

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0186*****31 Penacook Street (Morrill Farm), Penacook***

The following information updates the inventory form prepared for 31 Penacook Street in 1990, with a focus upon the agricultural history and outbuildings. The original form is on file at NHDHR.

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:

This farm came into the Morrill family in 1925, when John H. Morrill acquired the farmhouse, 12-15 cows and 65 acres on the east side of Penacook Street. (The existing owner, David Morrill, was then a year old.) Morrill had a farm on Mountain Road, but his wife, Isabel H., wanted to move somewhere where the streets were paved and free from mud. Much of the acreage was wooded, and over the years John cleared it for fields. He also gradually purchased additional acreage. (Much of the acreage was across the railroad tracks, meaning workers had to be attentive to the train schedules.) Morrill was one of a couple of milk producers and had a local milk route.

By the mid-20th century, as the state and local communities increased pressure to sell only pasteurized milk, Morrill went out of the retail business, instead selling his milk to the Concord Dairy on Washington Street.

David Morrill, with his wife, Edwina, succeeded his father on the farm, building it up yet further, and becoming involved on the regional level in agricultural affairs. Though he retains ownership of the land and buildings, day-to-day operations, as well as the animals and equipment, are now in the hands of his son, Robert. (Five grandchildren also work on the farm.)

Today, the farm is one of only two dairy farms left in Concord. (The other is Bartlett Farm on Josiah Bartlett Road.). In addition to the extensive acreage here, the family owns 100 acres on Horseshoe Pond.

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It has approximately 320 Holsteins, of which 120 are milking, as well as heifers and calves. Milk is picked up daily by a distributor, which transports it to H. P. Hood on North State Street.

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:

Morrill Farm is comprised of a late 19th c. farmhouse, a mix of historic and more contemporary agricultural outbuildings, and extensive surrounding fields and pasture, much of it in the Merrimack river floodplain.

House (ca. 1880): *see 1990 inventory form*

Barn, 33 Penacook Street (ca. 1820-50): This barn stands close to the road, and originally accompanied 35 Penacook. It is a five-bay, square-rule, Queen-post, timber-frame structure with hewn posts and girts, and straight-sawn rafters. The roof frame has principal and common rafters and horizontal sheathing boards.

Calf barn (ca. late 18th c./ca. early 1930s): The calf barn is attached to the east end of the lengthy kitchen ell-shed that extends east from the farmhouse. It is built in two sections. The southern three bays were a separate barn that was moved here by floating it down the Merrimack River sometime between 1880 and 1925. This section has a scribe-rule frame, and hewn posts and braces. The roof frame has principal rafters, nine purlins and vertical sheathing boards. Interior features include a hay track. The entrance is off-center in the south gable end. A lean-to addition is on the east side. The newer (north) section of the barn dates from the early 1930s and was built by John H. Morrill. This served as the cow barn until the existing barn was completed in 1969 and had fifty stanchions.

Corn crib (ca. 1860-80s): This follows the standard form for 19th c. corn cribs with slanted side walls and its position on piers (in this case, a mix of concrete block and wood). The interior has straight-sawn sheathing boards and circular-sawn slats. Exterior walls are covered with wood shingles. As is common with corn cribs, this has been moved: it stood on the site of the shop, until that structure was built (late 1930s), at which time it was moved and rotated 90 degrees. The corn crib was replaced by the granary at this point, as well.

Granary (late 1930s): The asbestos-sided granary stands close by the corn crib, facing west toward the road. It has slanted, slatted walls and stands high above the ground, on a concrete foundation. (Hogs were kept in this lower level.) A rectangular box with a peaked roof projects from the ridgeline; it houses the grain bin, still fully intact inside. The building has narrow side aisles, where ear corn was stored.

Mid-late 20th c. outbuildings:

Shop (late 1930s; ca. 1950s south addition): Used for the International Harvester dealership the family had for five years.

Cow barn (1968-69): State-of-the-art for its time. Has 104 stalls, 2 free stalls on each side, and an open area for hay storage.

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Heifer barn: “Home engineered and built” by the Morrills.

Commodity shed: Used to store sawdust, grain, etc.

Weigh house

Corn & oat shed (now used for equipment)

Storage shed (used variously for wood & corn)

46. Statement of Integrity:

Morrill Farm, with its late 19th c. farmhouse, mix of 19th and 20th century outbuildings, and extensive surrounding agricultural landscape, retains an exceptionally high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling and association.

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.

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

Interview

David Morrill (owner), Fall 2008

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.

Surveyor’s Evaluation

NR listed: individual
 within district

NR eligible:
 individual
 within district
 not eligible
 more info needed

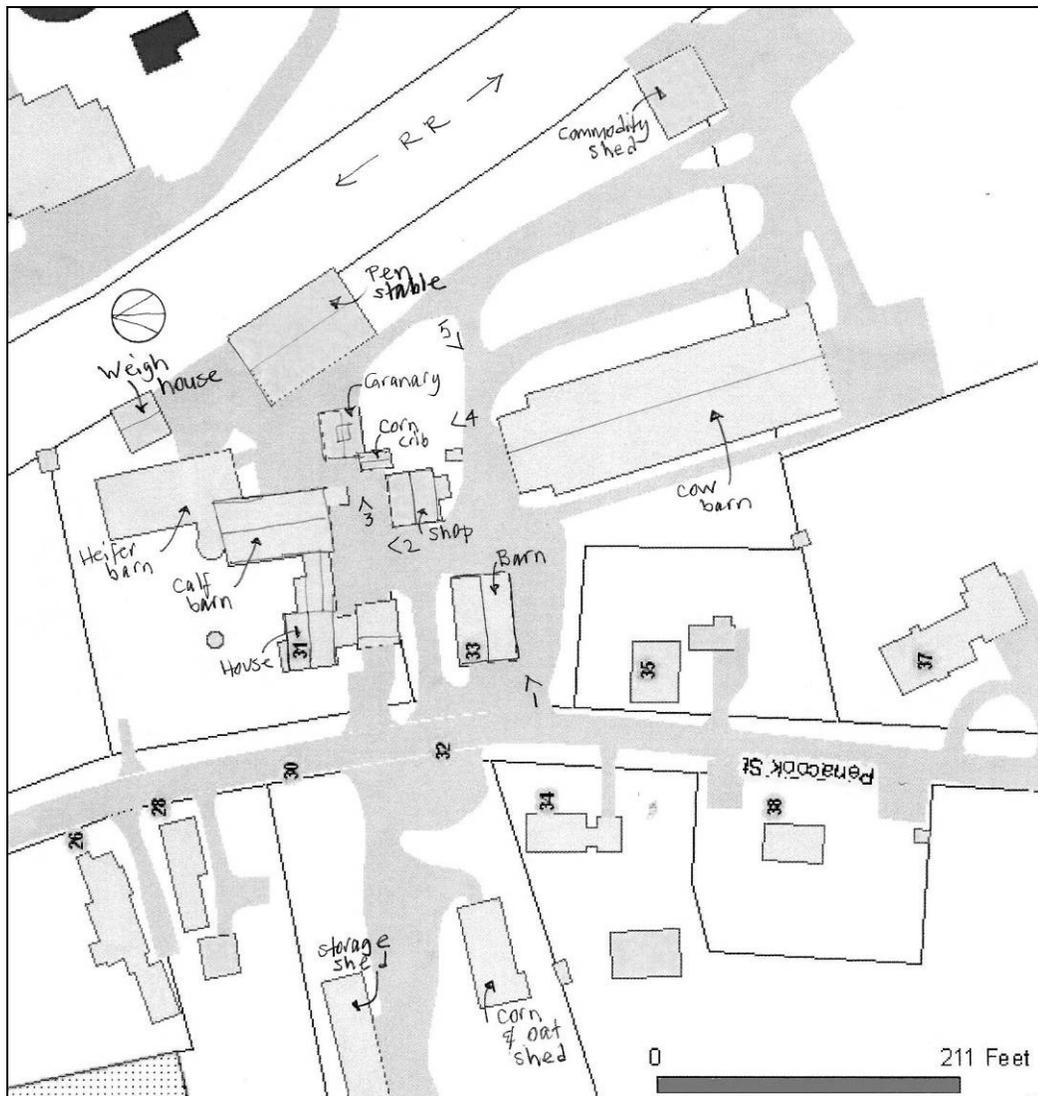
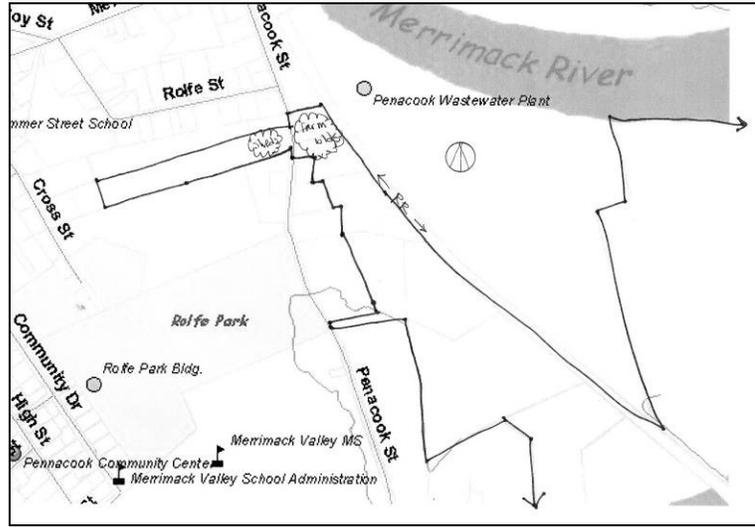
NR Criteria: A
 B
 C
 D
 E

Integrity: yes
 no

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Property Map & Photograph Key (approximate bounds)



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Address: 31 Penacook St., Penacook Date taken: Fall 2008 Negative stored at: NHDHR



Photo 1 description: Barn at 33 Penacook Street
Roll: 8 Frame: 20 Direction: E



Photo 2 description: Calf barn attached to east end of kitchen/shed ell
Roll: 8 Frame: 19 Direction: N

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Photo 3 description: Granary (left) & corn crib
Roll: 8 Frame: 14 Direction: E



Photo 4 description: Corn crib (left) and granary (right)
Roll: 8 Frame: 17 Direction: N

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Photo 5 description: Cow barn (1968-69)

Roll: 8 Frame: 18 Direction: SW