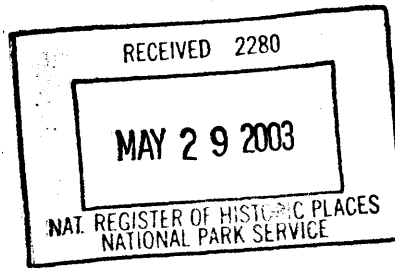


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" 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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Freeman Farm Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 342 West Gray Road N/A not for publication

city or town Gray N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04530

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Laurel S. Fredenburgh 5/22/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson R. Beal 7/10/03
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 3 | 1 | buildings |
| 1 | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 4 | 1 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE / Agricultural Field

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE / Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE / Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC / Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation GRANITE

walls SYNTHETICS / vinyl

WOOD / Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other BRICK

Narrative Description

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

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Continuation Sheet

FREEMAN FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

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DESCRIPTION

The Freeman Farm Historic District consists of an one-hundred acre farmstead, located on the west side of the West Gray Road in Gray Maine. The farmstead includes three contributing buildings, a house with attached ells (c. 1812), a New England-style barn (1830s), and a poultry house (c. 1880), as well as stone walls, historic orchards, fields, woods, and gardens, and an old well, which taken together constitute a site. Two non-contributing elements are included within the district; a c. 1930 garage and an old family cemetery. Each resource is discussed in detail below.

House and ell, c. 1812 (contributing)

The house at the Freeman Farm is an one-story, center-chimney cape, with a long, two-part ell extending to the south and west. The main facade faces the road to the southeast (for convenience this will be shortened to east for purposes of this nomination), and contains a center door surmounted by a four light transom, which is complimented by a pair of symmetrically placed nine-over-six double hung windows on either side. Two similar windows on the first floor, and two six-over-six windows in the attic are evenly distributed along the north elevation, while three more nine-over-six windows are balanced across the southern elevation. The structure sits on a granite foundation and is topped with asphalt, through which a single gabled dormer protrudes through the rear. This is the earliest segment of the house and was constructed c. 1812. It features the characteristic narrow corner boards, small boxed cornice and broad, low roof of a vernacular Maine cape of the Federal period. While the structure was clad in vinyl siding several decades ago, it was done in a manner that does not obstruct the simple exterior features.

The main mass of the building is extended by a protracted, "L" shaped wing to the south. Narrower than the main house, the front wall of this appendage is positioned in line with ridge of the main house, and the back wall is flush with its western elevation. On the eastern facade the appendage is divided into two visual units. The unit to the north, closest to the main house, contains a central doorway flanked with two original nine-over-six double windows to the south and larger, modern windows to the north. A single brick chimney rises from behind the original sash windows, and an arched trellis decorates the entrance. The southern segment of the ell contains two interior sliding wooden doors (leading to the workshop and former woodshed) and at the far southern end, another nine-over-six window. The southern gable end of this projection contains three additional windows, however yet another ell segment is attached to its western wall. The roof ridge of this final segment runs perpendicular to that of the east facing main house and ell. The south facing facade of this section has two nine-over-six windows and a six panel door, before ending in an un-punctuated end bay. This farthest segment of the building has a higher, more substantial granite foundation than that of the remainder of the house, and at one time may have served as the farm's milk room.

The interior of the Freeman homestead reflects five generations of Freeman family occupation. The main house consists of four rooms on the first floor clustered around the central chimney. With the

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FREEMAN FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

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exception of the northeast corner room, each contains a fireplace set in restrained Federal surround. The kitchen fireplace and bake oven are located in the southeastern front room. The rooms all have plaster walls, wide pine flooring and six-panel doors with Norfolk latches. In addition, the northeast parlor is decorated with wide-panel wainscotting and simple chair rail, while the top panels of each of the six doors leading out of the kitchen are painted with a naive landscape done in brown and black tones. Every window and door on the first floor is trimmed with a wide, flattened double ogee and cove moulding which terminates at the corners into flat square blocks. This trim is characteristic of later Greek Revival tradition and suggests the rooms were redecorated some decades after the house was first constructed.

The second floor, consisting of two rooms, is accessed by a winder stair with tapered balusters and newel posts, located in the front all. The northern room is finished with plaster walls, pine floors and exposed, beaded rafters, while the southern room has only a small amount of plaster adjacent to where the ell is attached. The remainder of this room displays the cape's roof framing and sheathing. A small door leads to the rafter and purlin roofed attic, which is unfinished and extends continuously to the west and north. This attic can also be reached via a stair case from the new first floor kitchen area. The cellar is accessed via a door under the winder staircase. Extending from the northeast corner of the house is a barrel vaulted, cement root cellar, built after 1938 for the storage of apples.

Currently, the first floor of the ell contains a bathroom, diningroom, and kitchen in the spaces originally used as a wood shed and summer kitchen, and a sunroom is nestled in the southwest interior corner of the ell where the privy was formerly located. However the far southern end of the ell, and its western extension remain unfinished work spaces, used as a workshop, storage shed and wood crib.

Barn, c. 1830 (contributing)

The Freeman Barn is a multi-purpose agricultural structure located to the southwest of the farmhouse. This two story timber-framed structure faces the farm lane in the south and closely follows the traditional New England Barn design of the late Federal/early Greek Revival period, although the 6-pitch roof is somewhat lower than the norm for this period. The southern facade includes a pair of large exterior sliding doors, built of diagonal, tongue-and-groove boards, leading to the central drive. This opening is flanked on either side by hinged pedestrian doors at the far corners of the facade. Two six-over-six double hung windows are set under the broad gable roof. Three fixed, horizontally-oriented, eight-light sash are symmetrically distributed along the east wall of the barn, while two smaller windows were randomly placed on the west. The rear, or northern elevation contains another two six-over-six windows under the gable roof and one small, sliding door, inset with a six-light sash. The front of the building is located at the edge of small rise, enabling the drive to be accessed via a low concrete ramp, directly from the farm lane. Technically a bank-barn, the land falls away from south and west sills, thus forming a small cellar under the remainder of the building. Granite top stones support the barn on the south and west elevations, while the east and north foundation consists of wooden piers placed on piled stones and covered with unpainted

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vertical boarding. A short wooden door under the northeast corner provides access to the cellar. Narrow corner boards and an asphalt roof conclude the exterior building treatment.

The interior of the Freeman barn is divided into three sections: the central drive, the eastern aisle and the western aisle. The central drive is positioned slightly off center, towards the east; allowing the narrower cow stalls on the eastern aisle to be warmed easily. The western aisle contains horse stalls in the south, a grain room in the middle, a staircase to the hayloft, and finally, a ground level pen in the northwest corner. This pen, now filled with fire wood, has a small door through the foundation-level boarding in the northern wall, and was used either to house sheep, or more likely, swine. Hay mows are positioned over each of the side aisles. The interior framing of the barn suggests that it has been altered overtime. The low pitch of the major rafter minor purlin roof, along with the two story gunstock posts along the eastern wall, may be remnants of an earlier barn, possibly one that had its main entrance under the eastern eaves. However, the current configuration of the barn suggests that its was almost completely rebuilt in the early mid-nineteenth century. At this time the orientation of the central aisle was changed, the grain room replaced a threshing floor, and the exterior doors were hung. To accommodate the relationship between the gunstock posts, plate and girts on the east side of the building, the newer posts on the west side had supporting wooden blocks added to the face of the timbers to support the girt and allow for the complex joinery necessitated by the rafter, plate, and girt union. In the twentieth century additional 2 x 8 supports have been installed just under the transverse girts, parallel to the hay mows, and the mow floor extended across the northern end of the barn.

Poultry House, c. 1880 (Contributing)

The Freeman Poultry house is a one and one-half story, stud-framed structure located on a rise to the south of the house and barn. The ridge of the gable roof runs roughly east to west, and the entrance and a single six-over six window are located in the narrow western gable end. However, the building is clearly oriented to maximize its southern exposure. The clapboarded structure is built into the south side of a small bank, thus creating three levels of living and breeding space for the chickens (cellar, main floor and attic). The southern facade contains six double-hung six-over-six windows on the main floor, and the same number of six-over-three windows set just above the mortared fieldstone cellar foundation. Two more of these smaller windows join a small batten door at the cellar level on the west elevation, while three of the six-over-six windows illuminate the main floor, and a single six-over-six is centered under the gable in the attic. The entire cellar level is lined with mortared fieldstone, however, this foundation is topped with cut granite capstones at grade level along the north and west sides. The building is narrow, approximately 8 by 20 feet, with a steeply pitched, rafter-purlin, overhanging asphalt roof; boxed cornices, corner boards and frieze trim as its only ornamentation. Wooden steps lead to a Victorian four panel door on the western facade.

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The interior of the Freeman Poultry house is divided into three levels; the stone lined cellar with cement floor, the main floor and the attic. Angled poultry roosts with raised dropping boards are located on each floor. Nesting boxes are built under the eaves in the attic and against the north wall on the main floor. An enclosed stairwell positioned at the western end of the structure leads from the main floor to the attic, while a simpler set of stairs give access to the cellar below. Patches in the south side of the roof above the nesting boxes indicate that ventilators or hatches were previously installed. Oddly, unless the chickens used the stairs, there is no remaining evidence indicating that the chickens on the main and attic floors had direct access either to the outside, or to the other levels. This may indicate that the house was designed to keep distinct breeds separate.

Site (contributing)

In addition to the buildings, the Freeman Farm consists of 12 acres of cleared land and 88 acres of cultivated forest of white and red pine. The cleared land fans out to the south, west and north of the homestead and barn and it can be divided into three section of roughly equal size. Immediately to the west of the house an approximately 5 acre field is defined by a stone wall on the north, the barn and a stone wall bounded woods road on the south, and the edge of the woods on the west. The old family cemetery is located in the northwest corner of this field, surrounded by a stone wall, and nestled against the trees. Although much of this parcel is flat, a rise is located in the southwest corner, behind the barn. Several old apple trees are located in the middle of the field, as well as the rise. Closer to the house is an old hand pump and terraced flower gardens. The upper, or southern field, is slightly smaller, and occupies a hill top immediately to the south of the woods road, garage and driveway. Again defined largely by stone walls, this field contains about a dozen old apple trees, an old well and the farm's vegetable garden. The Poultry House is located in the western end of this field, at the edge of a small gully which drains the field to the southwest. The northern, or lower field is located to the north of the house, and is separated from the West Gray Road by a small pine grove at its eastern edge. This field consists of mixed grass and herbaceous plants. Another field was cultivated historically, to the west of the upper field, however this was planted in pine three decades ago. Mature hardwood trees line the stone walls, the woods road and the edge of the wood lot.

Garage, c.1960s (non-contributing)

Built of frame construction and covered with vinyl siding, this small, gable fronted, two bay-garage is set between the southern end of the ell and the eastern side of the barn. It is considered non-contributing due to its relatively recent age.

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Cemetery (non-contributing)

At the northwest corner of the 12 acre cleared fields lies the family cemetery. Bounded by stone walls, this family cemetery was in use by at least 1838 when Jonathan Freeman died. All of the bodies have been exhumed and re-buried in the Gray Cemetery.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture

Period of Significance

1805 - 1953

Significant Dates

C. 1812

C. 1830

C. 1880

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Name of repository:

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Freeman Farm in West Gray, Maine, is an exceptional property that conveys in its architecture and landscape much of the history of almost 200 years of Maine agriculture. Its most basic element, the boundaries of the farm, still delineate the 100 acre lot first identified as Lot 55 in the third division of the town in 1791. Over the course of five generations of careful stewardship by the men and women of the Freeman family, the farm evolved from settlement to self-efficiency, to a mature farmstead, and to finally become a rural landscape valued as much for its aesthetics as for the production and income it could still potentially produce. The Freeman Farm Historic District is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic places under Criterion A for its reflection of Maine's agricultural tradition and for the link that it provides to the understanding development of Gray through the continued presence of the Freeman Family

As with most successful and enduring agricultural properties, the Freeman Farm is not frozen in time; it is not a museum piece of 1812. On the other hand, even as technological progress teamed up with social pressures, the relationship of the family to the land remains evident on its landscape. The following nomination is divided into four phases, each discussing a period in the farm's history as compared to the state-wide trends, and looking at the family members who cultivated both the land and themselves.

Phase I : Early Settlement and Clearing, 1771 to 1820

The Town of Gray (including the settlement of West Gray) was initially occupied in 1735 by Massachusetts residents who had obtained a land grant from the General Court of Massachusetts. However, over the next three-and-a-half decades permanent settlement was opposed by the local Native American inhabitants and it was not until after 1763 that the land sustained European habitation. The earliest recorded land transaction for the Freeman Farm occurred in 1771, when William Story, a Massachusetts Proprietor, sold eight lots of 450 acres each to Salem, Massachusetts resident Clark Gayton Pickman. After his death, Widow Sarah Pickman sold a portion of one of the lots, now identified as Lot 55 in the Third Division of the Town of Gray, to Benjamin Winslow of Falmouth in October of 1791. Apparently never settled or cleared by Winslow, this lot's first resident was Jonathan Freeman III, who was on the land by 1805. According to the 1805 Town of Gray tax valuation it did not appear that Freeman had been on the land long, for he was taxed on only 3 acres of cleared land, 100 acres of uncleared land, a small house, and one cow and one pig. (Weymouth Collection). The value of his land was given as \$270 dollars, and his personal goods only \$16. Six years later, a deed was executed between the heirs of Benjamin Winslow and Freeman, conveying Lot 55 to Freeman for \$500. During this time Freeman had added a barn, a pair of oxen, a horse, another cow, four children, and had improved 17 additional acres. While the size of his cleared land and livestock grew at a nominal, but steady, rate until 1820 both the value of his house and his personal estate increased more dramatically. Two years after the 1811 deed was recorded the value of his house doubled to \$60. Family tradition holds that the Freeman family had lived in a log house when they first occupied the land. While there is no surface evidence to support this, the center-chimney main house exhibits both interior and exterior design elements that correlate with an

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1812/1813 date of construction, especially in the floor plan, massing, doors, windows, winder staircase and mantels. The jump in valuation of the house may reflect the abandonment of the log structure in favor of the homestead. In the years between 1805 and 1817 Freeman's personal estate rose from \$16 to \$146 dollars, reflecting no doubt an investment in both farm implements and household necessities. The first mention of a barn comes in the tax records for 1808. As noted in the Section 7 description, the present barn on the Freeman property dates to the 1830s, based on design and materials. However, elements of this structure, including the gunstock posts and the low pitch of the roof (and perhaps rafters) may be relicts of the first barn.

According to Clarence Day, historian of Maine agriculture, the settlement period in much of Maine was a time of hard work that involved the entire family. "The prime object of farmers was to provide shelter, food and raiment for themselves and food and shelter for their livestock - self-sufficient farming." (Day, 1954, p. 127). In this first phase of the farm's history, the Freeman's attended to the demands of self-sufficiency by slowly clearing land, improving their structures and securing a solid base for the future. The surrounding towns were also developing by laying roads, settling ministers, building school houses and establishing markets. In West Gray, several other farms along the county road near the Freeman Farm were following similar patterns of clearing land and building homes and barns. While there may have been as many as four shops in Gray Corners (the center of Town and location of the Congregational Church) by 1815, the commercial activity that developed in West Gray was still several decades away. Indeed, even the boundaries of the town were in flux: the western edge of the Freeman property was also the boundary between Gray and Windham, but it was not finally defined until 1832.

Phase II: Growth, 1820 - 1870

The end of the first phase of the history of the Freeman Farm coincides with the emancipation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts and the declaration of Statehood in 1820. Paralleling the shift from political dependence to independence, Day asserts that the agricultural milieu had also come of age.

"The old Indian menace had faded into forgetfulness;the long struggle over land titles had ended and the settlers had been quieted in the ownership of their farms....and west of the Kennebec the pioneering days were over. Farming had there emerged from the new land stage, and agriculture and rural life had turned into the broad road which they were to follow for forty years to come." (Day, 1954, p. 115).

For Maine farmers the next forty years were a period of general successes and periodic failures. Experimentation with new breeds of sheep and cattle led to higher production of wool and beef; crops such as potatoes and hops gained regional prominence, while wheat, corn, and hay provided relatively stable sustenance and income all over the state. In the decades before the Civil War, only the farms with the poorest soils and residents were generally abandoned in favor of emigration to the west, and the overall

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population of rural towns continued to grow. As farmers adapted to new crops and breeds they cleared more land, harvested more of their timber resources, and generally expanded their operations to the extent that available labor (family members) and tools would tolerate. The Gray Historian, George T. Hill introduces his description of pre-Civil War farming in the town as follows: "It has been said that the Maine farmers of the last century raised a little of everything and not much of anything, and this was certainly true of the farmers in Gray." (Hill p. 172). Certainly, in the days before agricultural experimental stations and progressive farming periodicals, diversified agriculture was the surest way for a family farm to hedge their bets against unpredictable weather, invading pests and the vagrancies of the markets. Yet at the same time, a marked shift in the economics of family finance was occurring. Wealth was increasingly measured in liquid assets rather than in land, and cash was needed to purchase newer tools and equipment. In many cases, this resulted in financial over-extension, and for some, contraction of their property.

For the Freeman Family the 1820s started with promise. Jonathan's two oldest sons were entering their twenties, his daughters were teenagers, and the household was poised for its most productive economic years. With an eye to establishing the next generation on the land, Freeman sold his land to his eldest son, Gardiner, in 1821. But when Gardiner died several years later the deed reverted back to his father. In 1829 Freeman expanded his land through the purchase of an additional 8 acres of land adjacent to the farm on the west. Even as his holdings grew slightly his household contracted: in 1830 only he and his second wife, Lucy, and two of the eight children remained on the farm. Within a few years the strength of the farm, as measured in labor, was renewed, when son George H. Freeman and his wife Louisa took up residence on the property. At this time, the barn took on its exiting form, replacing the earlier outbuilding that Jonathan had built by 1808. Shortly after George and Louisa were married, George had purchased his own farm in Gray consisting of 107 acres of land in the fourth division of the town. The deed from Daniel Green was not recorded and it is not known if George and Louisa ever put any work into the property. (Freeman Collection, Gray Historical Society). By 1838 the line of succession for the Freeman Farm Historic District was assured: George gave a bond of perpetual care for his father and step-mother in exchange for the title to the farm. For his parents this document assured them of comfort as they aged, whether together or separately, stating "if the said Lucy Freeman should be left a widow to support her so long as she may remain a widow with good and sufficient food, clothing, and house room in my dwelling house and all other necessaries, which aged people need to make them comfortable." (Book 176, p. 336, Registry of Deeds). Within several months, Jonathan Freeman died, leaving George as owner of the farm.

In many ways, the next thirty years on the Freeman Farm was typical of many of Maine's farm families, but not along the well worn narrative of traditional agricultural success and failure. Much to his family's surprise, George H. Freeman died in 1841, leaving six children, his widow Louisa and widowed step-mother Lucy at the farm. His oldest child, Gardiner, was 12, and his youngest only a few months old. Although many of the probate records relating to George's estate were destroyed by fire, a few facts remain: George died without a will, and in debt. According to state law, this meant his widow was entitled to her dower portion, (use of 1/3rd of the property for the remainder of her life), while the estate was held in trust for the heirs to mature. To cover his debts, Louisa, as Administratrix of the estate, was forced to sell

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40 ½ acres on the western side of the farm, at public auction. The highest bidder, at \$439.00 was Daniel Green, the same individual who had sold George the farm in the fourth division 15 years earlier. It is likely that the earlier transaction was revoked at this time. Although now greatly diminished in size, the farm was free from financial encumbrances.

Initially Louisa left her youngest child in the care of her husband's sister, and according to family tradition, went to work in Portland (Hill, p. 371). Returning by 1847 she repurchased, in her own name, the 40 ½ acres from Green for \$50, and started to work the farm with her family. Her father, a carpenter, joined her oldest sons to jumpstart the land. In the 1850 Agricultural Census it is obvious that their estate, consisting of only 10 acres of land considered to be improved, produced only enough for the family's consumption. A decade later however, an additional twenty-five acres of land had been brought back into production and the value of the estate increased substantially. The number and diversity of livestock had grown, and the amount of wheat, corn, oats, peas, potatoes and hay it produced jumped significantly. Two of the farm's products are of particular note. According to the Census, 20 lbs of honey and 4 lbs of beeswax were produced in 1860. This represented a full 5 percent of the town's honey and wax production for the year. Also at this same time, the value of her orchard products doubled, following a state wide trend during the 1840s and 1850s (Day, 1954, p. 277). It is worth noting that both of these products could be produced with less labor than was required for planting and harvesting, or caring for livestock. Under Louisa's care the farm grew, but in part, its growth reflected the labor resources that were available to her and her family. Notably, during this time no additional buildings were erected although the long southern leg of the ell was added to accommodate the household, which at times also included her son Gardiner and his wife and children.

By the 1860s Louisa's children had matured, and in 1863 and 1864 they all quit-claim their right to the land to Louisa, making her the sole owner. With the exception of her youngest son, George, they each married and moved out of the house, leaving only Louisa and Lucy, the elderly widow, on the farm. George supplemented the family income by teaching school, and gradually assumed responsibility for the farm. Under his care, the farm achieved its greatest economic worth as marked by the 1870 census, being valued at \$3000 and again increasing its production of orchard products and crops.

Phase III: Mature Farm, 1870 to 1915.

Thus began the third, or mature, phase of the Freeman Farm. In 1870, for the first time, George H. Freeman Jr. was listed as the head of the household, which still continued to include Lucy (until 1871), and his mother. In February of 1870, George started to keep a ledger book for the farm, indicating all of the expenses and credits inherent in its day to day operation. Upon Louisa's death in 1878 the entire farm was willed to George, who with his wife Georgia ran it until his death in 1915. Although he helped to form the local Patrons of Husbandry Grange in 1874, George augmented his love for farming with that of education, surveying and community service. George hired farm laborers to help him work the land, which gave him an opportunity to pursue his other interests. Record books at the Gray Historical Society indicate that he

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served as a local surveyor between 1881 and 1906, road commissioner in 1894, and was commissioned as a trial justice in 1893. Known locally as a great supporter of education, George taught school for 16 years in the winter and spring, and served on the school committee in 1880. For each of these jobs, Freeman dutifully recorded his actions in ledger or note books, leaving behind records and maps of the town and its inhabitants during the late 19th century. At home, Freeman annotated advertisements, comparing the efficiency of an "Advance Walking Cultivator" with his own methods of planting: "We plant our corn with a two hors (sic) Corn planter one hand to drive one to drop plant about 15 to 20 acres per day." (Freeman Collection, Gray Historical Society).

In this period of the farm's history the size and production of the farm remained relatively constant, with the exception of the addition of several more dairy cows, and the construction of the poultry barn. As noted in the Section 7 Description, the terminus of the ell contained a room with a very high granite foundation. This was most likely originally built as a milk room, and may have been added when George doubled his milch cow herd in the 1870s. In 1880 the Freeman's had 43 chickens. In the last decades of the 19th century very few farms specialized in raising fowl; poultry still provided 'pin money' for most farmers according to Day (1963, p. 280). At the same time however, plans for improved poultry houses were starting to appear in publications such as *Palliser's Model Homes*, 1878, and *Barns, Outbuildings and Fences*, 1870 (Berg, p. 112, 118). What became clear to most farmers was that a successful poultry house had several requirements, including nesting boxes for each hen, horizontal roosts, a dust bath and a place for feed and water. "By the end of the nineteenth century, farmers, realizing that additional windows improved the chicken house by admitting beneficial sunlight, built two- and three-story (or even higher) chicken houses with multiple small windows, particularly along south facing walls." (Noble, p. 116). The poultry barn that George H. Freeman Jr. built reflects in its three floors the latest thinking in how to provide appropriate accommodations for the family's flock.

In George H. Freeman's 1915 obituary he is described as having a "find (sic) farm, large orchard, handsome herd of cattle...and his market business in the city of Portland." (Maine Historic Preservation Commission). The details of this market business are missing, but the Gray historian George T. Hill acknowledges that local farmers were traveling to larger markets to sell their produce by the 1860s, although he characterizes the trek as arduous and tiring. Perhaps this was the case for some, but the location of Gray, less than 12 miles south of the industrial cities of Auburn and Lewiston, and only 16 miles north of Portland, probably made the trips remunerative, especially after the Maine Central Railroad began to stop for both passengers and freight in East Gray in 1870, offering a fare to Portland for \$.80. Indeed the installation of rail service gave immediate support to the many small manufactures that thrived in the town, including the numerous carriage and sleigh makers in West Gray. Just as George Freeman augmented his farming with surveying, teaching and community positions, the Town of Gray extended its economic reach beyond its farms and settlements to take advantage of the rapidly growing cities to the north and south. This trend only increased with the commencement of the Interurban Line, which ran hourly passenger and freight service through Gray, from Lewiston to Portland, starting in 1914. This had the effect in part, of making Gray a convenient community from which to commute to the larger cities on a regular basis.

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FREEMAN FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

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Phase IV: Gentleman's Farm, 1915 -1953

The start of the fourth and final phase of the Freeman Farm is marked not by the presence of the Interurban Railroad, but by the death of George H. Freeman in 1915. His estate was split between his widow Georgia and his oldest son, George L. Freeman. Georgia remained on the farm until the early 1940s, but all of her husband's livestock and crops were sold after he died, and the two heirs leased the back portion of the farm to the Standish Lumber Company to harvest the standing timber. In 1922 Georgia quit claim her portion of the land to her son, who continued to own it until his death in 1966. George L. Freeman was an engineer of note; he designed the foundations for many of the nation's largest bridge projects, including the Golden Gate Bridge, Oakland Bay Bridge, the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, the Huey P. Long Bridge and the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, however he did not live at the farm during his active professional life, rather he used it as a summer home. George L. Freeman and his wife made annual trips to Gray during which he maintained the buildings, planted additional trees in the orchard, and reforested the area that Standish Lumber harvested. As an engineer, George L. Freeman took copious notes on his activities, for example mapping all the varieties of all the trees and plants in the yard in 1947. His records also record changes to the house, including changes to the kitchen in 1950, and the addition of the dormer in 1948. At the time the furnace, plumbing, and septic were installed in 1938 the main chimney was rebuilt, and because the cellar was then too warm to store apples and garden produce, he constructed the barrel-vaulted cement root cellar. After retiring in 1951 George L. Freeman and his wife took up residence in Gray full time, where he continued to cultivate the orchard and maintain the farmstead. During this phase the Freeman property evolved from the family's agricultural economic base to a more horticulturally-focused gentlemen's farm, reflecting in large part the collapse of the farming life throughout the country, and more particularly in the suburban communities of Portland, Lewiston and Auburn, Maine.

After the death of George L. Freeman Sr. the land passed to his son George L. Freeman Jr., who like his father, returned to the farm in 1966. He continued to maintain the farm running a welding supply company. Since his death in 2000, plans have been underway to preserve the historic Freeman Farm under the auspices of a local land trust. Through the dedication, determination, and stewardship of members of the Freeman family the Freeman Farm Historic District remains today a tangible link to the activities of a single farm family whose relationship to the land spans almost 200 years of history in Gray, Maine.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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FREEMAN FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

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FREEMAN FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT
Name of Property

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 100 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| Easting | | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

3

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Easting | | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

2

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| Easting | | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

4

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Easting | | | | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 16 APRIL 2003

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333 -0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

FREEMAN FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

UTM'S, continuation

5) 19/ 388200 // 4856350

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 100 acre property known as the Freeman Farm Historic District is fully described by Town of Gray Tax Map 17, lot 13.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination includes all the property that was historically associated with the Freeman Family, as described by deed of the Estate of Benjamin Winslow to Jonathan Freeman, 1811, and located in the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds, book 64, page 27. See attached boundary map.

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FREEMAN FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

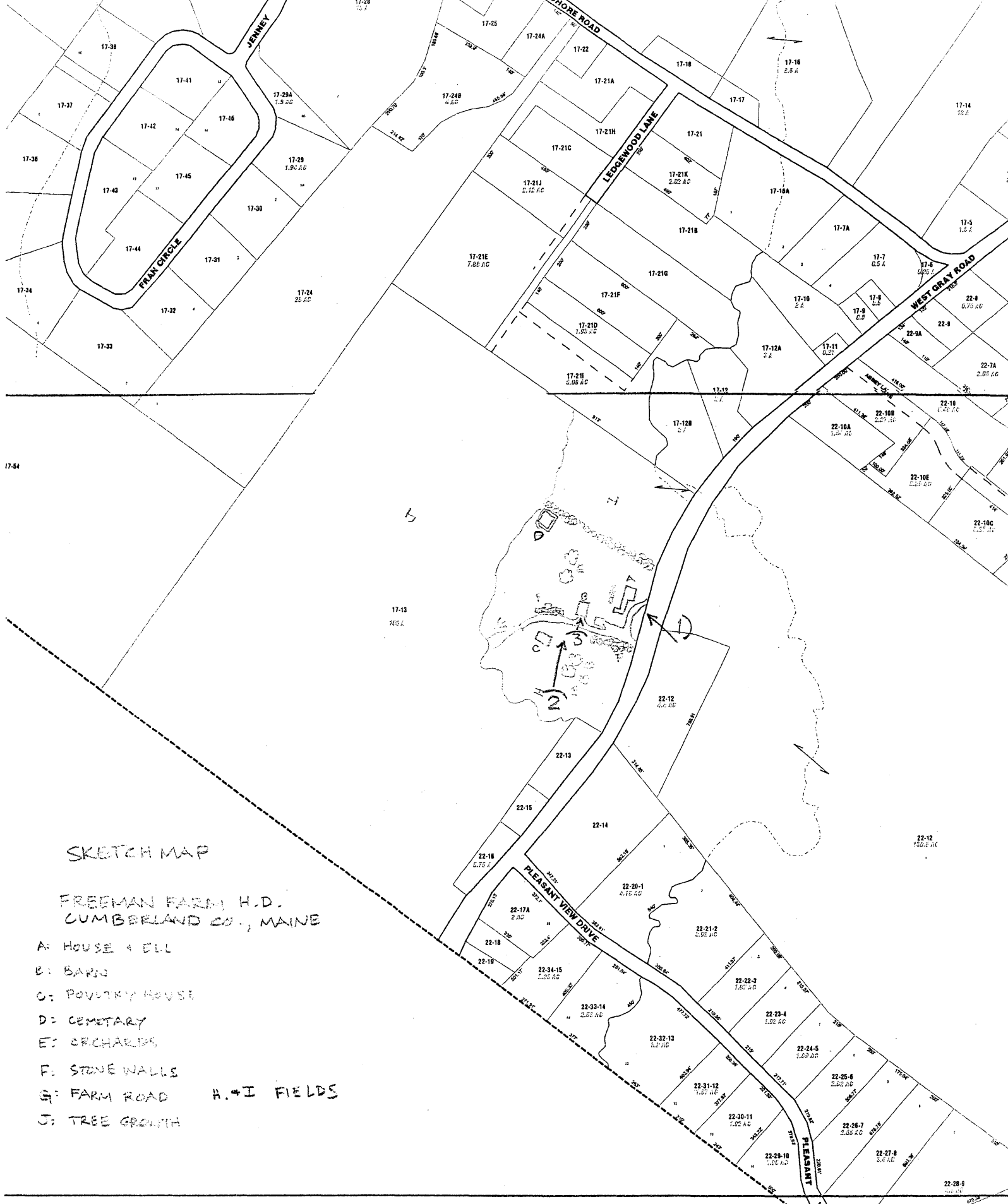
Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
1 April 2003
East elevation; facing northwest.

Photograph 2 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
1 April 2003
Poultry house (left), barn (right) and fields; facing northwest.

Photograph 2 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
1 April 2003
South facade of barn; facing north.



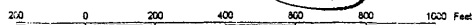
SKETCH MAP

FREEMAN FARM H.D.
CUMBERLAND CO., MAINE

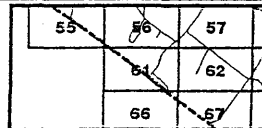
- A: HOUSE & ELL
- B: BARN
- C: POULTRY HOUSE
- D: CEMETARY
- E: ORCHARDS
- F: STONE WALLS
- G: FARM ROAD
- H. & I: FIELDS
- J: TREE GROWTH

Town of Gray, Maine

Maps Prepared By GeoSystems



Index Map



Gray Tax Sheet

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Revised to: April 1, 2002

- ✓ Rights of Way
- ✓ Parcels
- ✓ Roads
- ✓ Streams
- ✓ Town Line