

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	HPK.J
Historic Name:	Bear Hill
Common Name:	
City/Town:	Hopkinton
Village/Neighborhood:	Woodville;
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Use(s):	Agricultural; Residential District;
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning;
Designation(s):	
Building Materials:	
Demolished	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

HPK.J

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

J	482-492 808,905
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Town HOPKINTON

Name of Area (if any) _____

Bear Hill

Present Use Residential; agriculture

General Date or Period _____

18th-mid-19th-centuries

General Condition good

Acreage ca. 230 acres

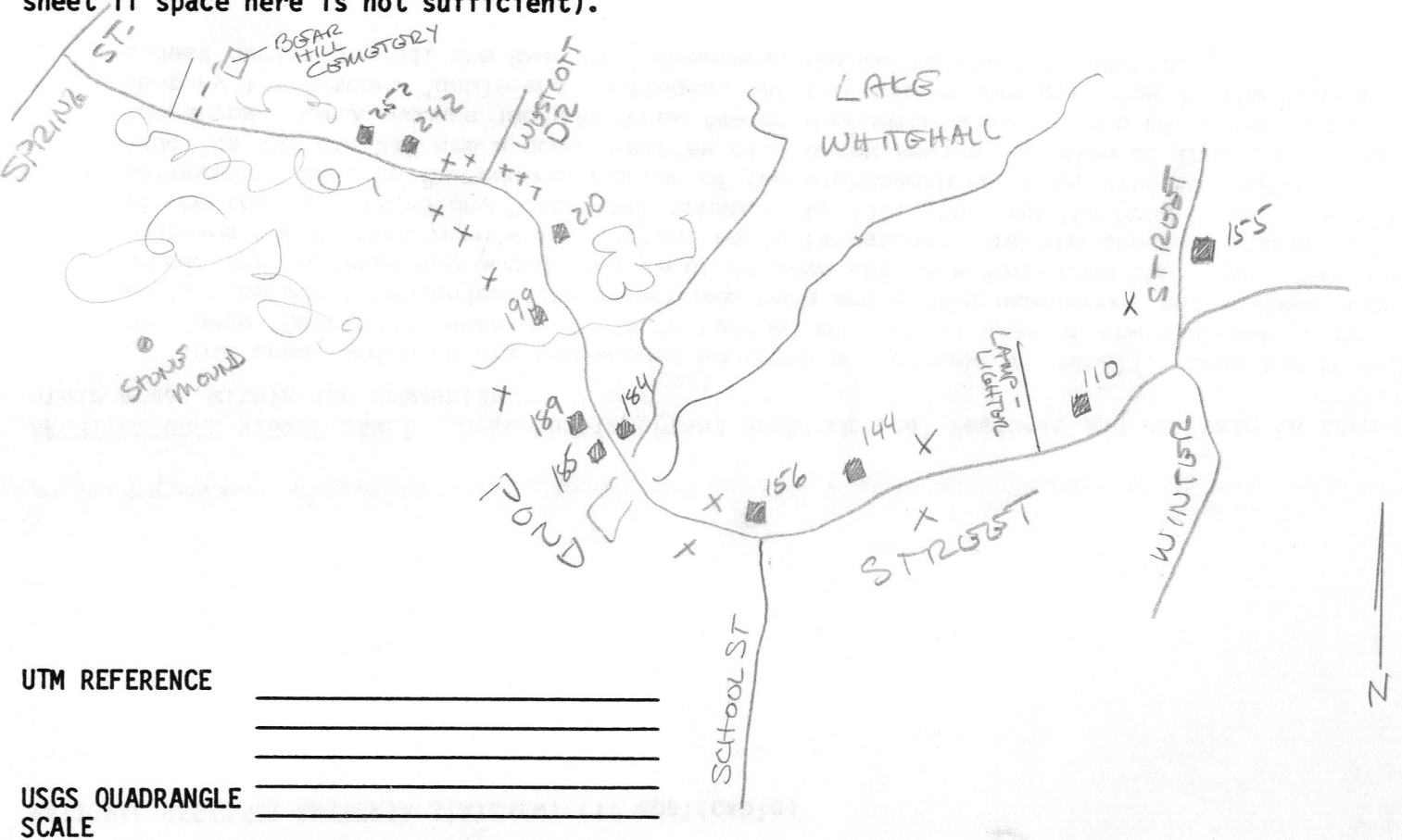
Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization for Hopkinton Hist. Comm.

Date 6/89

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black & white) Indicate on back of each photo street addresses for buildings shown. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient).



UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

HPK.J

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

This area, which skirts the wooded southern end of Lake Whitehall, forms the heart of the large "Bear Hill District." As is typical of a rural area of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the farmhouses here are widely scattered, and sixteen modern houses are interspersed among them, most of them set back into from the road. The area contains two of Hopkinton's most intact early farmsteads, and the greatest concentration of the town's 1 1/2-story "Cape Cod" houses: #s 110, 156, and 184 Pond Street are all believed to date to the second quarter of the eighteenth century; #144 was built ca. 1804; #s 199 and 242 are a good examples of a Greek Revival version of this long-lived housetype. Later houses include three few of Hopkinton's ubiquitous mid-nineteenth-century 1 1/2-story "gable-end" cottages. At the area's northern edge is the town's oldest burial ground, the Bear Hill Cemetery, dating to the late 1600's.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Bear Hill is significant as one of the oldest sections of Hopkinton. Many Indian relics have been found here, and stone structures and earthworks that are still extant, indicate this district was occupied well before the English settlers arrived. It is known that an Indian trail ran from Mendon past Whitehall and over the hill, then north to Marlborough. Although many towns have a "bare hill," so-named from having been cleared by the native tribes, in this case the name is said to derive from a Scottish family named Blair who settled here.

In early colonial times, most of the area was part of the vast Whitehall Farm, one of Hopkinton's original land grants. As the land was divided and settled, the woods and hills bordering the lake and swamp were populated first by squatters, who built tiny shacks or cabins late in the seventeenth century, and subsequently by farmers. Several large farms were established between Bear Hill, just to the south, and Lake Whitehall, (then a smaller pond,) in the eighteenth century, and the area became the seat of the Temples, Comees, Walkers, Gibsons, Stearns and others who served as many of the earliest officers of the town. Pond Street was one of the first official roads, approved by the town in 1730-1.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Former surveys.

Maps: 1831 Metcalf, 1856-7 Walling, 1875 Beers, 1889 Walker.

Cheney, Harry. Old Home Sites and Cellar Holes of the Bear Hill District. Unpublished manuscript, 1949.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: HOPKINTON		Form No: J-482-492 808 905
Property Name:		Bear Hill

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Activity in the area increased in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, after Joel Norcross established one of the earliest resorts in Massachusetts at the three mineral springs he discovered on his farm along the western edge of Lake Whitehall's cedar swamp. The resort flourished until ca. 1860, with guests overflowing the hotel itself, (the expanded Norcross farmhouse at the intersection of Pond and Spring Streets, and boarding in neighboring houses.

Beginning in 1907, another entrepreneur, J. Howard Leman, a Boston financier, purchased several of the old farms along Pond Street at the head of the lake, restoring their buildings to the Colonial Revival taste of the time, and operating them as a large dairy and orchard enterprise into the 1940's.

BEAR HILL AREA DATA SHEET

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Address</u>
J-483	*110 Pond Street - Walker-Wheeler House Ca. 1740's "Cape Cod" cottage, with many outbuildings. Shingle; minor alterations
J-484	*144 Pond Street - Comee-Temple House Ca. 1804 "Cape Cod" cottage; shingle; major alterations.
J-485	*156 Pond Street - Comee House Mid-18th-century "Cape Cod" cottage; shingle; minor alterations.
J-486	*184 Pond Street - Pierce-Temple House Ca. 1729 and 1830 "Cape Cod" cottage; shingle; major alterations.
J-487	*185 Pond Street - Andrew Temple Farmhouse 1-story shingled cottage; parts may be ca. 1848; may have been moved from Upton.
J-488	189 Pond Street Mid-19th century 2-story greco-Italianate "gable-end;" synthetic siding; minor alterations; moved--1860's-'80's.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

HPK. J

Community: HOPKINTON	Form No: 5-482-492 808 905
Property Name:	Bear Hill

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

BEAR HILL DATA SHEET, cont.

- J-489 199 Pond Street
Mid-19th-century Greek Revival "Cape Cod" cottage; clapboard; moved 1969.
- J-490 210 Pond Street
Mid-19th-century Greco-Italianate "gable-end" cottage; clapboard; major alterations.
- 905 *Off Pond Street, west side: stone structure
Pre-settlement native American stone mound.
- J-491 *242 Pond Street - Isaac Temple House
Ca. 1825-40 Greek Revival "Cape Cod" cottage; clapboard; major alterations.
- J-492 *252 Pond Street - "Temple Twin" House
1850 Greek Revival gable-end cottage; clapboard; major alterations.
- 808 *Off Pond Street, east side: Bear Hill Cemetery
Small early cemetery, graves dating from late 1600's.
- J-482 *155 Winter Street - Appleton and John Gibbs House
Early nineteenth-century 2-story Federal/Greek Revival; shakes or shingles; major alterations.

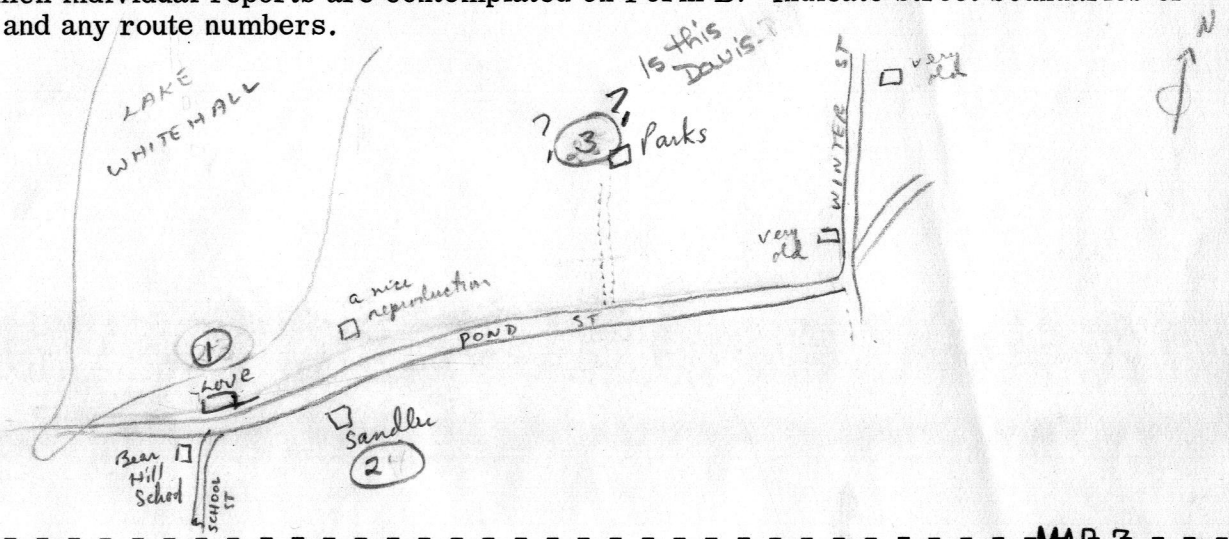
FORM A - AREA AND SITE SURVEY
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

- 1. Town Hopkinton HPK. J
- 2. Name of area or section Bear Hill - Pond St
- 3. General Date or Period mainly early 1700's
- 4. Is the area uniform? yes
 In style rural
 In condition good
 In type of ownership private
 In use (Explain) _____
- 5. Is area potentially threatened? yes
 By Zoning _____
 By Roads _____
 By Developers perhaps - "Parks" + much acreage for sale - but owned
 By Deterioration by the abutters

6. Please comment on the Historical or Architectural importance of this area:

a very attractive rural area.
 all very old houses, now private homes but originally belonging to extensive farm lands. Much of it is still farmed, is pasture or hayfields.
 "Parks" is a museum-quality early 18^o structure

7. Draw a general map of the area involved. Please indicate in red any known historic sites on which individual reports are contemplated on Form B. Indicate street boundaries of area and any route numbers.



Recorder G. C. Singhis

For Hopkinton Historical Society
(Name of Organization)

MAR 3 - 1967

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form.



189 Pond St. (HPK.488)



183 Pond St.



210 Pond St. (HPK.490)