

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM****NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0172****Name, Location, Ownership**

1. Historic name: Rowell-Richards Farm
2. District or area: West Parish Rd  
Agricultural Neighborhood
3. Street and number: 78 Hutchins St.
4. City or town: Concord
5. County: Merrimack
6. Current owner: Michelle M. &  
Maureen T. Richards

**Function or Use**

7. Current use(s): Residence
8. Historic use(s): Residence/Farm

**Architectural Information**

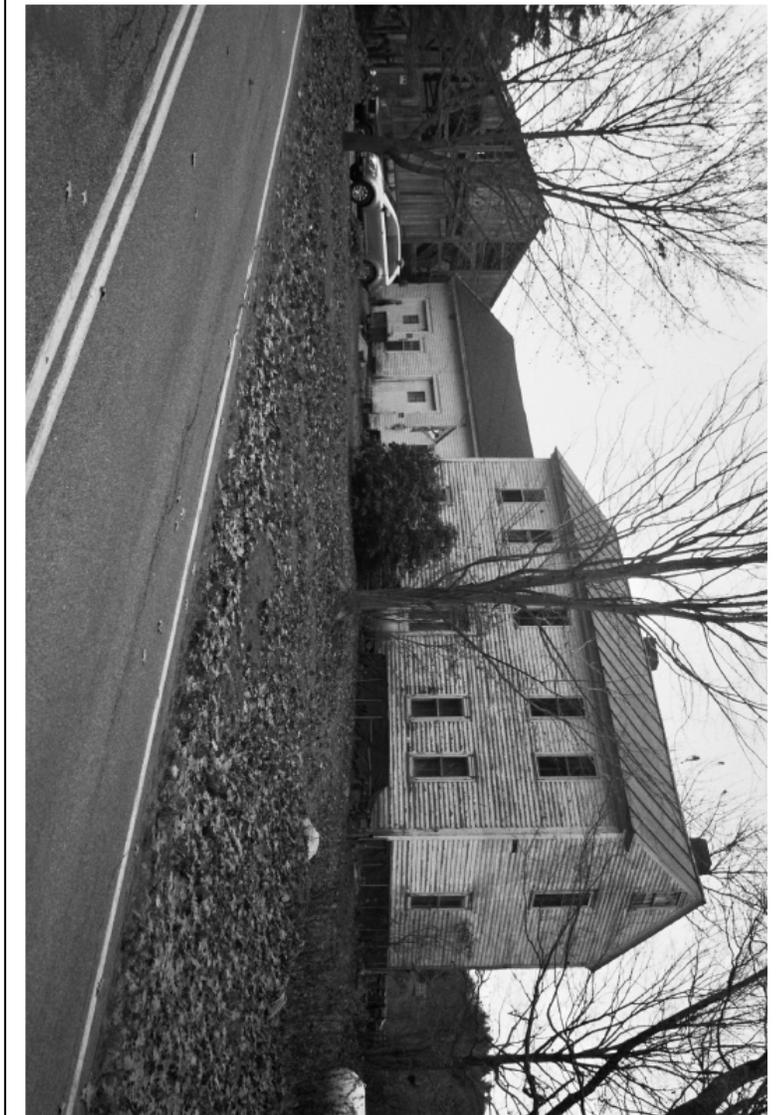
9. Style/type: Federal (vernacular)
10. Architect/builder: Unknown
11. Source: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Construction date: ca. 1820-30s
13. Source: Visual Analysis
14. Alterations, with dates: \_\_\_\_\_
15. Moved? no  yes  date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exterior Features**

16. Foundation: granite block
17. Cladding: clapboard
18. Roof material: standing seam metal
19. Chimney material: brick
20. Type of roof: gable side
21. Chimney location: outer twin- located  
at rear outside wall
22. Number of stories: 2½
23. Entry location: center
24. Windows: 2/2 and 6/6  
Replacement? no  yes  date: late  
19<sup>th</sup> c. (2/2 only)

**Site Features**

25. Setting: rural
26. Outbuildings: chicken house, garage,  
attached shed and barn
27. Landscape features: cow path, stone walls,  
brook, wetlands, hayfields, woods



**Description:** Front (south) elevation of house connector and east face of barn

35. Photo #1
36. Date Fall 2008
37. Roll #3 Frame #35 Direction: NW
38. Negative stored at: NHDHR

28. Acreage: 18 acres
29. Tax map/parcel: 103/2/3
30. UTM reference: 19.289710 / 4790780
31. USGS quadrangle and scale: Concord 1:24000

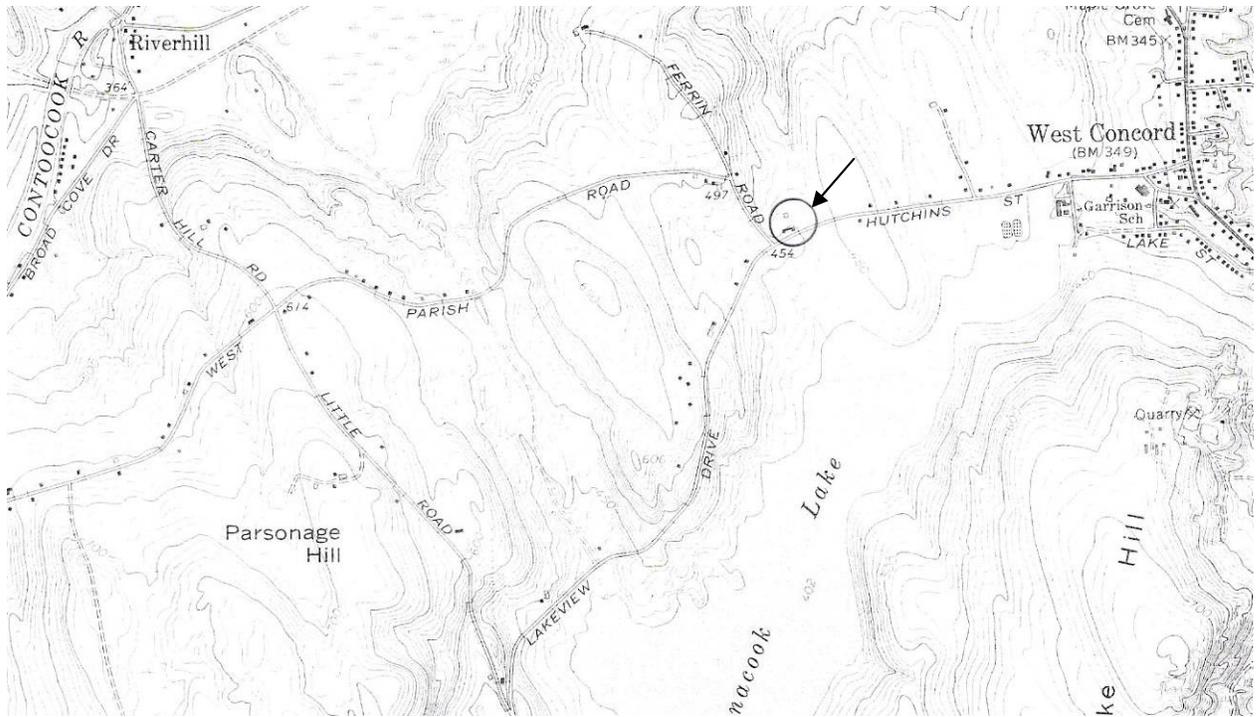
**Form prepared by**

32. Name: Roger C. Hawk
33. Organization: for Concord Heritage Commission
34. Date of survey: August 14, 2008

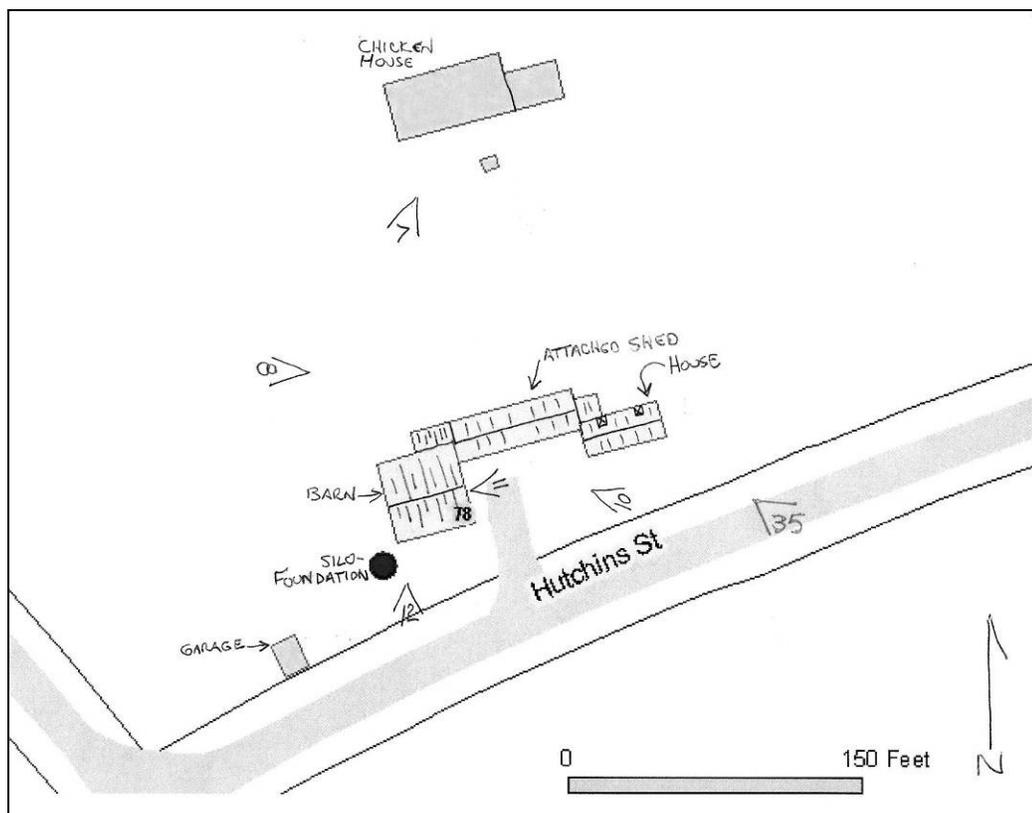
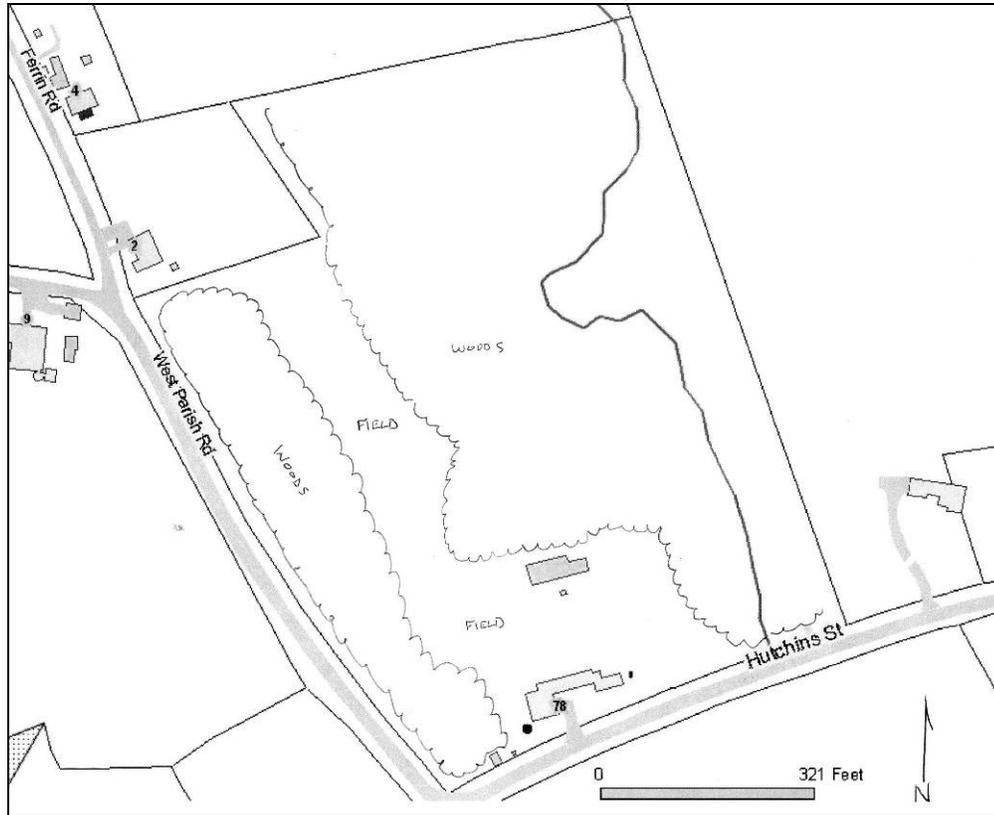
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39. LOCATION MAP: USGS map, not to scale



40. PROPERTY MAP & PHOTOGRAPH KEY:



**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM****NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0172****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 was owned by the Morse family of Amesbury, MA, prior to the Revolutionary War. The Morse daughter, Ruth, married Christopher Rowell, also of Amesbury, and the couple moved here sometime before 1780 and started farming. The property passed to their son, Christopher, Jr. (b. 1769) in 1790. Both father and son were also shoemakers, and Christopher, Jr., taught school in West Parish. Christopher, Jr., married a daughter of Jabez Abbot. Their son Ira (b. 1797), carried on the farming and had one of West Concord's first milk routes. Active in civic and church activities, he was a founder of the West Concord Congregational Church and earned the title of Deacon. Ira was still here in 1858.<sup>1</sup>

Although the farm may date from ca. 1760s, neither the existing house nor the barn were built until ca. 1830s, based on architectural features of the house and barn construction technology.

By 1892, "W.S. Fisher" was the owner of the farm property.

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<sup>1</sup> 1858 map of Concord; Amsden, Chapter 24: 3-4; and *Village of West Concord*: 21.

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Photographed in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. *From Amsden, A Capital for New Hampshire, Chapter 24, opposite page 3.*

In 1954, Garnett Richards and his wife, Nellie S., who lived on Clark Street in the village, purchased the farm from J. Henry and Hilda Orr Dearborn.<sup>2</sup> The Richards family continued the existing dairy operation, maintaining a herd of around forty cows and young stock, as well as enough pigs and chickens to feed the family.<sup>3</sup> Garnett was also a skilled carpenter, who served as the foreman for the construction of the Masonic Theater, now the Capital Center for the Arts, in the late 1920s.<sup>4</sup>

Garnett and Nellie's son, Paris, continued to farm here until ca. 1970, when the herd, already reduced to about twenty, was sold. Like his father, Paris was a carpenter.

Sometime in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, a small piece of the acreage was cut out from the northwest corner, where Garnett and Nellie's son, Richard, erected a house.

**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:**

This former farm includes an early 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse with attached wing/shed and barn, mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. chicken house, the foundation of a silo, a cow path that leads from the barn to the pasture northwest of the barn, hayfields (though beginning to fill in with young tree growth) to the north, and stone walls along Hutchins and West Parish Roads, as well as along the north property line.

House (1820-30s): The house is a 2½ story side gable, 5x1-bay, federal style house. It has simple ornamentation with a close cropped roof cornice and four light transom over the front door. The windows on the first and second floor are 2/2 double hung, suggesting that they are late 19<sup>th</sup> century replacements. The attic windows are original 6/6 double hung.

<sup>2</sup> Deed in possession of owners.

<sup>3</sup> Edna Richards, daughter of Garnett and Nellie, married Earl Burk, who became the long-time herdsman and farmhand at Hobbs Hill Farm (9 & 11 W Parish) around the corner. [Haller family papers]

<sup>4</sup> Interview: Michele Richards.

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Interior features include original (Federal) door and window casings, doors, wainscot, grain painting, and early ochre paint throughout the front rooms of the first floor. The second floor has mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Greek Revival detailing in the southwest room and a paneled Federal fireplace overmantle and wainscot in the southeast room. The staircase is Greek Revival.

Attached wing/shed: The 1½ story, gable roof, wing/shed attached to the west side of the house is divided roughly in half. The east end has 2/2 windows on the first floor and roughly square openings in the half story space above. The western half of the wing/shed has two slider barn doors with a 6/6 double hung window asymmetrically located between. Siding is wood clapboard and the roof material is asphalt shingle. The north side of this structure has an exposed basement with a partially granite block, partially concrete block foundation.

Barn (ca. 1810-1820): The oldest extant structure on the farm, this is a gable-front, three-bay bank barn with a scribe-rule frame and a principal-rafter roof. It is attached to the southwest corner of the wing/shed. The east gable end has an early hinged, double-leaf door on strap hinges, above which are a transom light and a strap-hinged hay door with a projecting hay track. The barn doors are made of vertical boards secured with early wrought-iron nails. The strap hinges are similarly early.

Interior features include the hay fork and a metal grain chute.

The barn is supported by a granite foundation on the south side and poured concrete on the north, as well as a portion of the west. The roof is covered with standing-seam metal. Most of the vertical-board sheathing boards were removed in recent years.

Milk room: This is attached to half of the north wall of the barn, oddly far from the road, but accessible from the wing/shed. It has clapboard siding and a high, poured concrete foundation.

Chicken House (ca. 1950): The two story chicken house is located some distance behind (north of) the other buildings. It is in a near state of collapse. A 1 story, corrugated roof equipment shed was added to the east wall ca. 1960s.

Silo: A silo foundation is still visible at the southwest corner of the main barn.

Garage (ca. 1940s): A single stall, metal-roof and hinged front-door garage is located to the west of the main building complex, sited close by the road.

**46. Statement of Integrity:**

This property, with its assemblage of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings, as well as cow path, surrounding fields, woodland and stone walls, retains 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.

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*City of Concord Directories, 1812 -1970.*

Haller Family Papers.

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

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

**Interview**

Michele Richards, 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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Photo 2 description: Attached shed and east face of barn main door, transom, hay door and track  
Roll: 1 Frame: 10 Direction: W



Photo 3 description: South face of attached barn with attached shed visible on far right  
Roll: 1 Frame: 12 Direction: N

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Photo 4 description: Westerly end of barn with shed roof addition in foreground and attached connecting

shed to the left rear Roll: 1 Frame: 8 Direction: E

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Photo 5 description: Barn detail, showing roof framing, second bent and metal grain chute  
Roll: 5      Frame: 26A    Direction: SW

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Photo 6 description: Rose head nails on main barn door

Roll: 1 Frame: 11 Direction: W



Photo 7 description: Garage

Roll: 1 Frame: 7 Direction: NE