

INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

NHDHR INVENTORY NUMBER: CON0175

Name, Location, Ownership

1. Historic name: Ezra Ballard Farm
2. District or area: n/a
3. Street and number: 174 Little Pond Rd.
4. City or town: Concord
5. County: Merrimack
6. Current owner: Kathryn S. Hok

Function or Use

7. Current use(s): residential
8. Historic use(s): residential/agricultural

Architectural Information

9. Style/type: Federal/Greek Revival
10. Architect/builder: Unknown
11. Source: _____
12. Construction date: ca. 1840s
13. Source: Research, ext. visual analysis
14. Alterations, with dates: see attached
15. Moved? no ☒ yes ☐ date: _____

Exterior Features

16. Foundation: granite block
17. Cladding: clapboard & brick (gable ends)
18. Roof material: asphalt shingles
19. Chimney material: brick
20. Type of roof: gable
21. Chimney location: twin chimneys: ridge
22. Number of stories: 2½
23. Entry location: center
24. Windows: 6/6

Replacement? no ☒ yes ☐ date: _____

Site Features

25. Setting: semi-rural
26. Outbuildings: see attached
27. Landscape features: see attached
28. Acreage: 30.6 acres
29. Tax map/parcel: 100-4-11

**Description:** View of farmstead

35. Photo #1
36. Date Fall 2008
37. Roll #7 Frame #8 Direction: NW
38. Negative stored at: NHDHR

30 UTM reference: 19.290040 / 4787700

31. USGS quadrangle and scale: Concord, 1:24000

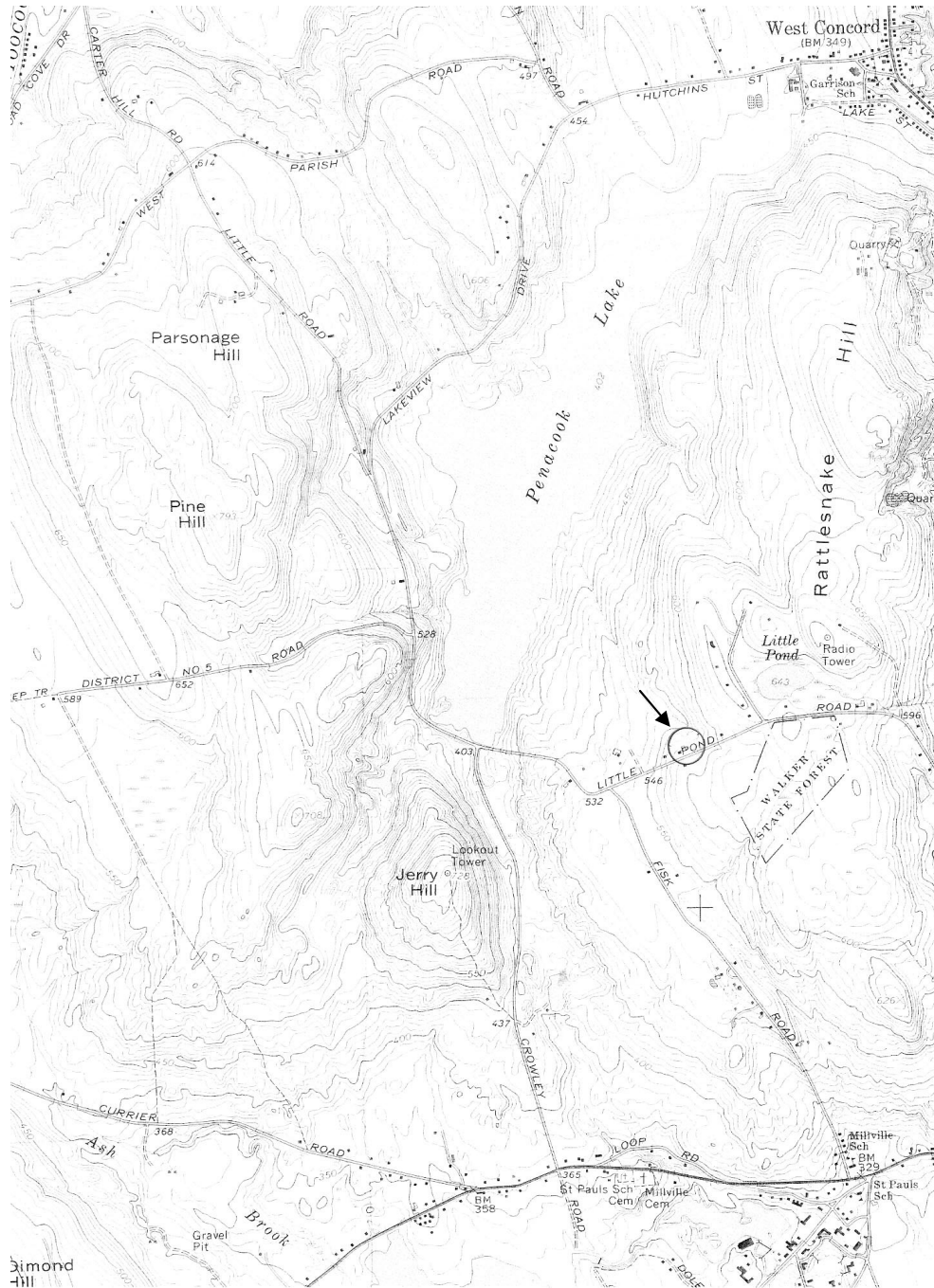
Form prepared by

32. Name: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultant
33. Organization: for Concord Heritage Commission
34. Date of survey: Fall 2008

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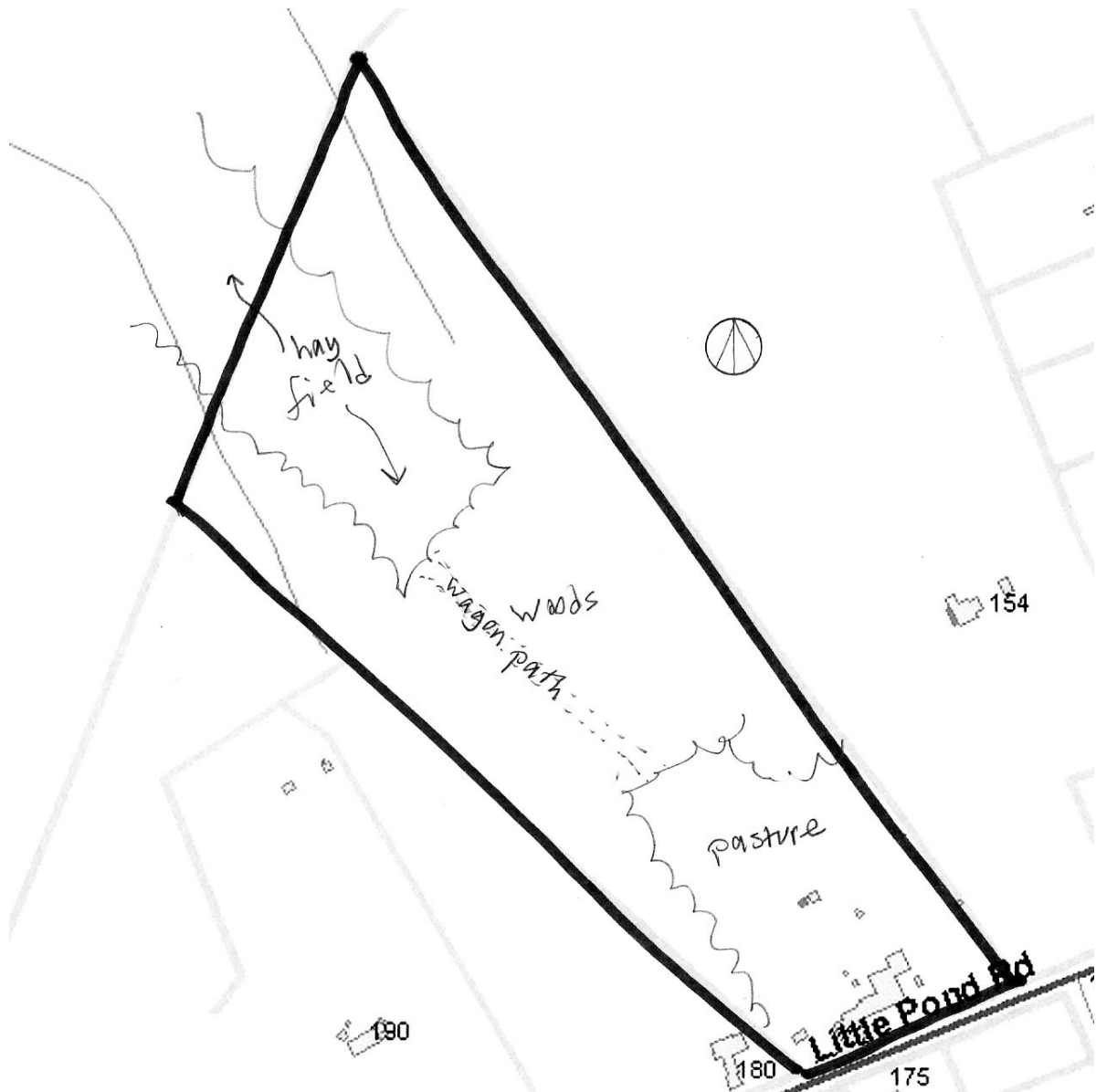
39. LOCATION MAP: USGS map, not to scale



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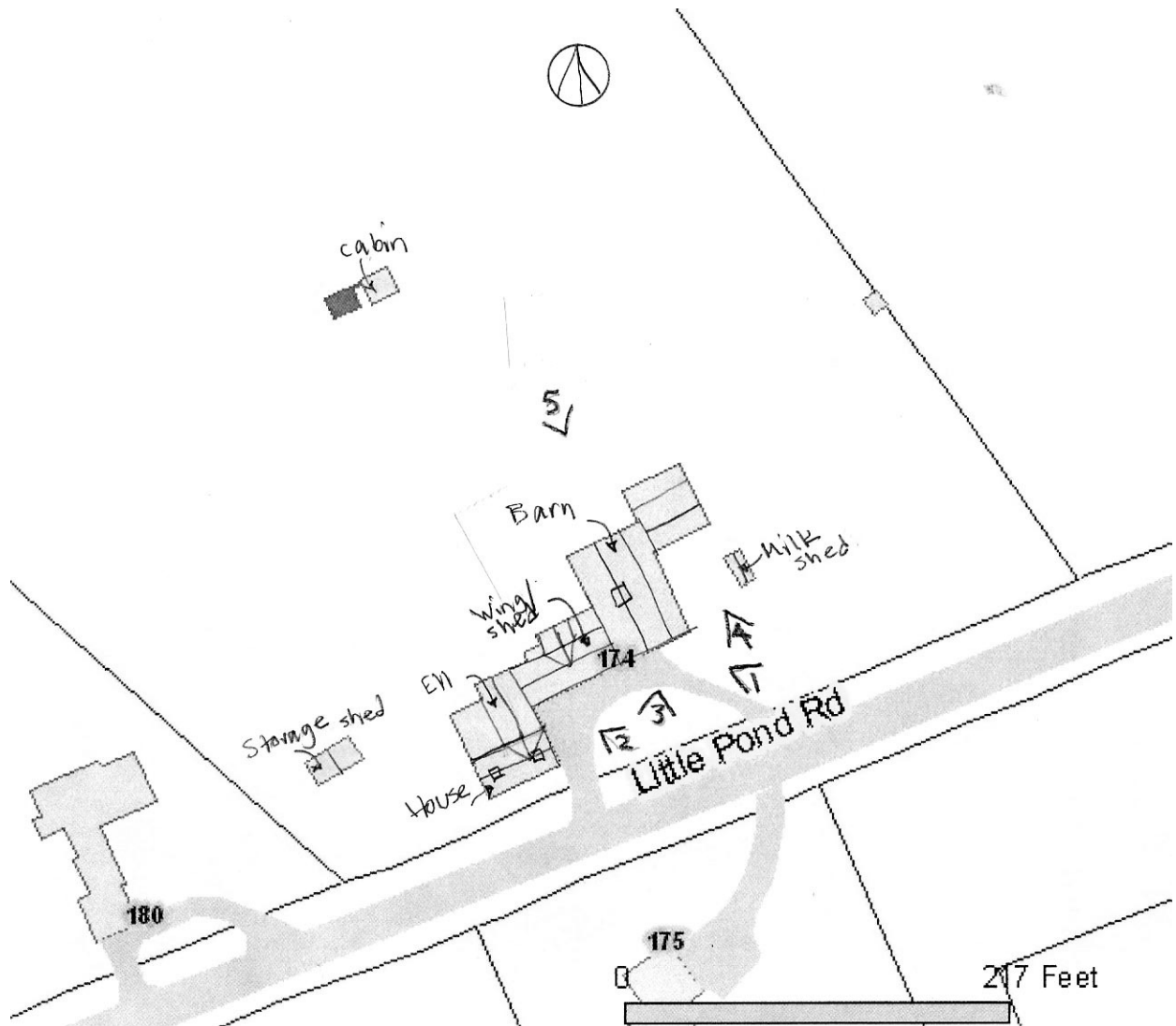
40. PROPERTY MAP:



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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 established by Ezra Ballard (b. 1802), probably in the 1840s. It was one of a handful of farms owned by that family along Little Pond Road. Ezra's grandfather, Nathan Sr., was the original settler of this land. Ezra's brother, John, resided on the farm at 156 Little Pond Road. The house remained in the Ballard throughout the 19th century, passing to L. Ballard by 1892. By that time, a school stood across the street from the house, serving a cluster of some half-dozen farmstead neighbors. (It is possible that the blacksmith shop on this farm served a community function.)¹

In 1914, then-owner George Watkins sold the farm. The property continued in farming use through at least the early 20th century, likely as a dairy farm. The current owner and her deceased husband purchased the property in 1964 and maintained small-scale farming operations here until recently.

¹ 1858 & 1892 maps; Amsden, Chapter 24, pp. 28-30.

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174 Little Pond Road photographed mid-20th century. *From Amsden, A Capital for New Hampshire, Chapter 24, opposite page 30.*

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 property consists of a connected farmstead (house with ell, lengthy wing/shed and barn with addition) sited laterally to the road. Other outbuildings include a 19th c. milk shed, mid-20th shed and mid-20th cabin. A hen house once stood behind the house, in an area now occupied by a vegetable garden and fruit trees. Pasture extends north of the buildings, beyond which is a hayfield, separated from the pasture by woods.

House (ca. 1840s): The house is a 2 ½ story, side-gable building sided with clapboards on the front and rear walls and brick on the two gable ends. It rests on a granite block foundation and has an asphalt-shingle roof. The cornice is boxed and features returns; a wood band hints at pedimented gable ends. Twin brick chimneys rise from the ridge, near the end walls. Much of the original 6/6 sash is extant. The facade is obscured by a late 20th c., shed-roof sunporch. The front entry door, sidelights and pilasters reflect ca. 1860s modifications, and the fanlight appears to be a reproduction. Projecting to the rear is a two-story frame ell whose roof appears to have been raised. A chimney projects from the ridge. Other mid-late 20th c. alterations to the house and ell include a screen porch and an addition in the NW juncture.

A lengthy wing/shed (ca. 1840s-50s) with historic fenestration and vertical-board doors extends east of the house, connecting to the barn.

Barn (ca. 1850-60s): The connected barn faces gable-end to the road. It has a timber frame. White-washed walls within the east bays indicate cows occupied that area, while horse stalls were on the west. The barn retains its hay fork. Walls are clad with clapboards on the south (front) and east sides, and vertical boards on the rear and west. The roof is covered with channeled metal and features a square ventilator with arched, louvered openings and weathervane. A mix of new and old windows provide light, as does the transom window over each of the exterior, rolling doors. Access to the lower level is via a ramp at the rear. A tractor shed, which extends the length of the east wall, was initially an overhang; sometime after 1964 it was enclosed. The frame of an addition off the northeast corner, now a workshop, may be contemporaneous with the barn, according to the owner. In 1964, it lacked a south

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wall and had two horse stalls. It was fully enclosed in the 1990s to create shop for woodwork and the repair of farm equipment and buildings.

Milk shed (ca. late 19th c./ca. 1930s): Situated at the east end of the small barnyard, the milk shed was built in two sections. The older portion is the southern end and has post and beam framing, suggesting a 19th c. date. The north end appears ca. 1930s. Weathered clapboards and a corrugated metal roof cover the structure.

Storage shed (mid-20th c./post-1964): This structure was also built in two sections: the east end dates from the mid-20th century, but incorporates a Federal four-panel door and mid-19th c. sash. It may have functioned as a playhouse. The west end is post-1964 and serves as a garden shed.

Cabin (ca. 1920-30s): This structure stood on nearby Jerry Hill and was relocated here post-1964 for a bunkhouse.

46. Statement of Integrity:

The Ezra Ballard Farm, with its mid-19th c. connected farm buildings, milk shed and surrounding agricultural landscape consisting of fields, pasture, woodlands 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.

City of Concord Directories, 1812 -1970.

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

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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Photo 2 description: Farmhouse & rear ell
Roll: 7 Frame: 7 Direction: NW



Photo 3 description: Front (south) elevation of barn and east end of attached shed
Roll: 4 Frame: 8 Direction: NE

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Photo 4 description: From left: tractor shed on east wall of barn, barn east addition & milk shed
Roll: 4 Frame: 10 Direction: N



Photo 5 description: Rear (north) & west elevations of barn and rear of shed (east end)
Roll: 4 Frame: 12 Direction: S