

(August 1994)

Determination of Eligibility (DOE)

Date received: December 24, 1998

Inventory #: DUR0003

Date of group review: December 30, 1998

Area: Rt 4, btwn Rt 108 and Riverview Rd., R4

DHR staff: Linda

Town/City: Durham

Property name: George P. Emerson House

County: Strafford

Address: 77 Piscataqua Road (Route 4)

Reviewed for:  R&C  PTI  NR  SR  Survey  Other  
NH DOT 12959

Individual Properties

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| NR                                  | SR  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible, also in district               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible, in district                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> More information needed                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Not evaluated for individual eligibility |

Districts

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| NR                                  | SR  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> More information needed  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> Not evaluated @ district |

Integrity:  Location  Design  Setting  Materials  Workmanship  Feeling  Association

Criteria:  A. Event  B. Person  C. Architecture/Engineering  D. Archaeology  E. Exception

Level:  Local  State  National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

IF THIS PROPERTY IS REVIEWED IN THE FUTURE, ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION WILL BE NEEDED.

Please see pages three and four of the NH DHR Inventory Form.

ENTERED INTO DATABASE

ACREAGE: 1.85

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: N/A

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: N/A

BOUNDARY: N/A

SURVEYOR: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen

FOLLOW-UP: Notify NH DOT

Final DOE approved by:

*EJC Muzzy*

NHDHR Inventory # 2 DUR0003

Code

NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES—INVENTORY FORM

Included in Area -  
County Strafford  
Town/City Durham

09C  
D14

Address 77 Piscataqua Road (Rt. 4)  
Current Owner George & Denise Thomas  
Property Name George P. Emerson House

Acreage 1.85A Sp: 1190140 232998  
Tax Map/Parcel# 11-20-1  
UTM ref. 19/345820/4777510  
USGS Quadrangle Dover West Scale 1:24,000

Use: Present single dwelling  
Original single dwelling

DSD  
DSD

Exterior Building Materials:			
Roof: asphalt	ASP	Walls: aluminum	MEA
Foundation: granite	STG	Chimney: brick	BRI
# of Stories: 1-1/2		Roof Shape: gable	
Chimney Location: ridge & ell end wall		Entry Location: sidehall	
Sash Type: 6/6		Plan Configuration: rectangular with wing	

Major Alterations (with dates):  
entrance, new wing, siding, loss of rear appendages

Condition: good

Outbuildings: garage

Setting: semi-rural res'l; major artery

Architect/Builder: unknown

Source:

Orig. Construction Date: ca. 1860

Source: see attached

Multiple building campaigns (see reverse)

Style/Form: gable-front sidehall

Moved: no

Date:

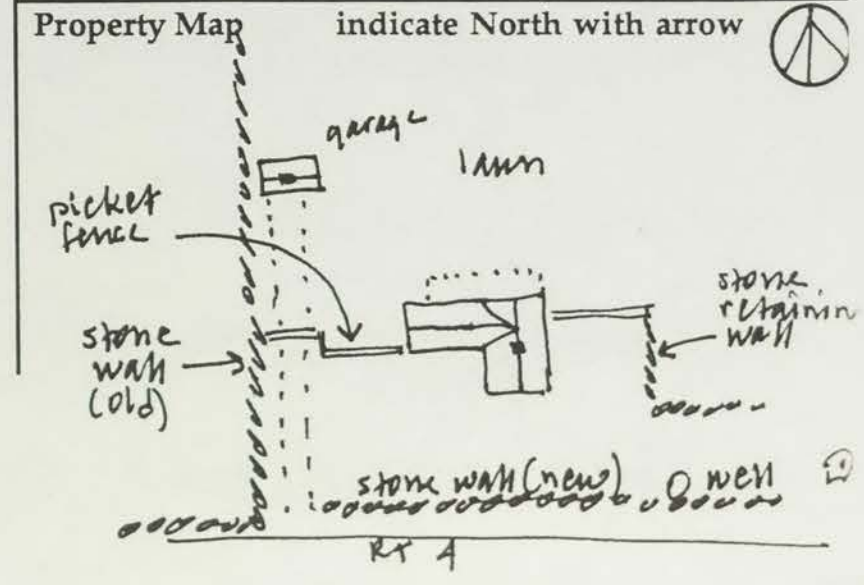
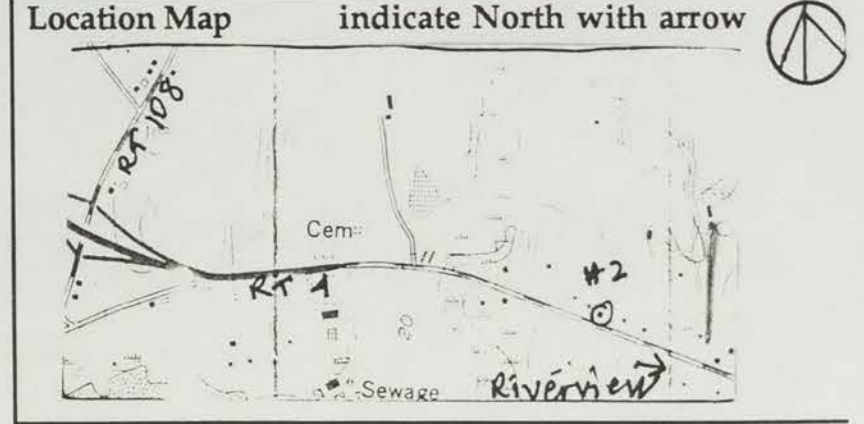
Surveyor: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen

Recorded by:

Date of field survey: October 1998



Photographer facing: NW  
Photograph date: October 1998  
roll# 1 frame# 15  
Negative stored at: NHDOT



**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND COMPARATIVE EVALUATION:**

The George Emerson House is situated on the north side of Route 4, east of its intersection with Route 108. The 1.85-acre lot includes a house and detached garage. Largely open, the lot's frontage is defined by a new, low, dry-laid stone wall along the road and older walls along the west and north edges. The deep rear yard has scattered mature trees. East of the house is a hand-dug well covered by a granite cap, curved at one corner, and set flush in the ground. (The well shows up in a 1933 NHDOT plan.) Behind it is a ca. 1920s low stone retaining wall that likely framed a small garden.

The house reflects a variety of alterations over the years. The main, front-gable block is three bays wide, with a sidehall plan. It rests on a granite foundation and terminates in an asphalt-clad roof. A single brick stove chimney is set into the ridge, and a skylight punctures the east slope. Walls are covered with aluminum siding; window surrounds and a molded cornice are the only surviving historic trim. Windows have non-historic 6/6 sash flanked by metal blinds. A pair of casement sash with diamond-shaped panes is found on the east elevation. The front entrance features a modern "Colonial-type" surround which frames a mid-20th century type door. Projecting to the west of the main block is a two-story ell constructed ca. 1970. It sits on a concrete foundation, has a shallow-pitched gable roof, an exterior chimney against the west wall, and bay windows on the front and rear walls. Extending across the rear of the main block and most of the wing is a one-story, low hip-roof screen porch.

The garage is set back from and west of the house. It appears to date from the mid-20th century, rests on a stone foundation, and is covered with clapboards on the front wall and weathered shingles on the remaining three. A pair of hinged doors with clipped upper corners provide access to the vehicle bay, located on the right end of the structure. A small storage area is appended to the west end of the garage.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND and role in Town's/City's development:**

Late twentieth century alterations to the house make it difficult to determine a likely construction date for this dwelling, though its gable-front form would suggest it dates from ca. 1855-80. Whether the building shown in this approximate location on the 1856 map is the existing structure (owned by E & R Bunker) is unknown, and no deed recorded prior to 1924 could be found at the Registry. Both the 1871 and 1892 maps indicate the property was then owned by John Place Emerson. Emerson married Mary Bunker in 1860 and it plausible they constructed the house about that

time.<sup>1</sup> The property was known as the George P. Emerson Farm as late as 1924, when Angela Garvey, likely Emerson's daughter, sold the 46-acre parcel to William Kerr.<sup>2</sup> Various notices of tax sales after that time suggest that Kerr was in financially difficult straits; in 1927 the property passed to Dennis McDonough, though Kerr is still listed in town directories as a farmer on this road. In 1936 the town took the property for back taxes.<sup>3</sup>

In 1933 the buildings consisted of the main block, a small rear shed, and a large attached barn that extended north and west of the house.<sup>4</sup> The west lot line coincides with the present-day line, but the property extended east nearly as far as Bunker Creek. not laid out until the late 1960s).

Circa 1940 the property, by then about 79 acres, was purchased by F. Lear and Helen Mundy who resided here over 25 years. They sold a small lot east of the house to Arthur Rollins in 1948, but retained most of the remaining land. In 1967 they conveyed the property to their son, Raymond Mundy, who developed the farmland into houselots. He sold the house, with 1.85 acres, to the current owners in 1973. Under their ownership, the barn was removed.<sup>5</sup>

#### NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

A: The George Emerson House is not eligible for the National Register under criterion A. Though once representative of local agricultural activity, an important historical context, the loss of related outbuildings and agricultural land make it ineligible under this criterion.

B: The George Emerson House is not eligible for the National Register under criterion B. Its owners are not known to have played a highly significant role within the community or a particular professional area.

<sup>1</sup> Stackpole, 1913: II:36, 186. Emerson's wife was the daughter of Ephriam Bunker, likely the same E. Bunker shown on the 1856 map as owner of a house on this approximate location. Whether the house was erected by Bunker or the Emerson couple is unknown. Another Bunker house stood further east, just before Bunker Creek. The Emersons' daughter, Lovey, married into the Jones family and were residing in the Jonathan Chesley garrison in 1913.

<sup>2</sup> Book 410/294. George P. Emerson was the brother of John. His wife's name, Angie O'Hara, suggests that Angela Garvey was either their daughter or Angie O'Hara, remarried. Thus, it appears the property remained in the Emerson family until 1924. Garvey also owned land on the opposite side of the road, between Inv. #3 and Johnson Creek, in 1933.

<sup>3</sup> Book 423/487, 424/109, 425/67. Though the deeds and a town property map show Dennis McDonough as the owner in the 1930s, a NHDOT plan dated 1933 shows Kerr as the owner and directories seem to corroborate that.

<sup>4</sup> 1933 NHDOT plan.

<sup>5</sup> Helen Mundy interview.

NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL  
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C: The George Emerson House is not eligible for the National Register under criterion C. Its various alterations within the past forty years, including replacement sash, synthetic siding, loss of historic trim, renovated front entrance, new wing, and removal of rear appendages, have substantially affected its architectural integrity and ability to convey an architectural style or building form.

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

n/a

**STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY:**

The George Emerson House retains only integrity of location. Its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association have been lost through a variety of alterations to the buildings and major changes to the historic agricultural landscape.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:**

Durham Historic Association, *Durham, New Hampshire, A History, 1900-1985*.  
Canaan: Phoenix Publishing, 1985.

Durham Historical Society photograph files.

*Manning's Dover, etc. Directory*, 1924-41.

New Hampshire Historical Society photograph files.

Stackpole, Everett S. et. al., *History of the Town of Durham, New Hampshire (Oyster River Plantation)*. Concord: Rumford Press, 1913, two volumes. Reprinted by New Hampshire Publishing Company, Somersworth, 1973.

Strafford County Plan files.

Strafford County Registry of Deeds and Probate.

**Maps, Atlases & Plans**

1856 Map of Durham. From J. Chace Jr.'s *Map of Strafford County*. Philadelphia: Smith & Bartlett.

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1871 Map of Durham. From Sanford & Evert's *Atlas of Strafford County*.

1871 *Map of Strafford County*. Published by Sanford & Evert.

1892 Map of Durham. From D.H. Hurd & Co.'s *Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*.

1931 Property Map of Durham. Collection of New Hampshire Historical Society.

1933 Route 4 Plan. NHDOT Project # NRS 249 (Roll #189).

1964 Route 4 Plan. NHDOT Project # F-012-2(4) (Roll #9-H).

**Interviews**

Helen Mundy, former owner (ca. 1940-1967)

**APPLICABLE HISTORIC CONTEXT(S) with code:**

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

**Surveyor's Evaluation:**

NR listed: <input type="checkbox"/> individual	NR criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A	NR eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> individual
<input type="checkbox"/> within district	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/> within district
	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not eligible
Integrity: <input type="checkbox"/> yes	<input type="checkbox"/> D	<input type="checkbox"/> more info needed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no		

SHPO office - Reviewed for Determination of Eligibility (date): \_\_\_\_\_



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF  
HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
PHOTO SHEET

Inv # 2 *DUR0003*

Area: -

Town: Durham

Sheet 1 of 1

Date of Photographs: 10/98

Negs stored at: NHDOT

PHOTO # 1

Subject: East elevation

Photographer facing: NW

Roll-frame#: 1-16

PHOTO # 2

Subject: Rear & west elevation

Photographer facing: SE

Roll-frame #: 1-18



PHOTO # 3

Subject: Garage

Photographer facing: NW

Roll-frame#: 1-17