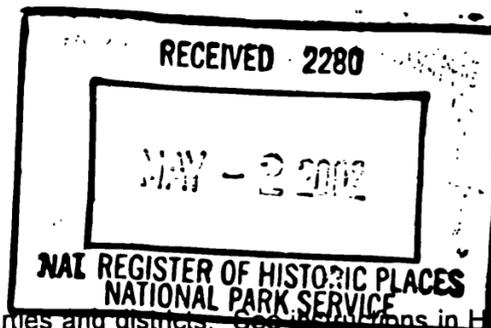


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



633

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Plumer Homestead

other names/site number Plummer Homestead (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 1273 White Mountain Highway (Route 125 or Plummer's Ridge Road) N/A not for publication

city or town Milton N/A vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Strafford code 017 zip code 03851

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.)

James McConaha 4/29/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of 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 See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson A. Beall 6/14/02

Plummer Homestead
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: granite

walls WOOD: weatherboard, shingles

roof ASPHALT

other BRICK (chimneys)

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

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

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 36) 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

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1780-ca. 1952

Significant Dates

ca. 1780 - original cape constructed

ca. 1810 - front block constructed

1848 - cape raised and remodeled

1870 - barn built

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown/Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of Repository

Plummer Homestead
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 20 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	9	3	3	8	6	0	0	4	8	1	3	5	6	0
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
2	1	9	3	3	8	9	0	0	4	8	1	3	8	8	0

3	1	9	3	3	8	9	8	0	4	8	1	3	5	6	0
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
4	1	9	3	3	8	6	8	0	4	8	1	3	3	3	0

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 Kari Ann Laprey and Lynne Emerson Monroe

organization Preservation Company date March 2002

street & number 5 Hobbs Road telephone 603/778-1799

city or town Kensington state NH zip code 03833

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 New Hampshire Farm Museum

street & number Plummer's Ridge Road, P.O. Box 644 telephone 603/652-7840

city or town Milton state NH zip code 03851

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 amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 7 Page 1 Plummer Homestead
Strafford County, NH

Narrative Description

The Plummer Homestead is located on the west side of Plummer's Ridge Road (also the White Mountain Highway and N.H. Route 125) some 3.5 miles north of the village of Milton, and south of Milton Mills. It is an excellent example of connected farm architecture, denoted by the phrase "Big house, little house, back house, barn." The complex is the result of multiple building campaigns. The main block, facing the road is a two-story, one room deep, "I-house" built ca. 1810. The Federal style exterior was updated with a Greek Revival style entry around 1840. The original south-facing cape, built in the 1780s, forms the front section of the ell or "little house". The cape was remodeled at various times, particularly in 1848 when the roof was raised and chimney rebuilt. Around the same time, the entire complex received new split granite underpinning (The uniform stones were split using plugs-and-feathers, a technology that superseded the older splitting by flat wedges ca. 1830.) (Garvin 1992:6). The ell continues from the southwest gable end of the house, in a long 1½-story structure, probably erected in the early nineteenth century and later updated. A series of doors along the southeast wall of the ell open into the south facing dooryard. The ell contains woodshed, privy, workshop and vehicle storage. The complex terminates in a massive "New England barn" oriented with its gable end to the road, built ca. 1870. The buildings are in a very good state of preservation, and there have been few changes since the period of significance.

The Plummer Homestead presently contains twenty acres of primarily open land. The various components of the site include: front yard, door-yard, north yard, barnyard, fields and woodland. This is the core of the historic homestead. The current Plummer Homestead parcel is defined on the west by the Spaulding Turnpike, which bisected the farm when it was built in the 1950s. A large tract of land west of the Turnpike remained in common ownership until sold in the 1990s. Additional farmland was located on the east side of Plummer's Ridge Road.

1. Connected Farm Buildings. Contributing building.

I-House / "Big House" c.1810

The front block of the house is a two-story, 5 X 2 bay structure with low pitched gable roof. The floor plan consists of two rooms up and two down, on either side of the central hallway. Two interior, brick, fireplace chimneys are situated just rear of the ridge. The exterior walls are sheathed in the original clapboards with lapped (skived) ends and three-inch exposure (Garvin 1992), and trimmed with narrow corner boards and fully pedimented gables. The windows have original casings and double-hung 9/6 sash. All windows on the façade and south elevations are flanked by wooden shutters. The center entry, updated ca. 1840 (Garvin 1992), includes a Greek Revival period four-panel door flanked by half-length sidelights, accommodating the older Federal period wainscoting on the interior. Well-detailed, but deliberately heavy, the flat pilasters with molded

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Strafford County, NH

capitals support an entablature with projecting molded cornice. The entry appears to have been an individual improvement, not combined with other Greek Revival changes to the complex (Garvin 1992:5).

Inside the front entry, the staircase features a molded handrail, square balusters set diagonally, sawn brackets on the stringers, and a fully paneled enclosure below. The north front room, probably used as the best parlor, has the most elaborate detailing in the house, comparable to that of fine Seacoast New Hampshire houses of the period (Garvin 1992:4). The door and window casings are “double” with two surfaces separated by ogee moldings, and well-detailed back-band moldings. Six-panel doors have raised panels bordered by delicate ogee (s-curve) moldings. This room retains two-part sliding shutters in operable condition, with early or original paint color. The plaster dado below the chair rail was probably intended to be wallpapered like the walls above (Garvin 1992:4). On the projecting chimney breast, the distinctive mantelpiece features cornice with bold cove molding atop a series of smaller moldings. The frieze is decorated with large fret dentils above a series of lozenge or diamond ornaments. Because this room, the best parlor, was lightly used it retains its original finish with little paint build-up, leaving the crisp moldings and ornament intact (Garvin 1992:4). The south front room probably used as the everyday parlor or sitting room, has direct access to the kitchen in the cape section. Its window and door casings are like those in the north room. The mantelpiece features a bold coved crown molding and fluted frieze (the end returns have been removed). The windows retain two-part sliding shutters, which are now painted into their pockets. The walls have flat wooden wainscoting topped by a molded chair rail. About 1830, the fireplace was bricked in and a cast-iron fire frame installed (Garvin 1992:4).

The north front (parlor) chamber is little changed since ca. 1810, except for the reduction of the rear window. It retains coved mantel, door and window casings and matching chair rail (Garvin 1992:5). The south front or sitting room chamber was remodeled in the early nineteenth century, when it was divided into two rooms and the fire place closed in. The new chair rails on each side of the partition were designed to closely resemble the originals on the outer walls. A second doorway was added to access the front room.

Cape Cod House / “Little House” c.1780

The original ca. 1780 house was built in the Cape Cod form, with three main rooms arranged around a central chimney. This section of the house retains its original south-facing, five-bay facade. The 9/6 window sash with narrow muntins date from the early 1800s, and were probably installed when the front block was constructed to create a uniform appearance (Garvin 1992:2). The central doorway features Greek Revival style ornament, which is similar to that on the façade, but does not appear to date from the same building campaign. It features half-length sidelights with multiple narrow panes, divided by muntins with a Gothic profile. The casing consists of simple pilasters and a narrow entablature board with projecting cornice. The cape section of the house was extensively remodeled in 1848 (Scales 1914:872). The original roof was jacked up about 2', and a new circular-sawn plate inserted, supported by short, doubled timbers below the feet of the raised rafters. This change increased the size of the upper story and gave the old house the newly fashionable proportions of a

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Strafford County, NH

raised or high-posted cape. As the upper floor of the cape was finished with bedchambers, a four-light horizontal window was added below the eaves of the north elevation and dormers were added to the façade. The cape retains its original central chimney placement, but most or all of the chimney was rebuilt (Garvin 1992) when the roof was raised in 1848. The two gable dormers break the front eave-line. They contain paired windows with 4/4 sash and have fully pedimented gables, reflecting the gable ends of the main block. These dormers appear to date from the late nineteenth century (Garvin 1992) and probably replaced earlier ones, possibly in August of 1877 when Enoch Plumer's journal made reference to work on the house and chambers. Projecting from the rear (northwest) of the cape section, in the corner behind the main block, is a one-story extension with shed roof. This dairy room has a metal roof and 6/6 windows, with a door on the west end leading into the north yard.

A door at the back of the center hallway connects to the east front room of the cape. This room was used for some time as part of the kitchen; it contains a cooking fireplace, presumably installed when the chimney was rebuilt ca. 1848 (Garvin 1992:6). The kitchen function was shared with the rear room of the cape (probably the original kitchen), where a brick oven with cast iron door and a set kettle in the were built into the northern face of the chimney (Garvin 1992:6). Later in the nineteenth century, the back room was the location of the cook stove and kitchen sink, while the east front room was used as the family room or everyday living room (Verville 2002). A small room in the northeast corner of the cape, now divided into a bathroom and small sitting room, was used at one time as a bedroom (Verville 2002). At the northeast end of the back kitchen stairs lead down to a cold storage room in the cellar. This brick-walled room was lined with shelves and used to store canned foods and the like. The well was located under the cape and water pumped up to the kitchen sink until modern plumbing was installed in the 1950s (Verville 2002). Off the back of the kitchen, the small extension contained the dairy room where butter and cheese were made and stored. In the twentieth century, refrigerated storage was in a pantry off the opposite end of the kitchen, where the milk separator was kept (Verville 2002).

The western front room (southwest) of the cape section retains original Georgian detailing, including a fully paneled chimney wall, double-cyma crown molding and heavy chair rail above flat-paneled wainscoting (Garvin 1992:2). Georgian four panel doors hung on H-hinges with botching (leather washers under the nail heads) are intact, and some retain their original painted graining. In the early nineteenth century, the fireplace in this room was reduced in size and a Federal mantel shelf applied (Garvin 1992:2).

The second floor of the cape was unfinished until the roof was raised in 1848. The staircase also appears to have been built at that time, providing access to the two bedchambers (Garvin 1992).

Ell / "Back House 19th century

The ell or "back house" extends from the southwest gable end of the cape. This lower 1½-story structure is over seven bays long, with three doors of varying configurations along the southeast elevation. This structure

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appears to date from the early nineteenth century, and was remodeled several times. The framing consists of hewn and up-and-down sawn timbers (some reused) with circular sawn sheathing (Garvin 1992:8). A slender brick stove chimney, installed ca. 1970 with the furnace, pierces the front roof slope and projects above the gable end of the cape. This space is lit by horizontal four-light windows under the eaves on front and rear elevations. Windows contain double-hung 9/6 sash, with flat board trim. The two windows closest to the house are earlier, while historic photographs show that those to the west were installed in place of 6/6 sash sometime in the late nineteenth century (Garvin 1992:8). At the same time, a gable wall dormer was built on the southeast slope of the roof, and a sliding door added to the vehicle bay. As was typical of connected farm architecture, the end of the ell closest the house contained the woodshed. A single sliding door on exterior track provided access from the dooryard, while double hinged doors could be opened for bringing in wood (Verville 2002). A back door leads into the north yard. The central section of the ell was workshop space (Verville 2002). The back (southwest) section of the ell is a vehicle shed. The sliding door on exterior track, and 9/6 fenestration appears to date from the late nineteenth century. The door itself is pierced by a window and slides on its track across in front of the adjacent window. The southwestern end of the ell is supported by a brick foundation above the granite underpinning. This section may be the carriage house built in 1873 according to Enoch Plumer's journal, but further study is needed to confirm this.

Projecting from the rear (southwest) corner of the ell at its junction with the barn is a 1½-story shed with exposed cellar on the northeast and west sides. Essentially a rear extension of the ell, this was used as vehicle storage, and could also be the 1873 "carriage house" mentioned in the journal (Verville 2002). The walls of this section are sheathed in wood shingles and the windows contain double-hung 6/6 sash. The cellar is primarily open between supporting posts with diagonal braces.

Barn / "Barn" c.1870

The massive barn, built in 1870 according to Enoch Plumer's journal, forms the southwest end of the complex. Consisting of eight bents, the barn has a circular sawn frame and a combination of up-and-down sawn and circular sawn sheathing (Garvin 1992). The large sliding door is centered on the gable end. Typical of post-1850 barn doors (Visser 1997:33), it slides to the left on an exterior track, which is covered with a hood of boards to prevent buildup of snow and ice. A window of four rectangular panes is located within the door and a transom light extends above the track. The lower wall of the front gable end is sheathed in asphalt shingles in a fish-scale pattern, in place of the wood shingles shown in historic photographs. The gable end has always been sheathed in clapboards. Walls have flat corner boards and frieze below the projecting eaves. The eaves have molded raking cornice and returns. Two windows with 6/6 sash and flat trim are centered in the front gable. A rectangular louvered vent is located above. The driveway slopes up to the entries of barn and carriage shed. The southeast edge is supported by a stone retaining wall capped with a granite slab. The side and rear elevations of the barn are sheathed in wood shingles. They have narrow board trim and simpler raking cornice with returns. The rear barn door is centered on the back gable end and has similar door on exterior track,

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transom light, 6/6 windows and vent location identical to those on the façade. This rear door was apparently little used, as there is no ramp. In a somewhat unusual configuration, a smaller, older barn (taken down ca. 1980) stood to the rear with its gable end at a slight angle, and not directly abutting, and the two barns were connected by planking (Verville 2002).

The northwest elevation of the barn is lined by seven evenly spaced, six-pane, horizontal, rectangular windows, about mid-way between the sill and eaves. These light the stable/cow tie up area, located along the northwest side of the interior, rather than the south side as was common (Visser 1997:75). A ramp within the barn (northwest corner) provides access from the stable area to the barnyard, via the barn cellar. Above the tie ups is hay loft. The barn has the typical central drive floor. The southern bay consists of a series of ground floor storage rooms, with hayloft above, and the remains of an interior square silo. The southeast wall is broken by windows with small 6/6 sash. The cellar is exposed under the southeast elevation, with the principal doorway in the southeast corner. The front corner of the cellar contains animal pens, lit by horizontal windows.

2. Cattle shed, c.1995. Non-contributing building.

Southwest of the barn and barnyard is a small modern equine/cattle shed. This three-sided, 20' X 10' structure has a shed roof and two bays, open along the southeast elevation.

3. Site. Contributing site.

Plummer's Ridge Road (formerly N.H. Route 16 and the White Mountain Highway) is the major route leading north from the city of Rochester. The straight road runs nearly due south-north, parallel to the top of Milton or Plummer's Ridge. The ridge roughly parallels the northeastern edge of the state, and northeast of the road, land slopes down toward the Branch and Salmon Falls Rivers. On the southwest side of the road, the land slopes down to a low flat area, known as "The Plains." The Spaulding Turnpike has run parallel to the older road since the 1950s. West of the turnpike, the railroad roughly parallels the base of the ridge.

Front yard

The property exhibits the typical nineteenth century three-yard arrangement. Between the house and road is the formal front yard. The small grass yard is delineated by a picket fence supported on square wooden posts. The central gate is hung on granite posts. A rough stone pathway leads up to the granite front step. Only remnants of the large roadside trees remain. The semi-circular entrance drive with small grassy area in center is a historic feature shown in old photographs.

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Door-yard

The driveway parallels the southeast elevation of the complex, forming the typical sheltered door-yard on the south side of the buildings. In this case, the southeast facing elevation of the house was traditionally considered the "front" of the house (Verville 2002). A series of doors provide convenient access to all parts of the buildings, including kitchen, woodshed, workshop and vehicle storage. Beside the "front" door is the bulkhead which always provided access to the cellar (Verville 2002). The narrow grassy strip along the house shows in historic views as does the configuration of the driveway parallel to the house and leading up to the barn door. The drive continued along the barnyard and southwest through the fields.

Barnyard

The barnyard, enclosed by a wooden board fence on round wooden posts, and by stone wall along the southwest side, extends out from the south and southwest sides of the barn. Doors in the basement level of the barn provide allowed for passage of the animals in and out of their stalls. The barnyard gate is located at the front corner of the yard, adjacent to the front barn door and the edge of the driveway.

North yard

The yard on the north side of the house was also an important component of the farm. Until recently it was the location of the family's large vegetable garden. Doors on the back of the house provided access between kitchen and garden, in and out of the dairy room and into the back of the ell. The north side of the house is shaded by large lilacs. A wire fence on wooden posts defines the northern field.

Fields

The bulk of the twenty acres currently associated with the Plummer Homestead is open land. The buildings are surrounded by fields. To the north, open field extends to the adjacent Plumer-Jones Farm, the boundary defined partially by a stone wall. Along the roadside of the north field is split rail fence. The south field is separated from the dooryard by a fence of wooden boards on round posts. A tall picket fence shows in this location in historic photos. Stone wall that marked the front edge of the field was lost to highway widening. A farm road runs back from the buildings, southwest, through the center of the property toward the railroad and outlying land. In the northwest quadrant of the property, open land extends southwest nearly to the Spaulding Turnpike.

Woodland

The southeast corner of the property is now, and has long been, wooded. The southeast bound is defined by the Cemetery road, leading to a small cemetery just outside the southwest corner of the Plummer Homestead (Plan 1992). The neighborhood, public cemetery is considered to be owned by the Town. A triangular strip of

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wooded land along the north side of the Cemetery road was added to the Plummer Homestead in 1907 (Deed 1907). The earlier lot line, truly parallel to the northern lot line of the property, is indicated by a stone wall. West of the cemetery, the property line continues along the wall (Plan 1992).

The current southwestern bound of the property is the Spaulding Turnpike, a limited access highway built in the 1950s. The Turnpike is bordered by woods, screening it from view.

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Strafford County, NH

Narrative Statement of Significance:

Summary

The Plummer Homestead is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for significance within the context of Architecture in Milton. It is significant as a representation of the connected farm property type. Together, the Plummer Homestead buildings illustrate the connected farm arrangement widely adopted in northern New England during the nineteenth century. The overall form, plan, layout, orientation, and use of the various structures are all hallmarks of this regionally significant building type. The Plummer Homestead is an excellent example, because of its historic integrity and because it has a high percentage of the defining characteristics. These include the division of the buildings into four sections - the "big house" closest to the road, and the "little house" and "back house" extending in an ell to a large attached barn. Typically, the staggered row of buildings is aligned (either parallel or perpendicular to the road) to shelter south-facing dooryard and barnyard, while a formal front yard is presented to the road.

The Plummer Homestead is also eligible under Criterion A, significant in the area of Agriculture. The property illustrates patterns of settlement, trends in land use and farming practices, in this case including continual building improvements and creation of the connected farm form. The eligible property also includes one Contributing site, consisting of front yard, door-yard, north yard, barnyard, fields and woodland, which were integral to the agricultural functioning of the farm.

The Period of Significance, ca. 1780-ca. 1952, is based on the continuous occupation and use of the farm by a single family until the end of the historic period fifty years ago. The Plummer family (originally spelled Plumer) lived in the house from its settlement, until the 1990's. Their long-time occupancy and the surviving historical documents (probate inventories, journal and account book) contribute to its importance.

The property retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association for its historic period. The buildings have been kept in good condition and there were few modern changes. The only major alteration since the Period of Significance was the removal of a smaller secondary barn (Verville 2002). The property remains in agricultural use and the land is protected by a conservation easement. It has integrity of location and setting, the buildings surrounded by open land, and the spatial relationship to abutted historic properties intact. The land and buildings retain a strong ability to convey historic associations. The division of the farm by the Spaulding Turnpike and the sale of previously associated land have diminished the property's integrity as an overall farm unit. However, the remaining land is the core of the historic homestead and it retains important features such as field and pasture, fencing and walls, and surrounding woods that are the significant physical qualities of the property. The buildings have little changed since the Period of Significance, they retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling. The architectural elements of the Plummer Homestead buildings document the many building campaigns undertaken by the family. In this case, the

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Strafford County, NH

numerous changes do not detract from the property's integrity, but rather contribute to its significance. The continual updating of buildings was a major aspect of the creation of connected farm complexes.

The Plummer Homestead is among the finest examples of the connected farm type in Milton. The site components and building components are characteristic of the type and are very well preserved. The local importance of this building form is reflected by the many connected complexes along Plummer's Ridge and elsewhere in town. Of these, the Plummer Homestead displays an exceptional degree of integrity, with buildings and land nearly unchanged since the Period of Significance, and the defining elements of the property type clearly discernable.

Architectural Significance

The connected farm is important both as a regional property type and as a trend in construction practices. The connected arrangement was used throughout New England, but was most popular in the southeastern New Hampshire and southwestern Maine region. There are a number of connected farms in Milton and along Plummer's Ridge, which is located squarely within the geographical area where such farms were most densely distributed (Hubka 1984:20, 74).

This property displays the four essential components of connected farm complexes (Hubka 1984:6, 9). The "big house" is oriented toward the road and has the most architectural refinement. The "little house" contains the kitchen and other work-space for farm production and daily tasks. The "back house" sheds include the woodshed, workshop space and vehicle storage, all important to daily farm operation. The complex terminates in a large "New England barn," with entry centered on the front gable, three bays wide with a central vehicle floor.

The individual structures that comprise the Plummer Homestead are significant as examples of architecture from their various periods of construction. The original ca. 1780 cape (now the "little house") was one of the first residences built in this part of Milton and represents the earliest form of domestic architecture in the region. Despite later updating, sufficient original materials and Georgian details survive to document this period and contribute to an understanding of early building practices in Milton and of the architectural treatments available to an ambitious farmer in the region before 1800 (Garvin 1992). The front section or "big house," built ca. 1810, is typical of the "I-house" plan – one room deep with center hall and two interior end chimneys. It is a fine example of rural Federal architecture, displaying fine workmanship and a high percentage of original elements, including early paint finishes. The changes made to the house in the 1840s reflect the updating of architectural details by a new generation of the family.

The massive ca. 1870 barn is an impressive structure, which documents local construction techniques. Typical of the post-1850 period, it has a full basement exposed along the downhill sides. A ramp within the barn facilitated movement of cows from stable to barnyard. One variation from the norm is the location of the cow-

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tie up bay along the colder north side of the Plummer barn. As was typical, clapboards were used only on the façade, with rougher shingles on other elevations (Hubka 1984:49, 50, 58). The north facing, and essentially rear elevation of this complex, although more roughly finished as was common, presents an impressive regular, symmetrical façade to all traveling south on this major highway. Overall, the complex is some twenty bays long, with windows of main block, ell and barn roughly evenly spaced, down to the even placement of horizontal windows below the eaves of the ell.

A significant aspect of the connected farm pattern was the reorientation of the house from south-facing, perpendicularly toward the road. This was done by constructing a new main block, with front entrance on the roadside façade, and delineating a formal front yard. The relocation (or in this case retention) of the kitchen in the ell, out of the main block, allowed the kitchen and dooryard to be oriented south, while the house faced the road (Hubka 1984:74, 116). The conversion of the original house into the ell or “little house,” as in this case, was one of the three main ways in which connected complexes were created. The cape, with working kitchen already in place, took the place of the original ell with which most new I-house plan “big houses” were constructed (Hubka 1984:38, 47). This occurred ca. 1810 on the Plummer Homestead, and was therefore an early use of the I-house and kitchen ell concept which only became common on the Seacoast ca. 1800 (Hubka 1984:38).

The resulting south facing dooryard provided work space sheltered from the winds, and a preparation and staging area for outdoor activities, with convenient access in and out of the various sections of the buildings. In this case, there are doors into the house and each of the three main sections of the ell, a bulkhead to the cellar, and entrance to barn and barnyard. The yard north of the buildings was also important in this case as the location of the garden, and there was convenient access in and out of the kitchen and the ell. The formal front yard between the road and the seldom-used front door enhanced the big house with a zone of formality, and was often defined by a white picket fence. The barnyard, a fenced livestock yard, is located on the sheltered southeast side of the barn, and in proximity to roads, pastures and wells. It is separated from other work space and domestic activities (Hubka 1984:6, 9, 70, 80).

Agricultural Significance

In addition to its architectural significance, the Plummer Homestead is significant under Criterion A for agriculture. The property, with its architectural assemblage and site, typifies farming practices and rural life in Milton from the late eighteenth through the mid-twentieth century. Characteristic of the layout and production of the area’s farms are the siting of the north-south road along the ridge and parallel to the river that defines the town and state boundaries, the rectangular land divisions in a roughly east-west grid, and the concentration of open land along the road, with woodland in the low-lands on either side. Also characteristic are the connected farm arrangement and the differentiated yard system. The mixed farming practices and output of the Plummer Homestead were typical of the town and the region. Products were for home consumption and for sale, either in the nearby city markets to the south or shipped by rail to Boston. Dairying was a major focus, with butter and

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cheese produced on the farm, and fresh milk becoming increasingly important at the end of the nineteenth century. Farmers also raised livestock and grew a variety of crops, including grains, hay, vegetables and apples. Lumber and firewood were important for home use and as a major cash crop. The Plummer Homestead was one of the last operating farms in the area, remaining viable into the mid-twentieth century.

The Plummer Homestead, which presently contains twenty acres, is an excellent representation of historic land division and settlement patterns in which roughly rectangular tracts, with parallel north and south property lines, extended on either side of the road with southwest-northeast orientation. The property also reflects historic land use patterns. Characteristic were the choice of location on higher ground and gently sloping hillside, which meant more quickly drying fields in spring, less mud in the yards, less danger of late frost and often less rocky soil (Hubka 1984:85). Although it is now severed from the back wood land and pasture, the remaining property is typical in its open fields close to the road. Stone walls and surviving fencing document historic land delineation (Hubka 1984:84-85). A central road or cow path was also typical (Hubka 1984:81); in this case the road connected to the important railroad siding and large outlying wood lots. The property retains nearly all the open land that aerial photographs show was typical of farms along the ridge as of the mid-twentieth century, at the end of the historic period. It has retained integrity due to continued haying and other agricultural use.

The buildings of the Plummer Homestead are also significant in agricultural history. The connected farm is not just a building type, but an important trend in farming practices. The act of building construction can be seen as a component of the farm's operation. These properties were created over time during the nineteenth century as part of a trend of farm improvement and modernization. The arrangement of buildings and outdoor space in the connected farm was well-suited to mixed agricultural production. "To the farmers who made them, the connected farm building arrangement was eminently practical and was even a symbol of progressive agricultural improvement in New England" (Hubka 1984:3, 9).

The Plummer buildings convey information about farming practices and daily life. The original small cape provides an understanding about the lifestyle of a prosperous family settling in what was then an outlying community. The construction of a new main block ca. 1810 documents their attempt at creating a more fashionable residence, as well as providing space for the growing family. As a component of a connected farm, the front block, displaying the finest ornament, and containing the best parlor and bedchambers, was used primarily as a place of rest, not during daily activities. The subsequent updating of architectural details reflects a desire by later generations to stay fashionable. Improvements such as the reduction of fireplace openings document changes in technology. The cape was expanded and the whole complex improved as the family increased and multiple generations occupied the homestead. The resulting kitchen and ancillary rooms contain characteristic farmhouse elements including the stove and set kettle, as well as a surviving cooking fireplace, dairy room where butter and cheese were made and stored, separate place for milk separation, cellar cold storage, and interior well under the kitchen (Hubka 1984:6, 9; Visser1997:109-111).

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The work and storage space in the ell was a crucial part of the farm's operation and was updated as needed. The completion of the complex ca. 1870, with barn connected to the rear of the ell occurred at the height of agricultural prosperity on the farm and throughout the region. Part of a larger trend, additional storage space and animal shelter were needed with greater mechanization, improved methods, increased crop yields and size of livestock (Hubka 1984:130).

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, several generations of the Plummer family continued to farm the property and occupy the house together. These Plummers were early attendees of the State land grant colleges, reflecting the family's continued pursuit of the latest farm practices. The last period of farming in the mid-twentieth century was also typical of the end of the farm based economy in this region; a small number of cows were milked and a local milk route maintained, with the bulk of production for the family's consumption.

Historical Background

The Plummer Homestead and the adjacent Plumer-Jones Farm were cleared and settled simultaneously in the 1780s, by two brothers, Joseph and Beard Plumer. At that time, Milton was a part of the Town of Rochester, and this area was known as the Northeast Parish or Third Division. Settlement along the ridge-top began in 1772-73 and the Plumer family were among the first residents. The road was not officially laid out until 1788 (Scales 1914:510). Rochester was one of the first towns in New Hampshire to use the system of range lot land division. The Third Division was laid out in a grid of ranges with parallel roads, intersecting at right angles, providing access to ranges of uniformly-sized lots. Lots and portions of lots were sold off by their original grantees. Beginning in the 1760s, a number were purchased by prominent Rochester resident Judge John Plumer. Plumer, reportedly a friend of Governor Wentworth, served as Judge of the Strafford County Court of Common Pleas from 1773 to 1795, as well as many terms as Selectman. His four children included Joseph (born 1752) and Beard (born 1754), named for his great-grandfather Joseph Beard. Plumer's Third Division land became farms for his sons. The exact date of their settlement here is uncertain, perhaps as early as 1772. Whether they traveled back and forth from their father's home to work on improving the land, or occupied structures that predated the existing ones has not been determined. Joseph settled on the northern portion of his father's holdings, now the Plumer-Jones Farm. Both brothers soon erected 1½-story capes on their land. Joseph's house is traditionally dated ca. 1777, possibly based on his marrying the following year. Beard's house may have been built around the time of his marriage to Susannah Ham in 1780. It was standing prior to February of 1782, when the land was officially deeded by John Plumer to his sons (Deed 1782).

As early as 1786, Beard Plumer began to expand his holdings (Deed 1786). The various tracts of land acquired abutted each other and formed a continuous but irregular swath oriented southwest-northeast, with lot lines generally parallel to the original division lines. Beard Plumer's property extended from the low-lying area west of the ridge, east to the Branch River. The core of his homestead was thirty acres in 3rd Division Lot #53 (original share of Capt. Stephen Jones), which was located on the west side of the road. Extending to the southwest, were forty-five acres in Lot #55 (right of Sylvanus Nock). The northwest edge was part of Lot #28

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(Israel Hodgdon). To the north, on either side of the road were ninety acres in Lot 51 (Joseph Jenkins). The northeastern portion of the property along the Branch River, included 140 acres in Lot #50 (John Gray), ninety-five acres in #49 (Peter Varney), and 133 acres in 4th Division lot #120 (Salathiel Dearborn). Additional land on the northwestern edge of the town, including 100 acres in 3rd Division lot #85 (Richard Waldron), eighty acres in lot #86 (John Usher) and seventy acres in lot #27 (Gov. Wentworth) (Deed 1782; Deed 1786; Probate 1816).

Beard and Susannah Plumer's first child Jonathan was born in May of 1782. He was followed by Enoch, Joseph Jr. (named for his uncle Joseph Sr.), Betsy, John, Susan and Beard, born in 1797. Residents of what was then the northern frontier, the nine of them presumably occupied the cape type house, the upper level of which was probably unfinished. Susannah Plumer died in 1803. Beard was later remarried to Achsah Page of Dunbarton who was younger and survived him by many years (Hurd 1882:658).

Beard Plumer was a prominent early local resident, becoming the first Town Moderator and first representative from Milton after it was incorporated as a town in 1802. In 1804 he served on the committee for construction of the first meetinghouse (Scales 1914:511, 872). The county history later stated, "Hon. Bard [sic] Plumer can truthfully be said to have been a leading spirit in his locality." "He held offices of his town and was a member of the State Senate, being the first honorable from the Town of Milton" (Hurd 1882:657).

Beard Plumer farmed with the help of his growing children. The Plumers practiced the mixed farming typical of the period. His farm was large and productive, sustaining the family and providing surplus for sale. At the time of his death in the fall of 1816, his livestock included four oxen, and three colts. There were ten cows, four yearlings and five calves, plus four hogs and five pigs. At the height of the region's "sheep craze," Plumer owned a flock of twenty-six. He owned a half share of a cider mill and press, and cider and vinegar were an important farm product. Crops on hand after his death, in the fall, were twenty tons of hay, four bushels of wheat, ten of rye, four of oats, a hundred bushels of potatoes. Plumer owned a chaise and harness and a sleigh and harness, a saddle and bridle, as well as a cart and wheels and sled. Equipment included a plough, a harrow and a horse harrow, three scythes, pitchforks and rakes, chains and iron bars and four axes (Probate 1816). Farm products on hand as of January 1818 included twelve tons of hay, twelve bushels of corn, fifty pounds of beef and pork, 250 bushels of potatoes and eight of turnips, nine and a half bushels of wheat, and smaller amounts of barley, oats, peas and flax seed. Livestock on hand at that time were a pair of oxen, two colts, four cows, three heifers, a calf and one steer, seventeen sheep, two hogs and three shoats (Probate 1818).

Plumer also was an active local businessman. With outstanding accounts and notes due him for money leant, Plumer was owed thousands of dollars at the time of his death in 1816. An account book, later used as Enoch Plumer's journal, records a considerable amount of trade, which additional research could more fully evaluate. Whether he was selling the products of only his own farm, or serving as a trader or storekeeper for his neighbors has not been determined. Plumer was credited for the sale of hay and corn, potatoes, butter, wool and

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live sheep, pork and veal, butter and cheese, cider, flax seed and soap. He also provided salt, which was important for curing meat, and there were one hogshead and two bushels of salt on hand at the time of his death (Probate 1816). An integral part of the farm operation was timber from Plumer's vast woodland holdings. He owned a share in a sawmill at Milton Three Ponds (Probate 1816) and considerable labor was expended cutting, hauling and sawing lumber according to the account book. A probate inventory of 1818 recorded ownership of over 9000 feet of merchantable pine boards, 5000 feet of hemlock boards, 1200 of hardwood and 500 feet of refuse (Probate 1818a).

During this same early 1800s period, the Plumer-Jones Farm to the north became a tavern and stagecoach stop (mid-way between Boston and the White Mountains) operated by Beard Plumer's brother Joseph Plumer and his son-in-law Levi Jones (Randall 1975:41). The main block of the Plumer-Jones complex was built ca. 1804. It was probably shortly thereafter that Beard Plumer enlarged and remodeled his own residence (Garvin 1976). Additional research in the Plumer journal and examination of physical evidence might well be able to pinpoint an exact construction date of the new front main block, but for now it is estimated at ca. 1810. In his will of 1816, Beard Plumer referred to it as his "new dwelling house."

A house was also built at this time for Beard's son Joseph Plumer Jr. who was married in October 1810 to Sally (or Sarah) Brown. Their house was located across the road and slightly to the south (where the third Joseph Plummer erected the existing buildings ca. 1844). They were living there prior to 1815 when Beard deeded to Joseph ninety-five acres in lot #52 (original right of Pinkham). This land on the east side of the road was bounded on Beard Plumer's land on the north (Deed 1815). Joseph and Sally Plumer's first son, Jonathan was born in 1811, but lived only a few months. Caroline was born in 1812, followed by Enoch W. in 1815, Beard in 1817, Joseph in 1820, and Sarah in 1821 (Perley 1917).

Although successful farmers and businessmen, the Plumers apparently suffered from ill health. Beard Plumer's son Jonathan moved to Bangor, Maine (where he died young, leaving only one daughter, Mary). Enoch Plumer moved to Pennsylvania, where he died at age 40. Beard Plumer died in October 1816 at age 62. Within a year, he was followed by sons Beard and John who were ages 20 and 26 (Perley 1917).

The furnishings of the house as of the 1810s are well documented by Beard and then John Plumer's probate inventories, which warrant further study and evaluation. They shed light on the family's lifestyle, although they omitted any items considered the property of the widow or other family members, and in this case reflect a household upset by illness. At this time, the "North Room" was apparently used as a formal parlor and dining area. The room had carpeting on the floor and contained tables, a dozen Windsor chairs and a rocking chair. Dishes stored in the closet included plates and platters, coffee and tea pots, crockery and glassware, decanters and tumblers. The front stairs were carpeted. The south room, in which there were a clock and case, a desk, a maple table and eight Windsor chairs, also contained a bed and its bedding. In the closet were such things as crockery and glass, tea canisters, brass candlesticks, silver spoons and sugar tongs, and steel cutlery. The west

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room in the cape part of the house contained a bed and bedding, a case of drawers, a table and four chairs (Probate 1816a).

There were two chambers upstairs in the front of the house. The "North chamber" contained the best furnishings, including a bed with suite of curtains, a toilet stand and a wash stand, carpeting, a looking glass, a bureau, a light stand, and six Windsor chairs with cushions. The "South chamber" contained two beds and bedding, carpeting and window curtains, a table and seven chairs.

Inventoried items in the kitchen included crockery, forty-one pounds of pewter, tin-ware, knives and forks, two pine tables, iron pots and frying pan. In the "scullery" were a brass kettle, wooden ware and a cheese press. Some 550 pounds of cheese were stored in the "Dairy room," but this room also contained two beds with bedding. An additional bedstead and bedding, plus extra blankets, sheets, etc. were in the "Room adjoining Dairy Room." Household textile production is documented by the loom and apparatus, two spinning wheels and reel in the "work house" (Probate 1816a).

John Plumer's inventory, taken in January of 1818, is very similar to that of his father, as the house had remained essentially intact. In the North room were tables, a dozen Windsor chairs, glass, dishes and the pewter. The south room contained the eight day clock, a desk, six Windsor chairs, six bow back chairs, and six kitchen chairs, as well as tin ware and a "tin kitchen," crockery and linens. There was one bed in the North Chamber and several in the South Chamber. Kitchen items were two tables, tin ware, brown ware, wooden ware and iron ware, 144 pounds of cheese were in storage, a cheese press, cheese safe and reel were on hand. A loom and three spinning wheels were listed (Probate 1818a).

Beard Plumer willed various tracts of land to his children. The southern portion was willed to son Joseph in addition to the land already deeded to him, which was bounded northwest and northeast by a division fence between himself and his father. Joseph received one half of all the debts due to his father and was to pay out half of the legacies due others. The other half of the debts due and legacies went to John Plumer. The "use and occupancy of all real and personal estate" in the northern portion of the farm, including the current Plummer Homestead, was bequeathed to John, but the will stipulated that when John died the property was to pass to his heirs or if he had none, revert to his brothers Joseph and Beard. (This stipulation may indicate that John was already in ill health.)

How long the young widow, Achsah Plumer, lived here with her step-children is unknown. In Beard Plumer's will, she was given the use of one lower room and one chamber in the front part of the "new dwelling house," and to be decently and comfortably supported. However, she declined this bequest and asked to have the usual widow's dower set off to her (Probate 1816b), but the result was not recorded in the probate records.

The house was shared by John Plumer and his brother Beard, and their sister Susan or Susanna who was still living at home, prior to her marriage to Adam Brown (she also died young at 34). Another relative, Betsey

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Plumer was also living in the house (Probate 1817). The farm seems to have continued in operation although the brothers were ill. John Plumer's will was made in June 1817 when he was "sick and weak in body, but of sound and disposing mind." Beard Plumer died September 5, 1817, and John twenty days later. In addition, property willed by their father to Beard Plumer (Jr.) was left to brother John and then passed to Joseph. John willed to Joseph his land, most of his livestock and all his farming utensils (Probate 1817). At the same time, the northern portion of the homestead reverted to Joseph as per his father's will.

Some conflict arose over the division of the land and in January 1818 the surviving heirs of Beard Plumer (Sr.) (Joseph and Enoch Plumer, Betsy Hall, Susan Plumer, and Mary H. Plumer) opted to have a committee appointed to divide the property among them. The total consisted of two tracts, one 334 acres and one 250 acres. Joseph received the larger share, including the shares of his brothers John and Beard. He was given seventy acres on the southwest side of the road, including the present Plummer Homestead, plus 105 acres on the northeast side of the road extending to the river. The homestead already occupied by Joseph was to the south. The other heirs received sections of the land northeast of the road, north of Joseph's share (Probate 1818b). A few years later, Joseph purchased Enoch's share from his widow, acquiring an additional thirty-four acres on the east side of road, north of Joseph's other land (Deed 1821).

Ultimately, Joseph Plumer Jr. owned his own house on the east side of the road, and his father's house on the west and a total of over 600 acres. Who occupied the Plummer Homestead and farmed the land at this time has not been identified. Joseph Plumer Jr. survived his father Beard Plumer by only a decade and died in 1826, leaving a widow and five young children. His probate inventory does not specify the locations of items listed, so it is unclear whether it includes things kept in both houses, or just the one occupied by Joseph. Farm products on hand in April included eight pounds of flax and four pounds of sheep's wool, three barrels of pork and one of beef, fifty pounds of lard, fifty pounds of butter, seventy pounds of cheese, forty pounds of candles, and one barrel of soap. There were 200 bushels of potatoes, two hogsheads of cider, sixty bushels of rye, seventy-five of corn, eight bushels of oats, seventeen tons of English hay and four tons of meadow hay. Livestock included a mare and colt, six steers, five heifers and four cows, twenty-six sheep and three shoats (Probate 1826). Which house the widow Sally Plumer and her children occupied over the next decade remains unclear.

In 1841, after they came of age, sons Enoch and Joseph bought out the other heirs and divided their father's property. Enoch acquired the Plummer Homestead including land on both sides of the road (described later). Joseph's land and buildings were located east of the road, extending east to the river and beyond, bounded on the north by a line beginning opposite Enoch's house (Deed 1841). Joseph Plumer erected a new house on the site of his father's (in June of 1843 according to notes from a family journal), probably just before his marriage in 1844, and occupied it throughout his life (Hurd 1882:658). (This is the Greek Revival cape with connected outbuildings just south of the Plummer Homestead on the opposite side of the road.) The portion of the Plummer land acquired at this time by Enoch Plumer corresponded essentially with the land that remained

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associated with the homestead until the late twentieth century (Deed 1841). It included the land and buildings on the west side of the road, extending southwest to the railroad tracks, and the large tract of land beyond the tracks. On the east side of the road, Enoch Plumer owned land extending to the river, north of a line beginning opposite his house.

Enoch W. Plumer was married in 1840 to Orinda Ayers from nearby Wakefield, New Hampshire. He was 25 years old at the time and she was 23. They settled on his grandfather's homestead. Around this time, a series of updates were made to the house including a new front door, and a split granite foundation under the entire complex (Garvin 1992). Enoch and Orinda Plumer's seven children were John T. (born 1841), Joseph E. (born 1843), Mary (married Wallingford), Bard Burge (born 1846), Sarah (Haley), Fannie W. (Twombly) and Susan (born 1854, married Roberts). In 1848, the house was again remodeled to accommodate the growing family (Scales 1914:872). The roof on the cape was raised to create living space upstairs and the chimney was rebuilt (Garvin 1993). This is documented in notes from a family journal as follows: September 16 took down chimney, Sept. 20 began to raise old house, Sept. 25 began chimney, October 13 finished shingling, November began to plaster (Verville 2002). At the end of her life, Sally Plumer was living in the Plummer Homestead with her son Enoch and his family. As of 1860, Enoch and Orinda had seven children at home, three teenage sons and four daughters, ages 6-15. Sally Plumer was 75. Also living in the house 20-year-old farm laborer Thomas Wentworth and his mother Caroline, age 46 (Bureau of the Census 1860 - P).

Enoch W. Plumer became one of the leading citizens of Milton. For more than forty years, he was Deacon of the First Congregational Church, which he joined in 1836. For some years he owned a half interest in a sawmill with Lewis Plummer (Scales 1914:872), and this provided a ready outlet for timber cut from his property. (This mill, also known as Hayes mill was located north of the homestead on the Branch River).

As of 1850, the farm was comprised of 200 acres of improved land and 125 acres of unimproved. It was one of the more valuable and largest farms in the area. Plumer owned three horses and six working oxen, four milk cows, four cattle, eighteen sheep, three swine. In a year, 300 pounds each of butter and cheese were made, twenty-five pounds of wool sheared and \$100 worth of animals slaughtered. Annual harvests totaled forty tons of hay, ten bushels each of rye and oats, forty bushels of corn, four bushels of peas and beans and 250 bushels potatoes. No orchard crops were recorded at this time. In 1857 the Great Falls and Conway Railroad was built, running north along the west bank of the Salmon Falls River from Somersworth to the White Mountains. The railroad passed through the Plummer Homestead, severing the forty or so acres of primarily open land closest to the road, from the large tracts farther west. In order to take full advantage of this new mode of transportation, the Plumers built their own railroad siding, where cars could be loaded with lumber and picked up by the trains; the facility was shared by neighbor Jones. As of 1860, Enoch Plumer owned one of the half dozen most valuable farms in Milton. Totaling 430 acres, it was valued at \$6,000. Brother Joseph Plumer owned 450 acres (Candee n.d.:18).

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By 1870, Enoch Plumer's farm contained 600 acres, 400 acres of it improved (Bureau of the Census – A 1870). His livestock included two horses and six oxen, four cattle and one swine, with about \$100 worth of animals slaughtered the previous year. There were four milk cows, the milk from which was used to make 400 pounds of butter and 200 pounds of cheese in a year. Annual crops were forty tons of hay, fifty bushels of rye, twenty of corn, twenty-five of oats, three bushels of peas and beans, 150 bushels of potatoes, and \$100 worth of orchard products. Some \$450 worth of wages (including board) was paid out a year (Bureau of the Census – A 1870). It was in 1870, according to his journal, that Enoch Plumer erected a large new barn on his property. The old barn was taken down May 14, and the new raised on June 4. In August they began shingling the body of the barn, then the barnyard well was dug. The journal also records construction of a carriage house in 1873. Additional study is needed to determine whether this refers to construction of or replacement of a section of the ell, or to the rear vehicle bay extension. Additional improvements to the property included the replacement of the dormers (Garvin 1992). This was probably the work on the house recorded in the journal in August of 1877, and the chambers that were plastered in October.

During this period, Bard B. Plummer (who adopted the second "m" in the last name) attended Wakefield Academy and Maine State College, returning home to farm with his father. As of 1870, the household included Enoch and Orinda, their 24-year-old son Bard, four-daughters ages 16-25, and a 17-year-old farm laborer George Whitehouse (Bureau of the Census 1870b). During the 1870s, the daughters moved away, and in 1875 Bard B. Plummer married Eliza Wentworth of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts (born 1848). They set up housekeeping with his parents. In 1880, the household consisted of Enoch and Orinda Plummer, Bard B. and Eliza and their three children. The eldest Lucy was born in 1877, Fannie in 1878, only son Bard B. Jr. in 1879, and the youngest, Orinda was born in 1886 (Bureau of the Census – P 1880; Scales 1914:872). Some \$300 was spent annually on seventy-five weeks worth of hired labor (Bureau of the Census – A 1880).

Father and son farmed the land together for some twenty years. Enoch Plumer continued to acquire land, including the forty-acre Dorr lot, and the fifty-acre homestead of George Dorr (Deed 1872; Deed 1873). In 1880, the farm of Enoch and Bard B. Plummer contained forty acres of tilled land, 450 acres of pasture, meadow and orchard, and one hundred acres of woodland. Forty acres were mown, yielding forty tons of hay. Three acres planted in barley yielded forty-five bushels, three acres of corn 100 bushels, three and a half acres produced forty bushels of oats, and a three-quarter acre of potatoes sixty bushels. Potatoes were planted on "the Plains" east of the railroad tracks. Beans were also planted by the tracks. The Plummers maintained five acres of orchard, with 500 trees producing 400 bushels of apples a year. Cider was made in the fall of each year. Some if not all of the orchard was located on a separate property on "Branch Hill" according to Enoch Plumer's journal. They also tapped sugar maples in March, producing forty gallons of syrup. The Plummers' livestock included three horses, four oxen, three milk cows, three other cattle, and two swine. The principal dairy product was 350 pounds of butter. Fifteen hens laid 150 dozen eggs in a year. They owned thirty sheep, shearing 135 pounds of wool a year. In 1879, twenty-five lambs were born and all were sold. Some 150 cords of wood were cut, worth \$400. Total annual farm production was estimated at \$850 (Bureau of the Census -A 1880). Journal

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entries from throughout the 1860s-80s record numerous references to sawing and hauling lumber, including ash and spruce, as well as “pople” for fencing. Railroad cars were loaded with wood and the Plummers were hired to haul wood for others also. According to journal entries, the Plummers were regularly paid for pasturage of their neighbors’ animals in their numerous pastures.

Like his father, Bard B. Plummer became a prominent Milton resident, and warranted biographical sketches in publications of 1897 and 1914. It was said that he owned “five hundred acres of excellent land, which is desirably located; and he makes it a point to avail himself of modern improvements in the practice of agriculture” (Anonymous 1897:158). “Mr. Plummer has always been actively identified with all that relates to the welfare and progress of his home, community and country, and frequently has been called upon to serve in official capacity by his fellow citizens.” He was a member of the school board for five years and was a Trustee of Nute High School. He served as High Sheriff of Strafford County in 1892-94, and was Deputy Sheriff for several years. Bard B. Plummer was a long-time Deacon of the First Congregational Church, was active in the Masons and other fraternal organizations (Scales 1914:871-873).

When Enoch Plummer died in 1896, one year after his wife Orinda, the farm was inherited by Bard B. Plummer, with some land passing directly to grandson Bard B. Plummer Jr., then 17 years old (Deed 1969). Bard B. Plummer continued to expand the property, including the purchase of an adjoining twenty acres in 1907. He also created the current southern lot line of the homestead parcel, purchasing about two and a half acres along the north side of the Cemetery Road from his neighbor to the south, Moses B. Plummer (Deed 1907).

In 1900, all four of Bard B. and Eliza’s children were living at home. Boarding with them was a 58-year-old farm laborer (Bureau of the Census 1900). He may have been housed upstairs in the ell, which historic photographs show was enlarged about this time by the addition of a dormer (Verville 2002). Bard B. Plummer Jr. attended college in Durham and then returned to the farm. About 1908, he married Ruth L. Fall. As in previous generations, they lived on the homestead with his parents. During the same period, sister Lucy married George Fox of Acton, Maine, while Fannie and Orinda remained at home into the 1910s (Scales 1914:873). At this time, the large household included the parents, their three grown children and daughter in-law, and several young grandchildren. Bard B. (Jr.) and Ruth had six children. The first, Elizabeth, lived less than a year. Ruth was born in 1910, Bard in 1911, Lyman in 1912, followed by Dorothy in 1918 and Jane in 1922 (Bureau of the Census – P 1920).

Bard B. Plummer died in 1919 and the homestead passed to Bard B. Jr. His probate inventory documents the equipment of the farm. It included: riding cultivator, corn harvester, sulky plow, three walking plows, disk harrow, peg tooth harrow, manure spreader, mowing machine, horse rake, tedder, corn planter, ensilage cutter, field roller, two work wagons, cart and wheels, two sleds, three driving wagons, two pungs, and two sleighs

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(Probate 1920). The logging operation continued as late as the 1930s, when more than 400 cords a year were shipped out to Massachusetts by rail from the Plummer's siding (Verville 1993; Randall 1975:42).

The Plummers farmed the property through the 1950s, making it the last operating farm in the area (Randall 1975:43). Bard Plummer worked with his father. After he returned from serving in WWII, he purchased the family's first tractor to replace the work horses (Verville 2002). He was married in 1953 at the age of 42. He and wife Martha (Hefler) moved into a nearby house. Bard Plummer continued to assist his father with the farming and worked for the town highway department, serving many years as Road Agent. Bard B. Plummer Jr. maintained a small milk route, bottling and delivering to neighbors who favored un-pasteurized milk, as well as homemade butter. The three or four cows were pastured south of the house. Several pigs were raised for the family's consumption. Potatoes were planted in the back part of the fields and a large garden was maintained north of the house. Fields on the east side of the road were hayed into the 1950s. "The Plains" (now west of the Turnpike) was also hayed. The house remained un-modernized until about 1955 when running water was installed, to replace the kitchen pump and privy. A furnace and central heating were installed about the same time (Verville 2002). When the Spaulding Turnpike was built in the 1950s, the western portion of the property was severed. An access road was built in from the north and running down along the west side of the new highway to access the land.

After Ruth Plummer died in 1960 and Bard B. Plummer Jr. fell ill, Bard, Martha and their children (Bard B. Plummer 3rd, Nancy and Elizabeth) moved into the old homestead. Farming had essentially ceased by this time, although beef cattle were raised and the extensive garden maintained. The old barn, used for storage, was taken down ca. 1980. During this time, the southwest corner of land on the east side of Plummer's Ridge Road was divided and sold as a house site (Verville 2002). In 1969, shortly before his death (in 1970 at the age of 91), Bard B. Plummer Jr., sold the homestead to his son and daughter-in-law. At that time, the property consisted of 625 acres on the west side of the road, including the homestead buildings, 125 acres on the east side of the road (Map 18/Lot 4), and the sixty-acre "Dorr lot" (Deed 1969). Bard Plummer died in 1977 at the age of 66. His son, Bard B. Plummer (III) occupied the house until about 1992. He had the fields hayed and sold some timber (Verville 2002).

In 1993, Martha Plummer Verville deeded the farm buildings on twenty acres to the New Hampshire Farm Museum, which maintains the adjacent Plumer-Jones Farm. A tenant now operates a small farming operation on the property.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register eligible property is defined as the current legally-recorded parcel (Milton Tax Map 22, Lot 30). The boundary is formed by the outer lot lines of the parcel and is shown on the accompanying map.

According to a 1992 plan of the property, the Plummer Homestead consists of twenty acres (20.17 according to the tax map) on the southwest side of Plummer's Ridge Road (NH Route 125 – White Mountain Highway). The roughly diamond shaped property is bounded on the northeast by the road and on the southwest by the Spaulding Turnpike (NH Route 16). The northwest boundary is the long-time division between the Plummer Homestead and the Plumer-Jones Farm; it is marked by a stone wall. The southeast lot line is defined by the "cemetery road," the walls of the small neighborhood cemetery, and by a historic stone wall that has long defined the southeast edge of the Plummer Homestead property.

The buildings are centered on the northeast edge of the property, fronting the road. The front half of the parcel consists of flat open fields. Along the northern edge of the property, the open land extends southwest nearly to the Spaulding Turnpike, with only the northwesternmost corner wooded. On the southeast, the pre-1907 property line is defined by a stone wall. Between this and the cemetery road is a triangular strip of woods. The southwestern section of the property is wooded. The small neighborhood cemetery is bounded by stone walls. This is a separate property, presumed owned by the Town of Milton, and contains burials of the Plummer family, as well as their neighbors.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the buildings, fields and other landscape features that are part of the farm and maintain the historic integrity and character of the property. The boundary is based on historical significance and includes the buildings, yards, fencing, fields and land that contribute to the historical and architectural significance of the Plummer Homestead. In addition to conveying land use patterns, the open fields with woods beyond form a significant historic landscape and provide an appropriate setting for the buildings.

The boundary is based primarily on historic bounds. The Plummer Homestead contains the twenty acres that were the core of the historic farmstead throughout the period of significance. The property is defined on one side by the historic road and on the other by the modern limited access highway that bisected the farm in the 1950s. The northeastern property line, separating the Plummer Homestead and the Plumer-Jones Farm, has been the same since the land was first settled by brother's Beard and Joseph Plumer. It is marked by a stone wall along most of its length, and by the tree-line with forest on the adjacent land (Plan 1993). The southern property line along the Cemetery road has been in place since 1907, well within the historic period. This area has long been wooded according the early aerial views. The cemetery is not included in the homestead.

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Although it contains graves and monuments of the Plummer family, it was used by the whole neighborhood and has long been considered under public ownership. The cemetery is enclosed by a stone wall (Plan 1993).

The division of the farm by the Spaulding Turnpike, just after the end of the historic period, forms an artificial boundary, but it left the primary portion of the homestead undisturbed. Almost twenty of the historic thirty acres are intact.

