

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0193****Name, Location, Ownership**

1. Historic name: Henry Farnum-Hobbs Hill-Haller Farm
2. District or area: West Parish Rd. Agricultural Neighborhood
3. Street and number: 9 West Parish Rd.
4. City or town: Concord
5. County: Merrimack
6. Current owner: Anne Haller

Function or Use

7. Current use(s): residential/agricultural
8. Historic use(s): residential/agricultural

Architectural Information

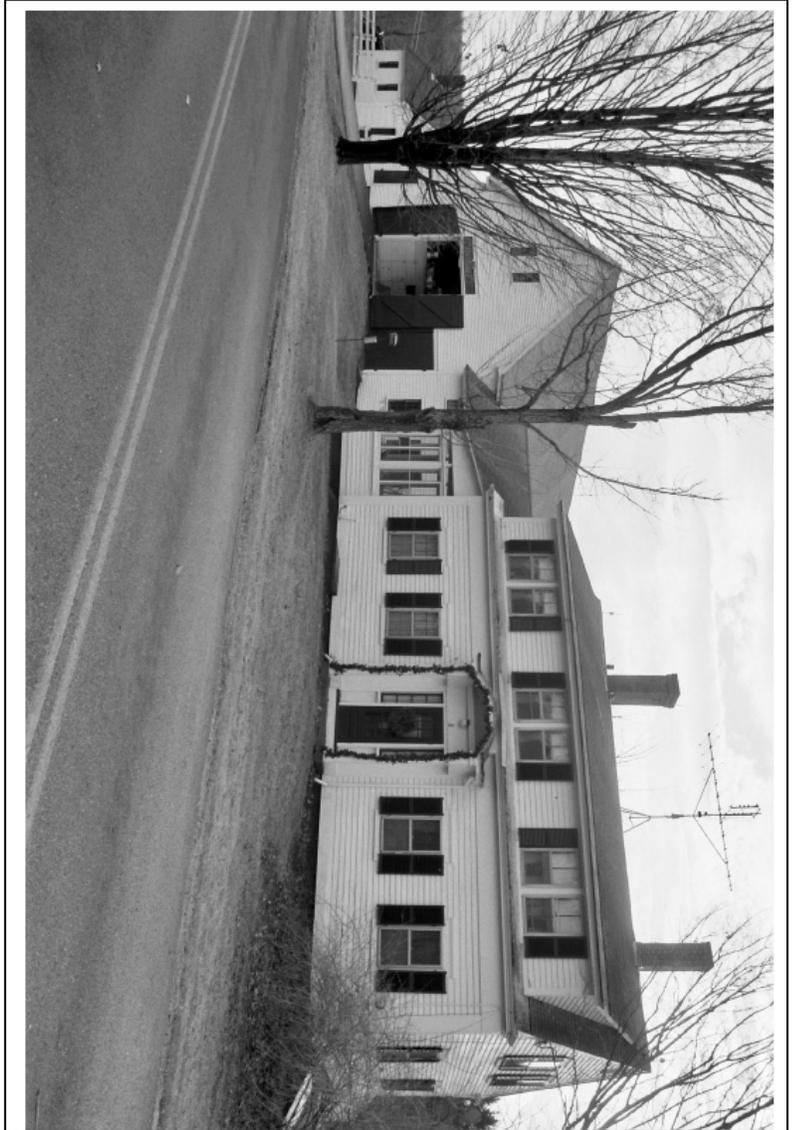
9. Style/type: vernacular Greek Revival
10. Architect/builder: Unknown
11. Source: _____
12. Construction date: 1847
13. Source: Research, ext. visual analysis
14. Alterations, with dates: see attached
15. Moved? no yes date: _____

Exterior Features

16. Foundation: granite block
17. Cladding: clapboard
18. Roof material: asphalt shingles
19. Chimney material: brick
20. Type of roof: gable
21. Chimney location: ridge (twin chimneys)
22. Number of stories: 1½
23. Entry location: center
24. Windows: 6/6, 2/2 (dormer)
Replacement? no yes date: unknown

Site Features

25. Setting: rural
26. Outbuildings: multiple: see attached
27. Landscape features: fields, woods
28. Acreage: approx. 235 on 4+ lots

**Description** View of connected farm buildings

35. Photo #1
36. Date Fall 2008
37. Roll #7 Frame #15 Direction: SE
38. Negative stored at: NHDHR

29. Tax map/parcel: 103-2-9, 103-1-22, 103-1-8, 103-1-10
30. UTM reference: 19.289470 / 4790950
31. USGS quadrangle and scale: Concord, 1:24000

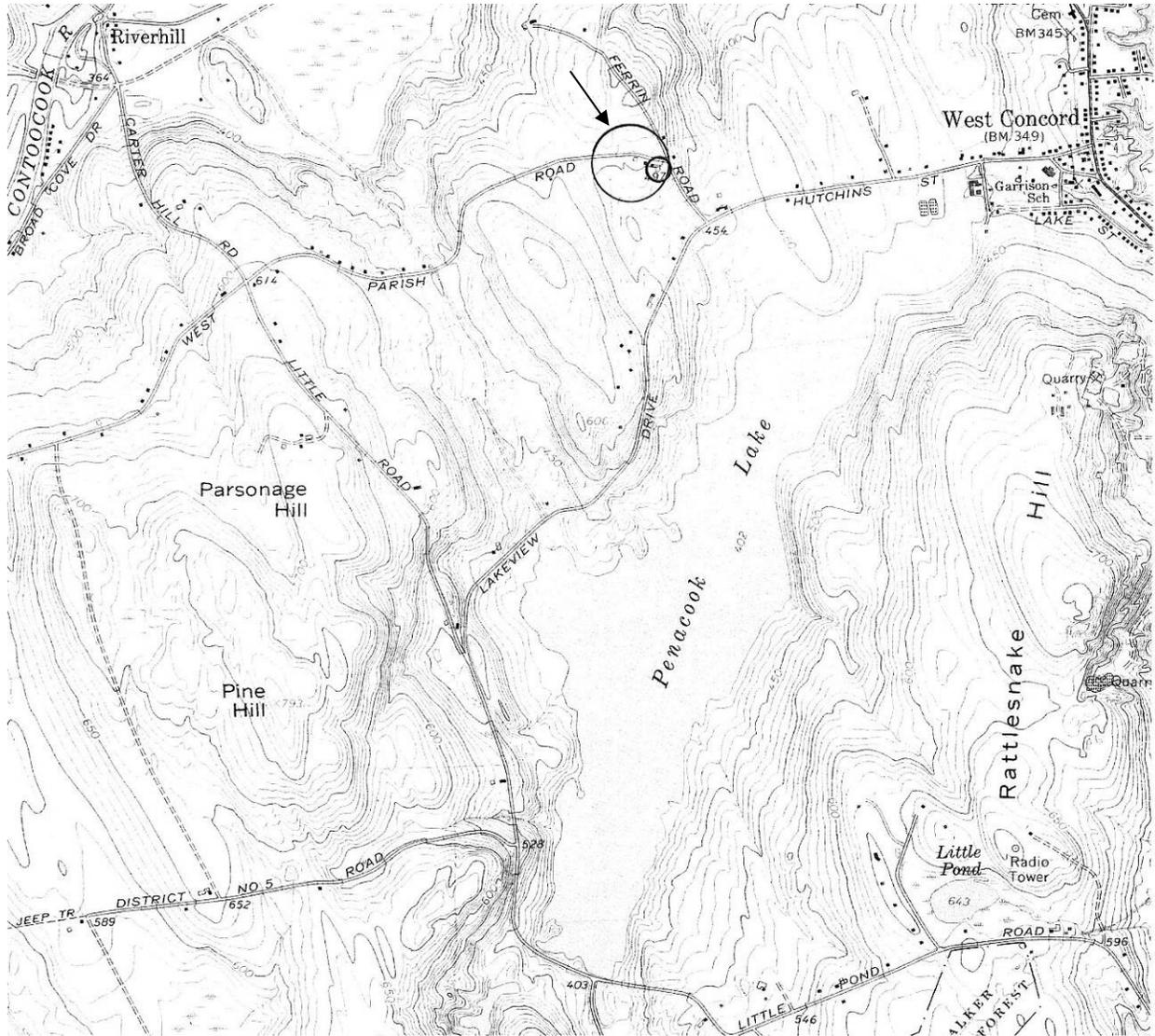
Form prepared by

32. Name: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultant
33. Organization: for Concord Heritage Commission
34. Date of survey: Fall 2008

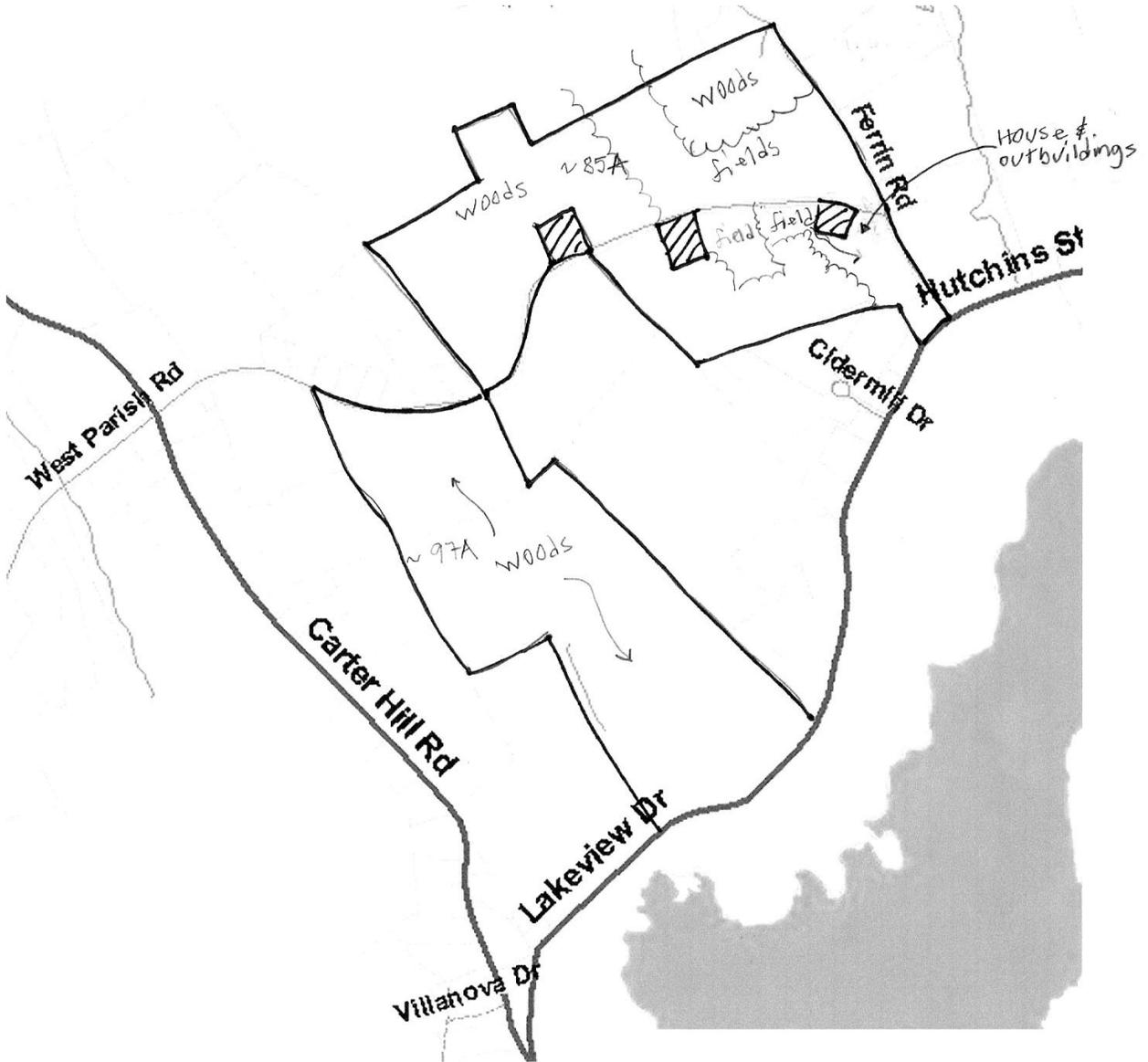
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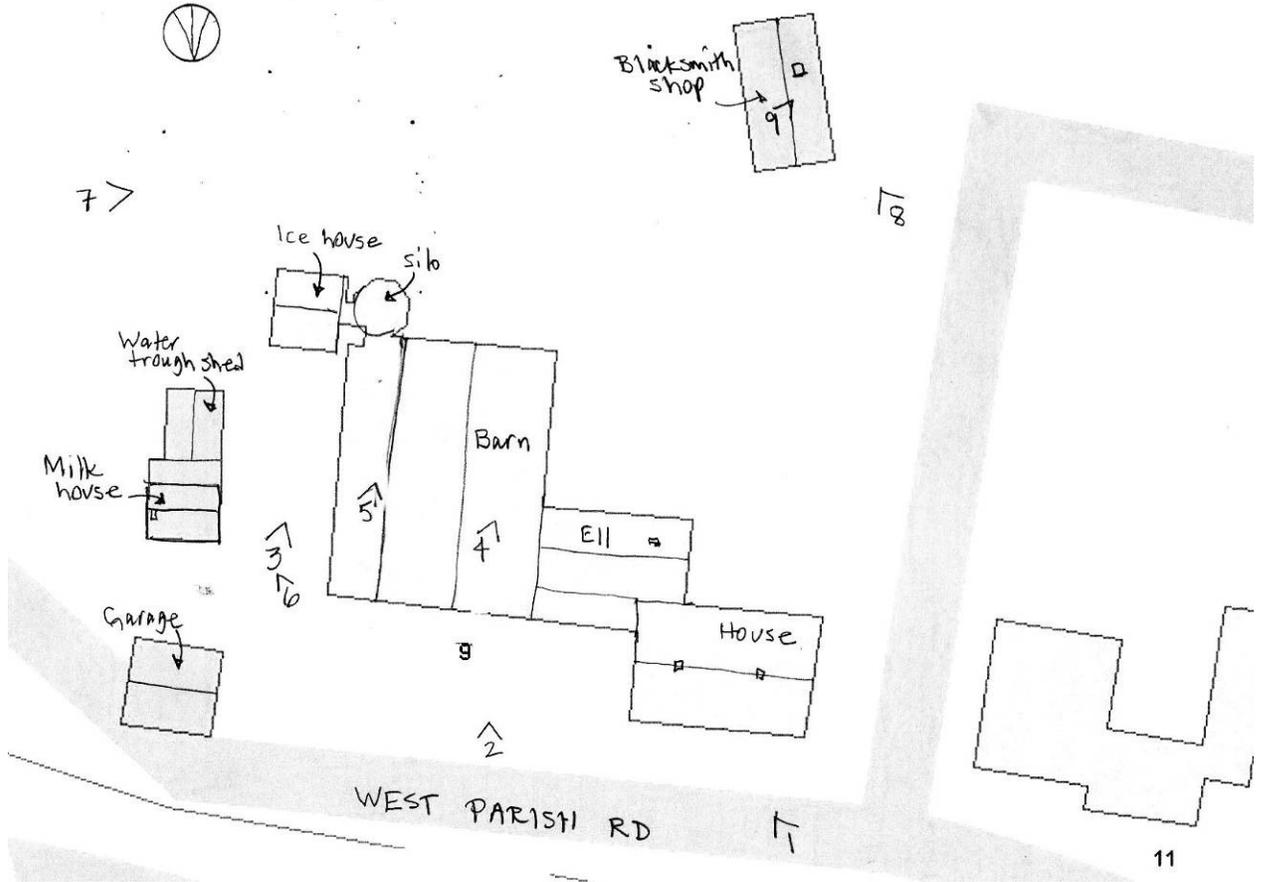
39. LOCATION MAP: USGS map, not to scale



40. PROPERTY MAP:



40. PROPERTY MAP & PHOTOGRAPH KEY:



INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0193****Methods and Purpose**

This form was completed as part of a survey of rural agricultural properties within the City of Concord, a project sponsored by the Heritage Commission. The overall purpose of the project was to raise public awareness of the city's rich agricultural legacy through a combination of identification, education, public policy and preservation planning tools.

Due to limited resources, the survey focused on barns and outbuildings that met all of the following criteria: (1) were sited on at least 10 acres of land; (2) they were located in a fairly rural area and not within the city center or an outlying village; (3) the surrounding land retained historic landscape features, such as open fields, pasture, and stone walls; (4) the outbuildings retained a high level of integrity from their agricultural era. None of the barns on the St. Paul's School campus were included. In addition, a few landmark barns, even if on a small lot, were included. Approximately 45 properties were included in the survey. Whenever possible, an interior inspection of the buildings was undertaken.

The survey was conducted at the reconnaissance-level. Historic background information was acquired from questionnaires sent to each property owner, personal interviews, a review of historic maps, and limited research in local histories. Certainly, additional research data on farms is available from population and, in particular, agricultural census records, and owners are encouraged to pursue those to add to this data base.

When properties were part of a larger, agricultural district, the form locates them as such, and a separate form documenting that historic agricultural neighborhood was prepared.

41. Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development:

The history of 9 West Parish Road is integrally linked to that of 11 West Parish Road (see CON0194). Since the establishment of the farm in 1760, it has been owned by only two families; both of the houses continue to be in the same family ownership.

Joseph Farnum, one of the first settlers in this outlying area of West Concord, also known as Rattlesnake Plain, erected 11 West Parish in 1760. (At about the same time, his brother, Zebediah, erected a house nearby, on Hutchins Street, just east of #78 (see CON0172).¹ The surrounding farm, now largely part of this property, included 200 acres. Farnum was prominent in local affairs, holding numerous offices. He was elected a selectman at the first "League Meeting of the Free Holders and Inhabitants of Concord" in 1766 and appointed to a committee to lay out Main Street in 1785. He and his wife, Zerviah Hoit Farnum, had ten children. At his death in 1792, the farm passed to his son, Stephen and later to his son, Ensign Isaac Farnum, who earned his title in the War of 1812. Isaac was noted as a "successful farmer" by Bouton.² He lived here until his death at the age of ninety-six in 1877 or 1878.

In 1847, Isaac's son, Captain Henry Farnum, erected this house. After Henry's death, the house passed to his daughter and son-in-law, Lucy and Albert W Hobbs. [Undated mss, courtesy David Haller]. In 1878, David W. Hobbs acquired one half of the farm and the older house at 11 West Parish from Andrew Farnum, and lived there for a number of years. After his departure, #11 was essentially unoccupied for many years, but under the ownership of Lucy and Albert Hobbs, next door. Their son,

¹ Village of West Concord, 1976: 19.

² Bouton, 1856: 658.

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Henry Farnum Hobbs also resided at #9. At his death in 1951, the entire farm (9 and 11 West Parish Road), including the extensive acreage, passed to Henry's sister-in-law, Doris Teulon.

In 1956, after nearly 200 years, both 9 and 11 West Parish Road left the Farnum-Hobbs family. The new owners, William D. and Anne Haller, acquired the entire farm, consisting of 285 acres, both houses, two barns and all of the existing outbuildings, farm equipment and a herd of Guernsey cows. A vice-president of United Life Insurance (forerunner of Chubb Insurance, now Lincoln Financial), Haller and his wife had no particular intention of buying a farm, let alone one of this scale; they were merely looking for a house in the country. The Hallers moved into the house at 9 West Parish Rd., and their sons, David and Jim, replaced the two temporary farmhands. However, the herdsman, Earl Buck, who lived at 11 West Parish Rd. with his family, stayed on.

Earl Burk came to work with Henry Hobbs in 1947 and has been employed on the farm ever since. After serving in World War II and awaiting his discharge, Burk met Edna Richards in Washington, DC. Richards had grown up on the neighboring farm at 78 Hutchins Road (see CON0172). Her family alerted Burk of the opening at Hobbs Hill Farm. At that time, all plantings, cultivating, mowing, etc. was done by horse-drawn equipment. This lasted until shortly before Hobbs' death in 1951, when he purchased a tractor for the farm. In the early 1950s, the Teulons replaced it with an International Harvester Farmal, Super C, with power take-off. Burk converted much of the horse-drawn equipment to work with this tractor: for example the tractor pulled the hay wagon and the hay loader. Burk still uses this tractor in 2008 to mow the fields.³

David Haller remembers that in the early years, the Haller family used a hay baler and "would fill the older English style barn [associated with 11 West Parish Rd. (see CON0194)] with hay bales. At the time there were about 30 milking cows; heifers and calves would bring the herd to around 40. Some fields were planted with corn and oats for silage which we would blow into the sole. Although the farm had more land in pasture and crop than it does now, we still cut hay on South St. in Concord at the Jordan Farm" at 102 Little Pond Rd. (see CON0159). "We used surge milking machines...[emptying] them into semi-covered buckets, which I would carry to the milk room and pour into a strainer funnel on either 10 gallon or 20 gallon milk cans. I would place the full cans into a cool water trough [still extant] with circulating water and the lids just resting on top. Once cooled, we'd put the lids on tight and move them to a walk-in cooler [still extant], off the milk-room." The cans were transported to "Red" Eastman's dairy on Spring St. The Hallers bottled and capped their own raw milk and stenciled "Hobbs Hill Farm" on the bottles. To transport the cans of milk, Earl Burk used the same pick-up truck he had used to deliver bottled milk to West Concord Village customers in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The square tins with crushed ice that accompanied the milk cans in the truck had also been used in the Hobbs' milk wagons.⁴

The Hallers sold the cows in 1961, after stricter regulations were enacted that would require a conversion to a stainless steel tank system. Burk, who moved from the property to a Ferrin Rd. in the early 1960s, went to work for Concord Dairy, but continued to hay the fields for the Hallers. He hays these fields still in 2008.

Since the property was acquired by the Hallers, several lots have been transferred or subdivided, almost always within the family. (The one exception is 13 ½ acres at the west edge of the farm that were sold to

³ Letter from David Haller to Elizabeth Hengen, September 4, 2008.

⁴ Ibid.

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Neil and Patricia Ewing in 1985.) In 1965, the older house at 11 West Parish, its outbuildings and one-acre were conveyed to the Hallers' daughter and husband, Eleanor and Robert Ferns. In 1973, they subdivided two acres west of the farm buildings to their son David and his wife, where 25 West Parish was built. In 1984, their daughter Harriet Haller and her husband, William Key, received twenty-five acres, on which they erected a house (purchased by Stephen and Susan Duprey in 2000). All of these transactions affected land on the south side of West Parish Road. On the north side, a 2 ½ acre lot was carved out in 2003 for a granddaughter, Christina Haller and her husband, Anthony Blinn.

The remaining land, consisting of approximately 145 acres on the south side of the road and 78 acres on the north side and held in a family trust, continues in farming use, though limited to hay crops and selective timbering.



View of 9 West Parish, looking north at the rear of the farm buildings and house. Photographed 1957. *Courtesy Haller family.*

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View looking east at 11 West Parish (foreground, showing barn at far right) and 9 West Parish in rear. Taken 1957. *Courtesy Haller Family.*



Aerial view taken in 1965 of 9 W. Parish (building complex at right), 11 W. Parish (building complex at left) and surrounding land use patterns. *Courtesy Haller Family.*

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0193****42. Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts:**

- 51. Mixed agriculture and the family farm, 1630-present.
- 56. Local-scale dairy farming, 1800-present.

43. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation:

The Henry Farnum Farm encompasses five lots on both sides of West Parish Road. Totaling some 235 acres, the farm includes a complex of farm buildings (house, barn, garage, milk room, ice house, blacksmith shop) on the south side of the road, extensive hayfields and woodland, roadside and interior stone walls, and rail fences. A pond was dug ca. 1959 for fire protection and cows to drink from. A swimming pool behind the house dates from 1966.

House (1847): This is a 1 ½ story, 5x2-bay structure on a granite block foundation. Twin, corbeled chimneys rise from the ridge. Walls are sided with clapboards and trimmed with wide corner and frieze boards and molded window caps. Sash is 6/6. Both roof slopes have a full-width dormer; that on the front slope dates from the early 20th c., while the rear dormer was added after 1965. A 1 ½ story kitchen/shed wing projects to the east, connecting to the barn. (The kitchen was extended further into the shed in the 1960s.) Windows with 6/6 sash light the kitchen end; a vertical-board door on strap hinges is found at the west end. Small windows with six-pane sash are at the eaves.

Barn (1876): The barn is of particular significance for its high level of integrity, both interior and exterior. Family tradition places its construction date at 1876.

It is a large, gable-front, timber-frame, bank barn that faces north toward the road. It has a square-rule frame, consisting of six bents, to create five interior bays. The roof frame has principal and common rafters and therefore lacks purlins. On the west side, the first (northernmost) bay is a grain room, the middle three bays are hay mows, and the fifth bay was the heifer area. There is a scaffold over the drive floor and hay loft over the east bays. Circa 1910, the barn was extended through the addition of a lean-to along the east side. The west half of the lean-to has an open tie up, with hinged floor boards down the center that function as a manure trap door. The east half is a series of cow tie-ups with white washed walls, wood gates, metal stanchions and water bowls. The south (rear) end of the lean-to leads into a silo, added ca. 1925-30s. (Ochre paint on the clapboards of the lean-to that are now an interior wall give a clue to the paint color of the barn in the early 20th c.) The north wall of the silo is a series of trap doors to access the silage. The silo rests on a stone foundation capped with concrete, is sheathed in novelty siding and terminates in an octagonal roof. A dormer in the roof was used for corn intake.

The main entrance to the barn is slightly off-center to the left. The doors are hinged and made of vertical boards. Above them is a transom light. Two windows with 6/6 sash pierce the gable peak. Walls are sided with clapboards and trimmed with simple corner pilasters. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles; eaves are boxed. The barn has a granite block foundation, and the basement is fully accessible from the southeast. Granite block partition walls divide the basement. An opening in the foundation at the southwest corner allowed pigs to come and go.

Garage (ca. 1940s): The newest structure on the property, the garage is located close by the road. It rests on a poured concrete foundation, is clad with clapboards, has two vehicular bays in the gable front and 6/6-sash windows on the side walls.

Milk Room (ca. 1910)/Water Trough (ca. late 19th c.): The milk room/water trough is two attached structures located immediately east of the barn. The milk room is at the north end and post-dates the

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water trough. The clapboard-clad structure faces gable front toward the barn and rests on a brick foundation. A brick chimney rises from the rear ridge. Walls are punctured with 6/6-sash windows; the main entrance has a 19th c. four-panel door. Inside, walls are finished with bead board and the wooden trough that held the milk cans is extant. A stove sat against the east wall to keep the workers warm. A small room to the southwest holds the cooler. The water trough is a side-gabled structure that abuts the south wall of the milk room. It has a granite foundation and clapboard walls. Access is through a wide opening in the west wall. The trough pre-dates the individual metal troughs in the barn and was fed from a well dug uphill behind 25 West Parish Road.

Ice House (ca. 1920): The ice house stands just east of the silo and was used for surplus silage in the 1950s after its original function became obsolete. It is a gable-front structure on a poured concrete foundation and sided with flush boards. A narrow doorway with a vertical-board, hinged door is found on the east gable end. Like most ice houses, the structure has double interior walls to hold sawdust for insulation purposes. Its location near the milk room suggests the ice may have provided refrigeration for the milk in the early 20th c.

Blacksmith Shop (ca. 1850-70): This is an extremely rare building type and perhaps the best preserved in Concord. It stands southwest of the other outbuildings, to isolate it in case of fire. The building rests on a stone foundation, has clapboard siding and flat trim boards, 6/6 window sash, and a brick chimney on its west slope. Both the east and north walls have a wide opening with paired, vertical-board doors attached with strap hinges—openings sufficiently large to allow a horse to be shod inside. Inside, the framing exhibits circular saw marks and a common rafter roof. The brick forge with granite cap slabs and anvil survive, as do a variety of miscellaneous tools.

46. Statement of Integrity:

Hobbs Hill Farm, which includes both 9 and 11 West Parish Road, possesses an exceptionally high level of integrity. It retains a high number of 19th and early 20th century outbuildings—some of which are highly significant in their own right—a cow path, rail fences, stone walls, and extensive open land, including hay fields and woodland.

48. Bibliography and/or References:

Amsden, Grace P., *A Capital for New Hampshire*. Unpublished manuscript in 3 vols., written between 1930 and 1960.

Bouton, Nathaniel, *The History of Concord*. Concord: Benning W. Sanborn, 1856.

City of Concord Directories, 1812 -1970.

Haller, David. Letter to Elizabeth Hengen, September 4, 2008.

Lyford, James O., ed., *History of Concord, NH*. Concord: Rumford Press, 1903, 2 vols.

“Usaac [sic] Farnum Homestead at West Concord.” Undated manuscript (before 1951) in ownership of Haller family.

The Village of West Concord, New Hampshire. West Concord Villagers, 1976.

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Maps, Atlases, Plans and Views

1858 *Map of Merrimack County*. Surveyed by H. E Walling, New York. Published by Smith and Peavey.

1892 *Town and County Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*. Compiled by D. H. Hurd and Co., Boston.

2006 *Aerial Maps*. City of Concord.

Photographs from the Haller Family Collection.

Surveyor's Evaluation

NR listed: individual
within district

NR eligible: individual
within district

NR Criteria: A
B
C
D
E

Integrity: yes
no

not eligible
more info needed

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Address: 9 West Parish Rd. Date taken: Fall 2008 Negative stored at: NHDHR



Photo 2 description: Front (north) gable end of barn & east end of kitchen-shed wing
Roll: 7 Frame: 14 Direction: S



Photo 3 description: East elevation of barn. Silo & ice house in center of view.
Roll: 5 Frame: 23A Direction: SW

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Address: 9 West Parish Rd. Date taken: Fall 2008 Negative stored at: NHDHR



Photo 4 description: Barn frame
Roll: 5 Frame: 20A Direction: SW



Photo 5 description: Barn lean-to, showing open tie up, with hinged floor boards
Roll: 5 Frame: 21A Direction: S

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Photo 6 description: Milk house & water trough shed
Roll: 5 Frame: 22A Direction: SE



Photo 7 description: East (front) elevation of ice house. Blacksmith shop in rear.
Roll: 5 Frame: 25A Direction: W

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Photo 8 description: Blacksmith shop, front (north) and west elevations
Roll: 5 Frame: 24A Direction: SE



Photo 9 description: Blacksmith shop interior, showing forge
Roll: 5 Frame: 19A Direction: SW