

Weekly List 20190628

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to send you the following announcements and actions on properties for the National Register of Historic Places. For further information contact Alexis Abernathy via voice (202) 354-2236, or E-mail: nr_info@nps.gov

National Register of Historic Places

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Previous Weekly Lists are available here: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/weekly-list.htm>

Please visit our homepage: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>

Check out what's Pending: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/pending-list.htm>

Prefix Codes:

SG - Single nomination

MC - Multiple cover sheet

MP – Multiple nomination (a nomination under a multiple cover sheet)

FP - Federal DOE Project

FD - Federal DOE property under the Federal DOE project

NL - NHL

BC - Boundary change (increase, decrease, or both)

MV - Move request

AD - Additional documentation

OT - All other requests (appeal, removal, delisting, direct submission)

RS – Resubmission

WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 6/24/2019 THROUGH 6/27/2019

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,

Bay Street Beach Historic District,
Roughly bounded by Pacific Ocean, Ocean Front Walk from Vicente Ter. to Crescent Bay Park, Bicknell Ave.
extending into ocean.,
Santa Monica, SG100004116,
LISTED, 6/26/2019

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
Commercial Exchange Building,
416-436 W. 8th St.,
Los Angeles, SG100004117,
LISTED, 6/26/2019

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES COUNTY,
Hunt House,
24514 Malibu Rd.,
Malibu, SG100004118,
LISTED, 6/26/2019

CONNECTICUT, MIDDLESEX COUNTY,
Shore Line Electric Railway Powerhouse,
2-20 Ferry Place,
Old Saybrook, SG100004086,
LISTED, 6/20/2019

DELAWARE, KENT COUNTY,
Downtown Harrington Historic District,
Various,
Harrington, SG100004082,
LISTED, 6/20/2019

DELAWARE, NEW CASTLE COUNTY,
Taylor's Bridge School,
121 Flemings Landing Rd.,
Townsend vicinity, SG100004079,
LISTED, 6/20/2019

DELAWARE, SUSSEX COUNTY,
Allen, Richard, School,
316 Railroad Ave.,
Georgetown, SG100004083,

LISTED, 6/20/2019

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Ethelhurst, The,
1025 Fifteenth St., NW,
Washington, MP100004123,

LISTED, 6/26/2019

(Apartment Buildings in Washington, DC, MPS)

ILLINOIS, LAKE COUNTY,
Fredrick, Louis, House,
19 W. County Line Rd.,
Barrington, RS100003649,
LISTED, 6/24/2019

IOWA, SCOTT COUNTY,
Davenport Motor Row and Industrial Historic District,
River Dr., 2nd & 3rd Sts. between Perry & Iowa Sts.,
Davenport, SG100004113,
LISTED, 6/27/2019

KENTUCKY, BOYLE COUNTY,
Barbee, Thomas, House,
204 E. Walnut St.,
Danville, SG100004121,
LISTED, 6/26/2019

KENTUCKY, FAYETTE COUNTY,
Trail's End Camp,
8030 Elk Lick Falls Rd.,
Lexington vicinity, SG100004120,
LISTED, 6/26/2019

MISSOURI, JACKSON COUNTY,
Kansas City Star Building,
1729 Grand Blvd.,
Kansas City, SG100004102,
LISTED, 6/24/2019

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS INDEPENDENT CITY,

Columbia Oil Company,
3419 Papin St.,
St. Louis, SG100004006,
LISTED, 6/3/2019

MONTANA, BLAINE COUNTY,
Cow Island Landing Skirmish Site,
Approx. 28 mi. NE of Winifred,
Winifred vicinity, SG100004103,
LISTED, 6/27/2019

NEBRASKA, CEDAR COUNTY,
Hartington Carnegie Library,
106 S. Broadway Ave.,
Hartington, MP100004137,
LISTED, 6/27/2019
(Carnegie Libraries in Nebraska MPS AD)

NEBRASKA, DOUGLAS COUNTY,
Nebraska Buick Auto Company,
1901 Howard St.,
Omaha, MP100004138,
LISTED, 6/27/2019
(Lincoln Highway in Nebraska MPS)

NEBRASKA, GARDEN COUNTY,
Oshkosh Water Tower,
103 East Ave. E.,
Oshkosh, SG100004140,
LISTED, 6/26/2019

NEBRASKA, JEFFERSON COUNTY,
Kesterson, John C., House,
907 4th St.,
Fairbury, SG100004142,
LISTED, 6/26/2019

NEVADA, CHURCHILL COUNTY,
Maine Street Historic District,
Downtown along Maine & Center Sts. & Williams Ave.,

Fallon, SG100004098,
LISTED, 6/27/2019

SOUTH DAKOTA, HUGHES COUNTY,
Pierre American Legion Cabin,
520 S. Pierre St.,
Pierre, SG100004127,
LISTED, 6/27/2019

SOUTH DAKOTA, KINGSBURY COUNTY,
Shady Lawn School No. 8,
42893 198th St.,
De Smet, MP100004125,
LISTED, 6/26/2019
(Schools in South Dakota MPS)

SOUTH DAKOTA, LINCOLN COUNTY,
Gale Buildings,
101 and 103-107 S. Main,
Canton, SG100004126,
LISTED, 6/27/2019

SOUTH DAKOTA, MINNEHAHA COUNTY,
East Site Fire Station and Branch Library,
600 E. 7th St.,
Sioux Falls, SG100004124,
LISTED, 6/26/2019

UTAH
Ranching Resources of the Robbers Roost/Under the Ledge areas within Canyonlands NP and Glen Canyon NRA
MPS,
MC100004108,
COVER DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 6/27/2019

UTAH, GARFIELD COUNTY,
Chaffin Camp Site,
Address Restricted,
Hite vicinity, MP100004110,
LISTED, 6/27/2019

(Ranching Resources of the Robbers Roost/Under the Ledge areas within Canyonlands NP and Glen Canyon

NRA MPS)

UTAH, WAYNE COUNTY,

Cowboy Rock Shelter Site,

Address Restricted,

Hanksville vicinity, MP100004109,

LISTED, 6/27/2019

(Ranching Resources of the Robbers Roost/Under the Ledge areas within Canyonlands NP and Glen Canyon NRA MPS)

VERMONT, WINDSOR COUNTY,

Goodrich Four Corners Historic District,

929-987 Union Village, 18 Pattrell & 694 Goodrich Four Corners Rds.,

Norwich, MP100004111,

LISTED, 6/26/2019

(Agricultural Resources of Vermont MPS)

WEST VIRGINIA, WOOD COUNTY,

Lane, Isaac F., House,

1399 Waverly Rd.,

Williamstown vicinity, RS100003252,

LISTED, 6/26/2019

Last updated: June 28, 2019



(www.nps.gov)
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Goodrich Four Corners Historic District

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

Agricultural Resources of Vermont

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 929-987 Union Village Road, 18 Pattrell Road and 694 Goodrich Four Corners RoadCity or town: Norwich State: Vermont County: WindsorNot For Publication Vicinity: **3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :
or Tribal Government

State or Federal agency/bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) ☐
District ☒
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| <u>8</u> | <u>5</u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u>8</u> | <u>5</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture/Agricultural Outbuilding

Agriculture/storage

Agriculture/Animal Facility

Agriculture/Agriculture field

Education/School

Domestic/Dwelling

Domestic/Secondary Structure

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture/Agricultural Outbuilding

Agriculture/storage

Agriculture/Animal Facility

Agriculture/Agriculture field

Domestic/Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Cape Cod

LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation: stone, brick

Roof: slate, asphalt shingle, metal

Walls: clapboard

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located in Vermont's Connecticut River Valley, the Goodrich Four Corners Historic District encompasses 232 acres in the town of Norwich in Windsor County, Vermont. The Goodrich Four Corners Historic District is an agricultural community located on a large rolling hillside in the geographic center of the town. Most of the resources in the historic district line Union Village Road, Goodrich Four Corners Road and Pattrell Road. The district contains a collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century farmsteads that reflect the growth and development of the area. The historic integrity and physical character of the district, with its mixture of hilly and open land, provides a vista of primarily undeveloped farmland. The natural landscape elements are complemented by cultural features such as

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farms, crossroads, tree lines, field patterns, stone walls and wooden fences. The most common building types in the district are the dwelling and associated farm-related outbuildings. The historic district has fourteen resources: four single-family homes, a one-room schoolhouse, and several outbuildings. They include a sheep barn, three dairy barns, and an automobile garage. The Root School, an excellent example of a rural schoolhouse constructed in 1937, was listed in the National Register on June 10, 2013.

The historic district retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling and association. The individual buildings hold relatively high degrees of integrity and the surrounding agricultural landscape remains intact. Subsistence and commercial farming activities have been succeeded by part-time farming and, as a result, some outbuildings have deteriorated or been removed. The Slafter Farmstead (HD #5) remains an active farm at the time of this nomination.

Narrative Description

Norwich is located on the western bank of the Connecticut River. It is bounded to the north by Thetford; to the east by the Connecticut River and Hanover, New Hampshire; to the south by the town of Hartford; and to the west by the town of Sharon. The Ompompanoosuc River flows through Norwich, draining into the Connecticut River.

The Goodrich Four Corners Historic District is centered at the "X"-shaped intersection of Goodrich Four Corners Road, Union Village Road and Pattrell Road. Union Village Road, a primary route into Norwich Village (it becomes Main Street), runs northeast-southwest. Running north-south, Goodrich Four Corners Road and Pattrell Road meet at their intersection with Union Village Road. Pattrell Road runs due north from the center of the district, and Union Village Road runs due south. The intersection is widely known and valued for its agricultural setting and historic structures. At both ends of the district, Union Village Road rises from the flat, agricultural plateau to hills overlooking the district. "Goodrich Four Corners" is popularly used as the name of the intersection and the larger surrounding area.

Being a rural, agricultural area, the historic district is sparsely settled; all the houses are spread out, and most sit on large parcels. The southern and northern ends of the historic district, where the road is steep, are generally wooded. Pattrell Road rises above the open fields and has vistas of large fields fringed with woodlands. The primary buildings have moderate to large setbacks from the street.

The oldest resource in the historic district is the c. 1786 Slafter House. The last primary historic resource to be constructed is the 1937 Root Schoolhouse. There are also four intact historic outbuildings.

Three of the houses are finely detailed, wood-frame, Federal-style houses and simpler Cape

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Cod style dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. There is one late nineteenth century Colonial Revival house and a twentieth century schoolhouse. There are also nine detached agricultural outbuildings, four of which are contributing resources. All of the wood framed historic buildings have clapboard siding, and they have multi-pane wood windows except for one house, which has vinyl replacement windows. All of the house underpinnings are granite block, except for one house that has a brick foundation. Ornamentation in the historic district is minimal and is restricted to classical type trim. The Federal style and Cape Cod type houses have cornice returns, corner boards, gable rakes, and flat-stock window and door casings. All of the historic houses have ells or wings. The four contributing outbuildings include three English barns, and one garage.

Location and Setting

It was the agricultural potential of the land that first attracted the early settlers to Norwich. The land retains much of its productivity and has supported consistent farming activities for more than 200 years. The landscape retains the patterns established by earlier farming activities, and land use evolved naturally according to the physical characteristics of the soil. This area of Norwich is the most level and was the easiest to clear, till and mow for crops. Areas that had more slope and/or rocks was suitable for grazing animals, and the rocks were removed from these fields to form stone walls. The land with a desirable species of trees remained as forestland, serving the lumbering or maple sugar industry. Collectively, the farmsteads, lot lines, road networks, and stone walls, represent the evolution of the subsistence hill farmscape and remain intact today. The land within the Goodrich Four Corners Historic District is used today much as it has been since the eighteenth century.¹

Individual Building Descriptions

1. Yeomans House, 929 Union Village Road, c. 1798, contributing building

This c. 1798 wood frame, Federal Style building is located on the northwest side of Union Village Road. Facing southeast towards the road, it has a large setback and is oriented parallel to the road. A wood fence spans the entire boundary with Union Village Road. To the front and southwest corner of the house are deciduous trees. To the northwest of the house is large mown field that ascends to the northwest. The historic woodland lot extends beyond the field.

The house is comprised of a 2½ story, main block; a 1½ story side wing; and 1½ story rear ell. The 50 x 30-foot, 5 x 3 bay, main block has a rectangular plan with a gable roof. Sitting on a brick foundation, it has a symmetrical façade, clapboard siding, and boxed eaves with a slight overhang. Centered on the front (southeast) eaves side, the main entry is flanked by two regularly spaced 12/12 windows. There are five regularly spaced 12/12 wood

¹ Llewellyn, Mary Jo, *McLaughlin Farm Historic District National Register Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1989.

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windows on the second floor of the front elevation. The gable ends contain three regularly spaced 12/12 windows on the first floor, two regularly-spaced 12/12 windows on the second floor and two 12/12 windows at the gable peak. There is an off-center entry on the first floor of the east gable end. A brick chimney rises from the front roof slope. Federal Style features include a simple frieze, cornice gable returns, and simple window trim and hoods.

The 35 x 25-foot, rectangular plan wing projects from the northeast gable end. It has a gable roof with two Gothic-peaked wall dormers on the southeast elevation. It sits on a cement foundation and has clapboard siding. At the west side of the front elevation is an entry flanked by a 12/12 wood window on each side. A shed roof porch with square posts protects the entry. The east side of the ell has two automobile bays. Two 12/12 windows are evenly spaced on each floor of the east gable end. A single 12/12 window is centered in each wall dormer peak. A one story shed roof projection abuts the northeast side of the wing. Architectural features include narrow gable rakes, and simple window trim and hoods.

A 2 x 1 bay ell projects from the rear elevation of the wing. It sits on a cement foundation and has a shallow pitched metal gable roof. There is a large 36-pane fixed window flanked with fixed 8/8 window unit on the west elevation. A slender chimney rises from the ridgeline of the roof.

1a. Barn, c. 1840, contributing building

This is a side-entry, square rule English Bank Barn. It is a 2½ story, 40 x 30-foot, post and beam frame, gable-roof barn covered with two layers of vertical board sheathing. It is located to the northeast of the main building and is situated perpendicular to the main road. It is located on a hill with the 2½ stories exposed on the south and west elevations and 1½ stories exposed on the north and east elevations. Significant historic features include the massing, stone foundation, vertical siding, and eaves-side, full-height doorway with hinged doors. Interior architectural features include dropped girts on the corners, raised girts in the drive and hewn posts with vertical sawn bracers. There are no scarf joints and the beams run the entire forty feet. There is no ridge beam and there are large hewn rafters with uniform spacing. There is an ocular window opening in the south gable end; two fixed windows on the west façade and fixed window and a sliding door with transom light on the east facade. There is a pedestrian entry on the northwest corner of the north elevation. The south gable end has first floor fixed windows and a second story entry. The lower level of the barn features exposed hemlock joists and hardwood braces. The lower level contains a manure room, three horse stalls, two cow/oxen stalls and enclosed silage room. Each stall has a feed chute descending from the main floor. Accessed from the east elevation, there is a drive in the middle of the second floor. It is flanked by a milking room on the left with a long trap door for manure, and an ox stall and hay storage room on the right. The third story, no longer extant, was used as a hay mow. The primary framing members are hand hewn

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and smaller members are vertically sawn. Later framing, such as the interior silo and expanded stables, are circular sawn. There is evidence of a silo on the north elevation and a shed roof addition on the south elevation. The second-story pedestrian door suggests that there was access to the shed addition from the interior.

The house was constructed c. 1798 most likely for Elijah Yeomans. Because of the Federal/Gothic appearance, the house was probably extensively renovated in the mid nineteenth century. This land was originally identified at Lots No. 13 and No. 14 of the 2nd Range. The original proprietor of Lot no. 14 was identified as Adoniram Grant of Tolland, Connecticut. In 1779, Grant sold the lot to Elijah Yeomans.

Elijah Yeomans was one of the first settlers. He was a clockmaker, goldsmith and silversmith from Tolland, Connecticut. In 1797, he leased this land from the "selectman and school committee in Norwich."² Upon his death, he passed some of his Norwich holdings to his son. One of the lots belonged to his wife, Amy Delano who died in Norwich in the 1790s.

In 1791, Elijah Yeomans transferred the rights of Lot No. 14 to his son, Elijah Yeomans Jr. Elijah Jr. was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He was a member of Captain Timothy Bush's Company under Colonel Peter Olcott, which participated in the Royalton raid in 1780. He died in Norwich in 1824.

The adjoining lot was Lot No. 13 of the 2nd range and it was for the "School Right."³ In 1798, the Town of Norwich Selectman and School Committee divided the 13th lot and leased the two portions to Elijah Yeomans and John Slafter. Both lessees agreed to "occupy and improve said grantee" and "make no unnecessary or unreasonable waste but cutting or destroying timber nor shall any timber taken from said premises be sold."⁴ The lease was for 999 years and if Slafter or Yeomans or their heirs did not pay the seventy-five cents annual rent, the selectman could "at anytime reenter upon said granted premises and take possession thereof."⁵ The lease did not include a half acre lot reserved for the schoolhouse.

By 1818, Elijah Yeomans combined his ownership of Lots 13 and 14, 2nd Range when he sold "parts of No. 13 and No. 14 in the second range" to Joseph Loveland.⁶ Joseph Loveland, originally from Weathersfield, Connecticut, arrived in Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1776. He moved to Norwich in 1779, living on a farm elsewhere in the town. This transaction consisted of a 120 acres which had the "same farm that I live on said Lot No. 13" as well as "the first hundred acre to the School Right which I hold a lease under said Town of Norwich

² Norwich Town Deeds, Norwich, Vermont.

³ Norwich Town Deeds, Norwich, Vermont.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Norwich Town Deeds, Norwich, Vermont.

⁶ Ibid.

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for the term of nine hundred and ninety nine years.”⁷ This transaction consisted of all of Lot No. 14, “except for what John Slafter holds by lease.”⁸

Four years later, Loveland sold to Captain Raphael Smalley a parcel of land which consisted of “the same farm that Elijah Yeomans Jr. deeded to me in 1818” as well as “lot no. 13, being the hundred-acre lot to the School Right.”⁹ Smalley was married to Anna Waterman, a member of a prominent Norwich family. In the ensuing years, the land transferred to Edmund Hovey who eventually deeded it to Lemuel Bissell in 1829. This transaction featured the mention of additional land – “all the Lots no. 13 and 14 that was conveyed in Olcott’s deed from Daniel Yarrington to me.”¹⁰ Lemuel Bissell was born in Norwich, Vermont in 1799. He married Mary A. Lemmons and together they moved to Amherst, New Hampshire in 1843 “where he carried on the house-painting business several years. He served as town clerk one year; no children.”¹¹

In the early 1830s, Lemuel Bissell sold the land to Thomas Emerson and his son Curtis. At this time, the transaction included the original Yeomans lot as well as another piece of land. Thomas Emerson was “a merchant and banker widely known in his day.”¹² He married Lucy, the daughter of Abel Curtis, one of the early settlers of Norwich. Curtis was a member of the Vermont General Assembly in 1778, 1781 and 1782. When he was elected in 1782, Curtis was appointed as “an agent and delegate to Congress, it then being the expectation that Vermont would be immediately admitted into the Union.”¹³ Thomas Emerson was the brother of Elihu Emerson, a blacksmith by trade, who carried on business in a shop that he built a short distance north of his residence on “Norwich Plain.”¹⁴

After their marriage, Thomas and Lucy Emerson moved to Detroit. During the War of 1812 “and the consequent interruption of business, Mr. Emerson withdrew from the firm and retired to Vermont...and entered upon a more public and notable career.”¹⁵ After a brief stint in local Vermont politics, Thomas Emerson became involved with the Windsor Bank. In 1838, Emerson lost large sums of the bank’s money and he was jailed.

Curtis Emerson, the son of Thomas and Lucy Emerson, was born in Norwich in 1810. He “was educated in the best schools of New England and entered into business under his

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Secomb, Daniel Franklin. *History of the Town of Amherst, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire: (first Known as Narragansett Township Number Three, and Subsequently as Southeagan West)*, Amherst, New Hampshire: Evans, Sleeper & Woodbury, 1883.

¹² “The Emerson Brothers of Norwich Vermont, Access Genealogy” April 8, 2014.

¹³ Gilman, Marcus Davis, *The Bibliography of Vermont: Or, A List of Books and Pamphlets Relating in Any Way to the State. With Biographical and Other Notes*. Free Press Association: Burlington, 1897.

¹⁴ “The Emerson Brothers of Norwich Vermont, Access Genealogy” April 8, 2014.

¹⁵ Emerson, Benjamin Kendall, *The Ipswich Emersons, A.D. 1636-1900: a genealogy of the descendants of Thomas Emerson of Ipswich, Mass., with some account of his English ancestry*, 1900.

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father's patronage; but feuds and dislikes soon arose between them."¹⁶ After a falling out with his father's business, Curtis Emerson decided to head west to Michigan, settling in Saginaw City.

The Emerson family seemed to always live in the shadow of Thomas Emerson's business failings. Curtis was described as:

the youngest offspring of a peculiar family, destined to live a peculiar life, be known as a peculiar man, but happily to die a natural and peaceful death. His boyhood was spent in his native village, where his father was a leading merchant and banker—a man of eccentric character, of violent temper, of kindest heart and bitterest prejudices, a man of unbending integrity and purpose, but of many hard traits and personal faults.¹⁷

Lucy Emerson, the wife of Thomas Emerson, was described as:

a meek, quiet, pious, and uncomplaining woman, who bore the crosses and burdens of a disappointed life but a few years, but who blended in the son's nature many of her virtues and fine feelings, which went far, through life, to offset the peculiar and unpleasant traits of the father.¹⁸

Before Thomas Emerson and Curtis Emerson moved to Boston and Saginaw City, respectively, they sold the land to Daniel Pitkin Miner in 1833. In 1850, Miner lived here with his wife and three children. Prior to moving to Fairlee, Vermont, Daniel Miner sold the land to brothers Samuel M. Root and John H. Root in 1866. They were the sons of Joseph and Martha Root. Their grandfather, Samuel Root, was one of the original Norwich proprietors. A third sibling, Joseph Root, lived at the Bissell House (HD#3). Samuel M. Root was a Norwich Justice of the Peace in 1870. The year prior to purchasing the property, Samuel M. Root married Alzina Ash of Lyman, New Hampshire and John Root married Lucinda Trescott of Thetford, Vermont. The two couples spent their first year of marriage working the farm.

The Roots sold the land to neighbors Austin B. Goodrich and John K. Goodrich in 1884. They were the sons of Horace B. and Harriett Maria Pennock Goodrich who operated a farm on Union Village Road immediately south of Root farm. Harriett was the granddaughter of Zilah Pennock who settled in Norwich in 1790. In 1870, both John and Austin lived on their father's farm with their sister Joanna and two farm laborers. In addition to Austin and John, there were three other Goodrich children: Horace Juan, Eugene Carlos and Christina

¹⁶ Michigan Historical Commission, *Report of the Pioneer Society of the State of Michigan, Michigan Historical Collections, Volume 3*, 1903.

¹⁷ Michigan Historical Commission, *Report of the Pioneer Society of the State of Michigan, Michigan Historical Collections, Volume 3*, 1903.

¹⁸ Ibid.

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Priscilla. Between 1884 and 1934, the Goodrich siblings were owners of several parcels of land that comprises the Goodrich Four Corners Historic District.

While the Goodrich brothers took ownership of the property in 1884, they apparently lived elsewhere. Between 1884 and 1900, John K. Goodrich lived in Lebanon, New Hampshire and St. Johnsbury while Austin lived in Waltham, Massachusetts and Lebanon. In the 1870s, the four sons of Horace and Harriett Goodrich, Austin, John, Horace Juan and Eugene moved to Waltham, Massachusetts and worked at a local watch factory.

In 1884, John K. Goodrich moved back to Vermont and married Inez Eliza Underwood from St. Johnsbury. In 1886, the newspaper announced, "John Goodrich of Norwich, having letting [*sic*] his farm there to his brother, has moved to St. Johnsbury and has gone to work for Milan Hill."¹⁹ By 1900, the couple returned to Lebanon where John worked in a bakery. Soon thereafter, the couple returned to Norwich with Austin and his wife. In 1904, John K. Goodrich divorced Inez and remarried Bertha M. Snelling that August. By 1910, John K. Goodrich was living with his new wife and working as a dairy farmer. John K. Goodrich died in 1915 of chronic heart disease. Inez married William Cross a year later in Hardwick, Vermont.

Born in 1860, Austin Goodrich lived in Waltham, Massachusetts, between 1886 and 1894. Following his marriage to Hattie M. Tracy in 1892, Austin moved around quite a bit. In 1894, they lived at a tenement in Lyme, New Hampshire, and in 1896, they lived in Chelsea, Vermont, where Austin worked in the plumbago mine.²⁰ Four years later, they lived in Lebanon, New Hampshire. At this time, Austin was a veterinarian and Hattie was a teacher. Soon thereafter, the two brothers and their wives were living at the extant property.

Austin's wife, Hattie May, died in 1903 in Lyme Center, New Hampshire. Three years later, Austin married Edna Churchill. Following his second marriage, it appears that Austin and Edna moved to the Bissell House (HD #3).



Figure 1. Yeomans House (HD #1), c. 1940
Norwich Historical Society

Following the death of the family patriarch in 1897, Horace B. Goodrich, the widow, Harriet, moved into the house with her sons.

¹⁹ *St. Johnsbury Caledonian*, April 22, 1886.

²⁰ *The Vermont Watchman*. May 20, 1896

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The house remained in the Goodrich family until 1922. Perley Albert Tobin, the next owner, farmed the land between 1935 and 1936. Tobin was born in Waterville, Vermont in 1881. As a nine year old, he lived in Westford in Chittenden County. In 1910, he owned his own farm in Cambridge with his wife, Anna. After his wife's death in 1915, Tobin moved to Westford, Massachusetts. In 1920, he lived in Bristol, Vermont.

Before moving to Conway, New Hampshire, Tobin sold the land to Wallace and Mary Achilles. Born in Barton, Vermont in 1899, Wallace Eugene Achilles married Mary Kelley in 1921 and then the two moved to Quechee. In 1930, they lived in Hartford, Vermont, where they managed a boarding house prior to moving to Norwich.

The Achilles sold the land to Glenn Martin in 1938. In 1920, Glenn lived with his wife Lucy in Rochester, Vermont where he worked as a farmer. Ten years later, Glenn and Lucy lived with their two children in Rochester. He was employed as an electrician with the telephone company. A year later, the house passed to Wallie I. Batchelder. Thomas Dyer owned the land between 1946 and 1961. Later owners were Calvin and Margaret Dyer, John and Martha Griffiths, David and Elizabeth Osborn, Jane L. Straight and Jonathan and Nancy Chase. The present owners are Joseph and Judy Phillips.

2. Peavey House, 937 Union Village Road, c. 1896, c. 1936, contributing building

This house is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Union Village Road and Pattrell Road. It has a moderate setback from both roads, and the main block is situated parallel to Pattrell Road. It is surrounded by a dense collection of coniferous trees. It is comprised of a two-story main block, a one-story ell projecting from the south end, and two-story addition located at the northwest corner of the main block. The rectangular plan, main block has a gable roof. It sits on a rough stone foundation and has wood clapboard siding and boxed eave metal roof. There is a shed dormer on the south eaves side and three regularly spaced 1/1 replacement windows on the east gable end. The north side has a 16-pane fixed window and a one-story shed roof projection. A slender brick chimney rises from the ridge line.

A rectangular plan ell extends south from the main block. There are two regularly spaced 1/1 replacement windows and a door on the first floor of the east side. The ell has a gable roof, shed-roofed wall dormers on the east side, and shed roof dormer on the west side. An exterior brick chimney is centered on the south gable end. A metal shed roofed porch with square posts spans the east side.

A 1½ story gable roof addition abuts the northwest corner of the main block. It has wide gable rake boards and there are two 1/1 window units on the second floor of the east gable end. A wood, shed roof addition extends from the north side of this addition.

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2a. Garage, non-contributing building due to age

To the northeast of the house is a garage with vertical siding and a metal gable roof. It is perpendicular to Union Village Road with two open vehicle bays facing towards the road. There is a shed roof projecting from both eaves sides of the garage.

2b. Shed, non-contributing building due to age

To the north of the garage is a two story, shed roof, board and batten sided shed. There are three window openings on the first floor and one on the second floor of the east elevation.

This land was originally part of the adjacent Goodrich land, with members of the family living at both the Yeomans House (HD#1) and the Slafter House (HD#5). In 1917, Austin Goodrich sold the 1¾ acre lot, in the "northeast corner of the 13th lot in the second range" to James and Hattie Peavey.²¹ James worked as a laborer for Dartmouth College across the Connecticut River in Hanover, New Hampshire. The couple purchased the house just before James Peavey went overseas to fight with the Allied Expeditionary Force in World War I. Peavey was wounded during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in October 1918. While convalescing in a French hospital, the Peaveys sold the home to Eugene Goodrich.

Eugene Goodrich was the fourth son of Horace and Harriett Goodrich who worked in Waltham, Massachusetts, as a watchmaker. He married Flora Tarbell of Hartford, Vermont. One of their sons, Wendell E. Goodrich, was an early Air Force pilot, and lost his life in an aviation accident in Florida in 1921. The house then went to another son, Oscar Carlos Goodrich. Oscar eventually moved to New Hampshire, lodged with a family and worked in the restaurant at the Hanover Inn. Edward and Lillian Goodrich assumed ownership in the 1920s. Edward Goodrich was a fifth member of the Goodrich family to have lived in Waltham, Massachusetts. The exact relationship to the Norwich Goodrich clan is unclear. Unlike the four Goodrich brothers, Edward was not a watchmaker. He worked as an undertaker and furniture maker, first in Waltham and then in Rockingham, Vermont.

In 1924, Lillian Goodrich sold the home to Albert and Emma Wheeler, who then passed the land and building to Roy Knights in 1934. At the time of this transaction, the property was described as "our home place situated as what is known as 'Root Four Corners.'"²² Maurice Knights and Sybil Knights transferred the land to the Mary Hutchins estate, which owns the property today.

3. Bissell House, 18 Pattrell Road, c. 1800, contributing building

This house is located at the northwest corner of Pattrell and Union Village Roads. It faces south and has a modified rectangular footprint oriented east-west. There is a garage/barn located to the northeast of the main block. The main block is situated perpendicular to the

²¹ Norwich Town Deeds, Norwich, Vermont.

²² Norwich Town Record, Norwich Vermont

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road. The house and barn sit in a rolling, open landscape that retains its agricultural field patterns and numerous stone walls, especially evident on the steep hillside to the northeast. The house rests on a hill facing the agricultural fields of the Slafter House (HD #5). The front elevation faces away from the vehicular access point from Pattrell Road.

The house is comprised of a 1½ story main block and a 1½ story ell projecting from the rear elevation. Sitting on a cut stone foundation, the rectangular plan, symmetrical, main block has a gable roof, wood clapboard siding, open eaves, and a low overhang asphalt shingled gable roof. The focal point of the front (south) facade is the central paneled door with ¾ sidelights. There are regularly spaced 6/6 windows throughout the building. The gable ends contain three regularly spaced 6/6 windows on the first floor, two regularly spaced 6/6 windows on the second floor, triangular vents on the second floor and semi-circular attic vent in the gable peak. The north side of the ell has a wood door with a gable roof porch and a modern window unit containing a 16-pane fixed window flanked by four pane sidelights. Other architectural features include a simple frieze board, corner boards, triangular decorative woodwork at the cornice returns and second story windows that touch the frieze board.

A modern, rectangular ell extends perpendicularly from the north eaves side of the main block. It has a concrete foundation, corner posts, and wood clapboard siding. The east side has a 6/6 window and a modern glass door unit flanked by full length fixed pane windows. The west elevation has two 6/6 windows. The north facing gable end contains two regularly spaced 6/6 windows on the first floor and a rounded 6/6 window on the second floor.

3a. Barn, c. 1814, contributing building

This is a timber-frame, scribe rule, Early Bank Barn. This 2½ story, 25 x 50-foot, wood frame barn is located to the northeast of the main building. It is situated diagonal to Pattrell Road. It comprises a two-story main block and a one story, 12 x 16 milk room projecting from the south gable end. The main block has a rubble stone foundation, vertical-board siding and a metal roof. There are two fixed windows on the gable end. The cellar level is exposed at the east and north sides. The west elevation has a full height, off-center sliding vertical-board door. Interior features include vertical sawn posts and a later bent in the hay mow. This framing consists of a transom girt, lacks braces, and there are door closer let-ins on the rear drive posts. The one-story rectangular plan addition has a wood door on the south end and a fixed six pane window on the east and west sides. The first floor has poured concrete floor with a manure chute in the middle. This room was used for the dairy herd. The second floor featured a drive in the center, hay room on the left and dairy room on the right. Historic photographs show a one-story gable roof addition to the south and two silos attached to the east side of the barn. There used to be a rectangular pole barn located immediately to the north of the barn.

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Pattrell Road is named after a long-standing Norwich family that lived further up the road to the north. This property was originally part of Lots 13 and 14 of the 2nd Range on the original town layout, owned by the Bissell and Yeomans families, related through marriage. Elijah Yeomans was one of the first settlers. He was a clockmaker, goldsmith and silversmith from Tolland, Connecticut. In 1797, he leased this land from the "selectman and school committee in Norwich."²³

Upon his death, he passed some of his Norwich holdings to his son. One of the lots belonged to his wife, Amy Delano, who died in Norwich in the 1790s. His son, Elijah Jr. was a veteran of the Revolutionary War. He was a member of Captain Timothy Bush's Company under Colonel Peter Olcott, which participated in the Royalton raid in 1780. He died in Norwich in 1824. Jeremiah Bissell moved from Windsor, Vermont, to Norwich between 1767 and 1790. He married Hannah Yeomans, the daughter of Elijah Yeomans. Hannah was born in Mansfield, Connecticut. The land transferred between the Bissell and Yeomans families throughout the eighteenth century.



Figure 2. Bissell House (HD #3), c. 1920
Norwich Historical Society

In 1802, Elijah Yeomans sold the land to Jeremiah Bissell. At this time, the deed consisted of the land "together with the buildings standing thereon."²⁴ This land eventually passed from Jeremiah Bissell to Timothy Bissell. Born in 1796, Timothy was the son of Jeremiah and Hannah Bissell. Timothy Bissell served as a Norwich Justice of the Peace in 1845. Timothy Bissell then moved to an adjacent property, which he farmed until the 1860s, and sold the extant land to Calvin and Holly Seaver. Calvin Seaver was free mason, a captain during the Revolutionary War and holder of several town offices. Seaver, the son of Captain Nathaniel Seaver, came from Petersham, Massachusetts, and held the distinction of being the first non-Connecticut settler in Norwich. During the Revolutionary War, he served in the battles of Stillwater, King's Bridge, White Plains, and Trenton, and was present at the surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga in 1777. Following the cessation of hostilities, Seaver moved to Norwich. The name of Captain Seaver "appears in the town records as holding office as early as 1779."²⁵

²³ Norwich Town Deeds, Norwich, Vermont.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Aldrich, Lewis Cass, and Frank Holmes, *History of Windsor County, Vermont, With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Syracuse, New York: D. Mason and Company Publishers, 1891.

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In 1786, Calvin Seaver married Molly (Mary) Hovey, a member of a Norwich family that had large land holdings in the areas adjacent to Goodrich Four Corners. They had seven children. He died in 1841, aged eighty-two years, and Molly died in 1857, aged ninety-three years.²⁶ By 1830, the house transferred to Daniel and Elizabeth Yarrington. In 1850, the couple lived here with their two children. By 1860, the Yarringtons had moved to a farm in West Fairlee and sold the property to Horace B. Goodrich, who owned land to the north and south of Goodrich Four Corners. Six years later, Horace Goodrich passed the land to his sister-in-law, Christiana Pennock Johnson. She was married to Charles Johnson, the son of Peter J.C. Johnson, the second resident of the Slafter House (HD #5). Charles Johnson married Christiana Pennock in 1823. Christiana Johnson and Harriet Goodrich were the granddaughters of Zilah Pennock, who settled in Norwich in 1790. At this time, the land was described as the "same premises occupied by Timothy Bissell" and the "south half of the first 100-acre lot to the school right."²⁷ Johnson gave land and finances to the endowment of Dartmouth College, and he was described as a man of "sound judgment and benevolent disposition."²⁸

Between 1860 and 1870, Joseph R. Root, born in Northampton, New Hampshire, lived at this address. Joseph Root married Leona F. Davis and they had five children together. He was the brother of Samuel M. Root and John H. Root, who lived at the Yeomans House (HD #1). The three were the sons of Joseph and Martha Root.

In 1879, the property passed to Kenaz Hoyt (Hoit) of Stark, New Hampshire. In 1870, Kenaz and Sarah Hoyt farmed on their land in Berlin Falls, New Hampshire. The Hoyts also owned land on Dummer Hill, north of Stark. In 1880, Hoyt only maintained five acres of tilled land, which was used for hay. With the farm valued at \$500, he did not have any livestock, but had twelve chickens. Hoyts did not grow any vegetables, fruits or cereals. The house then passed to Martha A. Norones in 1881. Martha H. Eastman, the widow of Warren S Burrell, then transferred the land to John K. and Inez Eliza (Underwood) Goodrich, of Waltham, Massachusetts, in 1890.

John K. Goodrich was the son of Horace B. and Harriett M. Goodrich, married in 1849. The elder Goodrichs owned a large farm just south of Goodrich Four Corners on Union Village Road. In 1897, the house transferred from Goodrich to George Connors. In 1908, the house returned to the Goodrich family when Austin B. Goodrich, brother of John K. Goodrich, purchased the property. Born in 1860, Austin Goodrich lived in Waltham, Massachusetts, between 1886 and 1894. Following his marriage to Hattie M. Tracy in 1892, Austin moved around quite a bit. In 1894, they lived at a tenement in Lyme, New Hampshire and in 1896,

²⁶ Goddard, M.E. and Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich, Vermont*. Hanover, New Hampshire: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

²⁷ Norwich Town Deeds, Norwich, Vermont.

²⁸ Goddard, M.E. and Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich, Vermont*. Hanover, New Hampshire: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

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they lived in Chelsea, Vermont where Austin worked in the plumbago mine. Four years later, they lived in Lebanon, New Hampshire with his brother John and his wife, Inez. At this time, Austin was a veterinarian and Hattie was a teacher. Soon thereafter, the two brothers and their wives were living at the extant property. Austin's wife, Hattie May, died in 1903 in Lyme Center, New Hampshire. Three years later, Austin married Edna Churchill. Following his second marriage, it appears that Austin and Edna moved to the Bissell House (HD #3). Austin and John had lived with their families together at the Yeomans House (HD #1) since 1884.

After Austin Goodrich remarried in 1907, it appears that Austin and Edna wanted a home for themselves. Between 1908 and 1920, Austin and Edna lived on the property running a dairy farm. In 1907, Austin Goodrich maintained a dairy herd as well as worked as a veterinarian. During the 1908-1909 year, the Vermont Cattle Commission inspected 15 of his cows, in which two of them were found to have tuberculosis. Fearing that the disease would spread from the cows to humans, the State of Vermont killed the two cows and reimbursed Goodrich with 45 dollars.²⁹ In 1920, Austin and Edna adopted a daughter, Christina.

The house then belonged to Nancy L. Latouche, who sold the house to Ernest W. Young in 1949. In 1954, Sarah Knights purchased the land. Calvin E. and Joyce Knights sold the land to Rodney and Frances Crowe in 1957. Two years later, F. Russell Powers bought the house. The house then went to John and Flossie Henry. The present owners, Thomas M. Johnson and Jeannie E. Scheinin, bought the house in 1983.



Figure 3. Bissell House (HD #3), c. 1955
Thomas Johnson

4. Root Schoolhouse, 987 Union Village Road, c.1937, contributing

This educational building is located on the northwest side of Union Village Road. It sits on a hill rising above the road and is surrounded by dense clusters of deciduous trees. Built in 1937, the Root School is a one-story, Colonial Revival-style building measuring 32 x 38 feet with a hipped, pyramidal asphalt shingle roof. The clapboarded building has plain wood

²⁹ *Report of the Vermont Cattle Commission*, Bellows Falls, Vermont: P.B. Gobie Press, 1908.

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trim and frieze boards. Constructed to replace a school that had burned down, the Root School was only active for eight years. By 1945, with enrollment down to four students, the Root School closed. The Root District Game Club has owned and operated the building since 1952.

The Root School building is representative of the one-room schoolhouses built to carry out Vermont's progressive 1777 Constitution, which made Vermont the first state in the nation to authorize public education. Norwich responded vigorously to this challenge, and by 1781 Norwich built its first school and in 1785 divided the town into districts.³⁰

The adjoining lot was Lot No. 13 of the 2nd range and it was for the "School Right."³¹ In 1798, the Town of Norwich Selectman and School Committee divided the 13th lot and leased the two portions to Elijah Yeomans and John Slafter. Both lessees agreed to "occupy and improve said grantee" and "make no unnecessary or unreasonable waste by cutting or destroying timber nor shall any timber taken from said premises be sold."³² The lease was for 999 years and if Slafter or Yeomans or their heirs did not pay the seventy-five cents annual rent, the selectman could "at anytime reenter upon said granted premises and take possession thereof."³³ The lease did not include a half acre lot reserved for the schoolhouse.

An undated document from the eighteenth century makes a connection between the school districts and the home of John Slafter (HD #5). The petition featured the signatures of thirteen Norwich citizens who lived "on the road from James Johnson's to Humphrey Balls" who "were great sufferers for want of a school."³⁴ The signatories felt that they had to travel too far to "send out children to the schoolhouse by Lieut. John Slafter without great trouble."³⁵

Established as District #5, the location of the District 5 School changed over time.³⁶ In maps from 1855 and 1869, School #5 was shown about one half mile south of the Four Corners intersection down Goodrich Four Corners Road.³⁷ The first reference to a Root District School House (District #5) is noted in the Town Report of 1865 to wit: "School the worst ever seen. No winter school, a dismal shell of a house on a public road ..." ³⁸ The 1867 Report indicated real progress: " ... now a good school-house, well furnished ... Both

³⁰ Papazian, Lyssa, *Root School National Register Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013.

³¹ Norwich Town Deeds, Norwich, Vermont.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Goddard, M.E. and Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich, Vermont*. Hanover, New Hampshire: The Dartmouth Press, 1905. P. 218.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Papazian, Lyssa, *Root School National Register Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Norwich Town Report, 1865, Norwich, Vermont.

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summer & winter terms were equally successful ... "³⁹ The 1874 the Town Report stated, "There can never be a quiet, progressive school in this house, until the present desks are used for kindling wood, and more suitable ones put in their place."⁴⁰ In 1898, the superintendent reported, "some of our schoolhouses are in very bad condition and ought to be repaired during the coming year. Five of the schoolhouses are unused and not needed, and should be sold."⁴¹

With the school located south of Goodrich Four Corners from mid-19th century, the present-day site of the Root School remained vacant throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. William Johnson owned the property in 1850, and passed the land to Levi Goodrich, Horace B. Goodrich and Harriet M. Goodrich in 1858. In 1872, the land passed from the Goodrich family to Albert Johnson. The son of Peter J.C. Johnson, Albert Johnson owned a large farm on Pattrell Road. Between 1875 and 1878, the house went to his father Peter J.C. Johnson and then his brother George W. Johnson. After selling the property, Peter J.C. Johnson moved in with his son Albert Johnson. After the death of Albert Johnson in 1880, Joseph C. Pennock purchased the property. He farmed the land with his wife and three sons. Peter Lacourse and Noah LaTouche owned portions of the land between 1905 and 1925. Noah LaTouche was born of a French father and French-Canadian mother.

Between 1905 and 1906, the Town of Norwich made significant improvements to the existing schoolhouse on Goodrich Four Corners Road, paying A.J. Baker on several occasions "on Root schoolhouse contract."⁴² During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, students from this area attended other schools until 1908 when the Town Report included the "Root School." Later reports note ten students in 1909, grades 1st -6th, and 14 students in 1917.⁴³ School reports from 1921 noted the Root School's plaster was in poor condition and blackboards needed replacing. The 1924 report noted that the new school at Beaver Meadow was Norwich's first rural school to achieve a standard rating and that "the people in the Root District have taken a great interest in their school and are working to have it standardized."⁴⁴

The 1925 report acknowledged "that the state had contributed considerably to the new school at Beaver Meadow and that there should be money available for next year. The state's increased funding and focus on bringing schools up to a standard level at this time likely spurred the Root District to build a new building instead of repairing the old one."⁴⁵

³⁹ Norwich Historical Society. *Norwich, Vermont: A History*. Leahy Press: Montpelier, Vermont, 2012.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Norwich Town Report, 1898, Norwich, Vermont.

⁴² Norwich Town Report, 1906, Norwich, Vermont.

⁴³ Norwich Historical Society. *Norwich, Vermont: A History*. Leahy Press: Montpelier, Vermont, 2012.

⁴⁴ Papazian, Lyssa, *Root School National Register Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013.

⁴⁵ Papazian, Lyssa, *Root School National Register Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013.

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The town purchased the land and built the new Root School in 1925 and the town reported "with the completion of the work on the Root School, there will be three schools in town which rank with the best."⁴⁶ In 1935, the school report stated, "the foundation and underpinning of the Root School should be repaired."⁴⁷ A year later, a fire destroyed the Root schoolhouse. The superintendent reported "the most serious problem is the inadequate accommodations for the 24 pupils in the Root District. They are now very much overcrowded in rooms not suitable for school purposes."⁴⁸ In 1938, the school superintendent reported:

The Root schoolhouse, which was lost by fire, has been replaced by a fine, modern school building from the plans and according to the specifications furnished by the State Department of Education. At the dedication exercises the Deputy Commissioner stated that he had received a request from a person in another state to name a school to visit, which would exemplify the Vermont school improvement work. He went on to say that he had listed the Root school along with three or four others as being a fine example of this work.⁴⁹

The new school had a short life span as "enrollment at the Root District and several other rural districts in town declined substantially in the following several years."⁵⁰ At this time, school attendance shifted from the rural one room schoolhouses toward the village school, which caused the school board to examine the problem in the early 1940s. The school board "looked at several options including transporting children into districts such as Root where the facilities were good but attendance was low...World War II also put pressure on the supply of teachers throughout the state which made maintaining schools with few pupils increasingly difficult. By 1945, with only four students enrolled, the Root School ceased operation and was closed."⁵¹ In 1952, the Norwich selectboard passed the land to the Root District Game Club, which "used the school for pot-luck suppers and recreation."⁵² In the ensuing years:

About 1960 the Riding Club made the School House a gathering place amidst family trail rides. In 1974 the Game club, which was no longer able to keep the building insured on its own, met with Root District neighbors who joined and raised the money for insurance and some needed repairs. Eventually this new group changed the name and focus to the Root District Community Club.

⁴⁶ Norwich Town Report, 1926, Norwich, Vermont.

⁴⁷ Norwich Town Report, 1935, Norwich, Vermont.

⁴⁸ Norwich Town Report, 1936, Norwich, Vermont.

⁴⁹ Norwich Town Report, 1938, Norwich, Vermont.

⁵⁰ Papazian, Lyssa, *Root School National Register Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013.

⁵¹ Norwich Town Report, 1938, Norwich, Vermont.

⁵² Papazian, Lyssa, *Root School National Register Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013.

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They used the schoolhouse for practice square dances, weekly roller skating, suppers, holiday gatherings, and birthday parties such as Olympic Gold Medalist Hannah Kearney's 13th in 1999. It functioned as a community center for many years but its use and support faded by the mid-1990s. In 2000-05 the Club was revived and some repair and maintenance work was accomplished. The Preservation Trust of Vermont helped with a Condition Assessment; the Boy Scouts painted the exterior; and volunteers replaced the roof as well as sanded and refinished the floors. After a few more years the effort to maintain the building declined, but is now being reborn in 2012 by the current volunteer group.⁵³

In 2014, Root District Community Club commenced preservation efforts to the foundation and correct drainage problems. For more detail, please consult the 2013 Root School National Register Nomination.

5) Slafter House, 694 Goodrich Four Corners, c. 1786, c. 1850, contributing building

This house is located on the northeast side of Goodrich Four Corners Road, east of its intersection with Union Village Road. The modified rectangular footprint lies parallel to the road. The house faces southwest towards the road and is surrounded by an open landscape defined by stone walls and original field patterns. With the orientation of the agricultural outbuildings, the farm forms a barnyard along its southeast side.

This house is comprised of a 2½ story main block and a one-story rear ell. The 5 x 2 bay main block has a rectangular plan and a gable roof. Sitting on a granite foundation, it has wood clapboard siding, and an overhanging, open-eave, side gable asphalt shingle roof. The focal point of the symmetrical front elevation is the center recessed main entry with decorative trim and full sidelights. There are five 9/6 windows on the second floor. The top trim details of these windows touch the eaves. Other architectural features include narrow gable rakes, cornice returns and simple window trim and hoods. The gable ends project slightly over the main block. Both gable ends contain three regularly spaced 9/6 windows on the first floor, two regularly spaced 9/6 wood windows on the second floor, and a two 12/6 window on the third floor. There is a single window unit comprised of a half wood vent/half 6-pane window in both gable peaks. The left first floor window opening on the first floor of the north gable end has been covered with siding. Two brick chimneys rise from the front roof slope. Federal features include 12/6 and 9/6 windows, central entry with full sidelights and the second story windows touching the eaves.

A one-story kitchen ell extends from the northeast side of the main block. It has a granite foundation and an asphalt shingle gable roof. A chimney rises on the west roof slope. The south side of the east elevation has an entry with a gable roof porch, and three regularly

⁵³ Papazian, Lyssa, *Root School National Register Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2013.

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spaced 12/12 replacement windows. The north side of the east elevation has three vehicle bays. There is a sliding door entry and regularly spaced 6/6 windows on the west of the ell.

In its original design, this house was similar to two other Federal-style houses in Norwich: the c. 1780 Olcott-Johnson House and the c. 1777 Partridge-Snell House. The three houses possess similar fenestration patterns on the front elevation, rear ells, central chimneys and hipped roofs. All three houses were built north of the village.

5a. Barn, c. 2005, non-contributing building due to age

This 35 x 25, one story, 1 x 2 bay barn has rough vertical board siding, metal gable roof and transom light. There are sliding doors on the eaves and gable ends. There is a small 20 x 15 entry projection on the south side of the barn. This barn replaced an earlier barn that was destroyed c. 1980. It was built with historic timbers.

5b. Chicken Barn, c. 2005, non-contributing building due to age

This 10 x 20, 1-story, barn/ multi-purpose building has rough vertical board siding, exposed rafters, casement windows and asphalt shingle gable roof.

5c. Barn, c. 1798, c. 2004, contributing building

This post and beam, scribe rule English Barn is located on the on the southwest side of Goodrich Four Corners Road. The two-story barn is situated diagonal to the road with a east-west orientation. The 35 x 50 main block barn has a dry-laid fieldstone foundation, rough vertical board siding, and a steeply pitched metal seam roof. A transom light rests over the northern portion of the eaves side sliding door. A c. 2004, 20 x 60, one-story ell projects from the southwest side of the barn. The ell has six fixed windows and two entry doors on the long eaves sides. Features include hand wrought nails, riven braces, flared hardwood posts with tie beam, and four bents with English tying joints. Each bent has purlin posts and straining beams supporting a purlin plate.

The posts in this barn are mix of maple, chestnut and white oak. The plates and sills are white pine and the ties are mixed hardwoods. The girts are mostly maple and the braces are mostly red oak. The rafters are hewn following the natural taper of the tree and varied in size between 7×7 and 5×5. The rafters are half-lapped and pegged at the peak.

This barn experienced a major restoration in the 2000s. The barn had significant rot at an intersection of the plate and tie where an adjacent roof had been attached. One of the posts was replaced and the others required repairs to the tops and feet. Many of the posts had sunk several inches. The sills on both eave walls had significant rot. The restoration company jacked many of the posts in order to straighten out the plate and added new sills on both eaves. The haymow had originally spanned over twenty feet. The purlin plates above the mow had deflected several inches and caused some fracturing to the purlin plate. The restorers crafted a new bent, in the same style as the original four, and placed it mid-span in the haymow. They jacked the purlin plate back

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into the roof plane and supported it with a lintel on top of the new purlin posts. A sawyer cut all of the new wood for the repairs from the property. All of the hardwood repairs were done with maple, ash and oak (for the tenon repairs). Some of the braces were riven, and the milled timbers were surfaced by adze or broad axe.⁵⁴ Photovoltaic solar panels were recently installed on the barn's south-facing roof slope.

5d. Garage, c. 1920, contributing

The rectangular plan, c. 1920, 11 x 23 garage sits perpendicular to Goodrich Four Corners Road. It has a concrete foundation, vertical wood clapboard siding and asphalt shingle roof. It faces northeast towards Goodrich Four Corners Road and the main house. Centered on the west eaves-side is a full-height doorway with hinged door. There is a 6/6 window on the rear gable end.

5e. Shed, c. 2000, non- contributing due to age

This is a one story, 10 x 20 shed. It has an asphalt shingle roof and horizontal barn board siding. There is a vertical siding door on both gable ends.

The first known owner of this land was Samuel Slafter of Mansfield, Connecticut. Like most of Norwich's original proprietors, Samuel Slafter never settled in the town. These original proprietors "were people of considerable property, well advanced on life, whose years unfitted them to endure the hardships of pioneers of a new settlement."⁵⁵ As a result, these proprietors often transferred their rights to their relatives, as was the case for Samuel Slafter. In 1762, Samuel Slafter suggested that his son John make "a journey through the forests of New Hampshire" and "examine the territory, and report upon the advantages it might offer as a place of settlement."⁵⁶

The son, John Slafter, a veteran of the French-Indian War, served as a sixteen-year-old drummer boy "in the company of Capt. Israel Putnam, in Lyman's regiment; and belonged to a company of rangers under Putnam and Rogers, which performed important services in the campaign for the reduction of Crown Point in 1755."⁵⁷ He then enlisted in the Connecticut volunteers, commanded by Captain Aaron Hitchcock, and he was present at the fall of Montreal in September of 1760. Following the cessation of hostilities, Slafter returned to Connecticut.

By 1762 the town was partly lotted and the following year, Jacob Fenton, Ebenezer Smith, and John Slafter left Mansfield, Connecticut, and "built them a camp and began

⁵⁴ "Goodrich Four Corners," Knobb Hill Joinery Website. N.D. Date Accessed April 8, 2017

⁵⁵ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

⁵⁶ Slafter, Edmund Farwell. *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

⁵⁷ Daniel Hovey Association. *The Hovey Book: Describing the English Ancestry and American Descendants of Daniel Hovey of Ipswich, Massachusetts*. Ipswich, Massachusetts: Press of Lewis R. Hovey, 1914.

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improvements ..."⁵⁸ Fenton was the brother of Samuel Slafter's wife, Elizabeth Fenton Slafter. Upon discovering an acre with rich soils and abundant water sources, Samuel Slafter "was inclined to engage in the settlement of the new town" and transferred to him [John], as a "token of his affection," all his rights "as Proprietor of Norwich."⁵⁹ Samuel Slafter assigned "forever of all my rights of land title, interest, claim or challenge I have or might have in the township of Norwich."⁶⁰

In 1763, John Slafter "commenced to fell the trees on the river lot. No. 17 ..." near the Connecticut River.⁶¹ It was customary amongst the Norwich settlers for the men to build a rough home the summers prior to the arrival of the entire family. They often cleared land and planted crops such as corn, so it was available when the family had settled in the town. This was "an undertaking of no small amount."⁶² After several years of making journeys northward and then returning to Connecticut, John Slafter married Elizabeth Hovey. She was the daughter of Edmund Hovey, another early settler of Norwich. Edmund Hovey was born in Malden, Massachusetts and then lived in Mansfield, Connecticut where he worked as a carpenter. In 1766, he moved his family to Norwich.

After his wedding, Slafter took his family northward. With a distance of 150 miles to travel, less than a third of the journey was passable with roads. With the remainder of the route consisting of primitive forest, most emigrants chose the Connecticut River as their primary route. Paddling in log canoes against the current, and often portaging to get around falls, the Slafter party averaged eight to nine miles a day.⁶³ They encountered "in several places, at that time of year, the rapids, or falls, could not be passed, and they were obliged to unship their goods and carry them and their boats around, and reload, before they could continue their journey."⁶⁴ After the long arduous journey, the Slafter family came "into the town, and from this time the settlement advanced with considerable rapidity..."⁶⁵ The Slaters moved into their "comfortable and substantial dwelling" built by that John Slafter the previous summers.⁶⁶ Since there were no sawmills, this home was built primarily with an axe "without the use of a plane or joiner."⁶⁷ He built "a comfortable and substantial dwelling on the banks of the Connecticut. It was a log house, to be sure, but dry and warm.

⁵⁸ Aldrich, Lewis C. and Frank R Holmes, *History of Windsor County, Vermont* 1891.

⁵⁹ Slafter, Edmund Farwell. *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

⁶⁰ Norwich Town Deeds, Norwich, Vermont

⁶¹ Sagerman, Paula, Jericho Rural Historic District, National Register Nomination, National Park Service, 2009

⁶² Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Daniel Hovey Association. *The Hovey Book: Describing the English Ancestry and American Descendants of Daniel Hovey of Ipswich, Massachusetts*. Ipswich, Massachusetts: Press of Lewis R. Hovey, 1914.

⁶⁵ Slafter, Edmund Farwell. *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

⁶⁶ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

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The furniture was equally primitive, the tables and chairs being made of logs split in the middle, with legs.”⁶⁸

In 1765, John Slafter “was entrusted ... with the duty of allotting and dividing the lands among the proprietors, and laying out highways for the convenience of the settlers.”⁶⁹ Soon thereafter, Slafter found the river land too rocky for farming and unsuitable for building a permanent residence. He then picked a site further up from “where the well-known rope ferry was for many years maintained” and Slafter established “the first human habitation in the town....”⁷⁰ As settlers steadily poured into Norwich, “the immigrant population began to be increased by the native born.”⁷¹ Lydia Hutchinson was born in 1766. John Slafter’s daughter, Christiana, followed soon thereafter in 1768.

During the American Revolution, the people of Norwich were vulnerable to attack. Following the patriot army’s failed siege of Quebec City in December 1775, and the army’s subsequent retreat down to Fort Ticonderoga, New England’s northern frontier was unprotected and susceptible to British and Native American attack. The Norwich community faced possible attack or capture. Fearing the safety of his own family, Slafter escorted his wife and two children back to Connecticut. When Mr. Slafter returned to his deserted home, he made this entry: “Norwich, July 5, 1776, Elizabeth, Christiana and Farwell set out for Mansfield, driven off by the fear of Indians.”⁷²

With his children in the relative safety of Connecticut, Slafter assisted in the war efforts. The fear of an unprotected northern border proved true with British General John Burgoyne’s 1777 invasion of New England. During the British army’s incursion into Bennington in August 1777, Slafter served along Colonel Peter Olcott in General Stark’s regiment. Answering the call for a militia in September of 1777, Slafter was present at General John Burgoyne’s surrender at Saratoga in October 1777.

As Vermont looked for ways to fill its treasury, the Vermont Council of Safety created local councils to put loyalists on trial and confiscate their property. In 1778, the Bennington Council of Safety appointed Slafter “to take possession of, and confiscate the property of ‘Tories.’”⁷³ In 1780, there was a British-led Indian attack on the Vermont towns of Royalton, Sharon and Tunbridge. The raiding party burnt homes, killed livestock and took

⁶⁸ Daniel Hovey Association. *The Hovey Book: Describing the English Ancestry and American Descendants of Daniel Hovey of Ipswich, Massachusetts*. Ipswich, Massachusetts: Press of Lewis R. Hovey, 1914.

⁶⁹ Slafter, Edmund Farwell. *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

⁷² Slafter, Edmund Farwell. *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

⁷³ Ibid.

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many men and boys prisoner. Slafter “responded with meats and bread to the survivors.”⁷⁴ During his first twenty years in Norwich, John Slafter maintained a busy lifestyle and “as a soldier and as an administrator he was so much employed that he with difficulty found time to carry on properly his large and successful farm.”⁷⁵

Following the American Revolution, Slafter moved two miles inland to his third home location, “where, two years afterwards, on the 8th of June, 1786, he raised the frame of the spacious house, which he occupied the remainder of his days...”⁷⁶ This new area was identified as Lot 13 of the 1st Range. Slafter’s 1784 inland migration was a common occurrence amongst the Norwich settlers. They moved away from the banks of the river, as the land was too moist for cultivation. In addition, the prominent views and exposed sunlight of the hill sections improved the morale of the laboring, solitary settlers.

John Slafter built this house “in the style of the more commodious and expensive houses of that day.”⁷⁷ It originally had a hipped roof with a central chimney, which were later altered. The original chimney “was an immense structure, in the centre [*sic*] of the house, having three ovens, where the family bread and meats were cooked for the table.”⁷⁸ In 1889, the John Slafter house was identified, along with the homes of W.S. Hazen and Charles Hazen, as “specimens yet remaining of a similar style of the better farm houses of that day.”⁷⁹ During these days, Slafter “was much employed in the administration of justice.”⁸⁰ He often served as an arbitrator of disputes and “he usually succeeded in establishing ‘justice’ and ‘peace’ where a civil magistrate would have inevitably failed.”⁸¹

During the ensuing years, John Slafter acquired adjoining lands. In 1785 and 1793, he purchased seventy-seven acres and six acres from Amos Hovey.⁸² Amos Hovey was the brother of John’s wife, Elizabeth. The lot adjoining to the original Samuel Slafter lot was Lot No. 13 of the second range and it was for the “School Right.”⁸³ In 1798, the Town of Norwich Selectman and School Committee divided the 13th lot and leased the two portions to Elijah Yeomans and John Slafter. Both lessees agreed to “occupy and improve said grantee” and “make no unnecessary or unreasonable waste by cutting or destroying timber

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Woods, Henry Ernest, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register Volume LXI -January 1907*, Boston: The New England Genealogical Society, 1907.

⁷⁶ Slafter, Edmund Farwell. *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Slafter, Edmund Farwell. *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

⁸² Norwich Town Deeds, Norwich, Vermont.

⁸³ Ibid.

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nor shall any timber taken from said premises be sold.”⁸⁴ The lease was for 999 years and if Slafter or Yeomans or their heirs did not pay the seventy-five cents annual rent, the selectman could “at any time reenter upon said granted premises and take possession thereof.”⁸⁵ The lease did not include a half-acre lot reserved for the schoolhouse.



Figure 4. Slafter House (HD #5), c. 1855
Norwich Historical Society

John Slafter maintained a subsistence farm at Goodrich Four Corners. The first potatoes “raised in Windsor county were the product of ‘quarter of a bushel’ carried by Mr. Slafter on a foot journey from Charlestown to Norwich.”⁸⁶ Slafter also maintained sheep, which “became the prey of wild beasts.”⁸⁷ As a way “to abate this nuisance,” the State of Vermont “offered a bounty of eight pounds for the destruction of a wolf or panther, and half the amount for that of the young of either of these animals.”⁸⁸ John Slafter constructed animal traps by digging holes that were impossible for a wolf to climb out of [and they

could] not leap from the bottom to the top. Slafter placed a lamb near the hole to serve as bait. When the wolf or panther “frenzied by the scent of his fancied prey,” and fell to the bottom of the hole, “and being unable to extricate himself was compelled to await the approach of his captor in the morning. By this and other means of destruction, the farmers of Vermont removed this obstacle to the raising of sheep, for which this state has now become so distinguished.”⁸⁹

For many years, an elm tree stood at the front of the Slafter house. This

lofty elm ... was planted by Mrs. Elizabeth (Hovey) Slafter, a little before, or soon after the erection of the house. In 1867 this tree measured, at one foot from the ground, 16 feet in circumference It is an unusually fine specimen of the noble elm, which is indisputably the queen of ornamental trees in New England.⁹⁰

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

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Upon John Slafter's death in 1819, the house transferred to his son, John Slafter Jr. Born in 1776, John was married to Persis Grow and he served as a Norwich Justice of the Peace for several years. In 1845, the house then transferred to his son, David Grow Slafter, who maintained a sawmill and blacksmith shop on the property. After the David Grow Slafter family moved to Tuscola, Michigan in 1850, the Slafter family sold the house to the Reverend Peter J.C. Johnson. Peter John Chanebalin Johnson was born in Norwich and then moved to Underhill. He returned to his native town "and took up the occupation of a farmer"⁹¹ He was the son of Captain William Johnson, a revolutionary war veteran who commanded a company of Connecticut soldiers during the Battles of Lexington and Concord. He married Tryphema Elmer (Elmore) in 1821. They had ten children together.

About the year 1850, Johnson altered the house "by removing the chimney and erecting smaller ones, and by removing the 'square roof' and replacing it by the more common " gable."⁹² At this time, the owners may have added the full-length sidelights, an architectural feature representative of later building styles. In 1860, Johnson farmed the land with his wife and three children, Jackson, Albert and Ellen. The couple eventually had another seven children.

The property then transferred to one of their ten children, Albert Johnson, who previously lived in Newbury, New Hampshire. During this period, both Peter and his wife lived with their son on the premises. Peter died in November of 1881, and Tryphema died in July 1885.

Albert Johnson sold the property to Samuel M. Root in 1887. At this time, Root owned the Yeomans House (HD #1). His wife, Martha A. Root, then sold the house to Horace Juan Goodrich, the son of Horace and Harriet Goodrich, in 1909. Referred to by his nickname of H.T., Horace married Elizabeth Tarbell and they had two sons. Prior to returning to his native Norwich, H.T. had lived in Waltham, Massachusetts and then St. Johnsbury, where he worked as a plumbing and heating contractor. Upon moving back to Norwich, they lived at the extant house with a housekeeper, Nina Bean.



Figure 5. Slafter House (HD #5), c. 1940
Norwich Historical Society

H.T. and his two sons raised registered

⁹¹ *Book of Biographies: Biographical Sketches of Leading Citizens of Grafton County, New Hampshire*, Biographical Publishing Company, Buffalo, New York, 1897.

⁹² Slafter, Edmund Farwell. *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

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Holstein cows. He had cow entries in the Holstein-Friesian Herd Books of 1917 and 1920.⁹³ The house then passed to his brother, Austin B. Goodrich, former owner of the Yeomans House (HD #1) and Bissell House (HD #3). It appears that Austin Goodrich spent his final years in the Slafter House (HD#5). Soon after Austin Goodrich's death in 1934, Lillian and Corno Parker purchased the property in 1938. The Parkers formerly lived in Keene, New Hampshire and moved to Norwich to farm the property. They added a front porch to the eaves front elevation. Between 1964 and 1972, Susan and Robert McGrath owned the house. Joseph H. Young was the next owner. The present owners are Thomas Hulleberg and Kristin R. Graham, who lease the farm for continued agricultural use.

⁹³ Holstein-Friesian Herd-book, Volume XLVII, Brattleboro, Vermont: The Holstein-Friesian Association of America, 1922.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1786-1937

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Goodrich Four Corners Historic District encompasses roughly 232 acres of pristine agricultural land in Windsor County, Vermont. Characterized by a number of historic farmsteads, one community school, and a historic crossroads, the Goodrich Four Corners Historic District retains a high level of both physical and visual integrity that conveys the story of its growth and development from the late eighteenth century to the present. The first settler in the Goodrich Four Corners was John Slafter, the son of one of the original Benning Wentworth proprietors. Most of the original settlers in Norwich were from

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eastern Connecticut. After initially settling on a lot by the Connecticut River, Slafter moved inland for better farm land. The impetus for these Connecticut farmers to move north into the wilderness was most likely a desire for cheaper and unspoiled farmland.⁹⁴ For the 230 years following Slafter's settlement, the occupants continued to farm the land, with agricultural activity still extant today.

The district qualifies for National Register listing under Criterion A, as it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Along with the well-preserved farmhouses and other ancillary agricultural structures, the district features well-delineated fields and tree lines defined by historic road corridors that date to the early nineteenth century. The farmsteads and surrounding landscape portray the evolution of Vermont agriculture over the past one hundred twenty-five years and relate directly to the historic contexts of "Dairying, 1850 - 1941" and "Diversified and Specialty Agriculture, 1760 -1940."

The Root School is individually listed in the National Register under Criterion A for Education and Criterion C for Architecture.

The district meets National Register Criterion C as an intact collection of historic farmsteads. These farmsteads meet the registration requirements for the "Farmstead" property type as defined in the *Agricultural Resources of Vermont* Multiple Property Form. They embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and contribute to Vermont's agricultural, settlement and education history. The district relates to statewide themes of Historic Architecture and Patterns of Town Development; Agriculture; and Contact, Exploration, Conflict and Early Settlement. The period of significance begins c. 1786, the date of construction of the earliest contributing resource, and concludes in 1937, the date of construction of the most recent contributing resource.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Agriculture

Benning Wentworth, the royal governor of the province of New Hampshire, granted the land of Norwich in July 1761 to a group of investors from the vicinity of Mansfield, Connecticut. The original name was Norwhich "but common consent dropped the first 'h' in the name."⁹⁵ The six square mile parcel was "located on the West bank of the Connecticut

⁹⁴ Sagerman, Paula, *Waitsfield Common Historic District National Register Form*. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2000.

⁹⁵ Aldrich, Lewis Cass, and Frank Holmes, *History of Windsor County, Vermont, With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Syracuse, New York: D. Mason and Company Publishers, 1891.

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River forty miles north of Charlestown (number four), then the farthest outpost of civilization in the upper valley of that river.”⁹⁶ To west of the Connecticut River “lay one unbroken, trackless wilderness, unoccupied by a human habitation and traversed only by a few roving bands of Canadian Indians or by an occasional hunting party of white men from the older settlements of New England.”⁹⁷

Norwich is laid out similarly to a range township. The land was granted to private proprietors before settlement began, with the town laid out in a grid of uniform-sized farmsteads. When New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth distributed the speculative lots, he followed a European approach, in which he created six-mile square lots. The initial Norwich town plan followed the approach adopted by Masonian proprietors in New Hampshire in 1748. They

established the model of the range township, in which land within the 36-square mile town was divided into rows and ranges of lots of approximately 100 acres each. So, that the quality of land received was more or less equitable, each grantee received two or three 100-acre lots in different ranges within the town.⁹⁸

This type of layout was prevalent in New Hampshire and migrated into Vermont with Benning Wentworth’s land grants. While the range approach possessed many traditional characteristics, “their collective single minded application was new, and would revolutionize New England platting and the inform the Northwest Ordinance of 1785.”⁹⁹

The original Norwich charter consisted of sixty-three names. A month after Wentworth’s charter, the Norwich proprietors gathered at the Waterman tavern in Mansfield, Connecticut. An important provision in Wentworth’s charter was that each proprietor had to plant and cultivate five acres for every fifty acres of land within five years. Additional provisions including preserving pine trees for masts in the Royal Navy and an annual tax consisting of one ear of Indian corn.¹⁰⁰ Between 1761 and 1768, these original proprietors held their town meetings in Mansfield.¹⁰¹

⁹⁶ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Norwich Historical Society, *Norwich, Vermont: A History*. Leahy Press: Montpelier, Vermont, 2012. Garvin, James L., “The Range Township in Eighteenth Century New Hampshire,” *New England Prospect: Maps, Place Names and Historical Landscapes*. Dublin, New Hampshire: Seminar for New England Folklife, 1980.

⁹⁹ Lenney, Christopher J., *Sightseeing, Clues to the Landscape History of New England*. University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire, 2003.

¹⁰⁰ Slafter, Edmund F. *The Charter of Norwich, Vermont: and Names of the Original Proprietors*. Boston: David Clapp & Son, 1869.

¹⁰¹ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

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The following is a description of how the lots were distributed in the neighboring town of Pomfret. The proprietors gathered at their first town meeting on September 7, 1761.

To determine each proprietor's lot, a number corresponding with each lot was written on a slip of paper in the presence of the meeting, and it was then 'voted that the lots [papers] all be put into a hat together and delivered to the moderator of the said meeting, and that he shake them together and call the name of a proprietor and the clerk of said proprietors should put his hand into the hat and take out a lot and open the same, and set the number of said lot against the name so called, and so proceed till the whole were taken out, or drawn, entering the number of each lot to ye name called. This method was carefully observed and the number of each lot was entered to the name of the proprietor so called by the moderator. At this meeting, it was also voted to levy an additional tax of six shillings on each proprietor's right, making in all seventeen shillings per right for laying out the town.¹⁰²

These Connecticut meetings were unusual in the sense that although there were town meetings, there were "no rightful occupants of the town."¹⁰³ The charter demanded a town meeting, but since there were no "residents upon the soil of the town," the meetings were held in the south.¹⁰⁴ During these early years, there was limited emigration to the new lands. Every season, three to five men journeyed northward to plot out their lots.

During these meetings, the proprietors also set aside a share for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a share for a Glebe for the Church of England, a share for the first settled Minister, one share for a school, and 500 acres for Benning Wentworth.¹⁰⁵ The lots that comprise the Goodrich Four Corners district were Lot 13 of the 1st Range and Lots 13 and 14 of the 2nd Range. Samuel Slafter owned Lot 13 of the 1st Range. Lot 13 of the 2nd Range was identified as a school lot and Lot 14 of the 2nd Range belonged to Adonorinam Grant, who eventually transferred the land to the Norwich Selectman, who in turn, leased the land to Elijah Yeomans in 1779. This portion of the land transferred to John Slafter in 1800.

Norwich's first residents arrived in the mid-1760s. Other early settlers spent the warmer months clearing the land and returned to Connecticut for the winter. As the area was originally covered by forest, the first activity of its settlers was land clearing. The original trees included white pine, birch, rock maple, and beech. The big trees were cut fifteen acres at a time and the remains were burned. The cut wood was used for fencing and building the

¹⁰² Child, Hamilton, *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windsor County, for 1883-1884*, Journal Office, 1884.

¹⁰³ Aldrich, Lewis Cass, and Frank Holmes, *History of Windsor County, Vermont, With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Syracuse, New York: D. Mason and Company Publishers, 1891.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Slafter, Edmund F. *The Charter of Norwich, Vermont: and Names of the Original Proprietors*. Boston: David Clapp & Son, 1869.

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houses and outbuildings. If a "good burn" resulted, wheat could be planted soon after and a good crop secured. The stumps of the trees were placed in "great rows" and the stone fences were probably laid adjacent to the stumps.¹⁰⁶

The process of settling Norwich was very slow at first. The first documented settlers of Norwich were Jacob Fenton, Ebenezer Smith and John Slafter in the spring of 1763. The three "made clearings, built log cabins and other wise prepared for permanent occupation."¹⁰⁷ While these three were the first three settlers in Norwich, there were small settlements across the river in Lebanon and Hanover, New Hampshire while "the towns north and south of Norwich were not occupied until nearly two years later."¹⁰⁸ Following the pathfinder efforts of Fenton, Smith and Slafter, four families followed in 1764. From this point onward, "the settlement advanced with considerable rapidity."¹⁰⁹

After surveying and identifying individual lots, the Norwich settlers soon brought their families northward to live on their new homesteads. The first winter was often the most difficult, as the families emigrated with few possessions. The families were "removed as they were from all places for obtaining the conveniences and comforts of life" and they "had to rely upon their own efforts to obtain only a small portion of what was needed."¹¹⁰

During these early pioneer days, the entire family assisted in the running of the homestead. The children of the settlers contributed extensively. The boys "rendered valuable assistance to their fathers in every phase of their labor, such as chopping down trees, splitting rails, making fences, clearing land, mowing grass, reaping grain and threshing it, getting out flax, holding the plow and working out taxes."¹¹¹ The girls

were instructed by their mothers in the art of housekeeping. They received practical lessons in cookery and could prepare good wholesome victuals. They learned to spin, weave, sew and darn, and patch garments, do nice laundry work, make butter and cheese, sweep house with a broom made of birch, by their fathers or brothers, and they also assisted in out-of-door work, such as milking the cows, feeding the pigs and poultry, carrying wood and water, and, in haying time, raking after the cart; nor did they feel degraded by such work; indeed, to be useful was considered as an imperative duty, and the art and economy of

¹⁰⁶ Sagerman, Paula, *Jericho Rural Historic District, National Register Nomination Form*, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2009

¹⁰⁷ Aldrich, Lewis Cass, and Frank Holmes, *History of Windsor County, Vermont, With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of some of its Prominent Men and Pioneers*. Syracuse, New York: D. Mason and Company Publishers, 1891.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

¹¹¹ Tucker, William Howard. *History of Hartford, Vermont*. Burlington, VT: The Free Press Association, 1889.

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housekeeping was an accomplishment that every woman should take pride in acquiring.¹¹²

Having limited supplies and money, the original settlers of Norwich most likely constructed log houses in which they "laid up logs for a house, using poles for rafters and covered these with elm, or hemlock bark, for a roof."¹¹³ They used split or hewed logs for flooring, paper/cloth windows, and local stones for the fireplace, chimney and hearth.

Although these early settlers cleared land for agricultural uses, their early crops often failed due to the climate or bad seeds. One Norwich settler, John Mann, had a failed corn crop. As an alternative, he used his cooper skills to make pails and tubs. He then traveled twenty miles across the ice to three families in Newbury to trade his manufactured goods for corn. He then used the corn to make bread and hominy.¹¹⁴

Following the first permanent settlements, Elisha Burton built a sawmill on the Blood Brook, thereafter providing lumber for future settlements. That same year, John Hatch surveyed the town, dividing the town into sellable lots. Hatch also laid out the town's early roads. The first town meeting held in Norwich was in 1768 at the home of Joseph Hatch. Among the names on the original charter was Samuel Slafter who owned several of the first 100-acre lots in Norwich. At the first town meeting the people of Norwich selected him as Treasurer of the Corporation and he "took a deep interest in the settlement of the town."¹¹⁵

During the town's early settlement, the center of the town was about a mile north of the present village, grouped around the first meetinghouse. This area was known as "The Center" while the site of the present village was known as "Burton's Plain" and later "The Plain."¹¹⁶ In 1771, Norwich was the "most populous of all towns of Windsor County, having forty families and 206 inhabitants."¹¹⁷

The first settlements were close to the Connecticut River with several ferry locations connecting Norwich with Hanover, New Hampshire. Steadily over the time, the settlers populated the land higher above the river. In 1784, John Slafter moved to his third location,

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

¹¹⁵ Slafter, Edmund Farwell, *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

¹¹⁶ Mausolf, Lisa Mausolf, *Norwich Village Historic District National Register Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1991.

¹¹⁷ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge, *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

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two miles inland, "where, two years afterwards ... he raised the frame of the spacious house, which he occupied the remainder of his days..."¹¹⁸ (HD #5)

During the last decades of the 18th century, the settlers built three buildings in the Goodrich Four Corners district. Three of the farmsteads (HD #1, HD #3 and HD #5) retain the original farmhouse, English Barns and the surrounding agricultural landscape. Demonstrating the character-defining features of farmstead property types during its period of significance, the Yeomans (HD #1)and Slafter(HD #5) farmhouses retain decorative details such as symmetrical layout, simple frieze, cornice gable returns, and simple window trim and hoods. The house plan for the Bissell farmstead (HD #3) retains the massing and proportion typical of the Cape form.

Slafter's inland migration was a common occurrence amongst the Norwich settlers. They moved away from the banks of the river, as the land was too moist for cultivation. The riparian settlements also faced floods, freshets and tangled swamp-like vegetation. The air was drier and healthier compared to the damp, swampy river valleys and frost arrived later in the uplands. The hill land was easier to clear as the vegetation was sparse and the dried-out trees were easier to remove than the dense wet riverine trees. These same trees also were a source for lumber, potash and maple sugaring. In addition, the prominent views and exposed sunlight of the hill sections improved the morale of the laboring, solitary settlers. With the threat of Native American incursions an omnipresent reality, a hillside settlement provided better forewarning as well as communication sightlines with neighbors. Another reason for moving to an upland location was proximity to transportation modes such as the White and Connecticut Rivers. ¹¹⁹ Vermont historian Rev. Hosea Beckley wrote in 1846, "so innumerable are the hills...it cannot be expected that habitations should be found only in the vallies [sic]."¹²⁰

Due to the varying topography of these upland locations, the agricultural fields were small and irregular.¹²¹ After the initial clearing of their land, the settlers found that they had a surplus of wood. They used the timber on the farm for lumber as well as charcoal and potash. The latter, a granular substance produced from wood ash and used in making soap, was in great commercial demand.¹²² The early generations of residents were mostly subsistence farmers, with the majority of settlers' needs such as food and clothing provided on the farm. During these early years, the Vermont farmer also made many household items on the farm. The Vermont farms were

¹¹⁸ Slafter, Edmund Farwell, *Memorial of John Slafter: With a Genealogical Account of His Descendants, Including Eight Generations*. Press of H. W. Dutton & Son: Boston, 1869.

¹¹⁹ Sagerman, Paula, *Jericho Rural Historic District, National Register Nomination*, National Park Service, 2009

¹²⁰ Sagerman, Paula, *Waitsfield Common Historic District National Register Form*. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2000.

¹²¹ Wilson, Harold Fisher, *The Hill Country of Northern New England, Its Social and Economic History, 1790-1930*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1936.

¹²² Doyle-Schechtman, Deborah. *Marshland Farm National Register Historic District Nomination Form*, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1998.

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miniature factories, and the men spent a considerable portion of their time, especially in winter, turning out a great variety of products, including hardware, whips, clocks, chairs, farm boots, and ropes, besides a great multitude of minor articles such as axe handles, hames and horse collars, and a miscellaneous assortment of goods known as 'Yankee notions.'¹²³

These farms were not entirely self-sufficient as "substantial quantities of grain and other foodstuffs, as well as tea and sugar, certain hardware, and even exotic items like spices and chocolate were purchased from outside of town."¹²⁴ In addition to potash, the early Norwich farmers produced flax, charcoal and maple sugar.

The early 1800s were a period of considerable prosperity in Norwich and a period during which the town had a population surge, encouraged by the local establishment of Norwich University and, to a lesser extent, Dartmouth College across the river. In 1810, the population rose to 1,812 inhabitants. The town center evolved over time, first occupying Meeting House Hill (north of the present village) and then the present site, known as Burton's Plain. In 1819, the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy opened in the town. In 1830, the population was 2,316. Between 1830 and 1920, Norwich's population decreased annually, reaching a low in 1920 of 1,092. The westward migration of the 1840s, as well as the relocation of Norwich University to Northfield in 1866, contributed to the depopulation.

With its close proximity to the Connecticut River, Norwich provided excellent land for farmers, "as it had rich, fertile soil due to the decomposition and disintegration of the impure limestone found in the alluvial hill terraces of the White and Connecticut Rivers."¹²⁵ The mineral contents of the soil brought "sweetness, texture and grain to the root crops, and good grass and grain. This area, like many areas of Vermont east of the Green Mountains, still maintains fertile soil as a result of this geology."¹²⁶

Until about the 1820s, most farms in Windsor County and Vermont practiced diversified subsistence farming. As explained in the *Agricultural Resources of Vermont* Multiple Property Form, most Vermont farms were general-purpose farms that raised a variety of crops for subsistence and sustenance. The agricultural production sustained the farmstead and only surplus products were sold. When the surplus exceeded their needs for home consumption, farmers sold goods such as wool, butter, cheese, potatoes and maple sugar off

¹²³ Wilson, Harold Fisher, *The Hill Country of Northern New England, Its Social and Economic History, 1790-1930*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1936.

¹²⁴ Berolzheimer, Alan. "The History of Farming in Norwich," *Norwich Times*. Norwich: Vermont, Village Green Publishing Company.

¹²⁵ Russell, Howard S. *A Long Deep Furrow, Three Centuries of Farming in New England*. University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire, 1982.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

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the property. Before the advent of rapid transportation and refrigeration, milk was turned into less perishable butter and cheese. The farm livestock often included one or two cows, beef cattle, one or two oxen, swine, and a few horses. Early crops may have included wheat, corn, oats, beans, potatoes and possibly maple sugar. Apples and other orchard products would have been produced by the early nineteenth-century. All of the livestock would have been housed in one barn.¹²⁷

During the early nineteenth century, Vermont's small-scale agriculture focused on grains and meats as the staple export products. The nature of Vermont farming changed as "the creation of additional trade routes, while opening new markets, caused an increase in the supply of these staples, and their plummeting prices."¹²⁸ With the opening of transportation routes such as the Champlain Canal in 1823 and the Erie Canal in 1825, Vermont farmers found it difficult to compete with the larger regional economy.

The early nineteenth century was a period in change for farming trends in Windsor County as well all of Vermont. The land was failing from years of improper uses during the pioneer period as they "mined it rather than cultivated it."¹²⁹ Farms converted from the cultivation of cash crops like oats, corn, wheat, and barley to animal husbandry, specifically sheep raising. Vermont farmers found it difficult to compete with the newly settled virgin and inexpensive farmland of the Midwest. New England farmers also dealt with wheat midge, Hessian flies, and rust, which pushed Vermont farmers to turn to the profit-making venture of sheep raising for both wool production and stockbreeding.¹³⁰ This change from sustenance farming to commercial farming was related to several events: the import of Merino sheep to Vermont in 1811, the 1824 plague of wheat rust and Vermont's implementation of favorable wool tariffs in 1824 and 1828.

William Jarvis of Wethersfield, Vermont, the United States Consul to Lisbon, imported the first large number of Merino sheep to Vermont. Jarvis returned to Vermont with 400 sheep and he saw the state as an ideal location "because of its treeless hills, denuded by the pioneers' need for firewood, building materials, and lumber for the potash markets."¹³¹ The rocky soil was better suited for pasture grazing than growing wheat and corn. A popular tale in New England was that sheep flourished in Vermont for they had appropriately

¹²⁷ Sagerman, Paula. *Atherton Farmstead National Register Historic District Nomination Form*, Department of the Interior, National Park Service

¹²⁸ "Agriculture and Industry," *Central Vermont, A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary Website*. National Park Service, the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Vermont Historical Society, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, N.D. Date Accessed April 13, 2017.

¹²⁹ Norwich Woman's Club. "Know Your Town" 1940.

¹³⁰ Wilson, Harold Fisher, *The Hill Country of Northern New England, Its Social and Economic History, 1790-1930*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1936.

¹³¹ Balivet, Robert F. *Vermont History*. v. 33, No. 1, Montpelier: Vermont Historical Society, January 1965.

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lengthy noses, “sharpened by nature,” in order to get between the rocks that strewn the countryside.¹³²

Merino sheep were prized for their long, soft wool and the animals’ grazing style was ideal for the rolling hills of Vermont. As Merinos and the related Saxony imports spread across the state, “the lengthy fleeces of these breeds offered a quality of wool that precisely met the needs of the increasing number of woolen mills, especially those producing high grade yarn and cloth.”¹³³ Over time, Vermonters perfected the sheep breed. Between 1812 and 1865, the weight of fleece compared to the total weight of the sheep expanded from 6% to 21%.

Because of Norwich’s proximity to Weathersfield, where William Jarvis lived, it is possible that sheep raising began in Norwich soon after 1811. By 1830, sheep raising for wool production and stockbreeding was the predominant agricultural activity in Windsor County, and it is likely that the farms of Goodrich Four Corners adopted this trend. Reflecting this growth, the population of Norwich “had soared to 2,316 a number not exceeded until 1890.”¹³⁴ In 1840, sheep outnumbered people six to one in Norwich with a total of 13,000 sheep and 2,218 citizens. This population of sheep produced nearly 27,630 pounds of wool. The “substantial number of pounds of wool coupled with the 15,730 pounds of sugar represents the main agricultural productions in this town from the beginning of settlement.”¹³⁵ At this time, there were only 481 horses and 2,348 cattle in the town in 1840 “suggesting that each family or farm did not have more than one horse and a few cattle and most likely were used for subsistent farming purposes.”¹³⁶

In the decades leading up to American Civil War, Norwich farmers cleared much of the forests for sheep grazing. Sheep required few laborers, but a lot of open space. Sheep were raised in large numbers in Norwich until at least the late 1880s. The small area of unimproved forest (an average of 20% of the land) documented in the 1850-1880 U.S. Agricultural Census records reflects the importance of cleared land during the sheep-raising period.¹³⁷

¹³² Wilson, Harold Fisher, *The Hill Country of Northern New England, Its Social and Economic History, 1790-1930*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1936.

¹³³ Russell, Howard S. *A Long Deep Furrow, Three Centuries of Farming in New England*. University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire, 1982.

¹³⁴ Norwich Historical Society. *Norwich, Vermont: A History*. Leahy Press: Montpelier, Vermont, 2012.

¹³⁵ University of Vermont Historic Preservation program. *Vermont Barn Census*. University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, 2009.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Sagerman, Paula. *Jericho Rural Historic District National Register Nomination Form*, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2009.

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There was an abundance of mills throughout Windsor County to process the fleece. In 1766, Elisha Burton built a sawmill, which was used as a fulling and cloth mill.¹³⁸ In 1836, there were thirty-three woolen factories in Vermont; a year later there were three hundred thirty-four. The value of the mills was \$1,331, 953; the capital invested, \$1,409,950; and the average number of wage earners, 1450.¹³⁹ In Quechee, numerous mills took advantage of the waterpower of the Ottauquechee River. In 1840 Francis K. Nichols & Company became the first mill in the United States to manufacture shoddy, a fabric combining reused soft rags and new wool.¹⁴⁰ Another Quechee enterprise, J.C. Parker and Company, "produced some of the country's finest white baby flannel, material which was also used to make petticoats, men's shirts and pajamas."¹⁴¹ In 1870 the J.C. Parker mill, one of 45 Vermont woolen mills, generated 35% of the state woolen industry's \$3.5 million-dollar revenue. That year, the mill produced approximately 100 yards of fabric a day.¹⁴²

While this was period of tremendous growth, there were periods of economic downturn. The Panic of 1837, "fueled by inflated real estate values and commodity and stock prices" reduced wool prices by as much as 25%.¹⁴³ Initially, the nationwide Panic of 1837 affected all of Vermont's industries, but the biggest contributor to the decline was lowering of the protective tariff rates in 1841, 1842 and 1846. As a result, "there was no longer protection for those who had painfully worked to improve the quality of the Vermont Merinos."¹⁴⁴ In addition, the cheaper wool of the west, easily transported by the expanding railroads, hampered Vermont's ability to compete with the rest of the country's wool producers.

While the peak of the sheep boom in Vermont ended in the 1840s, it appears that many Norwich farmers in 1850 were still in the business of raising sheep and producing wool for market. That year, 183 of the 250 farmers in town owned approximately 10,000 sheep, an average of about 55 per farm.

Daniel Miner, who ran the Yeomans Farm (HD #1) in 1850, maintained a flock of 90 sheep that produced 300 pounds of wool. Miner had 70 acres of improved land and 45 acres of unimproved land. In 1860, he had 50 acres of improved land and forty acres of unimproved land. Between 1850 and 1860, the cash value of the Miner farm increased from \$2000 to \$3000. During this ten-year period, Miner had one to two horses, three cows, two oxen, and one to two pigs. He also grew wheat, rye, corn, oats and potatoes. In 1850, Miner produced

¹³⁸ Mausolf, Lisa. *Quechee Historic Mill District National Register Nomination Form*, Quechee, Windsor County, Vermont, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997.

¹³⁹ Crockett, Walter H. *History of Vermont*, New York: Century History Co. Inc., 1921.

¹⁴⁰ Mausolf, Lisa. *Quechee Historic Mill District National Register Nomination Form*, Quechee, Windsor County, Vermont, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1997.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ Balivet, Robert F. *The Vermont Sheep Industry: 1811-1880. Vermont History*. v. 33, no. 1 Vermont Historical Society, January 1965.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

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cheese and butter, but ten years later, his three cows were only used for butter. He did not tap his maple trees for sugar.¹⁴⁵

Miner also made agricultural shoes and forks on the premises, most likely supplying farmers throughout Norwich and the Connecticut River Valley. With two wage employees, Miner used 800 pounds of iron and 2000 handles. Miner most likely made pitch forks and plow shoes. The forks used for pitching hay, straw, barley and manure. They were originally made of wood and by the mid-nineteenth century, they were a combination of wood and iron. Plow shoes were an integral part of the plow. He may have also made horseshoes.

The Norwich farms of the 1850s were self-sustaining, often having orchards, hundreds of sheep, broad grain fields, and shaded trees, cattle barns, and sheep barns. The United States Agricultural Census for Vermont, completed in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880, shows a diversified farming operation during this last half of the nineteenth century. Farms were often improved (tilled, pasture, orchard and mowings) and "unimproved" (woodland). It was typical at that time for at least 75% of a farm to be cleared, due to the abundance of meadow required for sheep raising. During this time, sheep raising was the dominant agricultural activity, but Norwich also remained ideal for fruit trees, pasturage, and dairying. The farms produced butter, cheese, maple sugar, and wool. Vermont farmers grew potatoes, corn, oats, peas, beans, apples, wheat, rye, barley, and buckwheat. Farm work was accomplished with horses and oxen, and there was a relatively small herd of dairy cows. There were a few swine to use for lard and meat. Activities at the farm often included spinning and weaving, and productions such as sausage and soap making.

In 1850, Peter John Chanebalin Johnson had a flock of 44 sheep at the Slafter farmstead (HD #5). Johnson has ninety-seven acres of improved land and eight acres of unimproved land with a total value of \$1400. The farm had two horses, two working oxen, one pig and four other cattle. Johnson grew rye, peas, potatoes and corn. He also maintained an apple orchard with a value of \$60. He did not tap his maple trees. His two cows were used for butter but not cheese. In 1860, Johnson had 100 acres of improved land and twenty acres of unimproved land. His livestock remained similar while his oats harvest increased significantly. During the ten-year period, Johnson started to use his maple trees for sugar.¹⁴⁶ By 1870, his land had increased in value from \$1400 in 1850 to \$4800. The Johnson farm also hired staff as he paid \$250 in wages in 1870. He also increased his corn production.¹⁴⁷ Income was derived from logging, sugaring, and from breeding or selling sheep, horses and cows, or from slaughtering.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴⁵ Agricultural Census, Norwich, Vermont, 1850-1880.

¹⁴⁶ Agricultural Census, Norwich, Vermont 1850-1880.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ewald, Richard. *Ballard Farm National Register Nomination Form*, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1993.

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The most noticeable changes to the Johnson's agriculture productions at the Slafter farm (HD #5) was the increased use of the surrounding forest for timber, orchards and maple sugar. Apple trees thrived in the Vermont climate, and much of the state's soil was conducive to raising apples. In addition, the apple was a hardy fruit and easy to ship. The farms of Goodrich Four Corners maintained relatively small orchards. The apples were used for cider making and its various by-products such as jelly, vinegar, wine and brandy. The period 1870-1900 was a time of renewed interest in apple growing in Vermont. With improved methods of transportation, the introduction of new varieties for eating and cooking purposes, and the development of refrigerated storage on rail and steamer transport, there were new markets for apple growers. In addition, better canning, drying, and packaging processes, in conjunction with a growing market for apples for eating and cooking purposes in cities throughout the northeast, encouraged more farmers to diversify their operations with apple orchards.

Maple sugar was considered one of the state's earliest commercial exports. Maple sugaring was an operation the settlers learned from native populations, and Vermont was famous for both the quality and output of the product. Maple sugaring was the Vermont farmer's first crop of the year, as it was gathered and processed during the spring thaw, prior to the planting of field crops.¹⁴⁹ After the sap was extracted from the tapped trees it was boiled down to a sugar or syrup. It was most often processed outdoors in a large kettle over an open fire.

During the winter, farmers headed into the timber lot to cut logs for firewood and lumber. In his book *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn*, historian Thomas Hubka described the New England farmer as the "summer farmer and winter woodsman."¹⁵⁰ The woodlot was central to the Vermont farm as farmers spent most of their winters in the woods, cutting timber for the local sawmill and cordwood for the stoves of family and neighbors. Sugar bushes were also very important on a farm.

In 1850, Vermont produced 3,400,717 pounds of fleece, "almost half that of all New England and one third that of the great Empire State of New York."¹⁵¹ The sheep boom created markets outside of the states, as "Vermont's reputation for superior stock brought buyers from all over the country seeking the rams and the ewes of its noted breeders. Prices ran in the thousands for the best animals."¹⁵² The Hon. Daniel Needham of Hartford (Vermont), in his 1862 address to the Vermont Wool Growers' Convention, claimed that

there is no animal in which there is so little waste or loss...that will thrive by so little attention and labor...so perfectly adapted to our mountain pastures...that

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ Hubka, Thomas C. *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1984.

¹⁵¹ Russell, Howard S. *A Long Deep Furrow, Three Centuries of Farming in New England*. University Press of New England, Hanover, New Hampshire, 1982.

¹⁵² Ibid.

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both the necessities and the luxuries of man are furnished by this little animal.¹⁵³

The American Civil War ushered in a brief revival in the Vermont sheep industry. Just like the War of 1812, there was a demand for wool for service uniforms:

The wool began to sell at a dollar a pound for one or two years, for wool began to replace the articles formerly made of cotton, which could no longer be smuggled, from the South. So temporarily the profit from wool exceeded the profit from cheese and butter, which were being produced as a resort when the sheep industry had failed.¹⁵⁴

The 1860 agricultural census identified two hundred and four farms in Norwich

...all of which were recorded as having milking cows, oxen and other cattle in the single digits. However, nearly one hundred and fifty-seven farms had sheep either in the double or triple digits. This accounted for 7,075 sheep compared to the 1,529 of total cattle. Only one hundred twenty-six farms were recorded on the census for maple sugar, yet, the 40,000 pounds of maple sugar was substantial. Some farms produced nearly 800 pounds or as little as 50 pounds, with most farms producing averaging between 300 to 500 pounds annually.¹⁵⁵

While the Civil War brought a temporary reprieve for wool industry, by 1870 the sheep industry had recessed once again, as evidenced in the following report from the *Woodstock Standard*:

We saw in our streets, a few days since, a drove of fine wool sheep which had been bought for \$1.35 a head, a circumstance which' illustrates quite forcibly the low state of the wool and sheep market.¹⁵⁶

Reflecting the decrease of the sheep industry, Joseph Root did not have a sheep herd at Bissell farm (HD #3). The maintained twenty-five acres of improved land and twenty acres of unimproved land at the with a total cash value of \$1000. In 1860, Root had two cows, two oxen, two cattle, and one pig. He grew a limited crop of corn, oats and potatoes. He did produce some butter but no cheese. He did not tap his maple trees for sugar.¹⁵⁷ In 1870, he continued to farm the land. Over the ten-year period, the acreage of improved land increased to ninety-five acres. He added to wheat to his agricultural production.

¹⁵³ Ibid.

¹⁵⁴ Newton, Isaac, *Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the Year 1864*; Washington, Government Printing Office, 1865.

¹⁵⁵ University of Vermont Historic Preservation program. *Vermont Barn Census*. University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, 2009.

¹⁵⁶ *The Vermont Farmer*, Newport, Vermont, December 9, 1870.

¹⁵⁷ Agricultural Census, Norwich, Vermont, 1850-1880.

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In 1870, the Root family had less focus on wool production with only three sheep at the Yeomans Farm (HD #1). The Roots had 100 improved acres and 35 unimproved acres with a cash value of \$2800. The farm had one horse, two cows, two oxen, two cattle, and one pig. The total livestock value was \$600. The farm grew wheat, rye, oats, potatoes and hay. The Roots did not produce any maple sugar.¹⁵⁸

As the sheep boom deflated, dairy farming increased in Vermont due to the growing demand for dairy products in the urban centers of southern New England as well as the advent of the railroad and the invention of the iced butter car in 1854. Following the Civil War, "the expansion of the railroad to the American west successfully eroded Vermont's advantage of proximity to East Coast grain, meat and wool markets. Farmers slowly shifted their emphasis away from sheep to more profitable dairy cattle and small-scale diversified farming."¹⁵⁹

Farms had always maintained a small dairy herd for their own butter, cheese and milk, but now Vermont farms were entering an era when dairying was the dominant form of output. The big difference was the focus on purebred cows such as Jerseys and Holsteins which produced better milk than the mixed breeds that farmers used proper to the shift from sheep to dairy.¹⁶⁰ While most farms had cattle in 1850, dairying had not yet become a commercial enterprise. Only 11 farmers had as many as 10 cows, and most had fewer than five.¹⁶¹ Daniel Miner did not maintain any cattle at the Yeomans Farm (HD#1) in 1850.

The butter and cheese farms may have been made for out of state markets, but it was more likely marketed regionally throughout southern Windsor County. At this point, it is possible that Norwich farmers were shipping their butter and cheese surplus to markets in Brighton, New York and Boston, as the railroad had arrived in Vermont (including White River Junction) two years earlier. The advent of the iced butter car enabled year-round shipments. By 1851, White River Junction was an important railroad hub, serving rail lines leading north, south, east and west.¹⁶²

By 1880, the Root brothers at the Yeomans farm (HD #1) made a conversion to a dairy herd. The Roots had two working oxen, three cows, and seven other cattle. In 1880, the

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ "Agriculture and Industry," *Central Vermont, A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary Website*. National Park Service, the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Vermont Historical Society, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, N.D. Date Accessed April 13, 2017.

¹⁶⁰ Clifford, Cameron. *Farms, Flatlanders and Fords: A Story of People and Place in Rural Vermont 1890-2010*. West Hartford, Vermont: Clifford Archive, 2011.

¹⁶¹ Berolzheimer, Alan. "The History of Farming in Norwich" *Norwich Times*. Norwich: Vermont, Village Green Publishing Company.

¹⁶² Sagerman, Paula. *Jericho Rural Historic District National Register Nomination Form*, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2009.

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Root farm dropped three calves, an action where calves are removed from the herd so they do not compete for the milk. They sold four cows and slaughtered one adult cow. Their livestock was valued at \$500. The Roots did not sell any milk but produced 200 lbs. of cheese. They had 50 acres of tillable land, 50 acres of permanent meadows, pastures and/or orchards and 15 acres used for other uses. The value of their land was estimated at \$2,500. The Root farm used one acre for buckwheat, three acres for corn, one acre for potatoes, two acres for apple orchards and two acres for oats. They did not have any sheep or swine but had twenty chickens. During the winter, they harvested twenty cords of wood from the timber lot.

As the farm grew and agricultural practices changed, other buildings were added to the farmsteads. There is evidence of shed additions and silos on the barns at the Yeomans Farm (HD #1), Bissell Farm (HD #3) and Slafter Farm (HD #5).

By 1880, most farms in Vermont had replaced the dominant agricultural activity of sheep raising with dairying. Despite this general trend, many Windsor County farmers maintained large herds of sheep and cows with their sheep numbers exceeding the cow population. The farm also had horses, oxen, cows, sheep, and chickens. Farm production often included butter, cheese, wool, eggs, buckwheat, corn, beans, maple sugar, molasses, potatoes, apples, hay, and cordwood.

The population of Norwich was 1,471 in 1880, a slight decrease from the 1800 population of 1,486 and a significant decline from the 1830 peak population of 1830. By 1883, the Vermont agricultural landscape had become unsuitable for agricultural purposes:

Made up as it is of almost barren rocks, soil filled to overflowing with stones and boulders, hillsides steep and inaccessible, so that reclaiming by the plow is impossible and what little vegetation there seems hardly with the necessary effort of the stock to obtain it, ... there is one use that can be made of such land which promises adequate return and that is to let it grow up to forest. It was once covered with timber and time will so cover it again if given the opportunity.¹⁶³

In 1889, Norwich historian Henry Villars Partridge assessed the communities of Barnard, Stafford, Hartland, Norwich, Pomfret, Reading, Wethersfield, Westminster, Dummerston, and Guilford. He discovered that these towns "contained about seventy-five per cent of the number of people they did eighty years earlier (in 1800) and less than sixty per cent of the populations the same towns had at the time of the greatest population, two or three decades later (1820-1830)."¹⁶⁴ Partridge wrote that

¹⁶³ Pember, E.R., "Our Hill Farms," Eighth Agricultural Report, Burlington, Vermont, 1884.

¹⁶⁴ Goddard, M.E. & Henry V. Partridge. *A History of Norwich Vermont*. Hanover, N.H.: The Dartmouth Press, 1905.

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a thoughtful man might find a sort of melancholy interest in a ride through one of these depleted townships and a census of its deserted homesteads and its scores of abandoned farms. He would linger for a moment around the old cellar holes where a few scrubby lilacs and stunted rose bushes still survive and bloom in their season and where perchance an old chimney still stands intact in naked ghastliness with the hearthstone and door stone still in place, around which children played and the annual family gathering at Thanksgiving was assembled half a century ago. Not infrequently some emigrant to the West or elsewhere returns in his old age to Vermont, to revisit the home of his childhood and the scenes of early life as recalls them fifty years back, to look upon such a picture.¹⁶⁵

In the 1880s, farming in Vermont went through a decline as farm product prices decreased significantly and “farming became less remunerative; many farmers sought other avocations, or became wage earners on other farms.”¹⁶⁶ Despite this apparent decline, *The Agricultural Census of 1880* recorded two hundred and twenty-nine farms in Norwich. The census reflected that hay production was still gradually increasing, maple sugar and molasses production was on the rise, however, sheep population declined, and cattle remained constant. One hundred and twenty-three Norwich farms were recorded for maple sugar and molasses production with a 15, 000-pound increase over the 1860 Agricultural Census.¹⁶⁷

The transition to dairying was natural as it was already a known occupation to the farmers, just at a smaller scale. Prior to the Civil War, “the keeping of cows on American farms was incidental to the general work of farm families. The ‘native’ cattle in use were of a very inferior breed, insufficiently and unprofitably fed and poorly housed. The handling of milk for whatever purpose was haphazard, to say the least.”¹⁶⁸ The production of butter and cheese continued, but by the end of the century was replaced with cream and fluid milk due to western competition. Not every farmer made the seamless transition from sheep to cows:

Vermont’s transition to dairying was uneven. Some farmers chose not to rearrange their farms, work rhythms and lives, and gave up farming rather than become dairy farmers. The keeping of the family cow had often been a female occupation, whereas males most often did fieldwork. Some farmers found the prospect of becoming dairymen unappealing. A shortage of cheap farm labor

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ *Agriculture of Vermont, Eighteenth Vermont Agricultural Report for the Year 1898*. Burlington: Free Press Association, 1898.

¹⁶⁷ University of Vermont Historic Preservation program. *Vermont Barn Census*. University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, 2009.

¹⁶⁸ Rozwenc, Edwin C. *Agricultural Policies in Vermont 1860-1945*. Montpelier: Vermont Historical Society, 1981.

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discourages others from taking up dairy farming. Nonetheless, dairying ultimately became the mainstay of Vermont agriculture.¹⁶⁹

In 1880, Albert Johnson maintained a modest farming operation at the Slafter farm (HD #5) and did not engage in dairying. He had thirty acres of tillable land and seventy-five acres for permanent orchards, meadows and pastures. The value of the Johnson land was \$2500. During the 1879 season, Albert Johnson hired farm labor for seven weeks, paying a total of \$30. He did not maintain any sheep, cattle, poultry or swine. He did have three acres for corn, four acres for four acres for oats and a half an acre for wheat.

The Goodrichs maintained many horses on the Yeomans Farm (HD #1). At the first annual Pompanoosuc Agricultural Society Fair, the brothers received a 2nd place award for brood mares; 1st place for one-year olds; and 2nd place for trotting horses.¹⁷⁰

After the turn of the 20th century, fluid milk production increased, and rail shipment of Vermont milk to urban centers started. Cream was likely taken to regional creameries in the West Hartford, Norwich, Cabot and the Bellows Falls. The West Hartford Creamery, established in 1893, has grown into one of the state's busiest creameries. By 1917, the West Hartford Creamery produced 10,000 pounds of cream a week, necessitating the creamery to buy cream from beyond Windsor County as the local farms could not keep up with demand.¹⁷¹ By 1921, the creamery was predicted to "make around five percent of Vermont's butter."¹⁷²

The Goodrich Four Corners farms most likely maintained small dairy herds. The dairy herd required approximately five times as much feed and pasturage than sheep. Goodrich Four Corners is surrounded by rolling hills and adjacent farmsteads, and this topography most likely limited the size of the herds. This fact is also reflected by the size of the barns and the room allotted for livestock. In addition, large dairy operations required lots of labor and the census data reflected no boarders/laborers. While sheep most likely flourished in Goodrich Four Corners,

the marginal land on which Merinos had thrived proved unable to support dairy cows. The economics of commercial dairying, its labor and capital requirements, and the demand for ever increasing productivity, encouraged larger, better quality farms.¹⁷³

¹⁶⁹ Donath, David, "Agriculture and the Good Society." *We Vermonters: Perspectives on the Past*. Montpelier, Vermont: Vermont Historical Society, 1992.

¹⁷⁰ *The United Opinion*, Bradford, Vermont, October 8, 1886.

¹⁷¹ Clifford, Cameron. *Farms, Flatlanders and Fords: A Story of People and Place in Rural Vermont 1890-2010*. West Hartford, Vermont: Clifford Archive, 2011.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Donath, David, "Agriculture and the Good Society." *We Vermonters: Perspectives on the Past*. Montpelier, Vermont: Vermont Historical Society, 1992.

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It appears that the farmers of Goodrich Corners maintained relatively small herds and as a result much of the marginal land returned to woodlots. The English barns at the Yeomans House (HD #1), Bissell House (HD #3) and Slafter House (HD #5) were converted to dairy use in the latter half of the 19th century as the agricultural industry in Vermont became more uniformly devoted to milk products. These conversions included the installation of stanchions and the addition of milk rooms.

In 1910, Austin and Edna Goodrich lived in the Slafter House (HD #5) maintaining a variety of cattle, including Holstein-Friesian cows, short horn, Ayrshire and Guernsey cows as part of their livestock.¹⁷⁴ Their Ayrshire cow, named Golden Heart, and their short horn cow, Colon Thorn, were both registered breeds with lineage dating back several decades.

While dairying was clearly the dominant twentieth -century agricultural activity, farmers in Norwich continued to produce other crops. Due to the rough topography and the long winters, Vermont farmers were forced to seek alternative forms of income. In 1915, the State of Vermont reported that:

The tendency of farming today is towards specialization along those lines for which the regions are adapted. The leading specialty for the Vermont farmer is dairying, which is fortunate for the state from the standpoint of value of product per acre, employment of men throughout the year and maintenance of the fertility of the soil. We may with profit attempt to develop other specialties, such as fruit growing, potato growing, etc., but the main interest centers in dairying.¹⁷⁵

During the winter, farmers headed into the timber lot to cut firewood and log timber for lumber. During the spring, many farmers started the maple sugar process. Maple sugar and/or syrup production increased, and farmers started to sell their maple products to centralized processors rather than on the farm. In 1915, there were 9,558 tapped maple trees in Norwich. The farmers of Norwich produced 2,350 pounds of maple sugar and 2,889 gallons of maple syrup.¹⁷⁶ During the summer, farmers participated in a variety of extra activities. Hay was mown on each farm and in the early part of the century was also sold in the villages. Clover and alfalfa were successful hay crops. Corn and oats were grown mostly for livestock feed. Vermont was also ideal for growing fruit, as "certain fruits largely consumed, require a cool climate for their best development."¹⁷⁷ Farmers grew potatoes "to provide a surplus to sell beyond household needs."¹⁷⁸ They also probably produced

¹⁷⁴ The Brattleboro Daily Reformer. November 15, 1917

¹⁷⁵ *Agriculture of Vermont, Seventh Annual Report of the Commissioner of the State of Vermont, 1915*. St. Albans: St. Albans Messenger Company, 1915.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid.

¹⁷⁸ Clifford, Cameron. *Farms, Flatlanders and Fords: A Story of People and Place in Rural Vermont 1890-2010*. West Hartford, Vermont: Clifford Archive, 2011.

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certified potato seed, as this was very common. Some raised poultry “to sell as meat or produce eggs for sale or trade.”¹⁷⁹

From 1900 to 1930, the number of farms in Windsor County decreased by 25%. Vermont farmers faced high taxes, infertile soil and a harsh growing climate. The State of Vermont addressed the turnover of farms:

Thousands of Vermont farms may be bought at prices, which would enable good, thrifty farmers to develop a profitable farm business and make a home on the land. It is of vital interest to all classes of people in Vermont, whether they live in town or country, that these farms fall into the hands of people who will develop them and also make good citizens in their respective communities.¹⁸⁰

As the demand for agricultural products diminished in the years immediately following World War I, Norwich farmers bound together to face their economic challenges. The biggest challenge to Vermont’s farmers was the rise of large corporations that were essentially pushing out the small-scale farmer. In Norwich, this was evidenced by the opening of the H.P. Hood and Sons Creamery, with main offices in Boston. One remedy was the creation of cooperatives “in an effort to have alternative outlets for their milk and gain greater independence from the dealers.”¹⁸¹

By 1930, only nine out of 101 farmers in Norwich maintained a dairy herd.¹⁸² Between 1930 and 1932, the farms of Norwich, in their entirety, had 51 silos, 323 horses, 172 sheep, 46 swines, 20 beef cattle, six oxen, and 19 oxen. During this same period, the Norwich dairy operations consisted of 396 dairy calves, 79 registered heifers, 39 registered dairy bulls, 1,714 grade bulls and five grade dairy heifers.¹⁸³ The striking difference between 1920 and 1932 was that the sheep numbers have reduced from 375 to 172. The total number increased on a statewide level, this two-year period was “an extremely trying time for Vermont farmers.”¹⁸⁴ Vermont farmers faced inflated prices for goods they needed, and their commodities were selling at a greatly reduced price. During this time, “the number of farms in town gradually declined and the proportion of residents making their living in other ways steadily increased.”¹⁸⁵

¹⁷⁹ Ibid.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid

¹⁸¹ Barron, Hal S. *Mixed Harvest. The Second Great Transformation in the Rural North, 1870-1930*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1997.

¹⁸² Berolzheimer, Alan. “The History of Farming in Norwich” *Norwich Times*. Norwich: Vermont, Village Green Publishing Company.

¹⁸³ *Agriculture of Vermont, Sixteenth Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Vermont, 1930-1932*.

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

¹⁸⁵ Berolzheimer, Alan. “The History of Farming in Norwich” *Norwich Times*. Norwich: Vermont, Village Green Publishing Company.

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From the start of World War II through the 1970s, “the amount of active farmland in Norwich (including pasture, cropland, hay fields, and orchards) diminished by one-half, to about 3,500 acres.”¹⁸⁶ In 1940, the farms of Windsor County had, “on average, 288 acres of land. Sixty-one acres of this land or slightly less than one fourth of the total acreage were used for crops; 83 acres were in open pastures; 95 acres in wood pastured; 44 acres in woods not pastured and five acres in other land.”¹⁸⁷ This decline was attributed to the economics of maintaining a small-scale farm, the availability of the automobile, and the attractive landscape. The small dairy farms could not compete with the larger, technologically advanced farms. The automobile allowed for commuting, and many farmers’ children entered into other professions. In 1974, there were only seven farmers in town who made more than half their income from farming. In 1986, there were two dairy/beef farms and two vegetable farms.¹⁸⁸

As a result, traditional farmsteads became desirable places to live for people who did not farm for a living. Starting as early as the 1890s, out-of-state residents started buying Vermont farmsteads for vacation homes. This trend saw a large increase in the 1920s, when the automobile was in more common use. At this time, the new owners found the houses in poor condition and undertook a comprehensive rehabilitation. The construction in the 1960s of nearby Interstate Routes 91 and 89 allowed people to live farther away from their work and commute from their rural homes.

Criterion A: Education

The Goodrich Four Corners Historic District includes, as a contributing resource, the Root Schoolhouse (HD #4). The Root School is historically significant for its role in the education of the families who owned and worked on the farms located at Goodrich Four Corners. The extant building dates to 1937, but District #5 was established in the early 19th century and its use into the mid-twentieth century reflects the rural character of Goodrich Four Corners and the continued occupation of the surrounding farms by families. The “Root Schoolhouse” name appears in the mid-1860s, when several members of the Root family were living on farms at Goodrich Four Corners. For a more detailed description of the Root School, please see the National Register registration form for the Root School.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Goodrich Four Corners’ farmsteads are fine examples of small Connecticut River Valley farms that evolved over the course of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Three of the farmsteads (HD #1, HD #3 and HD #5) retain the original farmhouse, English

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ Davison, Robert P. and Edward J. Cook. *A Study of the Farm Business of 89 Dairy Farms in Windsor County, Vermont*. Agricultural Extension Service. University of Vermont and State Agricultural College. Burlington, Vermont: 1941.

¹⁸⁸ Berolzheimer, Alan. “The History of Farming in Norwich” *Norwich Times*. Norwich: Vermont, Village Green Publishing Company.

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Barns and the surrounding agricultural landscape. The properties maintain important landscape and plan features such as the front/door/barn yard system, meadows, and the typical radiating system of farm core surrounded by meadows and pastures with woodlots at the extremes of the property.

The farmsteads demonstrate the evolution of Vermont farming practices. As markets changed, technologies evolved, and societal needs fluctuated, the farms adapted. Collectively, the buildings, layout, size, and the arrangement of the facilities of the Goodrich Four Corners farmsteads tell a vibrant story of eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth century farm life. Each of the farm buildings embodies the changing domestic and agricultural practices over the period of significance. The Yeomans House (HD #1) and Slafter House (HD #5) feature ell additions and attached transitional space used for domestic chores and workshop activities, food storage, and equipment storage. The barns were updated to meet the needs of the developing dairy industry. Despite these changes, the farmsteads have maintained their character, layout and organization. Demonstrating the character-defining features of farmstead property types during its period of significance, the Yeomans (HD #1) and Slafter (HD #5) farmhouses retain decorative details such as symmetrical layout, simple frieze, cornice gable returns, and simple window trim and hoods. The house plan for the Bissell farmstead (HD #3) retains the massing and proportion typical of the Cape form. None of the changes that have been made to the farmhouses substantially detract from its integrity or significance. The Root Schoolhouse (HD #4) exhibits a restrained Colonial Revival style and is almost wholly intact on the interior and exterior.

Due to its rich history and intact historic resources, the Goodrich Four Corners Historic District is a significant area of Norwich with architectural and landscape features that are visual reminders of a vibrant rural community. Today, Goodrich Four Corners remains an idyllic rural area with well-maintained late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century historic homes, an intact historic schoolhouse and large parcels, open fields that depict the farming history of the area, stone walls that identity the historic settlement patterns, and old gravel roads that depict the travel patterns in Norwich. The Hogwash Farm, which is located at the Slafter farmstead (HD #5), maintains an active farm today. Norwich's active historical society and preservation commission help educate residents and visitors about the significance of the local historic architecture and landscape. The National Park Service contributed financially to the preparation of this nomination through the Certified Local Government Program, administered by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 232

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| A. Lat: 43.75287° N | Lon: 72.27791° W |
| B. Lat: 43.75438° N | Lon: 72.27794° W |
| C. Lat: 43.75451° N | Lon: 72.27711° W |
| D. Lat: 43.75447° N | Lon: 72.27673° W |
| E. Lat: 43.75569° N | Lon: 72.27550° W |
| F. Lat: 43.75632° N | Lon: 72.27685° W |
| G. Lat: 43.75682° N | Lon: 72.27570° W |
| H. Lat: 43.75684° N | Lon: 72.27627° W |
| I. Lat: 43.75797° N | Lon: 72.27526° W |
| J. Lat: 43.75893° N | Lon: 72.27690° W |
| K. Lat: 43.75753° N | Lon: 72.27788° W |
| L. Lat: 43.75723° N | Lon: 72.27709° W |
| M. Lat: 43.75654° N | Lon: 72.27779° W |
| N. Lat: 43.75668° N | Lon: 72.27886° W |
| O. Lat: 43.75772° N | Lon: 72.27920° W |
| P. Lat: 43.75584° N | Lon: 72.28575° W |
| Q. Lat: 43.75498° N | Lon: 72.28177° W |
| R. Lat: 43.75402° N | Lon: 72.28049° W |
| S. Lat: 43.75418° N | Lon: 72.28030° W |
| T. Lat: 43.75387° N | Lon: 72.28014° W |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Goodrich Four Corners Historic District is delineated on the sketch map accompanying the nomination form. Most of the Goodrich Four Corners Historic District lies adjacent to Goodrich Four Corners Road, Union Village Road and Pattrell Road.

The irregular boundary follows the perimeter property lines of the tax parcels included in the historic district. The boundary around the larger parcel (11-52-1) has been minimalized to reduce the oversized scale of the historic district and because certain portions of this parcel do not contribute to the significance of the district. The reduced size of this parcel is defined by extending a boundary line of an adjacent contributing parcel. While an arbitrary line, it does not detract from the interpretation of the district. The reduced parcel still retains elements of a historic farmstead including open fields and woodland.

The property lines are derived from the Town of Norwich tax maps #11. The Norwich tax parcels that are part of the historic district are: 11-058-10, 11-68, 11-58, 11-52-1 and 11-53-1. Boundary is further defined by the sketch map included with the nomination and by the Latitude and Longitude points given in section 10.

The boundary begins at the southern most point of lot 11-68-00, on the west side of Goodrich Four Corners. It follows northwest along the parcel boundary until it meets Union Village Road. At this point, the boundary assumes the western boundary of Lot 11-52-1. The district follows this western boundary for 720 feet. At this point, it extends to the northeast until it meets the northern boundary of Lot 11-58. The remaining district boundaries follow the parcel lines.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Goodrich Four Corners historic district boundaries surround several extant farmsteads that maintain integrity and concentrations of features that maintain their historical significance. The district borders encompass entire farmsteads, and included additional special features such as fences, tree lines, roadways, and creeks. The Goodrich Four Corners Historic District's boundary follows the outer perimeter property lines of the parcels that lie adjacent to Goodrich Four Corners Road, Union Village Road and Pattrell Road within the historic district. The historic district boundary includes the parcels that comprise the four corners. The northwestern portion of lot 11-52-1, as this lot extends well beyond the needs to interpret the agriculture tradition of the district. The historic district boundary is sufficient to convey the historic significance of the Goodrich Four Corners Historic District.

Goodrich Four Corners Historic District
Name of Property

Windsor, Vermont
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Brian Knight
organization: Brian Knight Research
street & number: 585 Nichols Hill Road
city or town: Dorset state: VT zip code: 05251
e-mail brianknight@fastmail.fm
telephone: 201-919-3416
date: March 27, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Goodrich Four Corners Historic District
Name of Property

Windsor, Vermont
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Goodrich Four Corners

City or Vicinity: Norwich

County: Windsor State: Vermont

Photographer: Brian Knight

Date Photographed: October 11, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photograph 1 of 15: View looking southwest at HD #1: Yeomans House, 929 Union Village Road

Photograph 2 of 15: View looking west at Building HD#1a: Barn, 929 Union Village Road

Photograph 3 of 15: View looking southwest at HD #2: Peavey House, 937 Union Village Road

Photograph 4 of 15: View looking north at HD #2a: Garage, 937 Union Village Road

Photograph 5 of 15: View looking north at HD #2b: Shed, 937 Union Village Road

Photograph 6 of 15: View looking northwest at HD #3: Bissell House, 18 Pattrell Road

Photograph 7 of 15: View looking north at HD #3a: Barn, 18 Pattrell Road

Photograph 8 of 15: View looking north at HD #4: Root Schoolhouse, 987 Union Village Road

Photograph 9 of 14: View looking north at HD #5: Slafter House, 694 Goodrich Four Corners

Goodrich Four Corners Historic District

Name of Property

Windsor, Vermont

County and State

- Photograph 10 of 15: View looking southeast at HD #5: Slafter House and HD #5e: Shed, 694 Goodrich Four Corners
- Photograph 11 of 15: View looking north at HD #5c: Barn, 694 Goodrich Four Corners
- Photograph 12 of 15: View looking northwest at HD #5: Slafter House, HD #5a: Barn, and HD #5b: Chicken Barn, 694 Goodrich Four Corners
- Photograph 13 of 15: View looking east at HD #5a: Barn and HD #5b: Chicken Barn, 694 Goodrich Four Corners
- Photograph 14 of 15: View looking north at HD #5d: Garage, 694 Goodrich Four Corners
- Photograph 15 of 15: View looking north at HD #3: Yeomans House, 18 Pattrell Road, and HD #5: Slafter House, 694 Goodrich Four Corners

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Goodrich Four Corners Historic District

Name of Property

Windsor, Vermont

County and State

Historic Maps

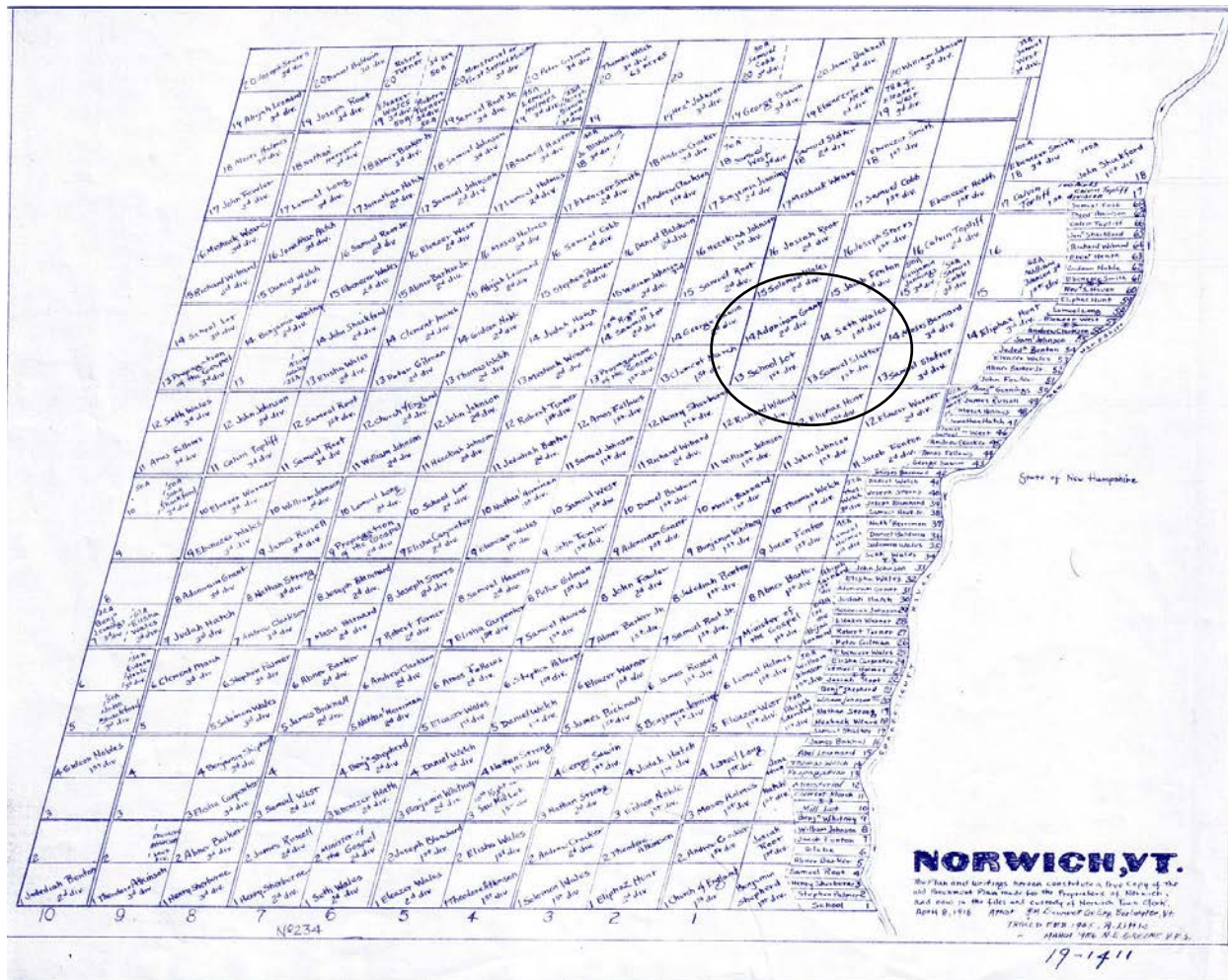


Figure 3. Norwich Proprietors Map, with area of Goodrich Four Corners Historic District circled. Map courtesy of the Vermont State Archives.

Goodrich Four Corners Historic District

Name of Property

Windsor, Vermont

County and State



Figure 4. 1796 map

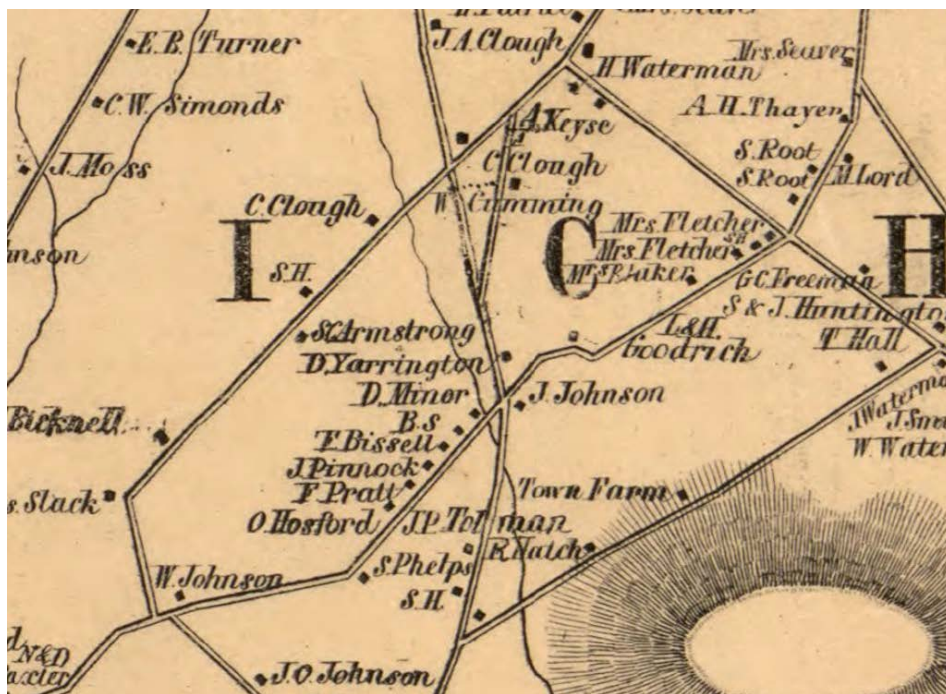


Figure 5. 1856 Walling Map

Goodrich Four Corners Historic District
Name of Property

Windsor, Vermont
County and State



Figure 6. 1869 Beers Atlas, with Goodrich Fours Corners crossroads in the center.

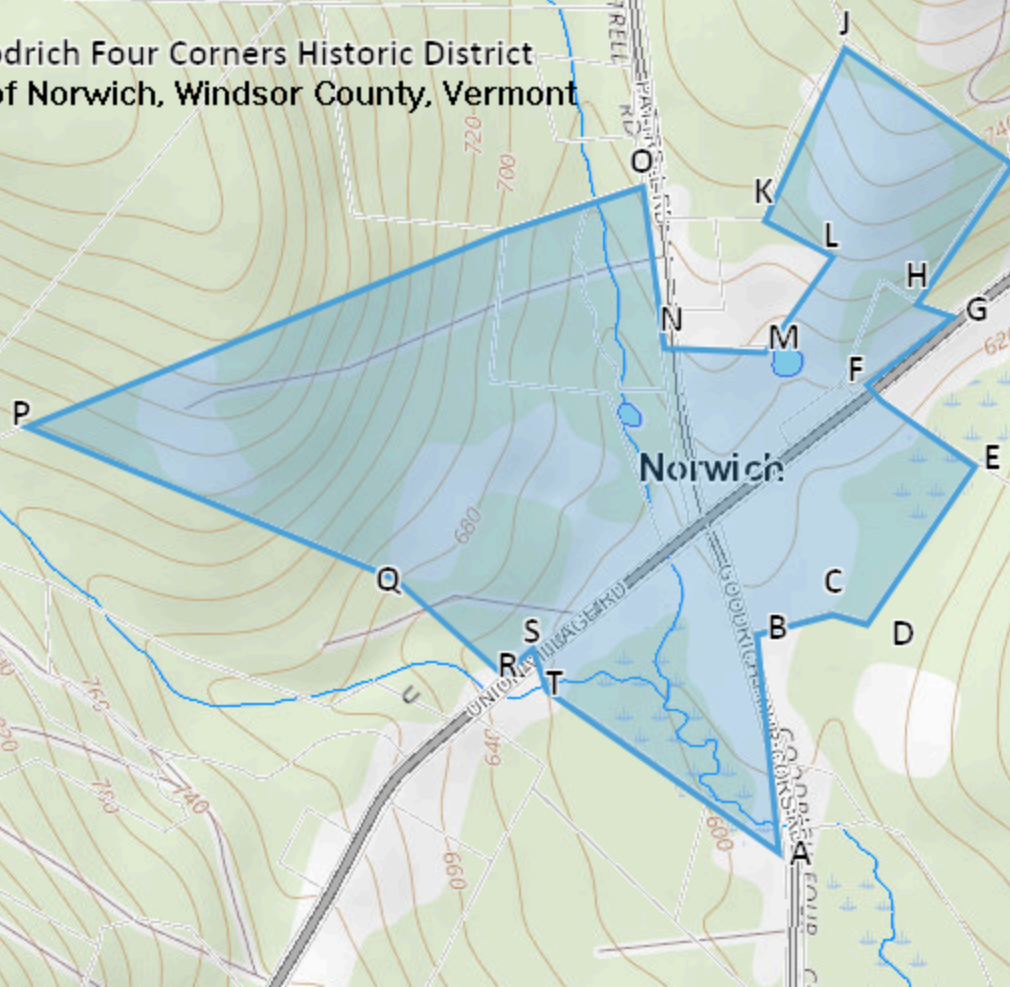
Goodrich Four Corners Historic District
Name of Property

Windsor, Vermont
County and State



Figure 7. USGS Map, 1896

Goodrich Four Corners Historic District
Town of Norwich, Windsor County, Vermont



| | | |
|----|------------------|------------------|
| A. | Lat: 43.75287° N | Lon: 72.27791° W |
| B. | Lat: 43.75438° N | Lon: 72.27794° W |
| C. | Lat: 43.75451° N | Lon: 72.27711° W |
| D. | Lat: 43.75447° N | Lon: 72.27673° W |
| E. | Lat: 43.75569° N | Lon: 72.27550° W |
| F. | Lat: 43.75632° N | Lon: 72.27685° W |
| G. | Lat: 43.75682° N | Lon: 72.27570° W |
| H. | Lat: 43.75684° N | Lon: 72.27627° W |
| I. | Lat: 43.75797° N | Lon: 72.27526° W |
| J. | Lat: 43.75893° N | Lon: 72.27690° W |
| K. | Lat: 43.75753° N | Lon: 72.27788° W |
| L. | Lat: 43.75723° N | Lon: 72.27709° W |
| M. | Lat: 43.75654° N | Lon: 72.27779° W |
| N. | Lat: 43.75668° N | Lon: 72.27886° W |
| O. | Lat: 43.75772° N | Lon: 72.27920° W |
| P. | Lat: 43.75584° N | Lon: 72.28575° W |
| Q. | Lat: 43.75498° N | Lon: 72.28177° W |
| R. | Lat: 43.75402° N | Lon: 72.28049° W |
| S. | Lat: 43.75418° N | Lon: 72.28030° W |
| T. | Lat: 43.75387° N | Lon: 72.28014° W |









937











THE ROOT DISTRICT
COMMUNITY CLUB













FARMSTAND

