



## Jericho Rural Historic District

*Historic Tour No. 5  
in the Town of  
Hartford, Vermont*

Jericho is a rural hamlet in the north-central part of the Town of Hartford, Vermont and the southern tip of the Town of Norwich, Vermont. The Jericho Rural Historic District is unique because its original agricultural qualities remain intact. There are contiguous farmsteads with historic farm houses, agricultural buildings, pastures, and cow paths and stone fencing. Jericho is typical of an early Vermont farming community. Still existing are farmsteads, 31 farm buildings and a former one-room schoolhouse (#4). District properties cover 774 acres, with 715 acres in Hartford and 59 acres in Norwich.

The name Jericho reportedly dates to the 1770s when the Rev. Aaron Huchinson named Hartford's hamlets as Dothan, Goshen and Jericho after Biblical lands known for fertility and hospitality.

The heart of the District is the intersection of Jericho Street and Jericho Road where there are two historic farmsteads, clustered farm buildings, and a schoolhouse. Cow paths are on properties #4 and #12. Of note is the Reuben Tenney, Sr. (1760-1827) house on Jericho Street (#11), as it is the only connected farm complex in the District. The house has a kitchen wing, horse barn, corn crib, milk house and cow barn.

Farmers settled Jericho around 1781, cleared the land, and burned the felled timber to produce potash, their original cash crop. By the early 19th century, they raised sheep for wool and stock breeding. Merino sheep became part of many Vermont farms and were imported by Weathersfield resident William Jarvis in 1811. These sheep were considered easy to raise, did well in the Vermont hills, and required little labor. By 1880, the number of Jericho sheep grew to 1,049 on hand and 645 live sheep were sold.

By the turn of the century, a rising demand for milk products by urban consumers led farmers to switch to dairy farming. Sheep barns were converted or several new barns built for cows, such as the barn built at the Harper Hazen farm (#7).

Over the years, Jericho produced varied agricultural products. Land unsuitable for farm crops was used for maple syrup production. There is an historic sugarbush of about 100 trees between properties #11 and #18, and a sugarhouse in the woods of property #4. By the early 19th century, there were also enough apple orchards for The Jericho Association to form and promote cider making. In 1816, Philemon Hazen became the cider monger, meaning he was superintendent of a community cider mill on his land.

Farming as a principle business lasted until the 1950s. By then, it became expensive to keep a small-scale farm, and having an automobile meant people could live and work in different places. Moreover, Vermont became an attraction for visitors and farmsteads were sought after for housing.

Despite these changes, Jericho has been fortunate to have most of its historic buildings retain their location and historical qualities of workmanship, materials and design. However, the landscape has changed over the years as many farmsteads have been subdivided. Yet, the District's agricultural character can be seen in dramatic views of several historic properties, facing north from Jericho Street to Jericho Road and facing south from the highest elevations on properties #18 and #22.

The Jericho Rural Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 8, 2001.

**1. Thaddeus and Emily Dutton Farmstead, 4037 Jericho Street, c. 1841:** This property is a classic Vermont farm and had been in the Dutton/Hazen family for a hundred years, from the early 19th century to 1945. Thaddeus Dutton (1814-1874) married Emily Sprague (1813-1878) in 1840. Their 85-acre farm land came from Emily Sprague's parents, Philo and Laura Hazen—a family that owned more than 3,000 acres throughout Hartford. The property includes a c. 1841 original farmhouse (C), a 1903, 1 1/2-story dairy barn set into the side of a hill (B), a c. 1875 horse barn (A), a c. 1841 English barn (D), a c. 1955 playhouse, and in the 20th century, a 1984 indoor arena (E) and 1999 horse stable (F). A cellar hole with scored concrete floor east of the horse barn may have been a c. 1900 gable-front bank barn. The property was farmed throughout its history and was the last farmstead settled in this historic district.

**2. Polly and Reuben Tenney Farmstead, 3937 Jericho Street, c. 1842:** Also called Pine Cliff Farm, it is another example of a Vermont farm of this era. Though the property has not been worked since 1954, its Classic Cottage-style house has several historic outbuildings to show its farming years. There is a 1 1/2-story, c. 1890 horse and carriage bank barn (A), a c. 1900 timber bank dairy barn (B), a small c. 1925 milk house (C). The original land owner, Thomas Savage, gave the land to his son, Thomas Savage, Jr. (1759-1841), in 1784. Workshop, c. 1955 (D) and sugarhouse, c. 1980 (E) are noncontributing.

**3. Mobile Home, 3930 Jericho Street, 1984:** not an historic site.

**4. Pixley/Sprague Farmstead, 3703 Jericho Street, c. 1800/c. 1905:** Records show this was the site of Jericho's first school house, and sometime between 1790 and 1820, a Federal Style Cape Cod house was built. In 1905, the building was raised and converted to a two-story Colonial Revival house. In the 1980s, the property's buildings were completely rehabilitated and the site renamed Jericho Brook Farm. The structures are clustered and include a c. 1890 horse and carriage barn (A) and a c. 1912 two-section dairy barn (B) and an ell (C) and attached milk house (D). A c. 1930 wood frame garage/repair shop (E) across the street was once part of this farmstead. The property was settled in the late 18th century when Thomas Hazen gave the land to his daughter Eunice (1765-1826) and her husband William Pixley (died 1827). Eunice's niece, Laura Hazen (1793-1877) and her husband Philo Sprague (1787-1868) acquired the property in 1815.

**5. District #7 Schoolhouse, 3473 Jericho Street, 1849:** This former one-room Greek Revival-style schoolhouse replaced the first Jericho school that had fallen into disrepair. A pile of bricks about 100 yards west of the schoolhouse is all that remains of the first schoolhouse. The second school was built on a one-third-acre lot, on the southeast corner of Philo Sprague's property. Classes were taught there until 1947. In 1951, the Jericho Community Association acquired the building, and since then it has been used by the Association for meetings and social functions.

**6. Mobile home, 3503 Jericho Street, c. 1983:** not an historic site.

**7. Philemon and George T. Hazen Farmstead, 3446 Jericho Street, c. 1823:** Situated at the crossroads of the historic district, this Federal-style Cape Cod house is the only brick building in the district. The house has a cluster of farmstead buildings that include a c. 1840 side-hill, timber-frame English barn (A), a c. 1940 wood-frame garage (B), a c. 1950 storage shed (C), a c. 1890 gable-front, bank dairy barn (D) with a front addition (E) and a 20th-century attached milk house (F). The farm, now called Jerichonia Farm, was owned by only two families, the Hazens and the Lymans. Philemon's son, Julius, acquired the property when his father died, and sold it to George Hazen, who then sold the farm to Eugene Lyman (1887-1979). Its 90 acres have been reduced to 33 acres over the years and the land is no longer farmed.

**8. Philemon and Julius Hazen Farmstead, 3398 Jericho Street, c. 1789/c.1823:** Until 1966, this 200-year-old farm was owned by members of two families, the Hazens and the Wallaces. Philemon Hazen (1766-1845) acquired the land from his father, Thomas Hazen in 1785. In 1816, Hazen was elected Jericho's "cider monger" —superintendent of a community cider mill built on the property. The Hazens continued to own the farmstead for two generations before selling it to the Wallaces. The Wallaces continued dairy farming for two generations until the 1960s. Now called Twin Meadow Farm, it is located at the intersection of Jericho Road and Jericho Street. Outbuildings include a c.1850 side-hill English barn (A), a c.1820 English barn (B), a c. 1880 2 story dairy barn (C), a c. 1958 milking room (D) attached to the English barn and dairy barn.

**9. Daniel and Olive Hazen Farmstead, 3210 Jericho Street, c. 1788:** Thomas Hazen presented each of his children a 120 acre parcel of land. His eldest son Daniel (1761-1814) was given this lot, and built the Cape Cod-style house between Wallace Road and Sugartop Road. It may be the oldest intact house in the district. Daniel farmed the land and was also a Hartford selectman. His grandson, Noah Bartholomew Hazen Sprague (1841-1910) inherited the property and his father's sense of service. He too was a farmer, served as Jericho's superintendent of schools, and the town's representative in the state legislature. A c. 1920 wood-frame barn is attached to the house.



*Jericho School 1915.*

**10. Sass House and Woodworking Shop, 3221 Jericho Street, 1985 and 1990:** not an historic site.

**11. Tenney/Savage Farmstead, 3023 Jericho Street, c. 1785/c. 1840:** This site at one time had a sugarbush with a 1,000-bucket capacity. The maple grove, now north of the original property, is still tapped for sap. The property has a c. 1785 farmhouse owned by Reuben Tenney, Sr. (1760-1827) after he married the original landowner's granddaughter, Rebecca Hazen (1771-1840) in 1793. The Savages owned the property after Cynthia Marsh (widow of Tenney's son, Harper) married Truman Savage (born 1810). The house, known as Hart-Nor, is located at the northeast intersection of Jericho Street and Sugartop Road. It is a Classic Cottage-style with a Queen Anne-period entrance door.

**12. Bergen House, 2900 Jericho Street, 1980:** not an historic site.

**13. Wilson House, 2762 Jericho Street, 1983:** not an historic site.

**14. Rieseberg House, 2721 Jericho Street, 1972 and 1975:** not an historic site.

**15. Fish House, 56 Joshua Road, 1975:** not an historic site.

**16. Nott Farmstead, 170 and 208 Joshua Road, c. 1820 and c. 1910:** On this property is c. 1945 wood silo that is the only surviving silo in Jericho's historic district. A turn-of-the-century successful dairy farm with many outbuildings, the Nott farmstead had a Cape Cod-style house that in the early 20th century became a side wing for the existing Colonial Revival house. The property includes a c. 1890 horse and carriage bank barn with plain corner boards, gable rakes, friezes, and door and window trim (A). Also a c. 1850 workshop/shed (B), a large 1 1/2-story timber-frame bank barn/residence (C) with attached milk house and silo (E), a c. 1850 timber-frame cow barn (D), a c. 1955 milk house (F), a c. 1900 utility shed north of the cow barn (H), and a c. 1920 wood-frame sugar house (I) across the street from the house. Known as Clover Hill Farm and located on the west side of Joshua Road in Norwich, it was settled by Hiram Nott (1789-1856) in 1820. His grandson Frank (1846-1954), like his father and grand- father, was a farmer, represented Norwich for several terms in the Vermont legislature, and was a town selectman.

**17. Spencer House/church parsonage, 50 Sugartop Road, c. 1816:** What began as a home in 1816 for James Spencer became a parsonage, probably when the adjacent Methodist Church was built in 1845. The Cape Cod-style house with a c. 1920 three-bay porch was sold six times between 1900 and 1984, and in 1948 was called "Frank Wallace's tenement" after being purchased by Frank and Daisy Wallace. Located on the west side of Sugartop Road, about 100 yards north of the Jericho Street intersection, the house has a one-story wing on the north gable and window and door trim.

**18. Teachout House, 179 Sugartop Road, c. 1975:** not an historic site.

**19. Luther and Azuba Bartholomew Farmstead, 340 Sugartop Road, c. 1795:** Like many Vermont farms, this one began with 200 acres but lost most of the land after a mid-20th century land subdivision. It now has 13 acres and is located on the west side of Sugartop Road, south of the Norwich town line. The property also has a history of Methodist piousness. Settled around 1795 by Luther (1758-1839) and Azuba Bartholomew, Methodist clergy were known to have stayed in the home. Luther's daughter, Olive (1800-1871) married Methodist minister Eleazer Wells, who preached in the Jericho area. The wood-frame Cape Cod style house has a modern greenhouse, and a c. 1890 wood-frame bank barn on a hill above the house. A c. 1940 milk house is southwest of the farmhouse.

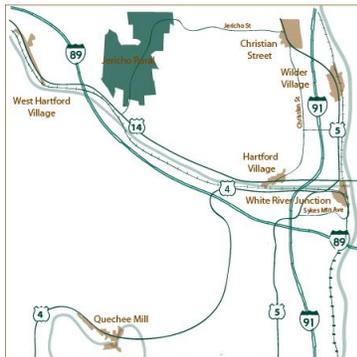
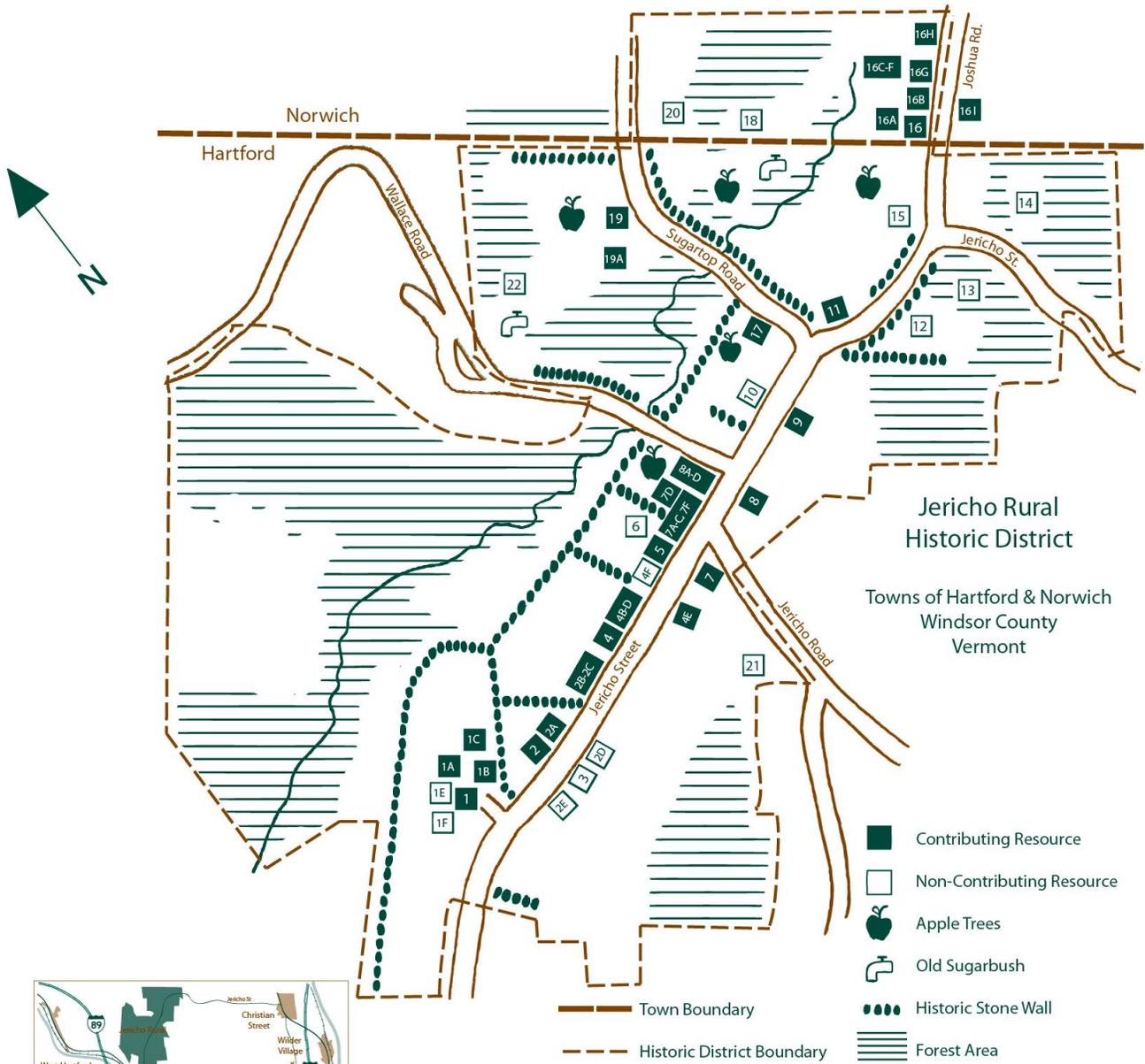
Sites 20 – 22 are not historic sites.

*This brochure has been prepared with local funds from the Town of Hartford and a matching grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation through the U.S. Department of the Interior under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.*

*Hartford is one of thirteen Certified Local Governments in Vermont and therefore is eligible for these grant funds through the Hartford Historic Preservation Commission.*

*For more information, contact the Hartford Department of Planning and Development Services, 171 Bridge St., White River Junction, VT 05001 or (802) 295-3075.*

All photos courtesy of Hartford Historical Society.



**Historic Note**  
 The Methodist Episcopal Church, which served the Jericho district, was located at the corner of Sugar Top Road and Jericho Street (#10) from 1845 until 1874, when it was sold and moved to North Hartland where it is still in use as part of the store/post office. This move was probably done with oxen pulling the building 20+ miles over frozen snow-covered roads.