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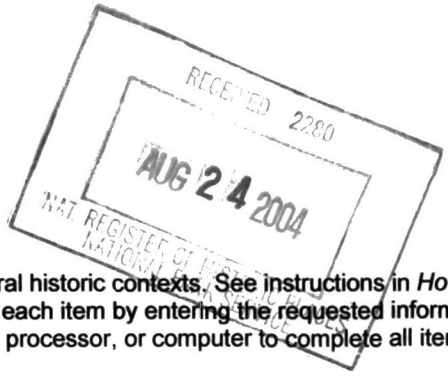
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

__X__ New Submission ____ Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Shelburne, Vermont

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Agricultural Resources of Shelburne, Vermont, 1760 -1954

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Deborah Noble, Principal, Deborah Noble Associates date 2003/2004

street & number PO Box 106, The Railroad Station telephone (802) 695-2507

city or town Concord state VT zip code 05824

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne C. Jamele National Register Specialist 8-23-04
Signature and title of certifying official Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper 10-7-04
Date of Action

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets *in How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

Pages E -1 to E -19

F. Associated Property Types

Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.

Pages F-1 to F- 6

G. Geographical Data

The corporate limits of the Town of Shelburne, Chittenden County, Vermont

H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Pages H -1

I. Major Bibliographical References

List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal Agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.

Pages I -1 to I - 2; primary location of additional documentation and name of repository: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (State Historic Preservation Office)

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES OF SHELBURNE, VT, 1760-1954

Shelburne has an agricultural heritage that spans almost a thousand years. It is situated in Chittenden County in northwestern Vermont on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain just south of the City of South Burlington. It shares a similar agricultural history with the state of Vermont as a whole, although the local geography has brought special characteristics to the course of its agricultural development. The geography of Shelburne, resulting from the transitions after glaciation during the Pleistocene epoch (lying under Lake Vermont, and then the Champlain Sea), is well suited to agriculture as compared to other areas in Vermont. The presence of lime in the soil is an asset in a state where acid soils impede the fertility necessary for a flourishing agricultural economy. Where many Vermont towns have great variations in elevation and terrain to contend with, here the low-lying landscape typical of the Champlain Lowlands physiographic region is generally gently undulating with broad hills, glacial lakeshore terraces and fossil delta plains. Fertile soils overlay rock formations of, from west to east, Utica slate, deposits of the Hudson River group, red sand rock and Eolian limestone and marble (Child, p. 256). Shelburne Pond and Muddy Brook are located in the eastern part of Shelburne and the principal watercourse is the La Platte (originally known as La Plotte) River in the western portion of town. The river flows north into Lake Champlain at Shelburne Bay, a harbor sheltered from the open lake to the west by Shelburne Point, first known as Pottier's or Potter's Point after one of the first settlers there.

Approximately 1,000 years ago, during the final periods of Native American occupation known as the Late Woodland period, agriculture of corn, beans and squash was begun and people began to live in more permanent settlements. Similar to the European settlers who arrived c. 1760, the Native Americans adapted to environmental changes, traded with other groups, and developed special techniques and tools to survive. Native American agricultural sites have been discovered in nearby towns in Chittenden County with similar geographic conditions due to recent excavations along the route of the proposed Chittenden County Circumferential Highway. Evidence has been found that agriculture was practiced in by Native Americans along the nearby Winooski River on the Burlington Intervale floodplain adjacent to Lake Champlain. The density of the layering of Native American sites found along this relatively narrow band and in the Burlington Intervale would indicate that the Champlain Basin is replete with much more physical evidence of Native American activity, including agriculture.

The Beers Atlas of Shelburne in 1869 notes an "Indian house" on Indian House Bay just south of White's Island on Lake Champlain (Figure 2). As of 1990, there were 49 recorded and 7 rumored prehistoric Native American archeological sites of several

types spanning 8,000 years of use in Shelburne (Peebles, p.4). Most of these findings to date have been in the locality of Shelburne Pond, located in the eastern portion of the town, where a favorable degree of site preservation is due to the neutral soil pH conditions derived from carbonate-rich dolomite bedrock backing the locale. Sites have been found in cultivated and hay fields of current farmsteads in this Shelburne Pond area, which apparently were utilized continuously by Native Americans over a period of 8000 years, increasing in frequency due to the varied and localized riches of the pond environment developed approximately 2000 years ago.

It is this Native American culture that the European settlement of Shelburne impacted and displaced after Shelburne was chartered in 1763 by the State of New Hampshire. Just as the Native Americans had, the settlers learned to diversify and experiment with different agricultural techniques to survive the variable climate and harsh winter conditions as well as the changing nature of the economy. European settlers from more southern areas of the United States faced an unsettled political situation in Vermont, with a British/Native American alliance created to dispel them from trying to create farms out of the wilderness. Confrontations among settlers and these allied parties were frequent during the years before the Revolution when settlers were clearing their lands and building their first homes.

Approximately ten families had settled in Shelburne prior to the Revolution. These early settlers were rather nomadic, in that many, such as the Moses Pierson family of Shelburne, traveled seasonally back to their former homes in southern portions of the state and New England, storing their large crop of wheat in Shelburne until they could come back to thresh it. The Piersons had acquired 1000 acres in the southwestern part of Shelburne bordering Lake Champlain, where they built a "block house" (Rann, edit., p. 672) or, alternately, a "log house" (Shelburne Museum, p.9). The most outstanding example of the early transition period from Native American to European occupation and agriculture is illustrated by the battle of the Shelburne block-house after the Pierson family came back to thresh their wheat at the end of the winter. During the battle, when Native Americans and the British attacked the family in their house and tried to burn it, several people were killed, but the Pierson settlement was saved, later to become the the Meacher [Meecher] family settlement. What actually constituted this "block house" has not been explained, but a notation on the Beers Atlas map of 1869 (Figure 2) indicates that a French blockhouse was located in this vicinity of what had become the Meechville settlement. It is possible that the various histories confused the block house and log house.

The first years of settlement were in the western portion of Shelburne along Lake Champlain, with settlement dispersed westward throughout the town by the beginning of the 19th century. The lives of these early Shelburne families were based by necessity on

subsistence agriculture by the terms of the town charter, which required them to clear and cultivate their lands within the first five years. Most of the family needs were produced on the farm during the late 18th and early 19th centuries: food and clothing, wheat, mixed livestock, corn and other grains, fish from the lake, ponds and streams and lumbering and sugaring in the surrounding hills. Typical livestock on farms during the early 19th century included cattle, oxen, horses, sheep, swine and poultry. Cattle were raised extensively during the first half of the century and driven to market in Boston and Montreal each year – slaughter had to take place near the market due to the lack of refrigeration. Butter and cheese were processed mainly for family use, with excess traded locally or shipped by sleigh to out-of-state markets. Other crops raised during the early years included flax for clothing, hay, oats, barley, rye and buckwheat. Kitchen gardens included vegetables for storage in the cellar or root cellar: peas, beans, turnips, beets, pumpkins, carrots and potatoes. Maple sap was boiled down to maple sugar. Apple trees were also commonly planted on early farms and the woodlot provided cordwood and timber for the local sawmill. Elhanan Spear, owner of the 1804 Spear House on what is now Route 7 on the South Burlington line, is typical of the diversified early Shelburne farmer; he was also a tanner, currier and shoemaker.

Farming during this period of time involved manufacturing as well as agriculture, and trade took place as soon as farmers had access to markets. As illustrated by the Pierson family in Shelburne, wheat as well as potash were the first commodities produced in excess to be sold. The large scale clearing of trees to create arable fields as required by the town charter was accomplished by burning them and processing the ashes to produce potash, which was used for bleach, gunpowder, finishing wool and in making soap. Potash export lasted only as long as land was being cleared. The production of potash was an involved process, so farmers delivered ashes to a central processing works for the final stages of manufacture, which Benjamin Harrington established behind the Public House in Shelburne. It was shipped via Lake Champlain and Canada, to England. The value of potash exports quickly diminished after sodium replaced potash c. 1812, falling by 86% from 1807 to 1813.

Wheat as a cash crop was on its way out in the 1820's due to the reduced fertility of the soils and competition from Western New York. It was not until mid-century that the value of potash as an ingredient of fertilizer and soil replenishment was discovered. The opening of the Champlain Canal in 1823 and the Erie Canal in 1825 spurred increased competition from western territories and a resulting need to adjust agricultural production.

Potatoes began to be raised extensively in the early 19th century, with the family's surplus sold to local starch factories. Here the starch was extracted for the sizing of cloth by the growing textile industry of southern New England. Other potato surplus

was sold to distilleries for potato whiskey until prohibitionists were successful in having it outlawed in the 1840's. Early farms often made their own liquor from rye, barley and apples, as well as from potatoes, with a "still house" mentioned in the Joshua Read farm deed as early as 1808, and approximately five stills operating in Shelburne during this period (Carlisle, p. 44).

Although early manufacturing continued to take place on local farms, the operation of a variety of mills began at the end of the 18th century that utilized the waterpower of the various streams and rivers. This made conversion of the raw products of the farm into usable materials much easier. The Village of Shelburne Falls developed as early as 1785 at the fifty-one foot falls of the La Platte River. This part of Shelburne was settled by Ira Allen, and his millwright, James Hawley, built the first sawmill and forge at the falls. The sawmill and forge were necessary for the settlers to turn the abundant timber from their farms into building materials for homes and farm buildings, as well as carriages and sleds for transportation. A gristmill to process grain was built soon after the sawmill at the base of the large falls. A carding and fulling mill were built to process wool just after 1800 at the same falls, spurring the growth of the village. In 1858 and 1869, there remained a grist mill, blacksmith shop and sawmill (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Moore and Lake owned a plaster mill, circular saw mill, and grist mill, with both listed as farmers and manufacturers of lumber, flour, meal and plaster. A blacksmith shop and S. Bassford's wagon shop utilized the water of the falls on the La Platte River as well. In 1880 the Falls served a flouring mill, sawmill with a creamery, shingle mill and blacksmith shop. A saw mill was also located on Shelburne Point in 1869, near the shipyard on Shelburne Bay.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC RESOURCES OF SHELBURNE, VT

Section number__E____ Page _5__

Agricultural Resources of Shelburne, VT, 1760-1954

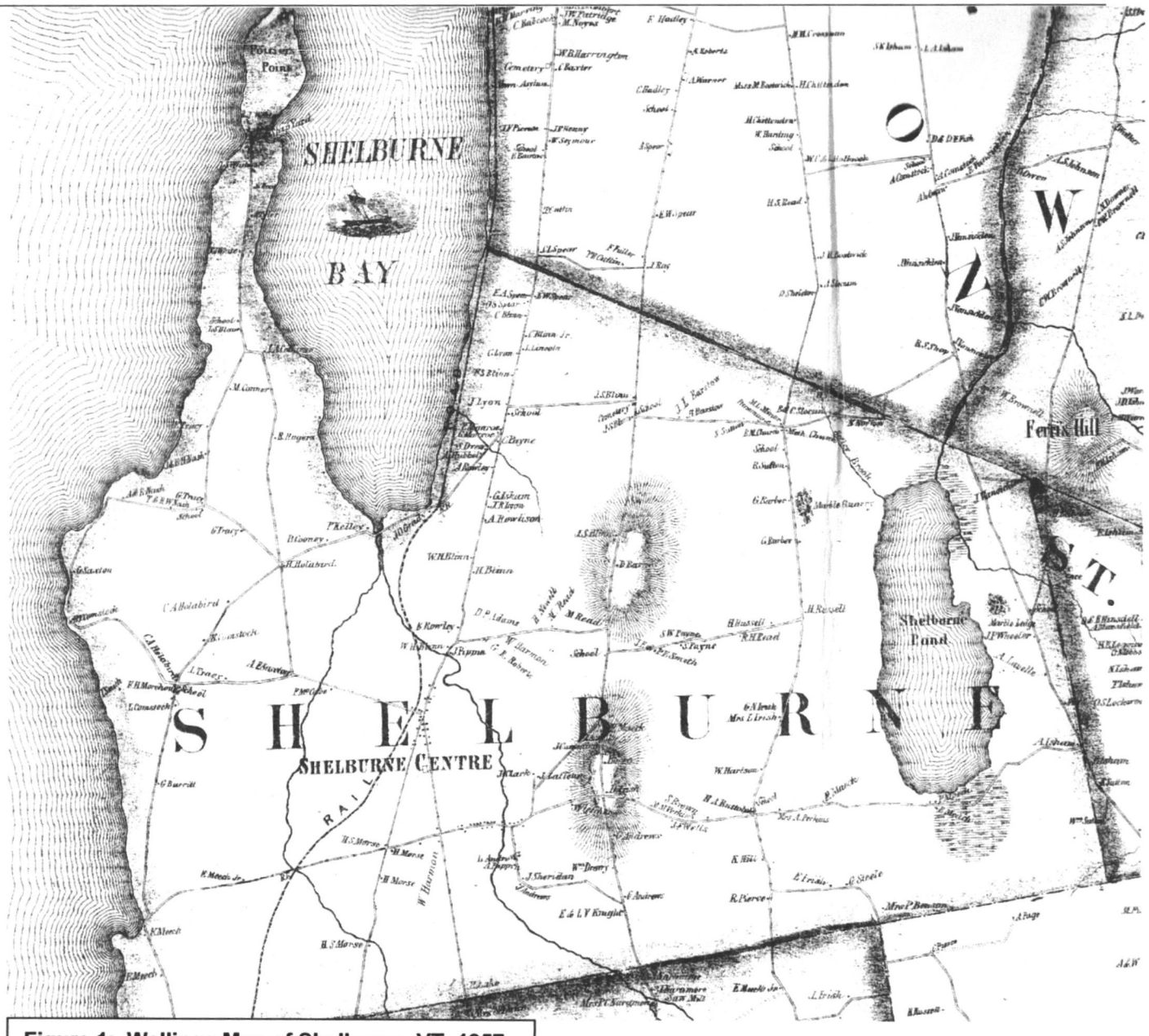

Figure 1: Wallings Map of Shelburne, VT, 1857

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PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC RESOURCES OF SHELBURNE, VT

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Agricultural Resources of Shelburne, VT, 1760-1954

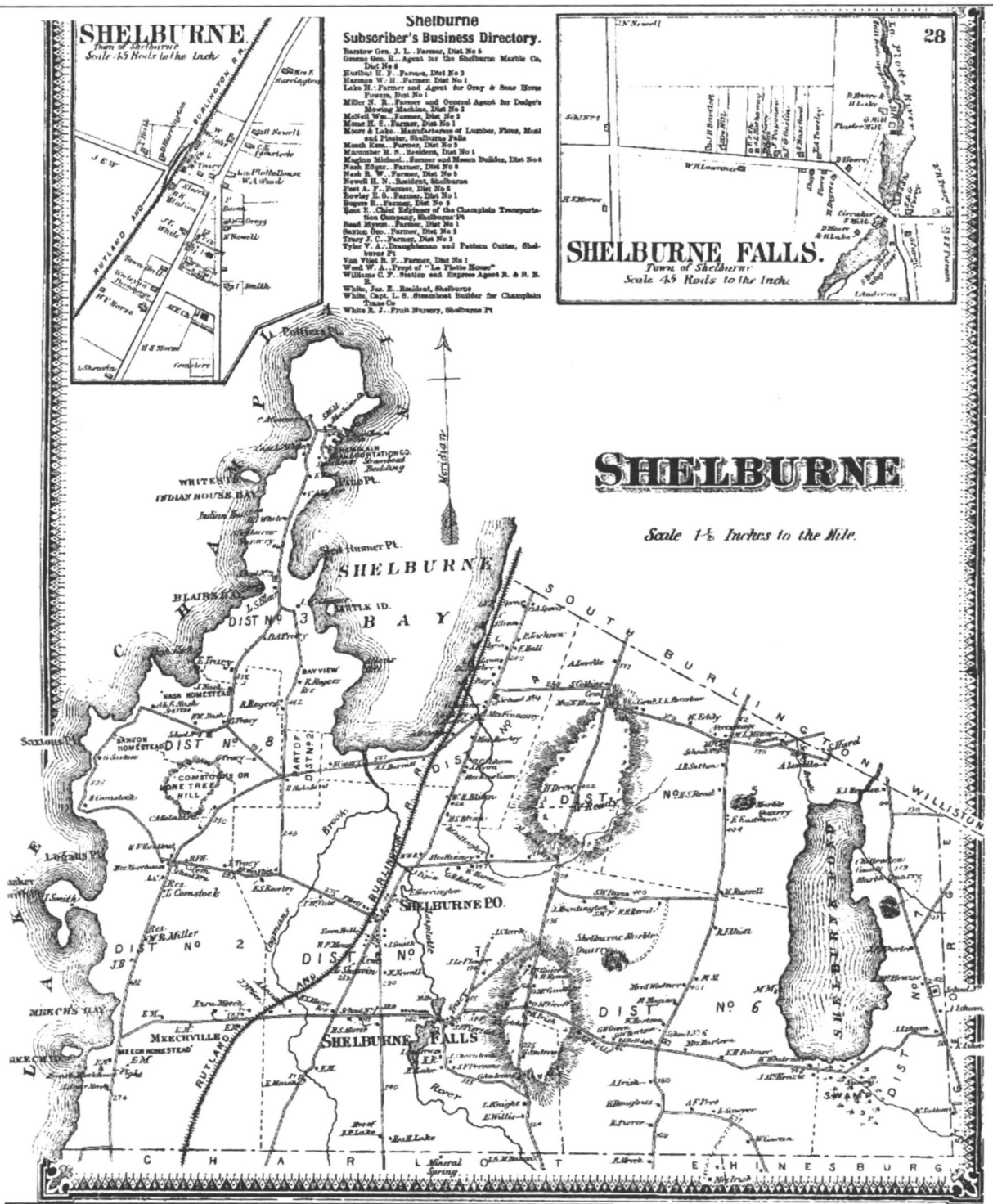

Figure 2: F.W. Beers Atlas of Chittenden County, 1869

The opening of the Champlain Canal in 1823, the 1824 import tariff on woolens and the rise of the wool processing industry spurred the success of the sheep industry as the first large-scale, specialized agricultural industry in Shelburne. This marked the beginning of a shift in land use from the raising of crops to pasturage and a move toward an increasingly commercial agriculture. With the increase in efficiency of transportation due to the construction of the Champlain and Erie Canals in the 1820's, the resulting competition in all areas of farming led locally to more specialization in farming. Economic forces spurred these agriculturalists to create products that would not be available elsewhere. Farmers in Shelburne specialized in raising sheep for wool and stock sale beginning in c. 1811, following the trend of much of Vermont, although individualized agricultural data on a farm-by-farm basis is not available until the US Census of 1850 (see Figure 3). The importation by William Jarvis of the prized Spanish Merino sheep with its superior fleece for textile manufacture provided the basis of Vermont's reputation as a high quality sheep state in the first half of the 19th century.

The development of the woolen industry in New England and its demand for better quality wool ensured that markets were available nearby for the locally produced wool. Sheep were sheared once a year in late spring, when the wool was usually pressed and stored in an attic or designated "wool room" awaiting a buyer. It was then sold to local mills, such as the carding and fulling mill at Shelburne Falls, or to buyers from out of state who traveled throughout Vermont buying wool for the large mills elsewhere in the northeast. Wool was transported to market by wagon, or by canal boat to points south and the large textile mills. When carried by boat, the wool was stored in a wool depot located by the steamer dock before being loaded on the vessel. Two depots in Addison County just to the south were relatively close to Shelburne: one in Bridport and another in Shoreham at Larrabee's Point.

In Shelburne, local farmers drove their sheep to a group of rocks known as the "sheep rocks" at the south end of Shelburne Pond to be scrubbed before shearing (Shelburne Museum, p. 17). Sheep barns on the local farms ranged from crude wooden sheds to more stury, combined hay and livestock barns on large farms. Sheep grazed in pasture during the summer months, and consumed hay in winter, with roots stored either in the barn or a stone root cellar as dietary supplementation. Census records of this period do not individualize which farms were the leading sheep producers in Shelburne, but information about each farm is available in the Agricultural Census of 1850, and it is assumed that the leading sheep farmers also had the largest flocks earlier in the century, including Henry Morse, Ezra Meach Jr. and Edgar Meach (see Figure 3 and below for further discussion). These farms were all apparently situated in the southwest quadrant of Shelburne, as seen on Beers Atlas (Figure 2).

Western competition by 1840 from sheep farmers in the West forced Shelburne farmers to change their tactics. The advent of the railroad in Shelburne in 1849 was both a blessing and a curse, in that it opened up the eastern markets to western wool growers. The abolition of the imported woolens tariff in 1846 further undercut the profitability of sheep farming in Shelburne and led some farmers to specialize in sheep stock breeding, dairying, and/or orchard farming. More commonly in Shelburne, however, the decline of the sheep farming specialization led immediately to an increase in agricultural diversification in this mid-19th century period, then to a gradual increase in specialization in dairying and orchard production.

Sheep farming peaked generally in the state of Vermont in the early 1840's. The US Agricultural Census of Shelburne is available starting in 1840 (see Figure 3) and reveals that from 1840 to 1850, the number of sheep in Shelburne fell from 17,636 to 7,315 and the pounds of wool produced fell from 36,677 to 23,572. This trend continued with just 713 sheep on Shelburne farms in 1860, 1,080 in 1870 and 1,129 in 1880. Individual farm breakdowns are available for a short period of time beginning with the Agricultural Census of 1850. Several farmers continued to be the primary sheep farmers in 1850, including Henry Morse, who had 700 sheep and produced 2,100 pounds of wool. Morse also owned 58 "other cattle" indicating that he may have raised cattle for slaughter. Ezra Meach Jr. and Edgar Meach were other farmers who continued raising sheep, with several farms located in Meachville [Meechville] in the southwest part of Shelburne bordering the Lake in the area of Moses Pierson's early settlement. Aside from owning some of the largest and most valuable farms in the town (and in the state at that time), valued at $51,000 each and containing the largest acreages of over 1,000 acres each, these Meach farms kept from 500 to 2,000 sheep. In 1850, Ezra Meach Jr. is listed as having 2,000 sheep, 25 swine, 11 horses, 14 milk cows, 140 other cattle and 10 working oxen, indicating that he may have been a stock breeder as well as producing 6,000 pounds of wool. By 1870, Ezra Meach owned 220 sheep and had switched to dairy farming, with 60 milk cattle producing 2,000 pounds of butter and 9,000 pounds of cheese for the highest value of all production from farms in the town: $12,000. Other farms averaged between $1,000 and $3,000 in value of farm production. Another sheep farmer in 1870 was John Maeck, who owned 141 sheep and farmed southwest of Shelburne Pond.

Dairying soon became a specialty after the decline of sheep farming in Shelburne, as is well illustrated by Ezra Meach's switch to milk cows just noted. The advent of the railroad in 1849 increased access to markets and the invention of the iced butter car in 1854 made the marketing of butter and cheese possible. Another noticeable trend in Shelburne is that butter and cheese made on the farm was picked up on the US Agricultural Census of 1850 (Figure 3) for the first time, reflecting a significant national economic movement. Shelburne farmers made 74,156 pounds of butter and 22,115

pounds of cheese in 1850, with 70,330 pounds of butter and 112,300 pounds of cheese made on the farm in 1860. The production of butter on the farm was 92,480 pounds in 1870 and 95,386 pounds in 1880. The production of cheese peaked in 1869 statewide, although Vermont had become one of the leading cheese states by 1850. Cheese made on the farms began to decrease by the 1870 census, which shows only 31,330 pounds made, and by 1880, the figures had declined to 5,670 pounds.

The outstanding producers of butter and cheese in Shelburne in 1850 were Elihu Russell, with 29 milch (milk) cows producing 1000 pounds of butter and 8000 pounds of cheese, while the farm of Byron Sutton produced 8000 pounds of butter and 800 pounds of cheese. Both of these farms were located on Dorset Street just west of Shelburne Pond. Another large dairy product producer in 1850 was Hazelton Lake, whose farm was situated on the boundary between Shelburne and Charlotte and previously mentioned as the owner of several mills at Shelburne Falls. Lake produced 4,000 pounds of cheese with 18 milk cows and Henry Harrington produced 4,500 pounds of butter with 24 milk cows.

According to the 1860 US Agricultural census, every farm in Shelburne produced butter, but the number of farms that also produced cheese had decreased markedly. This particular census is completed in barely decipherable handwriting, but it appears that Harry Morse was one of the leading dairy producers in Shelburne with 45 milk cattle producing 2,800 pounds of butter and 14,000 of cheese. His holdings were located in the southwest part of town just west of Shelburne Falls at the junction of Route 7. Another leading producer was Sydney Holabird, with 22 cows producing 1,600 pounds of butter and 4,000 pounds of cheese whose farms were in the northwestern part of town on Bay and Harbor Roads. E.S. Rowley's farm owned 20 cows producing 1,000 pounds of butter and 5,000 pounds of cheese, located in the same western vicinity near the lake just to the south of the Holabird farm. Henry (Harry?) Russell with 29 cows producing 800 pounds of butter and 10,000 pounds of cheese was located on Dorset Street in the eastern part of Shelburne just west of Shelburne Pond.

Dairying in 1870 was evolving away from the production of butter and cheese on the farm to factory production. A cheese factory was established in Shelburne 1871 on road 30 by Shelburne Falls and was owned from 1877 by J.E. White (his large farm was located on Shelburne Point) (Child, p. 256). Accordingly, the Agricultural Census of 1870 indicated a new category to keep up with changing trends: gallons of milk sold. Lafayette Lyon sold 2,000 gallons of milk, the largest percentage of the total 3,250 gallons sold from Shelburne that year. By 1880, the amount of milk sold from farms in Shelburne had rapidly increased to 365,668 gallons, with Edgar Johnson topping the list of sellers at 20,000 gallons. Again, the large dairy producers in 1870 in Shelburne were: Hazeltine Lake with 22 cows producing 300 pounds of butter and 4,000 pounds of

cheese, Sydney Holabird with 25 cows producing 1,000 pounds of butter and 4,000 pounds of cheese, Ezra Meach with 60 cows producing 2,000 pounds of butter and 9,000 pounds of cheese, and Harvey Russell with 25 cows producing 1,000 pounds of butter and 8,100 pounds of cheese.

Another trend that is notable is that the total value of orchard products began to rise, indicating the gradual specialization of Shelburne farmers in the orchard industry Figure 3). Most orchards in Shelburne during the first half of the 19th century were relatively small and unsystematically planted. The trees were typically located on or near the farmsteads on sloping sites where they were protected from frost. Corn, beans and buckwheat were standard orchard crops, all of which were harvested before the apples were ripe. Some of the apple stores were cut and dried for candy and baked goods, but the majority were used for cider making, jelly, vinegar, wine and brandy.

In 1840, the total value of orchard products in Shelburne was $2,351 and still under the influence of condemnation by the temperance movement for the manufacture of liquor. By 1850 the value of orchard products had risen to $4,930. By 1870 the value of orchard products had risen to $17,824 and in 1880 the value was $16,932 and there were approximately 26 orchards in town. Compared to other regions of the state, the rich, porous, deep, well-drained soils of the Champlain basin were ideal for the production of high quality apples. The science of apple growing, storing and processing became more advanced and improved methods of transportation, the development of new apple varieties and the availability of refrigerated storage during transportation combined to create favorable conditions for the success of orchard farming. Local entrepreneurs, Judson Baldwin and J. E. White, manufactured the "Baldwin Dry Air Refrigerator" in Shelburne, which had many applications for food storage.

In Shelburne in 1850, the most highly valued farms and those best suited for orchard farming tended to be those bordering Lake Champlain: Oscar and Hyman Holabird, Rufus Rogers, and Jonathan Ryan owned farms valued at over $10,000 each with average acreages of around 200 acres. In 1850, Elhanan Spear owned the most highly valued orchard at $200 with Hezekiah and Levi Comstock, Gerard Burritt and Simeon Payne owning orchards valued at $150 each. The Spear farms were located on the east side of Shelburne Bay in the northern part of town bordering South Burlington. The Comstock and Burritt farms were situated on the central part of the shore of Lake Champlain near what was known as Saxton Point, while Simeon Payne's farm (now a kennel), was located in the center part of Shelburne. In 1880, census figures indicate that B. F. Van Vliet had an orchard of 1,000 trees, valued at $1200 and producing 2,000 bushels of apples. Similarly, Julius (Julia?)Tracy in the western part of town near the lake and near the Comstock and Burritt farms had an orchard of 1,000 trees valued at $2,000 and producing 3,000 bushels of apples. In 1880, 26 of the farms contained

orchards. Some contradictions appear: Horace F. Saxton in the same vicinity along the lake had an orchard of 7,500 trees (Child, p. 381), while the 1880 census figures for this orchard show only 1,000 trees.

The J. E. White Farm on Shelburne Point was known as the Shelburne Nursery in 1869, indicating the spread of horticultural science through the formation of the Champlain Valley Horticultural Society and the beginning of renewed interest in orchard farming after the temperance movement faded. The US Agricultural Census of 1880 reflected the growth of this specialization with a new category of "nurseries" in that year, which were established to propagate reliable, healthy strains of apple trees that were well suited to the climate conditions. Harrison's cider mill on road 3 on the road to Shelburne Point was noted as manufacturing 25 barrels of cider per day during the season in 1880 (Child, p. 256). Commercial apple growing was given a boost by the development of refrigerated storage in transport and the specialization in apple varieties not commonly raised in the western apple producing states that were in competition. Aside from owning a nursery, J.E. White owned a cheese factory, as previously mentioned, and was the manufacturer of the "Baldwin Dry Air Refrigerator".

Beginning in the late 19th century, stock farming became a specialty, with the Vermont Stock Company based in Shelburne and founded in the 1870's with the purpose of making quality, full-blooded horses readily available to state formers for stud. Le Grand Canon appears to be one of the most outstanding stock breeders in 1880, with one of the most valuable farms in Shelburne, and the value of livestock (mainly cattle) at $3000. Child's Gazetteer of 1880 indicates that 13 farmers were breeders: Myron Read and Bartlett and Co. bred pure blood and grade short horn Durham cattle, Julius Benedict bred grade Ayreshire cattle, William Harmon bred pure blood Poland China hogs, Mary and Hattie Holabird owned the stock horse "Young Ethan", and Horace Saxton bred Cotswold sheep, Chester white hogs and Jersey cattle. There were several breeders of pure blood Spanish Merino Sheep, including Julia Tracy and F. B. Van Vliet, with Charles Winterbottom breeding thoroughbred Cotswold and Shropshire sheep and Berkshire hogs and William Wheeler breeding pure blood Cotswold sheep.

The interest in breeding coincided with advances in agricultural and horticultural education as well as the formation of a few large scale farms established by wealthy gentlemen farmers to emulate the landed gentry of England and improve the quality of livestock. Dr. William S. Webb consolidated from 25 to 32 of the richest farms along three-quarters of the shore of Lake Champlain in Shelburne beginning in 1887 to create the 4,000 acre Shelburne Farm following his marriage to the wealthy Lila Vanderbilt and the death of her father, William Henry Vanderbilt. These included, among others, the productive Meach, Holabird, Comstock, Smith, Saxton, Tracy, Nash and White farms of earlier years. Webb, who had numerous stock holdings and managed railroads in New

York and Vermont, merged the small farm holdings into a model commercial agricultural enterprise in a landscaped setting created with the designs of Frederick Law Olmsted. The complete estate, with its mansion built on Saxton's Point and cottages for farm managers, contained a dairy barn, greenhouse, creamery, piggery, sheep barns, chicken houses, farm barn, coach barn and breeding barn (Carlisle, p. 48). The estate had its own power plant on the lakeshore to generate electricity and pump water, a reservoir and piping system, steam radiators and telephones. The role of "gentleman farmer" in agricultural education in the beginning of the 20th century was prompted by the desire to promote agricultural progress. The entire new farm was built expressly for the purpose of stock breeding with elaborate modern barns built with the latest technology. The estate was divided into two farms in 1913: Shelburne Farms and Southern Acres and continues with its public educational role (Carlisle, p. 47).

Market gardens are another example of diversified agriculture in Shelburne, an enterprise counted in the US census since 1850 when the value of produce sold was $3,221. Market gardening apparently declined in 1860 with the burst in importance of the dairy industry, when only $240 worth of goods were sold. The Civil War stimulated the development of canning as a means of mass-producing and marketing farm produce. This is reflected in the statistics of Shelburne, when gardening picked up again in 1870, with $1,605 of produce and in 1880, when $1,325 worth of produce were sold. In 1880, Clayton Read was the most prominent gardener, with $500 of goods sold as indicated on the US Agricultural Census (Figure 4). Market gardens were given a boost at the turn of the twentieth century with the chartering of several canning factories in the state: H.C. Baxter Bros. was built in Essex Junction in 1902 -1903. Market gardening increased with the advent of the construction of greenhouses to extend the season for vegetables. In c. 1930, Shelburne boasted three greenhouses. Shelburne Farms built one in 1900 with 4,000 square feet of glass for the cost of $6,000. In 1914, M. M. Farrell built a greenhouse with 2,200 square feet of glass for $30,000. And in 1926-1927, F. M. Abbey built a greenhouse with 1,000 square feet of glass costing $600.

Dairy farming continued to become more specialized, encouraged by the formation of other specialized and numerous agricultural organizations in the latter 19th century, such as the Vermont Dairymen's Assoc., founded in 1870, and the Butter and Cheese Makers Associations. The creamery had been located at Shelburne Falls since 1871, sharing space in the building that also housed the sawmill. J.E. White purchased the cheese factory (creamery) in 1877 and manufactured cheese from between 300-400 cows from area farms. The growing urban market, the introduction of the centrifugal cream separator in1884, the Babcock Tester to determine butterfat content in 1890 and the power churn and revolving butter mixer in 1893 stimulated the shift to and development of butter factories or creameries. The Shelburne Cooperative Creamery

Co. moved c. 1904 to a two-story wooden building on the east side of the road at the Falls, and it was noted for making both butter and cheese from mainly local patrons. After the creamery burned, it was relocated in 1919 to the north end of the village. The new creamery was a large, well designed structure in the English Tudor style, with the railroad passing to the rear for ease of shipping product (Carlisle, p. 30). However, despite its ideal location and modern design, the Shelburne Creamery did not attract the regional business that was projected, and was finally closed c. 1960 after H.P. Hood Company produced cottage cheese there.

Dairy farms and the industry began to consolidate into the hands of increasingly fewer farmers and underwent tremendous changes during the early 20th century. In 1910 the Health Department and handlers from receiving states began to enforce sanitary regulations to ensure consistency of product when the fluid milk overtook the importance of cheese and butter. Herds were tested for Bovine Tuberculosis. Improvements in the manufacture of butter included the cream separator and the power churn. Former barn building practices changed, with the manure removal area on the floor below the stable (as in the earlier Bank Barns) replaced with ground level stables having concrete floors, modern plumbing and manure disposal machinery with a hay mow in the story above. Silo construction technology evolved as farmers discovered the benefits of preserving chopped corn (silage) without oxygen as feed, and their use became widespread at the beginning of the 20th century, when the number of silos in a town were included in yearly agricultural reports. Separate milkhouses with concrete floors and cooling mechanisms as well as icehouses also became common buildings on the farms. Pasteurization and homogenization of milk became widespread during this period, glass bottles replaced cans after 1920 and trucks began to be commonly used to transport milk also c. 1920.

Statewide agricultural statistics show that in 1920, the total number of farms had begun to decline sharply (29,075), falling below the number of farms in 1850 (29,763), whereas the number of farms had peaked in 1880 (35,522). Another trend noted is that the percentage of farms statewide that were mortgaged increased from 1890 (44.3%) to 1920 (48.7%), with the ratio of debt to value also increasing (33.7% in 1910 to 38.6% in 1920). While many of the farms left abandoned were the less productive hill farms in areas other than Shelburne, this trend affected the economic demands placed on the industry throughout the state. The trend toward specializing in the dairy industry is evident from that fact that there was an increase of 30.2% in the number of cows reported as "kept for milk" in 1920 statewide.

Chittenden County statistics (Figure 4) for the same period reflect the statewide trends. In Chittenden County in 1910, 2,205 farms were operating, while in 1920 there were 1,902 farms. During the same period, land acreage in farms fell from 297,576 acres to

280,868 acres. More significantly, the ratio of debt to value for Chittenden County was one of the highest in the state, at 42.1%, much higher than neighboring counties (Addison was 35.6%) or the state overall (38.6%). Farms in Chittenden County were producing some of the largest quantities of milk in the state and selling 87% of it, reflecting general trends toward fluid milk production for cooperative creameries or shipping out of state and the trend toward dairy specialization. In contrast, Caledonia County still made butter and cheese largely on farms and apparently did not ship as much or have as many cooperative creameries at the time. To further emphasize the importance of this shift toward dairying in Chittenden County, the formerly thriving sheep industry in Chittenden County had 11% of the number of sheep as compared with neighboring Addison County (1,394 sheep compared to 12,287 sheep in Addison County), and produced only 8% of the total pounds of wool compared to Addison County (7,671 pounds of wool compared to 102,533 pounds in Addison County). The 1920 census reveals that there remained a good mix of crop products in the fields with seven types of cereal grains, hay, and vegetables well represented on the farms of Chittenden County.

The Vermont Department of Agriculture took steps to promote agriculture in the hill country and advertised farm sales nationwide, while encouraging farmers diversify by raising chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese c.1910 in order to supplement the dairy industry. Small chicken coops were often added to farms in Shelburne between 1900 and 1940, as seen on the Sutton Farm on Dorset Street, with some dairy barns converted to poultry by adding floors. Figure 4 shows that the total number of chickens in Chittenden County rose from 58,791 in 1920 to 73,112 in 1925. The Depression affected all types of farming, and the number of chickens fell to 56,274 in 1930. By 1936, however, poultry was the state's second largest source of income. Figures for the number of chickens in the Chittenden County remain in the 55,000+ range until the peak in 1945 of 99,360. The industry declined after World War II and by 1950, the number of chickens had fallen to 77,772.

During the 1920's and 1930's, the state promoted mink and fox farming in an effort to reclaim the abandoned hill farms in Vermont. Fox farming was primarily a supplementary business to augment other farm income. Fox were relatively easy to care for, and required simple sheds and a refrigerated feed house where frozen meats were stored for feed. Pelts were generally shipped to New York State, usually to the Hudson Bay Auction House. The Albert Thompson family, who came to Shelburne to manage orchards for Charles Ordway in the southwestern part of town, established a silver fox farm on Webster Road in 1925. Although the farm ceased operating just after World War II, approximately 100 to 150 pelts were processed per year during the peak of operation (Shelburne Museum, p. 45).

As the twentieth century progressed and commercial dairying developed more fully, farms increased in size and output while declining in number. The location of Shelburne on the relatively flat and fertile soils of the Champlain Valley has ensured the survival of dairying as the town's leading agricultural operation and encouraged specialized farms to flourish, as opposed to the diversified farms prevalent in hillier and rockier locales. The hurricane of 1938 seems to have hit Shelburne fairly hard, with a number of large, gambrel-roofed barns with concrete floors constructed at that time to replace older barns destroyed by the storm. These changes were also necessitated by changes in dairy technology and the resulting modification of building requirements. The growth of tourism, especially after World War II when a generation of Americans took to the roads, encouraged some small-scale, diversified operations to continue in order to provide cider, apples, honey, fresh fruit and vegetables, poultry and dairy products to seasonal visitors at the tourist cabins and motels built in town to accommodate them.

By 1935, Shelburne was emerging from the effects of the Great Depression. Chittenden County agricultural statistics (Figure 4) reveal that the number of farms had risen slightly from a low of 1,842 in 1930 to 1,935 in 1935, although still not up to the pre-Depression farm figures of 1,992 farms in 1920. The land in farms in the county was also rebounding from a low in 1930 of 277,498 acres to 278,920 acres in 1935, but not up to the pre-Depression level of 280,866 acres in 1920. However, the era of farming had begun to be supplanted by conversion of farmland to other uses, and the acreage in farms and number of farms would continue a slow, general decline, until in 1950 there were 1,330 farms on 247,081 acres of land.

Dairy farming was still the largest farm industry in Chittenden County, as well as in Shelburne, with poultry farming in second place as previously described. However, the total number of cattle and calves had fallen from 38,219 in 1920 to 35,730 in 1930 and even further to 35,681 in 1935. The number of cattle rose to 38,057 in 1940 and reached a high of 41,342 in 1945, with 38,636 cattle in Chittenden County by 1950.

The sheep industry had declined even further from the 1,394 sheep in 1920 to 1,308 sheep in 1930 to a mere 600 sheep in 1935. The number of sheep in the county hovered around 600, with 482 in 1940, 692 in 1945, and 640 in 1950. Sheep farming remained a small agricultural endeavor, developing breeds well suited to both meat and wool to meet market demand.

Agricultural diversity other than poultry and dairy farming declined as populations of swine and horses began a gradual down turn from the figures of 1920: the total number of swine declined from 4,087 in 1920 to 1,480 in 1950, while horses were reduced in number from 5,301 to 1,775 in 1950.

Just after World War II, Shelburne began to experience a gradual, but steady, influx of commuting workers and their families employed in Burlington, which led to increased suburban development. Housing developments proliferated on the fertile, level farmland just over the town line in South Burlington, with clusters of residential development in Shelburne south of Shelburne village, on Shelburne Point, Shelburne Heights, Pine Haven Shore and Hullcrest, as well as two trailer parks.

Agricultural statistics are no longer available on a town-by-town basis, but are compiled for the state's counties and are available from the USDA. The most recent trends (Figure 4) show the dramatic reduction in number of farms from the early 20th century (1,992 in 1920 to 456 in 1997) but indicate that more recently, the number of farms have remained fairly constant in Chittenden County, from 452 in 1987 to 456 in 1997. However, the acreage in agriculture has been reduced by 70% from 1920 when there were 280,868 acres in farms, and further reduced by 15% from 1987 from 98,069 acres to 83,355 acres in 1997, accompanied by a trend in the reduction in the average size of farms from 217 acres in 1987 to 183 acres in 1997.

At the same time, the farms have remained very specialized, with a proliferation of corn raised for silage and dairy farms (see Figure 4). Crops have been reduced mainly to hay production since after 1920 (30,689 acres in 1987 and 26,973 acres in 1997) and corn for silage (77,036 acres in 1987 and 93,645 acres in 1997) or corn for grain (762 acres in 1987 and 568 acres in 1997). The primary livestock raised on Chittenden County farms are cattle and calves (263 farms in 1987 and 172 farms in 1997), over half of which appear to be sold. Milk cow herds were raised on 150 farms in 1987 and on 92 farms in 1997, with the average herd size increasing from 64 in 1987 to 85 in 1997. Swine and laying poultry continue to be raised on a small number of farms: (swine on 27 farms in 1987 and on 18 farms in 1997 and layers on 43 farms in 1987 and on 49 farms in 1997). Sheep have made a comeback in the county since the 19th century, although the number of farms is again on the wane: 53 farms raised sheep in 1987 and 38 farms in 1997. Orchards continue to be prevalent in Chittenden County, with 21 orchard farms in 1987 and 28 orchard farms in 1997. There appears to be an increasing trend to raise vegetables for sale, with 25 farms in 1987 and 34 farms in 1997, perhaps catering to the increasing suburban population's demands.

> *"When I was a kid, you tell somebody that you were from Shelburne, they would look for the cow manure on your shoes. Now people who live in Chittenden County claim that they live in Shelburne because it is THE place to live"* (Robert Noonan, Shelburne Oral History Project)

These words reflect a great shift in the Shelburne lifestyle. In 1963, there were only 25 dairy farms and three orchards in Shelburne, compared with 133 farms in 1870 (Shelburne Museum, p. 49). Today, the few remaining dairy farms and orchards are finding it difficult to compete with land development pressure, escalating land values and property taxes, and rising operating costs.

The town that was once dominated by an agricultural economy has now become a desirable bedroom community. Where once there were a few horse drawn carriages or hay wagons seen making their way down Dorset Street, now a steady stream of SUV's motor on US Route 7 through Shelburne. The farms in Shelburne have survived numerous changes in the local, statewide and national agricultural economies. Farmers, Native American and descendents of European settlers alike, by necessity have had to constantly make changes to adapt to cultural and economic demands in the products they raise, most recently in order to take advantage of profitable markets and adjust to rising capital costs and issues such as the federal manipulation of milk prices. With the modernization of roads and automobiles, Shelburne was brought closer to Burlington. It became easier for people who worked in Burlington to commute from Shelburne. This demand for land caused the land value in Shelburne to increase and some farmers found it more profitable to sell off their land for development than continue with the rigorous existence of farm life. With the sale of farmland came an increase in housing development and a decrease in the open space. As the town struggles to come to terms with its inevitable growth, it is essential to continue to recognize, preserve, and respect the disappearing farming tradition which serves as Shelburne's cultural backbone.

US Ag Census - Shelburne	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1921	1930	1940
No. of farms reporting in Shelburne		101	89	133	122			
Total improved land (a)		12,557	13,380	11,639.5	43,217			
Total unimproved land (a)		3,350	2,443	2,242.5	1,917			
Average acreage		157.5	177.8	104.4	370		150.7	159.1
Farm value		$535,445	$523,900	$1,056,075	$637,500			
Average farm value		$5,307.94	$5,886.52	$7,940.41	$5,225.41		$8,001	$6,978
Livestock value		$68,850	$99,770	$109,495	$74,729			
Value all farm production				$159,645	$96,685			
Value home made/family goods	$1,363	$1,455	0	0				
Hay (tons)	2,158	6,530	2,194	4,998	4,248			
Horses and mules	304	322	296	339	367	505	257	
Working oxen		77	30	34				
Milch cows		524	697	762	1,088	1052	1878	
Neat cattle	}1,376	598	387	339	607	761		
Milk sold/sent to factories (gal)				3,250	365,668			
Butter made on farm (lbs)		74,156	70,330	92,480	95,386			
Cheese made on farm (lbs)		22,115	112,300	31,330	5,670			
Value products of dairy	$6,510							
Sheep	17,636	7,315	713	1,080	1,129	257	125	
Pounds of wool	36,677	23,572	2,661	9,869	5,007			
Swine	999	434	249	243	406	87	12	
Poultry					2,112			
Eggs produced					10,503			
Value all poultry	$536							
Barley (bu)	772	327	350	3,073	3,708			
Buckwheat (bu)	462	265	142	2,032	1,519			
Indian corn (bu)	5,854	10,660	7,850	7,625	12,782			
Oats (bu)	11,535	9,198	14,531	12,942	17,093			
Rye (bu)	944	1,065	658	841	352			
Wheat (bu)	1,768	5,901	2,716	4,292	2,450			
Peas/beans		2,958	869	2,783	1,045.5			
Irish potatoes (bu)	35,281	39,115	19,605	38,875	11,946			
Maple sugar (lbs)	1,220	2,570	1,375	1,025	1,480			
Maple molasses (gal)					10			
Hops (lbs)	17							
Apple (acres)					548		42	
Apple bearing trees (#)					19,272		2,315	
Apples (bu)					37,127			
Total value orchard products	$2,351	$4,930	$4,871	$17,824	$16,932			
Nurseries (acres)								
Nurseries – value produce sold								
Vineyards (acres)					.5			
Grapes sold					500			
Wine made (gal)		51			0			
Market garden – $ products sold		$3,221	$240	$1,605	$1,325			
Bees – honey (lbs)		}1,245	960	3,480	730			
Bees – wax (lbs)	98	}	30					
wood cut/sold (cords)	1,058				2,032			
Value forest products	$200			$5,426	$6,097			

Figure 3: US Agricultural Census – Shelburne, Chittenden County, Vermont

US Agricultural Census – Chittenden County	1910	1920	1925	1930	1935	1940	1945	1950	1987	1997
Number of farms	2,205	1,992	2,025	1,842	1,935	1,642	1,813	1,330	456	452
Acres in farms	297,575	280,868	282,168	277,498	278,920	261,166	270,398	247,081	98,069	83,355
Percent land area in farm	79.9*	72.5*	81.2	79.9	80.3	76.7	79.4	72.6	28.2	24.2
Total no. of cattle		38,219	35,618	35,730	35,681	38,057	41,342	38,636	18,737	15,796
Total no. of sheep		1,394	461	1,308	600	482	692	640	1,916	1,405
Total no. of chickens		58,791	73,112	56,274	59,035	57,384	99,360	77,772		
Total no. of swine		4,087	2,931	2,444	2,331	2,104	2,750	1,480	679	90
Total no. of horses		5,301	4,974	4,103	3,650	3,182	2,860	1,775		
Corn – acres		1,561*	10,625	9,050	10,852	10,093	7,804	9,996	93,645	77,798
Hay - acres		79,197	78,730	74,520	74,568	68,750		66,159	30,689	26,973
Apples – acres (total no. trees)		(72,170 trees)	(55,526 trees)	737	377	75 – (17,489 trees)	286 (19,786 trees)	377 (21,907 trees)	179	221
* 6,799 acres of oats and acres of other grains										

Figure 4: US Agricultural Census, Chittenden Country, Vermont

I. Name of Property Type – Farmstead

II. Description

The historic Shelburne farmstead generally includes a farmhouse, primary barn, a series of outbuildings, well or spring house/box, barnyards, orchard, vegetable garden, farm dump, archaeological remains of historic human habitation, paths and roads, pond or other natural source of water, outlying meadows, pastures and woodlots bounded by fencing and/or hedgerows. Farmsteads in Shelburne are generally sited close to the road and are found throughout the town.

The family dwelling served as the center of the farmstead. It served as the workplace for agricultural and non-agricultural, domestic and commercial activities. The farmhouse was not only where the family ate and slept, but was where cheese and butter were processed, vegetables and fruits were canned and dried, where household manufacturing activities such as spinning, weaving, leather making and other cottage industries were located, and where family cultural activities took place, such as music-making, quilting, dances and other social gatherings. The earliest farmhouses from the 18th century faced south, regardless of the orientation of the road. Later farmhouses fronted the road and were often situated such that the farm odors were carried away from the residence by the prevailing winds.

Before 1800, agricultural processing and household manufacturing took place in the main dwelling, which in the earliest cases, was a primitive log house. The earliest frame dwelling with no attached wings often had a central kitchen/cooking area at the center rear of the house plan flanked by a "borning room", and a pantry or buttery, a small lean-too off the side-rear containing dairy or milkhouse items such as dairy equipment and powdering tub for salting meat, etc., or with the buttery, milk cellar and cool food storage in the basement. The massive central chimneys of the earliest houses were used for heating and cooking and often had open masonry supports in the cellar used for storage of food and supplies, as well as sometimes serving as root cellars.

In the 19th century, it became common to complete this work in an ell or wing of the house. In some instances, the main dwelling became the wing/ell when a later, perhaps larger farmhouse was added to the farmstead. The wing/ell usually contained: the summer kitchen; a work area such as a laundry space; cooking utensil storage; dairy storage; canning storage; an area for a loom or other domestic manufacturing activity; farm laborers' bedrooms; grain/corn storage; and shed for wood storage, a privy and wagon storage. A second, smaller house may be located on the property to accommodate additional hired help and/or tenant farmer.

Aside from the farmhouse, the main barn was the most important structure on the farm. The largest building on the farmstead, it usually housed the livestock, hay, and perhaps grain. Other barns typical to Shelburne farmsteads could include a carriage/horse barn, a sheep barn and a hay barn. One or more wells or springs provided water. Farmstead outbuildings usually include one or more of the following: corncrib, granary, poultry house, piggery, root cellar (contained in another building or free-standing), silo, maple sugar house, milk house, workshop, garage, tool shed, machine shed, lard house, and icehouse. Privies were built into the shed attached to the house or were free-standing. Other less common buildings include: apple barns, ash houses, stills, smoke houses, cheese factories and creameries, lime kilns, and windmills or other power sources.

The open space portions of the farmstead included front yard, door and barn yards, and fields and woods that had specialized functions that evolved according to the suitability of soils, location of water and other environmental factors. Hubka describes the three-yard system of the front, door, and barn yards, as developing into a typical feature of many 19th century farms after 1820. The front yard was the most formal outdoor space and could be bounded with a fence and/or the planting of shad trees. The dooryard is described by Hubka as the space in front of the ell/wing which served as an active outdoor workspace which was a convenient place to complete many of the varied talks involved in farming. The barnyard was located off the main barn, functioned as the livestock yard and was typically located on the side of the barn sheltered from the prevailing winds.

Other outdoor spaces related to the farm families' domestic daily activities include a kitchen garden, a fruit orchard (usually apple) and decorative flowering plants that served also an herbal/medicinal purpose. Apple trees were also sometimes planted along the perimeter of the fields. The agricultural and processing tasks required one or more dumps which were usually located in the woods at a distance from the farmhouse.

The outlying fields and woodlots beyond the central farmstead were connected to each other and to the central core of farm buildings by a series of paths, lanes and roads. Historically, the crop lands were located closest to the farm core and road, then mowing fields, then pasture, all of which may be bounded either by rows of hedges or trees, or by wood or stone fences which were the by-product of land clearance. This was varied as productivity waned and soils suitability became obvious, or as more technological farming methods, such as field rotation, began to be applied. Ponds are a common feature in pastures and possibly mowing fields, but may also be an indication of wetland areas not suitable for use. Woods were located the farthest from the farmstead core, and may not have been connected with the rest of the property. The areas allowed to remain in tree cover were usually hillier, rockier or otherwise unsuited to agriculture. The wood lot not only provided wood for cooking and warmth, but some were specialized as sugar bush for maple sugar production.

Variations:

A variation on the separate structures of the farmstead is the continuously connected farmstead where all the main buildings are attached to one another. This may not occur often in Shelburne, due to the fact that this practice is better suited to perpetuate a diversified agricultural economy occurring in areas that were not so well suited to specialization, which, due to the large acreages of flat, fertile land, evolved into dairying and stock farming concentrations.

Changes over time:

Changes to farmsteads over time include: change in farm location and siting; technological changes; construction of more specialized outbuildings; tearing down of older, deteriorated or functionally obsolete buildings, moving or remodeling existing structures for new uses; lengthening the kitchen ell in response to the growth of and diversification in farm and domestic activities; fewer outbuildings and more consolidation due to specialization; less marked delineation of the once formal front year; the decline in the use of the family apple orchard and its disappearance; change in land use; changes n farm size; removal of fencing, hedgerows and orchards to make way for expanded field cultivation; the reversion of open land back to forest; the advent of municipal utilities, indoor plumbing and central heating in which privies, woodsheds and chimney arrangements changed; changes in labor force using hired help would necessitate alterations or new buildings; changes in the division of labor.

III. Significance

Intact historic farmsteads 50 years or older are rare since farmsteads change frequently in the types and placement of agricultural buildings and are often subdivided or substantially reduced in acreage so as to be more economically viable. Historic structures were often moved and radically altered according to adaptation to changing economies and technological changes in agricultural practice. Despite these alterations, the farmstead retained it basic character comprised of the main dwelling and barn with a cluster of outbuildings, a well or spring house, yards, paths and roads, farm dump, kitchen garden, orchard, pond and fields, pastures and woodlots bounded by fencing and hedgerows.

The number and variety of buildings that comprised the typical 19th and early 20th century farmstead reflected the diversity of operations that occurred on most farms. With the increased specialization of agriculture, the traditional type of farmstead has become increasingly rare.

As the primary social and economic unit in Shelburne for over 100 years, the farmstead retained its traditional English practice of locating various farm operations in separate structures because it was well suited to the mixed agricultural economy of the early years of settlement. This flexibility in response to economic factors that ensured the success of the diversified operations was an ongoing fact of agricultural life that first became evident c. 1825 due to competition with the West. The strategy proved a good survival mechanism during the final half of the 19th century, which were years of experimentation in agriculture, ever-changing farm production systems, and building organization adjustments.

The farmstead in Shelburne has undergone considerable alteration with the growing specialization and technological sophistication of agriculture during the twentieth century. A single, large barn for dairy operations with a few outbuildings such as equipment sheds and hay storage facilities are all that are necessary. Operations such as sheep, poultry, fox and pig farming, with the buildings used to house such livestock and feed are no longer needed. The growth of the average herd size on most dairy farms has resulted in larger acreages devoted to the raising of livestock feed, such as hay, corn and alfalfa. In this process, fruit orchards have been destroyed and former fences and hedgerows removed for more cropland.

IV. Registration Requirements

In Shelburne, the most successful farms have had to change over time to accommodate evolving agricultural techniques, social patterns and market economies in order to survive. The demolition of structures, alterations and additions, as well as land use changes, are significant in representing the diversity, evolution and changing nature of farming in the harsh climate of Shelburne. Eligible farms will range from intact 19th century farms which are no longer actively farmed to working farmsteads displaying a variety of new buildings and land uses.

The property type description sets out the physical characteristic of the farmstead, which should have been built or established previous to 1954. The historic development of the farmstead should be clearly recognizable and understood. Components of an eligible farmstead will include all or some of the following: a farmhouse, barn, outbuildings, and a surrounding parcel of land historically associated with the farm. Additions, relocation, and new construction, especially on working farms, are expected as a traditional part of farm operations and will not necessarily detract from a farmstead's eligibility. These changes should not visually overwhelm the recognition and understanding of the traditional structures and landscape.

A farmstead may be eligible under and represent a number of historic contexts due to its evolution over time. A farmstead should represent at least one historic context and

should be evaluated within the representative context to determine whether it is a rare, common, good or poor example of its property type. Detailed development of historic contexts at the local level detailing local significance may enable the farmstead to be eligible for the National Register, despite the appearance that it does not meet these registration requirements.

Farmsteads will usually be eligible under Criteria A and/or C. Very rarely will Criteria B be utilized for eligibility requirements. Due to the adaptations of the farmstead buildings to economic and cultural forces and the abandonment of farms, some entire farmsteads or buildings can be expected to exist as archaeological resources.

A farmstead may not retain integrity for all components of the property or in all areas of integrity. The aspect(s) of integrity of a property that are particularly outstanding must be identified. Certain aspects of integrity may be more important in determining a property's significance than others and may take precedence and negate other areas of integrity that are less intact.

Location and Setting

A farmstead must retain the portion of the original land holdings immediately surrounding the farm buildings, with enough open land and farmyard area to convey a sense of the farming heritage of the property. The bulk of the farmland historically associated with the farm and farm building complex may be under separate ownership. Evidence of historic field patterns and agricultural operations is desirable and will add to the property's integrity and significance. This may include open fields, woodlots, sugarbushes, orchards, hedgerows, stonewalls, fencelines, lands and roads and other cultural vegetation such as lilacs, locusts, maples, or elms.

New agricultural use of the historic landscape will not necessarily detract from the significance of the farmstead due to the fact that these elements continue to evoke the diverse and continual evolutionary nature of the industry. The dynamic nature of a farmstead may result in new land patterns, such as second growth trees in former fields, or different ways of using the land. Development of farmlands may detract from the farmstead's significance if it overwhelms the historic farm buildings and obliterates any sense of the historic landscape.

Roads that have been relocated or widened may have necessitated the moving of building, thereby changing the traditional relationship between the buildings on the farmstead. These changes should not disqualify the farmstead from National Register eligibility if it retains its integrity in most other areas.

Design

The integrity of design will vary based on the tradition of reuse and moving farm buildings as well as new construction on working farms. Farmsteads that are especially significant retain a collection of buildings dating from a distinct, limited period significance laid out in a pattern typical of that era and reflect agricultural practices from one particular period of time. Working farms that have evolved through time may have several periods of significance and may include a number of building types. Some of these may be non-contributing, but are necessary for the property to continue functioning as a farm. Other buildings may have had additions reflecting the evolution of the particular farm operation served.

If the farmhouse and/or barn are the most significant elements of the farmstead, the main blocks of thewe buildings should not have been greatly altered after their period of significance. The farm buildings also must retain enough stylistic and structural features to identify them as having been built during their particular period of construction.

The retention of the original layout or use of the interior of the farm buildings may add to the significance of the farmstead, although this is not required. Evidence of traditional areas of domestic use within the farmhouse will also enhance significance.

Materials

Generally, farmstead buildings must be relatively intact and retain most of their original materials. Extensive replacement of original materials with modern substitute materials will diminish significance. A significant number of deteriorated buildings on a farmstead are marginally contributing and would compromise eligibility unless there were some compelling local significance, such as the last remaining farm of a type.

Use of significant indigenous materials in farm buildings will enhance significance.

Workmanship

Some alterations to the farmhouse and main barn are expected and acceptable provided the main block of each building remains relatively unaltered. Adaptive reuse of historic farm buildings and the resulting change of their structural systems will not necessarily alter their significance if the structures have not lost their significant historic features and are recognizable as farm buildings.

Intact examples of period technologies, such as timber frame joinery, or bent systems as evidence of local framing/raising traditions, will enhance significance.

Workmanship may also be found in landscape elements such as stone walls, or fencing.

Association and Feeling

Qualities such as sights, sounds, and smells of livestock which enhance the experience and understanding of the property's agricultural heritage will increase the significance of the property.
A farmstead that is still in agricultural use will obtain added significance from the continuation of this historic role of the property.

A well documented historic record and/or extensive oral tradition of the farmstead can contribute to its informational value and historic significance. The availability of this information will add to the understanding of the relationship of the existing buildings and landscapes to those of the historic farm. The information will also assist in comprehending the evolution of the property, how intact the landholdings are and how it relates to other farms in the area. Information and understanding of the local farming tradition may identify certain farmsteads as sole surviving examples of a type of farming within Shelburne and would add to their significance.

Criteria Considerations

The evolution of a farmstead will possibly include the moving of buildings in different relationships to one another in order to adapt to changing technology and market demands in the industry. Moved buildings and buildings less than 50 years of age may be included as contributing resources if one or more of the following apply:

- They remain on land traditionally associated with the farm, and/or
- They retain original materials, and/or
- They retain their traditional use, and/or
- They represent the history of agricultural, social and/or technological change on the farm.

Buildings that are less than 50 years of age or have achieved significance within the past 50 years may also exist on working farms. These may be included as contributing resources if they meet all of the following:

- They remain on land traditionally associated with the farm, and
- They retain original materials, and
- They retain their traditional use, and
- They represent the history of agricultural, social and/or technological change on the farm.

Family cemeteries are often significant components of a farmstead, especially one that has remained in the same family for several generations. These properties may be included as contributing resources of the farmstead if they meet all of the following:

- They remain relatively intact and are clearly bounded, and
- The majority of stones are more than 50 years old, and
- They are clearly associated with the farm (contiguous open land should remain between the cemetery and the farm buildings).

While not required, the following qualities can add to the significance of a family cemetery:

- They represent traditional local burial patterns, and/or
- They provide a source of information regarding the residents of the property

The potential for archaeology to contribute to the understanding and significance of a farmstead should be considered. While full registration requirements still must be developed for these resources, historic archeological resources may be included as contributing resources on a farmstead. These types of resources may include foundations of houses, barns and outbuildings, former privies, dump sites, etc. These resources may provide further information regarding early phases of the farm's history as well as its social and technological development that is no longer evident in the built environment.

Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

The multiple property listing for the Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Shelburne, Vermont, develops the context "Agricultural Resources of Shelburne, VT (1760-1954) and is based on the theme, "Agriculture (1760-1940)" in the Vermont State Historic Preservation Plan and the Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey (VHSSS), which was begun in 1971. Survey forms for the town of Shelburne were reviewed in depth to gather much of the specific information about this theme as well as about agricultural properties for the property types section on "Farmsteads". This is the property type most likely to be nominated to the National Register.

The geographic area for this context was determined to be the entire town of Shelburne because many of the trends in agriculture were experienced in all or most parts of the town. The time period is from 1760, when the first permanent white settlement began in Shelburne, to 1954, the present 50 year cut-off.

The standards of integrity were based on the National Register of Historic Places standards for assessing integrity. Information from the VHSSS of Shelburne and knowledge of the condition of existing properties were used to determine the degree to which allowances should be made for alteration and deterioration.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: COVER DOCUMENTATION

MULTIPLE NAME: Shelburne, Vermont MPS

REFERENCE NUMBER: 64500903

STATE & COUNTY: VERMONT, Chittenden County

DATE RECEIVED: 08/24/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/08/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N
						COVER ONLY:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT_____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Registration requirements regarding criteria exception g. (page. F7) are clarified as such that resources <50 yrs. of age must meet the stipulated registration requirements as well as contribute to a justified period of significance for the farmstead in order to be considered contributing, so as to not appear to justify inclusion of extremely recent or new resources as contributing by virtue of function and association alone.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept
REVIEWER Savage DISCIPLINE Architectural History
TELEPHONE_____ DATE 10/7/04

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

Beth Savage
01/03/2005 09:06 AM EST

To: Edson Beall/WASO/NPS@NPS
cc: Suzanne.Jamele@state.vt.us
Subject: Re: NR Nomination Listing Question

Edson,

Despite these not yet appearing on a weekly list, they were both listed on October 7 and I discussed them with Sue J. at that time as they both need SLRs. Sue must not have noted that they were listed when we spoke. The number for the Sutton Farm is 04001132 and the number for the Shelburne, VT MPS cover is 64500903. This should straighten this mystery out and get them on a weekly list.

Beth L. Savage
Architectural Historian
Publications Managing Editor & Web Team Leader
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
phone 202/354-2220; fax 202/371-2229
Edson Beall

Edson Beall
12/28/04 03:50 PM EST

To: "Jamele, Suzanne" <Suzanne.Jamele@state.vt.us>
cc: Beth Savage/WASO/NPS@NPS
Subject: Re: NR Nomination Listing Question

Hi Suzanne,

Both were received 8/24/04 and, I'm sorry to say, should have been acted on by now. The Sutton Farm nomination, part of the Shelburne, Vermont MPS, and it's cover went to Beth Savage who is, unfortunately out of the office this week. I will follow up with her as soon as she returns. I will let you know the dispositions on Monday. Again, I apologize for the delay.

Thank you for your interest in the preservation programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Edson H. Beall
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Phone: (202) 354-2255
Web: http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr
E-mail: Edson_Beall@nps.gov

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

"Jamele, Suzanne" <Suzanne.Jamele@state.vt.us>

"Jamele, Suzanne" <Suzanne.Jamele@state.vt.us>
12/27/04 11:00 AM EST

To: "'Edson_Beall@nps.gov'" <Edson_Beall@nps.gov>
cc:
Subject: NR Nomination Listing Question