

HARVEY L. WHITE FARM

West side of Route 202, directly north of
the Hillsborough/Antrim town line
Hillsborough
Hillsborough County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-226

HABS
NH
6-HILL,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Location: West side of Route 202, directly north of the Antrim/Hillsborough town line, Hillsborough, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire.

Present Owner and Occupant: Robert and Norma Fowle

Present Use: Residence

Statement of Significance: The Harvey L. White Farm is representative of a connected farm building, a common building type built in rural central and eastern New Hampshire throughout the nineteenth century. The property consists of a connected main house, kitchen ell, shed and barn; a sap house on the opposite side of Route 202; and a hay field south of the farmhouse. The property has undergone few changes and, despite new houses to the north on part of its former land, the field to the south and woods to the west preserve the historic agricultural setting. The property is of local significance and is one of only two properties along this stretch of Route 202 that retain their agricultural context.

Historical
Summary:

This farm was apparently first established by the Gould family who owned it in the first half of the nineteenth century.¹ In 1866 it was purchased by Harvey L. White who lived here and farmed the land until his death in 1906. The 1880 Agricultural Schedule for his farm suggests that the farm, valued at \$3500, was a mid-sized farm for the town of Hillsborough, producing crops and raising livestock for general family use, as was common to most other farms in the community. In 1912 it was purchased by Birdsey Proctor, who farmed here for fourteen years, when it was sold to Elmer Bennett of Dracut, Massachusetts.

During the Bennett family's ownership (1926-52), the farm continued to have dairy cows.² After Elmer Bennett's death in 1937, the family kept chickens, hens and produced vegetables that were sold from their roadside stand; the hen house stood south of the barn and is partially visible in a photograph taken circa 1940. The Bennetts sold the property to Percy Edgecomb in 1952, whose family raised vegetables and pheasants. The main crop was corn, grown in the fields both north and south of the farmhouse. Mr. Edgecomb, like Elmer Bennett, was semi-retired at the time of his purchase. In 1965 the farm was reduced from ninety-six acres to thirty-five when the thirty-five acres north of the farmhouse were sold off (and subsequently developed with several houses), and all the land on the opposite side of Route 202, including the sap house, was sold to Fairfield Whiting, then owner of the Whittemore Farm, immediately to the south, just over the Antrim town line. That land remains undeveloped. The hay field to the south of the White Farmhouse remains part of its property and in active agricultural use.

¹ Early deeds are unclear, but it is known that the Goulds (Jacob, Stephen and Jonathan S.) owned this property between 1819 and 1866. Although deed references are made to the homestead farm, it appears that an earlier house had disappeared by the 1850s. The 1858 map shows no buildings on this site, and the existing connecting farm complex visually dates from circa 1860. When Jonathan S. Gould et al. sold the property, then around 90 acres, to Harvey L. White in 1866, the buildings were standing.

² After around 1885 milk and butter were primary farm products in Hillsborough. See Brickett, Rev. Harry, "History of Hillsborough". In *The History of Hillsborough County, New Hampshire*. Hurd, D. Hamilton, ed. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1885, p. 406.

The connected farm buildings of the White Farm, which consist of a main house, kitchen ell, shed and barn, visually appear to have evolved as one unit and have undergone few alterations.³ Exterior architectural details are simple, with the exception of the Greek Revival entrance in the main house. An historic photograph reveals that the two roof dormers on the main house post-date 1940, as do the two small windows in the west (rear) gable which replaced an earlier, diagonally-placed double-hung sash. The porch on the kitchen ell has been renovated; it is not known whether the house originally had a porch. There has been a porch on the gable front of the barn since at least the mid-twentieth century; it was screened in by the current owner.

Sources:

Books, Pamphlets and Articles

Adams, W.I. Lincoln, *Woodland and Meadow. Out of Door Papers Written on a New Hampshire Farm.* New York: The Baker and Taylor Co., 1901.

Baldwin, Harrison, C., *The History of Hillsborough, NH, 1921-1963.* Peterborough: Transcript Printing Co., 1964

Brickett, Rev. Harry, "History of Hillsborough". In *The History of Hillsborough County, New Hampshire.* Hurd, D. Hamilton, ed. Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1885, pp. 391-434.

Browne, George Waldo, *History of Hillsborough, NH, 1735-1921.* Published by the Town of Hillsborough, 1921, 2 vols.

Halsted, Byron, *Barn Plans and Outbuildings.* 1881. Reprinted 1977 by the Stephen Green Press, Brattleboro, VT

Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds and Probates

Hubka, Thomas C., *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn. The Connected Farm Buildings of New England.* Hanover: University Press of New England, 1984.

³Harvey L. White's probate inventory of 1906 described his farmhouse: five rooms, plus a hall, two pantries and a back kitchen. The description matches the current size and configuration of the house.

The Hillsborough Register, 1905. Compiled by Mitchell, Daggett & Weston. Brunswick, ME: H.E. Mitchell Co.

New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources: National Register and Determination of Eligibility files.

Russell, Howard S., *A Long Deep Furrow*. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1982.

United States Bureau of Statistics. Agricultural Schedule, Town of Hillsborough, 1880.

Interviews

Albert Mills, resident of neighborhood since 1927; former owner of Whittemore Farm.

Robert Fowle, current owner, White Farm

Photograph Collections

D.A.R. Museum, Governor Smith Residence, Hillsborough, NH

Robert Fowle (owner), private collection

New Hampshire Historical Society

Maps and Atlases

1858 *Map of Hillsborough, NH*. Surveyed by J. Chase Jr. Published by Smith, Mason and Co.

1892 Hurd, E. Hamilton & Co., *Town and County Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*. Boston: D.H. Hurd and Co.

Project
Information:

This HABS report was prepared for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation in connection with roadway improvements on Route 202 in Antrim and Hillsborough. A realignment of Route 202 will necessitate the removal of the White Farm Sap House. The Memorandum of Agreement for the project stipulated that the Sap House be documented to provide a permanent photographic and written record of the property.

Historian:

Elizabeth Durfee Hengen
Preservation Consultant
Concord, New Hampshire
July 31, 1992

SKETCH SITE PLAN

- A MAIN HOUSE
- B KITCHEN ELL
- C SHED ELL
- D BARN
- E SITE OF HEN HOUSE (APPROX)

F SAP HOUSE

--- PROPERTY LINE

