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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 10 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1** NAME  
HISTORIC \*\*

Weston Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Weston Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Madison Me.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF 2nd. Hon. William Cohen

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Somerset

CODE

025

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Weston Homestead Farm Corp.

STREET & NUMBER

Weston Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Madison

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Somerset County Registry of Deeds,

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Skowhegan

STATE

Maine

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Weston Homestead, built 1817-18 for Deacon Benjamin Weston by Ephraim Spalding of North Anson, is a large two and a half story clapboarded frame dwelling. In basic design it is a fine example of Federal style domestic architecture in northern New England, with its two internal chimneys and gable roof. Today the roof is sheathed in tin. The building is supported by a foundation of granite blocks. Throughout the building the windows are six-over-six double-hung sash.

The main facade, which faces west, is of two stories and is five bays wide, five windows being placed across the second story and four in the first story--two on either side of the central doorway. The doorway is framed by modified Doric pilasters and a lintel with denticulated molding. The door is surmounted by a fan-light. All of this detail is fine and dignified. The windows are framed with simple moldings.

The south end of the house, in the gable end, consists of two and a half stories, with one window in the half story and two pairs of windows in each of the other two stories. A simplified version of the main entrance is centrally placed in this facade, with reduced but comparable motifs.

The north end of the house is identical to the south end, except that a one-story clapboarded frame ell abuts it and precludes the placement of a central doorway.

A two-story clapboarded frame ell with a single chimney abuts the rear (east) side of the house. This ell, with carriage-house, was added to the house in the 1870's.

Internally, the Weston Homestead is exceptionally well-preserved. The most remarkable feature is intact wallpaper dating from 1836 in the parlor and 1817 in the hall. There have been no significant alterations to the building's interior since that time.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES	1817	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Ephraim Spalding
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This sizeable and well preserved example of rural Federal architecture located picturesquely high above the banks of the Kennebec River looms large in the early history of the Madison-Skowhegan region. Its first owner, Deacon Benjamin Weston, was the son of one of the first settlers in the area and arrived there, with his father, at the age of six. The house has remained ever since in the Weston family.

In 1771 Joseph Weston and his eldest son, Eli, first visited a grant located in Canaan, between Madison and Skowhegan, which they had purchased from the Kennebec Company. During that summer they erected a twenty foot square cabin. Returning to Lancaster, Massachusetts in September, they picked up the rest of the family, Joseph's wife, Eunice (Farnsworth), and ~~and~~ eight children, and departed for Maine in November. After spending the winter at Fort Halifax (N.R. 11/24/68 - NHL) in Winslow, they proceeded up the Kennebec River reaching the cabin on April 30, 1772. Eunice Weston became the first woman to settle in Somerset County.

In 1775 when Col. Benedict Arnold reached Canaan on his expedition against Quebec, he was entertained by Joseph Weston and guided by him for the next several miles up the river. As a result of his efforts Weston contracted a fever from which he shortly died.

As a young man his son, Benjamin, purchased 1000 acres in Madison on which he built his house in 1817. Close by he established a ferry over which all travel passed between Hallowell, Augusta and Waterville and the upriver settlements of North Anson and New Portland. No charge was ever made for clergymen, funeral processions or those on their way to church services.

Benjamin's son, Nathan, was a leader in the community until his death at the age of 94. He helped to fund the first railroad bridge over the river at Madison and also contributed heavily to the erection of the first church building.

This substantial home of unusually fine detail for such a remote area provides the most important link with the settlement of Madison and remains an important regional landmark.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, E.F., History of Madison. 1962  
Madison Bulletin, Oct. 7, 1886  
Lewiston Journal Magazine, Aug. 1, 1942  
Bangor Daily News, Oct. 12, 1960

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	4 3 1 1 8 0	4 9 6 3 1 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Frank A. Beard, Historian Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian	DATE	
ORGANIZATION	Maine Historic Preservation Commission	DATE	April, 1977
STREET & NUMBER	31 Western Avenue	TELEPHONE	289-2133
CITY OR TOWN	Augusta	STATE	Maine

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Earle S. Sheddworth, Jr.  
 TITLE S.H.P.O. DATE 5/5/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Robert B. Rettig</u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	<u>Acting</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>Charles Williams</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>11/23/77</u> DATE <u>11-12-77</u>