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 Property

Historic name:	Scammon Farm Historic District
Other names/site number:	N/A
Name of related multiple pr	roperty listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property	is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number:	21-25 River Road				
City or town:	<u>Stratham</u>	State:	New Hampshire	County:	<u>Rockingham</u>
Not For Publication:	<u>N/A</u>	Vicinity:	<u>N/A</u>		

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

D

_____national _____statewide _____local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

____A ____B ____C ___

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

<u>New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property criteria.	_ meets does not meet the National Register
Signature of commenting offic	cial: Date
Title Government	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

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	\square
Public – Local	\square
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)	
District	\square
Site	
Structure	
Object	

Scammon Farm Historic District		Rockingham, New Hampshire
Name of Property		County and State
Number of Resources within Pro (Do not include previously listed re		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
2		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.) <u>DOMESTIC/single dwelling</u> <u>AGRICULTURE/ animal facility</u> <u>AGRICULTURE/field</u> <u>AGRICULTURE/outbuilding</u> <u>FUNERARY/cemetery</u>

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.) <u>DOMESTIC/single dwelling</u> <u>DOMESTIC/secondary structure</u> <u>AGRICULTURE/field</u> <u>LANDSCAPE/conservation area</u> <u>FUNERARY/cemetery</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State

OTHER: 2 ½ story, 3 x 2 bay farmhouse OTHER: Gable front bank barn MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Foundations: <u>STONE: granite</u> <u>BRICK</u>

Walls: WOOD: weatherboard WOOD: shingle SYNTHETICS: vinyl

Roofs: <u>ASPHALT</u> <u>STONE: slate</u>

Other: BRICK (chimneys)

Narrative Description

The Scammon Farm on River Road in Stratham, New Hampshire, is a small agricultural district comprised of two associated farmhouses with outbuildings, cropland, hay fields and woodland in conservation, and a family burying ground. The historic farmstead, now on several separate parcels totaling over a hundred acres, is a collection of well-preserved nineteenth and twentieth century buildings and landscape features. The James Scammon House built in 1812 is at 25 River Road. 23 River Road contains a shed-style house dating from the mid-1960s. A farm manager's house from the early twentieth century is located at 21 River Road. Most of the outbuildings, including the barn, sheds and cider house at 25 River Road, date to the mid-1800s. A small family cemetery is located at the edge of the district. The historic farmland continues to surround the buildings, providing an agricultural setting. The land settled by the Scammon family in the 1660s remained in the same family through eight generations and three hundred years. The existing parcels were created in 1967 when the historic farm was subdivided, and the houses sold to their current owners. The surrounding land became conservation land in 2005 and is held by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF). The fields on all three tracts are still mown and planted by a local farmer, providing a sense of continuity. The open space, roadside trees and stone walls unify and connect the two properties.

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

The Scammon House has a 2½-story, center-chimney form, with the front entry facing sideways, east toward Portsmouth Avenue.¹ Two long connected sheds that extend along River Road were once attached to the house as an ell. They contained workspace, and storage for crops, wood, and vehicles. The large gable front bank barn built in 1860 is also sited parallel to the road. The basement entry is below the west end where the ground is lower. The buildings shelter a dooryard behind the house, which has a circular driveway. The carriage barn alongside the driveway was probably built as a cider mill. A small early twentieth century well pump house stands at the edge of the back field. The historic buildings are located on a ten-acre parcel (Stratham Tax Map/Parcel 08-009). Stone walls and mature trees line the roadside. The yard includes gardens and fields. A small modern house, built ca. 1965, is set back at 23 River Road, with fields on all sides.

East of the Scammon farmhouse, 21 River Road was built ca. 1910 for the farm manager and was part of the Scammon farm until the 1960s. The 2½-story house has a simple center entry. An ell connects to a garage built ca. 1970. Parcel 08-008 contains just under four acres. The outbuildings of 21 River Road date from the early 1970s when the farm was adapted for modern family residential use. The barn was built of reused eighteenth-century timbers. A small, more recent storage shed stands nearby. The Scammon Cemetery is a small town-owned parcel enclosed with cast iron fencing, located beside the road in the northeast corner of the property (08-007).

A large tract of fields and woodland that extends south of River Road and west to the Squamscott River is visually related to the historic buildings. The 89.4 acres are now conservation land, owned by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire (08-001). Thirty acres of open agricultural land, leased to a local dairy farmer and used as hay and corn fields, is continuous across the modern property lines, providing an appearance of historic connectedness.

The Scammon Farm is located on the south side of River Road, between Portsmouth Avenue/NH Route 108 and the Squamscott River in the southwestern part of the town of Stratham. Businesses on Portsmouth Avenue occupy the eastern edge of the historic farm. Portsmouth Avenue/NH Route 108 is the main route between Portsmouth and Exeter and is Stratham's main road through its town center. Near the Exeter line, the road is a heavily developed commercial strip with isolated historic farm properties. The National Register-listed Scamman Farm at 69 Portsmouth Avenue was owned by a separate branch of the family with a different name spelling. Its back fields border the north side of River Road opposite the Scammon Farm and contributing to the rural setting.

River Road runs generally southeast northwest between Portsmouth Avenue/NH Route 108 and the Squamscott River. Like other early roads in Stratham, it curves following topography. River Road, once known as Quaboag Road, terminates at a historic public landing place still used for river access. The ox bow on the far side of the river was once part of the Scammon Farm. Much of River Road is densely built with late twentieth century homes. Houses to the west on River Road and Oxbow Farm Road were built on lots subdivided from the Scammon property.

1. Scammon House, 25 River Rd, ca. 1812, Contributing Building, 08-00, 10 acres

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, 5 x 2 bay center-chimney house faces east with its northern gable end parallel to the road. The house was remodeled over time, including in the late nineteenth century and in the 1960s. The only major recent change to the house was the replacement of some of the 2/1 windows that in themselves were replacements of the original 9/6 and 6/6 sash. The foundation is stone with granite underpinnings

¹ The historic buildings are in line with the course of River Road, which runs slightly southeast-northwest, but is simplified in the description to east-west.

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

above grade. The walls are clad in wooden clapboards, trimmed with narrow flat corner boards and frieze. The eaves are close cropped. The roof is slate from the mid to late nineteenth century. Wood shingles are evident underneath.² The windows have flat trim. First floor windows have 1/1 replacement sash. Wooden 2/1 windows, with wooden storm windows, remain upstairs. They date from remodeling in the 1890s or early 1900s. Originally there were 9/6 sash in the slightly larger first floor windows and 6/6 above. Windows on the façade are flanked by modern attached shutters. Historically there were hinged wooden shutters on the house in the early twentieth century.³

The front entry has double wood-paneled doors, also from the 1890s-1900s. An entry porch added at that time was removed when repairs were made in the mid-1960s. The simple door surround installed at that time with pilasters, cornice, and entablature, is similar to the original Federal style surround shown in a late nineteenth century historic photograph, but without a transom light. The handmade wooden storm door is new. The front steps are granite. The cellar door is sheltered by a metal bulkhead on the south elevation. The back door into the kitchen is off-center on the west elevation. The small gable-roofed enclosure, with clapboard siding and concrete block foundation, dates from the 1960s. A five-sided oriel window was added in the kitchen wall. Outside the back door of the house and adjacent shed is a slate flagstone patio.

The house faces east toward the main road, Portsmouth Avenue. Maple trees shade the informal front yard on the east side of the house, through which the driveway passes. The roadside in front of the house is open lawn. Stone walls line the road in both directions. The driveway passes around the south side of the house to the back door yard. The paved driveway encircles a small grassy area and ends in front of the barn and vehicle shed doors.

The framing of the Scammon House is visible in the basement and attic. The post and beam frame is supported by a stone foundation of rubble and boulders, pointed with mortar at some time. The split granite underpinnings are dressed above grade on the exterior. Rough unfinished inner surfaces face the cellar. The massive stone chimney base is built of rough split boulders. The sills and girts are hewn timbers. The joists are half log sleepers, common in the early 1800s. An original finished basement store room is enclosed a batten door and plastered split lath walls. The purlin roof is comprised of six pairs of rafters with horizontal purlins let into the upper faces. The chimney bay is reinforced by cross braces and vertical posts. The rafters and purlins are hewn and the studs in the end walls are sawn.

The Scammon House has a typical two-room-deep, center chimney plan, a common eighteenth century house type that persisted into the early 1800s. The house was remodeled over time, but the floorplan is unchanged. The staircase is in front of the chimney stack in a small front entry hall. The northeast front parlor retains its original fireplace. The southeast front room no longer has a fireplace. The kitchen on the back of the house was a large central room, with small rooms at either end. The twentieth century kitchen of the Scammon house is in the northwest room, laundry and bathroom in southwest room and the old kitchen is the dining area. The cooking fireplace was filled in in the 1960s, but a stove flue remains in use. Upstairs, there are fireplaces in the southeast and back chambers.

The interior was remodeled over time, so the rooms represent a mix of architectural styles. A major remodeling or a series of renovations took place in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, possibly around the time of Richard and Annie Scammon's 1897 marriage. Changes like the 2/1 windows, front

² Paul 2021.

³ See the Stratham Historical Society and property owner historic photos.

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

entry porch, installation of steam heat and bathrooms all date from the same period as the new front staircase, hardwood floors, new doors and sitting room woodwork.

The northeast front parlor retains original Federal style woodwork. The fireplace surround, wainscotting and the sliding interior shutters are original features. The doors and windows are trimmed with Federal style double architraves with two flat surfaces separated by moldings. Asher Benjamin's second edition of *The American Builder's Companion*, published in 1811 and quickly adopted, illustrated Grecian moldings with elliptical profiles based on conic sections rather than round.

The front hallway has the same Federal style double back band casings around the doors into the front rooms. Otherwise, it reflects remodeling in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. It has double doors and a staircase with heavy turned newel posts and balusters. The four-panel doors with applied moldings found throughout the house may date from the same period. The southeast front room, which typically was the family sitting room, was updated with all new woodwork. The symmetrical molded door and window casings and corner blocks with circular bosses were popular from the mid-1800s into the early 1900s.

The house has a range of nineteenth century doors, few of which the original Federal style doors. There is one six-panel door at the bottom of the attic stairs in the southwest back chamber. All other doors are four panels, in several different configurations. The oldest are four panel doors with top panels only slightly longer than the bottom and the latch or knob at the rail. The doors between the middle back chamber and northeast front chamber and northwest chamber are this type. The stiles and rails have a simple beaded edge; one side has a raised feather edged panel and the other is flat. Three narrow closets and cabinets in the fireplace walls also have feather edged raised panels. Most of the doors are similar four-panel doors with small lower panels, and the knobs above the rails. This type of four-panel door with applied Grecian ogee moldings was popular for about a century beginning around 1830. Doors are mounted on cast iron loose joint butt hinges, some with decorative finials at the ends. Upstairs doors all have white porcelain knobs. First floor doors have Colonial Revival reproduction latches and HL hinges.

Second floor bedrooms have simple flat baseboards and door and window casings, probably the same age as the 2/1 windows and doors. Most of the flooring is the same as downstairs, but the back chambers have original pine floors. The front hallway and middle back chamber doorways have Federal style architraves with a single backband molding. The middle back chamber has a fireplace with simple Federal style molded surround. The southeast front chamber has a twentieth century Colonial Revival style fireplace surround and mantel. Central heat was probably installed in the early 1900s. The original roccoc style cast iron radiators remain in use throughout the house. The bathroom above the back stairs dates from the same period.

2. Sheds, ca. 1840, Contributing Building

The house does not have a connected ell currently, but rather a slightly detached, long shed in two parts, extending nearly to the corner of the barn. The eastern bay that adjoined the corner of the house was removed in the 1960s.⁴ The 10-foot gap between the house and shed is filled by a section of tall fence. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story shed is approximately 53' long and 23' deep with a high-posted, knee wall frame. The smaller one-story, open-sided vehicle shed at the west end measures $25\frac{23}{23}$. The construction date has

⁴ Paul 2021.

not been identified. The length, minus the east end, coincides with the 95-foot shed adjoining the house that was listed in an 1851 insurance document.⁵

The walls of the larger shed are sheathed in clapboards on the south and north elevations and wood shingles on the west gable end. The doors are board and batten. The roof is asphalt shingled and the eaves are close-cropped. Windows on the south in the west gable have old 6/6 sash. There are several rectangular windows openings in the north wall, mostly boarded up.

The post and beam frame is supported by a mortared rubble stone and granite foundation. The framing is a combination of hewn and sawn timbers. The posts and plates are hewn, and the girts and rafters of the major rafter and minor purlin roof are sawn. Many of the purlins and the vertical roof sheathing boards appear to have been replaced, but there are several original hewn purlins.

The interior of the long shed is divided into several rooms by vertical board walls, with up and down saw marks. The east room is a workshop with modern ceiling and plywood floors. Until the 1960s renovation, it had a side rolling door on an exterior track. The middle room, entered by an old board and batten door, contains a brick hearth and set kettle. The boiler for hot water suggests the space was used for washing and food processing. The chimney has been removed above the roof. Windows on the south wall were filled in. The western room is now a woodshed. The stairs to the loft show heavy wear on the treads and risers suggesting the loft was actively used storage space.

A smaller one-story vehicle shed abuts the northeast corner of the barn. The open front faces the driveway and dooryard. Three bays are divided by posts. The front end of the asymmetrical roof was raised and extended in the twentieth century to accommodate larger vehicles. The walls on the north and west are supported by granite underpinnings and clad in wood shingles. There is a twentieth century milk room enclosure in the northwest corner with concrete floor and wallboard walls. A door to the street is boarded up. The passage in the end wall beside the barn has a simple board door with Z-bracing.

3. Barn, ca. 1860 Contributing Building

The large barn is parallel to the road with its front entrance in the back yard behind the house and sheds. It is a gable front bank barn, with a full basement accessed from the west end where the ground slopes down. The barn measures approximately 41' x 84' according to the tax assessment. It is ten bays long with windows on the south elevation and solid north wall. The barn doors are off-center on the gable ends.

The family history states the barn was built in 1860. It has aspects that make it appear somewhat earlier when compared to other Stratham barns, including the lack of overhang and returns on the gable ends and the off-center entries. The ten-bay length was typical. East-west orientation was common because it sheltered a south-facing barnyard. This is one of several Stratham barns with an off-center entry and drive floor, rather than a symmetrical three bay gable end. This created a wider haymow bay on the north side of the barn, while narrower animal stalls lined the south wall. Like most Stratham barns, the Scammon barn was detached from the house and sheds.⁶

The granite slab and rubble stone of the foundation is visible above grade. The barn is wood shingled on three sides with clapboards on the front gable end. The roof is slate. The eaves are very close cropped, and the walls have narrow flat corner and cornice boards. The front entrance has double hinged doors with Z-shaped braces. There is a similar pass door to one side. On the west gable end, the old

⁵ Stratham Historical Society.

⁶ Merrill and Porter 2014.

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

door on exterior track remains in place, but closed up. There must once have been a ramp, but a new sheltered basement entrance was added in the twentieth century. A side door in the middle of the side elevation rolls on an exterior track. Presently there are granite steps down to the barnyard. A pass door to River Road also has a sliding door on exterior track. Windows in both gable ends of the barn have double-hung 6/6 sash. Regularly spaced six-pane windows on the south elevation date from the 1970s and replaced ten small stall windows of varying sizes. There are louvred vents in the gable peaks. Four lightning rods from the late nineteenth century top the ridge. The slate roof is probably original to the barn, making it over 160 years old. The roof was built with a queen truss system to support the weight. This is one of several mid-nineteenth century Stratham barns with slate roofs.⁷ Slate was recommended for fire safety and there were quarries operating in New England by that time.

The barn is sited roughly parallel to River Road. A narrow side yard is enclosed by the roadside stone wall. Tall pine trees line the road frontage. Historic photos show pines have been there for over a century, replaced in kind over time. A break in the stone wall marks the back driveway. Mown fields with wall and trees along the road extend wests of the barn. The former barnyard on the south side of the barn is indicated by granite fence posts that supported board fencing. A well near the barnyard was filled in in the 1970s. Beside the driveway, there was a small outbuilding, probably a chicken coop that was taken down in the mid-twentieth century.⁸

The bank barn has a full height basement characteristic of barns built in the mid-nineteenth century. The barn foundation is dry laid masonry, made up of large boulders and roughly split stones, laid randomly or in rough courses and chinked with smaller stones. A barn cellar was typically used for manure collection, storage of root crops for feed and sometimes for animal pens. There is a door to the barnyard at the west end. A bulkhead entrance with stone sides and shed roof was added to the west gable end in the early twentieth century, and the barn door above closed up.

The heavy framing in the basement includes two lines of massive logs hewn on top and bottom, running lengthwise, east-west, supported by rows of posts. There are a mix of posts including hewn timbers, logs, metal posts, and granite slabs some irregular and some evenly split and squared. This supports the floor framing, a grid of hewn crosswise girts, with east-west joists tenoned into the tops. All of the floor framing is hewn. Some beams may be reused as indicated by random mortise pockets. The haymow bay has an additional layer of subflooring with rounded sleepers and posts. The joists under the cow stalls have been replaced and sistered with sleepers.

The ground floor has cow stalls with wooden stanchions and manure trough along the south wall. The space was whitewashed at one time. Log sleepers and roughhewn joists support the upper hay loft floors. The off-center drive floor is almost entirely to south side of the ridge and the hay mow fills nearly half of the barn. The barn was built with a traditional scribe rule frame. It has slightly flared posts, with the plates inset and the girts supported on top. The largest timbers are hewn, but the rafters, studs and long diagonal knee braces are all sawn. The common rafter, major purlin roof frame has horizontal sheathing, which was typical of the mid to late 1800s. The roof has a single purlin on each side, let into the top of the rafters. A truss system supports the weight the rafters at their mid points and transfers the weight down to the girts and posts. Above the tie beams, posts with a kingpost truss, angle up to the purlin plate on both sides of the roof form a queen post truss system with the rafters.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Paul 2021.

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

4. Carriage Barn/Cider House, ca. 1830, Contributing Building

A small carriage barn or workshop stands in the yard southwest of the house. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story outbuilding is set into the slope, two stories tall in the back. The 3 x 2 bay, 24 x 24 building is oriented laterally to the road, with a center entry on the front and a basement entrance on the back (south) elevation. The building was used as a carriage barn and for general storage in the twentieth century. Heifers were stabled in the basement.⁹ An insurance policy from 1851 suggests this was once a cider house.¹⁰ The form and size of the building matches that of known cider mills, which resemble a small barn or large shed with doors centered on the long side. An open interior housed a horse or ox powered cider press. The typical size was 20'-30' long and 20'-25' wide.

The clapboard walls are trimmed with narrow corner boards. The eaves are close cropped. The center entry has a rolling door on a covered outside track. There small is a concrete ramp in front. The doorway was widened with an added pass door, a hinged board and batten door, to one side. The 6/6 windows have flat trim. There are two windows in the north wall, two in the east end wall plus one in the loft, and just a single window in the south wall.

The framing members and rafters are hewn, and the wall studs sawn with an up and down saw. The building has a common rafter roof with no ridge pole. The plank board floor of the loft is supported by round sleeper poles, the ends notched into the hewn plates and a long central girt that runs front to back. The wall sheathing is vertical live edged boards sawn with a circular saw suggesting the sheathing, and clapboard siding on top, were replaced in the late nineteenth century. The foundation consists of large rubble stone and boulders, encased in concrete at the base. The foundation is roughly pointed with mortar. The basement entry has new double hinged doors. The frame walls are sheathed with horizontal boards. Much of the framing is covered with sheets of wall board. The whole space is whitewashed.

5. Pump House, ca. 1900, Contributing Building

A small building with a hipped roof stands at the edge of the field behind 25 River Road. It covers a well and shelters the pumping equipment. There was a windmill powered pump at one time before it was electrified. A metal cistern is located in the basement of the house.¹¹ The walls are clad in weathered wood shingles and the windows have 6-pane sash.

6. Simms House, 23 River Road, ca. 1965, Contributing Building

A small Contemporary-style house is set back from the road between the two historic farm complexes. It was built in 1964-65 by Scammon family heirs just before the farm was subdivided. It has been under the same ownership as 25 River Road since the current parcels were formed in 1967. The house now contains two apartments. The building has an L-shaped footprint with a sloping roof hipped at the corner. The walls are sheathed in wood shingles. The foundation is poured concrete and the roof is asphalt shingled. Picture windows overlook the fields. The house is set back, with lawn and driveway in front. The ground slopes down in back. Pine and spruce trees grow near the house.

7. 21 River Rd, Farm Manager's House, ca. 1910, Contributing Building, 08-008, 3.89 acres

A turn-of-the-twentieth century farmhouse at 21 River Road was built as a residence for the farmer who worked for Richard and then Annie Scammon. It stands east of the older farmhouse, with fields on either side and continuous stone wall along the road. The 2½-story house has a side gable form, twin

⁹ Paul 2021.

¹⁰ The listed cider house was five rods (82.5 feet) southwest from the house, coinciding exactly with the placement of this building. Stratham Historical Society.

¹¹ Paul 2021.

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

stove chimneys, and a center entry. The façade is five bays wide on the first floor and three bays above. The house measures 32' x 24' and is two rooms deep. The foundation is brick above grade and mortared stone in the partial basement below. The walls are clad in vinyl siding applied in the 1980s. The shutters are from the same date. Historically, the house had clapboards and plain narrow trim. The front door is original with three panels and two vertical lights. The storm door and the front steps with iron railing are modern. The windows were replaced in 2010 with vinyl clad sash in a 2/2 pattern. The kitchen window on the back of the west elevation is a pair of 6/6 sash. The original 2/2 sashes remain in the attic windows. A greenhouse window in the middle of the back elevation is a late twentieth century addition. The roof is asphalt shingled. The eaves project and are boxed with wooden returns and molded cornice on the gable ends. Two brick stove chimneys are located at the ridge.

The one-story ell is original. Historic photos show it had 6/6 windows and a porch facing the driveway. The fenestration and entry locations are unchanged. The doors are wooden with two panels and glazed with nine lights. The porch has square posts and segmental arch spandrels added between them. The west elevation was remodeled ca. 1968 with added sunroom and screen porch. The attached garage was added at about the same time.¹² It has overhead doors with segmental arched shaped openings on the east gable end toward the driveway. A large window in the gable end contains a 20-pane window. The garage has a concrete slab floor. There is a brick stove chimney at the back (west) end. Windows on the side and back walls have 6-pane sash.

The roadside in front of the house is marked by a stone wall. The wall is built with boulders at the base and smaller stones on top. Mature trees, including maples and oaks, grow between the road and the wall. The small front yard has a wooden gate in a gap in the roadside stone wall. The largest trees flank the entrance to the driveway on the east side of the house. The paved driveway makes a loop in the dooryard east of the house, with an extension to the barn. The yard is mainly open with scattered trees and shrubs. The front yard has flowering bushes including forsythia and lilac. A garden is located east of the barn. East of the house, the roadside field is cultivated by a local farmer, recently as corn field.

The basement under the west half of 21 River Road is the size of the earlier 1½-story house that burned down and was replaced.¹³ The foundation is mortared rubble stone and boulders with brick on top. The timbers and floor joists are sawn lumber. The common rafter roof is visible in the attic. The house retains original four panel doors, flat door and window casings. There are pine floors in most rooms. The doors have raised square edged panels, two-part butt hinges and brown pottery doorknobs.¹⁴ The first floor rooms were updated in the late 1960s and early 70s. Cabinets and shelves were built into the den. The living room was remodeled, removing the wall between the east rooms and adding exposed beams and pine paneling. A new flue was built to join the chimney in the attic and a fireplace with brick hearth built on the east wall.

8. Barn, ca. 1972, Contributing Building

A $1\frac{3}{4}$ -story barn is set back behind the house. It was built in 1972 with reused timbers from a historic barn.¹⁵ The building measures approximately 26' x 38'. It is supported by a concrete slab. The walls are sheathed in wood shingles with flat trim. The roof is asphalt shingled. The two-bay gable ends have doors in the eastern bays. Diagonal board doors on exterior tracks have ten-light transoms above. To one side are small pass doors on strap hinges. The north gable end has an arched window with a fanlight

¹² Smith 2021.

 $^{^{13}}$ A $1 \ensuremath{\frac{1}{2}}$ -story gable front house is visible in a photograph dated 1906, Stratham Historical Society.

¹⁴ The doors appear somewhat earlier than the ca. 1910 date assigned to the house. Possibly they were reused.

¹⁵ Smith 2021.

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

over 8/8 sash. The south elevation has a large 12-pane window. Each side elevation has two rectangular 8-pane windows. The barn is used for storage and display of antiques collections and family recreational use.

9. Shed, ca. 1967/1972/1990, Non-contributing Building

Between garage and barn is a 16' x 18' tool shed that was moved over in 1972 to make way for the barn. Historically it was a small building with a flat roof. The gable roof, loft door and cupola were added in the 1980s-90s and changed the building's historic appearance.¹⁶ The shed is one story, 1 x 2 bays with a shed extension. The walls are sheathed in wood shingles. The door is on hinges. The side windows have six large panes. A wood-shingled garden shed in the trees behind the barn is so small, it is not counted separately as a non-contributing building.

10. Scammon Cemetery, ca. 1840-1962, Contributing Site, 08-007, 0.1 acres

The cemetery is a small town-owned parcel on the roadside in the corner of 08-008. A small field separates it from the house at 21 River Road. The small family burying ground is not required to meet National Register Criteria Consideration D for cemeteries, because it is nominated as part of a district but is not the focal point of the district.

The cemetery is enclosed by a cast iron fence. It has square pickets with beveled tops and larger posts with spearhead tops at intervals. The square gate posts are cast iron, with decorative panels screwed or bolted together. This type of fencing was available from catalogs at the turn of the 20th century.

The headstones and monuments are granite, slate and marble. There are five headstones in a row, James and Lydia Scammon who died in 1859 and 1840, and Patience Wiggin, Mark Stockbridge and Phebe Austin who died in the 1860s-70s). Some of the squared rectangular stones have been repaired with stone patches. Each with a small footstone. Lydia Scammon's stone from ca. 1840 is slate with a swag carving at the top. The stones are otherwise undecorated. An obelisk in the southeast corner is the marker for Richard and Abigail Scammon who died in the 1870s. Each has a footstone. A large monument of rusticated granite with acanthus leaf carvings and an oval with raised lettering was erected after the death of Richard M. Scammon in 1914. Annie Scammon who died in the 1960s has a separate small low granite marker.

11. Strathlorne Tract SPNHF Conservation Land, Contributing Site, 08-001, 89.4 acres

A large irregular, oblong parcel between Portsmouth Avenue and the Squamscott River is the remaining undeveloped land of the Scammon Farm. Now in conservation, it is called the Strathlorne Tract for the most recent owners before it was sold to the Nature Conservancy for transfer to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Locally it is also still known by the Scammon name. The land extends south to NH Route 101 which was built across the corner of farm in the 1950s. The fields connect to a narrow point of access west of 25 River Road. The parcel contains 89.4 acres. Roughly twenty acres is open farmland, mainly used as hay fields and contiguous to fields on the adjacent River Road properties. The rest is pine forest and wetlands. There is 831.31 feet of river frontage. A mid-twentieth century utility easement crosses diagonally southwest-northeast through the woods and field.¹⁷ Recreational use is limited to a trail along the edge of the woods behind the shopping plazas.

¹⁶ See historic aerial view, Collection of Smith.

¹⁷ RCRD 3283:1927; Plan D32615.

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

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

 \square

- 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

Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) <u>AGRICULTURE</u> <u>ARCHITECTURE</u>

Period of Significance

1812-1973 (fifty year cutoff)

Significant Dates

<u>1812 construction of Scammon House</u> <u>1860 construction of barn</u> <u>ca. 1910 construction of farm manager's house</u> <u>1967 transfer from Scammon family to present owners</u> <u>1972 construction of timber framed barn</u>

Significant Person (Criterion B) N/A

Cultural Affiliation $\underline{N/A}$

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Scammon Farm Historic District on River Road is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its historical and architectural significance within the town of Stratham. The Scammon Farm Historic District meets Criterion A for representing trends in local agriculture and Criterion C for the design and construction of its buildings. The early nineteenth century farmhouse and outbuildings, midnineteenth century barn, farm manager's house, family cemetery, and surrounding fields and woodland, form a rural historic landscape that conveys a sense of Stratham's historic environment. The buildings embody distinctive characteristics of their architectural types and periods, and they document methods of construction that evolved through the nineteenth century. The small district is a significant concentration of linked sites and buildings, now on separate parcels but united historically and by physical development as a large family farm. The land settled by the Scammon family in the 1660s was owned by the same family for eight generations and three hundred years until the Scammon heirs divested the historic buildings in 1967. Land was placed in conservation in 2005 and the preservation of the buildings by later owners and continued agricultural use of the land resulted in a rare surviving local resource in a historically agricultural town where relatively little open undeveloped land remains.

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

Area of Agriculture

The Scammon Farm is an important local agricultural landscape that reflects the history of the community with a combination of open land and historic buildings. Stratham is notable for having hundreds of historic farmhouses and many outbuildings located throughout the town, but fewer than a dozen retain their historic setting and associated land. The Scammon Farm forms a complete agricultural resource due to the combination of buildings and undeveloped farmland, farmyard landscape features, fencing, stonewalls and small burying ground. The district conveys a sense of historic cohesiveness through its setting and the design and construction of the buildings. The houses, outbuildings, farmyards and fields, and the wooded conservation land contribute to a sense of time and place. The open space and rolling landscape ringed by woods is a significant feature of the district.

Under Criterion A, the Scammon Farm represents major trends and patterns in Stratham's development as a longtime agricultural community, followed by postwar residential subdivision. Farming was the basis of the economy for nearly three hundred years. The Scammon Farm buildings and landscape convey the evolution of local agriculture from mixed agriculture and family farming, including orchards and cider production, to specialized dairy farming in the mid-nineteenth century, then so-called gentleman farming at the turn of the twentieth century, followed by haying of fields to support the local dairy industry, and ending with mid-twentieth century residential subdivision, and early 2000s land conservation.

The period of historical significance begins with the construction of the James Scammon House on River Road in 1812 and ends with the standard arbitrary fifty-year cutoff date for National Register eligibility. The final years of the historic period included the subdivision of land and sale of the houses out of the Scammon family, followed by modernization and preservation by the present owners, which coincided with a general decline in agriculture and Stratham's growth as a bedroom community.

The Scammon Farm district contains physical features that convey agricultural themes, in its farmhouses and outbuildings, arrangement of the farm complexes, backdrop of open fields, large tract of protected land, as well as structures like stone walls, and objects like fence posts and gravestones. The farm buildings display typical spatial organization, sheltering the dooryard workspace with doors into the kitchen, sheds and barn, and the south-facing barnyard. The district represents historic patterns of land use and spatial organization include the buildings near road clustered in the center of the farm, cemetery at edge of property but near road, gardens and crop fields nearby, with hayfields beyond and woodland surrounding, with boundary demarcations including fences, stone walls and tree lines.

The two historically related houses and farmland form a distinguishable entity on the south side of River Road. The Scammon Farm occupies a distinctive location between the Squamscott River, which was the focus of settlement and the first route of travel from the coast, and Portsmouth Avenue, which has been Stratham's main road since the late seventeenth century. The fertile soil and relatively level topography grew fruit and vegetable crops as well as feed grains for cattle and hogs. Early 1800s ancillary buildings include the shed spaces that housed processing and storage for butter and cheese and the cider house for milling and storage. In the mid-1800s, Stratham was known for its fruit production, as well as potatoes, rye, corn and oats. The 1860 barn stored 45-50 tons of hay and housed two or three horses, four oxen, four milk cows and a dozen other cattle, as well as 15-20 sheep, and several swine. Dairy farming for fresh milk production became the focus in the late nineteenth century. City markets were accessible by rail and the Exeter depot was just a few miles away, less than an hour drive by horse

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

and wagon. Scammon livestock increased to more than twelve milk cows, which required several hired hands to milk. The small pump house provided water via a windmill and then electricity.

At the turn of the twentieth century, this was one of several properties in town whose owners maintained large farms with hired farmers responsible for the day-to-day tasks. The Scammon's pursued outside business and personal interests, and a separate dwelling was provided for the farm manager. In this arrangement, dairy farming continued into the mid-twentieth century when this was one of about thirteen dairy farms in operation.

In the late twentieth century, local agricultural was consolidated on a small number of farms, which acquired or leased additional land to feed larger dairy herds. The fields of the Scammon farm were kept in agricultural use while the houses were adapted for family residential use. The small modern house between the two farmhouses represents the final years of Scammon family occupancy as land subdivision began. The late Colonial Revival updates to 21 River Road and timber frame barn construction for recreational purposes illustrate the transformation agricultural to suburban community. The heirs of the Scammon family subdivided the edges of the farm, but the undivided core was retained as conservation became an important trend in the Seacoast region at the turn of the twenty-first century.

Area of Architecture

In the Area of Architecture, the Scammon Farm district is important for containing typical examples of local vernacular building types and construction practices. It includes two farmhouses erected 100 years apart, several nineteenth century outbuildings including a large barn, and twentieth century buildings built as use of the property shifted from agricultural to residential. The small historic district meets Criterion C as a concentration of linked buildings, sites and open spaces, some components serving as focal points and some lacking individual distinction

The house built for James Scammon in 1812 shows the persistence of traditional house forms into the nineteenth century. The 2½-story, side gable, two room deep, center entry house is the most common form surviving from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, but the twin interior chimney, center hall plan was the more common form in Stratham. The Scammon House is one of fewer than a half dozen extant local houses with center fireplace chimneys. It has the characteristic large central fireplace chimney with rooms on three sides and a small entry and stair hall in front. The fenestration, minimal architectural detailing, and close cropped eaves are typical. The Scammon family owned a share in a nearby sawmill where timber cut from their woodland was likely processed.

The large barn, dated 1860 in family documents, occupies the site of an older barn and incorporated reused timbers. Stratham has a significant number of surviving mid to late nineteenth century barns. There are more than twenty gable-front New England Barns extant in town, roughly fifteen of which are comparable to the Scammon barn in size. The Scammon barn is notable for its substantial granite foundation and scribe rule timber framing, including heavy floor framing, sawn roof frame with king post trusses supporting the heavy slate roof. Like most Stratham barns it was not attached to the house, though nearly connected. The slightly sloping site allowed for construction of a typical bank barn with a full basement. The east-west orientation sheltered a south-facing barnyard. Animal stalls lined the south wall. The off-center entry and drive floor allowed for a wider haymow bay on the north side.

The carriage barn or cider mill and the sheds that were once attached to the house represent building practices of the early 1800s, examples of the types of ancillary outbuildings once common. The framing combines hewn and sawn timbers. The sheds include typical workrooms near the house, wood storage

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

and vehicle bays at the end. The milk room built into the back corner and the expanded vehicle bays reflect adaptations during the twentieth century. The cider house was built into the sloping land at the back of the dooryard. The small pump house and the fenced cemetery are distinctive points at the edges of the open fields. The construction of 21 River Road is typical of the turn-of-the-twentieth century and the Colonial Revival elements were popular in the 1960s-70s

Integrity Statement

The Scammon Farm retains integrity though it evolved over time. The adjacent land has always been associated with the farm though surrounding parcels were subdivided and have been developed. The district retains buildings from the early 1800s to the early 1970s. The physical relationship between the older buildings is unchanged. All buildings and landscape features retain integrity of location. No major historic buildings have been lost since the end of the period of significance. Only one shed does not contribute, due to changes in recent years. The modern house at 23 River Road, which reflects the final period of Scammon family ownership, is modest in size and set back, so detracts only minimally from the feeling and setting of the nineteenth century property.

The houses and outbuildings have integrity of design, with original style, form, and plan intact. The houses were remodeled over time. The final phase took place at the end of the historic period when the farmhouses were updated with Colonial Revival style elements. The buildings have integrity of materials and workmanship. Historic construction materials and interior finishes are intact from several periods. The house at 25 River Road retains wooden siding and trim and some old windows. The front entry is a 1960s restoration similar to the original. The rear (west) elevation of the house has 1960s entry and window. The most recent change was first floor window replacement with vinyl 1/1 sash. The interior of the house was remodeled with a range of nineteenth century doors and woodwork. The most recent change was the kitchen remodeling of the 1960s. The outbuildings similarly evolved over time but have changed little in the past fifty years. At 21 River Road, the ell was expanded, garage built, and house interior remodeled in the late 1960s-early 1970s. The barn is now fifty years old. More recently, the 1980s vinyl siding and 2010 replacement windows of 21 River Road diminished its integrity of materials and workmanship somewhat.

The barns and outbuildings and the fields convey historic associations with farming and provide a high degree of integrity of setting and feeling. The shift from mixed crops to hay changed the field vegetation patterns, but the overall area of open land and the tree lines remain the same. Fields are continuous across the current property lines without added boundary demarcations.

Historic Background

<u>Seventeenth Century Settlement – Generations 1-2</u>

Richard Scammon who settled here in in 1665 had come from England with his father, to Boston and then Portsmouth. In 1661 he married Prudence Waldron, daughter of Dover settler William Waldron. From Waldron and others, he acquired the so-called Shrewsbury Patent, which now forms the southern part of Stratham.¹⁸ The Shrewsbury Patent was a colonial land grant that extended three miles inland from the east bank of the Squamscott River north of Wheelwrights Creek, which is the Exeter-Stratham town line.

¹⁸ Granite Monthly 1890:265; Biographical Review 1896:335-337.

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

According to the local history, Richard Scammon (1623-1691), Prudence and their ten children, lived north of Thompson's Brook, now Parkman Brook, about halfway between the main road (Portsmouth Avenue) and the river.¹⁹ They were one of the first four families in town. River road developed as the route to the public landing place. The tidal Squamscott River was used for transportation to and from the coast, via Great Bay and the Piscataqua River by gundalows and sloops through the eighteenth century. Portsmouth Avenue was laid out in 1681 as the King's Great Highway between Exeter and Portsmouth. Youngest son William Scammon (1664-1743) was on the committee to build the first meetinghouse when Stratham became a town in 1716, and he served in the French and Indian Wars. William and Rachel Scammon had only one offspring who lived into adulthood, Richard.

Eighteenth Century Houses on Portsmouth Avenue - Generations 3 and 4

In the eighteenth century, the Scammon family lived on Portsmouth Avenue, which was known simply as the Main Road or the road from Portsmouth to Exeter. Their land extended west to the river on the south side of River Road, then called Quaboag Road. Richard Scammon (1722-1806) who married Elizabeth Weeks of Greenland in 1753 lived in the vicinity of the plaza at 27 Portsmouth Avenue.²⁰ He was a successful farmer and became a ship-owner in the West Indies trade. They had eleven children, eight surviving.

The eldest son William Scammon (1756-1836) lived next door to his parents (site of 23 Portsmouth Avenue) from his marriage in 1780. The youngest son James Scammon (1771-1859), who later built the house on River Road, remained with his parents on Portsmouth Avenue after he was married in 1796 to Lydia Wiggin (1777-1840). In 1806, William and James Scammon each inherited half their father's farm, which was divided by a committee.²¹ James Scammon received the northern half of the farm and his father's house on Portsmouth Avenue where he and his wife Lydia lived with their children and Lydia's maternal aunt Patience Wiggin who was part of the household throughout her life.²² The southern part of the homestead, 134 acres near the house where he had lived, was set off to William Scammon. When William moved with his family to New York state, it became the farm of his brother Hezekiah Scammon (1773-1817) who was a cabinetmaker by trade, according to the deeds.²³ The boundaries of the farm shown on an undated plan of "The Scammon farm" by Phineas Merrill (1767-1815) essentially corresponding with the land and 25 and 21 River Road and the Strathlorne Tract minus the oxbow, the Portsmouth Avenue frontage, and the Route 101 corridor.²⁴ In 1810, James Scammon bought a quarter share of the sawmill located a mile and a half north of his farm near the town center.²⁵

1812-1859 - James and Lydia Scammon on River Road - Generation 4

In 1812, James and Lydia Scammon moved their family around the corner to a new house at 25 River Road. According to family tradition they moved in prior to the start of the War of 1812, which was in June.²⁶ There were five children aged 3-15 at that time, and one more on the way. They were: John Scammon (1797-1863), Lydia (m. Benjamin Barker), Ira James Scammon (1803-1852), Stephen Scammon (1805-1883), Richard Scammon (1809-1878), and Elizabeth (m. Michael Dalton). Aunt

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Merrill 1793.

²¹ New Hampshire, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1643-1982.

²² Bureau of the Census 1810.

²³ According to his probate, Hezekiah Scammon probably made furniture. He willed his daughters each a bureau of cherry with swelled front, veneered stringer and shelled corners. His son James Scammon inherited his workshop, tools and stock.

²⁴ Collection of Stratham Historical Society.

²⁵ Rockingham County Registry of Deeds 189:230.

²⁶ Richard M. Scammon n.d.

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

Patience Wiggin (1769-1861) who lived with the family throughout her life was the much younger sister of Lydia Scammon's mother Susan Wiggin, just eight years older than her niece, widowed and using her maiden name.

James Scammon became the largest landowner in town. He dealt in real estate and other business in addition to farming. He was active in the local church and served in various town offices. Politically he was a strong Democrat.²⁷ In 1824, James Scammon published *Culpepper's Family Physician: The English Physician Enlarged - Containing 300 Herbal Remedies Made of American Herbs*, a revision of a book first printed in 1652 by Nicholas Culpeper.

The earliest surviving Stratham tax inventory of 1816 recorded the Scammon's improved land as four acres of crop land, a quarter-acre orchard, ten acres of mowing land, and sixteen acres of pasture. The buildings were valued at \$350 and the buildings and land at \$1320. The family kept one horse and a two-year-old, a pair of oxen and two younger steers. They milked five to seven cows and raised five or more heifers at a time. The number of livestock remained relatively constant over time. An increase in building value to \$400 between 1818 and 1819 probably reflects the completion of outbuildings on the new farmstead.²⁸ The original barn stood where the present one does now.²⁹

As of the 1820 population census, all but the eldest children were living with their parents in the new house. In 1830, only the youngest daughter was still at home with her parents and aunt Patience. In 1840, other relatives or live-in help included one man in his thirties, a boy 10-15, and a woman in her forties.³⁰ Lydia Scammon died in 1840 and hers is the oldest marked grave in the family cemetery. Sons John and Ira James settled nearby on farms provided by their father. Ira James Scammon owned the farm on the north side of River Road toward Portsmouth Avenue, later part of the Scamman Farm.³¹ Judge John Scammon had farms near the corner of Portsmouth Avenue and River Road and across the highway to the east on Frying Pan Lane, none of which are extant. Stephen Scammon received a farm elsewhere in town.³²

The James Scammon farm contained a total of 153-160 acres. The numbers reported to the tax assessor were consistent for many years. Much of it was woodland and marsh. Four to five acres were tilled fields, a quarter acre was orchard, and about ten acres were hayed. There were sixteen acres of pasture. During the 1830s, the orchard was doubled in size and the pasture enlarged to twenty acres (Stratham tax records). They always had one mature horse and one younger 2-4 year old. The family acquired their first chaise carriage in the 1820s. Livestock were a pair of oxen, four or five cows and six to eight younger stock. Sheep weren't taxed until the 1830s, though they probably weren't new to the farm. The flock ranged from ten to twenty-four sheep. The number of livestock remained fairly constant. In 1841 the tax inventory recorded one horse, two oxen, five cows, six two-year-old heifers and 22 sheep.³³

In 1850, James Scammon reported 100 acres of improved land and 60 acres unimproved to the agricultural census taker. The six milk cows and ten younger stock he reported were among the larger herds in town. The two horses and four oxen were typical of all larger farms. The flock of 20 sheep

²⁷ Biographical Review 1896:335-337.

²⁸ Town of Stratham Tax Inventories.

²⁹ Richard M. Scammon, n.d.

 ³⁰ Bureau of the Census 1820, 1830, 1840.
³¹ Rockingham County Registry of Deeds 252:279

³² Chace 1857; Hurd 1892.

³³ Town of Stratham Tax Inventories.

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

produced 60 pounds of wool in a year. Two swine were raised. Annual dairy production totaled 250 pounds of butter and 100 pounds of cheese. Crop yields for the year ending June 1850 were 26 bushels of rye, 125 bushels of corn, ten bushels of oats, and five of peas and beans, all of which were typical of local farms. A total of 400 bushels of potatoes were harvested and 50 tons of hay.³⁴

The family owned a sixth share of the Wingate/Lane sawmill throughout the nineteenth century.³⁵ The value of James Scammon's buildings doubled, from \$400 in 1832 to \$800 in 1836, so the ell or other outbuildings could date from that time. An 1851 insurance document described the house with six fireplace and two stoves. The long shed was northwest of and adjoining the house, separate from the barn. The barn in 1851 was as long as the one that replaced it in 1860. The 84' x 34' size suggests two English barns, typically 40' x 30', were set end to end along the road. The cider house about 87.5 feet southwest of house, coincides roughly with the small barn, suggesting the original use of the building. The family had a blacksmith shop about 99 feet east of the house, presumably along the road, now the field in front of 23 River Road.³⁶

Richard Scammon (1809-1878) attended Hampton Academy and worked as a school teacher when he was a young man. In 1842 he married Abigail Batchelder (1813-1873) from North Hampton, and they lived with his parents and their growing family. In 1859, Richard Scammon inherited the farm, his brothers having been compensated by their father in other ways. He also received his father's share in the Wingate sawmill. His brothers were bequeathed the right to use the blacksmith shop on the farm, providing their own coal.³⁷

<u>1859-1878 – Richard and Abigail Scammon – Generation 5</u>

Richard and Abigail Scammon had four children. They also had a young woman living and working in the house (Census 1860). Patience Wiggin lived with them until her death in 1861 when she was buried in the family plot. In 1873, the Scammons buried her son Mark Stockbridge in their cemetery though he is not known to have lived with them. Phebe Austin (1783-1875) a local blind woman was also interred here.

They built a new barn in 1860, according to the family history, at a time when Richard Scammon had two teenage sons, and another newly born. The improved land was expanded to 130 acres, leaving 40 acres unimproved, making it one of the more valuable farms in town, among the top 20 or so. They maintained three horses, two pair of oxen, four milk cows, a dozen other cattle, 15 sheep, and three swine. About 45 tons of hay were cut in the year ending in 1860. Annual crops were approximately 110 bushels of corn, 80 bushels of oats, 10 bushels of peas and beans, and 200 bushels of potatoes. The sheep produced 60 pounds of wool in a year. The 450 pounds of butter and 160 pounds cheese made on the farm in a year was a large amount.

In 1870, land totaled 130 acres improved and 60 unimproved. Livestock were a horse, two oxen, four milk cows and nine younger cattle, three swine, and 18 sheep, 3 swine, 12 bushels wheat, 18 bushels rye, 150 potatoes, 30 oats, 72 pounds wool, 3 bushels peas and beans, 500 bushels potatoes, \$80 orchard products, 350 pounds butter, 45 tons hay.³⁸

³⁴ Agricultural Census 1850.

³⁵ The mill was located on the pond now within the NH Route 33/108 traffic circle.

³⁶ Stratham Historical Society, James Scammon Rockingham Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Company form, 1851.

³⁷ New Hampshire, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, Ancestry.com.

³⁸ Agricultural Census 1860, 1870.

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

Richard Scammon was a lifelong Democrat, which was a minority locally, and served as head of Board of Selectmen for many years. His children attended private school and college. The elder sons moved away. Hezekiah Scammon (1843-1903) became a farmer in Exeter. James Scammon (1844-1900) attended Phillips Exeter, Brown University and Albany Law School. He became a lawyer and moved to the Midwest in the 1870s. Sarah Scammon (1848-1927) attended the Robinson Female Seminary in Exeter and later became a resident of Exeter. Youngest son Richard Montgomery Scammon (1859-1914) graduated from Exeter High School in 1876. He entered Cornell with the class of 1881 but left school upon the sudden death of his father in February 1878.

1878-1897 - Richard M. Scammon and Sarah Scammon - Generation 6

Richard Montgomery Scammon was eighteen when he took over the farm. He acquired the shares of his brothers Hezekiah of Exeter and James of Kansas City, Missouri. His older sister Sarah kept house for him for nearly twenty years, until around the time of his marriage when she moved to Exeter. They had the help of one or more household servants and farm laborers who boarded with them.³⁹ The farm was described in deeds as 250 acres. It was bounded on the north by Quaboag Road, with the burying ground and Odell to the east and Stickney to the west. It was bordered on the west by the town land and by the river. To the east it stretched to Portsmouth Avenue with Odell to the north and B.W. Wiggin and John N. Thompson at the south edge.⁴⁰

Richard M. Scammon became one of the most successful local farmers, active in town and state government and politics. He served in the New Hampshire National Guard for ten years, 1882-1892, becoming lieutenant colonel of the 1st Regiment. Richard M. Scammon held various town offices, beginning as Town Treasurer in 1881 at the age of twenty-one. He was Superintendent of Schools 1883-84 and Town Moderator 1884-1894. He was active in the Democratic party and was a delegate to state and congressional conventions. He served in the New Hampshire legislature in 1885-86 and the state senate in 1890, its youngest member.⁴¹

The agricultural census and tax records suggest Richard M. Scammon substantially expanded the dairy operation in response to demand in city markets. A dozen milk cows were maintained in the 1880s. This was one of the larger herds in town and would have required at least two men to do the milking by hand twice a day. Scammon's hired labor totaled 150 weeks a year, at a cost of \$400. Estimated total value of production in 1879 was \$2000. Each cow bore a calf, and as many as five heifers were raised. Scammon maintained two horses and a pair or two of oxen. He had about fifty acres of pasture. As many as 60 acres were mown and 45 tons of hay cut and stored in the barn. Hay, rye, apples, and potatoes were common local crops. In 1880, Scammon reported 60 acres of tilled land. Three acres were planted in corn, yielding 150 bushels, and two acres were planted in potatoes for 360 bushels. Scammon was one of the few local farmers with sheep at that time. He had twelve and fleeces were 60 pounds of wool. A pig was raised each year and 25 poultry produced 50 dozen eggs, which was about average in Stratham. The orchard was four acres with 200 trees. There were 60 acres of woodland. Twenty cords of wood were cut in a year.⁴² Scammon owned a sixth share of the Wingate sawmill until he transferred it to the Lane family in 1899.⁴³ In 1881, a government project to improve

³⁹ Census 1880.

⁴⁰ RCRD 483:112.

⁴¹ Granite Monthly 1890:265; Pierce 1898:186; Biographical Review 1896:335-337.

⁴² Agricultural Census 1880.

⁴³ Town of Stratham Tax Inventories. RCRD 571:182.

Name of Property

navigation on the Squamscott River eliminated the roundabout oxbow by constructing a straight river channel across Richard M. Scammon's land.⁴⁴

<u>1897-1914 – Richard M. and Annie Scammon</u>

Richard Scammon and Annie Wiggin were married in January of 1897. He was thirty-seven and she was twenty-four. Annie Prentice Wiggin (1872-1962) was also a descendant of one Stratham's first settlers. Her father George A. Wiggin was a farmer on Depot Road near the Greenland town line and the railroad station.⁴⁵ Annie Wiggin graduated from Mount Holyoke Female Seminary and College in 1892 and worked as a teacher before her marriage.

Richard and Annie Scammon were among Stratham's most prominent citizens in this period. As the daughter of the benefactor of the Wiggin Memorial Library that opened in 1912, she served as a lifetime trustee. Richard Scammon was chairman of the library board. He served as Town Auditor. He was State Bank Commissioner and on the board of trustees of New Hampshire College (now UNH). He was interested in local history, was an early member of the New Hampshire Historical Society and authored the historical sketch of Stratham published in *The Granite Monthly* in 1899. The town history dedicated to him in 1965 called Richard M. Scammon, "In all probability the most capable man this town has ever produced."⁴⁶

Scammon's other pursuits took time away from farming and he became one of several so-called gentleman farmers in Stratham during this period. A separate house for the full-time farm manager was built in about 1900, and it was replaced by 21 River Road after it burned down. The fire was sometime after 1906 when the original house shows in a dated photograph.⁴⁷ The census and tax records don't give an indication of the date or the occupants. In 1910, farm laborer Stephen H. Wells and his wife Mary lived next door to the Scammons, probably in this house.⁴⁸ The farm remained the same size, 225 acres or a little more, according to the tax inventories. Specialized dairy farming was typical of the early twentieth century when fresh milk was sold to city markets. Ten or eleven cows were milked on the Scammon farm, and three to five heifers raised at a time. The three horses were typical for a prosperous farmer who had two for a work team and one for driving a carriage. For a short time in the early 1900s, an electric street railway operated between Portsmouth and Exeter, and in 1905, the State designated Portsmouth Avenue as the east-west trunk line highway for automobiles.⁴⁹

Richard M. Scammon died in 1914, when he was only fifty-five. Annie Scammon lived on River Road for nearly fifty more years. His will gave her the use of his entire estate and homestead for her lifetime, but then the farm was to pass his nephew Richard E. Scammon and heirs, following family tradition keeping it in the Scammon family.⁵⁰

⁴⁴ RCRD 485:11.

⁴⁵ George A. Wiggin (1847-1903) was a graduate of the New London Literary and Scientific institute, precursory of Colby-Sawyer College. Annie Wiggin's mother died when she was young, and her father later married local school teacher Emma Jane Blodgett (1852-1909).

⁴⁶ Nelson, Charles B. History of the Town of Stratham 1965, p. 287.

⁴⁷ Stratham Historical Society.

⁴⁸ Bureau of the Census 1910, 1920.

⁴⁹ RCRD 604:315. Scammon transferred a strip of land on Portsmouth Avenue to the State.

⁵⁰ New Hampshire, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, Ancestry.com.

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

<u>1914-1962 – Mrs. Annie Scammon</u>

Annie Scammon lived alone for over a decade and then took in a long-term lodger. Miss Edna Crane (1890-1964), who was a teacher in the public school, and the first principal of the central elementary school in the 1950s, lived with Mrs. Scammon from 1926 until 1958.⁵¹

According to the population censuses, the farmer and occupant of 21 River Road in the 1920s was Henry Foote who came from Maine with his wife and four children. A Swedish farm laborer John Olson or Olsson lived with them. When they moved to Massachusetts, he went to the County Farm. Fritz Olson, whose relation to the John Olson is unclear, ran the farm for Mrs. Scammon from the mid-1930s into the 1960s. Oscar Fritz Olson (1897-1976) had come to the US from Sweden in the 1920s and worked on a large dairy farm run by a relative in Concord, NH, where Olson family members had lived for some time. He had a wife and child who stayed in Sweden. Fannie Smith kept house for him according to the census.⁵² About ten cows were milked, and Mrs. Scammon owned one horse. The farm contained 225 acres according to the tax assessments, or 250 acres according to a 1955 deed.⁵³ Land in the southwest corner of the farm was transferred to the State of New Hampshire for construction of the Route 101 Bypass, now NH Route 101 in the 1950s.⁵⁴ Annie Scammon died at age ninety, on August 10, 1962.

<u>1962-1967 – Scammon heirs – Generations 7 and 8</u>

The farm became the property of the heirs of Richard E. Scammon (1883-1952) of Minneapolis and Kansas City. He was the only son of James Scammon, who left for the Midwest in the 1870s. His widow Julia Simms Scammon (1887-1976) moved to Stratham and was living at 25 River Road by the spring of 1963.⁵⁵ The other heirs were her daughter Jean Hyland of Rhode Island and son Richard M. Scammon (1915-2001) of Washington, DC.⁵⁶ Mrs. Scammon also had a nephew William C. Simms, Jr. (1916-1994) who she raised as a son. He came from California to assist her with the estate, and 23 River Road was built for him in 1964-65.⁵⁷ Repairs were made to the old buildings in preparation for sale. Oscar Olson remained in Stratham until about 1967, when he purchased a house in Brentwood.⁵⁸ The buildings ceased to be used for agriculture, but the fields were leased to W. Douglas Scamman who had a dairy farm north of River Road on the corner of Portsmouth Avenue.⁵⁹

<u>1967-present – Paul and Smith families</u>

In June 1967, the two Scammon houses were subdivided and sold by with their surrounding domestic space and adjoining fields. The old Scammon house and outbuildings with ten acres at 25 River Road were sold to Richard and Ruth Paul (tax parcel 08-009).⁶⁰ The farm manager's house on just under four acres at 21 River Road (08-008) was sold to Oliver Sanborn and Norma J. Smith.⁶¹ The tiny Scammon cemetery was taken over by the Town. Richard C. Paul (1928-2013) and Ruth A. Paul moved to Stratham from Epping. He was employed at a factory in Newfields. They gardened and

⁵¹ Census 1920, 1930, 1940.

⁵² Census 1940; Smith 2021.

⁵³ Stratham Tax Inventories; RCRD 1376:172.

⁵⁴ RCRD 1350-207. Later land on the far side of the highway was sold to the abutting property owner, RCRD 1870:364.

⁵⁵ Richard E. Scammon was a university professor, Dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School from 1931 to his retirement in 1949. Julia Simms, daughter of a department store owner, was one of the first women to graduate from the University of Kansas.

⁵⁶ Richard M. Scammon was a well-known political scientist, professor, author and TV commentator, during the latter half of the twentieth century, and was regarded locally as a "famous son."

⁵⁷ Hyland 2021.

⁵⁸ RCRD 1864:328.

⁵⁹ RCRD 1942:328.

⁶⁰ RCRD 1866:203.

⁶¹ RCRD1866:199.

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

kept chickens in the shed for a time.⁶² Sandy and Teddie Smith moved from Exeter with their children. They updated the interior of 21 River Road, enlarging the ell and building an attached garage and outbuildings. A barn was constructed from timbers of a historic barn once associated with the Josiah Bartlett House in Kingston. It was dismantled by Teddie's brother in 1970. Oliver Smith built the barn himself.⁶³

Stratham experienced major residential development during the second half of the twentieth century. The population grew by over 36% in the 1950s, upwards of 46% in the 1960s and over 65% in the 1970s. Home construction took place on River Road to either side of the Scammon Farm. A row of ranch houses was built on separately owned land east of the Scammon Farm. West of 25 River Road, the Scammon heirs divided a series of one-acre house lots from wooded land along the south side of River Road in 1967-69.⁶⁴

Commercial development on Portsmouth Avenue/NH Route 108, then part of NH Route 101, began in the 1970s. The east edge of the Scammon property was divided and sold in 1972 for construction of grocery store, now Market Basket at 27 Portsmouth Avenue (08-002, 10.67 acres). A 25' right-of-way was retained for access to the hay fields from Portsmouth Avenue.⁶⁵ The Scammon heirs retained ownership of the fields south of River Road, and the woodland bordered by the Squamscott River and the NH 101 Exeter Bypass. Dairy farmers Doug Scamman Sr., Doug Scamman Jr., and then Kirk Scamman grew hay and corn on the open land for several decades.

The 12.2-acre parcel of marshland in the oxbow on the west side of the river was deeded to the Town of Stratham by the family in 1990 (tax parcel 08-023).⁶⁶ In 1991, Julia Scammon's heirs, Jean Hyland, William C. Simms and Richard M. Scammon, sold all the remaining land, 135.7 acres, to Lionel Labonte (1936-2014) owner of Stratham Tire and other real estate on Portsmouth Avenue.⁶⁷ The Ox Bow Farm subdivision was created in the 1990s on roughly 50 acres south of River Road near the river. In 2000, Labonte sold multiple parcels, including the Scammon land minus the Oxbow subdivision, to ARLES, LLC. The Shaw's supermarket plaza, Stratham Crossing, was developed on Portsmouth Avenue near the NH 101 interchange. In 2004, ARLES transferred the undeveloped parcel of fields and woodland formerly of the Scammon Farm to Strathlorne, LLC.⁶⁸ In 2005, the Nature Conservancy purchased the so-called Strathlorne tract with funding provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for expansion of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) became the owner of the 89.4-acres in 2007.⁶⁹

In the early 2000s, after the Scamman family of the neighboring farm sold their dairy cows, Kirk Scamman facilitated the transfer of agricultural use of the land to Nathan Merrill of Stuart Farm, Stratham's last remaining dairy operation. Stuart farm, which is headquartered a few miles downstream on the Squamscott River, presently milks 200 cows, and raises 150 calves and heifers. Feed crops are grown on over 400 acres of owned and leased conserved farmland in Stratham and Lee,

- 63 Smith 2021
- ⁶⁴ RCRD 1892:475.
- 65 RCRD 2158:423, Plan D-3009.
- 66 RCRD 2842:564.
- ⁶⁷ RCRD 2890:1147; Plan D-21230.
- ⁶⁸ RCRD 3510:2066; 4275:358.

⁶² Paul 2021.

⁶⁹ RCRD 4474:470; 4782:980.

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

including the remaining 30 acres of Scammon agricultural land on the SPNHF, Smith and Paul properties.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

- Anonymous. *Stratham New Hampshire: Official program of the 250th Year Anniversary Celebration*, 1966. Collection of the Stratham Historical Society.
- Biographical Review: This Volume Contains Sketches of Leading Citizens of Rockingham County, New Hampshire. Boston, MA: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1896. Available online at https://archive.org/details/biographicalrevi00unse_0.
- Garvin, James L. A Building History of Northern New England. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2001.
- *The Granite Monthly New Hampshire Magazine,* "The New Hampshire Senate," Volume III, Nos. 11 & 12, November-December 1890.
- Hazlett, Charles A. *History of Rockingham County, New Hampshire*. Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1915.
- Hubka, Thomas. Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1984.
- Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, New Hampshire with Biographical Sketches of Many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men.* Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis Co., 1882. Available online at https://archive.org/details/historyofrocking00hurd.
- Lafavre, Helen. Stratham, Images of America Series. Charleston, SC, Arcadia Publishing, 1998.
- Mausolf, Lisa. "Draft Stratham Town-wide NHDHR Area Form," prepared for Stratham Heritage Commission, 2022
- Merrill, Nathan, and John Porter. "Local Historic Barn Tour: Photographs and information gleaned from a day with New Hampshire old barn expert John Porter." Stratham Heritage Commission, 2014.
- Nelson, Charles B. *History of the Town of Stratham, New Hampshire 1631-1900.* Stratham, NH: Town of Stratham, New Hampshire, 1965.

Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State

- New Hampshire Wills and Probate Records, 1643-1982. Available online at https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8996/.
- Pierce, Frederick Clifton. *Genealogy: Descendants of Rev. Stephen Bachilor of England*. Chicago: W.B. Conkey Company, 1898.
- Preservation Company. "Stratham Center Project Area Form" New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources Area Form, 2014. On file at NHDHR, Concord, NH.
- Preservation Company. "Janvrin-Healey-Scamman Farm National Register of Historic Places Registration Form" 2019.
- Rockingham County, NH, Registry of Deeds. Available online at http://www.nhdeeds.com/rockingham/RoIndex.html.
- Scammon, Richard M. "The Scammon Family from 1640 to 1885." Undated typescript collection of property owner.
- Scammon, Richard M. "Down the King's Great Highway: A Sketch of Stratham, NH." *The Granite Monthly*, Vol. XXVI, March 1899 Available online at https://archive.org/details/granitemonthlyne26dove.
- Stratham, Town of. Real Estate and Poll Tax Ledgers. Collection of the Stratham Town Hall, 1816-1939.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880. Microfilm collection of New Hampshire State Library, Concord, NH.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Census, 1790-1940. Available online at https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/usfedcen/.
- U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995. Available online at https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2469/.
- Visser, Thomas Durant. *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1997.

Historic Maps

- Chace, J. Jr. *Rockingham Co., New Hampshire*. Philadelphia: Smith and Coffin, 1857. Available online at https://www.loc.gov/item/2012593011/.
- Hurd, D.H. Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire. Boston: D.H. Hurd & Co., 1892. Available online at http://www.davidrumsey.com/maps1150923-30989.html.

Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State

Merrill, Phinehas. Plan of the Town of Stratham, 1793. Available online at https://www.loc.gov/item/97683083/.

NETRonline. Historic Aerials, 1951, 1962, 1974. Available online at https://historicaerials.com/viewer.

USGS. Dover, NH-ME Quadrangle, 1918, 1941, 1956. Available online at https://web.archive.org.

USGS Exeter, NH Quadrangle, 1950. Available online at https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer.

Historic Photographs

Collection of Stratham Historical Society, Stratham, NH. Private collections, Stratham, NH.

Interviews and correspondence

Jeffrey Hyland, Stratham, NH, November 2021. Nathan Merrill, Stratham, NH, December 2021. Joel Paul and Ruth Paul, Stratham, NH, June 2021. Teddie Smith and Sandy Smith, Stratham, NH, June 2021.

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
- Universitv

Other

Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): STM0088

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 103.39 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 43.002975°	Longitude: 70.929034°
2. Latitude: 43.002065°	Longitude: 70.925027°
3. Latitude: 42.998652°	Longitude: 70.926485°
4. Latitude: 42.998244°	Longitude: 70.931935°
5. Latitude: 43.000253°	Longitude: 70.939102°
6. Latitude: 43.001853°	Longitude: 70.937085°

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

	NAD 1927	or		NAD 1983	
1. Zone:			Easting:		Northing:
2. Zone:			Easting:		Northing:
3. Zone:			Easting:		Northing:
4. Zone:			Easting:		Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Scammon Farm Historic District encompasses four parcels. The outer lot lines of 08-009, 08-008, 08-007 and 08-001 define the district boundary, encompassing the surviving historic buildings and farmland. The district is generally bounded on the north by River Road and house lots along it, on the east and southeast by commercial properties on the west side of Portsmouth

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

Avenue, on the southwest by NH Route 101 and on the west by the Squamscott River and Oxbow Farm subdivision.

From the northwest corner of parcel 08-009 west of 25 River Road, the northern bound of the district runs southeast on River Road on the northern side of 08-009, 08-008 (21 River Road) and 08-007, to the northeast corner of the Scammon Cemetery. The boundary turns south on the eastern lot line of the cemetery on 08-007 and 21 River Road on 08-008 to 08-001, the Strathlorne Tract. The Scammon Farm district boundary turns east on the northern edge of 08-001, to the northeast corner of the tract. The eastern boundary of the district follows the east lot line of 08-001, behind the Portsmouth Avenue shopping plaza. The boundary turns west along the southern property lines of 08-001 to the NH 101 highway right-of-way and continues on the north side of the highway to the riverbank. The Squamscott River is the western boundary. The boundary of the district follows the northern lot line of 08-001, which runs southeast and then northeast around the Oxbow Farm development to River Road. The road frontage is a narrow strip, and the boundary continues along the property line abutting house lots 08-013 to 08-010. At 08-009, the boundary turns north on the western edge of that property to the beginning point on the road west of 25 River Road.

Boundary Justification

The Scammon Farm Historic District is a unified entity composed of multiple resources, related historically and functionally as a single large farm. The historic houses and outbuildings, burying ground and formerly associated undeveloped fields and woodland all contribute to the Scammon Farm Historic District. These properties are distinguished from the surrounding ones by differences in historic ownership and changes in density and age of buildings. The district boundary encompasses the two houses and farm buildings that functioned as a single farm, and all of the land that made up the farm that has not been developed.

The boundary is defined by the outer lot lines of the legally recorded parcels as shown on Stratham tax maps. The two farmhouses and barns were built and owned by a single family and the land was under the same ownership until the 1960s. In 1967, the buildings were sold on their existing lots to the current (2021) owners, now parcels 08-009 and 08-008. The hay fields span the property lines onto the large conservation tract (08-001) where the open land and woods contribute to the district's historic character. The small cemetery (08-007) was reserved by the family in the deeds, and later taken over by the Town. The northern boundary of the farm has always been River Road. There were farms owned by other Scammon family members on the north side of the road, but the buildings are gone, and the land is now part of the Scamman Farm around the corner at 69 Portsmouth Avenue, owed by a separate branch of the family.

The outer boundaries of the Scammon Farm Historic District are defined by the edges of the parcels associated with the historic buildings and all of the adjoining undeveloped land. The Strathlorne Tract is the historic farmland, minus the east edge of Portsmouth Avenue, the northwest corner on River Road at the river, and the southwest edge on Route 101. The house lots all along the south side of River Road west of the historic buildings were subdivided from the Scammon Farm in 1967 and after. The Oxbow Farm subdivision dates from the 1990s. The oxbow parcel itself is isolated by subdivided land so no longer contributes to the historic farm. The Strathlorne Tract retains a larger area of wooded Squamscott River frontage. The southwest corner of the Strathlorne Tract is defined by NH 101, the Exeter Bypass constructed in the late 1950s across the corner of the Scammon Farm. The

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

southern edge of the Strathlorne Tract is the long-time southern boundary of the farm, established in the early 1800s division of land between Scammon heirs. The eastern edge of the farm was sold for a shopping plaza in the early 1970s. On River Road, the cemetery has long defined a corner of the property and the land in the corner of Portsmouth Avenue and River Road was owned separately.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:	<u>Kari Laprey, Lynne</u>	e Monroe for the Stratham	Heritage Commission
organization:	Preservation Com	pany	
street & number:	<u>5 Hobbs Road</u>	-	
city or town:	Kensington	_state: <u>New Hampshire</u>	zip code: <u>03833</u>
e-mail:	preservationcompa	<u>any@comcast.net</u>	
telephone:	603-778-1799		
date:	November 2022		

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.)

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

Additional Items - Property Owner List

08-001	off River Road/NH 101	Society for the Protection of NH Forests Wendy Weisiger, Managing Forester 54 Portsmouth Street Concord, NH 03301
08-007	River Road cemetery	Town of Stratham David Moore, Town Administrator 10 Bunker Hill Avenue Stratham, NH 03885
08-008	21 River Road	Oliver S. and Norma J. Smith 23 River Road Stratham, NH 03885
08-009	23 & 25 River Road	Ruth A. Paul and Joel Paul 25 River Road Stratham, NH 03885

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State

Additional Items – Historic Images



1793 map shows William and Richard Scammon houses on Portsmouth Avenue, no houses here on River Road/Quabaog Lane (Merrill 1793).

6, anvr Scanmon. dw Bickford B.H.Tewett Misses Thanpson S Thompson Merrill BFClark B Banker.

1857 Rockingham County Wall map shows J. and R. Scammon at 25 River Road, with other Scammon houses north of River Road (not extant) (Chace 1857).

United States Department of the Interior NPS Form 10-900

Scammon Farm Historic District

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State



25 River Road from north of River Road facing southeast. Shows original front entry, 9/6 and 6/6 windows, and original windows and doors in sheds. Undated, possibly 1870s (Paul family)

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State



25 River Road with Victorian entry porch and 2/1 windows, 1890s-early 1900s (Stratham Historical Society)

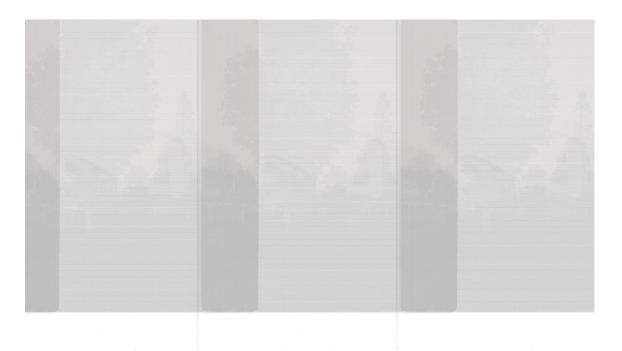


21 River Road from front yard of 25, showing original house before fire, dated 1906 (Smith family)

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State



Undated view showing carriage house and yard, facing northwest (Hyland family)



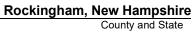
1912 view from back field, facing northwest (Stratham Historical Society)

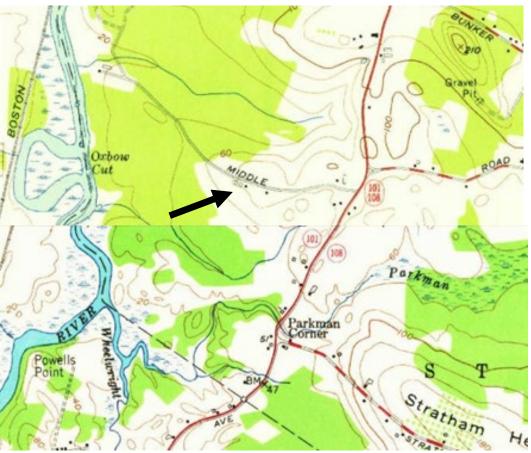
Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State



25 River Road barn and barnyard, early twentieth century, facing northeast (Paul family)

Name of Property





1956 Dover and 1950 Exeter quadrangles, show open fields, woodland, river and oxbow (USGS 1950, 1956).

United States Department of the Interior NPS Form 10-900

Scammon Farm Historic District

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State



21 River Road in 1967, showing original ell (Smith family)



21 River Road around 1970, showing ell and new garage (Smith family)

United States Department of the Interior NPS Form 10-900

Scammon Farm Historic District

Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State



21 River Road barn under construction, 1972 (Smith family)



Haying behind 25 River Road, facing northeast, 2020 (Merrill)

Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Scammon Farm Historic District

City or Vicinity: Stratham

County: Rockingham State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Lynne Monroe, Preservation Company

Date Photographed: April and June 2021

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

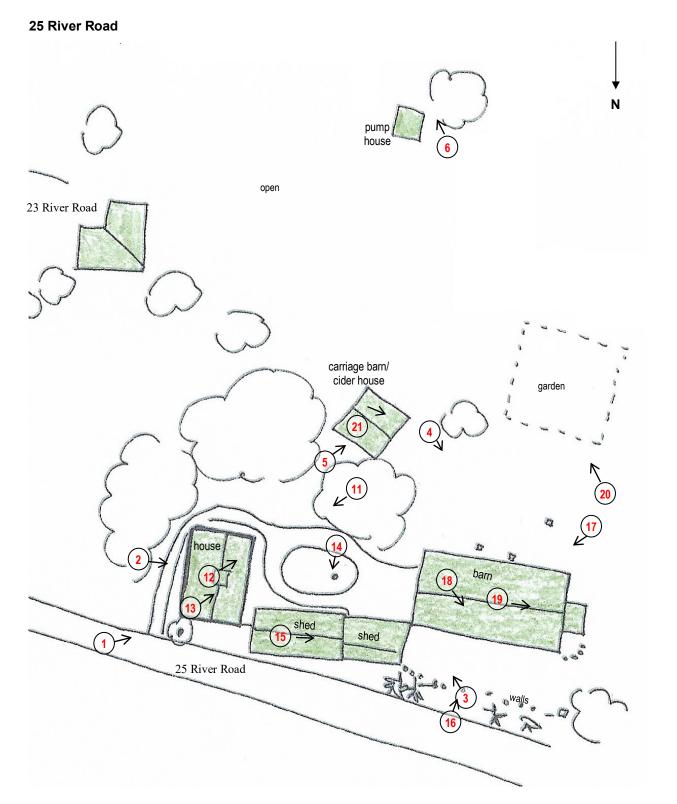
- 0001. 25 River Road, view from road, carriage barn/cider house in back, facing southwest.
- 0002. 25 River Road, façade, facing west.
- 0003. 25 River Road sheds, roadside view, facing southeast.
- 0004. 25 River Road, barn and barnyard, facing northwest.
- 0005. 25 River Road, carriage barn/cider house, facing southwest.
- 0006. 25 River Road, well house and fields, looking towards Strathlorne Tract, southeast.
- 0007. Open land on parcel 8/9 with 23 River Road at right, looking toward Strathlorne Tract, west.
- 0008. 21 River Road, façade and stone wall, facing southwest.
- 0009. 21 River Road from field facing west.
- 0010. Scammon Cemetery, from field of 21 River Road, facing east-northeast.
- 0011. 25 River Road, rear of house and shed from dooryard, facing northeast.
- 0012. 25 River Road interior, northeast front room, facing south-southwest.

- 0013. 25 River Road interior, doors in northeast front chamber, facing southwest.
- 0014. 25 River Road, shed south elevation from dooryard, facing north.
- 0015. .25 River Road, shed interior loft, facing west.
- 0016. 25 River Road, barn, roadside elevation, facing south.
- 0017. 25 River Road, barn and house, west and south elevations, facing northeast.
- 0018. 25 River Road, barn, interior, basement showing former silo base, facing west-northwest.
- 0019. 25 River Road, barn, interior, roof framing detail, facing west-southwest.
- 0020. garden and field, looking east behind 25 River Road, well house at right rear, facing eastsoutheast.
- 0021. 25 River Road, carriage barn/cider house interior, facing west.
- 0022. 21 River Road, barn and tool shed, facing south-southwest.
- 0023. Scammon Cemetery detail of gate, facing southeast.

Name of Property

Photo Keys

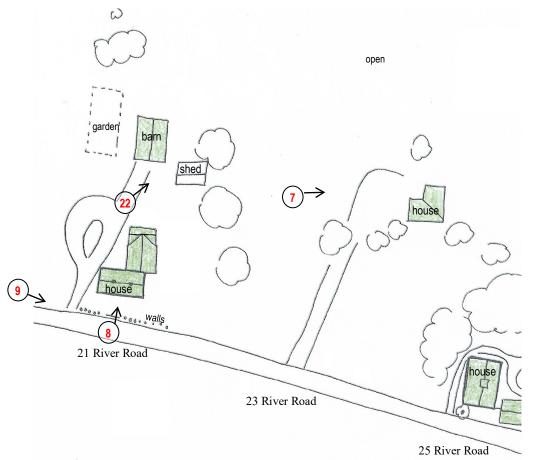
Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State



Rockingham, New Hampshire County and State

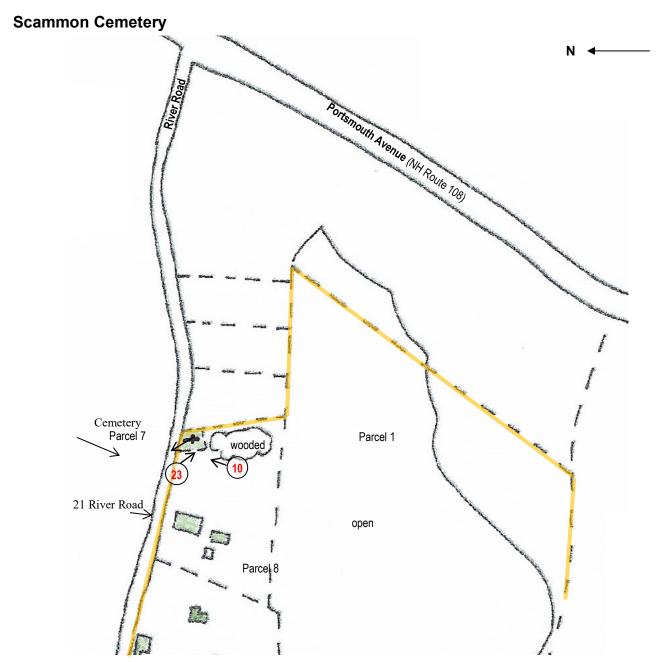
Ν

21 and 23 River Road









Name of Property

Rockingham, New Hampshire

County and State

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.