

BATCHELDER-EDGERLY FARMSTEAD, BARN
US Route 4, southwest side, southeast ^{corner} of NH Route 43
Northwood
Rockingham County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-237-A

HABS
NH
8-NORT,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Location: US Route 4, southwest side, southeast corner of NH Route 43, Northwood, Rockingham County, New Hampshire

USGS Northwood N.H. Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 19.325380.4784300

Significance: The Batchelder-Edgerly Farmstead Barn is a good, intact example of a 19th century "New England barn," displaying the framing and design techniques characteristic of the type. It is located across the road from the 18th century farmhouse with which it is associated, and the house and barn contribute to the local significance of the East Northwood Historic District.

Description: The exact construction date of this barn has not been identified, but physical evidence suggests a c.1850 date. Post-dating the large 2½ story, center chimney house, built c.1778, the 2½ story structure stands southeast of the intersection of US Route 4 and NH Route 43. It is oriented northeast with its gable end to the main road. The locations of the original barn and other historic outbuildings have not been identified.

The barn framing consists of six bents. The straight-sawn structural members are standard 8" X 8" size (popular after 1840, Hubka 1984:56) connected with mortise and tenon joints; the roof system consists of major rafters and minor purlins. The barn has no basement and the foundation of the structure is not visible due to settling. The walls are sheathed in wide vertical boards, with horizontal boards in the gable ends. The lower portions of the walls were re-sided with narrower vertical boards. The low-pitched gable roof is sheathed in corrugated metal. The eaves are close-cropped, with no returns or other ornamentation.

The "drive-through" plan is characteristic of the New England barn although the rear door has been filled in, its shape is indicated by the framing and slight hood. The front door is slightly off-center on the gable end with a 13-pane transom light above, the barn's only architectural refinement (popular after 1860, Hubka 1984:58). It contains double doors of tongue in groove diagonal boards that roll to each side on an interior track, probably replacing hinged doors. Both gables have double-hung windows with 9/6 sash and two small windows with six-pane sash light the stalls on the southeast side. There are two four-foot doors on this elevation offering access to a former stable yard.

The form of three unequal bays with a drive floor slightly off-center, a wider haymow bay on the northwest side, and a stable or cow tie-up area along the warmer southeast side is typical of the New England barn type in the first half of the 19th century. (The bay system became more standardized in the second half of the 19th century, Hubka 1984:56). The stable area is enclosed with horizontal board walls. Stalls are opened by doors that are hinged on the bottom. The southeast bay has wooden cow stanchions and a box stall. Two additional doors are cut into the east wall.

The barn is presently located on a corner lot of about one acre. To the rear (southwest), separated by a subdivided parcel, is a long, narrow 31.17-acre lot which extends along Route 43 to a brook. Historically, the farm also included land to the northwest now occupied by Route 43 and the Chesley Library beyond. The extent and location of the remaining land has not been identified.

History: The Batchelder-Edgerly Farmstead was settled by Abraham and Abigail Batchelder c.1774. He followed his older brothers John and Increase Batchelder who came to East Northwood from Hampton, New Hampshire in 1763 and settled west of the present US Route 4 and Route 202 intersection (Bailey 1992:8; Cogswell 1878:630-631). Abraham Batchelder's land was part of lot number 3 in the eighth range, and included land on both sides of the road which soon became the First New Hampshire Turnpike. Abraham and Abigail Batchelder, married in 1773, built a small

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house, and soon enlarged it for their ten children. She died in 1802 and Abraham was married again two years later to Hannah Caldwell (Bailey 1992:14; Cogswell 1878:630-631). Abraham Batchelder Jr. (born 1780) lived with his father and stepmother. He married his cousin Mary Batchelder in 1810 and they had several daughters and a son prior to her death in 1827. In 1829 he married widow Betsey Hoitt (Cogswell 1878:631). Abraham Batchelder deeded the farm to his son prior to his death in 1833 and his widow remained on the farm until her death in 1849 (Cogswell 1878:630-631).

Most of Abraham Batchelder Jr.'s children moved away, but his only son Joel Batchelder (born 1812) received the eastern part of the homestead and built a house there c.1848 (Bailey 1992:36). Abraham retained eighty acres of land and Joel received sixty acres (Bureau of the Census 1860). Abraham's daughter Abigail (or Hattie) married Daniel S. Edgerly in 1840. They lived with her father and stepmother and helped farm the property. It was probably at this time that the existing barn was constructed to replace or supplement the original barn. As of 1850 Abraham Batchelder's livestock included a horse, four milk cows, two young cattle, a pair of oxen, six sheep and a swine. Annual crops included sixty-five bushels of corn, thirty-four bushels of oats, a hundred bushels of potatoes, and twenty tons of hay (Bureau of the Census 1850). By 1870, the year prior to Batchelder's death, Edgerly had assumed ownership of the farm (Bureau of the Census 1870). In 1880, the farm consisted of fifteen acres of tilled land, twenty-five acres of meadow and pasture, and thirty-nine acres of woodland. A modest orchard contained twenty-five apple trees. Crops included twenty tons of hay, thirty bushels of corn, a hundred of potatoes, twelve of oats and eight of wheat. Livestock stabled in the barn were a horse, two milk cows, two other cattle, and six sheep (Bureau of the Census 1880).

Daniel Edgerly died in 1892 and Abigail lived until about the turn-of-the-century (Pierce 1898:193). Their children Hollis Edgerly and his wife Laura, and Augusta and W.O. Tasker lived in Haverhill, Massachusetts. They apparently retained this property as a summer home until the 1940's. From 1948 to 1970 the house, barn and land was owned by the Harrison Hardy family (Bailey 1992:15). The present owner, Joseph Grano and his late wife Theodora acquired the property in the 1970's. The barn was recently acquired by the State of New Hampshire and will be removed for improvements to the intersection of Routes 4, 202 and 43.

Sources:

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Hurd, Hamilton D., History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, New Hampshire, J.W. Lewis Co., Philadelphia, 1882.

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Pierce, Frederick Clifton, Batchelder, Batcheller Genealogy, W.B. Conkey Company, Chicago, 1898.

Visser, Thomas Durant, Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings, University Press of New England, Hanover and London, 1997.

Historians:

Lynne Emerson Monroe and Kari Ann Laprey, Preservation Company, 5 Hobbs Road, Kensington, NH 03833, August 12, 1998

NH ROUTE 43

MS ROUTE 4

FIELD

MAPLE

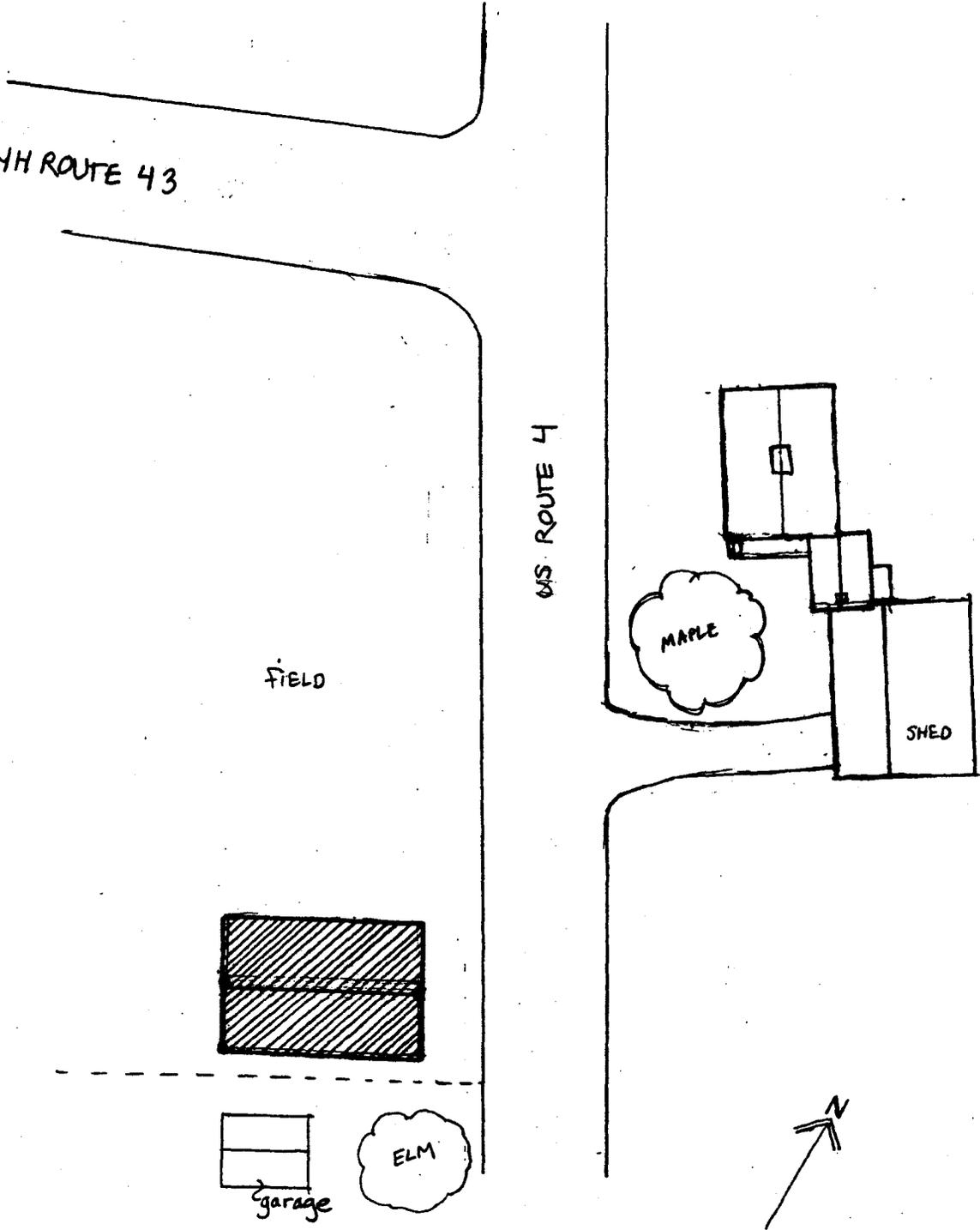
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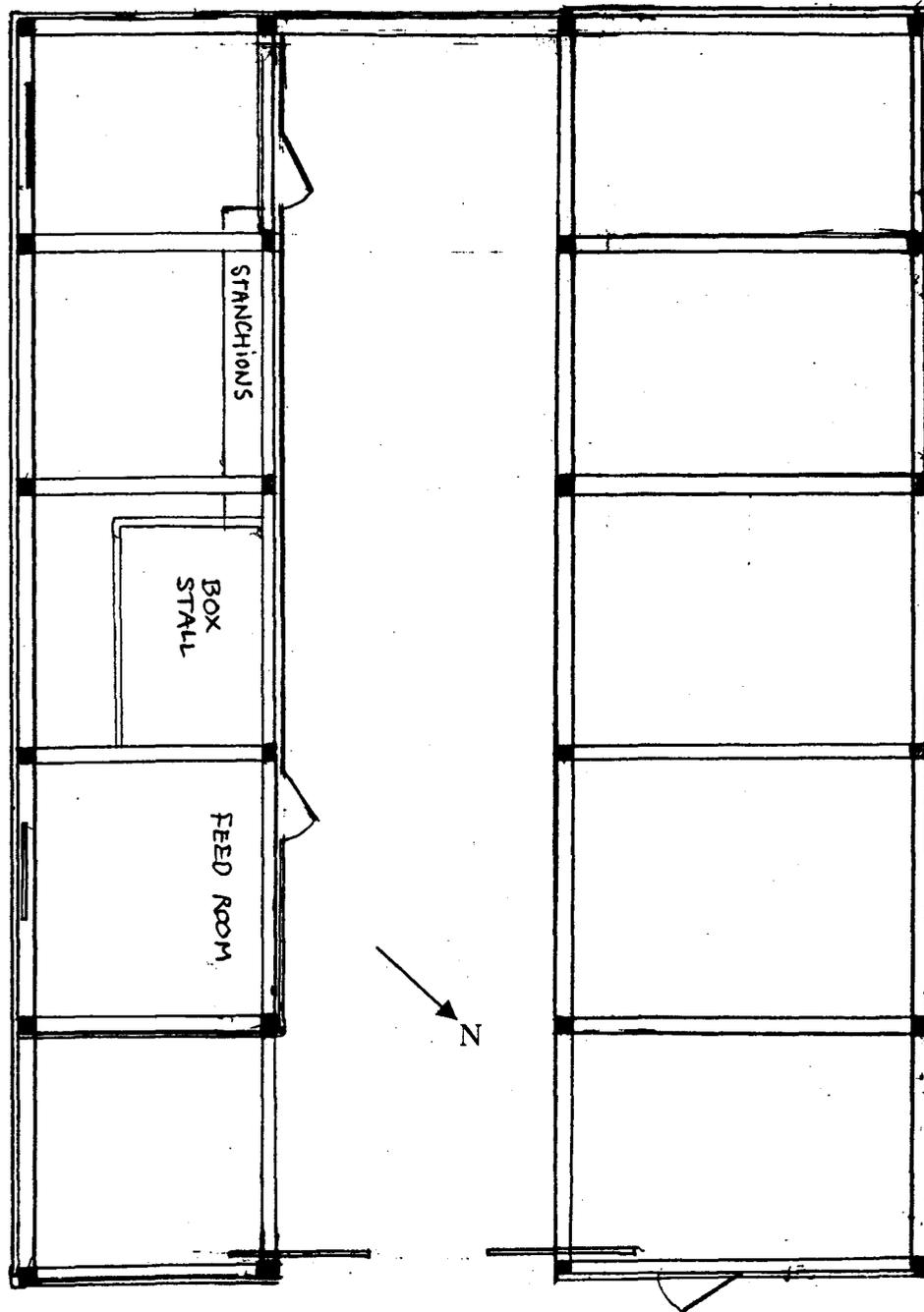
ELM

garage



SITE MAP
Scale: 1" = 40'





FLOOR PLAN
Scale: $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$