

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

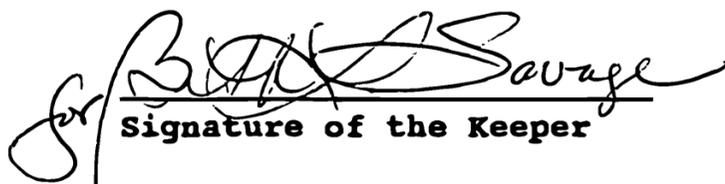
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 00000651 Date Listed: 06/22/00

Hamblet--Putnam--Frye House Hillsborough NH
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

6/22/00
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Area(s) and Criteria

Exploration/Settlement is justified as an applicable area of significance under Criterion A as well for the property's evolutionary role in the historical development of Wilton.

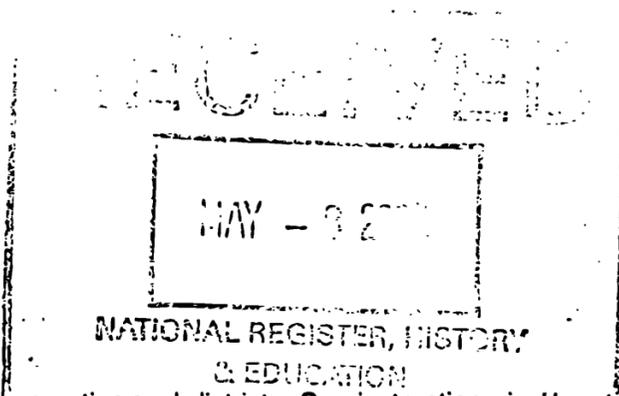
This information was confirmed with Christine Fonda, National Register Coordinator, NPSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin-16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 293 Burton Highway N/A not for publication

city or town Wilton N/A vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Hillsborough code 011 zip code 03086

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Marcy C. Dutton 4/27/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

for Signature of file Keeper
Beth A. Sarge

Date of Action

6/22/00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
0	0	sites
7	0	structures
0	0	objects
11	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

INDUSTRY: waterworks

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

TRANSPORTATION: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other NA

Narrative Description

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New HampshireSection number 7 Page 1

The Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House is located in the Davisville area in the northwest section of Wilton. The late 18th century, 2 1/2-story, five-bay clapboarded main house is the focal point of the complex and was later modified in the 19th century by a two-story ell and single-story wing. The property includes 6.8 acres of land and in addition to the main house, there is a barn, garage, ice house and the remains of the foundation of an old mill, canal, sluice gate, pipeline, two old roads and a wooden bridge. The related outbuildings and structures date from the 19th to the 20th century and are reflective of the evolving use of the property. The property includes approximately 400 feet of frontage on the Burton Highway. Mill Brook flows through the property in a west to east direction, parallel to the Burton Highway. The old Peterborough Road marks the northern boundary of the property. The east property line abuts the mill pond for Frye's Measure Mill. Access to the property is over a wooden public bridge which connects to the driveway leading up the hill to the house and outbuildings. To the north of Mill Brook are remains of the old Hamblet Road which also dates to the 18th century.

A. Main House, c.1761. Contributing building.

Setback from the Burton Highway approximately three hundred feet and set on a low knoll, the main house faces south. The 2 1/2-story, 5 x 2-bay dwelling is sheathed in wooden clapboards above a granite foundation. The building is detailed with simple cornerboards and a plain watertable. The eaves are flush although the molding ends in a return on the east end. Rising from the asphalt-shingled roof are a pair of brick interior ridge chimneys. A long 2 1/2-story ell is aligned with the east wall of the main house. A single-story wing is offset to the west-northwest.

Roughly centered on the five-bay facade, the main entrance is fitted with a vertical board exterior door punctuated by two glass panes. The interior door has six shallow panels; the two middle panels are filled with glass. The entrance features a fluted surround with plain cornerblocks and four-light partial sidelights. Tapered pilasters support a full entablature. The entrance is fronted by a granite step with iron bootscrapers. The windows contain 6/6 sash with metal storm windows and are flanked by louvered blinds. The first floor windows on the facade are capped by lipped lintels while those on the second floor extend to the cornice.

The east elevation of the main house has two bays of window openings containing 6/6 sash with lipped lintels. A single-story, gable-roofed, closed entrance porch projects from this elevation. The porch rests on granite and has a vertical board outer door with a diamond-shaped window sheltering a six-panel interior door. A fluted molding with cornerblocks frames the entrance.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New HampshireSection number 7 Page 2

Extending behind the main house, the two-story ell has six bays of windows on the upper story with the rear two bays more widely spaced than the other two pairs. The northernmost window is set above a wide vertical plank door on the first floor featuring large iron hinges and an entablature lintel. The ten foot wide door swings open to reveal the windows and door of the porch. The adjacent door opening accesses a stairway leading to the backrooms upstairs. Four windows are located to the south of this opening.

The north end of the ell displays flush eaves and is two bays wide. There are two 6/6 windows on the second floor and a single window on the first floor in the westernmost bay. A single 6/6 window lights the attic.

Set into a wide door surround on the north end of the west side of the ell there are three glass-and-wood panels, set into a wide door surround. One of the panels serves as a door into the porch, the other two panels are fixed. All of the panels have four horizontal panes of glass over a recessed panel. The remainder of the elevation is punctuated by random 6/6 windows. There is a shed-roofed entrance adjacent to the point where the main house and ell meet.

To the west of the main house and set back from the facade is a single-story carriage shed wing. The east half of the wing is fronted by a single-story porch supported by bulbous posts resting on four-sided posts which are tapered slightly with each face decorated by recessed panels with raised "x"s. The posts are set on a wooden deck. Sheltered by the porch are two pairs of 6/6 windows which lack the lipped lintels visible on the main house. To the west of the porch are two shed openings with angled corners. The wooden post which separates the two carriage bays is set above a granite post. Behind the right bay there is a setback wall which encloses a privy. The front wall of the enclosure is punctuated by a raised four-panel door and a pair of 6/6 windows. The west wall of the enclosure is sheathed in horizontal boards with an exterior chimney. The far west wall of the carriage shed is windowless and is set above a rock outcropping.

The north wall of the carriage shed has a variety of fenestration including a bay window and three 6/6 windows of varying sizes. There is also a four-panel door sheltered by a shed hood set on simple brackets. The bay window faces the round, stone well which supplied water to the house before plumbing. A concrete patio extends to the north of the carriage shed wing. The patio had formed the foundation for a two-story wing which housed the summer housekeepers employed by the Fryes (this wing was removed in the 1940s). A section of stone wall is located adjacent to the wing.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New HampshireSection number 7 Page 3

At the east end of the carriage wing, the rear wall of the main house extends down in saltbox fashion, with the rear wall continuous with the adjacent shed wall. A shed dormer rises from the roof adjacent to the west chimney of the main house.

Interior Description

The Hamblet House features a double pile/center hall plan. The central entrance hall features an open stairway with thin, round balusters and a bowed newel post with boxed cap and knob. Both the east and west parlors have board wainscoting topped by a simple chair rail. Corner posts are evident in the front corners of both rooms which also retain wide board floors and plaster walls and ceilings. The mantel in the east parlor is decorated by raised panels and recessed diamonds. That in the west parlor is framed by recessed panel pilasters. The doors in these two rooms are of a six-panel configuration, set in molded surrounds.

To the rear of the west parlor, the space was remodeled into a modern kitchen sometime in the early to mid 20th century. Behind the east parlor is the old kitchen which retains wide board wainscoting and a large brick fireplace which has seen the removal of its bake oven. The removal of the east-west wall separating the kitchen from a small "boring" room probably occurred in the early 20th century. The doors in these two rooms are largely four-panel in configuration and several are set into angled frames. Upstairs, part of the hall has been turned into a bathroom. The front bedrooms retain corner posts and mantels which correspond to those on the first floor.

The finishes in the west wing reflect its later date of construction and subsequent Colonial Revival remodeling. The room closest to the original house was used as a summer dining room by the Fries and includes a bay window, corner cabinet, curved wall and heavily molded four-panel doors. To the west of the dining room is a small c.1965 kitchen which is located on the site of a former dry sink. A small bedroom is adjacent.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 7 Page 4

B. Barn, c.1840 with c.1900 and c.1972 additions. Contributing building.

To the north of the main house is a 2 1/2-story barn set with its ridge line running in a north-south direction and its main entrance nearly centered on the east, front eaves elevation. The barn has had several additions. The original portion of the barn is of post-and-beam construction while the additions are not. The barn displays flush eaves on the gable ends with a 6/6 window lighting the attic. On the east side, the wide door surround has posts at the base. The opening has been filled with a door salvaged from a bath house which once stood on the property. There is a 6/6 window adjacent to the south door jamb with a 3 x 2-light window centered above the 6/6 window, a vertical board loft door and a 3 x 3-light window punctuating the wall to the north of the large door opening. The north side of the barn has a single window, a 3 x 2-light window in the attic.

The south side of the building is spanned by a single-story, hip-roofed addition housing stable stalls. The addition displays wide cornerboards and a simple frieze under a boxed cornice. On the south side of the single-story building there are two elevated 3 x 2-light windows which extend to the frieze. Underneath the addition it is open.

To the west of the original barn is a single-story addition on a concrete foundation. This addition was built on the site of a previous 2 1/2-story barn addition which collapsed in 1972. Fenestration on the new section includes 6/6 windows and a vertical board door. A concrete pad extends the length of the addition, to the north, with a smaller concrete foundation to the south. Above the single-story section, on the original barn, a row of five glass panes are located under the eaves.

C. Wagon Shed/Garage, c.1900. Contributing building.

At the end of the driveway is a two-story, gablefront building which now serves as a garage but originally stored wagons. The clapboarded structure is set upon a raised concrete foundation forming a full cellar. The building is outlined by simple cornerboards with projecting eaves forming cornice returns on the gable ends. On the west side of the gablefront is a hinged wooden door which was fashioned from the old bath house. Above is a pair of vertical board loft doors with an inset square hoist above.

The west elevation of the building has two bays of windows aligned vertically. Near the front of this elevation is a four-panel door with recessed panels. The rear elevation is two bays wide. On the east elevation there is a vertical board door accessing the lower level. The first floor has four

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 7 Page 5

6/6 windows while the upper level has two smaller windows which extend to the eaves. A brick chimney rises from the asphalt roof.

Inside the building there is a central staircase leading from the first to the second floor. Upstairs, one room was enclosed to serve as a chauffeur's room. The remainder of the structure was left open for the storage of various items including wagons.

D. Ice House, c. 1900. Contributing building.

Located across the field from the barn, the icehouse is a small, clapboarded building set on a concrete foundation with a covered but open shed extending to the south. The icehouse storage room is at the north end and has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters. The southern plank wall has two openings near the top. There is also a vertical board door on the east elevation. The building has a sawdust floor and double walls which are filled with sawdust. To the south of the storage building, the gable roof extends over an area which is larger than the storage area, supported by four square wooden posts which form one bay on the narrow south end and two on the east and west sides. Above the posts, the angled spandrel areas are clapboarded. The posts rest on concrete pads.

E. Playhouse, c.1970. Noncontributing building (due to age).

This small playhouse was constructed by the Blagbroughs of salvaged board-and-batten wooden panels resting on concrete blocks. There is a wooden door flanked by a row of sidelights on the east wall and a small window on the south end. The building is capped by an asphalt roof.

F. Sluice Gate, c.1840 with c.1900 alterations. Contributing structure.

Located to the southwest of the main house are the remains of a stone chamber which once regulated the flow of water from the Upper Barker Pond into the canal providing water-power to the mill which once stood on the property. In the early 20th century the chamber was reinforced with concrete and the metal work was mounted on top in order to flood the canal for recreational swimming.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 7 Page 6

G. Canal, c.1840 with c.1900 alterations. Contributing structure.

The canal bed originally extended from the Upper Barker Pond to the Putnam Mill. It was constructed of earth, reinforced by a dry-stone retaining wall. Portions of the canal are still visible today although the east end was filled by the Frye family at the turn-of-the-century to form a swimming hole.

H. Mill Foundation, c.1820. Contributing structure.

Forming an embankment to the south of the house is a dry stone foundation which originally supported the mill which was removed in 1899. The foundation extends for approximately one hundred feet and is parallel with the Mill Brook. A shorter length extends to the south from the west end of the foundation. This section originally housed the water wheel mechanism.

The stone foundation is thought to date back to Luther Dascomb's mill and later supported the Putnam, Davis, and Barker mills. Deeds indicate that Dascomb sold a workshop on this site in 1828, suggesting the foundation was already in place by that time. The Town History indicates that Col. Dascomb later engaged in stone work, suggesting he may have constructed the foundation himself. The mill was dismantled in 1899 leaving only the foundation.

I. Wood Pipeline, c.1910. Contributing structure.

About 1910 a wooden pipeline to supply water was constructed by the Fries to the north of Mill Brook between Upper Barker Pond and the Frye Mill. The pipeline was built in four foot long sections of white Southern pine, banded by metal bands. The wood barrel sections were built at the Frye Mill and constructed on site. Today, only the continuous line of metal bands remains.

J. Remains of Old Hamblet Road, 1765. Contributing structure.

Visible to the south of the main house is a portion of the old Hamblet Road. The alignment of the road is still discernible. From the Burton Highway to the bridge, the road has been paved with asphalt. To the west of the bridge as the road turns westward toward the west ell of the house, dirt and stone remains are visible.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 7 Page 7

The Hamblet Road was laid out by the Town of Wilton in 1765. The road remained largely unaltered until the construction of the Burton Highway in 1840. Approximately sixteen and a half rods of the Hamblet Road west of the current property boundary became part of the new Burton Highway as it wound its way towards Stony Brook. Old deeds refer to the road as being located between the west ell of the house and the east ell of the mill.

K. Old Peterborough Road, c.1760. Contributing structure.

The old Peterborough Road marks the northern bounds of the property with the property line extending to the center of the stone road surface. The road has remained unchanged since the 18th century. It has a very rocky road surface and is approximately one rod wide.

This old road served as an early link between Wilton and Peterborough. The Peterborough Road was already in existence in 1765 when the Hamblet Road was laid out, as the terminus of the Hamblet was at its intersection with the Peterborough. The 1765 layout refers to the Peterborough Road as the "old road". The road has been discontinued and left in its original state, shaded by a canopy of trees.

L. Bridge, c.1765 with later alterations. Contributing structure.

This wooden deck stringer bridge spanning Mill Brook is located on the old Hamblet Road which was first laid out in 1765. The stringer span length is 27'3" and the bridge width is 14'10". Records of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation estimate that the bridge was built in 1920. The rough stone abutments may very well date back to the establishment of the Hamblet Road in 1765. In 1990 a new creosote pressure treated deck and tread planks were installed. A painted timber rail runs along both sides of the one-lane bridge.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 7 Page 8

**Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
293 Burton Highway
Wilton, NH**

Map Letter	Resource Name	Date of Construction	Contrib./ Noncontrib.	Type of Resource
A	Main House	c.1761	C	Building
B	Barn	c.1840 (with later add.)	C	Building
C	Wagon Shed/Garage	c.1900	C	Building
D	Ice House	c.1900	C	Building
E	Play House	c.1970	NC	Building
F	Sluice Gate	c.1840 (with c.1900 alt.)	C	Structure
G	Canal	c.1840 (with c.1900 alt.)	C	Structure
H	Mill Foundation	c.1820	C	Structure
I	Pipeline	c.1910	C	Structure
J	Remains of Old Hamblet Road	1765	C	Structure
K	Old Peterborough Road	c.1760	C	Structure
L	Bridge	1765	C	Structure

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

c.1761-1925

Significant Dates

1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Name of Property

Hillsborough County, NH
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.8

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 9	2 7 1 9 7 0	4 7 4 8 4 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant

organization _____ date February 2000

street & number 20 Terrace Park telephone (781) 942-2173

city or town Reading state MA zip code 01867

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name see continuation sheet

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New HampshireSection number 8 Page 1

The Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House at 293 Burton Highway in Wilton, New Hampshire is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, Entertainment/Recreation, as a good example of the evolutionary development of a rural New Hampshire property beginning with the construction of the main house c.1765 to its redefinition/adaptation in the late 19th century as a summer home. After the house was purchased by the Frye family in 1889, the property was used primarily as a summer retreat and various improvements, characteristic of the period, were made. These included the addition of an ice house, bath house, wagon shed/garage, a swimming hole, porches as well as servant quarters. The property retains a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The period of significance for the property is c.1761-1925, reflecting the initial construction of the house and the year in which the use of the house became year-round. Significant dates include 1889, the year the house was purchased by the Frye family. The property is significant on the local level.

Entertainment/Recreation

The Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House and property is a well-preserved complex which beautifully documents the continuing evolution of a small rural property over more than 200 years. The construction of the house in the 1760s corresponds to the early settlement of the town of Wilton, which was incorporated in 1762. The house was constructed near the road leading to the original town center at Wilton Center and was also on an important early route leading to Peterborough. This old road alignment is the northern boundary for the property.

The economic base of Wilton has historically been divided between agriculture and industry. Throughout the town small-scale mills, such as that operated by Luther Dascomb (and later by Eliphalet Putnam and Nathan Barker) were established next to available sources of water power in addition to larger mills producing flannel and dress goods which made Wilton a leading manufacturing and commercial center for the region.

The purchase of the house and former mill property by a Boston physician in the late 19th century for use as a summer home was not an isolated event. By the late 19th century many residents in the country's urban centers had begun to appreciate and seek out rural retreats. Popular journals such as Countryside, Country Life in America, Country Gentleman and House Beautiful, all of which featured articles on rural life, began to proliferate. Concurrent with this somewhat romanticized interest in a rural lifestyle was the reality that agriculture was in serious decline and had resulted in a drastic reduction of agricultural property values. Increasingly alarmed by the abandonment of hill country farms, in 1889 the New Hampshire governor and council appointed a commissioner of immigration, charged with repopulating the rural districts of the state. The Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, N.J. Bachelder, was appointed Commissioner of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 8 Page 2

Immigration for New Hampshire and between 1890 and 1915 the State published a series of publications known as New Hampshire Farms for Summer Homes. Although the purchase of the "Barker Farm" by the Fries predated the publication of the first New Hampshire Farms for Summer Homes, over the years numerous other Wilton properties were included in the town-by-town surveys of abandoned and available farms. A major emphasis of the publications was that these rural properties were easily converted to summer residences for the wealthy and middle classes.

An article on Wilton appearing in the Granite Monthly in 1901 proclaimed that "there is no more attractive region anywhere in the state for a summer sojourning place for city denizens than is here afforded, and every succeeding year adds to the number of those, who spending their active lives elsewhere, find rest and recreation, in the vacation period, amid the Wilton hills, including business and professional men, military and naval officers, artists, writers, etc. Some of the finest summer homes in the country are those about Wilton Centre" (Granite Monthly, vol. XXXI, no. 1, July 1901, p. 2).

It appears that the Frye family was among the earliest to summer in Wilton. The second edition of New Hampshire Farms, published in 1904, lists nine families who were then summer residents including Dr. Edmund Frye of Roxbury, Mass. The others on the list were Catherine K. Abbott, Hattie E. Livsey of Cambridge; Emma L. Turner of Salem, Mass. [her husband Ross Turner (1847-1915) was a well-known painter]; Nettie J. Wright, Edward A. Newell of Boston; A.W. Dunning of Newton, Mass.; Josie Gage of Somerville, Mass. and J.W. Howard of Nashua. What brought most of these early summer residents to Wilton and the interrelationships between them remain unknown. The fact that Dr. Frye later (in 1909) acquired the former Craigin Mill must have set him somewhat apart from other summer residents who sought more leisurely activities in Wilton.

Evidence indicates that in most cases Wilton's summer residents chose and modified historic houses rather than constructing anew. The Georgian style, 2 1/2-story summer home of Rear Admiral J.G. Walker, U.S.N. is illustrated in the 1901 Granite Monthly article. Walker, who died in 1907, was the former head of the Isthmian Canal Commission. The 10th edition of New Hampshire Farms, published in 1910, includes photographs of painter Ross Turner's summer home. The article describes the residence as one of the first houses built in the town and indicates that the barn had been converted into a studio. The conversion of the barn to a studio was also featured in the magazine Country Life in America in March 1909. Nearby, fellow painter Chauncey Ryder of New York had also "fixed up an old place and made a charming home and studio" where he would spend a good portion of the year (NH Farms, 1910, p. 10).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Most of the summer residences in Wilton are located in the vicinity of Wilton Center. Despite the predominance of Georgian and Federal homes at the Center and the fact that summer residents often sought out these older homes, there are also a few examples of summer homes which were new construction. At the Center, at the corner of Wilton Center Road and the Isaac Frye Highway are two conspicuously large homes constructed of shingles and fieldstone, turn-of-the-century buildings which contrast with their Georgian and Federal neighbors and which are believed to have been constructed as summer homes.

After the death of Alice Frye in 1925, the Frye House became a year-round residence but Wilton continued to have a sizable summer community into the 1930s. As noted in a 1931 article in New Hampshire Highways, "prosperous men from larger places have been coming to Wilton for years" although the writer notes that they have not formed a "colony" as at other locations. Among those listed as having made Wilton their summer or permanent homes were a number of artists including Ross Turner, Chauncy Ryder, Hobart Nichols, Roy Brown and Stanley Woodward. Other residents mentioned in the article include Dr. Charles Greeley Abbot, astrophysicist, scientist and astronomer who was also director of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington; concert pianist Pasquale Tallarico; violinist Carl Pierce; Eleanor Hallowell Abbott, writer of short stories; F.O. Stanley, inventor of the Stanley steam carriage and various bankers, businessmen and other professionals. In 1939 it was estimated that there were upward of 50 summer homes scattered over Wilton's hillsides, making it one of the largest concentrations of summer homes in southern New Hampshire (Putnam 1939).

The Hamblet-Putnam-Frye Property is an excellent illustration of the way in which the town's and state's rural properties were redefined in the early 20th century in response to decreasing agricultural land values and waning small-scale industrial uses. The quality of its buildings, features and setting merit its inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Historical Background

The history of the Hamblet House can be traced back to 1749 when the land area of Wilton, known as Number 2, was granted to the Masonian Proprietors. The original 1749 map grid of owners indicates that the land later occupied by the Hamblet House (lot 17 range 6 and lot 17 range 7) was then owned by Josiah Butterfield. In 1760 Jacob Butterfield conveyed the same land to Jacob Putnam, one of the first settlers who explored Wilton in 1739. The following year Putnam conveyed the land on lot 17 range 6 to Hezekiah Hamblet. Deeds indicate that Hamblet was a carpenter. He apparently built the present house between 1761 and 1765, at which time he conveyed buildings and land to Samuel Greele. The existence of the house is also specifically mentioned in 1765 when the Town (which had been incorporated in 1762) accepted a layout for a

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 8 Page 4

road on the property, one of the earliest roads approved by the Selectmen of Wilton. The road was described as “beginning at the end of the land north of Hezekiah Hamblets house at a Hemlock tree marked H Running over the brook...”.

In 1771 Samuel Greele conveyed land on lot 17 range 6 to David Kenny, a blacksmith. In 1792, David Kenny deeded Eliphalet Putnam water rights for 999 years and the right to erect a dam on the Mill Brook. Later, in 1808, Putnam acquired title to land contained in lot 17 range 6 from David Kenny. For the next fifty years, the history of the Hamblet House property is intertwined with that of the adjacent parcel to the east, now known as the Craigin Mill or Frye’s Measure Mill, at the corner of Davisville Road and Burton Highway (listed on the National Register 3/23/1982). The Hamblet House and the Frye Measure Mill were both part of the same property conveyed by David Kenny to Eliphalet Putnam in 1808. The Putnam Corporation operated as a business with mill buildings on both sites. Eliphalet Putnam (1766-1826) was a grandson of Jacob Putnam, the original settler of the town. He served as selectman of the town from 1796-1806 and was also a deacon of the church.

The Putnams operated two mill sites on their property in the 19th century. Eliphalet Putnam built a clothing mill along the mill pond created by the damming of the Mill Brook. This mill stood until 1817 when he built a new two-story mill housing carding machines. This latter building is the southwest corner of the present Frye’s Mill. An additional mill site on the property is mentioned in a 1828 deed from Luther Dascomb to Zimiri Barrett describing “a certain workshop with all the tools and machinery therein situate in said Wilton westerly from the clothing mill belonging to the heirs of the Estate of Eliphalet Putnam deceased.” Dascomb manufactured bobbins for ten years. (The Town History’s assertion that Dascomb erected the mill in 1829 appears to be erroneous in light of the 1828 deed). The 1858 Hillsborough County map suggests that Eliphalet Putnam continued mill operations in or on the same location where the former Dascomb Mill operated and this mill contributed to the Putnam Corporation. Eliphalet Putnam’s sons - Eliphalet, Abiel and Sewall, increased their land holdings by purchasing forty acres from Luther Dascomb in 1833. It was during the Putnam’s ownership, between 1808 and 1850, that the two-story ell and west wing were constructed and Greek Revival-style alterations were made to the entrances of the main house.

United States Census records indicate that in 1850 E. Putnam & Co., makers of knobs and bobbins, was valued at \$3000. The water-powered mill employed eight. The 1860 Census lists the business as bobbin manufacturers and machinists. The company then had three male workers and produced 50,000 bobbins and 8,000 milk can stopples each year.

In the late 1850s and early 1860s the Putnam property was once again divided into two separate parcels. In 1858 Putnam’s former clothing mill was taken over by Daniel Craigin for the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New HampshireSection number 8 Page 5

manufacture of knife trays, wooden dry measures, dye dippers and butter boxes. Eliphalet Putnam, Jr. died in 1862 and in 1864 his widow, Persis, conveyed the part of the property including the Hamblet House to Joseph Davis. Davis lived in the former Hamblet house and maintained an office in the ell. In 1863 Joseph Davis and others received incorporation for the Davis Manufacturing Company. The mill operated in the same location as the Dascomb and Putnam mills before it. A flood in October 1869 destroyed or damaged many structures along the banks of Wilton's streams and rivers. In 1871, Persis Putnam foreclosed upon Joseph Davis.

In 1872, Mrs. Putnam sold the property, then including thirty-five acres of land, to Nathan Barker. Barker's mill opened for business sometime in that year. Here, cider was made in the fall and lumber was dressed for building purposes. In 1878, Nathan and his wife, Lucy, conveyed to Warren Jones thirty acres of land including the house but retained ownership of five acres of land including the mill site, which they continued to operate. In 1889 Warren Jones conveyed his property (the house) to Alice Frye, wife of Dr. Edmund B. Frye. In 1898, Nathan and Lucy Barker conveyed to Alice Frye the five-acre property which included the Barker Mill. The Barker Mill ceased operation prior to June 1899 as the deed required the demolition of the mill by that date. In 1909 E.B. Frye also bought the Craigin Mill, once again bringing both the Hamblet House and Frye's Mill into ownership by the same family although only one of the parcels was now in industrial use.

During the Frye's period of ownership, the property was used primarily as a summer home and various improvements were made to enhance the comfort of its residents. The Fryes came up to their summer retreat from Roxbury, Massachusetts (part of Boston) to escape the heat of the city. Among the improvements made by the Fryes at the turn-of-the-century were the addition of a stable room to the barn and the construction of the ice house and wagon shed/garage. In the main house, the old wood shed was converted into an enclosed porch and servants' rooms were added. A single-story porch was also constructed across the front of the house (this was subsequently removed in the 1940s). The canal which had formerly channeled water to the mill was blocked to serve as a swimming hole. A bath house was also constructed (no longer extant).

Alice Frye died in 1925 and in 1943 her daughter, Mary Frye, conveyed the "Barker Farm" to Fred and Lena Povey. In 1953, the property was purchased by Peter Caulfield who sold it to John Dimeling the following year. In 1963 William Putnam Blagbrough and his wife, Corinne, purchased the house, outbuildings and 6.8 acres of the "Barker Farm" from the Dimelings. The bath house, which had fallen in from deterioration, was removed although materials from it were reused to make doors for the barn, garage and porch as well as a kitchen table.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 9 Page 1

Primary Sources

Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds, Nashua, New Hampshire.

Masonian Proprietors Records, New Hampshire State Archives, Concord, New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Department of Transportation, File on Bridge No. 077/145.

Provincial Deeds, New Hampshire State Archives, Concord, New Hampshire.

Tallarico, Phyllis, [Wilton Historical Society], Interview, March 2000.

Town of Wilton, Annual Reports, 1850-present.

Town of Wilton, Vital Records, New Hampshire State Archives, Concord, New Hampshire.

United States Census, Industrial Schedules, Town of Wilton, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880. Microfilm collection, New Hampshire State Library.

Secondary Sources

Closs, Christopher W. National Register Nomination for Stonyfield Farm. Listed 8/3/83.

Ermenc, Christine. "Economic Give-and-Take: Farmers and Aesthetes in Cornish and Plainfield, New Hampshire, 1885-1910." Historical New Hampshire, vol. 39, nos. 3 & 4, Fall/Winter 1984.

Hurd, D. Hamilton. Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1885.

Livermore, Abiel Abbot and Sewall Putnam. History of the Town of Wilton. Lowell, Massachusetts: Marden & Rowell, 1888.

Metcalf, Henry H. "Wilton, on the Souhegan", Granite Monthly, vol. XXXI, no. 1, July 1901.

Putnam, Hamilton S. ed. Historical Sketches of Wilton, New Hampshire, 1739-1939. Milford, New Hampshire: Cabinet Press, 1939.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 9 Page 2

Rotch, A. B. "Interesting People in a New Hampshire Village", New Hampshire Highways, 1931, vol. 9, no. 4, p. 7.

Savage, Harland H., Jr. National Register Nomination for Frye's Measure Mill. Listed 3/23/82.

State Board of Agriculture, New Hampshire Farms for Summer Homes, various dates c.1890-1915. Concord: Rumford Printing Co.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property constitutes Lot A-022 in the local tax assessor's records.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all that remains of the original property constructed by Hezekiah Hamblett c.1761. Additional acreage which has been subdivided over the years has not been included.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number 11 Page 1

LIST OF OWNERS

Owner

Resource owned

Blagbrough Family Realty Trust
Corinne Blagbrough, Trustee
293 Burton Highway
Wilton, NH 03086

A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K

Town of Wilton
42 Main Street
Wilton, NH 03086

L

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Hamblet-Putnam-Frye House
Wilton (Hillsborough County)
New Hampshire

Section number _____ Page _____

