

## INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0145

**84 District Five Road (Rossvie Farm)**

*The following information updates the inventory form prepared for 84 District Five Road in 2003, with a focus upon its agricultural history and outbuildings. The original nomination 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:**

District Five Road is an old range roadway, part of Concord's original road system. Two other intersecting range roads run through this farm, though neither is still in use. The so-called Davis Road, is today's farm road that heads north, just east of the farmhouse, along the edge of the strawberry fields. The so-called Dimond Road is accessed from District Five Road further west, toward the western edge of this farm and adjacent to a late 18<sup>th</sup> c. house that still anchors the corner. Both of these range roads were officially discontinued in 1953.

Perhaps the first occupant of this farm was Moses Abbot (b. 1752), whose father lived on Iron Works Road. Moses acquired the land from his father in 1774. It is likely the ell dates from this era (although an interior investigation is needed to confirm this). In 1813, he sold the property to his son, Levi; apparently three generations of Abbots lived under the same roof at that time.<sup>1</sup> From the exterior, the main house appears to date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> c.; the owners have found evidence to suggest it was moved there.<sup>2</sup> The farm remained in the Abbot at least into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> c., as the 1858 map shows L. (Levi?) Abbot as the owner. By 1892, A. Batchelder was the owner.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> c., this farm was part of a small farming neighborhood, comprised of a half-dozen farms and a schoolhouse (District No. 5 Schoolhouse), which stood on the east side of the brook, before the old Davis Road.

<sup>1</sup> Amsden, Chapter 24, pp. 23-24.

<sup>2</sup> Farm reconnaissance form.

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In 1957, the farm was purchased by the current owners, who subsequently acquired additional acreage. They continued running it as a dairy farm for a few years, but have more recently turned to Christmas trees, firewood, syrup and pick-your-own fruits. Nearly all of the farmland is currently protected by an easement.

**42. Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts:**

See 2003 survey.

**43. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation:**

This active farm is one of the largest in Concord. It spans both sides of District Five Road and includes fields, woodland, pond, old range roads. Stone walls are found along farm roads and around fields. The land on the north side of the road, which includes the farmhouse and barn, as well as strawberry and blueberry fields, on two parcels, is 337 acres. The south side of the road includes the tree operation, pond, fields and woodland, is 339 acres.

House: See 2003 survey.

Barn (ca. mid-1800s): This 4-bay, queen post, post and beam barn appears to have been constructed from salvaged hand hewn timbers due to the presence of many unused mortise pockets. A hay track is visible beneath the ridge of the barn; however there are no hay doors on either gable end of the building. Mr. Ross indicated that the hay track was used to move manure from the main barn to the single story barn addition at the west end of the main barn. The main barn had been used for dairy cows and horses until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

Mr. Ross said that a fire had destroyed the primary dairy barn (across the street near the present sugar house) in the early 1950s before his family purchased the property. His understanding is that as a result of the fire, the prior owner constructed the milking parlor in the lower level of the main barn and barn extension. The barn has double slider doors on the east face and 6/9 windows. A large metal ventilator is centered on the ridgeline of the main roof. Wooden ventilator shafts rise up above the second floor level inside the barn to provide ventilation to the milking parlor in the basement level. A ground level, gable roof extension of the south side of the main barn appears to have been used for a milk room.

Garage: See 2003 survey.

Vehicle Storage Shed (mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century): North of the main barn is a vehicle storage shed that appears to have been constructed in three stages. The north-south oriented section is the original structure constructed of salvaged large timbers, vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. A smaller, corrugated-metal gable-roof pole barn addition was constructed on the south end of the shed. More recently, an additional corrugated metal shed roofed bay has been added to the north end of the addition.

Sugar House: The sugar house is located on the south side of District Five Road, across from the main farmstead. Mr. Ross believes that the main portion of the sugar house (eastern  $\frac{3}{4}$  of building) is the last remaining structure from what had been a dairy barn complex destroyed by fire in the early 1950s. The rough sawn 2x4 and 2x6 construction appears to have been built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Ross family has made a number of repairs and structural improvements to this structure which is now used as a sales building for summer produce, christmas trees and wreaths. The western quarter of this structure is a 1998

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sugar house with a concrete foundation, a roof ridge vent and sugar evaporator. The entire structure has a corrugated metal roof and cedar shingle siding.

**46. Statement of Integrity:**

Rossvie Farm, with its 19<sup>th</sup> c. farmhouse and barn, assemblage of 20<sup>th</sup> century outbuildings, and expansive agricultural landscape consisting of fields, woodlands, stone walls, and old roads, retains an exceptionally high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling and association.

**48. Bibliography and/or References:**

See 2003 survey.

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

Farm Reconnaissance Form on file at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources.

**Interview**

Mr. Ross, Fall 2008.

**Maps, Atlases, Plans and Views**

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

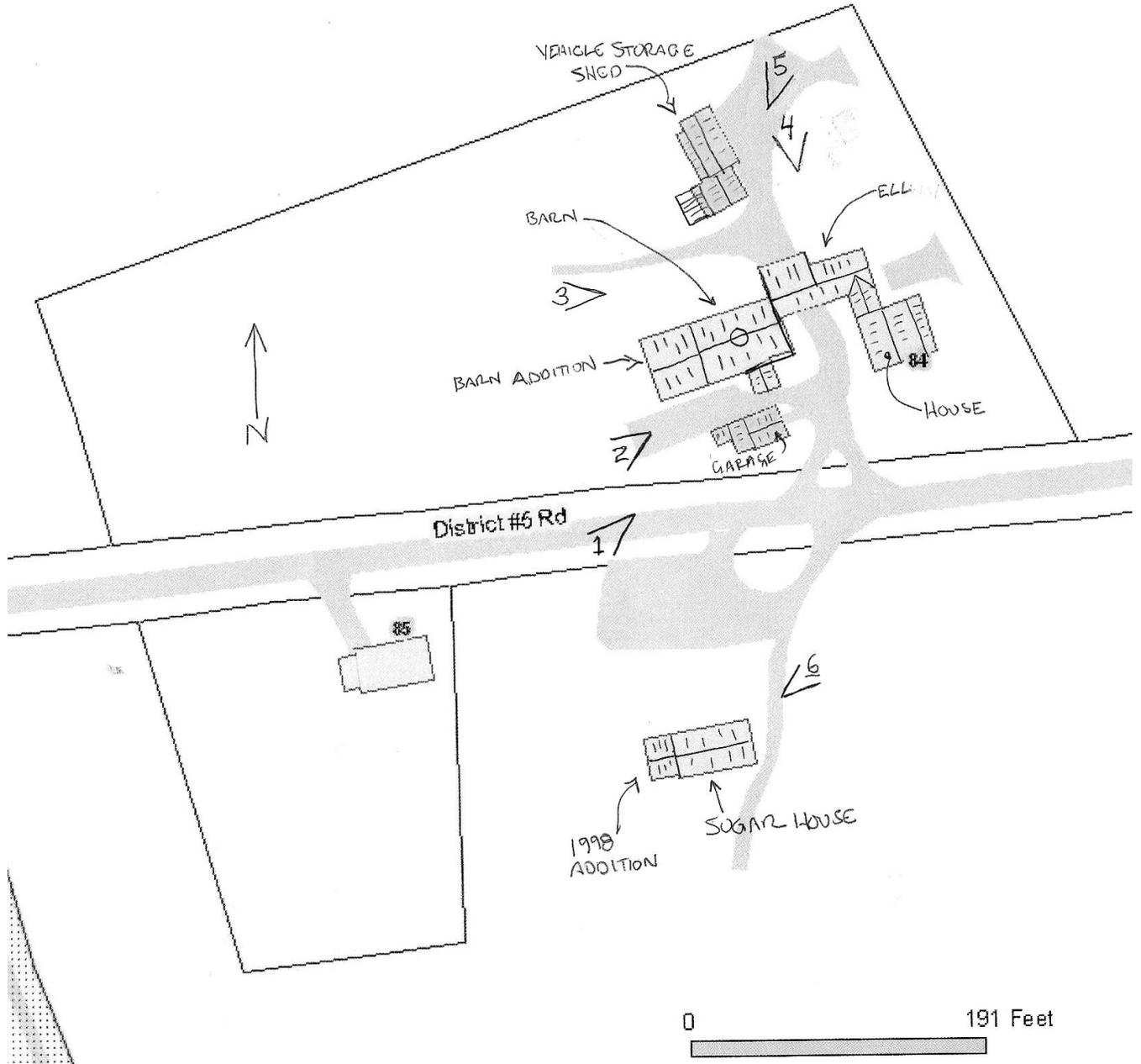
1892 *Town and County Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*. Compiled by D. H. Hurd and Co., Boston.

2006 *Aerial Maps*. City of Concord.

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PROPERTY MAP:



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Address: 84 District 5 Rd. Date taken: 11-26-2008 Negative stored at: NHDHR



Photo 1 description: Farmstead with barn and barn addition to left, house in background  
Roll: 9 Frame: 13 Direction: NE



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Photo 2 description: Barn addition (foreground and barn with milk room visible behind loader

Roll: 9 Frame: 14 Direction: NE

Address: 84 District 5 Rd. Date taken: 11-26-2008 Negative stored at: NHDHR



Photo 3 description: Northerly side of barn

Roll: 9 Frame: 16 Direction: E

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Photo 4 description: Northerly side of house (left) ellway (center) and barn (right)

Roll: 9 Frame: 15 Direction: S

Address: 84 District 5 Rd Date taken: 1-26-2008 Negative stored at: NHDHR

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Photo 5 description: Vehicle Storage Shed  
Roll: 9 Frame: 17 Direction: SW



Photo 6 description: Sugar House  
Roll: 9 Frame: 12 Direction: SW

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Address: 84 District 5 Rd Date taken: 1-26-2008 Negative stored at: NHDHR



Photo 7 description: Milking parlor in basement of barn  
Roll: 9 Frame: 11 Direction: NE