

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Janvrin-Healey-Scamman FarmOther names/site number: Scamman Farm (preferred)

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 69 Portsmouth Avenue (NH Route 108)City or town: Stratham State: NH County: RockinghamNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D**Signature of certifying official/Title:****Date**State Historic Preservation Officer, Director, NH Division of Historical Resources**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.**Signature of commenting official:****Date****Title :****State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ determined eligible for the National Register

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

4

Noncontributing

2

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

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 outbuildings

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuildings

AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/horticultural facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID 19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: STONE/granite

Walls: WOOD/weatherboard

Roof: ASPHALT/shingles

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Scamman Farm in Stratham, New Hampshire, is a large agricultural property, with eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings prominently sited on the historic main road between Portsmouth and Exeter.¹ The Greek Revival style house with ell, large gable-front New England barn and older English barn, along with several twentieth century outbuildings, form one of the most well-preserved farm complexes in this historically agricultural town. The farmstead, named Bittersweet Farm by the early twentieth century owners, was settled in the seventeenth century and evolved over time with buildings from several eras. The period of significance for which it is nominated begins with the construction of the existing farmhouse and barn in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The 2½-story, 5 x 3 bay house with gable front façade, center entry and twin fireplace chimneys is a fully-developed example of the Greek Revival style, updated with Italianate and late Victorian style porches and additions on each side elevation. It was built with a two-story kitchen and service ell and a long 1½-story back house angled along the driveway. Recent changes have been confined to the kitchen interior and the rear of the back house. The large mid-nineteenth century barn displays the status of this property as one of the most valuable farms in town. The English barn is a rare surviving example of an eighteenth-century building type and

¹ The farm, which has had many different owners over the years, would most accurately be called the Janvrin-Healey-Scamman Farm for the key property owners. However, the preferred name of Scamman Farm is that by which it is commonly known locally, and under which the land and barns are conserved.

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conveys the long-time occupancy of this prime farm land. It was first settled in the mid-seventeenth century and, in the eighteenth century, became a large gentleman's country estate. The barns also represent the early twentieth century when they were adapted for poultry farming. The fourth contributing building is a former poultry building, now a small residence. Two new outbuildings and two metal-framed structures are non-contributing, but relate to modern farming on the property. The land being nominated is approximately 178 acres. This is nearly all the land on the west side of the road that was associated with the buildings throughout the historic period. Over one-hundred acres of open fields are bordered by woodland along the Squamscott River. The boundaries of this tract, marked by stone wall, fencing and tree line, have been the same since the late eighteenth century. The property retains a high degree of integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling and association.

Narrative Description

The Scamman Farm is located on the western side of Portsmouth Avenue/NH 108 in the southern part of the town of Stratham. The buildings, farmyards and cropland are situated on the highest ground with open fields sloping to the south and west and bordered by woods (Photo 1). The six buildings all relate directly to the farm operation; only two are non-contributing (due to age). Located nearest the road is the connected farmhouse complex. The main block of the Greek Revival style house (popularly known as the "big house") and rear kitchen and service ell ("little house"), both built ca. 1836, are situated atop a knoll, set back from the road.² The connected shed and carriage house back building ("back house") extends back from the service ell at a roughly 45-degree angle. Three detached historic outbuildings are arrayed around the work and barn yards, all with parallel ridge lines and facing southwest. Nearest the back house is a former chicken hatchery built in the 1930s and now an apartment. A small barn, long used for machinery and feed storage, is a mid- to late eighteenth-century English barn with later modifications. The large mid-nineteenth-century New England barn is a gable front bank barn with Greek Revival style façade and small attached milk house.

Non-contributing buildings are a small farm stand, built in 2012, in front of the New England barn and a large new hay barn, built ca. 2014 on the site of an earlier building. Two non-contributing structures erected within the past twenty years are permanently-installed hoop houses located northwest of the big barn. A well house, a concrete structure that is the remnant of a coal shed and a modern garden shed in the back yard are considered too small to be counted individually. There are also temporary metal-framed shelters associated with the farm stand business.

Historic landscape features that make up the site include stone walls and tree lines, large open fields, and outlying woodlands. Maple trees line the road and driveway where

² Physical evidence suggests the house dates from the 1830s-40s and documentary evidence indicates it was built when the property changed hands in 1836.

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historically there have been shade trees. A long straight stone wall marks the northerly boundary line of the original farm. Stonewalls that lined the roadside along the easterly side of the pasture were removed in the mid-1950s when Portsmouth Avenue was widened. While this farm retains most of its historic farmland and remains in agricultural use, the surrounding area has undergone considerable commercial and residential development in recent decades. The garden center at the roadside in the field south of the historic farmstead is the only intrusion in the immediate setting. The rolling hillside farmland, overlooked by the historic building complex, forms a scenic vista that is a strong reminder of the region's agricultural heritage.

1. Farmhouse and ell, ca. 1836, contributing building

Main Block and Service Ell

The house is a large, two-and-a-half story gable-front main block ("big house") in the Greek Revival style with a lower height two-and-a-half story rear ell. The main block is five bays wide and two rooms deep with a center stair hall plan (Photos 2-6). On the side elevations, one-story additions augment each side of the rear pile of the main block. Differently sized porches in the reentrant angle between the main block and additions span the front pile side elevations. A nearly centered brick fireplace chimney, painted white with a black cap, rises above each slope of the roof. The main block rests on granite block underpinnings. The clapboarded walls are trimmed with corner pilasters and cornice returns on the gable ends and a full entablature under the eaves on the side elevations. The roof cladding is asphalt shingles, except on the northern slope of the ell, which retains slate roofing.

The façade's regular fenestration consists of a center entry flanked by pairs of window openings on the first story (Photos 3, 4). The historic doorway is comprised of an original four-panel door flanked by half side lights and topped by a five-light transom. The framing frontispiece features plain pilasters supporting a full plain entablature.³ The second-story fenestration patterns match those on the first story though with a window opening above the entry. A pair of window openings is centered above in the gable end. The side elevations have single window openings, illuminating the front room, on the first story, and three regularly spaced window openings on the second story. The façade window openings, the first-story window openings on the side elevations, and the rear elevation window openings are trimmed with low-pitched pedimented lintels and plain board surrounds. The second-story window openings on the side elevations abut the entablature. All the windows are 6/6 wood sash windows with a thin muntin profile, common in the period 1830 to 1850.⁴ The house and ell are painted white with dark shutters and doors, a color scheme popular from the Greek Revival period.

³ The frontispiece resembles the proportions and general features of the "Design for a front door case," Plate XXVII, illustrated in Asher Benjamin's *The Architect, or Practical House Carpenter*, 1830. This pattern of doorway was one of the most common entrance designs from the 1830s-1850s. James L. Garvin, *A Building History of Northern New England* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2001), 117.

⁴ Garvin, 147.

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The south room and porch addition date from 1850-80 during Charles N. Healey's ownership (Photos 2, 5). Two granite steps lead to the porch. The flat-roofed porch is supported on the southeast corner by a characteristic Italianate square post with beveled corners and paneled faces. The balustrade has urn-shaped, turned balusters, connecting to an Italianate square newel post. The room addition, which is set on a brick foundation, features double round-headed windows with matching shutters on the south elevation. A doorway, flanked by an Italianate corner pilaster, on the east elevation provides access to the porch from the interior.

The north room and porch addition dates to a later period than the south one, most likely the first quarter of the twentieth century (Photos 6, 7). Two granite steps lead to the porch which features turned posts and a balustrade with square balusters and a four-sided newel post with a turned newel cap. The porch is accessible from the interior by a centered doorway with original four-panel door, topped by a three-light transom and flanked by a Greek Revival pilaster on the east side. The foundation of the addition is mortared rubble stone. The windows are a mix of 6/6 wood sash with a muntin profile that resembles the windows in the original part of the house (possibly a relocated original sash) and 6/1 sash.

The rear ell is centered on the back of the main block, with which it is contemporary. It has similar wall sheathing and trim, foundation, window detailing, window type, and chimney (Photos 7-9). The ell measures approximately 22' wide and 30' long. A tall brick chimney, painted like those on the main block, is centered on the ridge. The fenestration is irregular on both elevations. The most noteworthy features are the elaborate Italianate door hoods designed in a series of compound drop pendant brackets creating a visual effect of icicles or wisteria. They were likely added at the same time as the room and porch addition on the south elevation of the main block. Some of the ell windows are the original 6/6 wood sash, especially on the second story but the other windows are replacements though retain the general character of the original window types. A modern deck has been added on the north side of the ell.

Like the exterior, the interior of the house is little altered, except for the kitchen (Photos 10-12). The plan resembles a version of a double house, with a one-room deep center hallway flanked by rooms. The plan of the main block has been modified in the rear pile to accommodate the north and south room additions, but those changes occurred well within the historic period. On the first floor, the front rooms feature similar architectural details, drawing on elements illustrated in Asher Benjamin's builders' guides of the 1830s and 1840s. Original Greek Revival architectural features include the stairway, newel post and balustrade, baseboards, door and window casings topped by a low-pitched pediment with a Grecian ovolo molding, four-panel doors, fireplace mantels, panels under the first-story front windows, door hardware, and wide pine flooring. The doors have flat panels with a narrow molding on the room side and raised panels on the hallway side. The window muntins have an ogee profile that comes to a point, characteristic of the 1830s through 1850s.

In the rear pile rooms, the decorative trim has been updated. At the time of the southerly extension, the southwest back room was remodeled in the Italianate style and includes a marble arched mantel piece. The trim in the rear north room is a mix of Greek Revival and

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Colonial Revival. The large fireplace includes a bake oven. The second-floor plan is little altered, and the Greek Revival architectural features generally resemble those on the first floor, with simpler Greek Revival style mantel pieces in the two front chambers, four panel doors and flat casings with peaked lintels.

The common rafter roof with collar ties and no ridge pole is visible in the main block's large unfinished attic. This type of roof framing became common in coastal New Hampshire after about 1830.⁵ The major framing members are hewn and the smaller rafters and ties are sawn by an up and down saw. The sheathing boards are laid horizontally atop the rafters in characteristic fashion for this type of roof frame.

In the ell, the original kitchen has been redone. The historic cooking fireplace was bricked in and bake oven closed up. In the adjoining former scullery or wash room, the set kettle remains in place on the back side of the chimney. By the 1840s they typically were in this location. A wall now divides the set kettle chimney, to close off the ell entry from the main room. On the second floor of the ell, as is typical for hierarchy of finishes, the Greek Revival style door trim and fireplace mantels are simplified. The door casings consist of plain boards with a simple pedimented molding. The ell's roof framing is similar to that of the main block, but collar ties are not needed due to the narrow width of the structure.

In the cellars of the main block and kitchen ell, the foundations are the same; comprised of large split boulders with smaller stones as chinking and mortar, laid with the flat face inward to create plumb cellar walls. Quarry marks show use of the plug and feather splitting method that was adopted around 1830.⁶ At grade level, smooth hewn granite block underpinnings are backed by brick. Large brick barrel vaults support all three chimneys. There are pass-throughs or storage areas under each. Brick posts set on stone footings provide support at intervals to the floor framing members. All surfaces have been whitewashed. The cellar floor is poured concrete.

Connected Back House

A long back house extends to the west of the service ell (Photos 1, 2, 7, 9). Parallel to the driveway, it connects with a triangular section that is angled approximately 45 degrees to the south. The high-posted, one-story side-gabled building has a knee wall post-and-beam frame that rests on a field stone foundation. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles, the south elevation is sheathed with clapboards, and the west gable end is shingled. The irregular fenestration includes a pair of arched openings, a wide doorway with a sliding door (all added since 1998) next to a pedestrian door with a vertical board door, and at the easterly end, an original pedestrian doorway with a four-panel door, flanked by a 6/6 sash window. Under the eaves are four nearly regularly spaced fixed six-light sash and a single 6/6 window is centered in the west gable, providing additional light to the attic. A 1970s, two-part, one-story, shed-roofed addition on a concrete foundation spans much of the north elevation of the back house. The larger easterly addition is sheathed with clapboards and the roof shelters an

⁵ Garvin, 13.

⁶ Garvin, 45.

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open woodshed near the back kitchen door. The smaller westerly addition is sheathed with shingles like the adjacent back house walls and has two 6/6 wood sash windows.

The fenestration pattern on the southerly elevation has been altered several times. Historic photographs show the back house had a pair of wide doorways at the westerly end, one towards the easterly end and a pair of pedestrian doorways in between (Figures 8, 10, 11). In the 1970s, the barn doorways and a pedestrian doorway were replaced with windows and a new doorway, to accommodate the retail craft shop in the westerly part of the building.⁷ Recently those added windows were replaced in turn by two arched garage doorways and large doorway with a sliding door.

On the interior, the space appears to have historically consisted of several finished utilitarian spaces in the easterly portion (lath and plastered walls) and unfinished areas in the westerly portion. Dairying operations may have occurred in the finished spaces, as proximity to the boiler was important and separate rooms were needed for cooling milk and for dry storage for cheese. The easterly end, occupied by the craft store beginning in the 1970s, was finished with sheetrock and pine ceilings. In the unfinished attic, accessed by stairs in the middle of the back house, the wall plates are a few feet above the attic floor boards. The feet of the hewn common rafters rest on the plates and there are no collar beams.

2. New England Barn, ca. 1836, contributing building

The largest of the outbuildings, located at the easterly end of the work yard, is the original northeasterly facing gable-front banked New England dairy barn (Photos 1, 13, 16-17). The approximately 80'-long timber-frame building was built around the same time as the house. It underwent alterations as a result of its conversion to a poultry barn in the early twentieth century and then back to dairy use in the mid-twentieth century⁸. Some of the original design, workmanship and feeling have been lost, but characteristic New England barn features are the regular stall windows and on the interior much of the framing (though supplemented and modified with newer framing components), plus the center drive floor, hay mow, and animal stalls.⁹

The substantial building rises from a stone foundation with granite block underpinnings, to an asphalt shingled gable roof. Two metal ventilators and a central cupola with hip roof straddle the roof ridge.¹⁰ The facade gable end is sheathed with clapboards while the other three elevations are clad with painted wood shingles. The barn's southeast lateral elevation is cut into the bank (a feature characteristic of mid-nineteenth-century barns) which allows

⁷ Preservation Company, NHDHR Inventory Form – Janvrin-Healey-Scamman Farm, 1998.

⁸ Its size is characteristic of New England barns which tended to be 36' or 42' wide x 80'-100' long. Thomas Durant Visser, *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997), 76.

⁹ At the time of its conversion to a poultry barn, a full-width shed dormer was added on the southerly roof slope. The 1938 hurricane badly damage the dormer and it was removed and the roof slope returned to its original configuration. Stella, Doug, and Kirk Scamman, 2018.

¹⁰ Galvanized steel ventilators came into use in the early twentieth century. Visser, 46. Until recently, the central metal vent was topped by a metal cap.

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for a manure drop and animal shelter below. The foundation is similar to that of the house with large split boulders and post-1830 plug and feathers splitting marks. A 1950s one-story, gable-roofed milk room extends from the façade. A mid-1980s shed roofed addition extends from the southwesterly gable end.

The façade of the barn features the drive bay entrance with paired rolling doors. A low-pitched dirt drive leads to the entrance. The original height of the entrance has been lowered altered to accommodate an added hay door under the original three-part, two-tier, multi-light transom. Above, in the gable, is a large off-center hay door. The trim consists of narrow corner pilasters supporting cornice returns and plain door and window casings capped with low-pitched pedimented lintels over the transom and loft windows. The milk room is set on a concrete foundation and has a window and door that provide light and access to the interior.¹¹ A large loading door on its gable end enabled the loading of milk. The structure dates from the 1950s, having replaced an older milk room in this location.

On the other elevations the trim consists only of plain board window and door casings and a boxed cornice, a feature that appeared in the mid-1800s. The southerly elevation has seven regularly spaced double windows with six-light sash, illuminating the stalls along the south bay. A doorway has been added near the northwesterly corner. Below, at foundation level, are several wide doorways providing access to the basement level. On the southwesterly gable end is a wide doorway with a vertical board door at the south corner. In the gable is an off-center double window with six-light sash. A large 1980s shed-roofed addition covers much of the southwesterly gable end.¹² Set on an above grade concrete foundation it is sided with T-111, has sliding doors along the southerly elevation, and windows like elsewhere on the barn and a hay door on the northerly side. A large concrete pad extends to the south of the addition. The northerly elevation of the dairy barn has four regularly space windows on each story of the same type as on the other long elevation. A large barn doorway with double hinged doors is also on this elevation.

The interior has undergone multiple alterations in connection with its changing uses as a dairy, then poultry, then back to dairy, and even for a period, draft horses. The drive floor is relatively intact, with animal box stalls along much of the southerly bay. Additional stalls for draft horses kept in the 1960s occupy the front end of the northwest bay. The open northerly bay of the barn is used now for hay storage. An additional floor was added below the original loft level at the time of building's conversion to a poultry barn.

3. English barn, mid- to late eighteenth century, contributing building

Set back at the end of the driveway, this small eighteenth-century English barn represents the earlier occupation of the site before the present house was built (Photos 13-15). It has been adapted to various uses. Most recently used as a machine shed, the southerly facing, gable-

¹¹ By the 1920s state regulations required milk rooms for cooling and storage to be separate from the cow tie-ups and milking area. Visser, 117.

¹² It replaced an earlier, larger barn extension that is shown in historic photographs of the 1940s (Figure 12).

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roofed building measures 44'-6" x 32'-4".¹³ The knee- wall post-and-beam frame is set on a fieldstone foundation with no cellar. The exterior is clad with wood shingles and the roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. A cement block flue chimney rises above the edge of the northerly roof slope. On the four-bay facade (south elevation) the barn entrance is off-center, with a smaller doorway adjacent to the southeasterly corner. The building has a variety of window types and sizes. These include old 9/6 sash windows, and double six-light fixed sash in each gable end and under the eaves, added during the poultry farming period and providing light to the upper story. The two extant exterior door openings have later doors; the barn doorway on the northwest elevation is now boarded up, as are several of the window openings.

The barn interior includes an open space with an added concrete floor on the ground level and a full loft above, accessed by an enclosed early stairway at the easterly end. The Eastern white pine hewn post-and-beam framing has been augmented with smaller sawn framing members to provide additional support. On the ground level, diminished haunch joints are present at the center support posts. The dropped girts connect the posts below the roof plates. The principal rafter and common purlin roof framing is covered with vertically laid sheathing boards. Additional roof framing members include a ridge board and collar ties and struts to help stabilize the framing and counter forces on the walls. Some of the smaller framing members throughout the building are log poles or retain their waney edges. A heavy coat of whitewash remains on the wide pine sheathing boards and framing members. Hand wrought nails are present throughout the building. There is evidence that the back wall had doors on strap hinges.¹⁴

4. Converted hatchery, ca. 1935, contributing building

A small, one-story, side-gabled rectangular building with an irregular fenestration pattern is located just northwest of the back house (Photo 18). Originally the chick hatchery, it was probably built in the mid-1930s when fire destroyed an earlier brooder house, and was remodeled for residential use ca. 1978. The southerly facing, five-bay-wide, one-room-deep building retains its historic footprint and scale, overall fenestration pattern, clapboard siding and windows. It was jacked-up and set on a new concrete block foundation in 1978. Near the easterly gable end of ridge on the asphalt-shingled roof, is a brick flue chimney, also rebuilt at that time. There was a coal-fired heater in the hatchery and in the yard nearby is a rectangular concrete structure that was the base of the coal storage bin.¹⁵

While the rear (north) elevation is clad with wood shingles, the other three elevations are sheathed in painted wood clapboards. The simple detailing on the building consists of plain board window and door trim, corner boards, and boxed eaves. Windows were replaced in 1978 and decorative shutters added to the façade. Window openings and flat trim around the wooden 6/6 and 4/4 sash are unchanged. The fenestration pattern of the old building was retained except for replacing a second doorway with a paired window (Figure 14). The off-

¹³ Bob Pothier, "New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Barn Assessment Worksheet," 2017.

¹⁴ Pothier 2017.

¹⁵ Scamman 2018.

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center front door was the historic main entrance. The interior of the apartment is one large room with a sleeping loft. It has all new finishes, but some exposed framing and red brick chimney flue. Brooder house characteristics include the chimney, multiple windows, and location near the back of the farmhouse. Two metal ventilators were removed from the roof in 1978.

5. Farm stand, ca. 2012, non-contributing building

In front of the New England barn is a small farm stand, non-contributing due to age (Photo 1). The side gable roofed wooden building is sheathed in clapboards and has a shed roof extension spanning the front, supported by square posts and sheltering the double-leaf doorway.

6a-b. Hoop houses, ca. 1998 and ca. 2010, non-contributing structures

At the back of the farm yard, behind the barns, is a pair of modern plant houses. Known as high-tunnel houses, the semi-temporary structures are made of curved metal frames that are covered with plastic during the growing season. The ends have plywood walls with a doorway on one end.

7. Hay barn, ca. 2014, non-contributing building

A large, gable front metal building is located northwest of the New England barn, on the site of an earlier hay barn that was destroyed by fire in the 1970s. The new metal-framed building has a raised poured concrete foundation, ribbed steel panel wall cladding and roof sheathing (Photos 1, 13). A shed roofed extension runs the full depth of the south elevation, providing covered storage for equipment.

8. Site

All the land included within the boundary of the Scamman Farm nomination has been historically associated with the farm since the eighteenth century and is typical of coastal northern New England farms in terms of its land uses as part of a working farm. The nominated property on the west side of Portsmouth Avenue includes approximately 178 acres of farmyards, hilltop fields, former pasture, and woodland toward the river (Figures 1, 5). In common fashion, the farm buildings are sited on the highest elevation of the property. The land slopes gradually, from roughly 130 feet above sea level near the road to just ten feet above sea level at the riverbank.

The 178 acres are the historic tract of just over 184 acres, minus the one subdivided parcel that has been developed. In the nineteenth century, the farm also included about eighty-eight acres of land with a separate farmhouse on the east side of the road, and smaller discontinuous parcels including saltmarsh, for a total of about 275 acres. In the late twentieth century, when combined with the adjacent farm to the south, the Scamman property totaled over 450 acres.

The soil of the Scamman Farm includes areas identified as “farmland of statewide significance” on the soils survey. The location of the buildings and the tilled fields on the

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hilltop are Hoosic gravelly fine sandy loam with a 3-8 percent slope, which is good for building sites, cultivated crops and forage. This is deep soil and has a low frost danger. The outer hay fields, south and west of the buildings are Hoosic gravelly fine sandy loam with an 8-15 percent slope which is not prime farmland but suited for crops with low erosion potential. The pasture and forest areas toward the river are Squamscott fine sandy loam with a 0-5 percent slope. This is farmland of local importance though poorly drained and wet in spring. It is mostly used for woodland, white pine and red maple being the most common trees according to the soils survey.¹⁶

In recent years, the historic farm was divided on paper into several parcels, all owned by Scamman family members. The buildings at 69 Portsmouth Avenue are on a 12.9-acre parcel (tax map-lot 09-007) in the northeast corner of the historic property. The main parcel of farm land is a parcel of 206.8 acres (08-064), which is under a conservation easement.¹⁷ Most of parcel 08-064 was the original farm associated with the historic buildings. The southern fifty or so acres is field and woodland fronting on River Road that was historically associated with the separate Scamman farmstead on the corner of Portsmouth Avenue and River Road that was combined with this one in the 1970s and has no extant historic buildings. This is not included in the National Register boundary, nor is the modern Scamman garden center on a subdivided rectangular 6.56-acre parcel (09-006) at 57 Portsmouth Avenue. The field on Portsmouth Avenue south of the garden center is a subdivided 11.03-acre parcel (09-119) included in the nominated boundary because it was part of the historic farm and presently remains under Scamman ownership and agricultural in character, though not in conservation.¹⁸

Front yard

The house is set back on a rise and has a gently sloping front lawn (Photos 2, 3). There are mature maple trees lining the road and northern property line. Evergreen shrubs grow at the foundation and a row of lilacs across the front of the house screens the busy road. Roadside stone walls and granite fence posts have been gone since the late 1950s.

Dooryard

The main work yard extends southerly and westerly of the ell and back house and easterly of the main dairy barn (Photos 7, 13). The yard is sheltered by the ell and defined by the multiple entrances to the interior utilitarian spaces. Lilacs and other flowering shrubs grow near the kitchen door. There is now a paved driveway, with parking spaces along one side, parallel to the front of the ell. The white vinyl rail fencing is all new. The driveway passes in front of and between the barns continuing through the fields as a farm road.

¹⁶ Natural Resources Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/appWebSoilSurvey.aspx>.

¹⁷ For the purposes of the conservation easement, 08-064 is separated into Conservation Area A, which is 67.4 acres of wooded land, and Conservation Area B, which is 138.77 acres of open agricultural land and wetland. Rockingham County Registry of Deeds (RCRD) Plan 36673, 2010.

¹⁸ RCRD Plan D-32903 2004; RCRD Plan D-31321 2004; RCRD Plan D-34505 2007; Plan D-34506 2007; RCRD Plan 36673 2010.

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Side yard

North of the house, a narrow side yard is accessed by doors from the main block and from the kitchen (Photo 19). A kitchen garden would have been located here traditionally, perhaps behind the ell where gardens and hoop houses are now, which has the best soil and good exposure. An old well house with concrete sides and low-pitched gable covering is located beside the modern well head. A small modern garden shed at the back of the yard is too small to be counted as a non-contributing building.

Barnyard

The barnyard along the southeast front side of the barn is now the site of the farm stand and sales area (Photos 1, 17). There is ground-level access to the barn cellar. A modern chicken coop is attached to the front. Concrete retaining walls and work pads date from the 1960s period when the property was owned by a concrete contractor.¹⁹

Fields and former pasture

The land is open with rolling fields extending to the west and south (Photos 1, 20). The rectangular fields are parallel to the road across the hillside or perpendicular to the road in line with the ridge. Pasture was situated in the low-lying area near the road and downhill to the southwest toward the river. Downhill south of the buildings a pond was dug around a spring in the 1950s according to historic aerial views. Orchard was historically located on the upper slope behind the buildings where there are now fields. The trees came down in the 1950s.²⁰

Open land fronting on Portsmouth Avenue surrounds Scamman's Home and Garden, a late twentieth century building with greenhouses and plant nursery, about 0.15 miles south of the historic buildings. South toward River Road, the older Scamman farm, where historic buildings were replaced by house and dairy barns in the 1950s, is now the site of modern commercial properties. Fields on River Road were combined with the present Scamman Farm parcel, but the original property line is evident in the tree-line and wire fencing.

Woodland

The southwest and western edges of the farm have long been wooded land. The electric utility corridor that crosses the back of the property dates from the 1940s. The farm has always had a narrow piece of frontage on the Squamscott River where there was once a landing place. Historically a farm road ran through the farm from the main road all the way to the river, but presently access is not maintained through the wetland area.²¹

¹⁹ Scamman 2018.

²⁰ NETRonline 1951, 1962 aerial photos.

²¹ Scamman 2018; USGS 1918, 1941.

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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.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1836-1969

Significant Dates

Significant Person

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Scamman Farm is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for significance in the area of agriculture and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The strong local importance of the Scamman Farm is due to the architectural quality and integrity of the Greek Revival style house and the survival of historic outbuildings and productive farmland. They form a highly significant agricultural landscape that illustrates building and land-use practices and patterns over a long period in a tangible way. Located in a historically rural community in the Great Bay Region of Seacoast New Hampshire, the Scamman Farm represents local contexts, including trends in settlement, mixed family farming, dairy farming, and poultry farming. The farmhouse, with ell and backhouse, and the two barns are excellent examples of eighteen- and nineteenth-century design and construction techniques. The farmstead buildings, including house, ell and barns with farm yards represent the domestic and farm activities. The large area of agricultural land has defined field and property edges, with cropland, pasture, hay field and woodland in patterns that were continuous throughout the history of the property.

The farmhouse and barns are relatively unaltered and embody the distinctive characteristics of their types, styles, periods, and methods of construction. The house is a fully-developed example of the Greek Revival style gable front form and with characteristic decorative detailing. The kitchen and service ell and the back-house date from the same period and form a typical connected farmhouse complex. The free-standing eighteenth-century barn is a rare surviving example of an important and once common building type. The mid-nineteenth century New England barn is a good typical example of a large gable-front bank barn with manure basement and added floors and windows from the poultry farming period. The fourth historic outbuilding is a poultry building converted to residential use. There are two new non-contributing buildings and two non-contributing structures that relate to ongoing farming. Small sheds, wells, stone walls, etc. form part of the site, though not counted individually.

The period of significance for which the Scamman Farm is nominated to the National Register is ca. 1836-1969. Little physically remains from the earlier period, except the land itself and a single barn. The significance of the property derives from the extant main buildings that date from the nineteenth century and the farm complex that retains integrity from that period. Changes over time date from ca. 1860 and ca. 1900, when side entry porches, sitting room, and dining room extensions were added to the house and from the 1910s-30s, when adaptations were made to the barns for poultry farming. The arbitrary end date of 1969 is fifty years from the year in which the property will be listed.

The property has a high degree of integrity from the nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century. The historic associations are strong due to ongoing agricultural use. The location, design, materials, and workmanship of the house and two barns are intact from the period of significance, although the outbuildings were remodeled over time with changing uses. The exterior of the house is unchanged since the historic period except for the new garage doors

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and extension on the rear of the ell. The interior has integrity in all rooms but the kitchen and the back-house garage. Outbuildings and structures such as the windmill came down during the historic period. The setting includes a large area of open farmland and viewsheds. The one large intrusion is Scamman's garden center, while surrounding commercial development is encroaching. New, non-contributing outbuildings relate to continuing agricultural use of the property. The crops have changed, but land use patterns, field and tree lines have not. The feeling created by the integrity and design of the buildings and the rural landscape, contributes to a sense of local farm life.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Agriculture

The Scamman Farm is one of the few properties remaining in agricultural production in Stratham; a rare surviving rural landscape in an area of modern development. This was historically one of the largest and most valuable farms in town and it remains one of the largest tracts still in agricultural production. As detailed in the Historic Background narrative, it represents continuous farming since the town was settled. The large farmstead typifies patterns and trends in farming changing over time from mixed family farming in the eighteenth century to large-scale dairy farming in the nineteenth century, then to poultry in the early twentieth, back to cattle and dairy in the mid-twentieth century and to mixed family farming again in recent years. The historic buildings, including house with ell and barns and the dooryard and farmyards represent the interrelated domestic and agricultural functions of a farm property. Changes to the buildings relate to changes in ownership and farming practices during the historic period. The newer buildings and structures, while non-contributing, are part of the current farm operation.

The historic farm is a combination of natural and manmade features, with cropland, woodland and wetland that forms a significant cultural landscape. The view from Portsmouth Avenue of the house and barns surrounded by fields forms a panoramic scenic vista, one of the most extensive views of an agricultural setting remaining in the area. It is particularly distinctive because of the surrounding commercial development on all sides. The Scamman Farm reflects typical land use activities, patterns of spatial organization and cultural traditions of a New England farm in the siting, building cluster, circulation networks, boundary demarcations and vegetation related to land use. The siting and layout were the result of site topography, a response to the natural environment. This was an ideal location with elevated building site and gently sloping land, meaning fewer rocks, reduced danger of late season frost, and drier fields and yards. The Scamman Farm is a good example of the common four-field system. Crops were planted on the highest flat ground, closest to the buildings, with mowing fields surrounding. The tilled land was near the barn and barnyard to

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receive the manure for fertilizer. Pasture was on the more sloping land and lowlands, and woodland farthest outlying and low-lying area.²²

The buildings contribute to the agricultural significance of the property. The English barn is a survival from Colonial period subsistence farming and represents the conversion of older buildings for new uses. The gable front bank barn relates to the shift toward more commercial and specialized dairy farming in the middle decades of the nineteenth century. Larger barns were indicative of increased production and herd sizes with improved equipment and mechanization. The large-scale poultry business of early twentieth century is represented by the added multi-pane windows and interior divisions of the barns. Other twentieth century features are the metal ventilators, one of which has been re-capped and the mid-twentieth century milk house with characteristic concrete foundation, novelty siding and gable end loading door facing the dooryard and driveway.

The siting and orientation of the buildings is typical of nineteenth century farm planning principals. The main façade of the house faces the busy road, the ell extends to the rear and the outbuildings are set back nearer the fields and pastures. The Scamman Farm illustrates the three-yard system with a formal front yard toward the road planted with shade trees and shrubs, a south-southeast facing dooryard with driveway and access to the kitchen, work rooms, back house and barns and a barn yard area alongside lower level of the barn, plus a back yard outside the kitchen north of the house.²³ Character-defining landscape features include the fields and yards, stone wall the length of one side and the farm path from the barns through the fields toward the river.

Stratham's historical development was always closely tied to agriculture, until the second half of the twentieth century when the land became more valuable for new construction. Agriculture is still an important context locally, with one large dairy farm and several smaller farms raising vegetables, flowers, and berries in operation. Hay remains a commercial farm crop due to the large number of equestrian facilities in the area. The focus on destination farming with farm stand, corn maze and pumpkin patch is a recent trend keeping family farms in production. For many years, the Scamman family combined farming with government service and political activism and the farm is well-known locally as the site of political rallies where the farm buildings and landscape provided an appropriate setting in this historically rural state.

Architecture

The Scamman Farm is significant for the architecture of the well-preserved Greek Revival style house with ell and its two historic barns. The wood-framed connected farmhouse and New England barn represent building trends of the second quarter of the nineteenth century. They date to a period when the design and construction of farm buildings was undergoing considerable change. The form of the house and the partial use of the connected farm

²² Thomas Hubka, *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1984), 81-84.

²³ Hubka, 114-116, 70-81.

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configuration represent that period, retaining older traditions while also adopting new ones. The main house combines the traditional double house or Georgian plan with the newer orientation and massing achieved by turning the roof ridge ninety degrees, from parallel to perpendicular to the front wall, so that the façade became the tall and flat gable end. This reorientation gained popularity in New England beginning in the 1820s, with the emergence of the Greek Revival style. The three-bay, side-hall plan version was most common throughout New England, but some homeowners opted for the variation that retained the older center hall plan and five-bay façade with the newer gable front orientation. The Scamman house has fully Greek Revival architectural detailing with no older Federal style elements, overlaid on the traditional double house, center hall plan form, with two interior fireplace chimneys.

The Scamman house is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style, which was the predominant architectural style used by builders throughout the region and the state as whole from the 1820s into the 1850s.²⁴ It displays the character defining features including the wide gable front form, corner pilasters, entablature, frontispiece with sidelights and transom, and low-pitched pedimented window lintels, 6/6 windows and four-panel doors. The popularity of white paint with dark trim began in the Greek Revival and this house has always had the same paint scheme. The interior displays the fully-developed Greek Revival style in the fireplace mantels, window and door architraves, baseboards, front stair balustrade and newel post. The house has all of its original 6/6 windows with narrow muntins, four panel doors and even the original wooden door knobs. The ell is finished with similar, but simpler architectural detailing. In the cellars, the stone foundation walls display split boulders and stones with marks of the plug and feathers splitting technique that was introduced around 1830. The framing is typical of the period in combining sawn and hewn members. The updates to the house in the mid-1800s and early 1900s have architectural distinction of their own. Both added a new side entry porch and enlarged the back rooms of the house, into more up-to-date sitting room and dining room. The Italianate period characteristics are the brick foundation, arched windows, porch balusters and chamfered posts, as well as the marble fireplace. The kitchen door hoods added shelter to the doorsteps. The early 1900s addition has period turned porch posts, mortared fieldstone foundation, 6/1 window and a built-in china cabinet inside.

²⁴ The Greek Revival style was popular in the Seacoast region. It is represented in public buildings and churches in many towns and in the homes of prosperous farmers in agricultural communities. The stone South Church in Portsmouth (1824-26) was the first to display the Greek temple front. The nearby Stratham Congregational Church built in 1837 has gable front form and Greek Revival style pilasters. The Hampton Falls Unitarian Church (1838), though small, is the most high style wood-frame Greek Revival building in the area. The Kensington Union Church is a plainer example. The North Hampton Town Hall built in 1844 has characteristic Greek Revival corner pilasters and fully pedimented, three-bay, gable-front façade. In Exeter, the Otis Gorham House (ca. 1820) is a transitional Federal-Greek Revival style house with gable front façade. In Hampton Falls, the Thayer Sanborn house (1837) has a five-bay gable-front façade and corner pilasters combined with Federal details. Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., *New Hampshire Architecture: An Illustrated Guide* (Concord, NH: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1979), 33-58. Elsewhere in Stratham, there are two other smaller, but similar, Greek Revival style farmhouses on Portsmouth Avenue with gable-front orientation and center entry, 1½-story form, with similar entry surrounds and 6/6 windows.

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The Scamman farmhouse with its long back ell represents the connected farm building form distinctive of the nineteenth-century Northern New England agricultural landscape. The connected farmhouse consists of the typical main house ("big house"), rear kitchen and service ell ("little house") and wood shed-carriage house back building ("back house") usually connected to the barn.²⁵ A practical building arrangement and symbol of progressive agricultural improvement, connected farms were built by accretion or as a complete unit. In this case, the farmhouse dates from a single period with identical foundations and framing in main block and ell, while the back house is similar or slightly earlier than the house. The choice of a detached barn layout was not uncommon. In this case, the siting was probably due to pre-existing buildings, like the eighteenth-century barn that was retained, and topography and siting constraints, such as a hilltop site and the need for passage to the back farmyard and fields.

This connected farmhouse displays standard room organization, with kitchen and kitchen workroom in the ell and store rooms, including woodshed typically, and carriage bays in the back house. The major alteration to the interior of the house since the period of significance was the remodeling of the kitchen ell, but the characteristic fireplace surround, bake oven opening and set kettle remain in place. In general, the relocation of cooking spaces from main block to ell began in the early 1800s and long kitchen ells were commonly built with new houses by the 1830s. The adoption of cook stoves began during the same period but was not always simultaneous, and stoves were not used universally until around 1850.²⁶ In this case, although the house was costly and up-to-date in other ways, traditional open hearths were used in all rooms. The house is noteworthy for the tall brick chimney arches in the cellars that support a total of nine fireplaces. The inclusion of a cooking fireplace with bake oven in the main block as well as in the ell, suggests a summer/winter kitchen arrangement. The kitchen workroom retains its original brick set kettle, built into the brickwork as that back of the kitchen fireplace chimney. A set kettle, a large brass kettle with fire box below, was used to heat water for cooking and cleaning. Adopted in the early 1800s, initially in conjunction with a cooking fireplace, the set kettle was used with the earliest cook stoves until stoves with attached boilers were produced in the 1880s.²⁷ The Scamman back house is connected to the back of the ell at an angle, which may be evidence of a pre-existing building placement, and desire to align with the driveway through the dooryard to the barns. The full loft of the knee wall framed building was likely used for storage of grains and dry foodstuffs. The backhouse interior spaces and door openings were remodeled in the late twentieth century, but the overall form and usage of the building remains clear on the front elevation, obscured by an addition on the rear.

²⁵ The connected arrangement was adopted in the 1830s-40s, achieved its height of popularity after the Civil War and remained a common choice in many New Hampshire agricultural areas through the nineteenth century. Hubka, 3-11.

²⁶ Hubka, 44-49

²⁷ Hubka, 125-128.

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The English barn is dated to the eighteenth century.²⁸ It represents the adaptation of pre-existing buildings as the farm complex was expanded in the mid-1800s. The building retains its hewn framing and other original materials, though its door and window openings were changed over time and siding replaced within the historic period. Eighteenth century characteristics are the rough stone foundation, small door openings that had hinged doors, the purlin roof with vertical roof boards over principal rafters and common purlins and the close-cropped eaves.²⁹ The dropped girt, used in the late eighteenth century, allowed the upper floor to rest below the plate and increase the size of the storage loft.³⁰

The New England barn, built around the same time as the house, has a Greek Revival style façade with peaked lintels, full corner pilasters with capitals, projecting cornice and eave returns. It has the characteristics of a New England barn, which are the gable front orientation and central entry and drive floor. The hay mow bay was on the colder north-west side and the animal tie up bays on the southeast. The off-center entry of this barn indicates it was an early example of the type, when the cow tie ups were smaller and hay mow bay wider.³¹ The dry-laid stone foundation was typical of barns of the period, as was the combination of hewn and sawn framing members.³² Several other Stratham barns of the mid-1800s show the typical features, which are transom lights over the door, 6/6 loft windows, boxed cornice, seven or eight bay length and cupola ventilators.³³ Gable front barns were first built in the 1810s and they were in widespread use by the 1830s. With the change in orientation came the development of the gable front bank barn of which the large Scamman barn is a good example and the construction of barns with basements. Bank barns were typically built into a sloping site to provide ground level entry to the basement as well as the drive floor. Manure basements below the cow tie ups were adopted in the 1830s-50s, to collect manure and protect the nutrients needed for fertilizing. As in the case of the Scamman barn, the long side was parallel to the hill and the foundation was exposed on the downhill side. The siting of the barn at an angle to the house increased its visibility from the roadside.³⁴

Historic Background

The Scamman family has farmed here for nearly fifty years, first as part of a large dairy operation and more recently as hay farm and a farm stand, specializing in corn, eggs, pumpkins, and fall events. The Scammans are descendants of the town's earliest settlers and there were several other older Scamman and Scammon houses south of here that are now gone. Richard Scammon settled there in 1660s, near River Road, which was the location of a

²⁸ Pothier 2017.

²⁹ This was the type of roof framing system traditionally used in coastal New Hampshire during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Garvin, 15.

³⁰ Visser, 10-13.

³¹ Hubka, 55-58.

³² Visser, 40.

³³ Nathan Merrill, "News from the Stratham Preservation Commission," *Stratham: A Social Publication Exclusively for the Residents of Stratham*, 2015, 12.

³⁴ Visser, 76.

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landing place when the river was used for transportation. The Squamscott River, the tidal portion of the Exeter River, flows into Great Bay which forms an inland waterway to the seacoast via the Piscataqua River. Portsmouth Avenue was laid out as the “King’s Highway” between Exeter and Portsmouth in 1681 and the site of today’s Scamman Farm was probably settled around that time, though the earliest deed transactions have not been researched and the date of the first houses on the property is unknown.

The early buildings likely occupied the same site as the present ones, on the high ground, near the road, close to the northern property line. The small English barn is the one surviving building from the original period of farming. The existing large farmhouse and barn, erected entirely new from the foundation up, replaced equally substantial buildings that had been part of one of the most valuable properties in the area in the late eighteenth century. The owner Col. Eliphalet Ladd was a wealthy shipbuilder and merchant of Exeter and Portsmouth. Prior to Ladd, Captain George March (1737-1812) and his wife Eunice Hill, who was Ladd’s wife’s cousin, lived here. Deeds for this property could not be located, but they lived in Stratham in the 1760s. When March fell into debt, he sold off parcels of land in 1784, before selling the rest to Ladd in 1785.³⁵

Eliphalet Ladd (1744-1806) profited during the Revolutionary War as the owner of privateering vessels. He and his wife Abigail Hill (1750-1836) had ten children born between 1774 and 1794.³⁶ They lived in Exeter until 1792 and then moved to Portsmouth. Like many urban mercantile families, they owned a country farm that provided food and crops for export. Stratham offered excellent land and a location on the main route of travel, about a half-hour ride outside of Exeter and about ten miles from Portsmouth, as well as access to a navigable river. In the 1780s, Ladd combined several adjoining properties on both sides of present-day Portsmouth Avenue to create a large farm that was owned by the Ladd family for several generations. Ladd acquired all the former March land (67 acres, sixteen acres and eight acres) in 1785. Three years later he bought from Ezekiel French, 90-100 acres on both sides of the road south of his other land, with building, as well as a tract of saltmarsh farther downstream on the river. Ladd bought additional land and buildings in subsequent years.³⁷ When houses in Stratham were illustrated on the 1793 map, Ladd’s house on the site of the present Scamman House was shown as the largest dwelling in town. He also owned two smaller houses on the east side of the road to the north and south (Figure 6).³⁸ In Portsmouth, the Ladd family lived in the large early eighteenth century Buckminster House that still stands on the corner of Islington and Bridge streets in the Portsmouth National Register Historic District. Ladd built several stores on Market Street in Portsmouth and on the street that bears his name. He was a founding owner of the Portsmouth Aqueduct

³⁵ Rockingham County Registry of Deeds (RCRD) 117/361 1784, 117/362 1784, 117/425 1784.

³⁶ She was the daughter of sawmill owner Capt. Elisha Hill of South Berwick. Bell 1888; www.laddfamily.com.

³⁷ RCRD 199/141 1785; 119/149 1785; 124/83 1788; 128/244 1790.

³⁸ Phineas Merrill, “Plan of Stratham,” 1793. Like most, the house was shown with a side gable roof and central chimney, as well as an added bay creating an asymmetrical façade. It was the only house on the map illustrated with a circular drive or garden in the front yard. Ladd’s houses on the other side of the road were located where shopping plazas are now.

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Company in 1797, had shares in many of the area banks and in the Piscataqua Bridge and the newly-opened First New Hampshire Turnpike between Portsmouth and Concord at the time of his death. In Stratham, the 300-acre property on both sides of the road was valued at \$10,000 in Ladd's 1806 probate inventory. Livestock on the farm at the time were a horse, four oxen, four steers and four yearlings, ten cows and calves, nineteen sheep, four swine, eighteen hens, and three turkeys. Abigail Ladd received the use of the mansion house in Portsmouth during her lifetime and use and improvement of the farm for her widowhood, which ended in 1810 when she married Joseph Buckminster.³⁹

In 1811, all shares of the farm on both sides of the road were acquired from the Ladd heirs by Betsey Ladd and her husband Samuel Chauncy/Chauncey, who was a merchant in partnership with his brothers-in-law Alexander and Henry Ladd.⁴⁰ They had a large new house on Islington Street in Portsmouth, but in hopes of finding improved mental health, they moved to Stratham in 1815. After Chauncy took his own life, the farm passed to son Dr. Charles Chauncey (1800-1864) of Portsmouth who owned it about ten years. He mortgaged it to Alexander and Henry Ladd, for \$2,000 in 1824 and for \$3,550 in 1828.⁴¹ In 1830, when the "well-known farm called the Ladd Farm," was advertised for sale in the *Portsmouth Journal*, its buildings had recently been put in good repair.⁴² There was no sale, and the following year, Chauncey transferred the properties on both sides of the road to his uncles. The portion west of the road, including the nominated property, contained 184 acres, fifteen rods, with buildings. The lengths of frontage of Portsmouth Avenue and on the Squamscott River were the same as they are today. The price of \$7,000 included the dwelling house, barn, and all other buildings, as well as livestock and furniture, etc., "in the state and condition in which the same now is." The Ladds were to pay the taxes and the charges of any improvements.⁴³ Tax assessments for the property remained the same through this period, with buildings valued at \$600. The farm contained eight acres of arable land, an acre-and -a-half orchard, sixteen acres of mowing and forty-four acres of pasture as well as unimproved land.⁴⁴ In 1836, the same 184.09-acre property with buildings west of the road, eighty-eight acres of land and buildings east of the road, and other parcels were sold by Ladd to George Janvrin of Hampton Falls. The price of \$7,000 suggests no changes had yet been made.⁴⁵

Janvrin, who owned the farm for just two decades, built an entirely new Greek Revival style house and a barn on acquiring the property in 1836. The size of the buildings attests to the status of his farm as one of the most valuable and productive in town. The 1830s-40s were a period of local growth and agricultural prosperity when the population reached a peaked of

³⁹ NH Wills and Probate, www.ancestry.com. The family advertised for a tenant farmer in the *Portsmouth Journal* on 3/17/1810.

⁴⁰ RCRD 209/129 1811.

⁴¹ <https://www.ancestry.com/boards/surnames.chauncey/rss.xml>; RCRD 242/227 1824; 254/109 1828.

⁴² *Portsmouth Journal*, October 9, 1830.

⁴³ RCRD 265/89 1831; RCRD 270:62 1833.

⁴⁴ Town of Stratham Real Estate and Poll Tax records, 1816-1832.

⁴⁵ RCRD 281/110 1836.

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nearly 900 residents. Food was needed for the populations of the region's rapidly expanding industrial communities where textile factories were erected beginning in the 1820s. Nearby Newmarket more than doubled in size between 1820 and 1840, as did Dover, while Exeter grew by about half. Railroads built through the region in the 1840s provided access to more distant markets in the Boston area. The main road through Stratham remained important as the direct route between Portsmouth and Exeter.

George Howard Janvrin (1794-1882) and Sarah Dodge Janvrin (1796-1865) had previously lived in a house they built in 1826 in the center of Hampton Falls village, where he kept a store and they had a son and five daughters born between 1824 and 1835.⁴⁶ In the fall of 1835, he sold for the house and store for \$3,200 and in March 1836, was still living in Hampton Falls when the deed for the Stratham property was recorded. A later deed indicates the family moved to Stratham by the end of that year and 1836 Stratham tax records list Janvrin as a resident. The new house and probably the barn must have been built in the interim because the value of buildings in 1836 was \$1,200 compared to \$600 in the last available assessment under the Ladd family in 1832. After 1836, the value was unchanged through 1842 after which there is a gap in the record.⁴⁷ Physical and stylistic evidence confirms the house was built after ca. 1830, while the use of fireplaces and no stoves suggests construction not long after about 1840. The large house offered four large chambers upstairs and two or more small rooms in the ell. The eight-member family was recorded in the 1840 census. In 1850, they had two farm laborers living with them. Throughout this period, the Janvrin family also owned a house on the land across the road; the occupants of which are unidentified.⁴⁸

New England farmers of the period practiced mixed agriculture, producing beef, pork, butter, cheese, hay, grains, and increasing amounts of potatoes and apples. The Janvrin farm, with 200 acres of improved land and seventy acres unimproved recorded in the agricultural census was the largest in town at that time. They milked five cows, which was about average at the time locally and the rule throughout New England. Janvrin's other livestock in 1850 were seven cattle, a horse and eight pairs of oxen. Dairy products were butter and a large amount of cheese, which was typical of farms in the area. A flock of twenty-two sheep was large by local standards. The crops, including corn, oats, barley, potatoes, and apples were the norm in Stratham, but forty tons of hay was above average.⁴⁹ Janvrin served as a local selectman in 1853-54.⁵⁰ In 1857, the family relocated to Exeter and the Stratham farm, including

⁴⁶ Warren Brown, *History of Hampton Falls, New Hampshire From the Time of its First Settlement Within its Borders, 1640 until 1900* (Manchester, NH: John B. Clark Company, 1900), 574.

⁴⁷ RCRD 280/80 1835; RCRD 284/233 1836. Town of Stratham Real Estate and Poll Tax records, 1832-1842.

⁴⁸ US Population Census 1840, 1850. Chace, J. Jr. *Rockingham Co., New Hampshire*. Philadelphia: Smith and Coffin, 1857.

⁴⁹ Agricultural Census 1850. Howard Russell. *A Long, Deep Furrow: Three Centuries of Farming in New England* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1976), 155-156.

⁵⁰ Charles B. Nelson, *History of the Town of Stratham, New Hampshire 1631-1900* (Stratham, NH: Town of Stratham, 1965), 271.

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properties on both sides of the road, was sold for \$14,400 to Jonathan Wadleigh of Exeter who was a short-term occupant.⁵¹

Throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, this was the farm of Charles N. Healey (1826-1902) and his family. He was the son of one of Hampton Falls' wealthiest landowners, Wells Healey, Esq., a progressive farmer; the first in town to own a horse rake and a mowing machine.⁵² In 1858, a year after his father's death, 32-year-old Charles N. Healey purchased the Stratham farm and buildings on the west side of the road from the Wadleighs for \$10,750. The land and buildings on the east side of the road were transferred separately to Healey the following year for \$5,200.⁵³ In April of 1860, Healey was married to Sarah Parker Toppan from Hampton and they lived here with two farm laborers and a domestic servant at the time of the census. The house was updated in this period with a new side porch and expanded sitting room (Figure 7). A son, Charles W. Healey was born in 1861, followed by daughter Alice several years later. Like earlier property owners, Charles N. Healey was active in local government and oversaw the committee to build the Stratham Town Hall in the 1870s.⁵⁴

The Healey farm, including the buildings and land on both sides of the road, was one of the largest and most valuable in town, containing a total of 275 acres, valued at over \$15,000 in 1860. Tax assessments indicate the farm was improved gradually. About a third of the land was tilled and the rest was meadow and pasture with a small area of woodland. Large crops of apples, rye, Indian corn, and potatoes were grown. Wheat was no longer grown locally due to competition from western farms and raising of hogs and cattle for beef also declined. In 1860, Healey's owned a horse, five cows, plus younger stock, four oxen, five swine and a large flock of thirty sheep. After the Civil War, sheep farming came to an end on this farm and elsewhere in New Hampshire. Dairy farming increased steadily with demand from urban centers, which continued to grow at the height of the industrial era, and dairy herd sizes increased. In 1870, Healey had twelve cows and ten other head of cattle, four oxen, two horses and four swine. Butter was still made on the farm, but cheese was increasingly made in factories and there were creameries in some towns in the region. With faster rail transport and ice refrigeration, fresh milk was shipped to urban markets; Healey sold \$2,400 gallons in 1869. The farm's annual crops included 300 bushels of corn and thirty bushels of barley.⁵⁵

The 1880 agricultural census reported Healey owned sixteen milk cows, as well as two horses, two oxen, two swine and fourteen other cattle. Dairy farming resulted in an interest in selective breeding and he specialized in in purebred Ayrshire stock; a brown and white dairy cow known for its hardiness and longevity. In one year, twenty calves were born on the farm, and 7,900 gallons of milk were produced. Healey was a wholesale milk dealer

⁵¹ RCRD 374/400 1857. In Exeter, Janvrin continued to farm, and owned considerable real estate, residing at the edge of town on Linden Street according to city directories.

⁵² Brown, 557. The Healey House at 144 Exeter Road in Hampton Falls, is a wide gable front Greek Revival style house built in 1846-47 with a large New England Barn.

⁵³ RCRD 381/77 1858; RCRD 381/357 1859.

⁵⁴ Nelson, 255.

⁵⁵ Agricultural Census 1870. Russell, 190-193, 203-204, 275.

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according to Exeter directories, during a period when milk wagons picked up local milk for delivery to the creamery in Durham or to the Boston market. The growth of poultry farming paralleled that of dairy in New England, with a demand for eggs in the growing cities. Healey had a flock of forty hens as of 1879. His crops in that year were 250 bushels of Indian corn, two hundred bushels of potatoes and two bushels of dry beans. Twenty-five cords of wood were generated from the property. Fruit production also increased in New England during this period. Healey's orchard was recorded in the census as the most productive in town at six hundred bushels of apples. Hay was the most widespread New England crop. It was a cash crop needed as feed for cattle and horses, including those in urban areas. Healey cut one-hundred tons of hay, far more than any other farm yielded. A farm road was maintained through the property to the riverfront where gundalow boats were loaded with apples or hay. In one year, the family paid \$415 in wages for a total of eighty weeks' worth of hired labor.⁵⁶ On Charles N. Healey's death in 1902, the farm was divided. Charles W. Healey, who worked as a civil engineer, acquired the farm where he lived on the east side of the road.⁵⁷ Alice Healey Cilley, who was married to an Exeter insurance agent, inherited the home farm with 184+ acres on the west side of the road, which she sold after her mother died in 1903.⁵⁸

The farm passed through a series of owners during the early 1900s, coinciding with the decline in agriculture in the region generally, as the population moved toward the prospering industrial centers and away from small agricultural towns. Stratham shrank to an all-time low of 542 residents in 1920. At the same time, however, mobility increased, and rural areas became more accessible to tourists and summer home owners. The Portsmouth-Exeter Street Railway passed in front of the property 1902-1913. Portsmouth Avenue was improved by the State of New Hampshire as part of an east-west trunk line highway, known as the South Side Road, which became the original NH Route 101. Many New Hampshire properties were sold to out-of-state residents who established summer homes or came to try their hand at farming.

In 1905, the former Healey farm on the west side of Portsmouth Avenue was purchased by Massachusetts residents, Sarah and James P. Clare (1854-1936), who moved from Quincy, Massachusetts. He continued to work as an electrical engineer and storage-battery manufacturer and his teenage son worked on the farm, according to the census. They stayed less than a decade, before relocating again, to a farm in Florida.⁵⁹ Modernizations and the dining room extension were probably made to the house during this period. When the property was advertised for sale in the 1910s, the house had an indoor bath, electric lights, furnace heat, and a cemented cellar. There was a large workshop with private electric light plant. The high-grade dairy and stock farm was advertised as 200+ acres of good land, with

⁵⁶ Nelson, 97; Agricultural Census 1880; Russell, 253-255, 263-265.

⁵⁷ Historic maps show the house owned by Charles W. Healey stood a short distance to the south, on the east side of Portsmouth Avenue where a shopping center was built in the 1980s.

⁵⁸ Anonymous, "Down the King's Great Highway: A Sketch of Stratham," *The Granite Monthly*. Volume XXVI, No.3, March 1899, 150; RCRD 599/305 1904; RCRD 603/333 1904.

⁵⁹ RCRD 611/188 1905; RCRD 678/247 1915; Census 1900, 1910.

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deep heavy loam, clay soil, free from stones, rolling land, good views, 400 fruit trees and 75 acres in grass, yielding 80 tons of hay. There were two long poultry houses, a 50' x 10' brooder house with heater and two ice houses, elevated water tank and spring water delivered by an electric pump (Figure 10).⁶⁰ From 1915 into the 1920s, the property was owned by George and Ellen Fountain who named it Bittersweet Farm and raised horses, sheep, cattle, and goats. They were from South Bend, Indiana, where he was a manufacturer of windmills. Again, they moved on within a decade.⁶¹

Dairying decreased in New Hampshire in the early 1900s despite continued demand, in part due to fluctuation in the prices of feed and of butter and milk. There was a scarcity of farm labor as young people chose to move away. Modern coolers and milking equipment were needed to meet sanitary regulations. Poultry farming was promoted as requiring a modest investment and less strenuous labor. Electric lighting increased year-round production. The Boston area provided a large market for eggs and broilers and roasters and trucks facilitated transportation. Many New England dairy barns were converted for poultry. At Bittersweet Farm, Ray E. Holmes (1889-1976) had a large poultry operation at Bittersweet Farm during the 1920s-30s. The barn was converted with the addition of multiple windows and a full shed dormer to provide the southerly exposure required for a poultry building (Figure 11). The interiors of both barns were coated with whitewash to meet sanitation requirements. Holmes specialized in New Hampshire Reds, the hardy, dual-purpose breed developed by the University of New Hampshire in cooperation with the USDA for used for meat and egg production. The 1930 census recorded several farm laborers boarding with Ray and Bessie Holmes and their two daughters in the large house. According to a 1933 article in the *Portsmouth Herald*, Ray E. Holmes had one of the two largest poultry farms in the state, with 10,000 layers. 160,000 chicks were hatched in a year, of which most were sold to other farmers and 25,000 were raised. In 1934, a fire destroyed one of the large brooder houses, but there were no chicks in it at the time.⁶² Prices for eggs and chickens fell during the 1930s, to the lowest in a generation and grain prices rose. Holmes mortgaged the farm several times and the bank foreclosed in 1937 at the height of the Great Depression.⁶³

The next owner, Ralph E. Ferguson, was a former contractor who owned the property with his brother from Providence, Rhode Island. The gable roof of the barn was restored after the dormer blew off in the 1938 hurricane and cattle replaced poultry again (Figures 11-12). Ferguson moved up from Massachusetts with his wife and children and was a general farmer and cattle dealer here for about a dozen years before returning to Massachusetts.⁶⁴ Short-term owners who engaged in farming here in the 1950s were Irene and Sadie Richard and

⁶⁰ Breck's Real Estate Agency, Boston, MA, advertisement ca. 1910s. Breck's of Boston originated as a dealer of agricultural implements, harnesses, and poultry supplies and entered the real estate business in the early 1900s, specializing in agricultural and horticultural properties.

⁶¹ Helen Lafavre, *Stratham - Images of America Series* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 1998), 97; Nelson, 97.

⁶² Population Census 1930; *Portsmouth Herald* 9.20.1933 and 2.17.1934.

⁶³ RCRD 779/89 1923; RCRD 911/282 1935; RCRD 927/213 1937; U.S. Population Census 1930; New Hampshire Department of Agriculture 1934.

⁶⁴ Scamman 2018; RCRD1006/201 1943; City directories.

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William F. and Ruby Simms. According to censuses and directories, Richard came from Boston where he had been a pipe-fitter and Simms worked in a shipyard in Braintree, Massachusetts. A Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) easement across the back of the property dates from 1948. Portsmouth Avenue, then part of NH Route 101/South Side Road, was widened and straightened in 1957 and the stone wall across the front of the property was removed.⁶⁵

In 1959, the farm was sold to James and Mildred Seavey, who also moved from Massachusetts. He was a contractor and owner of Greenland Ready Mix concrete company. He continued dairy farming a short time, but in 1961 thirty-three milk cows, two pulling horses and five ponies, and equipment such as milk coolers were sold at auction. After that, Seavey kept draft horses to compete in horse pulling at events like the Stratham Fair and hayed the fields. This was a period of decline in local agricultural, while land in Stratham was increasingly in demand for residential and commercial development. Seavey hauled fill to create a building site for a proposed motel, above the old pasture on Portsmouth Avenue where the garden center is now.⁶⁶

The farms that remained in operation in the mid-twentieth century consolidated and expanded. The adjoining farm to the south was a large dairy farm on the original Scammon farm that had been in the family for most of its 300-year history. W. Douglas Scamman, Sr. (1915-1995), a descendant of the original owner, built modern cow barns and feeding complex where an auto dealership and vacant commercial lot are now. The old house burned down in 1955 and a modern home was built in 1957. The farm included land on both sides of Portsmouth Avenue.⁶⁷ W. Douglas Scamman, Jr. partnered with his father, and in 1971 they entered into a purchase agreement with the Seaveys for the 184+ acres and historic buildings on Portsmouth Avenue.⁶⁸ The two farms were combined and its height, the Scamman Farm encompassed 455 acres on both sides of the road. The Holstein dairy operation expanded in the 1970s, one of the last two dairy farms operating in town. The large New England barn housed young stock. The land grew hay and corn for silage. Doug Scamman Jr. and his wife Stella ran the farm with their children, Karl, Kirk, Kim, and Bruce. Stella Scamman established The Creative Cricket craft shop in the back of the ell, which was expanded and remodeled. The hatchery building was remodeled as an apartment in 1978.⁶⁹

The Scamman family is well-known for its role in New Hampshire politics. Doug Scamman Sr. served in the state legislature during the 1940s-50s, as speaker in 1957-58, and was a Republican gubernatorial candidate. From 1968, W. Douglas Scamman, Jr. was a state representative for a total of thirteen terms, as speaker 1987-90 and 2005-2006. Stella Scamman served three terms before they retired at the end of 2010.⁷⁰ The hillside field with backdrop of historic farm buildings was the site of political rallies for presidents George

⁶⁵ RCRD 1273/224 1953; RCRD 1150/173 1948; NHDOT 1957.

⁶⁶ RCRD 1519/405 1959; *Portsmouth Herald*, 5.11.1961; Scamman 2018.

⁶⁷ RCRD 715/231917; Scamman 2018.

⁶⁸ RCRD 1866/525 1967; RCRD 2119/53 1972.

⁶⁹ Scamman 2018.

⁷⁰ Scamman 2018.

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H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. In 2011, candidate Mitt Romney officially kicked off his presidential campaign there, due to the political influence of New Hampshire in the primaries.

Karl and Kirk Scamman built an Agway store on the motel pad in 1985. In the 1990s, Karl expanded the Scamman Home and Garden Center.⁷¹ House lots along River Road were subdivided and sold out of the old Scamman property beginning in the 1980s. In the late 1990s, dairying came to an end and the last grazing heifers were sold in 2001. Since that time, much of the old Scamman land at River Road on both sides of Portsmouth Avenue/NH 108 has been sold for commercial development. The 1950s dairy buildings on the corner of River Road were removed ca. 2008 and an auto dealership built in 2012.⁷² Since 2010, farming of the Scamman Farm has been carried on by Kirk and Sue Scamman who have a hay business and farm stand operation, specializing in eggs, corn, pumpkins and fall events. Ten acres are planted in sweet corn and twenty acres pumpkins. A new farm stand was built and the Scammans planted their first corn maze in 2014. A large new hay barn speaks to the importance of hay sales, meeting the demands of the many equestrian facilities now in the area. The Town of Stratham holds a barn easement on the historic barns.⁷³ In 2011, the Scammans placed over 200 acres of land under conservation easement with South East Land Trust, funded by a federal grant from the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, matched by town contributions.⁷⁴

⁷¹ RCRD Plan 20989 1991; Scamman 2018.

⁷² Scamman 2018; RCRD Plan C-10945 1982; RCRD Plan D-22283 1993; RCRD 5305/782 2012; RCRD Plan D-38606 2014.

⁷³ RCRD 5864/199 2017.

⁷⁴ RCRD 5182/451 2011.

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Historic Photographs

Collection of Doug and Stella Scamman, Stratham, NH.

Collection of Stratham Historical Society, Stratham, NH.

Interviews

Stella, Doug and Kirk Scamman, Stratham, NH, April and October 2018.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 178 acres approximately

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Lat 43.009932° N | Lon 70.918550° W |
| 2. Lat 43.003868° N | Lon 70.919794° W |
| 3. Lat 43.010317° N | Lon 70.933484° W |
| 4. Lat 43.013542° N | Lon 70.932599° W |
| 5. Lat 43.015489° N | Lon 70.935598° W |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the National Register eligible Scamman Farm encompasses a portion of the historic buildings and agricultural land now on separate parcels that were associated with the farmstead during the historic period. These are shown on Stratham tax maps as map-parcel 09-007 (12.9 acres), 09-119 (11.03 acres), and the northern three-quarters of 08-064 which has a total of 206.8 acres. This is a combined total of approximately 178 acres, which is the 184-acre historic farmstead, minus the 6.56-acre parcel (09-006) with the modern garden center on it. The road frontage of the three included parcels on Portsmouth Avenue/NH108 and the outer lot lines of the garden center lot define the Scamman Farm on the east. The northern boundary is the north lot lines of 09-007 and 08-064. The western bound of the farmstead is the western lot line of 08-064. The southern bound of the historic farm within 08-064 is a generally straight line running southeast-northwest from the southern lot line of 09-119 to intersect the western line of 08-064.

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The National Register boundary for the Scamman Farm is shown on Figure 1. Figure 4 depicts the National Register boundary in relation to current tax parcels.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary encompasses the buildings and remaining farmland historically associated with the Janvrin-Healey-Scamman Farm that maintains historic integrity. The boundary is defined cultural features including the road, stone wall and tree/fence lines and river frontage on one side, which coincides with historic deed descriptions from the period of significance. The boundary differs from the current tax parcels by not including the approximately fifty acres that was historically part of the adjoining Scamman property on River Road and combined with this farm in the 1970s. The boundary includes a recently subdivided, yet undeveloped 11.03-acre lot that fronts on Portsmouth Avenue south of the Garden Center. The 1980s Garden Center parcel lacks integrity and is not included in the National Register boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

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date: December 2018

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Scamman Farm

City or Vicinity: Stratham

County: Rockingham

State: NH

Photographer: Lynne Emerson Monroe

Date Photographed:

April 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, including description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 0001

Scamman Farm from Portsmouth Avenue/NH 108, showing New England barn, new farm stand, back house, ell, and main block (left to right), facing north-northwest

Photo 0002

House, front yard and driveway, facing northwest from Portsmouth Avenue/NH 108

Photo 0003

House façade and front yard, facing west-northwest

Photo 0004

Entry detail, facing northwest

Photo 0005

House south elevation detail, showing Italianate porch and sitting room addition, facing north-northwest

Photo 0006

House north elevation, showing Greek Revival entry, early 1900s porch and dining room addition, facing south-southwest

Photo 0007

House north elevation, main block, and kitchen ell with back house at right, facing southeast

Photo 0008

Ell kitchen door showing Italianate entry detail, facing southeast

Photo 0009

Back house, kitchen ell and main block rear and south elevations, facing northeast

Photo 0010

House interior – front staircase, facing northwest

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Photo 0011

House interior – northeast front room, facing northwest

Photo 0012

Ell interior – second floor chamber fireplace wall, facing southwest

Photo 0013

Barns and barnyard, showing gable front New England barn, new hay barn in rear and eighteenth-century English barn at right, facing southwest

Photo 0014

English barn rear and southwest elevations facing northeast; stone wall at northern edge of property to the rear

Photo 0015

English barn interior loft, facing southwest

Photo 0016

Barn, gable end façade and rear (northwest elevation), with 1950s milk room at left, facing southwest

Photo 0017

Barn, view from barnyard, showing 1980s addition and new hay barn in back, facing north-northwest

Photo 0018

Converted poultry building, facing northwest

Photo 0019

Stone wall on north property line, from side yard, facing east toward Portsmouth Avenue

Photo 0020

Farm land, hay and corn fields, facing west-southwest toward Squamscott River, showing temporary pipe-frame structure

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Land in conservation easement is shaded. Boundary of nominated property includes parcels 09/07, 09/119 and the northern portion of parcel 08/64. Scamman garden center on 09/06 not included. Southern portion of 08/64 was formerly associated with farm on River Road.

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Figure 1: Location Map, showing coordinates and boundary

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Sketch Map

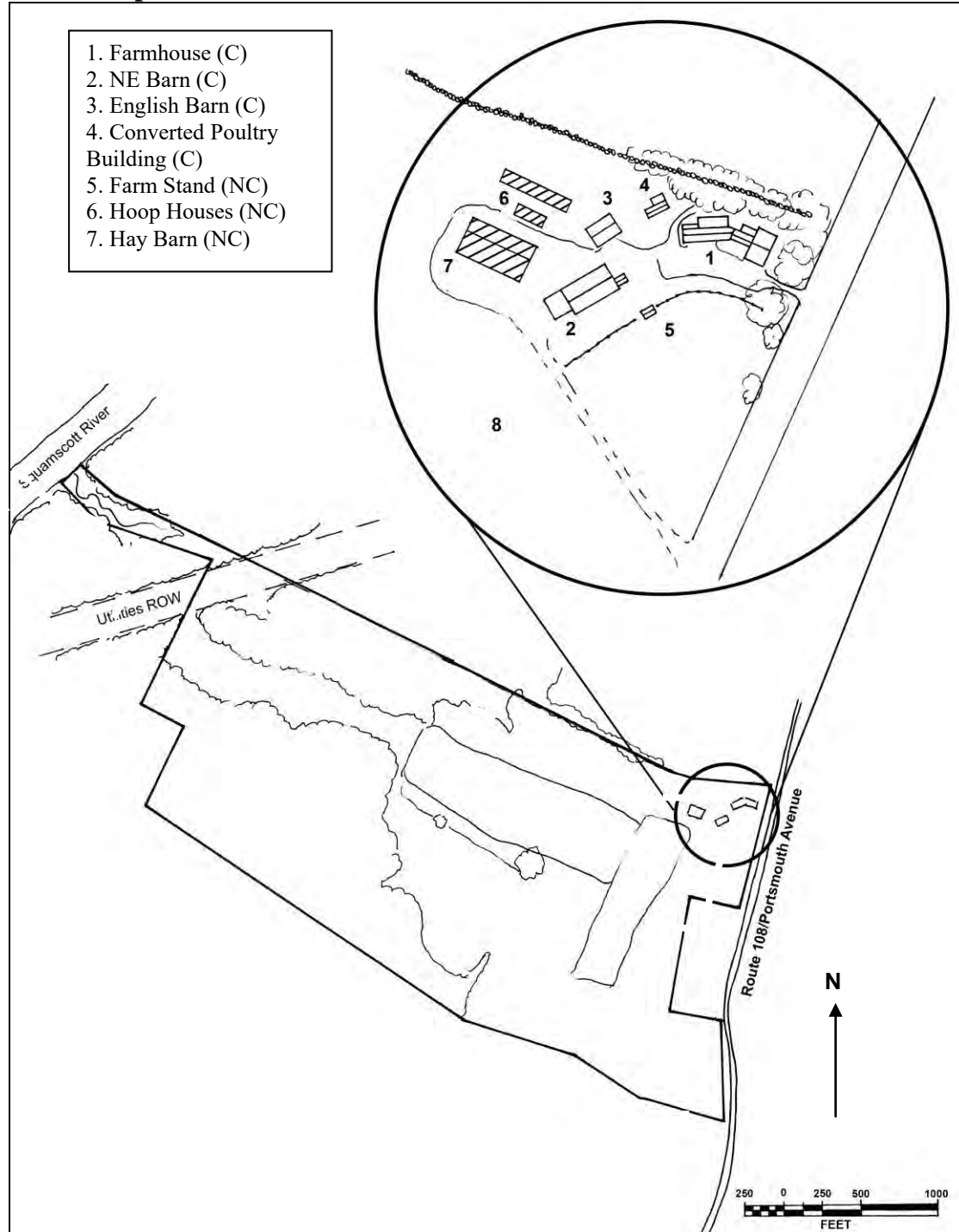


Figure 2: Sketch Map – Overview

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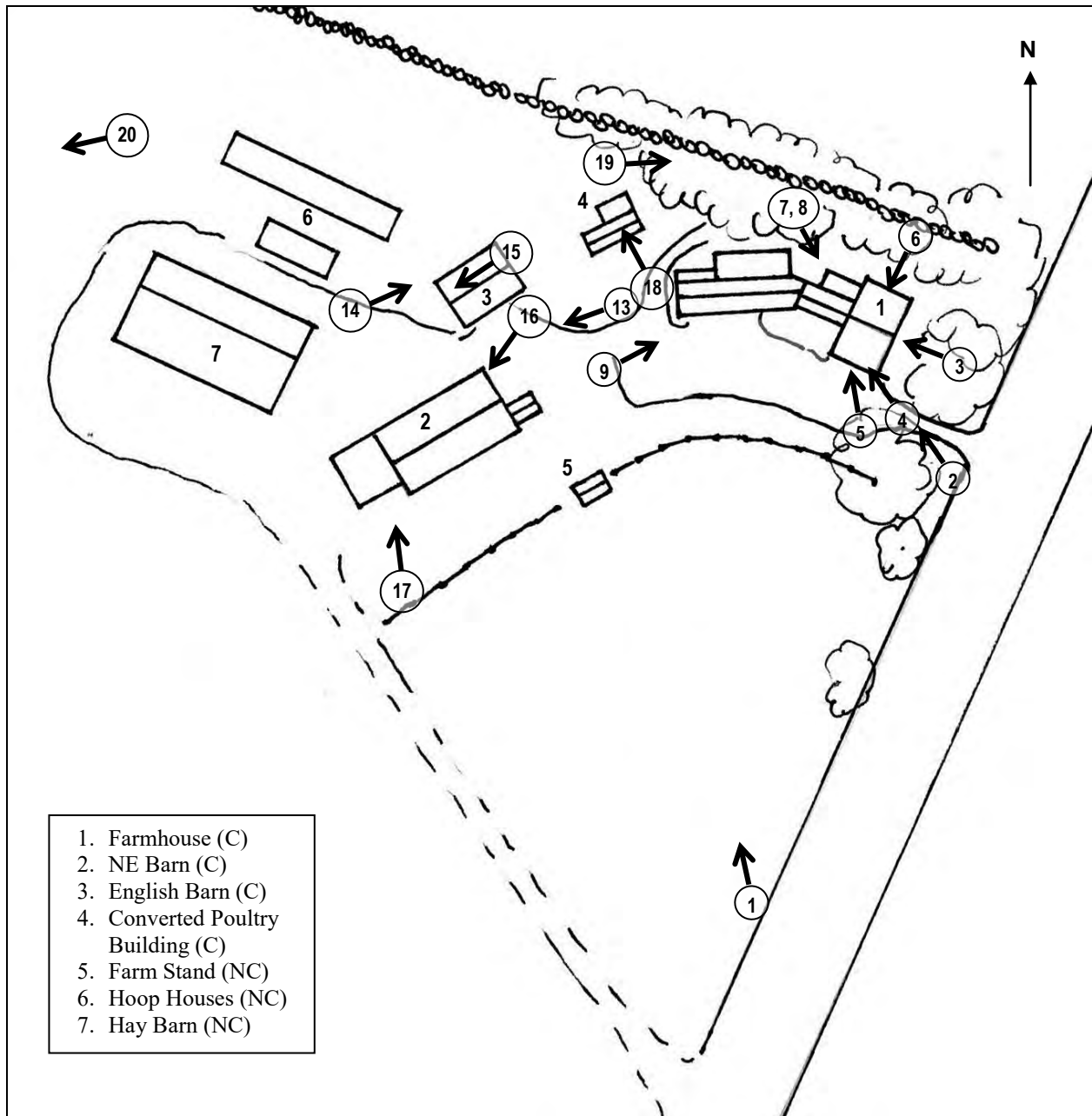


Figure 3: Sketch Map detail with photograph locations
Note – location of interior farmhouse photographs not shown

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Additional Mapping



Figure 4: Boundary and Parcel Map on Town of Stratham GIS map.

Land in conservation easement is shaded. Boundary of nominated property includes parcels 09/07, 09/119 and the northern portion of parcel 08/64. Scamman garden center on 09/06 not included. Southern portion of 08/64 was formerly associated with farm on River Road.

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Figure 5: Boundary Map on Google Earth satellite view 2018

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Historic Images



Figure 7: Historic photograph of late nineteenth century C.N. Healey residence (Collection of property owners)



Figure 8: Historic photograph of rear elevation of C.N. Healey house (Collection of property owners)

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Figure 9: Healey House from *The Granite Monthly* 1899
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HIGH GRADE FRUIT, DAIRY AND STOCK FARM.

Short drive to Exeter, N. H., in good residential town, high, slightly location, splendid view, on main road, near churches, schools, stores, etc.; over 200 acres of good land, deep, heavy loam, clay subsoil, rolling and free from stone; will easily carry 40 head of stock; 75 acres in grass and tillage, cuts 80 tons excellent hay; balance fine pasture and woodland; 400 strong, thrifty bearing fruit trees, lot of young fruit, abundance small fruits; farm borders river, fine set of buildings, nicely situated, well up and back from roadway; beautiful shade trees, nice lawn; 2 1-2 story colonial house, 11 finished rooms, bath, open plumbing, furnace heat, electric lights, set tubs, hardwood floors, cemented cellar; barn 44x150, clapboarded and painted; 2 long poultry houses, brooder house 50x10 with heater; 2 ice houses, large work shop with private electric light plant; running water to buildings supplied to tank by an electric engine from bubbling spring of purest water; a splendid proposition in every way, suitable for many purposes; an ideal stock farm or grand country home; price \$15,000 see photos. No. 741-24

Figure 10: ca. 1910s Breck's Real Estate Agency advertisement (Collection of property owners)

1914 **BITTERSWEET FARM, Stratham, N. H.** 1931
Still the home of husky N. H. Reds



Located on Portsmouth Ave., Main Highway from Exeter, N. H. to Portsmouth, N. H.
R. E. HOLMES, Proprietor
Member N. H. Poultry Growers Association Tel. Exeter, N. H., 462

Figure 11: ca. 1931 advertisement for Bittersweet Farm poultry farm shows New England barn with dormer at left, English Barn in center, house and ell at right (Collection of property owners)

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Figure 12: ca. 1940s view during Ferguson ownership shows stone wall before road widening (Collection of property owners)



Figure 13: ca. 1940s view shows early twentieth century cow barn extension (not extant), hay barn site of new hay barn at left rear and former chick hatchery at right rear (Collection of property owners)

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Figure 14: 1978 photograph of hatchery during remodeling (Collection of property owners)

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Photo 0001

Scamman Farm from Portsmouth Avenue/NH 108, showing New England barn, new farm stand, back house, ell, and main block (left to right), facing north-northwest

Photo_April2018_711



Photo 0002

House, front yard and driveway, facing northwest from Portsmouth Avenue/NH 108

Photo_April2018_716 (cropped slightly)

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Photo 0003

House façade and front yard, facing west-northwest

Photo_April2018_693 cropped slightly

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Photo 0004

Entry detail, facing northwest

Photo_April2018_694

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Photo 0005

House south elevation detail, showing Italianate porch and sitting room addition, facing north-northwest

Photo_April2018_698



Photo 0006

House north elevation, showing Greek Revival entry, early 1900s porch and dining room addition, facing south-southwest

Photo_April2018_690 edit sun spot

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Photo 0007

House north elevation, main block and kitchen ell with back house at right, facing southeast

Photo_April2018_680

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Photo 0008

Ell kitchen door showing Italianate entry detail, facing southeast

Photo_April2018_684

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Photo 0009

Back house, kitchen ell and main block rear and south elevations, facing northeast

Photo_April2018_705

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Photo 0010

House interior - Front staircase, facing northwest

Photo_April2018_531

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Photo 0011

House interior – northeast front room, facing northwest

Photo_April2018_534

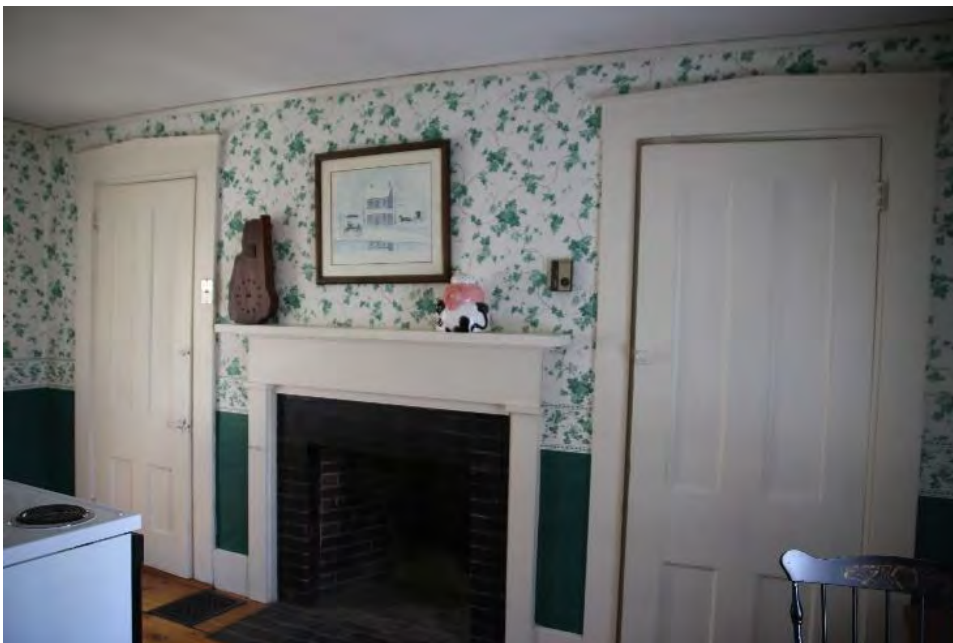


Photo 0012

Ell interior- second floor chamber fireplace wall, facing southwest

Photo_April2018_549

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Photo 0013

Barns and barnyard, showing gable front New England barn, new hay barn in rear and eighteenth century English barn at right, facing southwest

Photo_April2018_703 cropped slightly



Photo 0014

English barn rear and southwest elevations facing northeast; stone wall at northern edge of property to the rear

Photo_April2018_667 cropped slightly

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Photo 0015

English barn interior loft, facing southwest

Photo_April2018_592



Photo 0016

Barn, gable end façade and rear (northwest elevation), with 1950s milk room at left, facing southwest

Photo_April2018_674

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Photo 0017

Barn, view from barnyard, showing 1980s addition and new hay barn in back, facing north-northwest

Photo_April2018_662



Photo 0018

Converted poultry building, facing northwest

Photo_April2018_605

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Photo 0019

Stone wall on north property line, from side yard, facing east toward Portsmouth Avenue

Photo_April2018_679



Photo 0020

Farm land, hay and corn fields, facing west-southwest toward Squamscott River, showing temporary pipe-frame structure

Photo_April2018_656