



NHDHR Inventory # <sup>DUR0008</sup> 5 JUL 22 1999

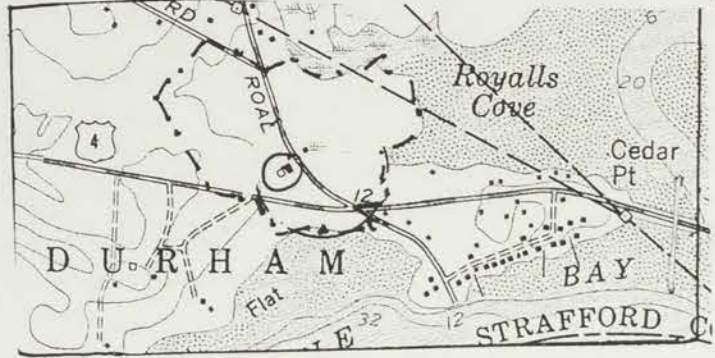
NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES—INVENTORY FORM

Included in Area - County Strafford Town/City Durham	Code 09C D14
Address 1 Back River Road Current Owner Gerald & Dorothy Smith Property Name Odiorne Farm	
Acreage 21A (3 lots) <i>Sp: 1198860 230925</i> Tax Map/Parcel# 12-3-2 (hslot), 12-3-1, 12-3-3 UTM ref. 19/348400/4776720 USGS Quadrangle Dover East Scale 1:24,000	
Use: Present single dwelling Original single dwelling	DSD DSD
Exterior Building Materials:	
Roof: asphalt Walls: clapboard	ASP WWB
Foundation: brick Chimney: brick	BRI BRI
# of Stories: 2-1/2 Roof Shape: gable	
Chimney Location: off-center Entry Location: center	
Sash Type: 2/2 Plan Configuration: rectangular	
Major Alterations (with dates): chimney & rear shed rebuilt; W. addition (see rev.)	
Condition: good	
Outbuildings: attached barn, equipment shed	
Setting: semi-rural; adj. to Rt. 4 & Little Bay	
Architect/Builder: unknown	
Source:	
Orig. Construction Date: ca. 1810	
Source: visual analysis; research	
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple building campaigns (see reverse)	
Style/Form: Greek Revival entrance	
Moved: no	
Date:	
Surveyor: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen	
Recorded by:	
Date of field survey: July 1999	



Photographer facing: W  
 Photograph date: July 1999  
 roll# 1 frame# 3  
 Negative stored at: NHDOT

Location Map indicate North with arrow

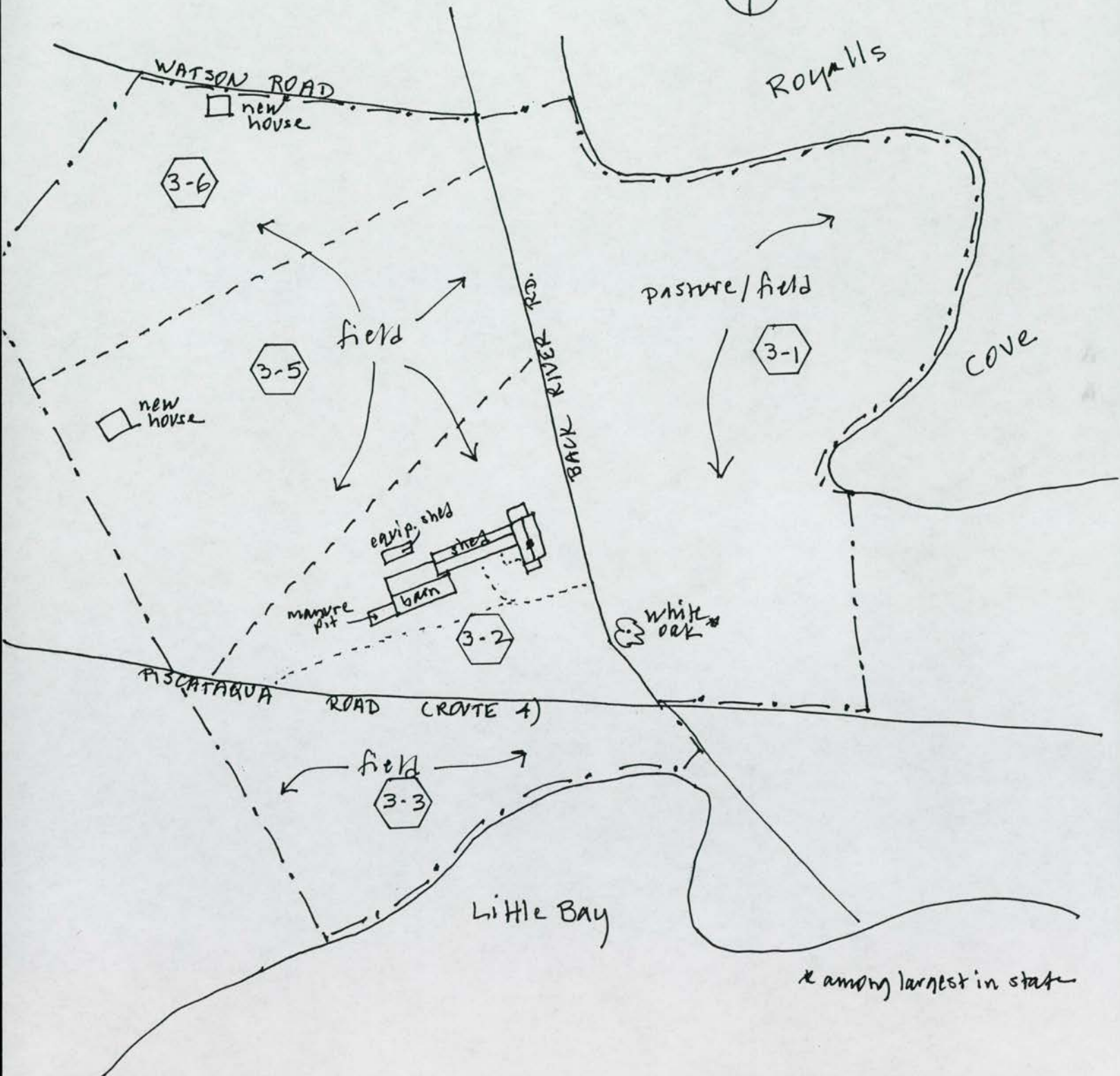


Property Map indicate North with arrow

*See next sheet*



PROPERTY SKETCH MAP



**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND COMPARATIVE EVALUATION:**

Odiorne Farm is situated at the northwest intersection of Piscataqua Road (Route 4) and Back River Road in an area of early farms mixed with mid and late twentieth century residences. Directly across Route 4 is Little Bay which provides views from the farmhouse. The property includes three separate lots: a 4.69 acre lot (3-2 on tax map no. 12) on which the house is located; a 3.68-acre field (3-3) on the opposite side of Route 4 and fronting on Little Bay; and a 12.7-acre pasture (3-1) directly across Back River Road. The two parcels just north of the house lot (3-5 and 3-6), which together comprise 25-1/2 acres, were subdivided by the current owners within the past fifteen years for their children. Each has a house on it, though the hay field along Back River Road has been maintained.

The property includes a main house, rear shed, attached barn and manure pit, and freestanding equipment shed. The land around the buildings is open. The Back River Road frontage is marked with short, new, wooden posts which continue on both sides of the drive.

The main house is a 2-1/2 story, wood frame, side-gable, 5 x 2 bay, center entrance building on a brick foundation. Probably built ca. 1810, it exhibits a Greek Revival entrance and both Federal and Greek Revival interior features. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles; a rebuilt brick chimney is situated off center on the ridge line. (An historic photograph taken ca. 1900 shows a stove brick, which probably replaced a larger center chimney.) The molded roof cornice returns at the gable ends. The house is covered with clapboards and trimmed with narrow cornerboards and frieze board. Windows have 2/2 sash and flat trim with molded outer edges. The focal point of the facade (east elevation) is the front entrance which exhibits Greek Revival details in the classical entablature and partial sidelights and transom with a double row of lights. The recessed, molded-panel door appears somewhat later. A one-story, flat roof addition built in 1964 projects from the north elevation. It sits on a poured concrete foundation and has window openings and sash that are similar to those on the main house. Above it are two windows on the second story and a single window in the gable peak. The south elevation also has a one-story, flat-roof addition; smaller and earlier than that on the north elevation, it rests on a brick foundation, has 2/2-sash windows on the two side walls, and a modern bay window on the south side. This addition shows on historic photographs taken ca. 1900. The rear of the house is largely obscured by the shed, but windows of varying sizes and age appear on each story. Interior features include Greek Revival doors, casings and fireplaces; the northeast (parlor) room, which has exposed corner posts, is trimmed with Federal details, including a molded dentil cornice.

A lengthy 1-1/2 story shed on a poured concrete foundation extends from the rear (west) elevation. Walls are covered with clapboards, and the roof with asphalt shingles; rafters tails are exposed on both sides. On the south side there are two gabled dormers; one has paired eight-light windows and the other is blocked in. The three vehicular openings have vertical boarded doors; closer to the main house a shed-roof screen porch is tucked into the corner created by the juncture with the main house. The rear (north) elevation of the shed has sparsely spaced windows with 2/2 sash. (The ca. 1900 photographs show a two-part shed of differing height; the rear section was a wagon shed and the front section more of an ell. The existing shed reflects ca. 1930 renovations when it was rebuilt for chickens.<sup>1</sup>)

The shed is attached to (though no longer connects to from within) a gable-front, post and beam barn on a concrete block foundation with vertical board siding on the east, north, and west elevations, and clapboards on the south. The roof, whose slope extends further on the south side, is covered with corrugated metal. The two gable ends are similar in appearance, with a slight gable overhang, single rolling door with a multi-light transom above, and two 6/6-sash windows in the peak. (The vertical siding and rolling doors were installed within the past thirty years, but the historic photographs show the gable overhang.) The south wall has a doorway in the center, flanked by two sets of transom windows with double rows of lights. (The historic photograph shows double hinged doors on the gable ends and no transom windows on the south wall.) Within the barn, cows occupied the south side of the barn and horses the north in the early twentieth century. Attached to the southwest corner of the barn is a one-story, gable-roof manure pit with clapboard siding, asphalt roof, poured concrete base and a rolling door on the south wall; the manure pit was constructed prior to 1933.

A wood frame equipment shed with a metal shed roof stands just north of the barn.

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

The land on which Odiorne Farm is located is associated with "Franklin City." Franklin City was a planned city situated at Fox Point and intended to be a shipping port, strategically situated on the riverbank, near the newly constructed Piscataqua Bridge (which led to the state's only seaport) and at the starting point of the projected First New Hampshire Turnpike. Investors from Dover, Portsmouth and Durham underwrote the venture, and the community was platted in 1796. For various reasons, the project never took off, however; the embargo imposed by the War of 1812 apparently secured its demise.

<sup>1</sup> Smith interview.

By 1819 and likely earlier, James and Mary Folsom were living here. James Folsom (ca. 1747 -1819) was an innkeeper who reportedly kept tavern in this strategically sited house on the First New Hampshire Turnpike and at the terminus of the bridge.<sup>2</sup>

In 1825, his widow Mary sold the property, which then consisted of thirty-five acres, to Theophilus Dam Odiorne, in whose family it remained until 1955.<sup>3</sup> Since the deed makes no reference of the homestead functioning as a tavern, it seems likely that after James Folsom's death the property was solely in farming use.

Odiorne was the great-great-grandson of Jotham Odiorne (ca. 1675-1748), a prosperous Portsmouth merchant and extensive landholder and whose father was the original settler at Odiorne Point in Rye.<sup>4</sup> Theophilus Odiorne (ca. 1790-1835) farmed here until his death; his widow, Sarah Gordon, remained here until her death eleven years later. The farm passed to their eldest child, John Hanson Odiorne (1821-1866) who, with his wife Nancy Meserve (1822-?), resided here his entire life. In 1850, their farm, valued at \$ 2,000, consisted of sixty-seven acres, placing it in the lower third in terms of size and value within Durham.<sup>5</sup>

In 1870, Nancy Odiorne (by then Nancy Frost) owned the property together with several of the Odiorne children (Isabel and Mary); the agricultural census of that decade shows a modest change to the farm: acreage decreased to fifty-four acres and the valuation increased to \$ 3,000. She and her children passed the farm, described as a homestead farm of forty acres with additional pasture across Back River Road and a small field across the turnpike road to David Watson of Malden in 1873. The family burial lot was excluded from the sale.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> It seems unlikely that the Folsom's house was part of the planned community; only one or two houses were ever built, and research papers in the collection of the Durham Historic Association suggest that only one house with origins in Franklin City (not this one) survives. Though the Odiorne family genealogy (p. 94) suggests that Folsom's tavern was within that city, none of the early deed references for the property reference it as a former tavern, nor refer to a plan or lot number that references Franklin City. Furthermore, the "Plan of the City of Franklin" sets aside a public lot for a tavern further east of this spot and closer to the bridge. (See Garvin and Garvin, 1988: 16) James Folsom does appear in Durham's first census (1790), but the whereabouts of his residence at that time would require additional research. [Stackpole, 1913: 1:373, 391, 395].

<sup>3</sup> It is likely Theophilus D. Odiorne was related to the Folsoms: he was the executor of Mary Folsom's estate, and his eldest daughter was named Mary Folsom. Thus, the property was probably associated with the Odiorne family for over 140 years.

<sup>4</sup> Odiorne, 1967; Strafford County Registry of Deeds, Book 103/385 (1819), 122/324 (1825).

<sup>5</sup> United States Agricultural Census, 1850. The property then, as now, included the pasture land immediately across Back River Road and the hay field across Route 4, abutting Little Bay.

<sup>6</sup> Book 254/263, 264 (1873).

Watson was the husband of Elizabeth Ann Odiorne (1826-?), daughter of Theophilus and aunt to Isabel and Mary. According to the Odiorne genealogy, Watson lost his type-foundry business in one of the major Boston fires.<sup>7</sup> The farm, still approximately fifty-six acres, descended to their son, David Wilder Watson, and his wife, Hettie Soule, and later (by 1933) to Leon P. and Flora Watson.<sup>8</sup> Leon and Flora raised Jersey cows, and delivered milk, eggs, butter, and apples from their orchard to Dover. Their nephew, Woodward Walker, owned the property for a short period in the late 1940s; in 1955 the current owners, Gerald and Dorothy Smith, purchased the property and raised various livestock here, including beef cattle, sheep, and lambs until the mid-1980s. In recent years, they subdivided the hay field north of the house into two house lots for their children.<sup>9</sup>

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

A: Odiorne Farm is eligible for the National Register under criterion A for its long term associations with agriculture, a significant local historical context. The property retains a farmhouse with attached shed, barn, manure pit and detached equipment shed, as well as an open setting of hay fields and pasture. Though the hay field to the north is no longer part of this property, the new houses built on it are set well back from Back River Road and do not disrupt the sweeping vista from or toward the farm buildings. The eligible property would include lots 3-1, 3-2 and 3-3 on tax map 12 (totaling twenty-one acres), as well as lots 3-5 and 3-6 (another twenty-five acres), despite their subdivision from the primary parcel within the past fifteen years. The two new houses on those lots are non-contributing resources.

Within the town of Durham, there are at least three other agricultural properties that retain architectural integrity and open settings, including nearby Wagon Hill and Emery Farms on Route 4 (see attached photos), and a third property on Route 4 just west of Odiorne Farm, which includes an early cape, barn and open setting. NB: There is no potential historic district due to the extent of recent residential construction between these properties.

B: Odiorne Farm is not eligible for the National Register under criterion B: none of the families directly associated with the property are known to have played

<sup>7</sup> Though the couple owned the property in 1880, it is not included in the agricultural census of that year.

<sup>8</sup> Here, the Odiorne family genealogy and Stackpole's *History of Durham* differ. The latter states that there was only one David Watson, and that he married Hattie Soule after his first wife, Elizabeth Ann Odiorne, died. The family genealogy, which seems correct, suggests there was David, father, husband of Elizabeth, and David son, husband of Hattie. Further vital records research might clarify this discrepancy.

<sup>9</sup> Smith interview.

prominent roles in agriculture or local history.

C: Odiorne Farm is not eligible for the National Register under criterion C. Though representative of an early nineteenth century residence with Federal and Greek Revival stylistic details, it lacks sufficiently strong character-defining stylistic details to be eligible. Its significance as a connected farm building is tied more to its function and preserved agricultural setting than to its representation of that building form, particularly given the mid-twentieth century modifications to the shed and barn.

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

A: ca. 1810 - 1950 (the cut-off date represents the general 50-year threshold for National Register eligibility).

**STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY:**

Despite the recent addition on the north wall and rebuilt chimney, Odiorne Farm retains integrity of design, workmanship, location, setting, materials, association and feeling. Alterations to the shed and barn occurred during its period of agricultural activity and are directly related to it. Though the field north of the farmhouse is no longer part of the property and has two new houses on it, both are tucked well back from Back River Road, thus retaining the open field setting.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:**

Durham Historic Association, photograph and manuscript collections.

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

"Franklin City -- A Boom Town on Paper." Manuscript in collection of Durham Historic Association, 1944 (no author).

Garvin, Donna-Belle and James L., *On the Road North of Boston: New Hampshire Taverns and Turnpikes, 1700-1900*. Concord, NH: New Hampshire Historical Society, 1988.

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

New Hampshire Historical Society photograph files.



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RESOURCES - INVENTORY FORM

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NHDHR Area Letter -  
Town/City Durham  
County Strafford

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Odiorne, David Walter, *Genealogy of the Odiorne Family in America*. Ann Arbor: The Arbortown Book Co., 1967 (revised edition). (Originally compiled in 1875 by James Creighton Odiorne.)

Smith, Gerald and Dorothy, photograph collection.

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 Registry of Deeds.

United States Census, Agricultural Schedules, 1850-80.

White, M.J., "A Historical Study of Old Durham." Unpublished manuscript in State Library collection, written ca. 1903.

### Maps, Atlases & Plans

[undated] Map of Durham, drawn between 1804 and 1855. Collection of New Hampshire Historical Society. [does not show buildings beyond the center of town]

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

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

Gerald and Dorothy Smith (owners since 1955), July 1999.





NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF  
HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
PHOTO SHEET

Inv # 5 *DUR0008*

Area: -

Town: Durham

Sheet 1 of 5

Date of Photographs: July 1999

Negs stored at: NHDOT

PHOTO # 1

Subject: House facade

Photographer facing: W

Roll-frame#: 1-2

PHOTO # 2

Subject: North elevation of house,  
showing 1964 addition

Photographer facing: SW

Roll-frame #: 1-4



PHOTO # 3

Subject: East elevation of house,  
showing 19th c. addition

Photographer facing: NW

Roll-frame#: 1-12



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF  
HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
PHOTO SHEET

Inv# 5 *DUR0008*

Area: -

Town: Durham

Sheet 2 of 5

Date of Photographs: July 1999

Negs stored at: NHDOT

PHOTO # 4

Subject: Rear of house

Photographer facing: E

Roll-frame#: 1-10



PHOTO # 5

Subject: Shed (south elevation)

Photographer facing: N

Roll-frame #: 1-9



PHOTO # 6

Subject: Shed (north elevation)

Photographer facing: SE

Roll-frame#: 1-5







NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF  
HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
PHOTO SHEET

Inv# 5 *DUR0008*

Area: -

Town: Durham

Sheet 3 of 5

Date of Photographs: July 1999

Negs stored at: NHDOT

PHOTO # 7

Subject: Barn (front)

Photographer facing: NW

Roll-frame#: 1-11

PHOTO # 8

Subject: Barn (south elevation) and  
manure pit

Photographer facing: NE

Roll-frame #: 1-8



PHOTO # 9

Subject: Barn (north & west  
elevations) and equipment  
shed

Photographer facing: SE

Roll-frame#: 1-7



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF  
HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
PHOTO SHEET

Inv# 5 *DUR0008*

Area: -

Town: Durham

Sheet 4 of 5

Date of Photographs: July 1999

Negs stored at: NHDOT

PHOTO # 10

Subject: View of fields (lots 3-5 & 3-6)  
from house, showing new  
houses in background

Photographer facing: N

Roll-frame#: 1-6



PHOTO # 11

Subject: Looking across fields toward  
house and field (3-1) across  
Back River Road

Photographer facing: SE

Roll-frame #: 1-1



PHOTO # 12

Subject: Wagon Hill Farm (facade),  
Route 4, Durham (comp)

Photographer facing: S

Roll-frame#: 1-14





NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF  
HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
PHOTO SHEET

Inv # 5 *DUR0008*

Area: -

Town: Durham

Sheet 5 of 5

Date of Photographs: July 1999

Negs stored at: NHDOT

PHOTO # 13

Subject: Wagon Hill Farm (east  
elevation & barn), Route 4  
(comp)

Photographer facing: SW

Roll-frame#: 1-15

*to be submitted when unbound  
from office mess*

PHOTO # 14

Subject: Emery Farm (facade), Route 4  
(comp)

Photographer facing: N

Roll-frame #: 1-13



PHOTO #

Subject:

Photographer facing:

Roll-frame#: 1-

JUL 22 1999

1

1

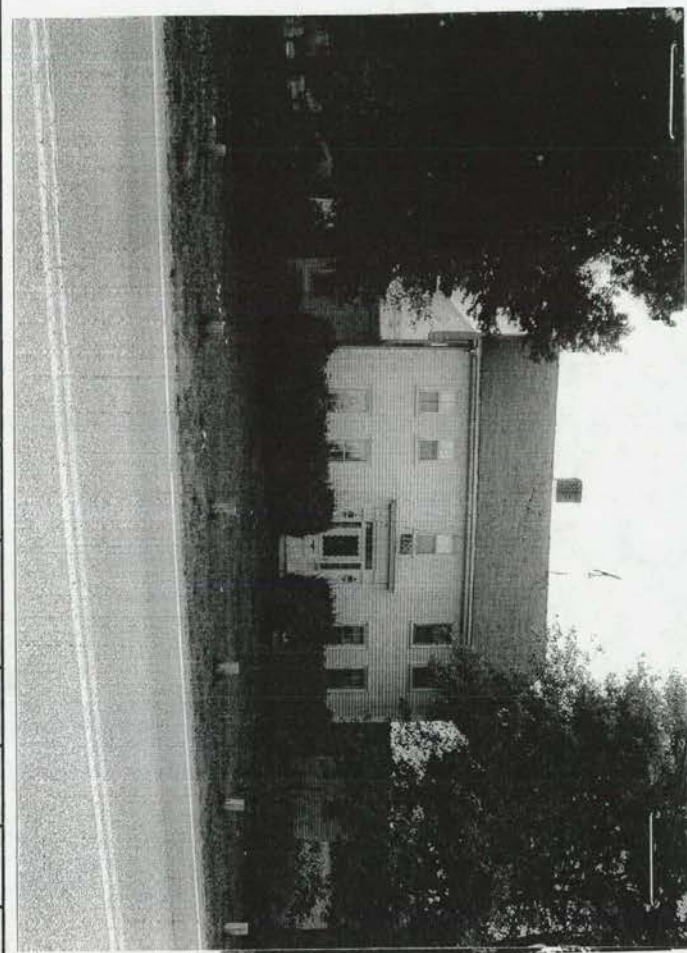
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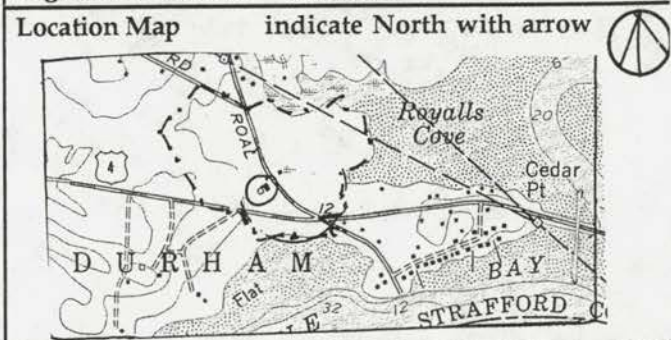
NHDHR Inventory # <sup>DUR0008</sup> 5 JUL 22 1999

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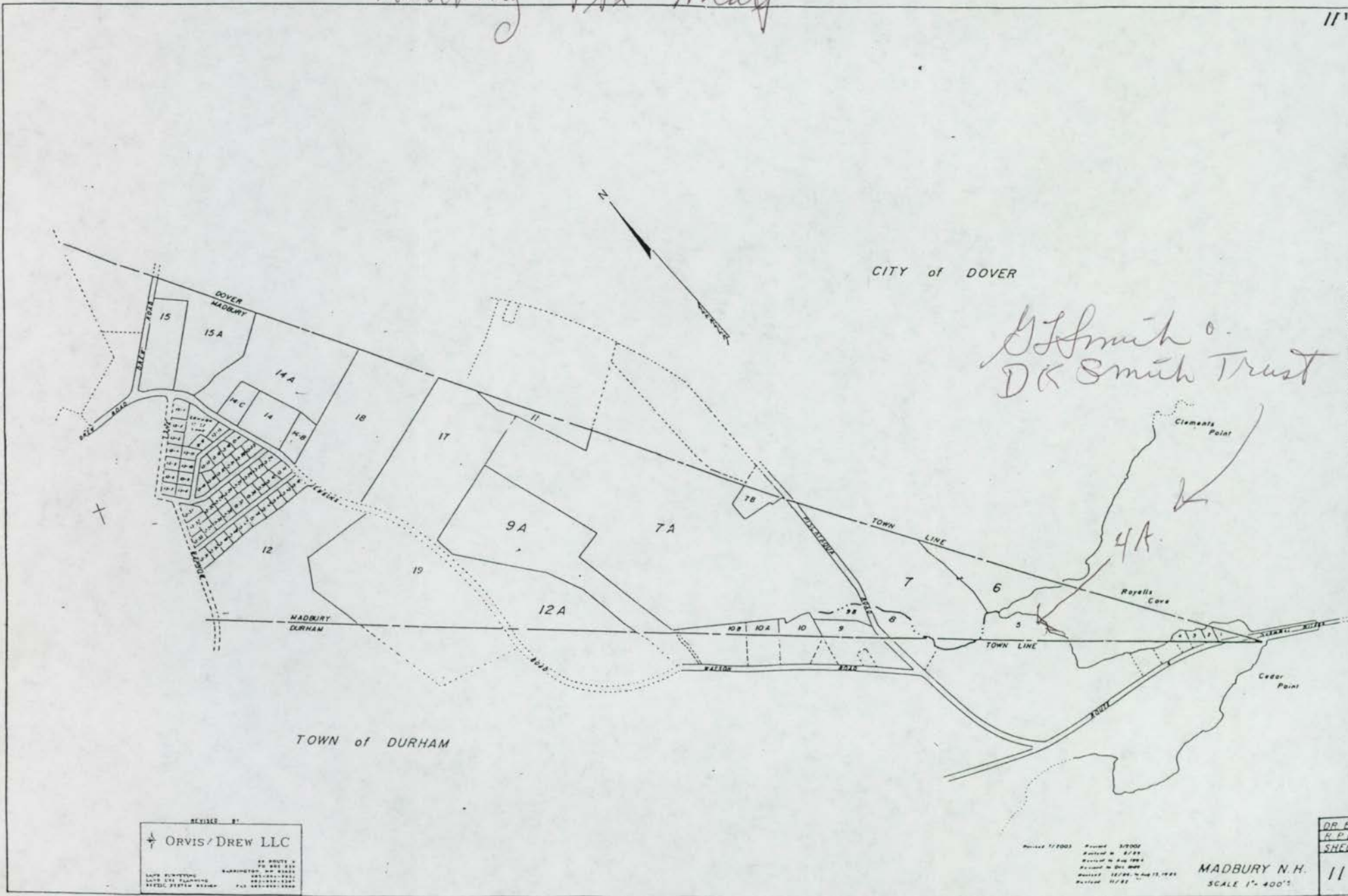
Photographer facing: W  
 Photograph date: July 1999  
 roll# 1 frame# 3  
 Negative stored at: NHDOT



Property Map indicate North with arrow

see next sheet

# Madbury Tax Map



*DK Smith Trust*

REVISED BY:  
**ORVIS/DREW LLC**  
 22 ROUTE 2  
 PO BOX 104  
 WASHINGTON, NH 03090  
 PHONE: 603-898-1000  
 FAX: 603-898-1000

Revised 12/2003  
 Revised 8/2005  
 Revised 8/2005  
 Revised 12/2005  
 Revised 12/2005  
 Revised 12/2005

MADBURY N.H.  
 SCALE 1" = 400'

DR BY  
 R.P.H.  
 SHEET