

LAMPREY BLACKSMITH SHOP

(Gossville Garage)

Dover Road, south side, 0.05 miles east  
of Goboro Road

Epsom

Merrimack County

New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-232-A

HABS  
NH  
7-EP50,  
2A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

Northeast Region

Philadelphia Support Office

207 U.S. Custom House

200 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LAMPREY BLACKSMITH SHOP  
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HABS No. NH-232-A

Location: Dover Road, south side, 0.05 miles east of Goboro Road  
Epsom, Merrimack County, New Hampshire

Quad: Gossville  
UTM: 19.309410.4788265

Significance: The Lamprey Blacksmith Shop (Gossville Garage) was significant in the context of transportation on a major travel route through the town of Epsom for over a century. However it no longer contributes to the historic district due the loss of integrity incurred when it was converted to apartments in the 1960's.

Description: The Lamprey Blacksmith Shop (Gossville Garage) was built c.1895, and converted to apartments in the 1960's. It is attached to the west end of the garage of the Lamprey House (HABS No. NH-232). Currently, it is a 1 1/2 story, 6 bay long, four unit apartment building with a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The long facade is symmetrical. It has two lobby entries sheltered by metal awnings and flanked by half-length sidelights dating from the 1960's conversion. Each of the four sections consists of a single small 6/6 window and a pair of larger windows with 8/8 sash. The building is supported by a stone foundation and is sheathed in wide clapboards. The basement level of the building is exposed along the rear (south) elevation. Earlier windows with 2/2 and 6/6 sash remain on this elevation. Two porches project from the south elevation at ground level supported on story-high metal posts from the basement level.

Historical photographs show the original appearance of the blacksmith shop and the later garage, which are now contained within the existing apartment building. The Abel Lamprey blacksmith shop and Gossville Carriage Company makes up the eastern four bays of the apartments. It was a 1 1/2 story, 5 X 2 bay, detached wood frame structure oriented laterally to the highway. It was sheathed in clapboards on the lower story and the gable ends were covered with plain board sheathing. The eaves projected slightly, but did not return. The asymmetrical facade had three windows with 6/6 sash and two side-rolling doors. A corbelled brick stove chimney was centered on the ridge. As the Gossville Garage was established in the 1920's, the blacksmith shop was enlarged. It was connected to the house on the east by a one story, one bay garage. The rear pitch of the roof was extended slightly to create a saltbox shaped building. A two bay, shed-roofed garage was constructed off the west elevation. Larger garage doors were installed on the facade of the original building. When the building was converted to apartment in the 1960's, it was thoroughly consolidated by changing roof lines and fenestration to the present symmetrical regularity. Little evidence of the blacksmith shop or garage is visible on the front of the building today. Older siding and windows remain on the rear (south) elevation. The interior of the basement level (lower floor) is all that documents the earliest era of construction. Two separate structures merged at the basement level to form one large room. The individual buildings are

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evidenced by the variation in support framing.

History:

No building appears in this location on the 1892 map. Abel B. Lamprey (born c.1864) built a house and blacksmith shop here c.1895. He operated a blacksmith shop and the Gossville Carriage Company here until the early 1920's (Anonymous 1898; Anonymous 1920). The shop is contained within the existing apartment building. Lamprey's wife Annie and her father, carpenter Moses Sanborn, lived here with him (Bureau of the Census 1900).

During the 1920's, Charles N. Huckins moved into this house with his wife Doris. He worked for a time as a clerk in the nearby store of Silver and Hall. He pursued a hobby of fixing motorcycles in the old blacksmith shop near his house. As automobile travel replaced horse-drawn vehicles during the late 1920's, Huckins converted the blacksmith shop to Gossville Garage. The garage grew rapidly to include an automobile dealership and service station (Rutherford 1991). The old blacksmith shop was enlarged to the current length by 1928 (Photograph collection of the Epsom Historical Association). Huckins also bought the large barn across the road and operated a filling station there. During the 1930's, Charles Huckins began to sell kerosene. In the mid-1930's, he established the Huckins Oil Company near the railroad depot.

Charles Huckins operated the Gossville Garage until 1958 when he moved elsewhere in Epsom. Doris Huckins ran the business here a few years longer. She remained living here while establishing a new service station in Pittsfield. She converted the Gossville Garage building to apartments and operated them until her death in the early 1990's (Rutherford 1991).

The building is presently owned by the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation, and is currently vacant. As stipulated in the project Memorandum of Agreement, following the building's recordation, it will be demolished.

Sources:

Anonymous

1898 Concord and Merrimack County Directory. Boston: Union Publishing Company.

Anonymous

1909 The Town Register: Epsom, Canterbury, Loudon, Deerfield, Northwood, Chichester. Augusta, Maine: The Mitchell-Cony Company.

Anonymous

1920 Concord and Merrimack County Directory. Boston: Union Publishing Company.

Bureau of the Census

1900 "Population Census." Microfilm Collection of the New Hampshire State Library, Concord, N.H.

**Maps**

Hurd, D.H. & Co.

1892 Town and County Atlas of the State of New Hampshire. Boston: D.H.  
Hurd & Company.

**Photographs**

Collection of the Epsom Historical Association, Epsom Public Library.

**Interview**

Thomas Huckins, son of Charles and Doris, June 27, 1995.

Ivan Rutherford, Huckins Oil employee, May 21, 1991.

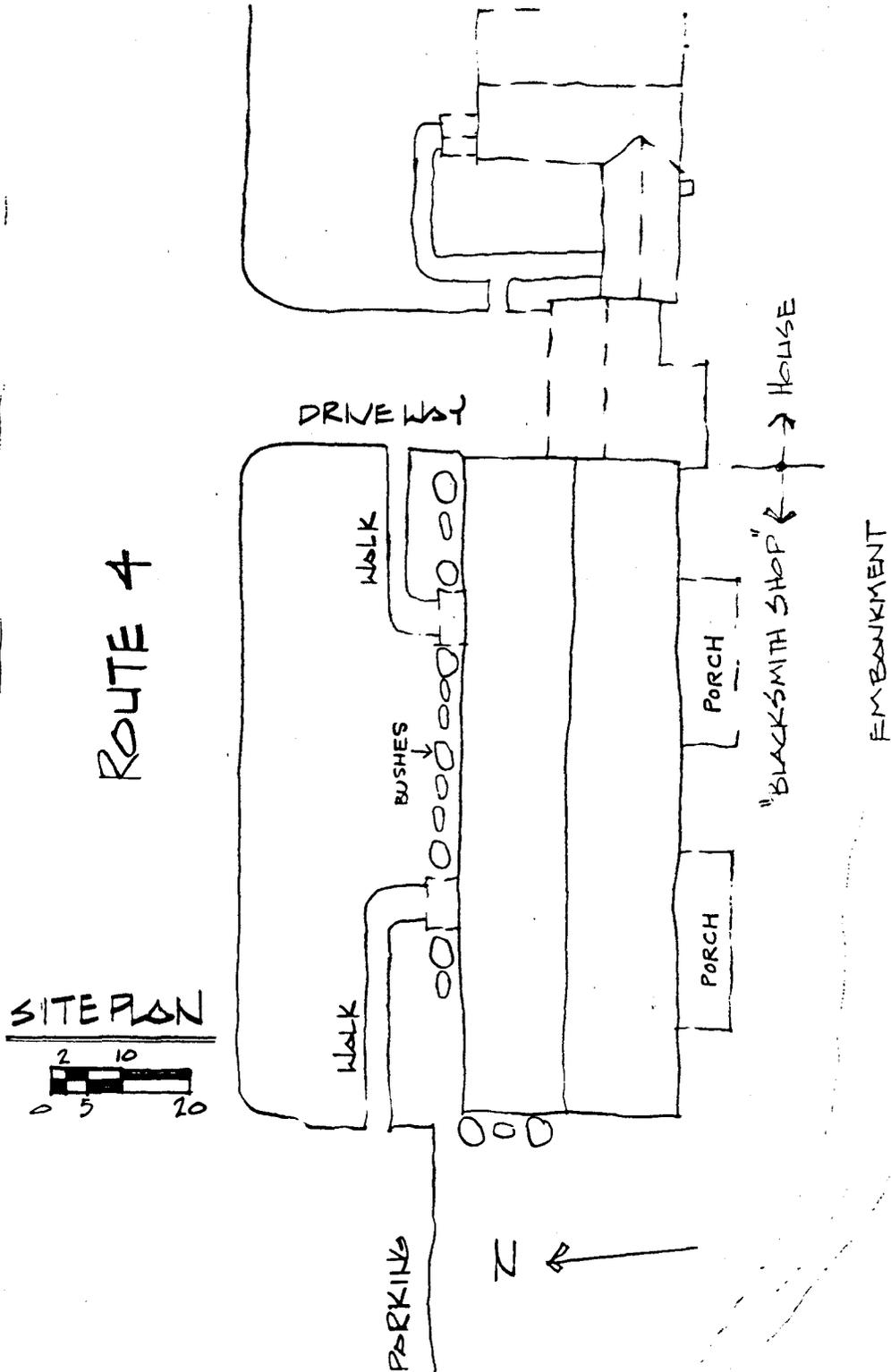
Historian:

Prepared by Lynne Emerson Monroe, Preservation Company, 5 Hobbs Road,  
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Transportation, Concord, New Hampshire.

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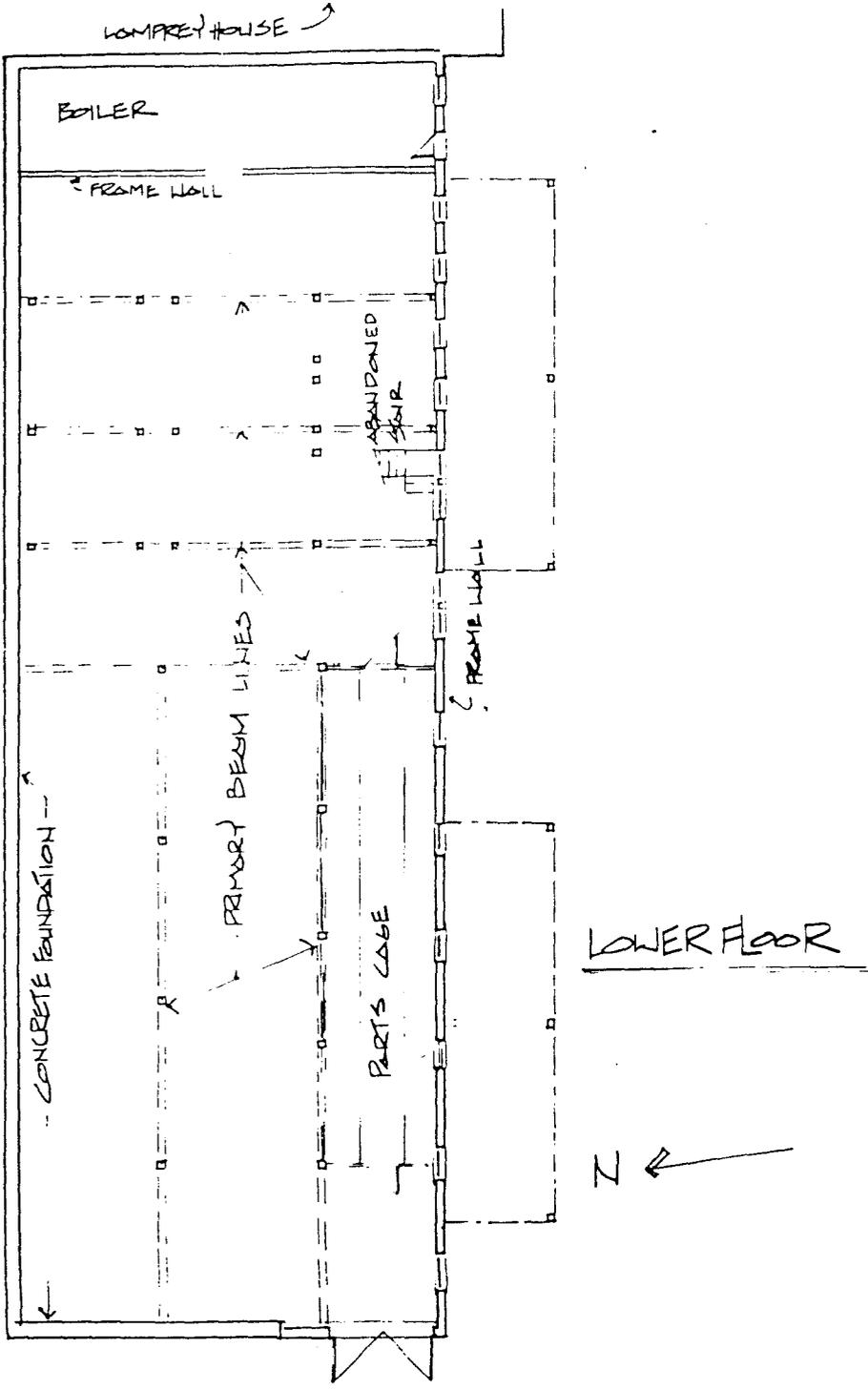
SITE PLAN - Lamprey Blacksmith Shop (Gossville Garage)

Drawn by : Robin Wunderlich, Lee, NH



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LOWER FLOOR PLAN - Lamprey Blacksmith Shop (Gossville Garage)  
Drawn by : Robin Wunderlich, Lee, NH



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FIRST FLOOR PLAN - Lamprey Blacksmith Shop (Gossville Garage)  
Drawn by : Robin Wunderlich, Lee, NH

