

**AREA FORM**

**AREA NAME:** STICKNEY HILL AGRICULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD

1. Type of Area Form

Town-wide:

Historic District:

Project Area:

9. Inventory numbers in this area:

CON0190

CON0191

CON0192

2. Name of area: Stickney Hill Agricultural Neighborhood

10. Setting: rural; extensive hayfields; 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> c. farmsteads; stone walls

3. Location: Stickney Hill Road

4. City or town: Concord

11. Acreage: 300+ acres

5. County: Merrimack

12. Preparer(s): Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultant

6. USGS quadrangle name(s): Concord

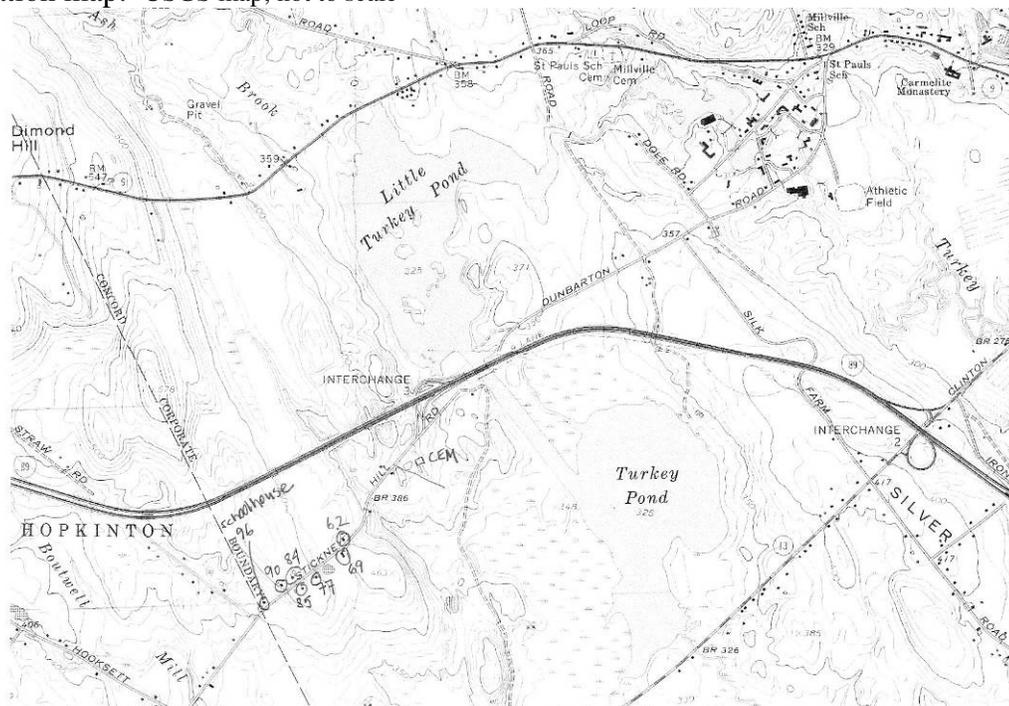
13. Organization: for Concord Heritage Commission

7. USGS scale: 1:24000

14. Date(s) of field survey: Fall 2008

8. UTM reference: \_\_\_\_\_

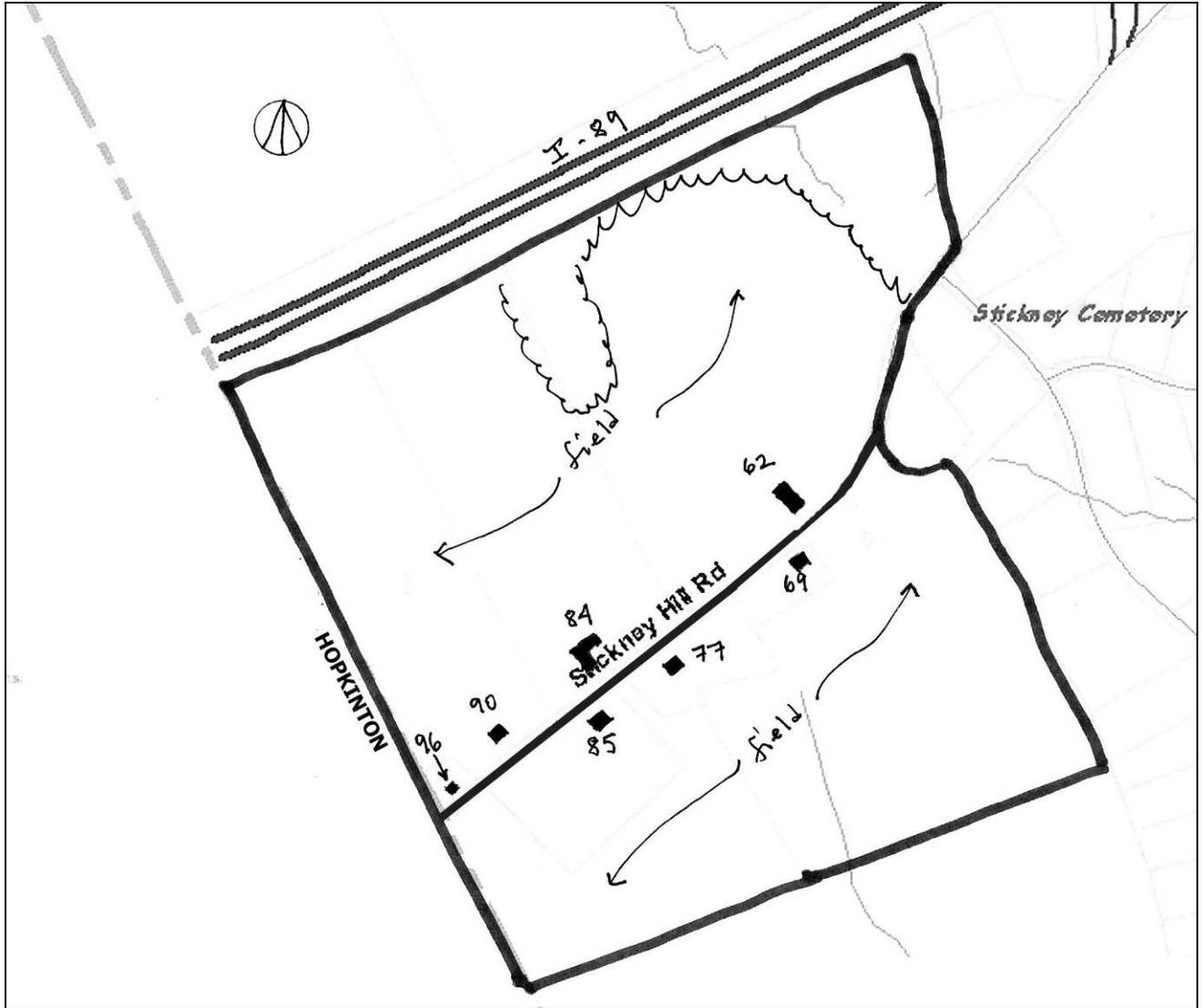
15. Location map: USGS map, not to scale



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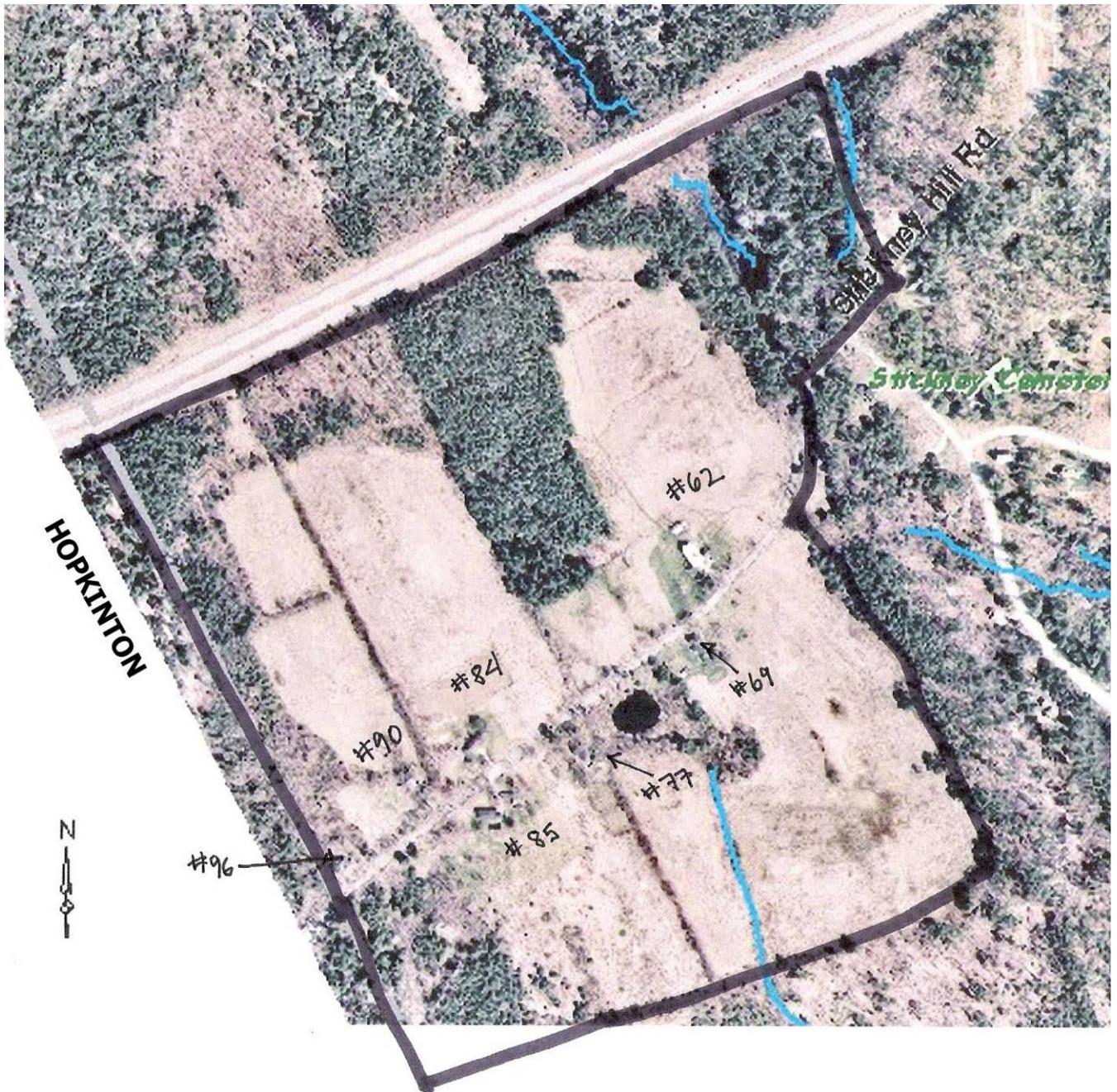
15. Sketch map



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Aerial view of Stickney Hill Agricultural Neighborhood, showing land use patterns in 2006.



**AREA FORM****AREA NAME:** STICKNEY HILL AGRICULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD**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.

**19. Historical Background**

Stickney Hill was first settled by Jonathan Stickney (1739-92), who established a farm here as a young man and erected a cabin. Stickney's parents were among Concord's first settlers. Jonathan later erected a far more substantial house, that burned years ago. (Apparently, there is a chance that the ell and barn escaped destruction and were moved to another property). Stickney fought in the Revolutionary War, earning the title Lieutenant. His son, Jonathan Jr. (1788-1835), erected the house at 69 Stickney Hill ca. 1810s, as well as a barn to the east. Another son, Daniel (b. 1760), erected the house at 85 Stickney Hill ca. 1790 and lived there until ca. 1831. At the time it was built, the road followed a different course, passing between the house and barn at #69 and behind #85. It was realigned in 1822.<sup>1</sup>

In 1807, Capt. John Sherburne of Portsmouth purchased part of the original Stickney farm on the north side of the road and erected a house immediately adjacent to 62 Stickney Hill.<sup>2</sup> (It is possible the ell to the latter was Sherburne's house: see CON0190.) Further north, the farm at 84 Stickney Hill was likely established in the early 19<sup>th</sup> c. (see CON0191). Maplewood Farm at 62 Stickney Hill dates from the 1850s(see CON0190), while 90 Stickney Hill Road (see CON0192).was probably established a decade later. Many of these early settlers were buried in the Stickney Cemetery on the south side of the road, now just east of Millstone Drive. The school house at 96 Stickney Hill served District #17, which was established in 1816. In 1848 District 17 merged with an adjacent school district in Hopkinton. The districts separated briefly, but we reunited in 1857.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Amsden: 17:8-9.

<sup>2</sup> Amsden: 17:8-9.

<sup>3</sup> Lyford: 1223.

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Stickney Hill remained a major dairy farming neighborhood well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The construction of Interstate 89 in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. brought major changes to the area, as it bisected much of the farmland to the north. It also cut Stickney Hill Road off from the rest of the community, as it previously continued northeasterly, crossing the Turkey River just below Little Turkey Pond. (The discontinued section of Stickney Hill Road is still used by St. Paul's School to access their boat houses.)

**20. Applicable NHDHR Historic Context(s)**

51. Mixed agriculture and the family farm, 1630-present.

56. Local-scale dairy farming, 1800-present.

105. Elementary and secondary education, 1770-present.

**21. Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation**

The Stickney Hill Agricultural Neighborhood encompasses both sides of Stickney Hill Road, from a short distance southwest of Exit 3 off I-89 to the Hopkinton town line. As it passes through the heart of the neighborhood, the road follows the high point, with extensive open fields on either side. The district includes six former or current farmhouses, many of which retain historic outbuildings and extensive acreage, fields, pasture, woods, rail fences, and stone walls. Also within the district is a former district schoolhouse. Just beyond the district, on a discontinued road that is now accessed from a late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing development (Millstone Drive), Stickney Hill Cemetery survives.

Contributing properties within area:

**62 Stickney Hill Road:** see CON0190

**69 Stickney Hill Road** (ca. 1810s): This 2 ½ story, 3x3-bay, gable-front house with wing sits on a granite block foundation and is clad with clapboards. A single brick chimney rises from the ridge of the main block; a more recent chimney is on the gable end of the wing. Sash is 6/6.

According to Amsden, the house was built by Jonathan Stickney, Jr. (1788-1835), son and fourteenth of sixteen children of the first settler in this farming neighborhood. When it was built, the road followed a more southerly course, running between the house and barn. (Since the road was re-routed to its present alignment in 1822, the house was standing by then.)<sup>4</sup> However, given its form, it is highly possible that the existing wing dates from 1810s and the main block is later. A thorough physical investigation would answer that. The original barn—or at least a portion of it—was moved across the road in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> c. and appended to the north end of the barn at 62 Stickney Hill. (An interior inspection of that barn would yield more detailed data.) None of its historic outbuildings survive, and its original accompanying acreage was purchased in the 1920-40s by the Bunten family.

In 1858 this farm was owned by R. Hill. By 1892, it had passed to Mrs. J. Dow.

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<sup>4</sup> Amsden: 17:7-8.

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69 Stickney Hill Road, photographed mid-20th century from *Amsden, A Capital for New Hampshire, Chapter 17, opposite page 8*.

**77 Stickney Hill Road** (ca. late 18<sup>th</sup> c.): This is a 2½ story, 5x2-bay, twin chimney house on a granite block foundation. Local tradition dates it in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, but it was clearly renovated in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. with a Greek Revival entrance, corner boards and cornice returns. An historic photograph shows a late-19<sup>th</sup> c. one-story porch across the front. None of its historic outbuildings survive, and its original accompanying acreage was purchased in the 1920-40s by the Bunten family.

In 1858 this farm was owned by B. Green or Mrs. C. Goodwin. By 1892 it had passed to S. Scotese.



77 Stickney Hill Road, photographed mid-20th century from *Amsden, A Capital for New Hampshire, Chapter 17, opposite page 8*.

**84 Stickney Hill Road:** see CON0191

**85 Stickney Hill Road** (ca. 1790): This 2 ½ story, twin chimney house sits on a granite block foundation. Later wings have been added to either side of the main block, although the west wing occupies the site of an earlier shed. The existing barn was erected in 2003, replacing a barn dating from ca. 1939. (The original barn was destroyed in the 1938 hurricane.) The ca. 1939 milk house, however, is extant, though much renovated on the interior. The extensive acreage that accompanied the house was retained by the previous owner and remains wooded.<sup>5</sup>

Daniel Stickney (b. 1762), brother of original settler Jonathan, is thought to have built this house. At that time, the road was aligned further south, passing by the south side of the house. In 1831, the Goodwin family purchased it, apparently in a still unfinished state.<sup>6</sup>

In 1858 this farm was owned by J. Carlton or Mrs. C. Goodwin. By 1892 it had passed to J. Goodwin.

<sup>5</sup> Historic photographs; Ferns family interview.

<sup>6</sup> *Amsden*: 17:8.

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85 Stickney Hill Road, *Courtesy Carol Ferns.*



85 Stickney Hill Road, *Courtesy Carol Ferns.*



85 Stickney Hill Road, photographed mid-20th century, *from Amsden, A Capital for New Hampshire, Chapter 17, opposite page 8.*

**90 Stickney Hill Road:** see CON0192

**96 Stickney Hill Road** (mid-19<sup>th</sup> c.): This is one of several former district schoolhouses that survive in Concord. It is a 1½ story, three-bay side structure that faces gable-front to the road.

The Stickney Hill area school district was established in 1816. Construction of this building, one of a number of district schoolhouses erected in Concord in the 1850s, likely coincided with the district's unification with a neighboring Hopkinton school district in 1857. Its lot was likely carved from the surrounding farm that soon became 90 Stickney Hill Rd. It was identified as a school house on the 1858 and 1892 maps.

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**24. Statement of Integrity**

The Stickney Hill Agricultural Neighborhood, with its late 18<sup>th</sup> – mid-19<sup>th</sup> farmhouses and accompanying agricultural outbuildings, as well as expansive agricultural landscape consisting of fields, pasture, woodlands, wood rail fences, and stone walls, retains an exceptionally high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling and association.

**27. 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.

**Interviews**

Carol Ferns. 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.

Photographs in Carol Ferns’ collection.

**28. Surveyor’s Evaluation**

|                     |                                     |                  |                          |                |                          |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| NR listed: district | <input type="checkbox"/>            | NR eligible:     |                          | NR Criteria: A | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| individuals         |                                     | district         | <input type="checkbox"/> | B              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| within district     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | not eligible     | <input type="checkbox"/> | C              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Integrity: yes      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | more info needed | <input type="checkbox"/> | D              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| no                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                  |                          | E              | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If this Area Form is for a Historic District: # of contributing resources: 7  
 # of noncontributing resources: 0

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Date of photograph: Fall 2008

Negative stored at: NHDHR



Photo 1 description: 69 Stickney Hill Road  
Roll: 6 Frame: 19 Direction: W



Photo 2 description: 77 Stickney Hill Rd.  
Roll: 6 Frame: 20 Direction: SW

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Photo 3 description: 85 Stickney Hill Road  
Roll: 6 Frame: 21 Direction: S



Photo 4 description: 85 Stickney Hill Road, showing ca. 1939 milk house attached to 2003 barn  
Roll: 6 Frame: 22 Direction: SW

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Photo 5 description: 96 Stickney Hill Road (district schoolhouse)

Roll: 7 Frame: 5 Direction: N