

PH 3546 35

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 2 1976  
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

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

\* Barrell Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of York Corner on

Beech Ridge Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

York Corner vic VICINITY OF

1st Hon. David Emery

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maine

23

York

031

3 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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore J. Blaisdell

STREET & NUMBER

Beech Ridge Road

CITY, TOWN

York

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

York County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Alfred

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

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

Social and economic historians look to rural buildings and describe the activities they were designed to house, while relating periods of intense building activity to the opportunities for the accumulation of capital. Such a development can be traced through the four buildings stages of the Barrell Homestead in York, Maine.

*L. EDWARDS  
11.9.76*

Built circa 1720, the original portion of the house—distinguishable by the beams in the cellar and the rooms of the first and second floors—was rectangular in shape ~~with a hip roof~~. In the mid-1760's the house was repaired and an extension to the original frame produced an L shaped structure. By 1841 extensive repairs were again undertaken and remodeling of the house was carried out. This work included the building of a circular staircase which is still in the house. It was probably at this time that the house became square with a large gable roof. Later an ell was added and still later the side entry was enlarged and extended. The house has remained structurally unaltered for more than 100 years, with the exception of the introduction of modern conveniences.

Facing south, the gable front facade has a shallow entry extension in the center of its first tier of four windows. The single panel door has sidelights and a simple surround. Above ground level is a second tier of four windows and above these inset into the gable portion of the "new" roof is a third tier of three windows and a fourth tier of one window at the peak. The corners of this front facade are decorated with simple pilasters which extend the entire height of the building.

A large entrance extension protrudes from the western facade. Built as a small gable structure, this doorway is slightly more elaborate than the other. The ell attaches to the north side of the house with one of its long walls continuous with the long western wall of the main house. A single door opens into the ell on this side. In addition, this western elevation has a ground floor and second floor of seven windows each. Two chimneys straddle the high gable roof ridge at opposite ends of the original rectangular house.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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

c. 1720, 1841

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This, generous house in what was once a densely wooded section of the town of York has its antecedents deeply rooted in the history of the community. The house remains today in the hands of descendants of Jonathan Sayward who acquired the house in 1758 upon the default of a mortgage.

Built about 1720 by Matthew Grover on land acquired from Edward Rishworth, the original proprietor, the house was sold in 1745 to Grover's son, who in 1757, gave a mortgage deed to Jonathan Sayward for £ 100 for one year. Failing to make payment, the son forfeited the house to Sayward, a justice of the peace and the wealthiest merchant in York.

Sayward's daughter, Sally, in 1758, married Nathaniel Barrell, a colorful and somewhat eccentric figure born in Boston, and at the time of the marriage, a Portsmouth, New Hampshire businessman. A year later, Barrell served as a lieutenant in Gen. Wolfe's army on the Plains of Abraham before Quebec. In 1760 presumably for business reasons, Barrell sailed for England where he was to spend the next three years. While there he apparently gained some favor at the court of the newly crowned George III since, upon his return, he served for three years on Governor Wentworth's council for the Province of New Hampshire.

In 1764, Barrell came strongly under the Sandemanian doctrine, preached by the Reverend Robert Sandeman, a disciple of Reverend John Glass and the "Glassites" in England. In his zealous enthusiasm for this new cause, Nathaniel Barrell was openly critical of the teachings of other clergymen, thereby making enemies among influential citizens. In 1765, as repercussions of the Stamp Act were felt in Portsmouth, Barrell, adhering to Sandeman's simple doctrine that Christians should "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's" refused to join in opposition to the measure. Labeled by some as a Tory, his business dwindled and he moved to his father-in-law's farm on Beech Ridge in York.

Barrell's obsession with the Sandemanian doctrine was also a source of friction between him and his wife's father, a pious man and pillar of the First Parish Church in York. He even refused to permit his children to visit their grandfather. Sayward, then, had as heir to his extensive business interests only one child, a daughter married to a man who had failed as a merchant, denied him the right to know his grandchildren and whose "temper is very short and his conversation insupportable". In addition, Sayward, as one of the "Rescinders" of 1768 had, along with his son-in-law, come under suspicion as a Tory and was stripped of all his public offices.

(See continuation sheets)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

George Ernst, New England Miniature Freeport, 1961

C. E. Banks, History of York, Boston, 1931

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 361120 4778100  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE **Frank A. Beard, Historian**  
**Stephen Kaplan, Graduate Assistant**

ORGANIZATION **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** DATE **July 1976**

STREET & NUMBER **31 Western Avenue** TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN **Augusta, Maine** STATE

# 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 *Carl B. Shetterworth, Jr.*  
TITLE *State Historic Preservations Officer* DATE *July 26, 1976*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *12/12/76*

ATTEST: *[Signature]* DATE *12/16/76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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In 1787, however, Nathaniel Barrell, in his fiery opposition to the proposed federal constitution, reflected the sentiments of the majority of York voters and was chosen as one of two delegates to the ratifying convention in Boston. Once in the city, however, and in the presence of such giants as Samuel Adams and John Hancock, his judgement in the matter was swayed by persuasion and beguilement. The Convention of 365 delegates voted for ratification by a slight majority of 19, of which Nathaniel Barrell was one.

He, himself, viewed his return to York with trepidation but, although unpopular, he was unharmed and spent the remainder of his years at what was now called "Barrell Grove". There he was visited by many friends from other parts and was always welcomed warmly on his frequent visits to Boston.

Distrusting his son-in-law's impulsive nature, Jonathan Sayward, upon his death in 1797, bequeathed Barrell Grove to his daughter and then to Nathaniel's son John, and his business interests to another grandson, Jonathan. To Nathaniel he left " a decent suit of apparell for every part of his Body and the walking stick he gave me".

When Sarah Barrell, wife of Nathaniel, died in 1805, nine of their eleven children had reached maturity. The oldest, Sally Sayward Barrell, "Madam Wood", gained fame as Maine's first professional female novelist, publishing works of considerable popularity including: "Julia, or the Illuminated Baron", "Dorval, or the Speculator", and "Amelia or the Influence of Virtue".

In 1818, Barrell's youngest son, George G., was appointed U.S. Consul to Malaga, Spain, in which post he served until his death in 1838.

Nathaniel Barrell, after devoting his later years largely to agricultural pursuits, was buried in the family plot at Barrell Grove. He died in 1831 on the eve of his 99th birthday.

In 1841, the house, rich in its historical associations, was altered from its original two-story, hip roofed form into the present massive three-story gable roof structure and an extensive ell was added.