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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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DESCRIBING LOCATION.

Property Name Barnes-Hill House

State MASSACHSETTS

County Worcester

Reference Number 15001007

WARNING

This file may contain material **that must be withheld** because it is **restricted** under one or more Federal laws and regulations. All or some of those noted below may apply. Additionally, other federal laws and program requirements may limit public access to information in these files.

- 1) The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Section 304[16 U.S.C. 470w-3(a), confidentiality of the location of sensitive historic resources; 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(b), Access Determination; 16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c), Consultation with the Advisory Council];
- 2) The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended [Public Law 96-95; 16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm; with special attention to Section 9 subsections a and b in their entirety];
- 3) The National Parks Omnibus Act of 1988, Section 207 (1 and 2);
- 4) 36 CFR 800.6(5) and 36 CFR 800.11(c);
- 5) Department of the Interior Departmental Manual (519 DM 2);
- 6) National Park Service Management Policies 2006, Section 5.1.1;
- 7) Director's Order 28, Section 5a;

Information in these files that may be restricted can include, but is not limited to, such things as: locations of archeological sites; locations of features within archeological sites; types of artifacts and their recovered locations; the existence of and/or the locations of excavated and unexcavated human remains; photos, maps and text that includes sensitive archeological or cultural information; specific or general information of a sensitive cultural nature such as information about religious ceremonies; rock art or other cultural items; creation stories; or properties associated with such things.

Please note that Section 304 (c), [16 U.S.C. 470w-3(c)], 36 CFR 800.6(5), and 36 CFR 800.11 (c) require consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on reaching determinations of withholding. Further, 36 CFR 800.6(5), and 36 CFR 800.11 (c) specify including the views of the SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, related to the confidentiality concern in reaching determinations of withholding.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 11 2015

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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 Property

Historic name: Barnes-Hill House

UNREDACTED VERSION

Other names/site number: David Barnes House, Sullivan Hill House

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 12 North Brookfield Road

City or town: Spencer State: MA County: Worcester

Not 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 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 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Brona Simon</u>		<u>November 25, 2015</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Brona Simon, SHPO	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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: _____)

Joe Wilson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

1-26-16
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/ Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY/ Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood clapboard, asphalt shingle

Portions redacted

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

The Barnes-Hill House (SPE.392) is located in Hillsville, a village of Spencer. Spencer is a central Massachusetts town with a 2010 population of 11,688. The town has long been a suburb of Worcester, the second largest city in New England, and a major force in Massachusetts' economic development. The south-facing house is sited on a six-acre lot close to semirural North Brookfield Road, once a main thoroughfare connecting Spencer to North Brookfield and Rutland. Although the house and its lot are on the north side of the road, for much of the property's history a large parcel of land on the south side of the road was part of the property.

Hillsville, which developed during the early part of the 19th century, was both a farming community and a thriving commercial center into the early 20th century. In the past few decades, suburban residential development has come to the area, interspersing late 20th- and early 21st-century Capes and ranches with the historic buildings. Today the land to the south of the road is largely open, but the lot opposite the Barnes-Hill House, formerly the site of Sullivan Hill's chair factory, has been subdivided. A modern single-family house stands on the site of the chair factory, and a separate, modern daycare building is nearby.

The main block of the Barnes-Hill House, constructed ca.1790, is a timber-framed, 2½-story dwelling with a side-gable roof. Five bays wide, it is a double-pile house with a center entry and center chimney. The form of the house and numerous interior features are Federal in style, but later updates, including the main entry door and its surround, reflect the Greek Revival influence. Additions to the main block include

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a two-story wing to the west, a single-story wing to the east, two 1½-story lean-tos at the rear, and a single-car garage, also to the west. A small, mid 20th-century stable complex is east of the house. Stone walls are visible at the front and sides of the property, and a portion of a fieldstone foundation, which once supported a large barn, remains to the east of the house.

A few trees stand in front of the house, and the east property line is heavily wooded, but the rest of the property is largely fields that recall its former agricultural use. A small pond at the rear of the property served as a source of water power for the chair factory that stood across the street. The property retains integrity and includes four contributing resources: the house, the stable complex, the stone walls, and the barn foundation.

Narrative Description

The main block of the **Barnes-Hill House** is a 2½-story, double-pile, side-gable house with a center entry and center chimney (Photos 1, 2, 4). It has a 1½-story lean-to at the rear, northeast corner. Extending from the side of the northeast corner of the house is a long, single-story, gable-roofed wing (Photos 3, 5). Immediately to the west of the main block is a two-story, single-pile, gable-roofed wing extending from the side of the rear pile (Photo 6). This wing also has a 1½-story lean-to at the rear. Attached to the west end of the wing is a single-story, side-gable, single-car garage. The house is clad with wood clapboards, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A large, front-gabled barn (demolished) was located directly east of the house. The barn's gable end faced the street, and its façade was several feet in front of the façade of the house (Figure 6). A small **stable complex** dating from the 20th century sits to the east of the house, in the area of the demolished barn.

Main Block

The timber-framed main block has a five-sided ridge beam and square posts, rather than earlier gunstock-style posts. The five-bay, double-pile building rests on a foundation of dressed-granite slabs backed by brick. Seen from the cellar, this section of the house has a dry-laid fieldstone foundation below grade. The basement is limited to the main block of the house; it does not extend to any of the wings. A very large fieldstone chimney base takes up much of the space in the basement and serves four fireplaces (Photo 8). The chimney, which is centered on the building, exits the roof at the ridgeline. The principal windows on the main block have 6/6 sash, while those in the two gable ends are 8/12, suggesting all of the windows in the main block may have originally been 8/12.

The Federal-period construction date of the house is reflected in its plain, narrow cornerboards and simple cornice. The second-story windows are right under the cornice line, a common late 18th-century placement. However, the treatment of the main entrance is Greek Revival in style, likely a mid 19th-century alteration (Photo 7). Sidelights are two-thirds length and consist of four lights on either side of the door, with paneling completing the bottom third. Outside of these are simple pilasters with recessed centers topped by Doric capitals. A full entablature above the door displays a dentil range and molded cornice. The door itself features two long vertical panels, a high-style design of the Greek Revival period.

Stair Hall

The front door provides access to a narrow stair hall, which leads to flanking front parlors (see Figures 1 and 2 for a floor plan of the house). Known as the hall-and-parlor plan, it is a common but conservative floor plan for a building constructed in the late 18th century, by which time the center-hall plan was fashionable. The stairs leading to the second floor turn in front of the chimneystack. In the stairway wall is an opening that gives access to a smoke room in the chimney (Photo 9). The Federal-style stairs (Photo 10) have thin square-section balusters supporting a rounded handrail, with taller, thicker, square newel

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posts. There is a small piece of trim under the lip of each stair tread. Vertical paneling composed of large boards makes up the outer wall below the stairs. The walls of the stair hall are plastered and papered, except for the exposed brick of the chimney.

Southwest Parlor

A formal parlor is to the west of the entry hall. As is true of much of the rest of the house, the floor is of wide wood boards, and the walls and ceiling are plastered. Two posts at the front of the house project into the room, one in the southwest corner and one by the door from the entry hall; these are cased with plain boards, and painted. On the east wall is a Greek Revival-style fireplace surround, with no hearth in front of it (Photo 11). The surround consists of a plain Doric column on either side topped by an architrave, frieze, and a thick mantelshelf. To the south of the fireplace, between it and the door from the entryway, is a built-in cabinet fronted by a twelve-paned glass door. Panels above and below the glass portion suggest that there may once have been some other trim surrounding the door. Around the room's windows, doors, and the cabinet door are casings that likely date to a Greek Revival-period remodeling.

Southeast Parlor

The southeast front room is accessed from both the original kitchen (to the north) and the main entryway (to the west). Access from the kitchen is through a wall of post-1970 French doors. Low wainscoting in the southeast parlor is made up of two wide boards that run around the base of the walls. Corner posts that protrude into the room (at both ends of the east wall and just inside the door from the entry) have been cased with plain boards that have a thick, round bead running down the corner. The bead distinguishes these posts from the plain boxed posts found in other rooms, suggesting a hierarchy of finish. The fireplace on the west wall is served by the main chimney (Photo 12). The mantle is quite wide, although the current firebox is much smaller and placed to the left of the space, indicating the fireplace has been reworked to create this smaller opening. A simple casing surrounds the fireplace, and the space between the top of the casing and the ceiling is filled with six rectangular, raised panels. Wainscoting consists of a single large, raised panel on the lower portion of the wall to the left of the fireplace, between the fireplace and the door from the entryway. There are also three raised panels placed one on top of the other to the right of the fireplace, on the north wall with the French doors. These raised panels, in addition to the bead on the boxed posts, give the room a more elaborate finish than any other in the house. It suggests that, at least during the Federal period, this was the most important room in the building.

Northeast Rear Room (Early Kitchen)

The northeast room, at the rear of the house, also has Federal-style details (photo 13). The plaster walls in this room have wainscoting that matches that found in the southeast parlor. A set of Federal-style stairs in the northeast corner, near a door to the east wing, has vertical wood paneling done in wide boards, matching the paneling in the entryway. The stairs have a thin, square handrail that is supported by tall, square newel posts and thin turned balusters. In the southwest corner of the room, along the south wall, is a large cooking fireplace (Photo 13). It features a bake oven outside the firebox—an advancement over the previous position of the oven at the back of the firebox—which was rare before 1790. The open fireplace is raised above the brick hearth; two layers of bricks elevate it slightly. A simple mantelpiece of flat, unpainted boards with a very narrow mantelshelf surrounds the fireplace. The floor has been carpeted, and the walls and ceilings are plaster.

Modern Kitchen

One of the few rooms in the house that has seen major updates is the small, modern kitchen at the rear of the house. Updates include modern appliances, linoleum on the floor, and wood-veneer wall paneling that is typical of the mid 1970s. The space is small and cramped, partially a result of the earlier addition of the

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west wing, described below. Also, space along the north wall is taken up by the basement stairs, which are accessed in a different room. The north wall has a single 8/12 sash window.

Second Floor

The layout on the second floor of the main block is similar to that on the first floor (see Figures 1 and 2 for a floor plan of the house). There have been several modifications to the rooms on the second floor, including the creation of a bathroom and installation of 1970s wood-veneer paneling. However, all of the rooms on this floor retain their wide, wooden floorboards. A small stairhall at the top of the main stairs provides access to the two front rooms/chambers, while a larger circulation space at the rear, above the rear stairs, accesses the rear rooms.

Southwest Chamber

The southwest chamber has the most elaborate trim of the rooms on the second floor. The heavier trim suggests the transition between the Federal and Greek Revival styles. It is similar to the casings found in the room below, which has a Greek Revival fireplace surround. The corner posts at the front of the southwest chamber are boxed, like others found throughout the house (Photo 14). The plaster walls are covered in late 20th-century wallpaper.

Southeast Chamber

The southeast chamber is the only room on the second floor that has a fireplace. Located on the west wall, the fireplace has a Federal-style mantel that shows signs of having been reworked (Photo 15). A piece of trim running around the edge of the mantel matches that found on the fireplace in the first-floor room of the west wing. However, the boards this trim is attached to are very square and clean, suggesting that they are newer. Visible under the boards, at the opening of the fireplace, is a simple round bead running around the opening. Above the fireplace is a set of built-in shelves; while the space is possibly original, the trim and boards have been redone. The trim is narrow with a rounded face, more indicative of the mid 20th century. The casings on the windows and doors are in a simple Federal style, with a plain, rounded bead edging the inside of the trim. A chair rail runs around the room. As in the southwest chamber, the walls are currently papered.

Office

To the north of the southeast chamber is a small room, now used as an office. At the north end of the room is a small closet, which extends out over the stairs down to the first floor. While the room has the wide-board floors found throughout the house, the walls have been covered in paper and 1970s wood paneling. The Federal-style casings on the door and windows match those found elsewhere in the house.

Hall and Bathroom

At the top of the stairs rising from the first-floor northeast kitchen is a circulation hallway that provides access to the southeast chamber, the attic, the rear northwest chamber, and a modern bathroom. The hallway has wide-board wood floors and vertical paneling on the walls that matches paneling found on the two stairways in the house. A small room at the top of the stairs has been converted to a modern, full bathroom.

Northwest Chamber

The large rear room on the second floor was always an unheated chamber with no access to either of the house's two chimneys. The room has wallpaper on three of the walls and vertical wood paneling on the east wall. The trim is similar to the Federal-style trim found in other rooms of the house. Because of alterations to the house to create the west wing, the room does not have a post in the northwest corner.

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Attic

A door in the rear hallway provides access to the attic via a set of stairs that runs along the west side of the chimney stack. Today the attic is unfinished, but the space to the east of the chimney was once finished. Plaster and lath walls and a ceiling framed on thin, rough studs were removed within the past five years (Photo 16). One rough wall of vertical wood boards is still visible to the north of the chimney, where a door would have provided access to the finished half of the attic (Photo 17). Census records for much of the 19th century show that a farm laborer was often living with the family; this was likely his living space. The building's rafters are notable in that the ones on the south (front) side of the house have been squared and finished, while those on the north side of the house were left round, although their bark was removed. The rafters are pegged into a five-sided ridge beam that runs the length of the house (Photo 18).

West Wing

This single-pile, two-story, side-gable wing rests on a foundation of dressed-granite slabs and has no basement (Photo 6). A chimney exits the ridgeline slightly west of center. The wing, which may date to the early 19th century, is built off of the rear pile of the main block of the house, with its rear wall even with the rear wall of the main block. An added lean-to now covers the rear wall of this wing. On the main façade (south), an entrance to this wing is placed in line with the chimney, slightly offset to the west. The door frame possesses simple Greek Revival features, consisting of wide boards accented by cornerblocks. This entrance has a single window to the west and two windows to the east. The second story has symmetrical placement of windows, with nothing in the space over the door. The windows in this wing are 8/12 sash, a configuration that predates the wing's construction. The interior of the wing is composed of four rooms, two on each floor, separated by fireplaces on the first floor and the chimney stack and closets on the second floor.

First Floor

The entrance on the main façade, in front of the chimney stack, is a very small hall/passageway between the two first-floor rooms. The west room was updated in the 1970s with carpeting and wood-veneer paneling, and a small bar was built at the northeast corner. A fireplace is on the east wall; it has a simple mantel with trim similar to that found on the second floor of the main block.

The east room of the wing is much larger than the west one; it served as a kitchen. A few feet of space from the main block's northwest room (now the modern kitchen) was given over to this first-floor room in the west wing, extending the addition into the main block of the house. On the east wall of the east room, a door at the extreme northern end provides access to the basement. This room has access to several other rooms, such as the modern kitchen, the southwest parlor, the rear lean-to, and the west room of this wing. The large fireplace on the west wall includes a bake oven placed in the upper right corner of the fireplace face. The fireplace and bake oven are enclosed within a Greek Revival fireplace surround (Photo 19). The mantel surround is more ornate than that found in the west room. The sides consist of thin fluted trim, rather than pilasters, and are topped by raised rectangular panels. The middle span of the mantel has a large, raised rectangle for decoration. The mantelshelf has no molding or trim, and is a simple board with rounded corners. To the north of the fireplace is a built-in pantry, enclosed with a door. Below a chair rail that runs around the whole room is wainscoting similar to that found in the two east, first-floor rooms of the main block of the house.

Second Floor

The second floor of the west wing is accessed either through the main block or by a set of narrow stairs in the rear lean-to. The stairs in the lean-to enter the second floor to the north of the chimney stack, at a pass-through between the two second-floor rooms. The two rooms are divided by the chimney stack, with

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the pass-through to the north and built-in closets to the south. There are no fireplaces in either of the rooms, nor is there evidence of stoves that may have been taken out, suggesting that the rooms were always unheated. The two rooms are very plain, with simple, square-board casings around the windows and doors. Unlike on the first floor, space was not taken from the main block to create the rooms here, making the east room on the second floor smaller than the room below. There is no access to the attic from the west wing. The attic space above the west wing is small, with a low ceiling, and was never finished (photo 20).

Rear Lean-tos

Based on both interior and exterior clues, both of the lean-to sections at the rear of the house are additions. They are not visible on maps and plans from the 1920s, but they are visible on photographs thought to date from the same decade, so they were constructed by that time (Figure 5). The lean-tos are framed using smaller framing members than are seen in the rest of the house, indicative of their later date, but most of the work is obscured by modern insulation (Photo 21). On both the eastern and western sides of the house, the cornice returns on the gable ends at the back of the house were maintained, even though the lean-tos were built flush with the end walls, indicating that the lean-tos are additions rather than integral sections of the building (Photos 3, 4). The placement of the lean-to roofs also suggests they were additions. The roof of the main body of the house continues down to cover the eastern lean-to, but the slope is noticeably steeper on the lean-to than on the house. The western lean-to roof is of a similar slope to the main roof, but it starts under the eaves of the main roof. The windows in both lean-tos are 6/12 sash. It is likely they were reused from elsewhere on the house, possibly even from the sections of the main block that they now cover.

The lean-tos each provide a room on the first floor; the western one is 17 feet wide by 12 feet deep, while the eastern one is 13 feet wide by 12 feet deep. On the second floor, they provided additional storage space, although it is cramped and narrow because of the steep slope of the roof. Today the first floor of the west lean-to has been roughly finished into a workshop. It has a set of stairs that provide access to the second floor via a door in the pass-through space between the two second-story rooms in the west wing. The ground floor of the west lean-to also has access to the garage, the west room of the west wing, and outside via exterior doors on both side walls. The first floor of the east lean-to is finished with 1970s wood-veneer paneling and carpeting. The space is currently used as a laundry/utility room, and has a half bath.

Garage

The single-car garage is a one-story, side-gable building attached to the west wall of the west wing of the house (photo 6). The garage is fifteen feet wide by seventeen feet deep. The footprint of a similar-sized structure is visible on a 1912 map, suggesting that if it was not built to be a garage, it could have served as a shed or other storage space. The garage is visible in photographs from the 1920s. In one photograph, a car is shown off to the eastern side of the house (not in front of the garage) (Figure 4). The garage is attached to the house in these photos, which would have been an early date for an attached garage. The fear of fire and fumes early in the history of personal automobiles meant that garages were often built as stand-alone buildings away from the main house, another indicator that this section may have been built as a shed and later converted to a garage.

The garage is very roughly framed. It has cornerposts and braces, but few studs. Instead, it was clad in vertical wood boards that are still visible inside the garage, although the exterior has been covered in clapboards (Photo 22). The short front wall is slightly different; inside, horizontal wood boards are visible, although it too is now clad in wood clapboards on the exterior. The garage has a concrete floor with no other foundation or basement. Inside the garage, some of the west wing's foundation is visible, as

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is its west wall (Photo 23). The wall is made of wide, horizontal wood boards similar to those found inside the lean-tos, suggesting that at least the side of the west wing and the rear of the house were originally clad only in horizontal boards. There is no sign of nail holes for clapboards on either these boards or the ones in the lean-tos. The 1920s photographs of the property, as well as interior clues, indicate that the fenestration has been altered over the years.

East Wing

The single-story, side-gabled east wing runs east-west, and extends from the northeast corner of the main block (Photos 2, 3, 4, 5). It has a dressed-granite foundation above grade and is built on a small hill, so the front sill sits very close to the ground, while more of the foundation is visible at the east and rear elevations (photo 5). A small crawl space under the building reveals dry-laid rubblestone walls. The wing's door and fenestration placement date to at least the 1920s, as they are all in the same location in photographs from that decade (Figures 4, 5). The windows on the wing are 6/12 sash and are placed directly under the cornice line. It is not clear when the east wing was added, but it was present by 1870, when maps show a structure in the location of the east wing.

The wing was converted into a rec room in the 1970s (Photo 24), but it retains two visible gunstock posts, suggesting that it may be older than the rest of the house (photo 25). One of the gunstock posts is at the northeast corner of the room, in the usual location for a post, at the junction of two walls (Photo 25). The other, however, is located about two feet from the end of the building at the northwest corner. This is an odd place for a post, but it is connected to other framing members in the room, including a sawed-off piece of a girt or beam, suggesting it was once the end of the building. It is possible that the room was extended to the west by a few feet when it was connected to the main house. The edges of some other framing members are visible around the room, such as the front and rear girts, a side girt at the eastern end of the room, and the sawed-off ends of a beam that would have run across the middle of the room. The crawl space under the room reveals floor joists made of logs that have had their bark removed.

The east wing is large for a single-room building, presumably from the early 18th century, and it may have originally been split into two rooms. It is possible that the building was moved to this property and attached to the main house. Its location, at the east end of the house close to the former location of the barn, suggests that it could have been used as a summer kitchen or a work space.

In photographs from the 1920s, a chimney is shown coming out of the ridgeline at the center of the room. Based on its location and small size, this likely served a coal- or wood-fired stove, rather than a fireplace. The chimney was removed in the 1970s. A single interior door in the southeast corner provides access to the northeast, first-floor room of the main house. The door is in a slightly awkward location, almost at the foot of a set of original stairs leading up to the second story of the main body of the house. The exterior door into the room, on the south side of the building, has been changed. In a photograph from the 1920s, the type of door is not discernable, but it has four square transom lights in a row above it; these are no longer extant.

Stable

To the east of the house, in the area of a former barn, is a small, two-part, one-story **stable complex**, constructed around the middle of the 20th century. A larger historic barn is shown on maps as late as 1931. The current owner has spoken with longtime Spencer residents who remember taking horseback riding lessons out of the extant stable complex around the middle of the 20th century.

The stable complex is very rough in construction, and built using modern dimensional lumber and framing methods with a concrete-slab floor. Historic maps from the early 20th century show a small

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building between the end of the house and the demolished barn. Based on its placement, size, and construction, this is likely the smaller of the two stable sections, a side-gable, single-story building. This barn is covered in clapboards, with an asphalt-shingle roof that has exposed rafter tails. The owner has recently installed new windows on the main façade; there are no windows on the north elevation. A door on the west elevation, closest to the house, provides access to this section of the stable complex. This small barn has two roughly framed stalls and a tack/feed room on the south wall, typical construction to provide warmth to animals in the winter. The interior is covered by a variety of plasterboard-type materials, as well as insulation in a few places. The owner's father had horses here in the 1970s, but the barn is currently used for storage.

Connected to the east gable end of this smaller barn is a larger, single-story, rectangular barn with a flat roof. Based on its location, this section of the stable complex would have been built after the demolition of the much larger historic barn. The exterior is covered in vertical-board siding, freshly painted on the main façade but not on the other elevations; the flat roof is covered in asphalt shingles. Double doors on the main façade open into a central drive, flanked by two side spaces running the length of the building. The studs supporting the roof are narrowly spaced, and there does not appear to be any indication that there were ever stall dividers in the space. However, the current use of the stable as a storage space did not permit a thorough investigation.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are recorded on the Barnes-Hill House property, sites may be present. One Native site is recorded in the general area (within one mile), in an environmental setting similar to the nominated property.

Other sites in the region follow a similar locational pattern near wetlands—usually rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, and swamps.

Environmental characteristics of the Barnes-Hill House support the presence of ancient Native American sites. All of the nominated area lies within 1,000 feet of a stream that flows from a small pond, located to the rear of the property, across North Brookfield Road to power the chair factory (not extant) that was located on the south side of the road opposite the house. The property includes well-drained, level to moderately sloping land surfaces. Given the above information, the size of the property (6.4 acres), levels of historic land use, and our knowledge of Native American settlement for Central Massachusetts, a moderate to high potential exists for the presence of ancient sites on the nominated property. Ancient sites located in this area are likely limited to smaller, temporary, special-purpose or special-activity sites containing limited numbers of artifacts and low artifact diversity.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the Barnes-Hill House property. Evidence of European settlement in Spencer may exist after 1713, when the town land, then part of Leicester, was opened for sale. Settlement in Spencer occurred in 1721, when the first permanent settlement was made. Town settlement grew at a slow rate. The meetinghouse was located in the "Upper Village," where increased settlement occurred. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may help determine the exact construction date for the Barnes-Hill House, and whether the historic fabric of the current 1790 house incorporates portions of the 1766 Thomas Green House sold to David Barnes in 1767. Structural evidence of the Green House may survive, as well as evidence of reuse of the existing building. Structural evidence may also survive from barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with the earlier 18th-century Green House occupation. Similar types of evidence may also survive from the Barnes period of occupation and later occupants.

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As stated above, portions of the extant Barnes-Hill House may have incorporated parts of the earlier Green House into its historic fabric. Structural changes in the architectural characteristics of the house may have occurred when renovations were made to the house. Careful analysis of excavated materials immediately surrounding the house may recover evidence of these changes, including features and artifacts. Barns, outbuildings, and occupational-related features associated with the Green occupancy may also have been reused by the new owners of the property although they may have also built new structures and other features. Structural evidence may survive from a large barn (demolished) located directly east of the house. Similar evidence from additional barns and stables is also expected.

Structural evidence from numerous outbuildings associated with the domestic, agricultural, and industrial use of the property should also survive. Sullivan Hill built and operated a chair factory as late as 1859. The factory stood across the street from his house into the 1980s, when it was lost to a fire. The factory manufactured parts of chairs, settees, and bedsteads, which were sawed or turned as needed. These components were then assembled into final products in a shop located near the Barnes-Hill House. The location of this shop is unknown. Additional historic research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may determine the location of this shop and its associated occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells). Similar research might also identify the locations and functions of other outbuildings associated with the manufacture of chairs and/or their components.

Structural evidence may survive from the waterpower system used to power the machinery at Sullivan Hill's chair factory, located on the south side of the road opposite the Barnes-Hill House. A modern single-family house now stands on the chair factory site. The factory was powered by a small stream that flowed from a small pond located on the nominated property. Additional documentary research, combined with archaeological survey, may identify changes made to the pond basin and stream channel to facilitate the delivery of water to the mill.

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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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Community Development

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Period of Significance

ca. 1790 –1965

Significant Dates

ca. 1790 (construction of main house)
ca.1842 (likely date of Greek Revival alterations)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

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 Barnes-Hill House, Spencer, Massachusetts, meets National Register Criteria A and C, with a local level of significance. The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Under Criterion A, the property is significant for its association with the development of Hillsville, a village of Spencer, and for its mid 19th-century connection to local manufacturing. Both the Barnes and the Hill families farmed the property. Sullivan Hill, the owner of the house during the second half of the 19th century, developed a chair factory across the street from his house. Sullivan's son, Edwin A. Hill, who also lived in the house, owned a general store in Hillsville. The Barnes-Hill House is one of the earliest, if not the earliest, of local buildings that were intimately tied to commercial development at the crossroads of North Spencer Road and North Brookfield Road. The Barnes-Hill House also appears to be the last remaining building associated with the Hill family, for whom the village was named. Under Criterion C, the house is significant both in Spencer and in the smaller village of Hillsville as a well-preserved example of a large Federal-period farmhouse that was updated in the Greek Revival style. The period of significance begins with the ca. 1790 construction date of the main block of the house and ends in 1965, which is 50 years from the present. The standard 50-year cutoff for significance was established by the National Park Service as an adequate period of time to allow for objective historical perspective.

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

Created as a district of Leicester in 1753 and incorporated as a town in 1786, Spencer has a history of both agriculture and manufacturing. The town grew primarily in the 19th century, developing a number of industries that were supported by larger manufacturing centers nearby, such as Worcester. Like many Massachusetts towns, Spencer developed several villages as it was settled. One of these was Hillsville, located to the northwest of Spencer Center at the intersection of main roads connecting Spencer, North Brookfield, and Rutland. Although Spencer's terrain is hilly, the village does not take its name from the geography; it is named for the many members of the Hill family who lived there in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. By the middle of the 19th century, Hillsville was a thriving village, with a tavern, general store, and blacksmith shop. Other, more industrial uses included Sullivan Hill's chair factory, several boot and shoe shops, and a cheese shop. As manufacturing moved away in the 20th century, the town reverted to a more rural character. The village is now mostly residential.

The Barnes-Hill House is architecturally significant as a well-preserved example of a large Federal-period farmhouse in Spencer. At the time of its ca.1790 construction, the house would have been a large and impressive building in its rural location. The front door, which was likely remodeled ca. 1842, is a fine example of a Greek Revival-style entrance. Of the historic buildings surviving in the immediate area, most are smaller and later. Most of the historic buildings that once existed were replaced by modern construction during the second half of the 20th century. In recent years, as a result of neglect and disrepair, the village has lost two important buildings associated with the Hill family: Sullivan Hill's chair factory, and a store at the intersection of Route 31 and North Brookfield Road that his son Edwin owned at the turn of the 20th century.

The Barnes-Hill House is an important local example of late 18th-century architecture, and it stands as a reminder of the style of houses that were once scattered throughout Spencer. While the center-chimney/hall-and-parlor plan of the Barnes-Hill House is conservative for a house dating to the end of the 18th century, it is not unusual to find that early to mid 18th-century features lingered in outlying areas long after they had gone out of fashion in urban centers. Of the nine Spencer buildings constructed in the 1790s¹ and included in MACRIS, only three are 2½ stories tall with a center-chimney/hall-and-parlor plan. In addition to the Barnes-Hill House, they are the house at 13 George Wilson Road (SPE.35) and the Bemis-Howe House on Howe Road (SPE.36).

The Barnes Family

The first owner of the property was David Barnes (d. 1814). His date of birth is unknown at present, but marriage records show that he married Rebekah Clark on October 23, 1762, in Leicester, which then included Spencer. Barnes purchased the property in 1767, by which time the couple had at least three children (Hannah, b. 1763; Lucy, b. 1765; and Rebekah, b. 1767).

Several town histories give the date of the Barnes-Hill House as 1766. Town historians may have settled on the 1766 date based on the 1767 deed from Thomas Green to David Barnes. The deed included one

¹ Construction dates of buildings in MACRIS (Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System) are often approximate and based on the visual appearance of the property as viewed from the street. Particularly with 17th-, 18th-, and early 19th-century properties, the dates may need to be confirmed by physical analysis of interior building fabric.

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hundred acres of land “with a small house thereon.” Whether or not any of that small house is incorporated into the building fabric of the current ca. 1790 Barnes-Hill House remains to be determined.

Spencer’s 1798 Direct Tax records list David Barnes as having a two-story house that covered 812 square feet, and had 11 windows. Currently, the main block of the house, a rectangle, has a footprint of 1,036 square feet and has significantly more than 11 windows. There are no other entries for David Barnes in Spencer. However, the 1798 Direct Tax is an early 1900s transcription of the original records. Underneath David Barnes’s name is the notation “1058,” with no other information given. Several other names also have a number under them; the numbers are not sequential and have no discernable pattern, but are always 100 to 200 more than the listed square feet of the owner’s building. Perhaps these are in fact the correct square footage of buildings, but without other information it is not possible to draw conclusions. If in fact the 812 square feet is correct, it could be that the main block of the Barnes-Hill House was expanded at some date after 1798.

Even without the information from the Direct Tax records, it is clear from the stylistic details and construction methods used, such as the heavy timber framing and the five-sided ridge beam, that the main block of the house was likely constructed in the 1790s. By the 1780s and 1790s, the use of a five-sided ridge beam appears to have become common in Worcester County. This was an improvement on the earlier four-sided beam, as it created a better angle to join the rafters to the beam.

Little is known about David Barnes’ early life, but he was recorded as Lt. David Barnes in Spencer’s vital records. Barnes was listed in the 1790 census in Spencer as living with two males over 16, one under 16, and six females. Vital records show that David and Rebekah Barnes had nine children in Spencer, all but one of whom survived to adulthood and married. Of their nine children, David and Rebekah Barnes had two sons, Samuel (b. 1769) and David (1775-1814). Rebekah Barnes died May 10, 1797, and six years later David Barnes, Sr. married Dolly Olds of Brookfield.

While it is unclear what happened to their other children, David and Rebekah Barnes lived on their property with their son David and his family. It is possible that the west wing of the house was added in the early 19th century to provide additional space for the two families. The younger David Barnes married Sarah Hall (b. 1781) on December 31, 1801. The couple had a son, Bela, born the year after their marriage. Interestingly, both David Barneses died in 1814; the father on March 9 and the son on October 11. After the elder David Barnes’ death, his second wife, Dolly, and son Samuel released their right to the property to the younger David Barnes. Following his death a few months later, his wife Sarah and son Bela continued to live on the property.

Sarah and Bela Barnes sold the property to Willington Hill in 1828. Sarah Barnes retained her right to live on the property for the rest of her life, and her dower was set out the year before the sale (*Map 1*). She was given the western portion of the house, and it was noted that the “heirs of the deceased” had the right “to go to the well for water and to the oven for the ease of baking.” By the next deed, in 1841, Sarah Barnes is not mentioned, and her date of death is unknown.

The Hill Family

Through Rebekah Clark Barnes, wife of the elder David Barnes, the Barnes family was related to the subsequent owners of the house, the Hill family. On September 28, 1769, Rebekah’s sister Mary Clark (1743-1830) married Daniel Hill (1743-1837). Daniel and Mary Hill had seven children, many of whom stayed in the immediate area, giving rise to the Hillsville name that the neighborhood would take on in the early 19th century. Their house stood on the west side of Route 31, to the south of its intersection with North Brookfield Road; it was destroyed by fire in the early 20th century. Daniel Hill was a veteran of the

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French and Indian War, and was taken prisoner at one point during the war. He later served in the Revolutionary War.² Daniel and Mary Hill's son Joshua (1772-1862) settled to the south, in the area of present-day Terkanian Drive; his house is no longer extant. Joshua and his wife Meriam Brigs (d. 1830) had ten children, two of whom were connected with the Barnes-Hill House. Their son Willington (1799-1865) purchased the property from Sarah Barnes in 1828, and in 1842 he sold it to his brother Sullivan (1808-1884). Willington Hill appears in state and federal census records as a farmer, while his brother Sullivan was first a farmer and later a chair manufacturer.

Sullivan Hill married Sylvia Hill (1815-1900) of Winchester, New Hampshire, on September 9, 1843. It is likely that most of the Greek Revival-style features of the house, particularly the front door and its surround, were alterations made by Sullivan Hill when he bought the property. The bold entablature and stylish door would have brought the Barnes-Hill House up to date (photo 7). Inside the house, the southwest parlor was likely updated at about the same time. The update is indicated by its Greek Revival fireplace surround with Doric columns, and the heavier casings found around the doors and windows of the room.

Sullivan and Sylvia Hill had six children between 1844 and 1858: Maria Theresa, Edwin Augustine, Marcia Pratt, Sylvia A., Alice Jane, and Adelaide S. Census records from 1860 show the family living together, along with a farmhand, Sullivan Hill's father Joshua, and his stepmother Zebiah. There were a few changes by 1870: the farmhand was different, the elder Hills had died, and Sullivan's eldest daughter, Maria, had married and moved out; she was the only one of the Hills' children to marry. In 1870, while Sullivan Hill was still listed as a farmer, his son, Edwin A. Hill, was listed as a chair manufacturer. By 1880, another Hill daughter had moved out. That year, Alice J. Hill is listed in census records as living with her sister Maria's family elsewhere in Spencer; her occupation was given as clerk. Also in 1880, no farmhand was listed as living on the property, and Edwin Hill's occupation had changed to that of grocer; he had taken over his uncle's nearby store (see below). Sullivan and his wife Sylvia died between the 1880 and 1900 censuses, but those were the only major changes in the family at that time. Edwin A. Hill died in 1916; three of his sisters—Marcia, Sylvia, and Adelaide—were still living in the house when the 1910 census was taken. In Spencer's 1928 directory the three sisters were listed as living in Hillsville, although no address was given for any of them. The house was sold by Marcia, Sylvia, Alice, and Adelaide Hill with Leroy Ames (Maria's son) in 1929.³

After the Hill Family

The house was purchased in 1929 by the South Branch Realty Trust, with William A. Chapin listed as the trustee in the deed. In 1935 the trust sold the property to Edward P. Duquette, with Duquette taking a mortgage from the trust to pay for the property. Duquette defaulted, reverting the property back to the trust and leaving William A. Chapin's estate to sell it. The house passed quickly through a series of owners in the 1950s, all maintaining the property of more than 76 acres. Chapin's estate sold the property in 1952 to Miles Mooney, a Worcester attorney, who sold it five years later to Malcolm A. and Anne M. Foss. A Worcester city directory from that year, 1957, lists Foss living in Spencer as an insurance agent with the Ayres Agency. In 1958, the Fosses sold the bulk of the property to Andrew N. and Barbara D. Yiaski. A six-acre parcel on the south side of the road was excluded from the Yiaski sale and instead sold to Roger Bemis, an abutter. In 1972, the Yiaskis sold the property to their daughter, Susan, and her husband, Joseph R. Foley. Over the years, the Foleys have slowly divided the land among their children

² An 1896 Sons of the American Revolution application by one of Daniel Hill's distant relatives states "there is a tradition that Daniel Hill rendered other services." Other local sources suggest that Hill was a spy.

³ The Hill women seem to have scattered around the time the house was sold. In Spencer's 1928 directory, Alice Hill was listed as a corsetiere living on May Street. In the 1930 census, Marcia Hill was boarding in a house on Pleasant Street in Spencer. Maria presumably died before the sale, leaving her share of the property to her son.

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and others. They still live in the area and own more than 35 acres, most of which is on the south side of North Brookfield Road, across the street from the Barnes-Hill House.

J. Richard Sherman, the father of the current owner, purchased the Barnes-Hill House on its 6.4-acre lot from the Foleys in 1973. Sherman was born in Agawam on November 7, 1911. He moved to Long Island in the 1940s, and returned to Massachusetts when he retired, purchasing the Barnes-Hill House. A veteran, Sherman served in the Army Reserves during World War II, retiring with the rank of Lt. Colonel. Active in town affairs, Sherman served on Spencer's Finance Committee from 1984 to 2001, and was a member of the town's Democratic Committee and Fair Housing Committee, among others. The month before he died, Sherman was the recipient of Spencer's *Boston Post Cane*, which is given to a town's oldest resident. He died on January 29, 2013 at the age of 101 years.

The house was in poor condition when Sherman purchased it in the 1970s, but it retained a wealth of historic building fabric (figures 7, 8, 9). He took great pride in his historic house, undertaking research on the property and guiding the rehab process. "It took him five years to complete renovations before he could move in,"⁴ according to a 1995 interview.

Sherman's work throughout the house included replacing broken window panes, repairing or replacing the plaster walls and ceilings, and general maintenance on the property with the goal of keeping as many historic features as possible. He stripped much of the paint from the woodwork, but maintained the finish on the floors. He modernized a small room at the rear of the house for a kitchen, and a bathroom was installed on the second floor. In the main stairway, as plaster was being removed, a smokehouse was discovered (*photo 9*). Sherman finished the opening and covered it with a board-and-batten door.

In the southeast parlor, in addition to stripping paint from the woodwork, Sherman repaired the fireplace and added French doors to the opening between the parlor and the historic kitchen to the north (photos 12, 13). In the east wing, Sherman covered the interior walls with wood-veneer paneling, removed the floor, and put down a new subfloor and insulation covered by plywood. The room's chimney was removed as well.

The roof of the west wing had rotted out and was replaced by Sherman, explaining why the roof has a ridgeboard instead of the thicker beam that would be expected of an early 19th-century building. Outside, Sherman re-sided the rear of the house, and painted the building red (it is white in numerous historic photographs).

After completing research on the house and its inhabitants, Sherman erroneously named the house the Washington Hill House, as he believed that Sullivan Hill's brother Washington, rather than Willington, had been the building's 19th-century resident. Sherman was informed of his mistake in 1978, when he was visited by Catherine Hill Wilson Bailey. Bailey was the great-granddaughter of Washington Hill. She spoke with Sherman about her memories of the house, as well as of her family and their lives in the area. She also gave him some photographs of the Barnes-Hill House, which are believed to date to the 1920s.

The Village of Hillsville

The Barnes-Hill House is significant for its relationship to the village of Hillsville, which developed in the early 19th century around the intersection of North Spencer Road (Route 31) and North Brookfield Road. The two roads connected Spencer Center to Oakham and Rutland, and North Brookfield,

⁴ Stephanie Jarvis, "Sherman proudly recalls history of Hillsville," *The New Leader*, July 26-August 1, 1995, Snapshot, 3.

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respectively. The Hill family developed many of the commercial ventures in the small village. By 1857 the area was marked on maps as Hillsville, and a map from that year shows at least six Hills living in the immediate area (*Map 2*). According to local lore, at one time there were as many as eight Hill families in the area. By 1834 a store was in operation on the south side of the intersection of the two streets, and by mid-century several other shops, as well as a blacksmith shop, had joined the cluster of buildings at Hillsville. In 1837, Joshua and Meriam's son Washington Hill (1796-1872) established a general store, blacksmith, wheelwright, and carriage-making shop on the north side of the intersection, and a general store to the south of the intersection.

Throughout much of the second half of the 19th century, Sullivan Hill operated a chair factory across the street from his house (the Barnes-Hill House). The factory was powered by a small brook that crosses under North Brookfield Road. Sullivan's son, Edwin A. Hill, while living in the house with his parents, operated his uncle Washington's general store at the end of the 19th century and into the 20th century. Today the commercial area of Hillsville is gone, with only minor home-based businesses, such as a daycare, remaining in the area. Several mid 19th-century houses still stand at the intersection of North Spencer and North Brookfield roads. These are primarily two-story, end-gable buildings. The Barnes-Hill House is one of the earliest buildings, if not the earliest, that was intimately tied to the commercial development of the crossroads of North Spencer Road and North Brookfield Road.

Both the Barnes and the Hill families farmed the property while living in the Barnes-Hill House. As noted earlier, Willington Hill's 1841 deed to his brother Sullivan notes that the property was "the farm which was formerly owned by David Barnes." The 1798 Direct Tax records show that there was a 30-by-50-foot barn on the property, in addition to the house. Although Sullivan Hill was operating a chair factory across the street from his house, he continued to farm his property. Census records from throughout the second half of the 19th century, during Sullivan's ownership, list Sullivan as a farmer, rather than as a furniture maker. They also show that a farmhand was living at the house with the family. Photographs from the 1920s include images of mown fields and haying work, suggesting that the property continued in agricultural use into the 20th century.

Like other rural Massachusetts residents in the 19th century, Sullivan Hill made use of the natural resources available to him and developed a chair factory on his property. Spencer's villages had several industries spread throughout them, primarily manufacturing operations that supported the work of larger manufacturing centers like Worcester. These included boot and shoe shops, wire manufacturers, and textile manufacturers. However, Sullivan Hill chose to enter another prominent Worcester County industry: chair manufacturing. Because of its abundant forests, central Massachusetts became a hub of the furniture industry. Chair-making was well established in the area by the early 19th century. "By the mid 19th century, woodworking was the leading industry in the northern part of the region, dominating the economies of Gardner, Ashburnham, Hubbardston, Westminster, Winchendon, Templeton, and Princeton."⁵ It is unclear where Sullivan Hill learned how to make chairs, but local histories suggest that others in his family were also involved in the business, making other furniture items such as bedsteads.

Opposite Sullivan Hill's house on the south side of North Brookfield Road was where the Hill family established a small mill, powered by a brook that ran under the road from a pond north of the house. According to a book on Spencer history, "This mill was built by members of the Hill family and used as a place for the manufacture of such parts of chairs, settees or bedsteads as needed to be sawed or turned, and was operated as late as 1859 by Sullivan Hill... The furniture was put together or otherwise

⁵ Massachusetts Historical Commission State Survey Team, *Historic & Archaeological Resources of Central Massachusetts* (Boston, MA: Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1985, digitized 2007), 301.

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completed in a shop near his dwelling.”⁶ However it seems Hill’s stream often went dry. A Hillsville nursery rhyme described Sullivan Hill’s predicament:

Sullivan Hill
Built a mill
Upon a sandy plain.
There was no water
Within a mile and a quarter,
Unless there came some rain.⁷

Enough water apparently ran, for Sullivan became one of the top manufacturers in Spencer; in 1850, a town history lists Sullivan Hill’s output at 2,500 chairs. It is said that he was the first to introduce cane-seated chairs to Massachusetts, although there is little information to substantiate this local lore, and several other sources indicate that cane chairs were manufactured as early as the 1830s in places like Gardner. Catherine Hill Wilson Bailey remembers Sullivan making “‘country’ pine and maple chairs before the caned seat ones, and that Nathan Hill did, too.”⁸ The chair factory is marked on maps of Spencer and Hillsville from 1857, 1870, and 1898. An undated photograph, believed to be from the 1920s, shows the west elevation of the chair factory across the street from the Barnes-Hill House (figure 3). The factory was a two-story, end-gable building, with a single-story gabled ell extending from the rear (south) elevation. The factory building stood across the street from Sullivan Hill’s house into the 1980s, when it was lost to a fire. A few other mills are marked on maps near Hillsville, but Sullivan Hill’s chair factory was one of the main industrial operations within the village.

Archaeological Significance

Since patterns of ancient Native American settlement in Spencer are poorly understood, any surviving sites could be significant. Ancient sites in this area may contribute important information relating to interior upland sites and Native use of the Worcester Plateau/Central Massachusetts uplands in general. Native sites in this area may contain information that documents patterns of subsistence and settlement in the Central Massachusetts uplands, and how these patterns compared with, or were influenced by, regional patterns in the coastal lowlands to the east and Connecticut River Valley to the west. Ancient sites in the district locale may also contribute information that indicates the importance of river drainage boundaries in the development of social, cultural, and economic systems of Native peoples who inhabited the area. The Barnes-Hill House lies near the headwaters of the Chicopee River drainage, which drains westerly to the Connecticut River, and the Thames River that flows southerly to Long Island Sound. Both areas may have influenced the cultural evolution of Native people in the Spencer locale.

Historic archaeological resources described above have the potential to provide detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic characteristics that typified life in an 18th/19th-century neighborhood that grew and prospered as a direct result of its association with chair manufacturing. Potential

⁶ Henry M. Tower, *Historical Sketches Relating to Spencer, Mass, Volume 2* (Spencer, MA: W. J. Heffernan—Spencer Leader Print, 1902), 105.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Letter from Catherine Hill Wilson Bailey to J. Richard Sherman, dated May 8, 1978. Nathan Hill’s relationship to Sullivan is unclear—Sullivan had an uncle named Nathan, but directories and census records from the end of the 19th century also show another Nathan Hill living in the area.

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archaeological survivals of the 1766 Green House may help reconstruct the initial growth of the Hillsville Village area in the 18th and early 19th centuries, for which few examples exist in the town. Structural features associated with existing buildings may also identify patterns of adaptive reuse, as residences were altered to businesses and vice versa. Detailed analysis of the contents from occupational-related features associated with extant buildings and archaeological sites may also contribute important information relating to functional use of the structure and the lives of its inhabitants. Occupational-related features may also help identify rental properties and locations where manufacturing activities took place. Technological and production-related information may be present to identify the scope and importance of cottage industries related to boot and shoe manufacture in the district. Important information related to multifamily housing may also be available, although actual houses where this form of residency occurred is not always known. Analysis of occupational-related features can help detail these social differences and bring about better understanding of the lives of the farm's inhabitants. Structural remains from outbuildings can also help in understanding the functional variation of this building type on the farm in residential, commercial, and industrial contexts. Outbuildings may contribute to a better understanding of the growth of boot and shoe manufacture by identifying and describing the role of "ten footers" or small structures where these activities took place. This information may clarify the evolutionary relationship between manufacturing in residences, outbuildings or "ten footers," and actual factories.

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Unpublished Materials

J. Richard Sherman. "A Brief Historical Resume," 1997.

J. Richard Sherman. "History – Hillsville – Highway," undated.

Letter to J. Richard Sherman from Catherine Hill Wilson Bailey (great-granddaughter of Washington Hill, Sullivan Hill's older brother), dated May 8, 1978.

Various undated historic photographs from the personal collection of J. Richard Sherman, from before he completed renovations to the house in the 1970s.

Various undated historic photographs sent to J. Richard Sherman from Catherine Hill Wilson Bailey, most believed to be from the 1920s.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 56, page 545.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 260, page 32.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 260, page 33.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 365, page 277.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 2,496, page 98.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 2,642, page 486.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 3,411, page 386.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 3,859, page 447.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 3,934, page 101.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 5,266, page 177.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 5,326, page 236.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 52,783, page 10.

Worcester County Registry of Deeds Plan Book 55, page 77.

Barnes-Hill House
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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: Richard Sugden Library, Spencer, MA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SPE.392

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.4 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.26101 Longitude: -72.01406

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 18T Easting: 746286 Northing: 4683074

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

The boundaries follow the lot lines of Spencer assessor's parcel R39-31(see attached assessors map) and the metes and bounds given in the most recent deed, from Joseph R. Foley and Susan C. Foley to J. Richard Sherman, in 1973 (Worcester County Registry of Deeds Book 5326, Page 236). The property boundaries are also given in Plan 379, Page 35, from 1972.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated property represent the legal boundary of what remains of land subdivided from the larger, historic parcel in the 1970s and associated with the Barnes-Hill House.

Resource Count

Name	Date	Type	Status
Barnes-Hill House	ca.1790	B	C
Stables	Mid-20 th century	B	C
Fieldstone wall along road	19 th century	S	C
Fieldstone barn foundation	19 th century	S	C

B = building

S = structure

C = contributing

Total= 2 contributing buildings, 2 contributing structures.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jennifer B. Doherty with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director

organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission

street & number: 220 Morrissey Blvd.

city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125

e-mail betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

telephone: (617) 727-8470

date: November 2015

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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.)

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: Barnes- Hill House

City or Vicinity: Spencer

County: Worcester State: MA

Photographer: Jennifer B. Doherty

Date Photographed: March and May, 2013

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

Photo #1 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0001)
South (façade) and west elevations, camera facing northeast.

Photo #2 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0002)
South (façade) and east elevations, camera facing northwest.

Photo #3 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0003)
East elevation, camera facing west.

Photo #4 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0004)
North (rear) and west elevations, camera facing southeast.

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Photo #5 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0005)

North (rear) elevation of the east wing, camera facing south-southwest.

Photo #6 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0006)

South (façade) of west wing and garage, camera facing north.

Photo #7 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0007)

Detail of main entrance on south façade, camera facing north.

Photo #8 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0008)

South side of basement showing chimney base (left) and foundation (right), camera facing east.

Photo #9 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0009)

Detail of reproduction smokeroom door, camera facing northwest.

Photo #10 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0010)

Main stairs in entry with smokeroom to the left, main entrance to the right, camera facing east.

Photo #11 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0011)

East wall of the southwest parlor showing Greek Revival fireplace, camera facing northeast.

Photo #12 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0012)

West wall of the southeast parlor showing paneled fireplace and walls, camera facing northwest.

Photo #13 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0013)

South wall of the northeast room showing fireplace, camera facing southwest; southeast parlor is through the door to the left, modern kitchen and west wing are through the door to the right.

Photo #14 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0014)

Door to the upstairs front hall and a boxed corner post in the southwest chamber, camera facing southeast.

Photo #15 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0015)

Fireplace in the southeast chamber, camera facing west.

Photo #16 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0016)

Framing of the eastern half of the attic in the main block of the house (horizontal boards since removed), camera facing southwest.

Photo #17 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0017)

Sliding door and partition wall separating the two halves of the attic, north of the chimney; camera facing northeast.

Photo #18 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0018)

The five-sided ridgebeam in the attic, camera facing west.

Photo #19 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0019)

Greek Revival fireplace in the west wing, camera facing west.

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Photo #20 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0020)

Attic/crawl space above the west wing, camera facing west.

Photo #21 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0021)

Construction in the eastern lean-to showing the rafters of the main body ending (right) and the addition of the lean-to rafters (left), camera facing east.

Photo #22 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0022)

North wall of the garage, camera facing north.

Photo #23 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0023)

East wall of the garage/former exterior (west) wall of the west wing, camera facing southeast.

Photo #24 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0024)

Northeast corner of the east wing, camera facing northeast.

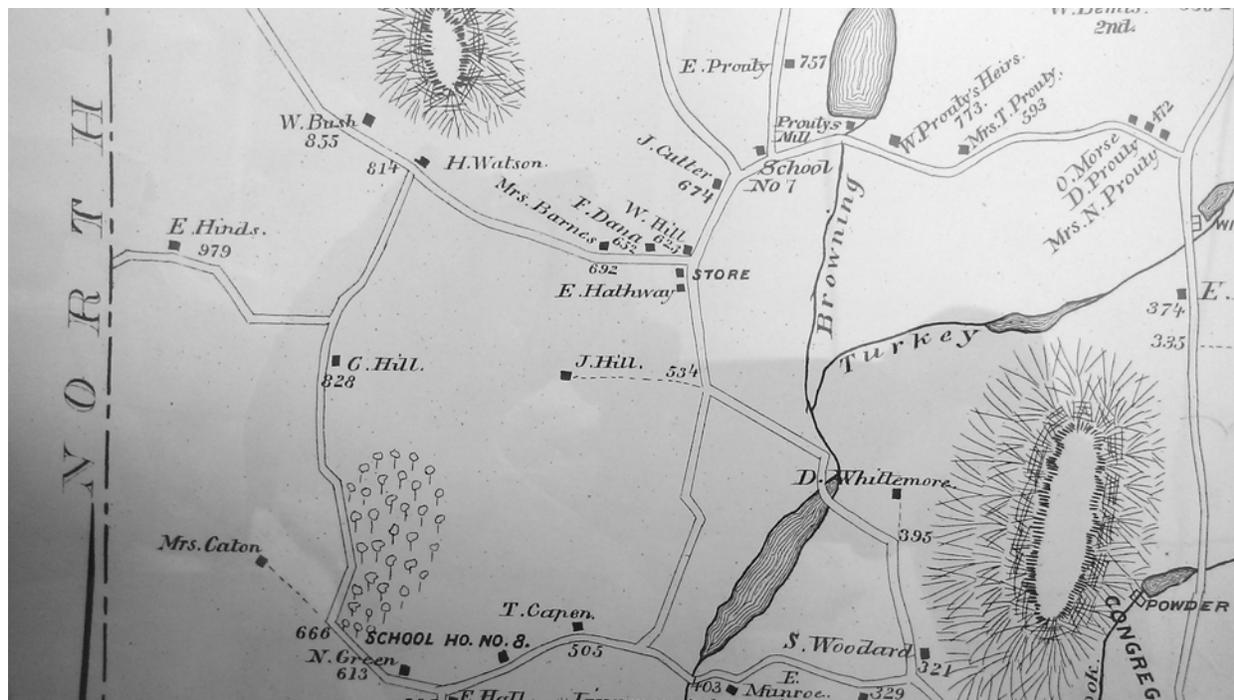
Photo #25 (MA_Worcester County_Barnes-Hill House_0025)

Detail of a gunstock post in the northeast corner of the east wing, camera facing northeast.

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Additional Documentation – Maps



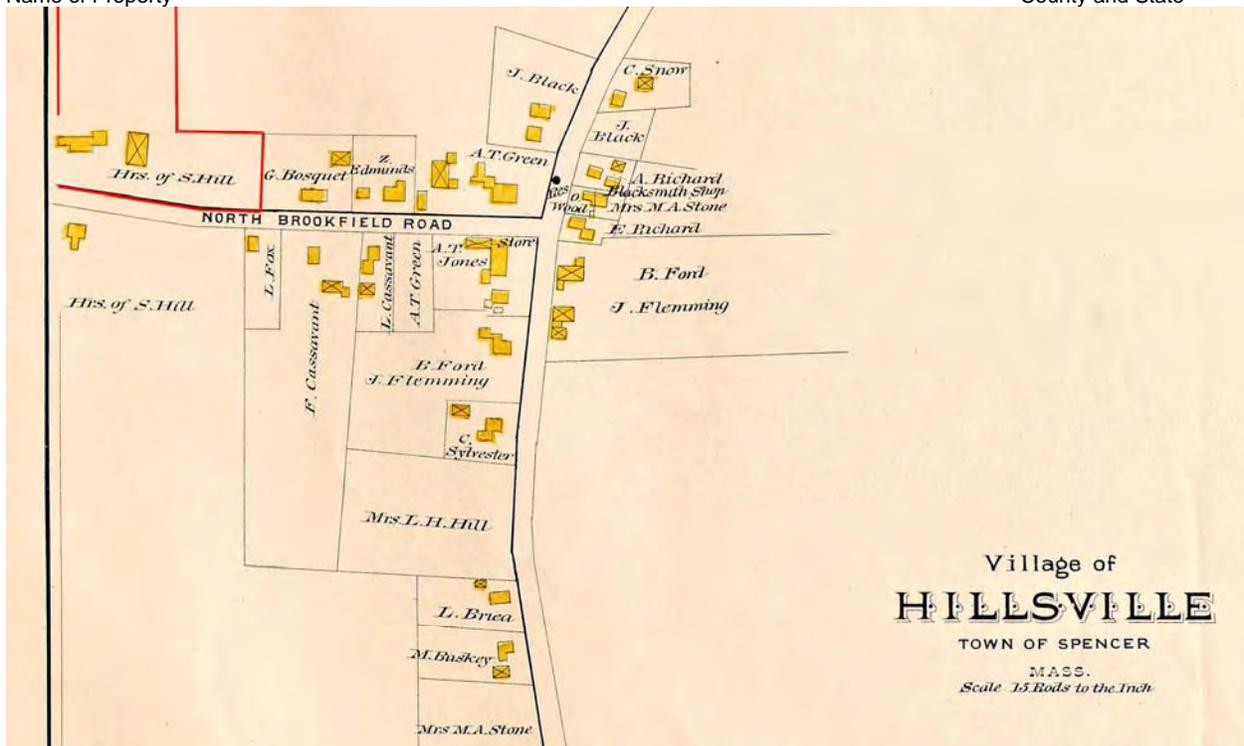
Map #1 – A copy of an 1834 map of Spencer included in an 1898 atlas of Worcester County. Mrs. Barnes is listed as the owner of the property. Willington Hill had purchased the property from Sarah Barnes in 1828, but she retained her dower's right to live on the property, which is likely why she is listed as the owner, rather than Willington Hill. The J. Hill shown at roughly the center of the map, connected by a dotted line to Pleasant Street, is Joshua Hill, the father of both Willington and Sullivan.

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Map #2 – This 1884 map shows the Sullivan Hill heirs as the owners of his property, to the far left. The house is shown with the east and west wings, as well as the barn, and the chair factory across the street. Sullivan’s son, Edwin A. Hill, would own the store shown to the south of the intersection by the turn of the century. (George A. Craig, *Atlas of Spencer Town, Massachusetts*, 1884)

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Additional Documentation – Figures

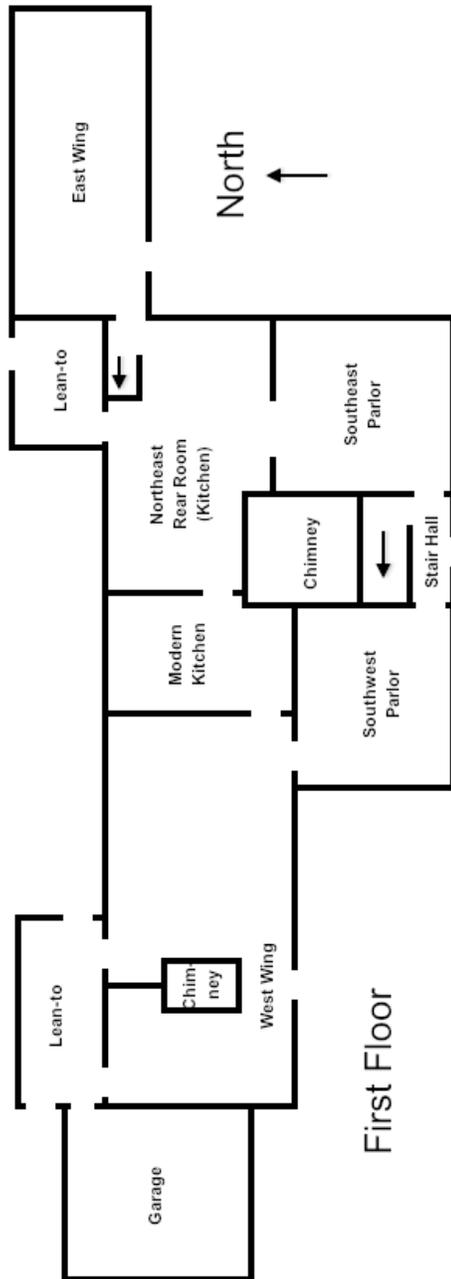


Figure 1 – The first floor of the Barnes-Hill House. Not to scale.

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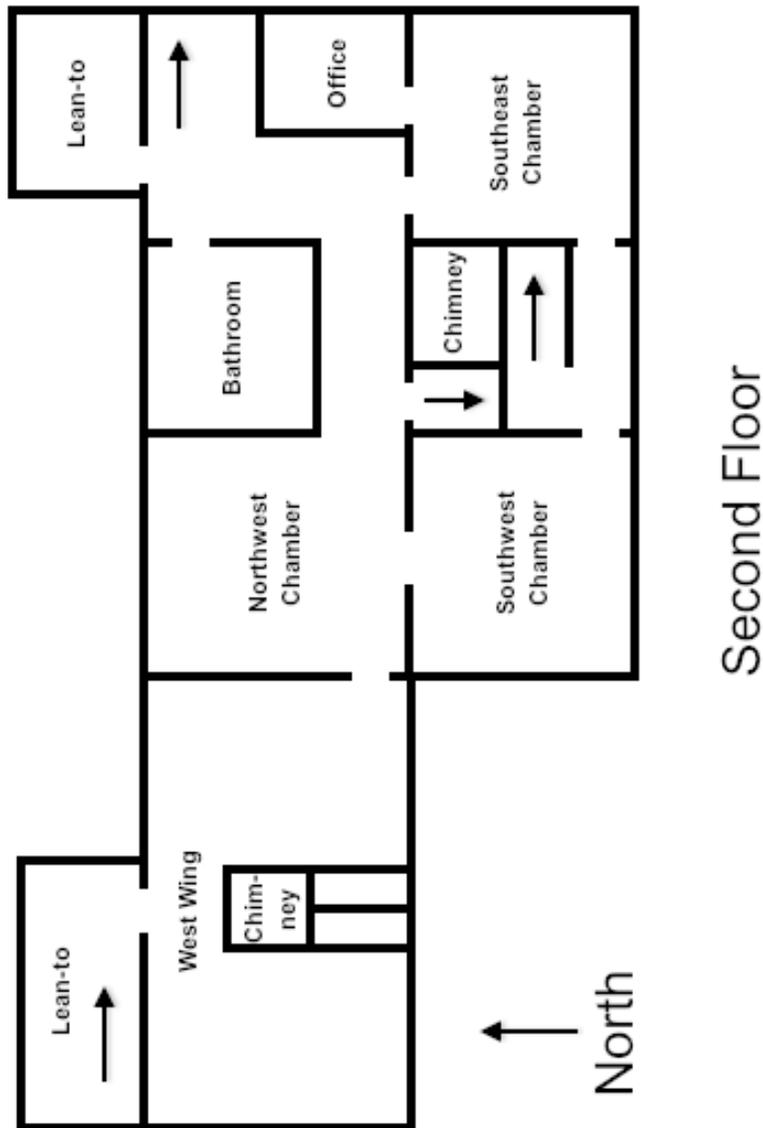


Figure 2 – The second floor of the Barnes-Hill House. Not to scale.

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Figure 3 – An undated photograph, thought to be from the 1920s, showing the Barnes-Hill House, center. Sullivan Hill's chair factory is the building at right. From the personal collection of J. Richard Sherman.

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Figure 4 – An undated photograph, also thought to be from the 1920s, showing the main façade of the Barnes-Hill House. In Lorena Nozzolillo’s 1989 news article, “This old house has survived for centuries,” this picture is given a date of July 4, 1929. From the personal collection of J. Richard Sherman.

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Figure 5 – The northern (rear) façade of the Barnes-Hill House, another undated photograph thought to date to the 1920s. From the personal collection of J. Richard Sherman.

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Figure 6 – Another undated view of the main façade of the house, with the barn to the right. In “This old house has survived for centuries,” this photograph is given a date of 1931. From the personal collection of J. Richard Sherman.

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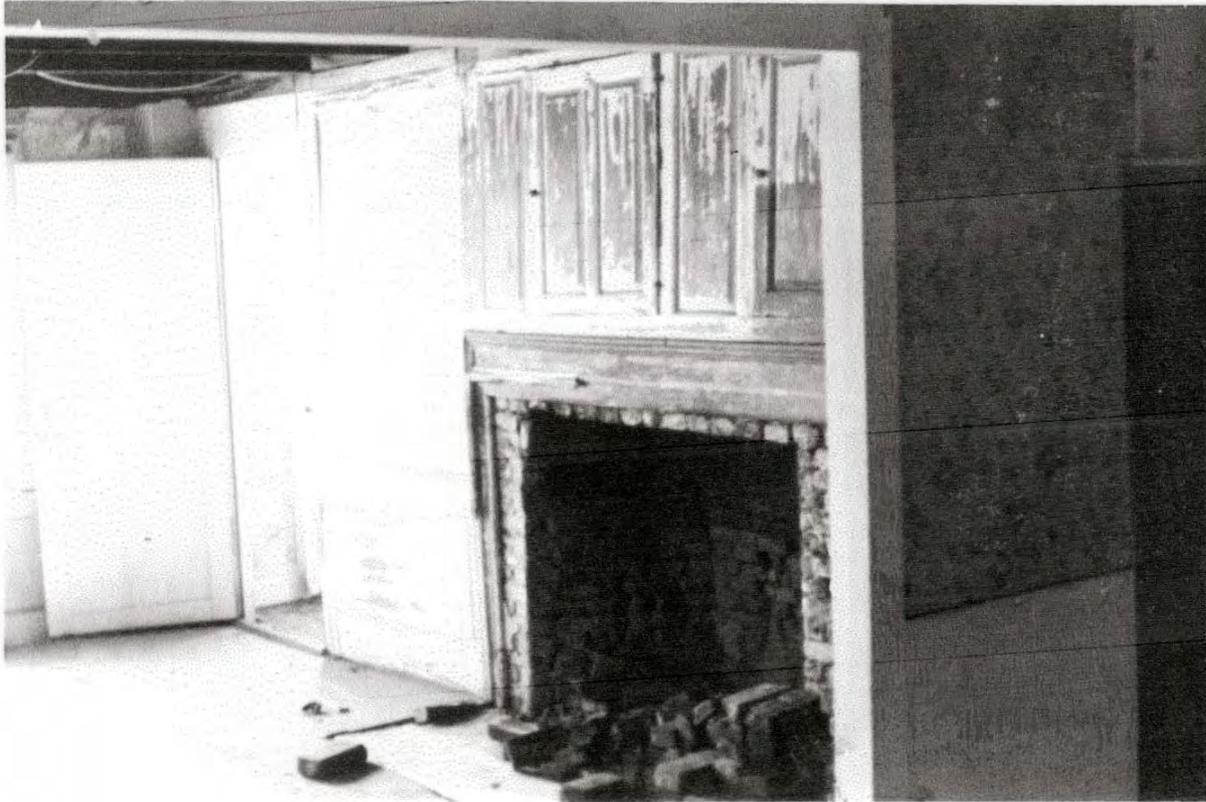


Figure 7 – A view of the fireplace in the southeast parlor, during work in the 1970s. From the personal collection of J. Richard Sherman.

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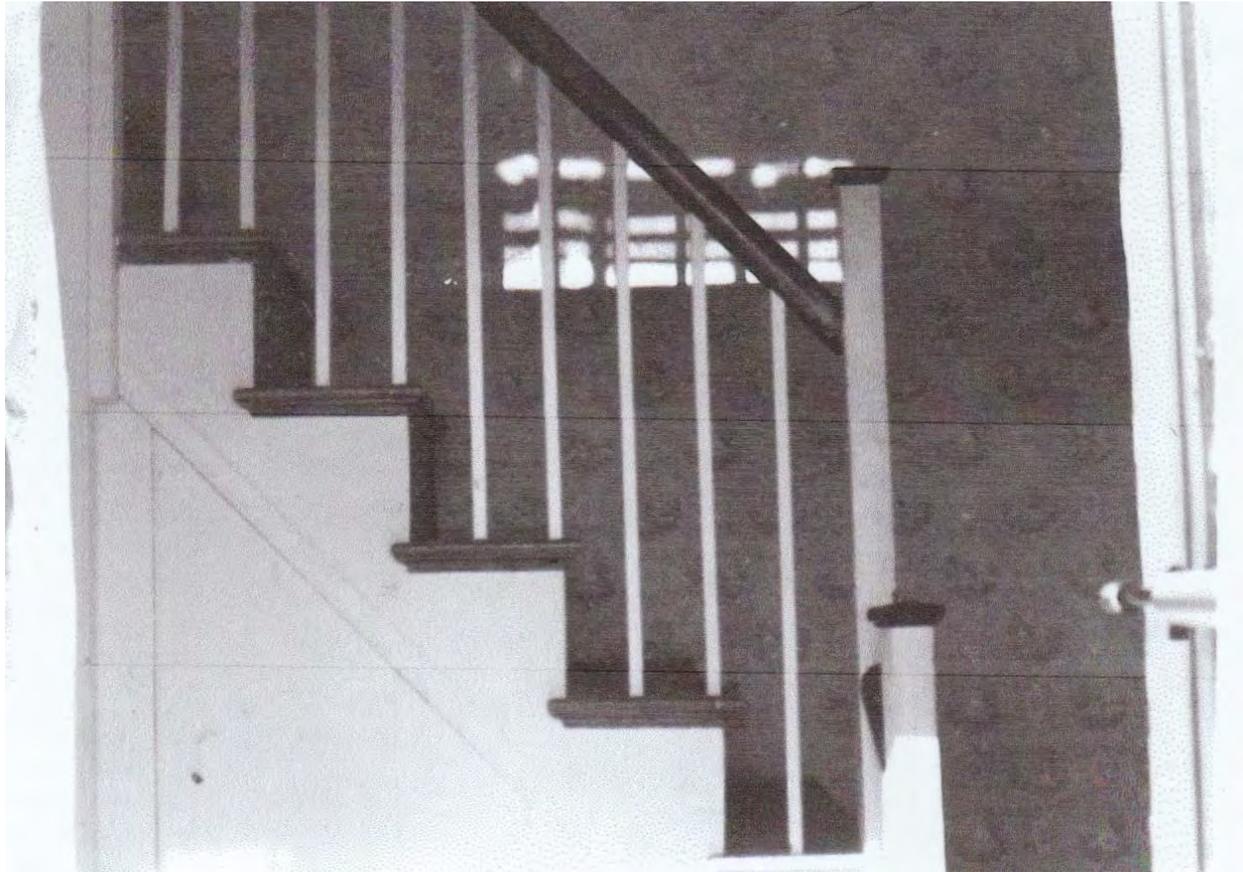


Figure 8 – The main stairs at the building’s entry, from the 1970s. During work to the house the wallpaper and plaster were removed, exposing a smokehouse on the back wall of the stairs, in the main chimney stack. From the personal collection of J. Richard Sherman.

Barnes-Hill House
Name of Property

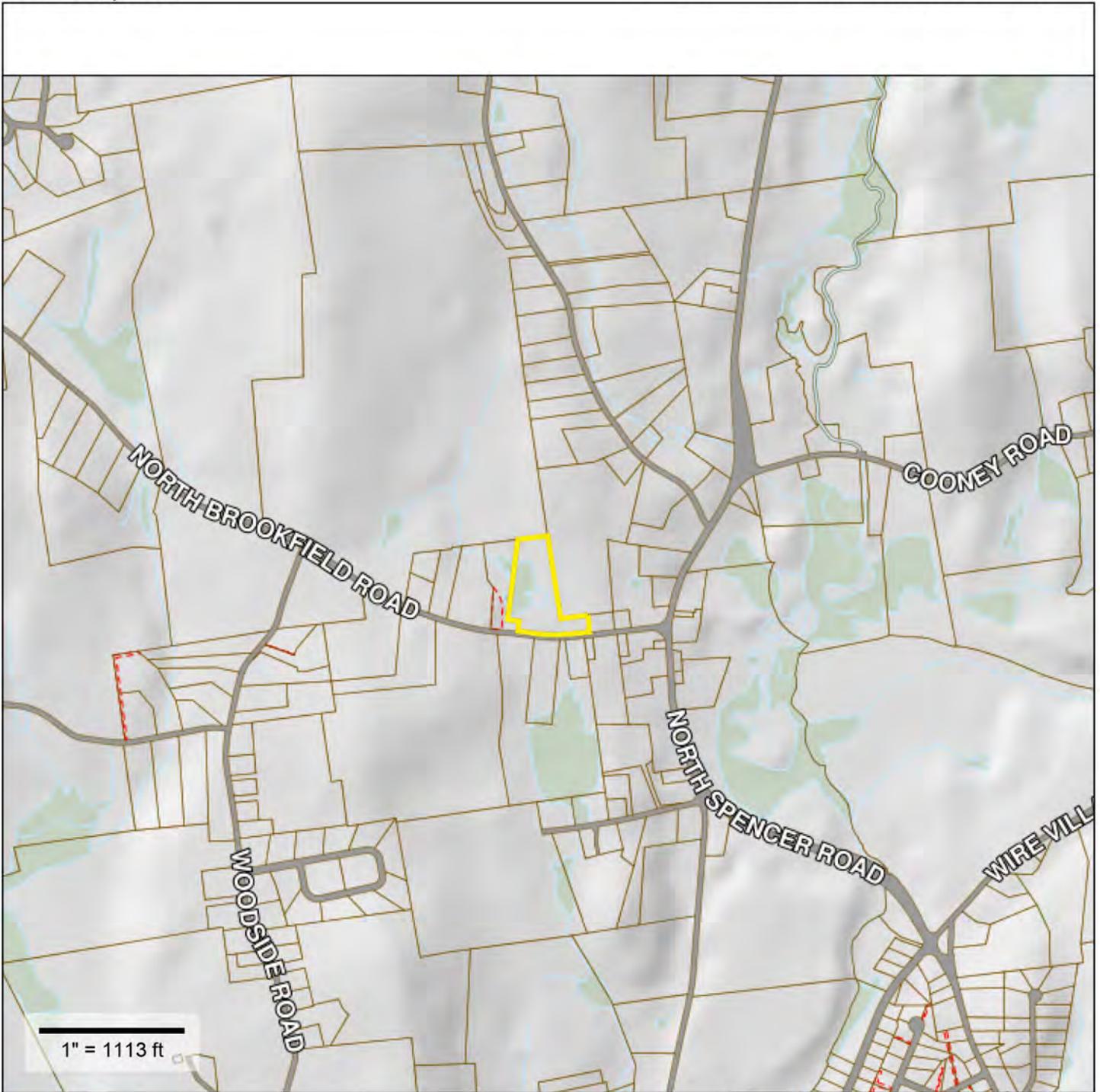
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Figure 9 – The main façade of the Barnes-Hill House, as it appeared in the 1970s. From the personal collection of J. Richard Sherman.

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.



Property Information

Property ID R39-31
Location 12 NO BROOKFIELD RD
Owner SHERMAN J RICHARD



**MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT**

The Town makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map.

Parcels updated April 15, 2014





Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



1. South (façade) and west elevations, camera facing northeast. (March 2013)



2. South (façade) and east elevations, camera facing northwest. (March 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



3. East elevation, camera facing west. (March 2013)



4. North (rear) and west elevations, camera facing southeast. (March 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



5. North (rear) elevation of the east wing, camera facing south-southwest. (May 2013)



6. South (façade) of west wing and garage, camera facing north. (March 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



7. Detail of main entrance on south façade, camera facing north.
(May 2013)

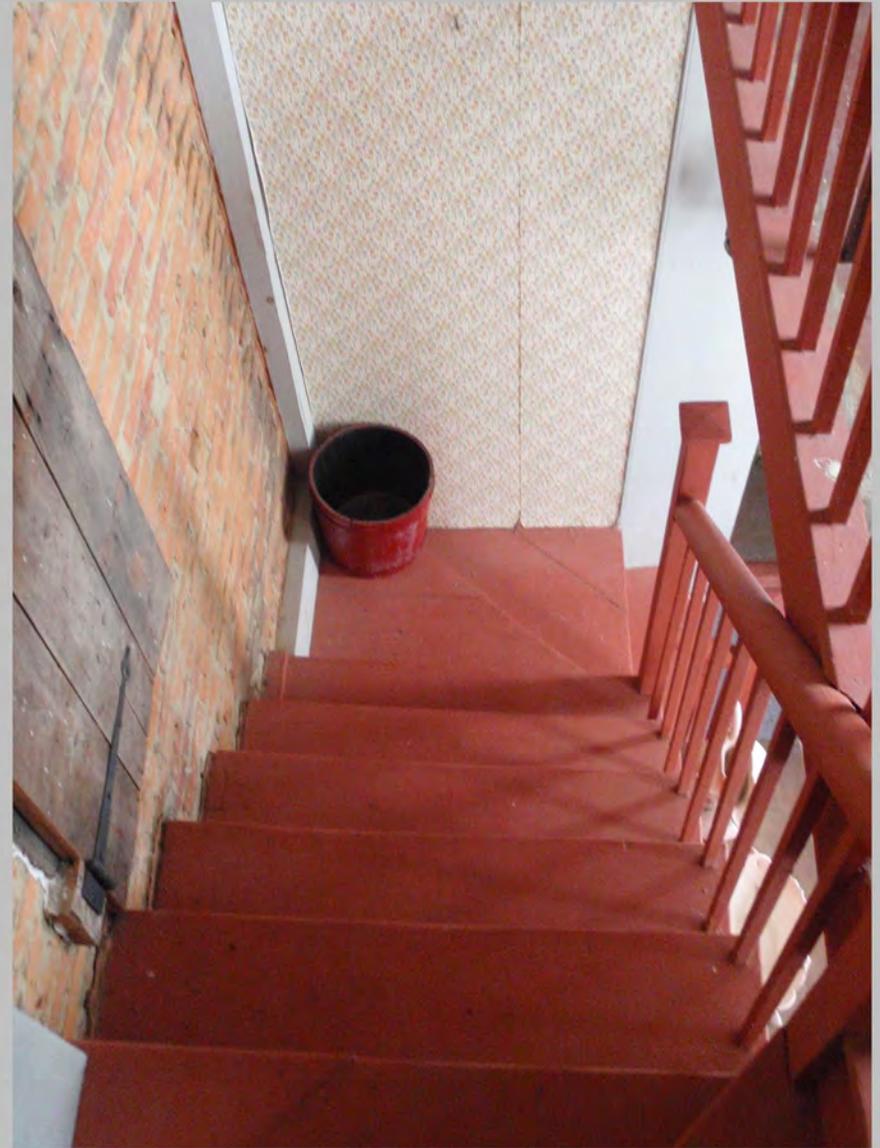


8. South side of basement showing chimney base (left) and foundation (right),
camera facing east. (March 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



9. Detail of reproduction smokeroom door, camera facing northwest. (March 2013)



10. Main stairs in entry with smokeroom to the left, main entrance to the right, camera facing east. (March 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



11. East wall of the southwest parlor showing Greek Revival fireplace, camera facing northeast. (March 2013)



12. West wall of the southeast parlor showing paneled fireplace and walls, camera facing northwest. (March 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



13. South wall of the northeast room showing fireplace, camera facing southwest; southeast parlor is through the door to the left, modern kitchen and west wing are through the door to the right. (May 2013)



14. Door to the upstairs front hall and a boxed corner post in the southwest chamber, camera facing southeast. (March 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



15. Fireplace in the southeast chamber, camera facing west. (May 2013)



16. Framing of the eastern half of the attic in the main block of the house (horizontal boards since removed), camera facing southwest. (March 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



17. Sliding door and partition wall separating the two halves of the attic, north of the chimney; camera facing northeast. (May 2013)



18. The five-sided ridgebeam in the attic, camera facing west. (May 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



19. Greek Revival fireplace in the west wing, camera facing west. (May 2013)



20. Attic/crawl space above the west wing, camera facing west. (May 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA

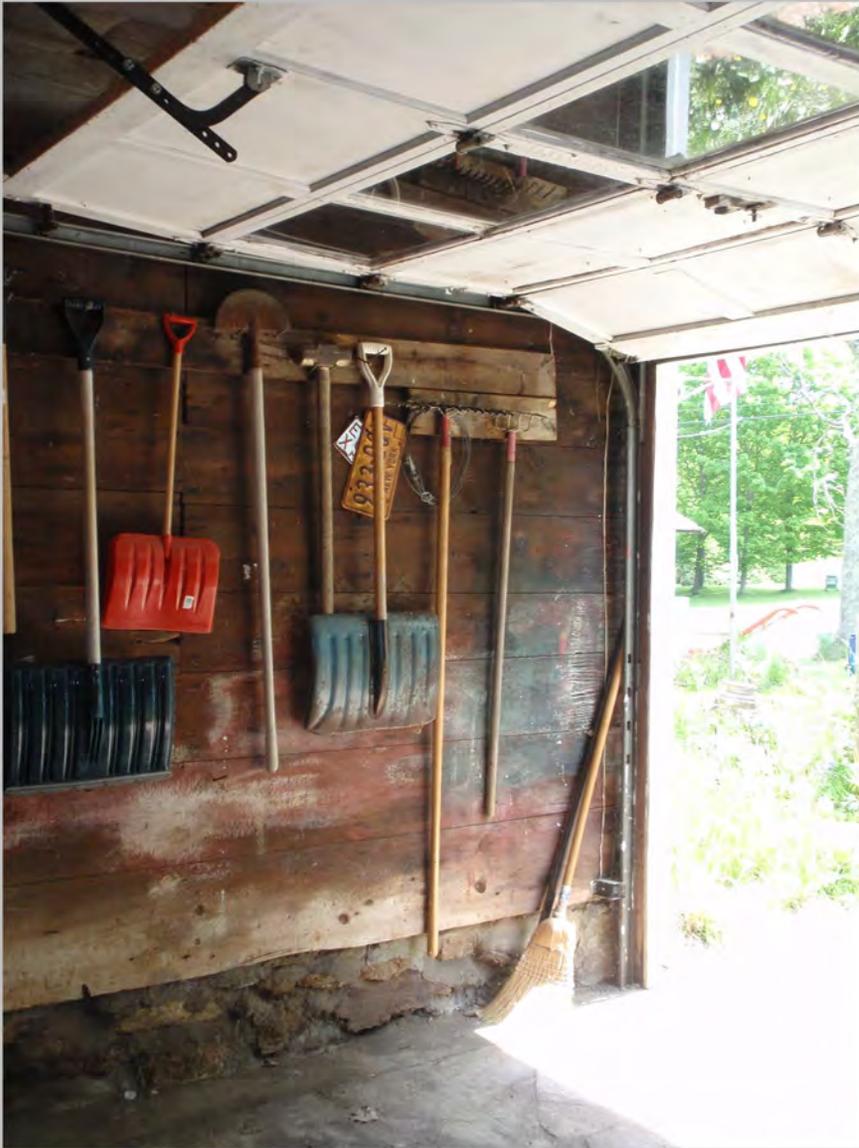


21. Construction in the eastern lean-to showing the rafters of the main body ending (right) and the addition of the lean-to rafters (left), camera facing east. (March 2013)



22. North wall of the garage, camera facing north. (May 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



23. East wall of the garage/former exterior (west) wall of the west wing, camera facing southeast. (May 2013)



24. Northeast corner of the east wing, camera facing northeast. (May 2013)

Barnes-Hill House, Spencer (Worcester Co.), MA



25. Detail of a gunstock post in the northeast corner of the east wing, camera facing northeast. (May 2013)