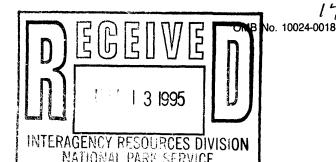
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in Figure to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 164). Complete each item by marking 12 in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

	Crop Tala	nd Uistovia	District		
istoric name	Swall 181a	ind Historic	DISTRICT		
ther names/site number	Perkins I	Cownship			
. Location					
Kettreet & number	ennebec River, Dresden	between Ric	hmond and	N/.	A not for publication
ity or townR	ichmond				_ 🛚 xicinity
tateMa	aine code M	E county S	agadahoc	code <u>023</u>	zip code <u>04357</u>
. State/Federal Agenc	y Certification				
Signature of certifying of Maine Historic State of Federal agency	Preservation		7 / 6 /95 Date		
In my opinion, the prope comments.)	erty 🗌 meets 🔲 does	s not meet the Natio	nal Register criteria. (See continuation sh	eet for additional
			nal Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sh	eet for additional
comments.)	fficial/Title			See continuation sh	eet for additional
Signature of certifying o	fficial/Title			See continuation sh	eet for additional
Signature of certifying o State or Federal agency National Park Service hereby certify that the proper entered in the Nationa See continuati determined eligible for	fficial/Title r and bureau e Certification ty is: I Register. on sheet.	Col Ling Colson	nature of the Keyper	See continuation sh	Date of Acti
Signature of certifying of State or Federal agency National Park Service thereby certify that the proper entered in the National See continuation determined eligible for National Register See continuational See continuational Register	fficial/Title r and bureau e Certification ty is: I Register. on sheet. the	Col Kig	nature of the Keyper	See continuation sh	Date of Act
Signature of certifying of State or Federal agency National Park Service thereby certify that the proper of entered in the National See continuational Register See continuational Register determined not eligible National Register.	fficial/Title r and bureau e Certification ty is: I Register. on sheet. the on sheet.	Col Ling Colson	nature of the Keyper	See continuation sh	Date of Act
Signature of certifying of State or Federal agency National Park Service hereby certify that the proper entered in the National See continuational Register See continuational determined not eligible	fficial/Title r and bureau e Certification ty is: I Register. on sheet. the on sheet. e for the	Col Ling Colson	nature of the Keyper	See continuation sh	Date of Act

Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number (Do not inc	of Resc	ources within Propert	y e count.)	
☐ building(s)	Contribut	ting	Noncontributing		
🖾 district	28		•	huildings	
				_	
☐ structure					
roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)			ributing resources pr		
	0				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)			nstructions)		
stence/Agricultural Fiel	d Funera	Funerary/Cemetery			
elling	Landsc	Landscape/conservation Area			
Funerary/Cemetery		Recreation and Culture/Museum			
•	Materials - (Enter categor	ries from ir	nstructions)		
Colonial		Stone	/Granite		
Federal		Wood/	Weatherboard		
	roof	Aspha	ılt		
	other				
	Check only one box building(s) district site structure object object roperty listing of a multiple property listing.) stence/Agricultural Fieleling	Check only one box (Do not incomplete in the Note of a multiple property listing) Contribution	Check only one box (Do not include previous district site site 21 5	(Check only one box) Duilding(s)	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Sagadahoc,	Maine
County and State	

0.01.1	
8. Statement of Significance	· Aven of Cinniflance
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the	Areas of Significance property (Enter categories from instructions)
for National Register listing.)	Agriculture
XX A Property is associated with events that have	made Architecture
a significant contribution to the broad patter	
our history.	Community Planning and Development
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of personal important in our post.	ons <u>Industry</u>
significant in our past.	
$X\!X$ C Property embodies the distinctive characterist	
of a type, period, or method of construction represents the work of a master, or possess	
high artistic values, or represents a significa	
distinguishable entity whose components lac	
individual distinction.	1763-c. 1940
XX D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	
information important in prehistory or history	·
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	1763
Property is:	1847
☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for	1871
religious purposes.	
D removed from its original leasting	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
☐ B removed from its original location.	N/A
\square C a birthplace or grave.	MA
□ D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation
•	N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure	
☐ F a commemorative property.	
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved signif	icance Architect/Builder
within the past 50 years.	Unknown
Narrative Statement of Significance	avadian about)
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more conti 9. Major Bibliographical References	nuation sneets.)
Bibliography	
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
 preliminary determination of individual listing CFR 67) has been requested 	y (36 ∰ State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the National	
Register	☐ University
designated a National Historic Landmark	Other
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Sur	rvey Name of repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering	

Swan Island Hi Name of Property	storic District	Sagadahoc, Maine County and State	
10. Geographical	Data		
Acreage of Prope	rty 1,495.22		
UTM References (Place additional UTM	references on a continuation sheet.)		
Zone Easting 2 1 9 4 3 5	$ \begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	3 1 9 4 3 4 0 8 0 4 8 7 5 6 7 2 0	
Verbal Boundary (Describe the boundari	Description es of the property on a continuation sheet.)		
Boundary Justific (Explain why the bound	eation daries were selected on a continuation sheet.)		
11. Form Prepare	ed By		
name/title Robert	L. Bradley, Archaeologist/Jame	es Hewat, Architectural Historian	
organizationM	Maine Historic Preservation Comm	mission date September, 1995	
street & number 5	55 Capitol Street, Station #65	telephone <u>207/287-2132</u>	
city or townA	ugusta,	state <u>Maine</u> zip code <u>04333-0065</u>	
Additional Docum	nentation		
Submit the following its	ems with the completed form:		
Continuation She	ets		
Maps			
A USGS n	nap (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating th	e property's location.	
A Sketch	map for historic districts and properties ha	aving large acreage or numerous resources.	
Photographs			
Representa	ative black and white photographs of the	e property.	
Additional items (Check with the SHPC	or FPO for any additional items)		
Property Owner			
(Complete this item at	the request of SHPO or FPO.)	1 ***1 11 * C	
name	Department of Inland Fisherie		
street & number _	State House Station #41	telephone207/287-3371	
city or town	Augusta,	state <u>Maine</u> zip code <u>04333-0041</u>	
Paperwork Reduction	Act Statement: This information is being collecte	d for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nomina	ate

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ____7 Page __2___

Lying at the head of Merrymeeting Bay in the Kennebec River, the Swan Island Historic District is comprised of the 1495 acres of land above the high tide line on Swan Island and Little Swan Island. Swan island is approximately four miles long and varies between one-half and three-quarters of a mile in width. The topography of the island is relatively hilly with an average elevation of between forty and sixty feet above the high water mark with peak elevations (at the northern and southern ends) exceeding one hundred feet above the Kennebec River. A steep embankment runs to the river along the west side of the island, while on the eastern side fertile fields spread gently down to meet the eastern branch of the Kennebec.

The island is roughly bisected by a road that runs from the landing at the northwest corner of the island to the southern end where it turns west and ends at Theobald's Point. In general, land to the west of the road is wooded, while that to the east is in fields. A number of stone walls run east-west across the island through woods and along the edge of fields. Areas of exposed ledge are found primarily on the west, north, and south ends of island, while loamy soil is in evidence in the eastern fields. There are several small man-made ponds located along the spine of the island.

Little Swan Island is located two-thirds of the way up and just off of the east shore of Swan Island. Just under thirty acres in size, the island is heavily wooded and rises to a height of forty feet above the high water mark. There are no standing buildings on Little Swan Island.

The District includes one late eighteenth century dwelling, one building dating from the first decade of the nineteenth century, two houses from the mid-nineteenth century, one house from the late nineteenth century, and a collection buildings dating from the first half of the twentieth century. Twenty historic archaeological sites are known to exist in addition to several prehistoric archaeological sites, none of which have as yet been fully excavated. In general, the integrity of the standing structures and historic rural landscape within the district is high. The 1907 United States Coastal and Geological Survey map and 1940's aerial photographs clearly illustrate how little the historic landscape has changed over the course of the twentieth century. Several of the islands' buildings have been neglected and are in need of immediate attention.

The archaeological sites identified within the district have high visibility and integrity and generally consist of dressed or undressed fieldstone footings, cellar walls, and chimney bases. Their excellent condition and easily observed structural characteristics are attributable to their substantial materials and well constructed masonry as well as to their relatively short lives as exposed sites. In the past decade they have shown no observable deterioration. Many of the sites correspond to house locations indicated on the 1858 wall map of Sagadahoc County.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number $\frac{7}{}$ Page $\frac{3}{}$

There are thirty-four contributing resources in the district including eight buildings, twenty house sites, one landscape, and five stone walls. There are no non-contributing resources.

Inventory List

1. Tubbs-Reed Property. c. 1800

Situated on a the second highest point on the island and overlooking the eastern branch of the Kennebec is the Tubbs-Reed House, a two story frame building thought to have been constructed about 1800 by Major Samuel Tubbs. The house is typical of Federal manner houses with its low pitched hipped roof, elongated windows, and symmetrical five bay fenestration on the main elevation. A massive chimney penetrates through the center of the cedar shingle sheathed roof. The entire house is sheathed in clapboardsand rests upon a c. 1969 poured concrete footing and foundation. Aside from the restrained cornice molding, the main (southeast) elevation of the house exhibits little decorative detailing. The twelve-over-twelve, double hung window sash and moldings are c. 1969 replacements as are the four panel, two light door and surrounds. On both of the northeast and southwest facades are four asymmetrically placed window openings with twelve-over-twelve replacement sash and frames. The northwest facade contains five asymmetrically arranged window openings; again each containing twelve-over-twelve replacement sash and frames.

Inside, the house exhibits a number of Federal period elements; most notably on the second floor where plaster walls gently curve at the corners and areas of early nineteenth century patterned wall paper are still visible. Stenciling is visible on the floor planking at the top of the rather modest central staircase. Several period mantles with thinly molded entablatures and mantle shelves survive as do a number of early nineteenth century doors and hardware. Although areas of both wide accordian and thin sawn lathing are found on the second floor, a chronology of interior wall construction is unclear. The corbeled central chimney rests upon a large brick barrel vault in the cellar.

A number of alterations to the Tubbs-Reed House took place during the late 1960's including the replacement of the original footing and granite slab foundation with a poured concrete foundation, the replacement of six-over-six double hung sash and window frames, and the removal of an enclosed portico on the southeast elevation. An ell on the southwest side of the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section	number	7	Page	4
36 011011	HUHIDE		raye	

house was apparently also removed during this campaign as was a large barn which stood just across the road. The house has never been plumbed, serviced by electricity, or centrally heated. Several pieces of furniture belonging to the Reed family remain in the house. During the midnineteenth century, the property comprised 120 acres at the extreme north end of the island.

The Tubbs-Reed House was built just after 1800 by Major Samuel Tubbs (1739-1810) of Berkeley, Massachusetts. Tubbs was reportedly commissioned a Major in the Massachusetts militia in 1776, and as a reward for his service during the American Revolution was apparently granted land at the head of Swan Island. It is interesting to note that Tubb's land grant appears to have been set off from Silvester Gardiner's Swan Island property. At various times, Tubbs is known to have served as selectman, assessor, town moderator, and school moderator for the Town of Dresden of which Swan Island was a part. Tubb's son Samuel, Jr. probably lived in the house until the 1830's when Captain David Reed married Drusilla (the daughter of Jonathan Tallman of Swan Island) and purchased the house. Drusilla Reed is listed as living in Swan Island in the 1900 Census as is her grandson Ralph who worked as a pharmacist in Richmond.

2. Priest Property . c. 1930

The Priest Property may have been subdivided from the Hebbard (or Gardiner) property on the north side of Perkins highway sometime during the late 1800's or early 1900's. On it stands a one and one-half story frame house with a gambrel roof and side ell (also with a gambrel roof). Sheathed in painted wood and asbestos shingle, this house features shed dormers, an enclosed porch, and two-over-one double hung sash. The Priest house appears to date from c.1930 and presently functions as housing for Inland Fisheries and Wildlife staff. Three frame, gabled outbuildings are located southeast of the main house and are presently used by I. F. & W. for maintenance and storage. A large frame building with a shed roof and textured pressed metal sheathing known as the machine shop is located just across the road from the outbuildings. This building possibly dates from the 1940's.

3. Turner-White House Site.

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar containing a scatter of nineteenth/early twentieth century brick; maximum dimensions 40 feet north to south, 32 feet east to west.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ______ Page _____5

4. Lewis House Site.

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar and ell footing containing a scatter of nineteenth/early twentieth century brick; maximum dimensions 50 feet north to south, 37 feet east to west; field-stone-lined wells 50 feet and 100 feet to the north of the foundation.

5. Underwood-Hebbard House Site.

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar with a small percentage of dressed granite; cellar T-shaped with maximum dimensions 41 feet east to west, and 40 feet north to south; field-stone lined well 10 feet to the northwest of the ell.

6. **Boathouse.**

c. 1900

The boathouse is a hip roofed, one story frame structure sheathed in wood shingle and located just north of the Gardiner Dumaresq house on the shore of the eastern branch of the Kennebec. Three six light, fixed-pane windows punctuate the north and south elevations of the building. No information is known about the boathouse's construction, however it does appear in a c.1900 photograph of the Gardiner-Dumaresq House.

7. Gardiner-Dumaresq Property.

c. 1763

Constructed by the Kennebec Proprietor Dr. Silvester Gardiner about 1763, the Gardiner-Dumaresq House is one of only several saltbox houses in Maine. Facing east to Swan Alley (the eastern branch of the Kennebec River), the two-story saltbox house is sheathed in clapboards and features a massive central chimney. The main (east) facade is symmetrically organized into three bays with a centrally located door just above grade. The cornice on the east elevation meets the architraves of the second floor windows, while the longer roof line slopes down to the top of the first floor on the west elevation. Four bays wide, this elevation contains two centrally located six-over-nine double hung sash, and two flanking doors. The north and south elevations both feature three nine-over-six sash set irregularly on the first floor, a six-over-six window on the second story, and one small one-over-one window on the attic story. All the windows and doors on the house appear to have been replaced during a restoration effort in the late 1960's. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation which dates from this same restoration campaign.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number $\frac{7}{}$ Page $\frac{6}{}$

As is the case with the exterior, a number of significant alterations have taken place on the interior of the Gardiner-Dumaresq house. Much of the early plaster on the first floor of the building has been replaced with sheetrock. Flooring in the lean-to area also appears to have been replaced recently. A stone base featuring a brick lined barrel vault in the cellar supports the chimney breast. While several early mantels do survive, the fireplaces and hearths have been reconstructed or repaired with new brick and Portland cement in most cases. Very simply detailed timber casings survive in the four corners of the house on both the first and second floors. A modest central staircase provides access to the second floor of the house. Much of the historic plaster, molding, and flooring survives on the second floor as does the winding stairway which provides access to the attic area where virtually all of the historic roof framing system survives, remarkably intact.

In the late nineteenth century, the Gardiner-Dumaresq House had two-over-two double hung windows, a one-story projecting bay on the north elevation, and a Colonial Revival manner portico extending from the facade. These features were probably removed from the building in the late 1960's when an attempt was made to restore the house to its eighteenth century appearance.

Silvester Gardiner (1708-1786) apparently built the house about 1763 as a summer residence for his daughter Rebecca (b.1745) and her husband Philip Dumaresq (1737-1800) It is not known how much time these Boston residents spent on the island, but after the American Revolution Philip (a Loyalist) was sent into exile in the West Indies. According to Robert Hallowell Gardiner, Rebecca and Philip's son, James Dumaresq (b.1772) exchanged some land bequeathed to him in Pittston for the Swan Island farm that his grandfather had left to his uncle John Silvester John Gardiner. Although the land was described as being, "very good" James apparently did little farming, preferring instead to hunt and visit his cousin Robert Hallowell upriver at the Oaklands estate in Gardiner. Returning to Swan Island after one such visit in the autumn of 1826, James' boat struck a "flaw" and he was drowned.

After James' death, his son Philip Dumaresq and sister Jane Frances Rebecca Perkins appear to have used the property at Swan Island exclusively as a summer residence. In 1855, Philip's wife Margaret Deblois, daughter Frances, and a friend drowned while swimming in Swan Alley. Philip (a ship captain), was subsequently lost overboard and drowned in Long Island Sound on June 25, 1861.

Thomas Handasyd Perkins (after whom the Town Of Perkins was named) was introduced to Swan Island during by his wife Jane Frances Gardiner (daughter of James) in the 1820's. They

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number _____7 Page ___7

reportedly built a new house for themselves one hundred yards to the north of the existing house. This house was destroyed in 1839, after which time the Perkins stayed in the old house. Writing in 1863, Thomas Perkins, Jr. described the Gardiner- Dumaresq house and land of his youth as:

"... as firm and strong as a white oak frame and wrought nails ever stood, a most picturesque object with its great porch, huge chimney, and long, sloping roof ... On both sides of it, and to the rear, was a great grass field, while at the back was the virgin forest, which had never been cut but thinned from time to time ... the place (property) was a small one, only about two hundred acres."

The Gardiner-Dumaresq property was purchased by Dr. E.C. Hebbard of Boston in 1900 who called it "Swango" after the reputed Abenaki name for the island. Hebbard appears to have subdivided the property during the early twentieth century. The State of Maine purchased the property from Ida M. Hebbard in the 1940's.

8. Robinson House and Shops.

c. 1885

Located just south of the Gardiner-Dumaresq House, the Robinson House is a two-and-a-half story gable front frame building with connecting rear ell and shed. The house is sheathed in clapboards, rests on a brick foundation, and features modest Italianate elements.

The two bay wide front elevation of the house is oriented to the eastern branch of the Kennebec River and includes a wrap around porch through which access to the side hall is achieved. Both the porch and a first floor bay window are surmounted by a shed roof which is visually supported by Italianate brackets. The two-over-two double hung sash, found throughout the house, are surmounted by projecting Italianate hood moldings. A frieze (supported at each corner by simply rendered pilasters) runs under the eave on the north and south elevations of the house. The asphalt shingle roof on the main house and ell are both penetrated by centrally located brick chimneys.

A small porch on the rear ell is supported by simply carved posts and Italianate brackets set under the eaves. The pilasters and frieze found on the main house continue on the ell. One small window on the north and south sides of the ell interrupt the course of the frieze. A small lean-to shed is located at the back of the ell.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number _____7 Page ___8

Two frame out buildings are located just to the south of the main house. The larger of the two features an Italianate round arch six-over-six double hung windows and and crown molding on the gable end. Believed to have been constructed in the 1880's the building also has two-over-two double hung sash (similar to those on the main house) on its sides and double track mounted doors on the gable end. The smaller building has a row of four windows directly under the eave on both the east and west sides. A small hipped roof structure of recent construction stands above the well located in the middle of the looped driveway.

Little is known about the Robinson House, which appears to have been constructed sometime during the 1880's. James Alvin Robinson was born in 1862 and appears in the 1880 Census of Perkins as 25 years of age and a farmer. The 1893 Census lists Robinson as being a fisherman and in 1910 his age is given as 48 and he is referred to as a "carpenter, boat builder". The property upon which the Robinson house sits was sold to I.F.W. in the 1940's.

9. Curtis Cemetery.

Headstones dating from 1802 to 1968.

10. Call Cemetery.

Headstones dating from 1822 to 1864.

11. Curtis House Site.

by 1858

Dry-laid fieldstone L-shaped cellar containing nineteenth-century bricks; maximum dimensions 42 feet north to south, 74 feet east to west; bulkhead cellar entrance on south side of house; fieldstone-lined well approximately 50 feet south of the house; single-course fieldstone footing for a barn (15 feet by 25 feet) to the west of the ell.

12. Washington-Call House Site.

by 1858

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar and ell footing; maximum dimensions 75 feet north to south, 26 feet east to west; fieldstone-lined well with quarried granite cap 29 feet north of the house

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number _____7 Page ____9

northeast corner; possible fieldstone footings for one or more outbuildings about 65 feet south of the south end of the ell; about 100 feet south of the possible outbuildings a fieldstone-lined well (to service a barn?).

13. Tollman-Derrah House Site. by 1858

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar; maximum dimensions 27 feet north to south, 36 feet east to west; 4 quarried granite posts (one still in situ) east of former facade -- presumably supports for a porch; fieldstone-lined well 72 feet northwest of the northwest corner of the house; indistinct footing of a small outbuilding about 75 feet northwest of the well, with a steel water-pipe (twentieth-century) running northwest to a water-filled swale.

14. Lewis House Site. by 1858

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar; maximum dimensions 18 feet north to south, 15 feet east to west; fieldstone bulkhead entrance to cellar on south side; poured concrete foundation 12 feet to east of house, measuring 8 ½ feet north to south, 6 feet east to west.

15. Wade House Site.

by 1858

Two abutting, off-set dry-laid fieldstone cellars; maximum dimensions 56 feet north to south, 29 feet east to west; poured concrete bulkhead cellar entrance at south end; poured concrete well-head 34 feet to the west (lining of well not visible); fieldstone footing for outbuilding to northwest of well, measuring 19 by 19 feet; fieldstone footing for another outbuilding 67 feet north of the 19 by 19 foot outbuilding, measuring 22 feet north to south, 14 feet east to west; poured concrete well-head 110 feet east of the cellars (lining of well not visible).

16. Lilly-Wade House.

c. 1860

Situated on the west side of the road, two-thirds of the way down the island is the oneand-a-half story frame Lilly-Wade House. This simple, clapboarded, side gable house has a one

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWANDISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ____7 Page ____10

story bay window on the facade, and a two-part ell extending off the rear of the house. Projecting Italianate window moldings surround all of the two-over-two double hung sash on the house. The most notable decorative feature on the house is the delicately carved Italianate door surrounds. The house is currently in very poor condition with extensive wood deterioration on both the exterior and interior.

William Lilly appears in the 1860 Valuation of Real and Personal Property in the Town of Perkins as farming 20 acres of land and owning one cow. In the 1860 Census Lilly is listed as a thirty eight year old house joiner. Joseph Wade, a river fisherman, is thought to have lived in the house during the first decade of the twentieth century.

17. Lovett-Leavett-Consumer House Site.

c. 1880

Dressed granite, T-shaped cellar with a chimney-base and a brick cistern in the ell; maximum dimensions 38 feet north to south, 53 ½ feet east to west; two internal end-chimney bases in the house cellar with associated nineteenth-century bricks; fieldstone-lined well 187 feet to the west of the cellar; fieldstone footing 170 feet northwest of the cellar, measuring 31 feet north to south, 43 feet east to west (barn?).

18. Maxwell-Tarr House.

c. 1850

Located on a rise overlooking agricultural fields and Maxwell Cove (known as Whidden's Bay during the eighteenth century) on the southeast corner of the island, is the one-and-a-half story frame Maxwell-Tarr House. The side gabled house is sheathed in clapboards, has a side ell, rests upon a granite foundation, and features modest Greek Revival/Italianate transitional decorative elements. Chief among these is the side hall doorway on the main house which is flanked by three-quarter sidelights and carved pilasters that carry a heavily projecting crown molding. Other than a small three light clerestory window on the ell, six-over-six, double hung sash are the only windows found on the house. Simple crown moldings surmount all of the window openings. The asphalt shingle roof has a moderately steep pitch and large overhang. Significant areas of deterioration are to be found on both the exterior and interior of the house.

The property appears on the 1852 map of the Town of Perkins as belonging to E.C. Hatch who, in the 1860 Valuation of Real and Personal Property in the Town of Perkins, is listed as

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number _____7 Page ____11

owning 44 acres of land. A ship captain, John Maxwell appears to have moved onto the property from Bowdoinham sometime during the 1870's. The 1878 Census lists him as owning 49 acres with a total value of land and buildings at \$775.00. The Maxwell-Tarr property was one of the last active farms on the island when the Tarr's resided there during the 1920's.

19. Tupper-Reed Barn Site.

c. 1800

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar with footings for wings on south and west; maximum dimensions (including wings) 105 feet north to south, 62 feet east to west.

20. Tupper-Reed House Site.

c. 1800

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar with a fieldstone chimney-base at its south end; maximum cellar dimensions 45 feet north to south, 25 feet east to west; fieldstone bulkhead on south side.

21. Unnamed foundation.

by 1858

Dry-laid fieldstone footing; maximum dimensions 47 feet north to south, 39 feet east to west.

22. Barker-Harward House Site.

1770

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar with associated eighteenth/early nineteenth-century bricks; approximate maximum dimensions 21 feet north to south, 20 feet east to west.

23. Theobald Barn Site.

c. 1880

Individual, widely-spaced fieldstones (12-foot centers) for a footing measuring 58 feet north to south, 39 feet east to west.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number _____7 Page ____12

24. Red Camp Site.

Collapsed frame building. Cut and wire nails observed on site.

25. Charles Smith House Site.

c. 1900

Collapsed late nineteenth/early twentieth-century house (nothing other than wire nails evident), originally clapboarded; nature of foundation undetermined (hidden by fallen walls and roof).

26. Sarah Lilly House Site.

c. 1850

Depression containing apparent fill, now alder-covered; no accurate measurements possible.

27. Day-Lewis House Site (Little Swan Island).

c. 1820

Dry-laid fieldstone cellar with fieldstone footing for ell running to the northeast; maximum dimensions of house and ell 18 feet northwest to southeast, 76 feet northeast to southwest; chimney-base of dressed granite in cellar; fieldstone chimney-base in ell; fieldstone-lined well 5 feet from southeast wall of ell; fieldstone barn foundation 65 feet to north of ell, with dimensions 24 feet north to south, 44 feet east to west, and a 15-foot-long fieldstone ramp nearly centered on the exterior of the south wall.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number _____7 Page ____13

Endnote

1. Proceeding of Massachusetts Historical Society, 2nd Series, Vol. VII, 1891, p. 431.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ____8 Page __2

The assemblage of resources that lie within the Swan Island Historic District comprise a remarkably well preserved historic vernacular landscape that reflects the agrarian community that flourished there from the 1760's until the second decade of the twentieth century. The district is eligible for National Register nomination under criterion A for its association with the history and development of this community, and criterion C for the significance of its architecture and distinctive agrarian landscape.

Swan Island's historic archaeological resources are eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion D for a number of reasons. The Euro-American sites of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth centuries will all provide fundamental data on diet, trade patterns and standards of living. Material culture may reflect the beginnings, the agricultural heyday, and the rapid decline reflected in the historical record. As such, the extinct community of Swan Island/Perkins could easily become a laboratory for archaeological data on most of the periods of American history from a century before to a century and a half after the Revolution. There is nothing equivalent to this resource anywhere else in coastal Maine.

In addition to the important information contained in the known sites, it is expected that valuable data will be learned from the earlier and as yet unconfirmed sites. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission in the mid-1970s determined that Euro-American sites dating from the first settlement period (1604-1676) and the period of the frontier wars (1676-1759) are of the highest significance, due to their scarcity, to their vulnerability to erosion and development, and to the very limited information on them in the documentary record. For example, although a number of seventeenth century Maine sites have been or are being studied, very little is known about the domestic architecture of the period, none of which survives above ground. Thus, the site of Christopher Lawson's house and outbuilding will ultimately have the potential to yield important data on the architecture on Swan Island in the 1660s. Likewise, the site of houses referenced from 1719 and ca. 1750 will yield otherwise unobtainable information about residential structures in a (then) remote area during the frontier wars.

Beginning in 1995, the Commission-sponsored Upper Kennebec Archaeological Survey has turned its focus to the colonial sites on Swan Island as evidenced by primary documentary sources. The first phase of this initiative involved reconnaissance-level survey on the southeast corner of the island, where in one area considerable amounts of daub (an early type of mud-based plaster), as well as a few sherds of delftware and combed-yellow slipware were encountered; these could well be later seventeenth century in date. Another area yielded sherds of plain redware, trailing-slip redware, hand-wrought nails, English white saltglaze, and clay pipe-stems, all of early/mid-eighteenth century date. Further survey planned for the future will more intensively examine these areas to determine whether these artifacts are

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ___8 Page __3

associated with domestic structural remains. It is likely that this nomination, and Swan Island's periods of significance, will be amended in the future to recognize the significance of the long colonial history of the property.

1605 - 1755

The first known Europeans to see Swan Island were a party of French explorers under Samuel de Champlain, who sailed up the Kennebec River in the summer of 1605. This expedition had been sent to the south and west from the St. Croix Island settlement, established a year earlier and barely clinging to survival, to try to identify a suitable alternative site for a permanent colony.\(^1\) Champlain wrote of the expedition's northernmost penetration of the river:

Pursuing our route, we came to the lake [Merrymeeting Bay], which is from three to four leagues in length, where there are some islands, and two rivers enter it, the Quinibequy [Kennebec] coming from the north-north-east, and the other from the north-west [Androscoggin]...²

Two years later, in 1607, Champlain drew a manuscript map of New France clearly showing the Kennebec River and several large islands in its upper reaches, one of which may well be a depiction of Swan Island.³

In 1607 the English mounted their first effort to establish a permanent settlement in New England, the so-called Popham Colony.⁴ This was established at the mouth of the Kennebec River. Shortly after this site was selected, a party under Raleigh Gilbert sailed upriver as far as the future site of Augusta and passing Swan Island on each leg of the trip:

So we Sailled up into this ryver near 14 Leags... We fynd this ryver to be very pleasant with many goodly Illands.⁵

In fact, between Augusta and the sea there are not "many" islands, so this is clearly a reference, however oblique, to Swan and Little Swan Islands.

A map published in 1609 by Marc Lescarbot, showing much of New England and the St. Lawrence River, includes the clearly labeled "Kinibeki", with a large island near its confluence with the unnamed Androscoggin. The island, likewise unnamed, can hardly be any other than Swan Island, and it is assumed that Lescarbot's source of information was Champlain.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

The failures of the St. Croix (1604-05) and the Popham (1607-08) settlement efforts were a temporary deterrent to renewed colonial efforts in the northeast by France and England. Indeed, the next English presence on the Kennebec was the establishment within the Plymouth Patent, in 1629, of the Plymouth Colony's trading post at Cushnoc (Augusta). This was followed in 1649 by the Teconnet post in Winslow and the Nehumkeag post in Pittston, as well as the Clarke and Lake Company in Arrowsic in 1654. From mid-century on, the lower Kennebec, particularly south of Merrymeeting Bay, became the focus of numerous Anglo-American farmsteads.

Swan Island officially enters history in a deed dated 1667 from the local Indians Abbagasset and Kennebes to Christopher Lawson, a prominent entrepreneur and land agent representing Boston mercantile interests on the Kennebec. He may well have sought to set himself up in the fur trade (note the reference to an outbuilding, below, which could have been a storehouse for trade goods and pelts). This 1667 deed references:

One island lying & adjoyning in the River of Kennebeck commonly called & knoune by the Indians Capeanagusset, and by the English commonly called & knoune by the name of Swann Island...⁹

The origin of the name Swan Island is not certain, but it is not derived from the presence of that kind of bird. Bartholomew Gosnold sailed the Maine coast in 1602, recording in detail the natural resources he observed, including "Fowles". Swans are not among the fifteen species of birds listed. Notwithstanding the reference to the Indian name "Capeanagusset" above, another tradition claims that "Swan" is a slightly shortened version of the Indian name "Swango". This is very close to the word "sowangan", meaning the bald eagle. "Eagles" head Gosnold's 1602 list of Maine birds. If this derivation of the place-name is correct, it is coincidentally appropriate, given that Swan Island has been and continues to be one of the more important breeding areas in the northeast in the post-DDT era (after 1972) of the bald eagle.

In 1668 Lawson used Swan Island as collateral for a loan of £110.3.0 from the wealthy Boston merchant Humphry Davy, referencing "... my now [new] dwelling house... with one out house [outbuilding].¹³ Four years later, in 1672, Lawson defaulted on the loan and transferred title to Swan Island "with the house and all appurtenances" to Davy.¹⁴

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 5

By the 1680s the Pejepscot Company, a prosperous group of Boston merchants, had gained title to the island, to supplement its large land holdings on the lower Kennebec. In 1714 this company was acquired by the Company of Pejepscot Proprietors. Two years later seven of the partners transferred title to the island to the eighth partner, Adam Winthrop. Throughout the last quarter of the 17th century and the early years of the 18th, there is no record of Anglo-Americans using the island for any purpose, let alone residing there. In this, the land title record reflects the historical record, as Anglo-American Maine was devastated by decades of frontier wars beginning in 1675. For two generations from that point on, and particularly after 1689, Anglo-American Maine from the Kennebec valley eastward was effectively abandoned (the only important exception being the ill-fated Fort William Henry of 1692-96 at Pemaquid). It was not until the waning days of the frontier wars, that prospects for the permanent settlement of Swan Island significantly improved.

In 1719 the Pejepscot Proprietors hired Captain Joseph Heath to survey the Kennebec River. From this survey Heath generated a detailed map of the river, which indicated the existence of a building near the southeast corner of Swan Island. This may have been the residence of Henry Edgar who, reportedly, lived at the southeast corner of the island between 1719-1723.¹⁷ A letter from Edward Hutchinson (one of the Pejepscot Proprietors) to Governor Samuel Shute dated September 7, 1719 makes reference to a tenant at Swan Island who had,

".....Imployed two Indians to bring some things up for him, after they had delivered then drove away one of his oxen and killed it which so discouraged the people (settlers) they dont think themselves safe without some force to cover them for the present." 18

The mention of oxen indicates that the settler was probably engaged in some type of subsistence farming and/or logging. That year or the next, Fort Richmond was constructed by the Pejepscot Proprietors near the western bank of the Kennebec opposite the northern end of Swan Island. While the presence of the fort was intended to encourage European settlement in the area, the island appears to have been uninhabitated for a number of years after 1723. In a deposition he gave in 1754 Thomas Percy of Georgetown claimed have resided on Swan Island in 1730.¹⁹

Jacob Holyoke became the trustee for Adam Winthrop's ownership in the Pejepscot Proprietors in 1741 and on April 18, 1750, he sold Swan Island and Calf Island (Little Swan) to Captain James Whidden for £533, 6s, 8d. Whidden's purchase of Swan Island represented the first permanent settlement on the island and anticipated the creation of the Town of Frankfort (Dresden) by the Kennebec Proprietors in 1752. Swan Island and Little Swan Island became part of the Town of Frankfort upon its creation.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ___8 Page __6

In September 8, 1750, the Whidden farm (located at the southeast end of the Swan Island) was reportedly attacked by a group of Abenaki Indians who took a number of captives. In memorializing Lt. Governor Spencer Phips for relief on May 29, 1751, James Whidden recounted that:

"... early in the Morning his House was surrounded with a party of Indians to the number of Twenty or thereabouts, who in a hostile manner did enter into the house, destroying an Plundering all his furniture, and carried away all that they could of any Value; your Memorialist with his wife saved themselves by getting down into the cellar, which they had but time to do without putting their cloaths to cover their nakedness....²⁰

This vivid account goes on to list the thirteen people taken captive including Whidden's two sons, a daughter and son in law (Noble), their seven children, and two servants. The assault was apparently in response to the killing of an Abenaki Chief by the English near Boston. Most of those taken captive were reportedly sold in Quebec. Whidden's son Solomon died during the ordeal while his other son Timothy, returned to Swan Island in 1751. Eleanor (Franny) Noble, who was educated at a convent school in Montreal, also returned to live on Swan Island in 1761 for a time at the age of thirteen. Her brother Joseph remained in Quebec. Despite the attack of 1750, James Whidden chose to stay on Swan Island. Writing just before the American Revolution, the Reverend Jacob Bailey of Dresden claimed that Whidden's land on Swan Island was so fertile that he was able to raise fifty bushels of wheat from one bushel of seed.²¹ In 1752, Captain Whidden conveyed to Jacob Wendell of Boston, "One full half of Swan Island in Merrymeeting Bay and one half of the buildings thereon for £266, 6s."

1756-1847

In 1756, the Kennebec Proprietors granted 325 acres of this same land to Whidden on, "...the southerly part of Swan Island b. by line across island a little northward of the Bay of Whidden now stands."²² At the same time, the northern two-thirds of the island and Little Swan Island was granted to Dr. Silvester Gardiner, the second largest shareholder of the Kennebec Proprietors (a well capitalized group of Boston investors who bought out the earlier Plymouth proprietors). The so-called Kennebec Purchase consisted of one and a half million acres of land extending from the northern limits of Bath to the northern boundary of Cornville above Skowhegan.²³ Historically, both the Plymouth and the Pejepscot Proprietors claimed ownership of the territory at the head of Merrymeeting Bay including Swan Island. Holyoke's sale of Swan Island to Whidden in 1750 appears to have been contested by Gardiner and the Kennebec Proprietors who forced a compromise which resulted in the 1756 partition of the island.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

Section number 8 Page 7

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

In addition to Swan island, Silvester Gardiner controlled an enormous amount of the Kennebec Proprietor's land and managed to secure a monopoly of the stores and the operation of a supply sloop which sailed between Boston and the Kennebec settlements. Local historian Danny Smith has observed that when subdivisions of company land were made, Gardiner secured the best lots for himself. A 1763 survey map of Pownalborough clearly shows the boundary running roughly east-west in line between the Gardiner and Whidden lands. This same property line is delineated on the 1907 United States Coastal & Geological Survey map, and, it is visible today as a tree line on the east side of the road immediately north of the Maxwell-Tarr house (see inventory and accompanying map).

During the late 1750's James Whidden's land was subdivided several times. The earliest of these subdivisions was a 50 acre plot on the southern tip of the island sold to James Wyman for £53, 6s, 8d in 1758. The same year Whidden sold 210 acres to his son Timothy and 80 acres to his daughter Abigail Noble, the wife of Lazarus Noble. These early subdivisions at the south end of the island appear to have been of irregular shape and largely defined by topography. Several extant stone walls running southeast through the woods on the east side of the road correspond with this early period of subdivisioning. (See map)

Sometime between 1756 and 1763, Silvester Gardiner built a house on the eastern shore of the island (about three fourths of the way up the island) directly across from Little Swan Island. The location of this house must have been chosen for its proximity to moorings in the navigable channel between Swan Island and Little Swan (known as Swan Alley). Gardiner is thought to have built the house as a summer residence for his second daughter Rebecca and her husband Philip Dumaresq who were married in 1763. A house is indicated on this site on a 1763 survey map of the Pownalborough lands. General Henry Dearborn (a commander in Benedict Arnold's ill fated expedition to Quebec), is reported to have stayed at the Dumaresq house en route to Fort Western late in the summer of 1775. The Gardiner-Dumaresq house, as it is known, is still extant and survives as the oldest building on the island. A loyalist, Silvester Gardiner lost most of his land in Massachussets after the Revolution. However, his son-in-law Oliver Whipple, a lawyer, found a flaw in the proceedings sequestering his land in Maine and successfully reclaimed those lands acquired through the Kennebec Proprietors.

In 1786, Silvester Gardiner died in Newport, Rhode Island, and his Swan Island property was left to his second son, John Gardiner. In 1796, Little Swan Island was sold to William Lewis by John Gardiner's older brother William for \$185.00²⁴. Philip and Rebecca Dumaresq's son James lived on the property until the autumn of 1826 when he drowned in a boating accident on the Kennebec.²⁵

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ___8 Page ___8

Another prominent person in addition to Silvester Gardiner that is associated with Swan Island is Jacob Barker. Barker was born on the south end of the island (Barker-Harward site) in 1779 to Quaker parents Robert and Sarah. After finishing school in New Bedford Massachusetts Barker moved to Nantucket. During the War of 1812, he is said to have negotiated large loans for the United States Government to help finance the war effort. Barker was also involved in a number of business ventures including a shipping partnership with Swiss financier Albert Gallatin and the establishment of the first successful line of steamships in 1825.²⁶

Swan Island appears to have had a well established population of farmers, woodcutters, and fisherman by the late eighteenth century. The 1766 Census of Pownalborough indicates that there were probably at least eighteen people living on the island that year.²⁷ The Call, Chapman, Cushing, Gardiner, Goodwin, Harward, and Lewis families all are recorded as having owned land on Swan Island at the turn of the eighteenth century. Cultivation of the land by these residents seems to have taken place primarily on the eastern side of the island where the land is loamy and most fertile. This side of the island probably also afforded the early settlers easy access to the river and moorings for sailing vessels.

Swan Island residents appear to have been relatively prosperous during the first decades of the nineteenth century. Several retired sea captains are known to have settled on the island during this period. During the early years of the nineteenth century, the American Revolutionary veteran Major Samuel Tubbs (d.1810) had a Federal manner house built on the northern head of the island overlooking both channels of the Kennebec. The prominently situated Tubbs (Reed) House survives as the second oldest building on the island.

1847 - c. 1940

By the 1840's the residents of Swan Island were reportedly dissatisfied with the high tax rates levied on them by the Town of Dresden. While there seems to have been significant opposition from the "mother town" to the secession, the inhabitants of Swan Island prevailed, and on June 24, 1847, the act incorporating Swan Island and Little Swan Island as the Town of Perkins was approved by Governor John W. Dana. The town was named after Col. Thomas Handasyd Perkins, Jr., a wealthy Boston china merchant who married Jane Frances Dumaresq (the grand daughter of Philip and Rebecca Dumaresq). Introduced to the island by his wife in the 1820's, Perkins is credited with having been instrumental in facilitating the establishment of the township. Thomas Perkins is perhaps best known as the patron of the Perkins Institute for the Blind in South Boston. Thomas and Jane Frances were summer residents on the island until his death in 1854.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number	8	Page	9
----------------	---	------	---

The two decades following incorporation appear to have been prosperous ones for the Town of Perkins, with agriculture being the mainstay of the economy. Cultivation of the land was extensive, with significant crops of wheat, barley, corn, and oats being harvested annually. According to the 1850 Census, the population of Perkins was 84 and the economy was almost completely based on agriculture. Peleg Call (brickmaker) and George Call (carpenter) are the only grown men not listed as farmers. By 1860, the population had peaked at 95 and by 1864 the total combined value of personal property and real estate in Perkins was listed as \$29,637. Apart from farmers, the 1860 Census of Perkins lists William Hebbard as physician/eclectic, Peleg Reed as Engineer of Mill (presumably in Richmond), J. Roberts as ship carver, Celine Saunders as dressmaker, Zoraida Reed as teacher, Moses Call as blacksmith, and William Lilly as house joiner. According to Town Reports, a frame school house with a split granite underpinning was constructed just south of the public cemetery for \$300.00 in 1853. In 1854, enrollment in the school was 15 with students ranging from 4 to 20 years in age, and by 1863 the number of students attending school in Perkins had risen to 30. The school was reportedly used for religious services, town meetings, and writing schools on occasion.

The 1860 Return on Neat Cattle and Sheep recorded that 129 sheep and 67 head of cattle were being raised in the town. By 1864 the number of cattle had risen to 74 and the islands' sheep population had nearly quadrupled to 466. This marked rise in the sheep population was, perhaps, due to the Civil War and the resulting need for woolen garments to clothe Union soldiers. In 1859, two vessels (the Constitution [1000 tons] and the Elvira Owen [873 tons]), were listed as being "owned in Perkins". Shipbuilding appears to have taken place on Swan Island since at least the late eighteenth century. The first vessel listed as being built on the island was the 167 ton Brig Polly constructed at Shipyard Point in 1790 and owned by Thomas Harward. Between 1790 and 1877, over a dozen sailing vessels were launched from Swan Island. Spring fishing appears to have been a popular off-season activity on the island in the mid-nineteenth century. The Perkins Fish Committee recorded that during the 1850's, approximately 200 barrels of shad was being landed on Swan Island annually.

By the 1850's, Swan Island had been fully subdivided into roughly rectangular farm plots running east-west across the island (parallel to the 1756 Kennebec Proprietors division of the Whidden and Gardiner lands), ranging in size from 10 to 160 acres. The exception to this rectangular layout are the irregularly shaped plots subdivisioned from the Whidden property at the south end of the island during the 1750's.³⁰ The 1860 Agricultural Schedule of the Census lists 915 of the 1300 acres in Perkins as being "improved".

In contrast to the eighteenth century settlement of Swan Island, which was primarily concentrated on the southeast corner, the population of nineteenth century Perkins was distributed along the length

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ___8 Page __10

of the island. A system of small interconnected roads linking the north and south appears to have developed early in the nineteenth century as all areas of the island were settled. Houses on Swan Island built during the nineteenth century were oriented to the roads as opposed to the river, as had been the case during the eighteenth century. The settlement of White's Landing (now Richmond), beginning about 1815 seems to have induced Swan Island residents to develop the landing at the northwest corner of the island. By the second half of the nineteenth century regular ferry service to Richmond had been established from the landing and a brick kiln (which is said to have produced the bricks for the Hathorn Block in Richmond) was in operation nearby. In 1879, "all gates and bars were ordered taken down" and a series of smaller roads were formally linked to create the "Perkins Highway" connecting the Harward property at the south of the island with the town landing at the north. In 1889 the Perkins highway districts was formed. The course of the present road generally follows the 1879 alignment.

Perkins experienced economic and population decline in the years immediately following the Civil War. This decline is illustrated in the Valuation of Real and Personal Property figures for the Town of Perkins which in 1860 listed a total value of land and buildings in the town as \$20,049. By 1870, the figure had dropped to \$14,865. During the same period the population of Perkins dropped from its 1860 high of 95 to 71 in 1870. Between 1864 and 1870 the number of sheep on Swan and Little island decreased from 466 to fewer than 70.

The establishment of a Sagadahoc Company ice house (20,000 ton capacity) at Shipyard Point in 1871 appears to have provided a much needed boost to the economy of Perkins. By 1879, Dr. C.G. Underwood was operating a second ice house (capacity 12,000 tons) on the eastern shore near the head of Swan Island, and in the early 1880's the Consumer ice house (capacity 27,000 tons) was established just north of Shipyard Point. The ice industry on Swan Island was large enough to attract a number of workers and a significant amount of revenue to Perkins. A large boarding house was constructed north of Shipyard Point during the 1880's to accommodate workers from the Consumer operation (see Lovett-Leavett-Consumer House site.) About this time, C.G. Underwood constructed an ostentatious Italianate house with crenelated towers several hundred meters south of the Underwood ice houses. The Underwood residence was destroyed by fire in the 1930's.

The year-round population of Perkins grew slightly to 78 in 1880, but thereafter began to steadily decline as agriculture and the ice industry waned. By the late 1880's there were less than 150 acres of land under cultivation and by 1900 only one ice company was still operating on the island. The 1900 Census recorded the population of Perkins at 61 and listed L.R. Call, merchant, J.H. Wade, smith, Ralph Reed, Pharmicist, and William Lewis, fisherman as living in Perkins. Fewer than half of the families in Perkins were actively engaged in farming at the turn of the century. By 1910, the island's

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ___8 Page __11___

population had dropped to 39 and only one family was still farming on the island. On July 1, 1918 there were not enough people to fill the town offices and the Town of Perkins ceased to exist, becoming Perkins Plantation. During the Depression much of the property was lost to mortgage or tax foreclosures. Ferry service to Swan Island was discontinued in 1936 when the Richmond-Dresden Bridge was completed.

There does appear to have been a significant summer population during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries including Prudence Hibbard (widow of Dr. W.W. Hibbard), Mary Saunders, and Mortimer Priest. It is interesting to note that Swan Island had summer residents beginning with Philip and Rebecca Dumaresq in the eighteenth century more-or-less continuously until the twentieth century, when it was taken over by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The eighteenth and early nineteenth century summer population of Swan Island significantly pre-dates the rusticators who came to Maine in great numbers after the Civil War.

Long interested in acquiring land with which to undertake waterfowl management in Merrymeeting Bay, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife began buying the farms on the island during the early 1940's. By the 1950's, the only remaining piece of private land was the Curtis cemetery which was, subsequently, sold to the Department. The maintenance of the island's historic land use pattern is in large part due to the protection provided by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Today approximately 900 acres on the island are forested while 400 acres remain in open fields which are mowed by I.F. & W. workers on an annual basis. This ratio of forested to open land is nearly equivalent to the land use pattern visible in c. 1940 aerial photographs of the island. During the late 1960's, the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife undertook the restoration of both the Gardiner-Dumaresq and Tubbs-Reed Houses. The Robinson House and Priest House are both used to house Inland Fisheries and Wildlife workers.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ___8 Page __12

Endnotes

- 1. St. Croix Island International Historic Site was listed in the National Register October 15, 1966.
- 2. Champlain, Samuel de, Discovery of the Coast of the Almouchiquois as far as the Forty-Second Degree of Latitude, and Details of the Voyage, in George Parker Winship, ed., *Sailors Narratives* of Voyages along the New England Coast (Boston, 1905), 70-71.
- 3. Champlain, Samuel de, manuscript map of New France, 1607 (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Vellum Chart Collection #15), reproduced in Emerson W. Baker, et. al., eds., *American Beginnings: Exploration, Culture, and Cartography in the Land of Norumbega*, Plate 2 (Lincoln, Nebraska, 1994).
- 4. The site of the Popham Colony was listed in the National Register on February 16, 1970.
- 5. Davies, James, The Relation of a Voyage unto New England, in George Parker Winship, ed., <u>op.</u> <u>cit.</u>, 169.
- 6. Lescarbot, Marc, Figure de la Terre Neuve, grand riviere de Canada, et cotes de l'ocean en la Nouvelle France, in his *Histoire de la Nouvelle France*, 1609 (National Archives of Canada, NMC 97952, reproduced in Emerson W. Baker, et. al., eds., *op. cit.*, 99.
- 7. The Cushnoc trading post site was listed in the National Register on October 16, 1989.
- 8. The Clarke and Lake Company site was listed in the National Register on November 21, 1978. The sites of the Teconnet and Nehumkeag posts are currently undergoing intensive-level archaeological survey.
- 9. <u>Records of the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England</u>, Vol. 5, ed. By Nathaniel B. Shurtleff (Boston, 1854), 399.
- 10. Gasnold, Bartholomew, To the Honourable Sir Walter Raleigh, in George Parker Winship, ed., op. cit., 48-49.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number ___8 Page __13

- 11. Allen, Charles Edwin, History of Dresden, Maine (Lewiston, 1977), 113.
- 12. Eckstorm, Fannie Hardy, *Indian Place-Names of the Penobscot Valley and the Maine Coast* (Orono, 1941, reprinted 1960), 140.
- 13. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., *op. cit.*, 400-401.
- 14. Ibid., 402.
- 15. Kershaw, Gordon E., *The Kennebeck Proprietors*, (Portland, 1975), 18-19.
- 16. York Deeds, Book VIII, Fol. 178-179.
- 17. Thayer Correspondence, <u>Deposition of Henry Edgar, Sept. 27, 1754</u>
- 18. Fleming, <u>Richmond on the Kennebec</u>, p. 115.
- 19. Allen, *op. cit.*, 95
- 20. Pejepscot Papers, Vol. V, Maine Hisorical Society.
- 21. Bailey, Rev. Jacob, Personal Diary, 1774.
- 22. York County Records, Vol. 30: Fol 112
- 23. Smith, Danny, Geneaology of the Gardiner Family., Gardiner, Maine.
- 24. Fleming, John Daly, Richmond on the Kennebec., p.117
- 25. A detailed account of this incident can be found in *Early Recollections of Robert Hallowell Gardiner*., 1936
- 26. Allen, p.98
- 27. <u>A Return and True Representation of the West Side of the Town of Pownalborough, June 19, 1766</u>

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 14

- 28. 1860 U.S. Census.
- 29. Allen, p.839
- 30. These subdivisions are illustrated on the 1907 U.S.C. & G.S. map of the Kennebec from Abagadassett Point to Court House Point.

River

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number $\frac{9}{}$ Page $\frac{2}{}$

Bibliography

Abstract of Title, Swan Island and Perkins Plantation.", 1942

Allen, Charles Edwin, "History of Dresden, Maine.", 1931

Allport, Susan, "Sermons in Stone - The Stone Walls of New England." New York: W.W. Norton, 1990.

Bailey, Reverend Jacob, "Personal Diary.", 1774.

Eckstorm, Fannie Hardy, "Indian Place Names of the Penobscot Valley and the Maine Coast." Orono, Maine, 1941 (1960 reprint).

Everson, Jenny, "Tidewater Ice on the Kennebec.", 1971

Fleming, John Daly, "Richmond on the Kennebec." Lewiston, Maine: Twin City Printery, 1966.

Gardiner, Robert Hallowell, "Early Recollections of Robert Hallowell Gardiner.", 1936.

Kershaw, Gordon E., "The Kennebec Proprietors." Portland, 1975.

Pejepscot Papers, Vol. V, Maine Historical Society.

"Proceedings of Massachusetts Historical Society.", 1891

Smith, Danny, "Geneaology of the Gardiner Family." Gardiner, Maine.

United States Census, 1790, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1900, 1910.

Valuation of Real and Personal Property for the Town of Perkins, 1860 - 1886."

Winslop, George Parker, ed., "Sailors Narratives of Voyages Along the New England Coast." Boston, 1905.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SWAN ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number _____10 Page ___2

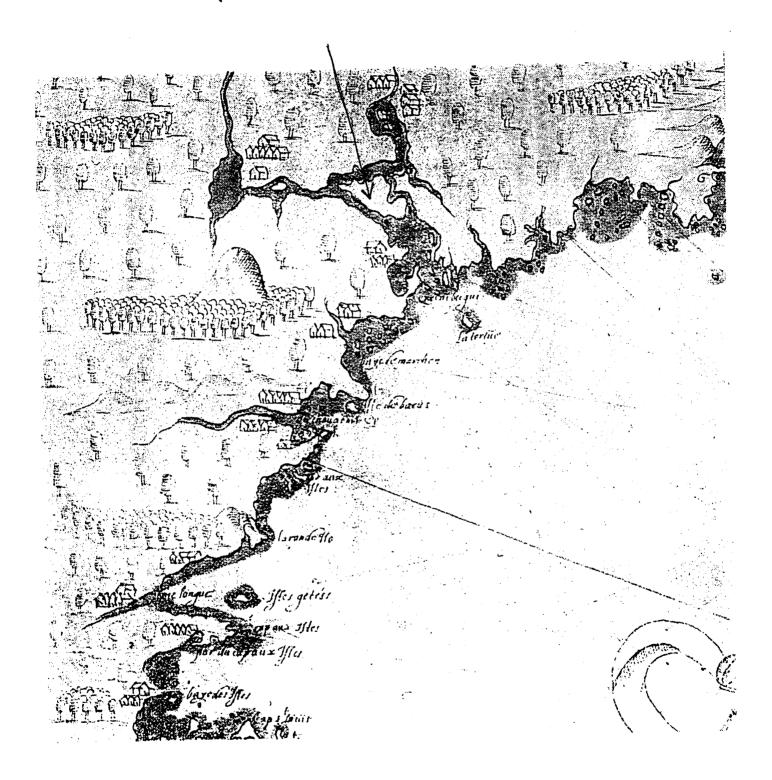
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Swan Island Historic District is comprised of Swan and Little Swan Islands occupying the Land Use Guidance Zoning Map SA001, Plan 1, Lot 1. See map.

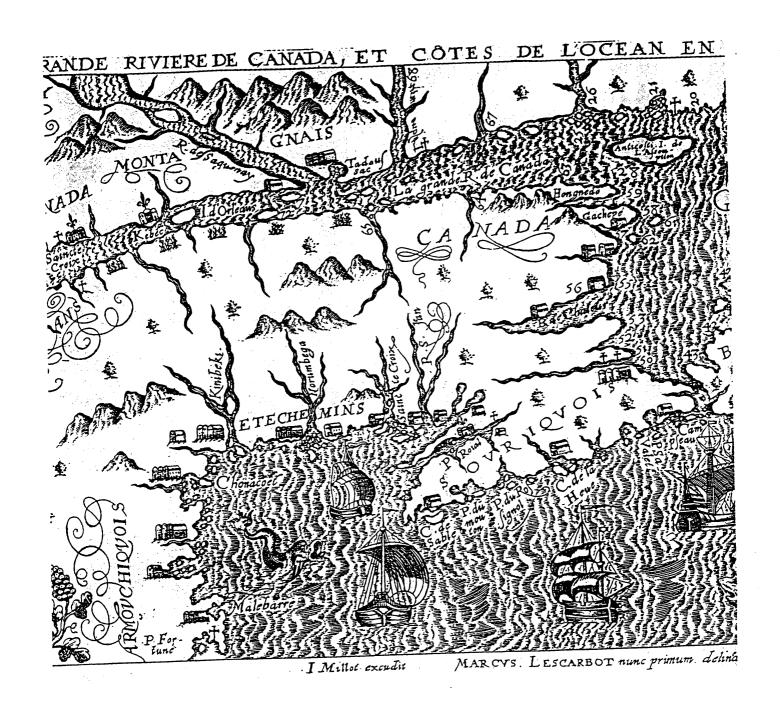
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the district is defined by the high tide water line on Swan Island and Little Swan Island. The District is discontiguous and is separated by a narrow stretch at the eastern branch of the Kennebec River.

Champlain's 1607 Map of the Coast of Maine (the Kennebec River is shown top center)



Lescarbot's 1609 Map of Northeastern corner of North America (the Kennnebec/Kinibeki is shown at left center)



Swan Island Historic District

Richmond Vic., Maine

