

LAMPREY HOUSE

Dover Road, south side, 0.05 miles east  
of Goboro Road  
Epsom  
Merrimack County  
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-232

HABS  
NH  
7-EP50,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HABS  
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7-EP50,  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LAMPREY HOUSE

HABS No. NH-232

Location: Dover Road, south side, 0.05 miles east of Goboro Road  
Epsom, Merrimack County, New Hampshire

Quad: Gossville  
UTM: 19.309410.4788265

Significance: The Lamprey House contributes to the Gossville Historic District under Criterion A, as it documents patterns of living by typical residents in the context of a village center at the intersection of two major transportation corridors, the First New Hampshire Turnpike and the Suncook Valley Railroad. The Lamprey House contributes to the Gossville Historic District under Criterion C, for its contribution to the understanding of 19th century construction techniques and the vernacular mix of building stock in the village.

Description: The Lamprey House was built c.1895. It is a vernacular, 2½ story, kneewall building, oriented with the gable end to the street in a sidehall plan. The wood frame structure is supported by an elaborate concrete foundation poured in the 1930's (Huckins 1995). It is sheathed in clapboards and has flat trim. The eaves project but do not return. The sidehall entry is sheltered by a small, gable-roof entry porch supported on square channeled posts and enclosed with lattice screens. The rectangular windows have flat trim and 2/2 sash. The windows are flanked by wooden shutters. A hip-roof sun porch spans the east elevation of the house. A corbelled brick stove chimney is centered on the ridge.

A one story service wing housing the kitchen projects from the west elevation of the house. This connects to a one bay garage, oriented laterally to the highway, with an overhead garage door.

Attached to the west end of the garage is a 1½ story, 6 bay long apartment building, which was originally a separate structure, containing the Lamprey blacksmith shop and later the Gossville Garage. This building is documented on a separate HABS short form (HABS No. NH-232-A).

History: No building appears in this location on the 1892 map. Abel B. Lamprey (born c.1864) built a house and blacksmith shop here c.1895. He operated a blacksmith shop and the Gossville Carriage Company here until the early 1920's (Anonymous 1898; Anonymous 1920). The shop is contained within the existing apartment building. Lamprey's wife Annie and her father, carpenter Moses Sanborn, lived here with him (Bureau of the Census 1900).

During the 1920's, Charles N. Huckins moved into this house with his wife Doris. He worked for a time as a clerk in the nearby store of Silver and Hall. He pursued a hobby of fixing motorcycles in the old blacksmith shop near his house. As automobile travel replaced horse-drawn vehicles during the late 1920's, Huckins converted the blacksmith shop to Gossville Garage. The garage grew rapidly to include an automobile dealership and service station (Rutherford 1991). The old blacksmith shop was enlarged to the current length

by 1928 (Photograph collection of the Epsom Historical Association). Huckins also bought the large barn across the road and operated a filling station there. During the 1930's, Charles Huckins began to sell kerosene. In the mid-1930's, he established the Huckins Oil Company near the railroad depot.

Charles Huckins operated the Gossville Garage until 1958 when he moved elsewhere in Epsom. Doris Huckins ran the business here a few years longer. She remained living here while establishing a new service station in Pittsfield. She converted the Gossville Garage building to apartments and operated them until her death in the early 1990's (Rutherford 1991).

The building is presently owned by the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation and is vacant. Following demolition of the attached apartments (the Lamprey Blacksmith Shop (Gossville Garage)), the house will be marketed to the public with historic preservation deed restrictions. It will remain on location.

Sources:

Anonymous

1898 Concord and Merrimack County Directory. Boston: Union Publishing Company.

Anonymous

1909 The Town Register: Epsom, Canterbury, Loudon, Deerfield, Northwood, Chichester. Augusta, Maine: The Mitchell-Cony Company.

Anonymous

1920 Concord and Merrimack County Directory. Boston: Union Publishing Company.

Bureau of the Census

1900 "Population Census." Microfilm Collection of the New Hampshire State Library, Concord, N.H.

**Maps**

Hurd, D.H. & Co.

1892 Town and County Atlas of the State of New Hampshire. Boston: D.H. Hurd & Company.

**Photographs**

Collection of the Epsom Historical Association, Epsom Public Library.

**Interview**

Thomas Huckins, son of Charles and Doris, June 27, 1995.

Ivan Rutherford, Huckins Oil employee, May 21, 1991.

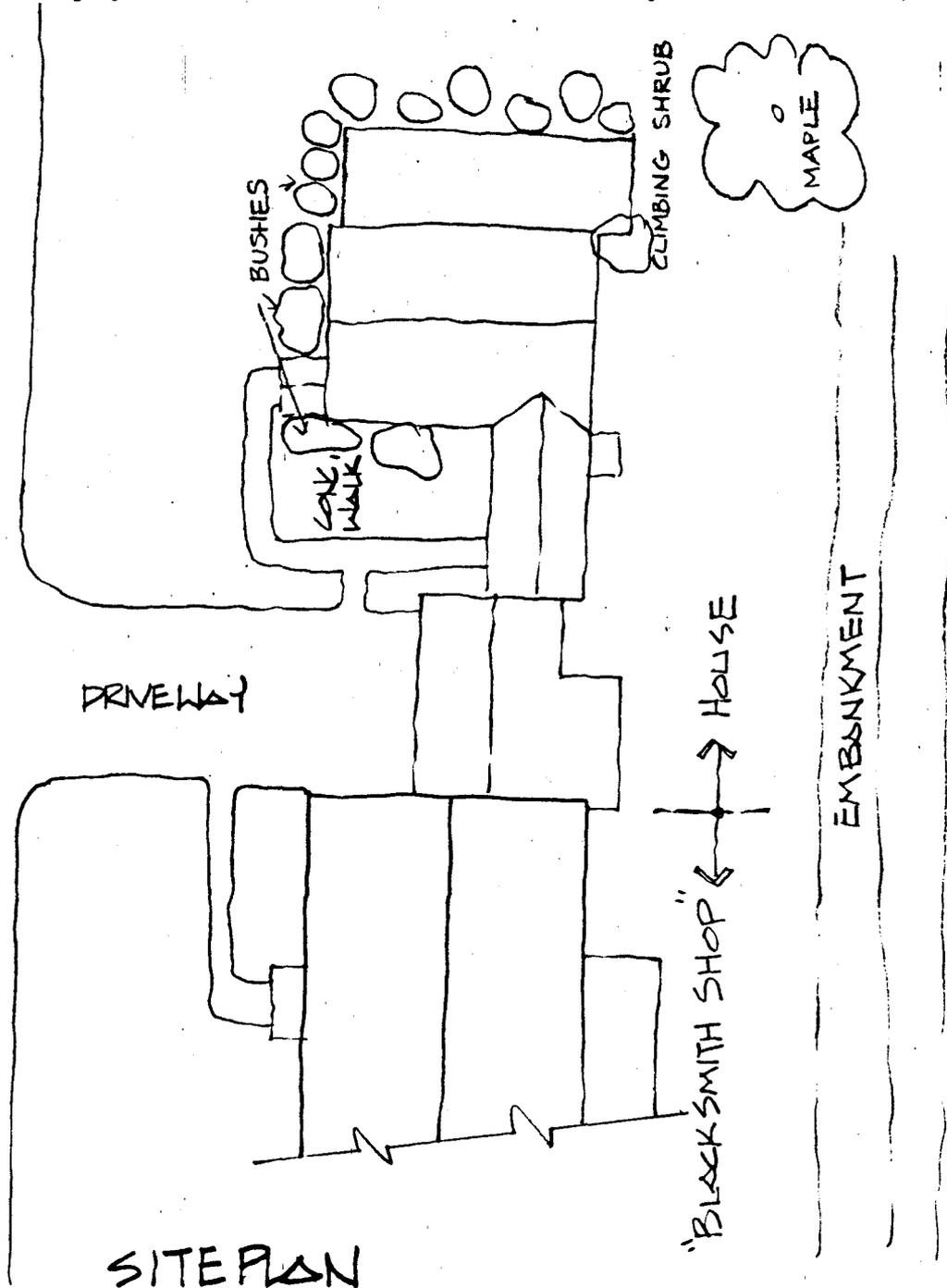
Historian:

Prepared by Lynne Emerson Monroe, Preservation Company, 5 Hobbs Road, Kensington, New Hampshire, for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, Concord, New Hampshire.

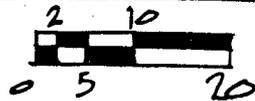
SITE PLAN - Lamprey House

Drawn by: Robin Wunderlich, Lee, NH

ROUTE 4

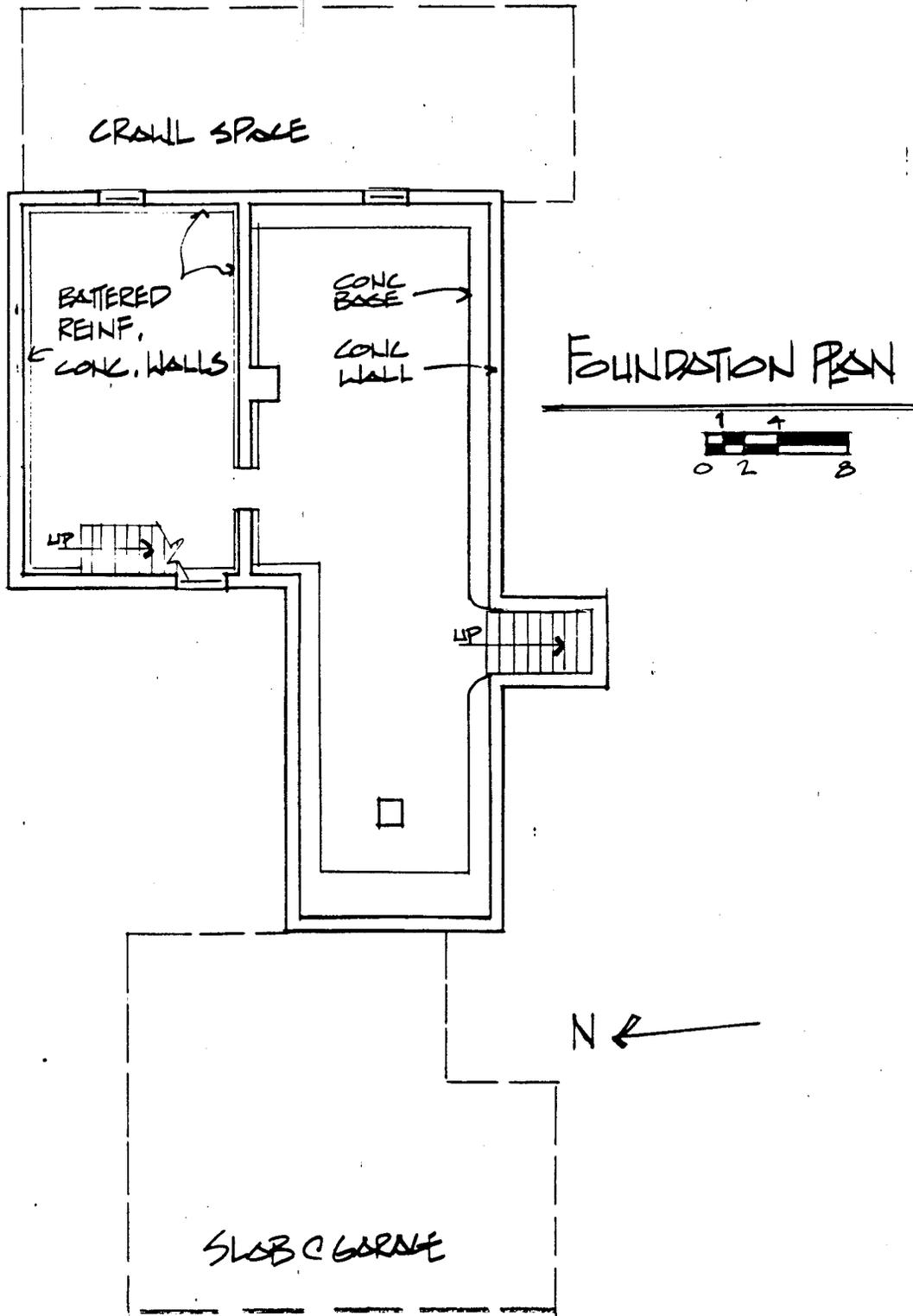


SITE PLAN



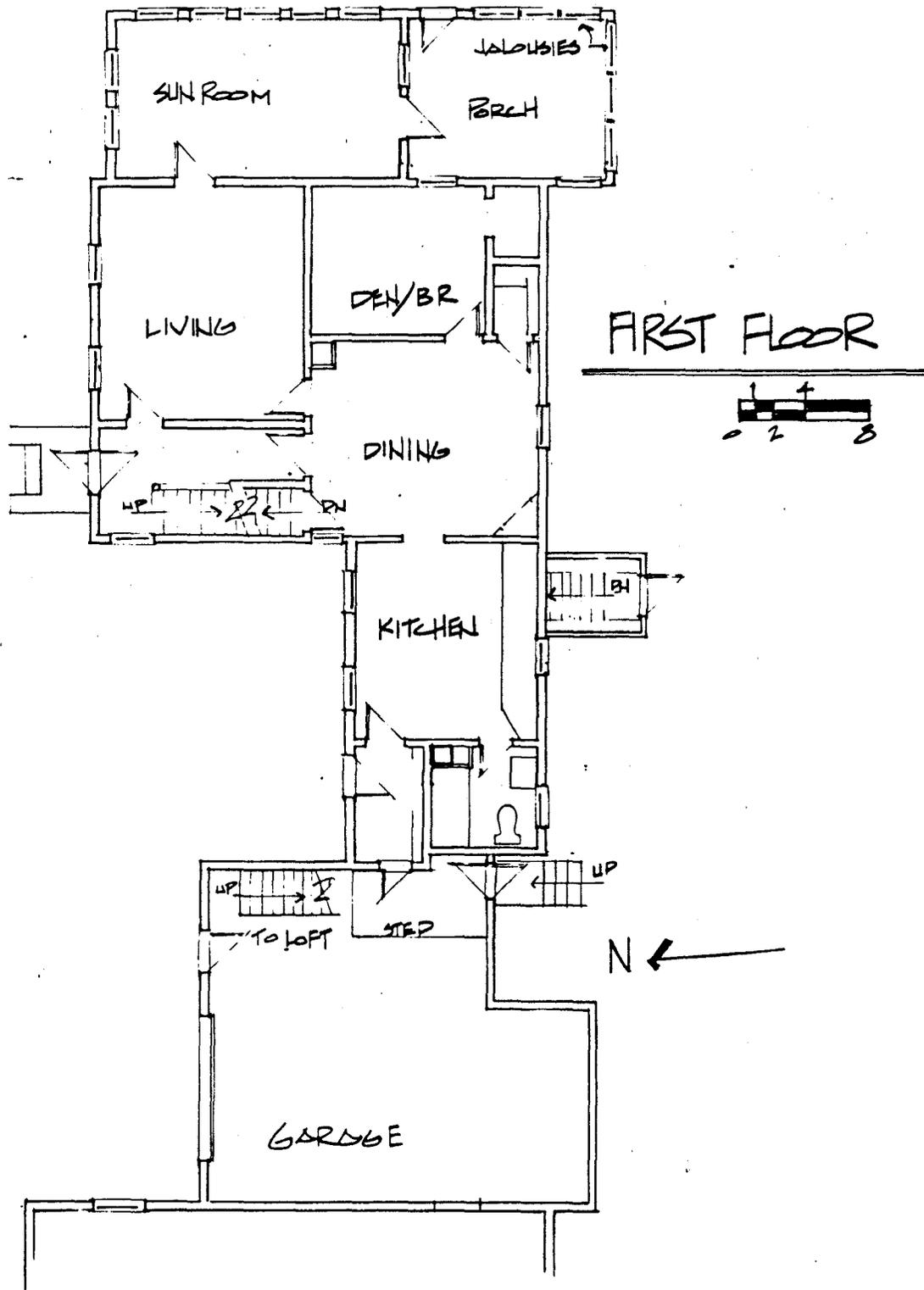
FOUNDATION PLAN - Lamprey House

Drawn by: Robin Wunderlich, Lee, NH



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - Lamprey House

Drawn by: Robin Wunderlich, Lee, NH



SECOND FLOOR PLAN - Lamprey House

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