

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only

received FEB 25 1983

date entered

1. Name

historic JOHN CROCKETT HOUSE

and/or common KENNISTON TAVERN

2. Location

street & number 245 Portsmouth Avenue not for publication

city, town Stratham vicinity of congressional district (1st)

state N.H. code 33 county Rockingham code 015

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Richard V. & Elizabeth T. Palmer

street & number Box #293

city, town Stratham vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Courthouse/Registry of Deeds

street & number Hampton Road

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Preservation of Historic Areas has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date June 1, 1973 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Southeastern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>n/a</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John Crockett House is a simplified Georgian style dwelling located at the intersection of New Hampshire State Route 101 and Depot Road in Stratham, New Hampshire. The dwelling is a five by two bay, two and one half story, frame structure measuring 34' by 24'. The building terminates in a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. A central, brick chimney with straight stack and corbelled cap straddles the ridge line of the roof. This chimney has been rebuilt. The building's exterior walls are sheathed in feather edge clapboard and further defined by narrow cornerboards terminating in cap moldings. A narrow frieze articulates exterior walls and slightly projecting eaves. Gable end elevations include raking boards. The dwelling is supported by a cut granite foundation.

The principal entrance is located in the center bay of the south facade. The original panel door is lit by a five light transom and flanked by wide pilasters which support a narrow architrave and cornice. An original projecting pediment has been removed.

First story windows are nine light over six light sash set in simple architrave molded surrounds terminating in simple cap moldings. Window units include modified, wooden, label moldings. Second story windows are six light over six light sash set in simple surrounds accented by label moldings similar to those found on the first story.

Adjoining the east elevation of the dwelling is a one story, two by one bay wing which terminates in a gable roof. This wing is similar in design to the principal block with the exception of wing windows. The original sash windows have been replaced with casement units.

The interior spaces of the principal block are divided into a simplified, Georgian plan which includes a center hall flanked by single chambers. Original, interior features of interest include a first story, center hall staircase with original balustrade.

The rustic shed associated with the Kenniston Tavern measures approximately 12' X 15', is "salt box" in configuration, has raw clapboard siding, irregular fenestration (3 windows with 6/6 and 2/2 sash), two vertical plank doors, and a tar paper roof. The exact date of its construction is unknown and difficult to surmise by inspection though it would appear to have a sufficient quantity of 19th century remnants to fall into that time frame. The shed does not detract from the character of the site and could in fact be said to contribute to the overall rural historic flavor.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates c. 1760 **Builder/Architect** Ephraim & John Crockett

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John Crockett House, a mid-eighteenth century, Georgian style dwelling, is significant for its association with the architectural and commercial history of the town of Stratham, New Hampshire. The building survives largely intact and is representative of local, residential architecture of the period.

The John Crockett House was built circa 1760 by Ephraim Crockett and his son, John, as a dwelling for the latter and his wife, Mary Lane. Mary Lane was the eldest daughter of Deacon Samuel Lane, a prominent Stratham tannery owner whose journal records the Lane-Crockett marriage on October 20, 1762. Deeds dating from the late 1760's and 1770's indicate that the original, sixteen and one fourth acre Crockett House site was subdivided from land owned by Ephraim Crockett who retained a right-of-way across the property to his own dwelling. (The property submitted for nomination is less than four acres. See Item #10.)

The architectural composition of the Crockett House is indicative of local residential structures of the period in its simplified adaptation of Georgian forms. These forms include bilateral symmetry, graduated proportion and the application of exterior detail. The structure's interior plan similarly reflects an emphasis on symmetry and balance in its incorporation of a center hall flanked by single chambers.

The building is architecturally important in two respects. First, it provides a tangible document illustrating regional architectural development and the inland migration of architectural form through design similarities with New Hampshire seacoast dwellings of the period. Second, the dwellings construction by Ephraim and John Crockett offers the possibility of localized study of local construction techniques.

The dwelling's historical, commercial significance is documented through its active use as an inn serving a local clientele. Owing to the inn's central location on the road connecting Portsmouth and Exeter, the inn may have also provided services to regional travelers.

The Crockett family are notable as early settlers in the seacoast region. The family emigrated from England in the 1630's and initially settled in the Crockett's Neck section of Kittery, Maine. Richard Crockett, Ephraim's father, purchased a tract of land in Stratham, New Hampshire in 1714. The family moved to the town in that year.

Three generations of the Crockett family have been associated with local building. Richard and Ephraim Crockett were employed in the construction of the Deacon Samuel Lane House in 1743 (d. c. 1800). John Crockett was employed as a joiner during the construction of the Northwood Meeting House in Northwood, New Hampshire. Comparative study of the Crockett House with other local buildings involving members of the Crockett family in their construction may be useful in documenting the evolution of local building techniques.

In 1779 John Crockett purchased a sixty acre farm in Northwood, New Hampshire. He and his family moved to that community the same year. Henry Kenniston purchased the Crockett property in Stratham in 1780.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #2

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Newmarket, N.H.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	4	5	2	5	5	4	7	6	6	8	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification : One acre parcel located at the junction of Route 101 and Depot Road in Stratham, N.H. Parcel currently owned by Richard V. & Elizabeth Palmer. Stratham Tax Map #12, Parcel #32.

See Continuation Sheet #3

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

state	n/a	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	n/a	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn M. Kuranda, Preservation Consultant

organization Strafford Rockingham Reg. Council date November 1981

street & number One Water Street telephone 603-778-0885

city or town Exeter state New Hampshire

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date February 8, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/24/83


Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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date entered

Continuation sheet #1 - SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

Page 2

Kenniston, a tailor, converted the dwelling to an inn, thus capitalizing on the building's prominent, central location on the principal road connecting the seaport of Portsmouth and the inland town of Exeter. Although an Inn Keeper's License was not issued to Kenniston by the town of Stratham until 1803, a town map executed by Phineas Merrill in 1793 records the building as "Kenniston's Inn".

The estate inventory compiled in 1832 following Henry Kenniston's death indicates that the inn also operated as a tavern. Included in this inventory are an assortment of bar equipment, beds, linen and kitchen utensils exceeding in quantity the furnishings expected for an inventory of the dwelling's size and number of permanent occupants. Also included in Kenniston's estate inventory is a list of small debts owed to the estate by local residents. This list indicated active patronage of the establishment by Stratham residents.

The Kenniston Tavern remained in the Kenniston family until 1883, at which time the building returned to exclusive residential use. The intact quality of the surviving structure's design, location and workmanship contribute to the dwelling's local significance to the historical, architectural and commercial development of Stratham, New Hampshire.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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date entered

Continuation sheet #2 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Item number 9

Page 1

Merrill, Phineas, 1793 Map of Stratham.

Nelson, Charles, History of Stratham (1866).

Stackpole, Everett, S., Old Kittery and Her Families.

Stratham Town Records, Vol. I & II, Stratham Town Hall.

Registry of Deeds, Rockingham County Courthouse, Exeter, N.H.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Page</u>
1713	9	378
1714	9	652-653
1733	23	77
1749	47	147
1756	84	45
1768	148	143
1774	148	374
1778	149	26
1780	160	308

Probate Records, Rockingham County Courthouse, Exeter, N.H.

1803	Will of Samuel Lane.
1832	Will of Henry Kenniston, Innkeeper. Inventory estate of Henry Kenniston.
1867	Will of Lydia O. Kenniston.
1883	Will of Fairapilia Kenniston.

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet #3 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Item number 10

Page 2

The property associated with the John Crockett House is approximately 1 acre. The pentagonal plot is bounded on the south by New Hampshire Route 101, west by Jason Drive, northwest and north by the surveyed property line, and on the east by Depot Road. The parcel is congruent with the tax maps of the Town of Stratham, New Hampshire. Additionally, the boundaries work visually as the original tract has been subdivided, and recent development has isolated the site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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received

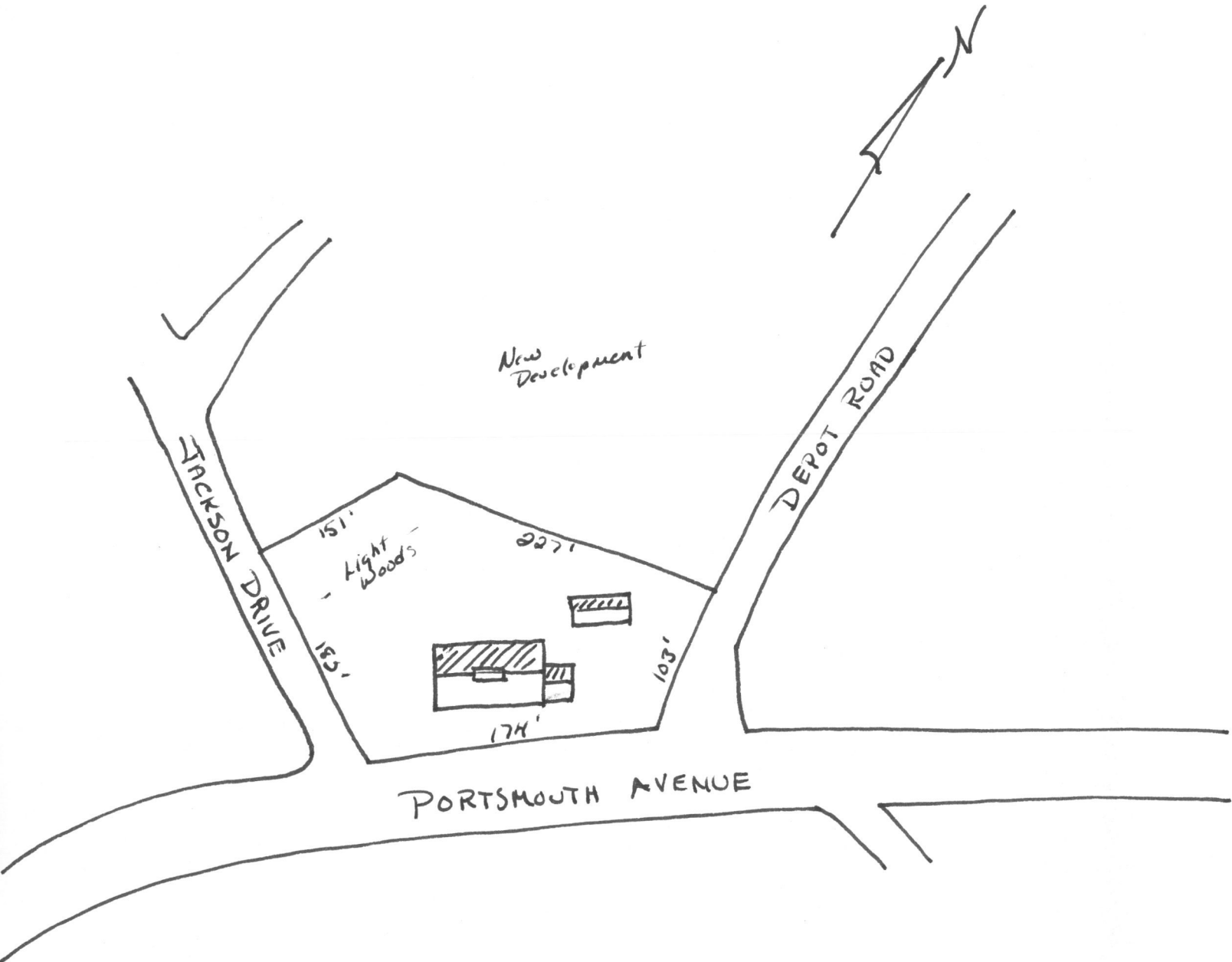
date entered

Continuation sheet #4 - ACCOMPANYING
DOCUMENTATION

Item number --

Page 1

SKETCH MAP - John Crockett House, Stratham, N.H.



Accompanying Documentation:

Photographs: The photos of the John Crockett House are still representative of the site.
No changes have taken place since they were taken.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Crockett, John, House
Rockingham County
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Working No. FEB 25 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84

Date Due: 3/24/83 - 4/11/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 3/24/83

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Entered in the
National Register

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Site

Date

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Phone: 202 272-3500



Y. OLD KENNISTON TAVERN
ERECTED A.D. 1700

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: JOHN CROCKETT HOUSE
Common Name: KENNISTON TAVERN
NR District: n/a
Address: 245 Portsmouth Avenue
City/Town/State: Stratham, New Hampshire
Photographer: Roger Brevoort

Negative with: Strafford Rockingham Regional Council

Description: Principal facade

Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW Photo Date: December 1981 Photo Number 1 of 2



DEC 06 1982

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: JOHN CROCKETT HOUSE
Common Name: KENNISTON TAVERN
NR District: n/a
Address: 245 Portsmouth Avenue
City/Town/State: Stratham, New Hampshire
Photographer: Lynne E. Monroe

Negative with: Rockingham Planning Commission

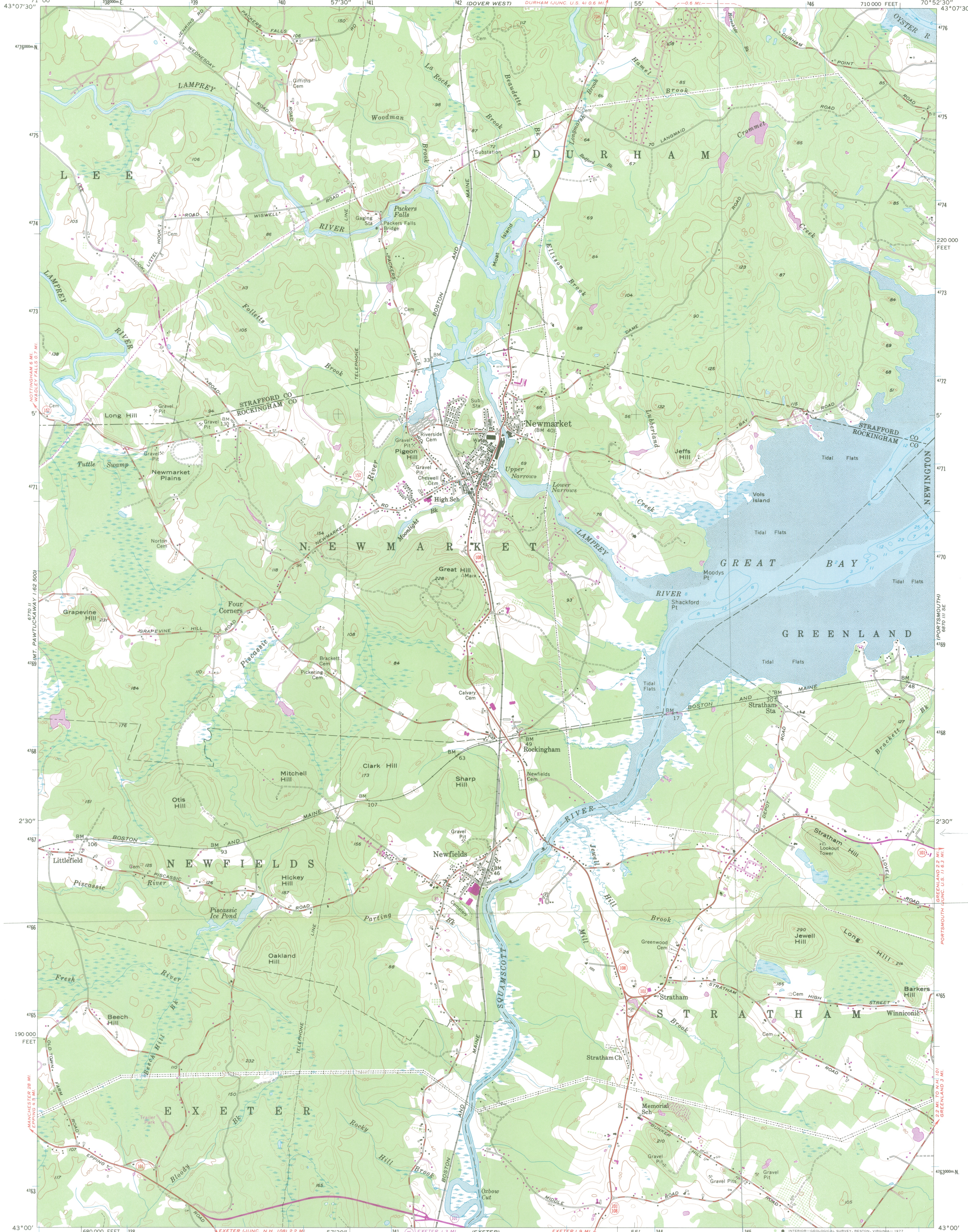
Description: East and south elevations of the shed associated with the Kenniston Tavern.

Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW

Photo Date:

Dec.
~~November~~ 1982

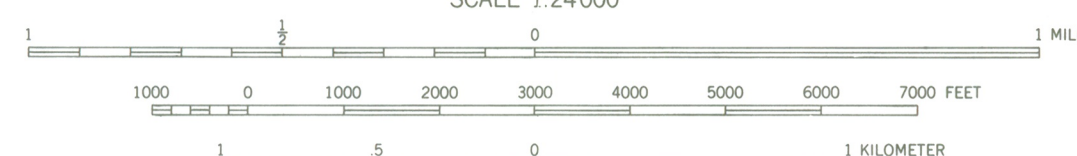
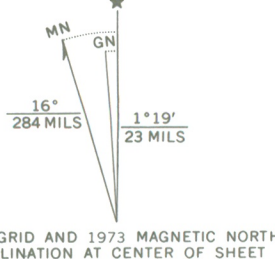
Photo Number 2 **of** 2



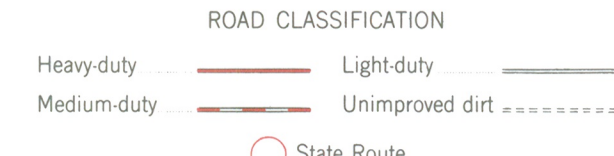
UTM	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	19	84555	4766770
B			
C			
D			

NAME: KENNISTON TAVERN (JOHN CROCKETT HOUSE)
NR DISTRICT: N/A
CITY/TOWN/STATE: Stratham, NH

Maped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and New Hampshire Geodetic Survey
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1956
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 229 (1953)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on New Hampshire coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 6.8 FEET IN GREAT BAY
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



NEWMARKET, N. H.
SW/4 DOVER 15' QUADRANGLE
N4300—W7052.5/7.5
1956
PHOTOREVISED 1973
AMS 6870 III SW—SERIES V812



NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEORGE GILMAN
COMMISSIONER

TELEPHONE 603 271-2411

January 31, 1983

Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

As New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer, I am pleased to nominate the following properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

Richmond Community Church/Richmond, NH
Hills House/Hudson, NH
Central Square Historic District/Bristol, NH
Rochester Commercial/Industrial Historic District/Rochester, NH
Deacon Samuel & Jabez Lane Homestead/Stratham, NH
✓ John Crockett House/Stratham, NH
Cornet Thomas Wiggin House/Stratham, NH
Stonyfield Farm/Wilton, NH
Historic Resources of So. Hampton, NH/So. Hampton, NH
Colony's Block/Keene, NH
Ashland Jr. High School/Ashland, NH
Ashland Town Hall/Ashland, NH
Eli Morse Farm/Dublin, NH
First Freewill Baptist Church and Vestry/Ashland, NH

The National Register Inventory-Nomination forms have been reviewed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Review Board. The owners have been notified and any comments received are enclosed.

Sincerely,


George Gilman, Commissioner
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

GG:g

cc: Sandra L. Moyer
Arlene G. McIntyre
David Ruell
Rockingham Planning Commission
Christopher W. Closs
Cynthia Milliken
Anne Fernald Niles