee. Because of their sometimes frenzied shaking during worship, the Anglican dissidents became known as "shaking Quakers" or, more simply, Shakers. Beginning with the establishment of the first American Shaker community in 1776 at Niskeyuna (now Watervliet), New York, a total of 24 communities with as many 6,000 members were established in New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Georgia and Florida. Eleven communities had been established by 1794. Canterbury was the fifth and dates to 1792. The Shaker movement in general peaked in the mid 1800s. No new Shaker community was successfully founded after 1836 and only seventeen communities lasted into the 20th century. The first of the original nineteen Shaker communities to close was at Tyringham, Massachusetts in 1875. In most cases extensive land

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 22**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

holdings were sold off and the properties converted to new uses including prisons, a school, religious retreats, an airport and a housing development. In recent years, the Shakers have become celebrated for their communal way of life, their belief in pacifism, and equality of the sexes, and for their superb furniture and handicrafts.

At its height in the 1840s, the Canterbury community controlled approximately 3,000 contiguous acres in Canterbury with an additional thousand acres in Concord and Loudon, New Hampshire, as well as holdings in New York State. Canterbury's Shaker Village had a membership of 350-400 believers, divided into four families - Church, North, Second and West. The first family, both chronologically and in seniority, was the Church Family. As the village grew, the Second Family was established in 1800. The North Family was begun as a novitiate order in 1801; it closed in 1894 and surviving members moved to the Second Family. The Second Family, also known as the Branch Family, was closed in 1916. A branch of the North Family, the West Family was established in 1806 although the Family buildings were torn down or moved as early as 1819. More than 100 buildings were constructed to shelter the Canterbury Shakers but over the years many of these were lost to fire, taken down when no longer needed and in the 1950s demolished for tax reasons. Today, other than the 24 buildings of the Church Family, only the North Family Trustees' Office and a Second Family shed survive amidst cellar holes, mill foundations and an extensive system of mills and artificial millponds, virtually undisturbed and unbuilt upon since their abandonment by the Shakers. Both the former North Family Trustees' Office and Second Family shed are now located on private property, outside the purview of Shaker Village, Inc.

In 1792 the first 43 Canterbury Shakers were "called to order". They assembled on the 100 acre farmstead of Benjamin Whitcher, one of the earliest members of the community, erected their meetinghouse and began planning their new community. The exact location of Whitcher's original farm buildings has never been determined although recent investigation suggests that portions of a pre-Shaker, Whitcher-era structure, perhaps even part of Whitcher's house, may be contained in the Syrup Shop. During the early years, the original house and barns were used by the Shakers but gradually these buildings were moved or demolished. The Meetinghouse (1792) was the first structure erected by the Shaker community at Canterbury and remains today one of the least changed buildings in the village. More than any other building in the village, the Meetinghouse is an example of how architectural designs evolved largely within the Shaker community. The meetinghouse was constructed by master builder, Moses Johnson, sent from New Lebanon, New York by the Central Ministry to ensure that the Canterbury meetinghouse conformed to the New Lebanon prototype of 1786. The belief that the designs of buildings were subordinate to their religious beliefs and established laws resulted in a distinct similarity of design and workmanship among Shaker buildings, characterized by simple beauty through function. The importance of the workshops is

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 23**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

verified by the fact that it was a tannery that was constructed after the meetinghouse, after which time the dwellinghouse was erected.

As one would expect, all Shaker architecture generally reflects the practical needs of the community. Although based largely on the New England building tradition, the architecture which the Shakers created was designed to accommodate a family structure which differed significantly from the traditional model. Within the Shaker Village, the first and most important "family" was usually called the Church Family. In Canterbury, the formation of the Church Family was followed by the Second, North and West families. Each family maintained its own dwelling and service buildings, while other buildings such as the meetinghouse, school and trustees offices were used by all of the families but located in the Church Family, resulting in a self-sufficient community. The hierarchial framework within each family specified two elders and two eldresses were responsible for the spiritual affairs. Temporal affairs were the domain of deacons, overseeing industrial activities and trustees, who were in charge of finances.

Shaker society was based on celibate, communal living, with men and women on separate but equal footing, resulting in modifications to common architectural forms. In the Shaker "family" brethren and sisters lived, worshiped and worked together and even socialized with each other to a limited extent. This required the construction of large scale residential structures, reminiscent of the central hall plan common in New England at the time, but which were on a grander scale and equipped with separate entrances and staircases for men and women as seen in both the Dwelling House and Trustees' Office in Canterbury. At Canterbury, this architectural form reaches its pinnacle in the Church Family Dwelling House. Other dwelling houses such as the Church Family Children's House, were designed specifically for children, including both those who converted to Shakerism with their families and orphans whom the Shakers took in.

Workshops were also constructed under the same separate but equal principle with distinct workshops for brothers and sisters. The workshops occupied an important place in the village as hard work was considered a sacred commitment and it was only through self-sufficiency that the Shakers could lead lives separate from the "world's people". The motto "Hands to work and hearts to God" summarizes well the importance of hard work in Shaker beliefs. While certain products were produced primarily for the Shaker's own use, others including herbs, seeds, medicines, dairy products, sewn and other goods were produced primarily for sale to the world's people. A love of technology manifests itself in constant improvements to the machinery in many of the Canterbury workshops, especially the Laundry and Power House, the early introduction of inside plumbing and electricity in many of the village buildings and the replacement of old fireplaces with stoves. Shaker respect for innovation is also illustrated in the number of inventions they are credited with, including the

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 24**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

flattened broom and revolving oven. Canterbury inventions include Brother David Parker's washing machine (1858). Unlike the Amish with whom they are often compared, the Shakers were open to accepting technological progress and the addition of electricity, indoor plumbing, telephones, televisions and automobiles are important contributors to the Shaker Village scene.

As exemplified by Canterbury, the Shaker village is characterized by immaculate neatness, extreme simplicity and practicality in its architecture and its site plan. The publication of the Millennial Laws in 1821 codified what were already accepted Shaker principles. As decried in the laws, "Beadings, mouldings and cornices, which are merely for fancy may not be made by Believers".¹ In architecture, as in other Shaker designs, decorative elements were to be inherent parts of the design and were not to interfere with function. Shaker law also prohibited "odd or fanciful styles of architecture" and were quite specific relative to suitable paint colors for buildings in different parts of the village.² Wooden buildings along the public street were to be painted a light hue while darker colors such as red and brown were appropriate for barns and other work buildings. As originally dictated, the meetinghouse alone was to be painted white although this was relaxed in many communities, including Canterbury, in the late 19th century and other buildings were also painted white. The Millennial Laws of 1821 also codified the practice of painting the interior trim of the meetinghouse blue, as was done in Canterbury many years earlier.

All of the Canterbury residential buildings and several of the workshop buildings are variations of the basic Georgian center-hall plan, featuring center front and rear entrances and two rooms up and down on either side of the center entrances. On the exterior the plan results in a three or five bay broad facade with a central entrance. Variations on the plan including duplication of the front entrance and the stairway, resulted from the Shakers' desire to provide separate facilities for men and women. Later additions to the original structures in some cases obscure the essence of the basic plan.

Shaker principles dictated a simple and plain exterior, which gives little or no indication of the architectural styles popular at the time. There was little or no concern with stylistic detailing and a tendency to hold onto stylistic features and architectural forms far later than the outside world. For example, the North Shop constructed in 1841 was apparently constructed with a much-dated 12/8 window sash. Yet, the Shakers were not unaware of stylistic trends, as indicated by the replacement on the Trustees' Building of earlier 12/8 sash with

¹Herbert Schiffer, Shaker Architecture. Exton, PA: Schiffer Publishing, 1979, p. 9. [As transcribed in Edward Deming Andrews' book, The People Called Shakers, pp. 285-286.]

² *Ibid.*

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 25**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

2/1 windows in 1904 or the Colonial Revival detailing seen on the Enfield House and Creamery. Simple two and a half story clapboarded structures with broad facades and gable roofs predominate in the village. Here and there the structures are embellished only by practically-derived detailing such as that of a door hood or sidelight. Embellishments such as a bay window on the Church Family Dwelling House or the porch detailing on Enfield House are rare and subdued.

Inside, the Shaker desire for order and cleanliness manifested itself in the extensive use of built-in cupboards and drawers. Similarly, to avoid chaos in dwelling and workshop, rooms, storage areas, furnishings and tools were often numbered or marked to indicate their proper location. One of the most impressive examples of Shaker cabinetry is found in the attic of the Church Family Dwelling at Canterbury. Constructed in 1837 as an addition to the 1793 Dwelling, the attic exhibits two under-eaves storage spaces, six closets, and 14 cupboards with 101 drawers intended to store off season clothing and bedding. The wooden pegboards circumscribing many of the rooms in the village, were similarly a symbol of the Shaker desire for practicality and order and another way in which to provide "a place for everything and everything in its place". Among other uses, Shaker chairs were hung on the wall pegs to clear the floor for sweeping.

The pristine setting of the village is surrounded by nearly 700 acres owned by the Shaker Village, Inc. with an additional 900 acres of the original Shaker tract to the north in private ownership but protected by conservation easements. These tracts include most of the archeological evidence including ponds and dams, relating to the Shaker's industrial activities. Despite the loss of agricultural and industrial properties, Canterbury gives a comprehensive view of self-sufficient Shaker village. Both the village lands and those to the north are protected by conservation easements.

The Canterbury Shaker Village was significant as the home to the last members of the parent ministry which moved from New Lebanon to Hancock and finally to Canterbury in 1947. The last Shaker Eldress, Bertha Lindsay, died at Canterbury in 1990. The death of Sister Ethel Hudson in September 1992 brought an end to the Shakers' residence at Canterbury yet substantial artifactual collections as well as archives containing oral history documentation, journals, photographs and other records provide a comprehensive view of two hundred years of daily life at the village. In addition, archeological investigation, measured drawings and historic structure reports describing the history, interior and exterior design and modern condition of each building provide a critical permanent record of the physical fabric of the village, making Canterbury the best-documented Shaker Village. Beyond its significance within Shaker architecture, Canterbury also offers a unique vantage point into two hundred years of American building technology. Throughout the village, layer upon layer of physical evidence survive to tell the story of evolving needs and technology. From early insulation and shutter systems to early 20th century telephones,

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 26**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

linoleums and even Edison light bulbs, the Shakers removed little and preserved virtually every change and improvement they made to their built environment through both physical evidence and written documentation.

Four of the Shaker Villages -- Hancock Village, Massachusetts, Shakertown at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, Mount Lebanon, New York, and Sabbathday Lake, Maine -- have been declared National Historic Landmarks. Dissolved in 1960 as a Shaker village, Hancock Shaker Village (1790) was established as a museum in 1960. The restored village includes 20 buildings on 1,000 acres including the Shirley meetinghouse moved to the site. Similarly, following years of neglect after the closing of the Shaker village in 1910, Shakertown at Pleasant Hill (1814) was restored in the 1960s to its earlier appearance, removing the modern aspects of the village such as paved roads, utility poles, gas pumps and signs. Since 1968 Shakertown has operated as a museum incorporating commercial ventures offering food and lodging to visitors. In comparison to Canterbury, relatively little in the way of photographic or other documentation survives for these two villages today. Both Hancock and Pleasant Hill have been largely restored to a pre-Civil War appearance, resulting in the stripping away of many 19th and 20th century accretions and complete reconstruction in some cases.

The second community to be established and home of the central ministry for many years, Mount Lebanon (1787-1947) occupies an important position in Shaker history. Many of the Church Family structures are currently used and occupied by the Darrow School, a private boarding school. The buildings of the Mount Lebanon South Family were most recently inhabited by followers of Sufism, an Eastern sect derived from Moslem mysticism. Many of Mount Lebanon's built-ins have been removed over the years. Like Canterbury, Sabbathday Lake, established in 1794, still has a living Shaker presence, has been turned over to a self-perpetuating non-profit corporation and functions as an educational institution and museum. While Sabbathday Lake retains its Shaker character, it has significantly fewer buildings than Canterbury with a limited range of building types represented. With the possible exception of Sabbathday Lake, the Shaker Village at Canterbury remains the most complete and authentic of the twenty-four villages which existed at one time in the U.S.

Although Canterbury Shaker Village is not being nominated as an NHL for its archeological significance, the integrity of the overall property cannot be overestimated. In addition to the more tangible structures which survive, the nearly 700 acres of land which comprise the village are considered one of the most pristine historical sites in New England. While there is little or no surviving evidence above ground, the land, basically undisturbed, retains considerable physical evidence of the Shaker's engineering skill and ingenuity in building an elaborate network of mills and waterways that was chiefly intended to process wood products.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 27**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andrews, Edward Deming. *The People Called Shakers: a Search for a Perfect Society*. New York: 1953.

Emlen, Robert P. *Shaker Village Views*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1987.

Schiffer, Herbert. *Shaker Architecture*. Exton, PA: Schiffer Publishing, 1979.

Sherman, Rexford Booth. National Register Nomination for Canterbury Shaker Village, Listed June 17, 1975.

Sprigg, June. *By Shaker Hands*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 1975.

Sprigg, June and David Larkin. *Shaker Life Work and Art*. New York: Stewart, Tabori and Chang, 1987.

Starbuck, David R. "Canterbury Shaker Village: Archeology and Landscape", *The New Hampshire Archeologist*, vol. 31, no. 1, 1990.

Starbuck, David R. "Documenting the Canterbury Shakers", *Historical New Hampshire*, Spring 1988.

Starbuck, David R. *An Historical Survey of Canterbury Shaker Village, Phases 5-6*. September 30, 1982.

Stein, Stephen J. *The Shaker Experience in America*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.

Watson, Penelope S. *Architectural Survey and Analysis: Canterbury Shaker Village*. September 1990.

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 (Specify Repository): Shaker Village, Inc., Canterbury, NH.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 28**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 694 acres

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	19	4804120	298890	B	19	4802930	299400
C	19	4802250	298980	D	19	4802170	298280
E	19	4802980	297720	F	19	4803380	297600
G	19	4803760	297560	H	19	4804100	297680

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning on the westerly side of the main highway leading from Shaker Village, so-called, to Belmont at the southeast corner of the premises conveyed by the United Society of Shakers to David L. Curtis et al, by deed recorded in Merrimack County Registry of Deeds, Volume 688, Page 392, and at the northeast corner of a cemetery; thence along said stone wall in a westerly direction fifty (50) rods to a corner in said wall; thence in a northerly direction by said stone wall twelve (12) rods to a corner of said stone wall; thence in an easterly direction by said stone wall about three (3) rods to a corner in said wall; thence in a northerly direction by said stone wall nine and one-half (9 1/2) rods to a corner of said wall; thence in a westerly direction by said stone wall seven (7) rods to an elm tree with an old barbed wire fence attached to it; thence in a northerly direction by a large stone pile and said stone wall forty-nine (49) rods to a corner of said wall beside an old road; thence westerly along the southerly line of said road to the northwest corner of the Wiggin lot, a/k/a lot 107; thence southerly along the westerly line of said lot to the northeast corner of lot 85; thence running west about forty-one (41) rods, or to Currier's Brook (so-called); thence south six (6) rods; thence south twenty (20) degrees east forty-three (43) rods to the north end of stone wall; thence by said wall south five (5) degrees, east fourteen (14) rods; thence south twenty (20) degrees, west thirty two (32) rods; thence south eight (8) degrees, west eighteen (18) rods, on to the south line of said lot to stone wall; thence east about thirty-one (31) rods on to the southeast corner of said lot; thence southerly by westerly line lot 106 to the southwest corner thereof; thence easterly along the southerly line of said lot 960 ft., more or less, to the northeast corner of land now or formerly of George Peverly; thence southerly by said land 503 ft., more or less; thence easterly 722 ft., more or less; thence southerly 694 ft., more or less; thence easterly 546 ft., more or less, all of said courses by land of said Peverly, to a road; thence crossing the road and continuing in an easterly direction to a bound near a brook; thence northerly 177 ft., more or less; thence easterly 744 ft., more or less, to a bound; thence northerly by said main highway to Belmont to the point of beginning. Excepting and reserving from the above description a tract of land conveyed to Alejandro de la Cruz by deed recorded in Volume 830, Page 395.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 29**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Also another tract of land in said Canterbury bound and described as follows: Beginning at a square stone post on the easterly side of the main highway leading from Shaker Village at a point eight (8) rods north of the northeast corner of the cemetery mentioned as a starting point in the above-described parcel; thence in an easterly direction along a stone wall about twenty (20) rods to an elm tree at the corner of the wall; thence in a northerly direction along said stone wall about four (4) rods to a corner of said wall; thence in a direct line in an easterly direction to the John Ingalls lot (being lot #143 in the first division of 100-acre lots in said Canterbury) shown on said plan; thence southerly by said lot 143 to a road; thence crossing the road to the northwest corner of land; thence easterly by said lot 314 ft. more or less; thence south thirty three (33) degrees east 309 ft., more or less; thence north sixty-six (66) degrees east 102 ft., more or less, thence southerly by another road to the southeast corner of said land described in Volume 82, Page 219; thence westerly 450 ft. to a rock Maple and continuing west 846 ft.; thence southerly by the westerly line of land now or formerly of John Ingalls, the Lougee Place, and owners unknown, to the southeast corner of the Blendenburg lot; thence southwesterly along the town line between Canterbury and Loudon to the southerly corner of said Blendenburg lot; thence west by the southerly corner of said Blendenburg lot; thence west by the southerly line of said lot to the southwest corner thereof; thence northerly by said main highway to the point of beginning. Excepting from the above a tract of land described as ten (10) acres in a deed to Arnold E. Storrs, et al, recorded in Volume 729, Page 190 and corrected in Volume 1045, Page 412, as being five (5) acres.

The boundary consists of the boundaries of the following lots as shown on Town Tax Map 15: 024, 027, 027-001, 028, 038, 039 & 040.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the National Register Canterbury Village Historic District were expanded from the 420 acres nominated in 1974 to include all that acreage retained in ownership by the Shakers in 1972 and conveyed in that year to Shaker Village, Inc. Portions of the land holdings which were sold off by the Shakers in the years prior to 1972 are not included in this nomination. Boundaries, as drawn, are sufficient to convey the original context of Canterbury Shaker Village and also sufficient to protect it.

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 30**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant
Org.: (for Shaker Village Inc.)
Street/#: 20 Terrace Park
City/Town: Reading
State: MA
ZIP: 01867
Telephone: (617) 942-2173
Date: August 1992

Edited by: Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian
National Park Service/Washington Office
(202) 343-8166

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE**Page 31**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LIST OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

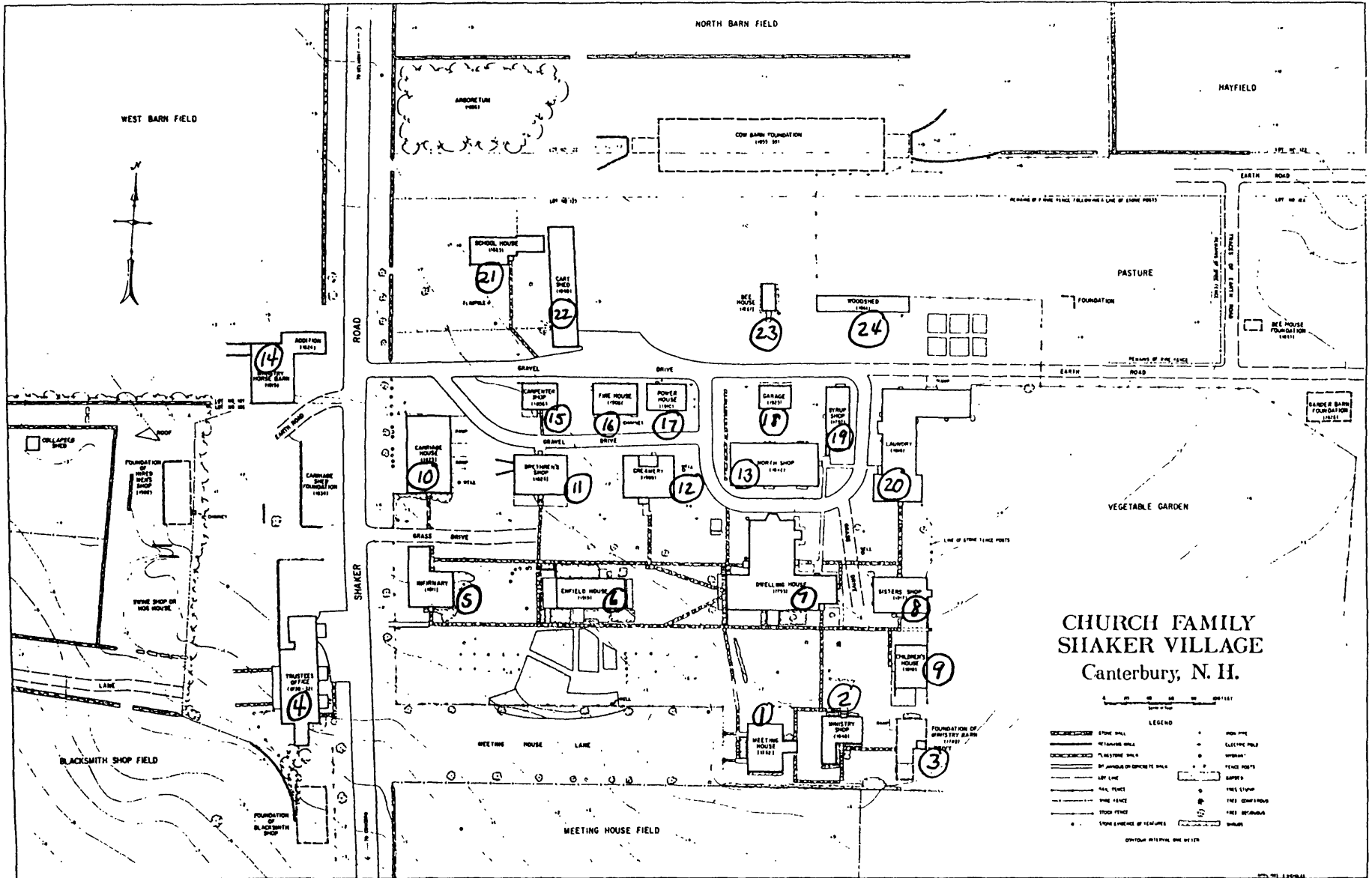
#	RESOURCE NAME	MATERIAL	STORIES	YEAR	CATEGORY
1	Church Family Meeting House	wood	2½	1792	building
1A	Church Family Meeting House fence	wood	-		structure
2	Church Family Ministry Shop	wood	2½	1848	building
3	Privy	wood	1	by 1850	building
4	Church Family Trustees Office	brick	2½	1830	building
5	Church Family Infirmary	wooden	2½	1811	building
6	Enfield House	wooden	2½	1826	building
7	Church Family Dwelling House	wood	3	1793	building
8	Church Family Sisters' Shop	wood	2½	1817	building
9	Church Family Children's House	wood	2½	1810	building
10	Church Family Carriage House	wooden	2½	1825	building
11	Church Family Brethren's Shop	wooden	2½	1824	building
12	Church Family Creamery	wooden	2½	1905	building
13	Church Family North Shop	wood	2½	1841	building
14	Church Family Carpenter Shop	wooden	1½	1806	building
15	Church Family Fire House	wood/met	1 w/tower	1908	building
16	Church Family Power House	wood/met	1	1910	building
17	Church Family Steel Garage	steel	1	1923	building
18	Church Family Syrup Shop	wood	2	1797/1841	building
19	Church Family Laundry	wood	2	1795/1816	building
20	Church Family Horse Barn	wood	1	1819	building
21	Church Family School House	wood	2	1823/1863	building
22	Church Family Cart Shed	wood	1	1840	building
23	Church Family Bee House	wooden	1	1837	building
24	Church Family Woodshed	wooden	1	1861	building
25	Church Family Cow Barn foundation	stone	-	1858	site
26	Stone Wall	stone	-	1797+	structure
27	Shaker Cemetery	-	-		site

TOTAL CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES = 28

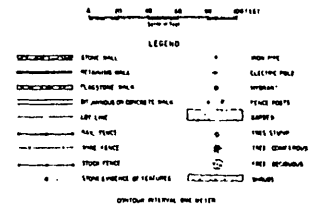
TOTAL NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES = 0

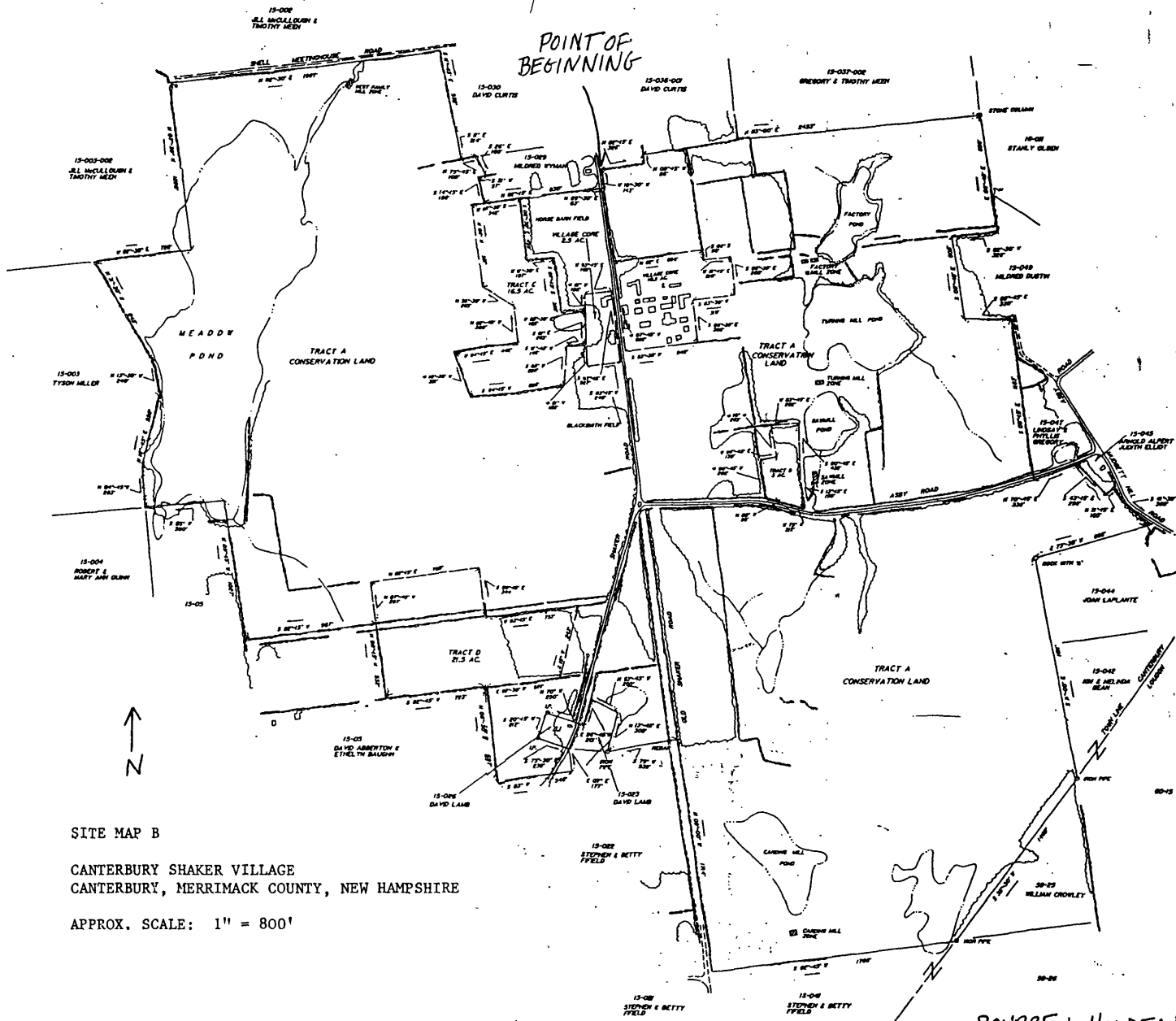
SITE MAP A

CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE
 CANTERBURY, MERRIMACK COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE



CHURCH FAMILY
 SHAKER VILLAGE
 Canterbury, N. H.

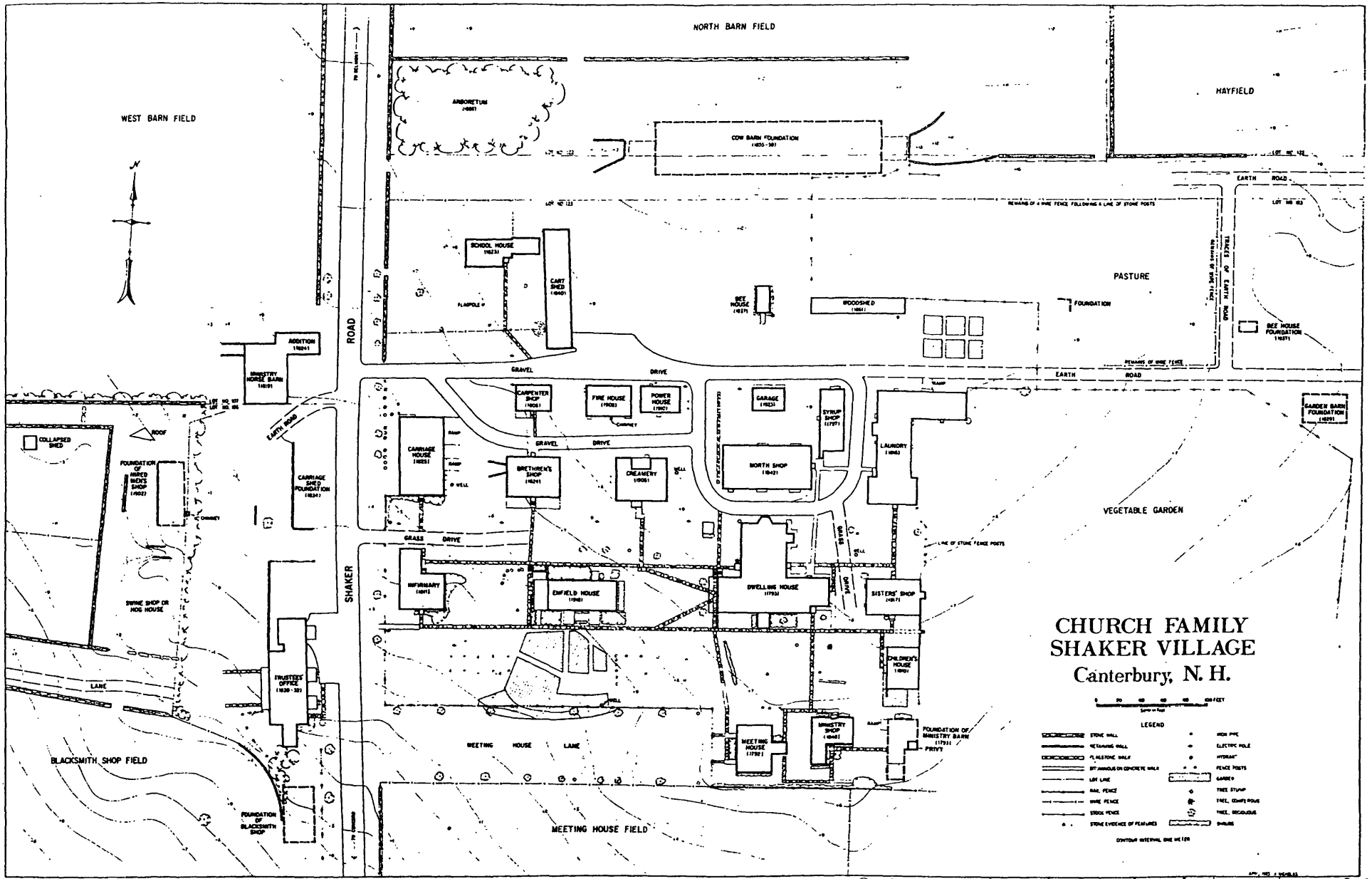




POINT OF BEGINNING

SITE MAP B
 CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE
 CANTERBURY, MERRIMACK COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE
 APPROX. SCALE: 1" = 800'

SOURCE: HOLDEN ENGINEERING
 JUNE 1992

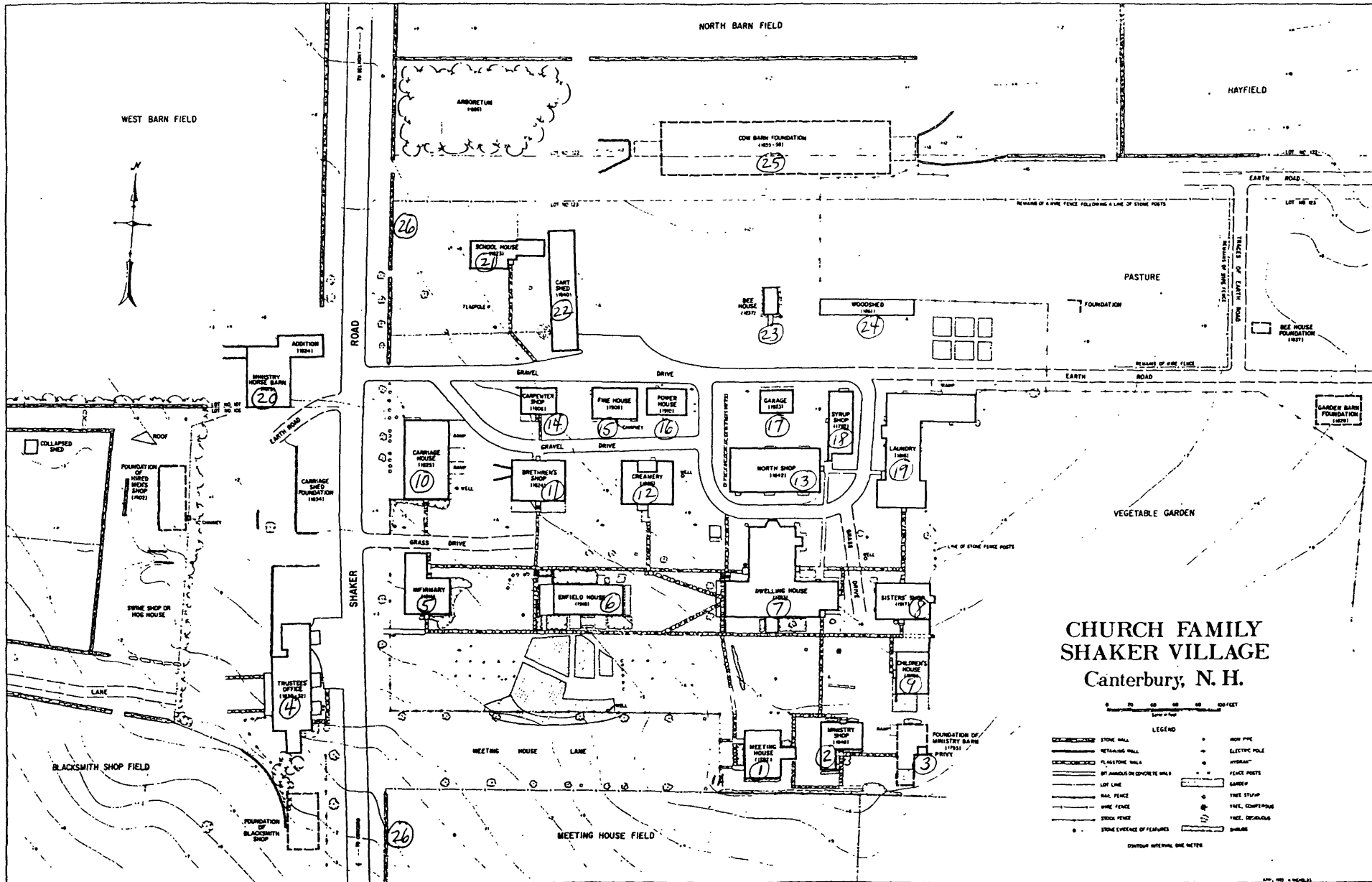


**CHURCH FAMILY
SHAKER VILLAGE**
Canterbury, N. H.

0 20 40 60 80 100 FEET
Scale of Feet

- LEGEND**
- STONE WALL
 - RETAINING WALL
 - FLAGSTONE WALL
 - BRICK WALL OR CONCRETE WALL
 - LOT LINE
 - RAIL FENCE
 - WIRE FENCE
 - STOCK FENCE
 - STONE EVIDENCE OF FEATURES
 - HIGH PINE
 - ELECTRIC POLE
 - HAYSTACK
 - FENCE POSTS
 - GARDEN
 - TREE STUMP
 - TREE CLUMP HOLE
 - WELL LOCATION
 - DRAIN

SOURCE: CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE - ARCHAEOLOGY + LANDSCAPE
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGIST, 1990



SOURCE: CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE: ARCHEOLOGY + LANDSCAPE
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHEOLOGIST, 1990