

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0189

Name, Location, Ownership

- 1. Historic name: Blake's Turkey Farm
- 2. District or area: _____
- 3. Street and number: 178 Silk Farm Rd
- 4. City or town: Concord
- 5. County: Merrimack
- 6. Current owner: Charles E. & Sarah E. Blake Rev.Trust

Function or Use

- 7. Current use(s): Turkey Products Manufacturing
- 8. Historic use(s): Farmstead; Poultry Farm

Architectural Information

- 9. Style/type: Cape
- 10. Architect/builder: Unknown
- 11. Source: _____
- 12. Construction date: ca. late 1700s
- 13. Source: Visual analysis & research
- 14. Alterations, with dates: façade and chimney restored in 2000
- 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: center
- 22. Number of stories: 1½
- 23. Entry location: center front
- 24. Windows: 2/2 double hung
Replacement? no yes date: ca. 1900

Site Features

- 25. Setting: suburban/rural fringe
- 26. Outbuildings: Poultry house, barn, manufacturing building
- 27. Landscape features: inactive fields, woodland
- 28. Acreage: 28.4 acres



Description : Southeast elevation (front) of house and slaughterhouse (rear)

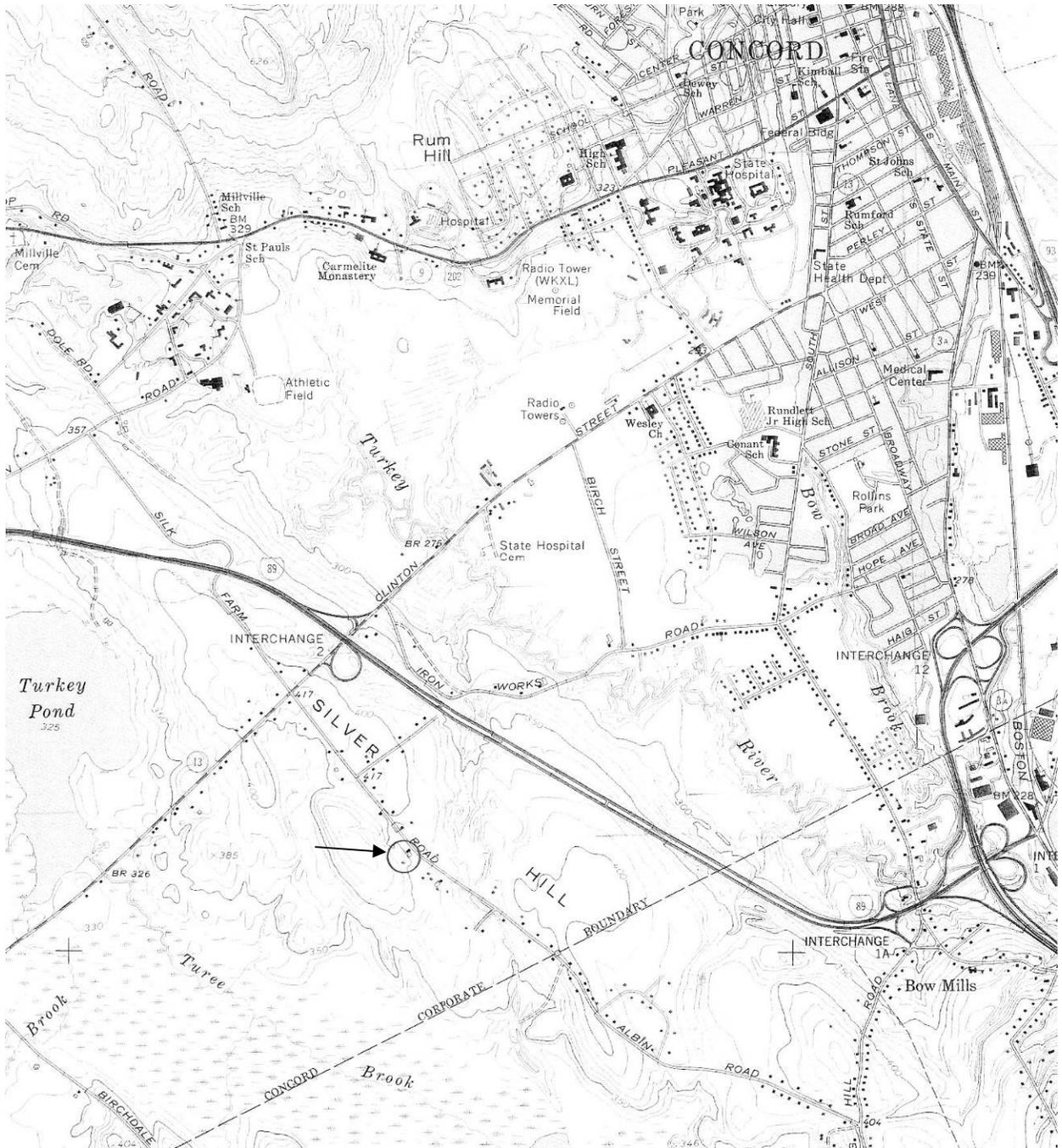
- 35. Photo #1
- 36. Date 8-22-2008
- 37. Roll #2 Frame #4 Direction: W
- 38. Negative stored at: NHDHR

- 29. Tax map/parcel: 87/1/4
- 30. UTM reference: 19.291600 / 4782770
- 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: 8-22-2008

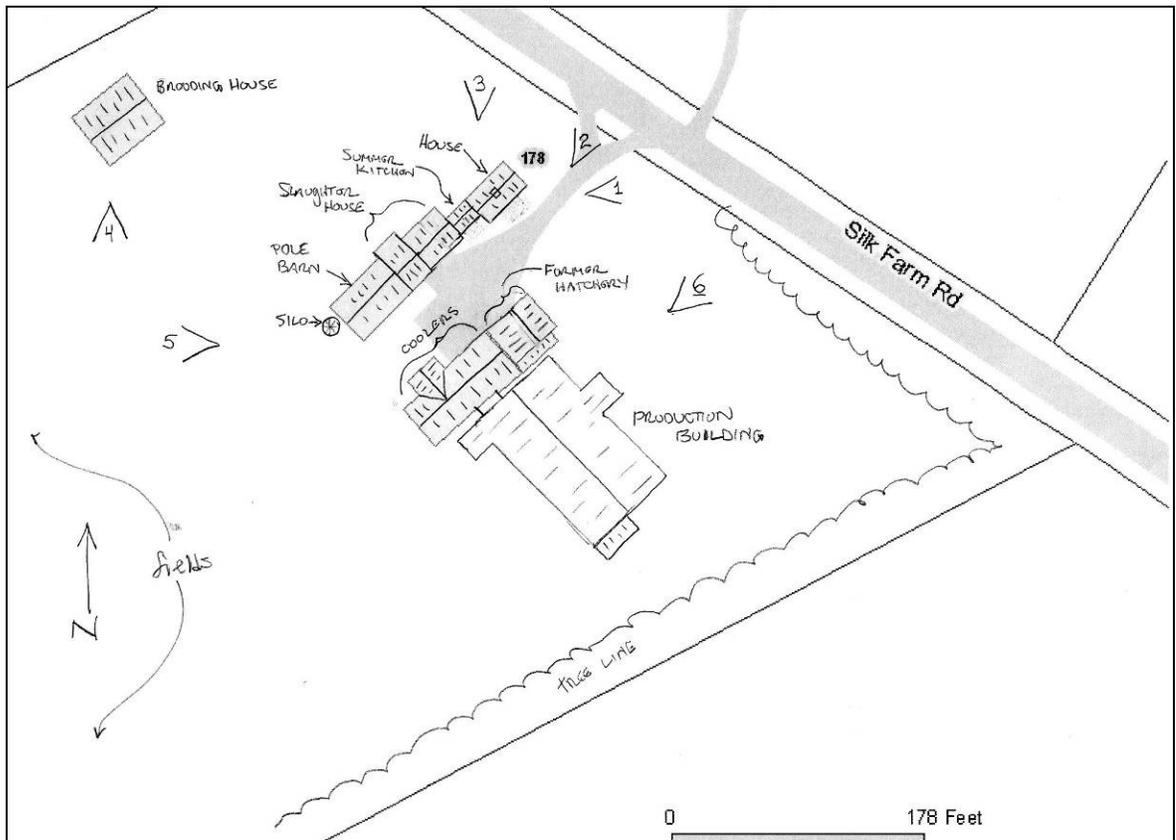
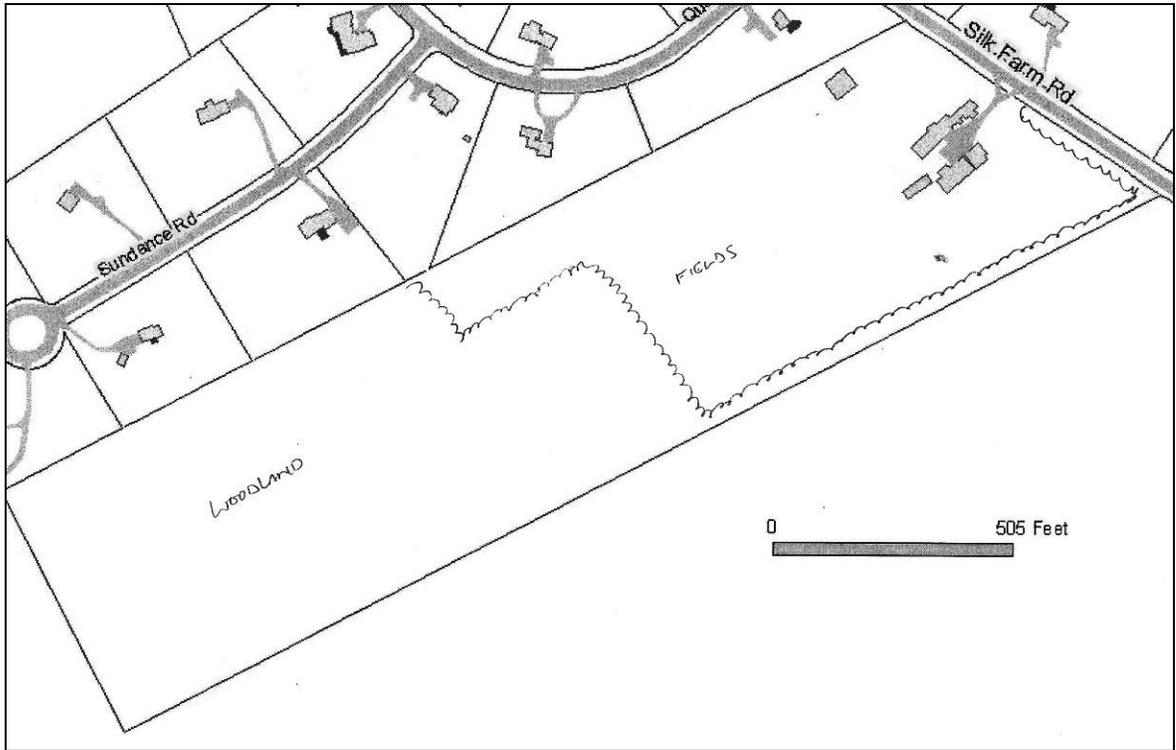
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39. LOCATION MAP: USGS map, not to scale



40. PROPERTY MAP & PHOTOGRAPH KEY:



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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 occupied throughout much of the 19th century by David Saunders, who acquired it in 1834.¹

Charles Blake indicated that his father and grandmother moved to the property in the 1920s. At the time it was a standard farm raising produce and livestock. The family immediately began using it for raising chicks and eggs for breeding. In the 1990s the family stopped raising turkeys and converted their operations completely to producing pot pies and chicken salad products.

42. Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts:

- 51. Mixed agriculture and the family farm, 1630-present.
- 64. Poultry farming, 1870-present.

43. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation:

House (ca. late 18th c.): Sally Blake has researched this property in the registry of deeds and has documented the house back to prior to 1800. The house is a 1½ story, center chimney cape on a granite block foundation. It has clapboard siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The chimney was reconstructed from above the first floor fireplaces in 2000. The building is presently used as the offices for the commercial operation.

¹ Amsden, Vol. 17, p.22.

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Summer Kitchen (ca. 1900): Attached to the rear (southwest) of the main house is a 1 ½ story ell that has 1900 era kitchen features still intact. The foundation is concrete block and windows are a variety of 9/1, 2/1 and 1/1.

Slaughterhouse (ca. mid-20th century): This structure has both 1 ½ and 2 ½ story sections with clapboard siding and asphalt roofing. Presently used for storage, the building is constructed of standard 2x dimensional lumber and retains the racks and other features associated with poultry processing.

Pole Barn (ca. early 1970s): This corrugated aluminum roofed pole structure has an earth floor and 2x4 roof truss framing. The walls are sheathed with vertical boards. A 6” diameter metal silo is situated at the southwest end of the barn. This structure replaces an earlier barn that sat in approximately the same spot and dated from about 1900.

Brooding House (ca. 1950s): This simple corrugated metal roofed, vertical board sided, pole frame structure dates to the 1950s and is currently not in use. This is the last surviving brooding house of the several that existed between this structure and the barn to the southeast.

Hatchery (1940s): This 1½ story concrete block structure has a ribbed metal gable roof and is presently used as an office and work area for the production building. It has a single story shed roofed extension on its southwest side that connects it to the cooler building.

Coolers (ca. late 1970s): This utilitarian structure has a corrugated metal roof and clapboard siding on the northwest face of the building and vertical board siding on the other building faces.

Production Building (2000): This new structure is the center of the company’s production operation. It was constructed in 2000 and rests on a poured concrete foundation. It has vertical board siding and raised rib roofing.

Setting: Approximately half of the property’s acreage remains in open fields, while the rear half is woodland, , preserving a sense of its agricultural roots.

46. Statement of Integrity:

Blake’s Turkey Farm retains an exceptionally high level of integrity as a poultry farm, reflecting the evolution of the industry from the 1920s through to the present.

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

Charles Blake, August 2008.

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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.

Surveyor's Evaluation

NR listed: individual
within district

Integrity: yes
no

NR eligible: individual
within district
not eligible
more info needed

NR Criteria: A
B
C
D
E

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Address: 178 Silk Farm Rd Date taken: 8-22-2008 Negative stored at: NHDHR



Photo 2 description: Former hatchery (foreground) with coolers to the rear
Roll: 2 Frame: 5 Direction: SW



Photo 3 description: Northwest elevation of farmhouse and barns
Roll: 2 Frame: 6 Direction: S

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Photo 4 description: Brooding house

Roll: 2 Frame: 7 Direction: N



Photo 5 description: West elevation of barn (left) with coolers and production building beyond

Roll: 2 Frame: 8 Direction: SE

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Address: 178 Silk Farm Rd Date taken: 8-22-2008 Negative stored at: NHDHR



Photo 6 description: Northeast elevation of former hatchery (right) and new production building
Roll: 2 Frame: 9 Direction: NW