

PH0508608

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 1 1977

DATE ENTERED MAR 21 1978

**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

Sproul Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

N of South Bristol on ME 129

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

South Bristol

VICINITY OF

Walpole

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st-Hon. David Emery

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Lincoln

CODE

015

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. John Robinson

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

South Bristol

VICINITY OF

Maine

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lincoln County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wiscasset

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 type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1833</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Sproul Homestead in South Bristol consists of an early Colonial cape style house (1749) which serves <sup>as</sup> an ell to a fine Federal residence of 1815 which was moved from across the road and joined to it in 1833.

The main part of the house consists of a 2-story frame building with two internal chimneys, clapboarded facade (shingled sides), granite foundation, and low hipped roof. In plan the house is rectangular and is of central hall layout. The facade is 5 bays wide, with 6/6 windows in the second story (as elsewhere) and 1/1 in the first (one of the few recent alterations to the house). The central entrance is a panelled door flanked by Doric pilasters with entablatured lintel above a recessed transom of four lights.

The shingled side walls of the main part of the house are two bays wide and, as on the facade the windows are framed by delicate moldings.

Running to the west from the rear of the main part of the house is a center-chimney Cape style house (1749) which was attached to the house in 1833 to function as an ell. This Cape has clapboarded front and rear and a shingled west end. Its windows, where original, are 9/6; a 4/4 is present in the west end and a 1/1 and bay window with 1/1 of the Italianate period are to the right (east) of the central doorway of the original facade. The doorway is simply framed with four-light transom. A shed-type dormer containing two 8/8 windows protrudes from the roof above the bay window; old photographs show two gabled dormers here and this alteration was made in 1961. The rear of the Cape, which faces north, contains a pair of central 8/8 windows.

Extending northward from the junction of the Federal and Colonial elements (house and ell) is a frame clapboarded structure with shed roof and details compatible with the other elements. Its principle facade, two bays wide, faces east and contains on each of 2 stories a pair of 6/6 windows. A rear entrance and 8/8 window face north in the one-story back of the addition.

Internally the various components are very well preserved, whether Colonial, Federal, or late Federal. Particularly fine are the restrained Federal mantelpieces, wainscoting and friezes in the main part of the house. The earlier part of the house contains an unchanged pine panelled room with corner cupboard, some stencilling and original hardware.

The Sproul Homestead is a very fine example of a farm containing mid-18th-century and early 19th-century elements. Evidently it has been well cared for by various generations of owners, and recent alterations have been discreet.

# 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 checked="" 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		

SPECIFIC DATES    1749, 1815

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although the principal significance of the Sproul Homestead lies in its interesting and well preserved combination of mid-18th century and Federal architecture it is also noteworthy in its connection with one of the earliest and most numerous families in the region.

The progenitor of this large clan was James Sproul, born in Ireland near Belfast who came to Boston in 1727. In 1729 he arrived at Pemaquid with Col. David Dunbar who built Fort Frederick, the last of a series of forts built on the site of the original trading post of 1630.

James' eldest son, Robert, also born in Ireland in 1716, built in 1749 the original Colonial cape in the Walpole section of South Bristol which was later occupied by his third son William, born in 1762. The impressive Federal house of 1815 was built by William's eldest son, Robert, on his father's land but on the east side of the road leading to South Bristol. After the death of his father he moved the structure in 1833 to the higher land on the west side of the road and attached it to the older house in the manner in which it now stands.

These two Sproul family homes joined as one provide not only an interesting architectural mixture but also close ties with two early generations of probably the largest family in the region.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

John Johnston, A History of Bristol and Bremen. Albany, N.Y., 1873

Christine Dodge, Ed., Vital Records of Old Bristol and Nobleboro. Brunswick, 1951

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 9	4, 5, 5, 6, 0, 0	4, 8, 6, 1, <sup>625</sup> <del>880</del>	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

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE October, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street 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. Feltflewold*  
TITLE S.H.P.O. DATE October 27, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>3.21.78</u>
ATTEST: <u><i>Walter H. Cole</i></u>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>3.10.78</u>