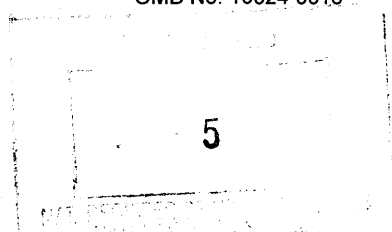


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

369



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 Riverview House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

East Side of Route 201,

street & number .15 miles Southwest of Junction With Old Federal Road N/A not for publication

city or town Vassalboro  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Kennebec code 011 zip code 04989

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.)

Carol Fedawoy JHPO 2/16/01  
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 A. Ball  
Signature of the Keeper

4.12.01  
Date of Action

Riverview House  
Name of Property

Kennebec, Maine  
County and State

**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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic/Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic/Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
Federal  
Greek Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation Stone/Granite  
walls Wood/Weatherboard  
roof Asphalt  
other Entrance Porch

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

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RIVERVIEW HOUSE

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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Riverview House is a tall one-and-a-half story, three bay, gable roofed cape that is sheathed in clapboards. Attached to its northeast corner is a long one-story ell containing a kitchen, woodshed and garage. The entire building rests on a granite block foundation.

Facing west, the symmetrically composed facade has a central entrance comprised of a six-panel door framed by three-quarter length sidelights and a round arched fanlight. A Greek Revival style entrance porch featuring thin paired columns that stand on granite steps and support a pediment with a round arch that exposes the fanlight. This porch was added in 1832. The widely spaced windows (believed to have been added at the same time as the porch) are comprised of paired tall, narrow six-over-six double hung sash. A small gabled dormer with Federal style molding in its raking cornice and pilasters is located on the midpoint of the roof above the entry. Two interior brick chimneys are located behind the roof ridge.

The south gable end contains one paired window near the southwest corner similar to those on the facade, and a more typical six-over-six to the southeast. A pair of smaller six-over-sixes occupy the gable peak. On the north gable end, a hipped roof extension of the ell extends across one-half of the lower story, and a double window is located in the remaining portion. Two six-over-sixes are located in the gable peak, whereas four of the six windows in the ell are two-over-ones, one is a small one-over-one, and the fifth is a six-over-six. The rear elevation of the main block contains four six-over-sixes and a smaller rectangular window. The south side of the ell contains a trio of twelve-over-twelves, an entrance door, and a six-over-six above the track mounted door in the lower level garage.

In plan, the house has a broad center hall that is flanked by the living room in the northwest corner and the parlor in the southwest corner. The rooms behind are presently used as a dining room and master bedroom, respectively. A door of the living room opens into a den, behind which is a bathroom. The ell kitchen and summer kitchen are accessed through a door at the northeast corner of the dining room. There are four rooms on the second floor that are grouped around the spacious stair landing/balcony, over which is a barrel arched ceiling.

Window and door surrounds are primarily Federal style in composition, as are the living room and second floor mantelpieces as well as the staircase. However, the mantel and the surrounds in the parlor are Greek Revival, in keeping with the other alterations made to the front entrance and windows.

(The following observations about the building's features were prepared by Richard M. Kelly)

The layout of the house -- a large center hallway cape in the front and an ell extending to the rear -- suggest that the cape was the original house and that the ell was a mid-nineteenth-century addition. Two massive chimneys with multiple fireplaces dominate the cape structure. The north chimney was replaced in the first half of the twentieth century when central heating was installed. In replacing the chimney, the original stack and front to back fireplaces were removed. Much of the brick structure of an original double arch is still in place. The double arch supported a large kitchen fireplace with an opening at least six feet wide. Two cooking cranes have been found. All of this fireplace has been removed and the area in what is now the dining room has been covered over with beaver board.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

RIVERVIEW HOUSE

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

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The original surround of the first floor living room fireplace is still in place and a new fireplace was built. A surviving mantel on the second floor northwest corner bedroom indicates that there was a small, third fireplace hung in this chimney as well. The south chimney, still intact, has the entire structure of a single arch. This south chimney has two original shallow fireplaces typical of the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century (these two fireplaces were closed for many years and have recently been reopened and are in working order). A third, small, stove chimney in the ell was certainly a later addition. This was replaced by a lined modern chimney in 1996.

The structure of the cape is massive while that of the ell, though both are full post and beam, is slight by comparison. The great beams of the cape are hand hewn while those of the ell contain many sections which are vertical sawn.

A third frame, also post and beam, joins the two structures together. A fourth frame comprising the workshop/garage at the end of the ell is a much later addition. The house is constructed of the cape frame, totally hand hewn, massive beams; the ell, also an old hand hewn frame but with vertical sawn rafters; the connector frame, a vertical sawn frame that fills an offset corner between the cape and the ell; Frame of the workshop/woodshed is totally separate as can be seen by the cedar shingles on what was once the exterior end of the ell and now the interior adjoining wall of the workshop.

Two important structural elements of the house, however, indicate that frames the three frames may in fact have been erected on the present site at one time.

1. The first of these elements can be seen where the three frames come together at the northeast corner of the cape. Here there is access, to the structure from the ell between the first floor ceiling joists and the roof. Where frames of the ell and connector cover the gabled, north end of the cape, there are no vertical sheathing boards, no exterior siding or shingles. There are no exposed nails or nail holes where sheathing, shingles or siding might have been removed. It would appear that the structure was made of two old frames joined at that point with the third frame to bring them together, and that the siding and sheathing were not added until that time.
2. The second element which suggests that all three frames were put together at the same time is that though they are obviously built at different times they share a common detail in the roof construction: a half dovetail at each end of the top cross spans which are let into a lateral beam to support the ends of the roof rafters. This again suggests that frames of the cape and ell were erected from older structures: the cape all hand hewn, the ell hand hewn, but the roof structure built of sawn lumber to create a roof line which appeared to go well with ell, and connector of all new, later materials. But the roofs all containing the detail of the others.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RIVERVIEW HOUSE

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 4

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Unlike most federal Maine capes this structure has several unique features:

- a. Fenestration is atypical. Windows facing west, or front, and the west side of the gable ends are 4 feet wide by 8 feet tall. Windows on the east of the south gable end and the east side of the cape are typical.
- b. An unusually wide center hall divides the two front rooms with proportion which more closely resemble a large full two story structure. This feature provides room for a lovely, wide staircase.
- c. Ceiling heights on the first floor are unusually high, 10 feet in three of four major rooms on the first floor.
- d. Above the first floor ceiling is a crawl space of one-and-a-half to two feet before the second floor joists. In effect there is a 12 foot height between the first floor level and the second level.

Explanation of this can be found by an examination of the roof beams of the cape. At the conjunction of knee wall of the second floor bedrooms and the roof rafters. At this point in the rafter there is a large, 90° mortise for what was originally a diagonal brace to the top span. Such a diagonal brace is typical of barn construction rather than housing construction. Such a building would have had at least twelve foot heights on the first floor.

If we think of the cape as built around an older barn frame, we can understand the unusual ceiling heights and the crawl space. It may be that an older barn frame was erected on a house foundation (the house has a full dug basement with massive old chimneys). Room for four second floor bedrooms was made by altering the diagonal roof bracing for a knee wall. The ceiling level of the first floor rooms was determined by taste rather than height of the second floor.

In addition to structural evidence as noted above, other aspects of the house suggest that the ell in Riverview House may have built at the same time as the main cape. The foundation shows that the ell, the cape, and the transition room are on one continuous perimeter foundation. No evidence has been found of a load bearing foundation wall at the points where the cape and the ell and connector meet. It seems most unlikely that the builders would have taken down the old rubble foundation at the meeting point, built a clear and sharp 90° corner and then completely hidden the corner wall of the cape the corner foundation where cape or ell had been!

In the center of the ell on the wall next to the kitchen chimney there is further evidence in the structure which clearly points to the fact that the ell existed long before the addition of a wood cooking stove. Upon entering the ell from outside through an exterior door there is a small mud room. Behind the mud room, occupying the space between the kitchen and the summer kitchen was an enclosed windowless area which the twentieth century Brown children called the "dark room." It is in this area that the kitchen chimney was erected. The original chimney had its modest foundation set on the ground in the basement, penetrated the floor of the dark room, and then up through the floor of the attic and up through the roof. In penetrating the floor of the dark room and the attic above, the builders simply hacked away at the frame of the structure with almost no regard for the existing structure, indicating that the structure itself predated the addition of the chimney, rather than that the ell's construction was part of the later strategy of having a separate kitchen with cook stove. The top section of the chimney in the attic space had to turn to clear the roof structure.

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# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

RIVERVIEW HOUSE

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 5

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The further evidence that the ell predated the kitchen chimney is a surviving timber nailed to the unfinished side of the wall between the kitchen and the dark room. This timber is a diagonal member clearly showing that it was once part of the support for steps leading up into the attic area. Recent repairs to the plaster wall in the ell show that these walls are much later than the plaster walls in the cape. The lath is of thin uniform dimension unlike the split lath in the cape. The diagonal timber was behind the lath.

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

c. 1796

1832

**Significant Dates**

c. 1796

1832

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation SheetRIVERVIEW HOUSEKENNEBEC, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Riverview House, built about 1796, is a large Federal style cape that is believed to be one of the oldest houses in the town of Vassalboro. Its builder, original owner and many early residents of the house are buried across the highway in a small family cemetery, visible from the second floor dormer window. It was the home of three members of the Maine Legislature: Franklin Brown, Forrest Brown and Russell Brown. Donald Brown, born in the house, served for many years as Maine State Comptroller. The house is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance.

(The following edited history of Riverview House was written by its present owner, Richard M. Kelly.)

**Land Ownership**

The land on which the house was built is located on the front portion and lower half of lot 53 of the original Kennebec Purchase, in Vassalboro. It is reported in *The History of Vassalborough, Maine, 1771-1972*, that in "1769 Isaac Farwell obtained a King's Grant which included the three most southerly lots -- 51-53 -- of the Vassalboro portion of the Kennebec purchase on the east side of the Kennebec River. By 1766 Isaac Farwell's sons Ebenezer, Bunker and Isaac, Jr. were with him on the Kennebec.... He soon built a grist mill, saw mill and brick kiln on the Brook.... In the year 1769 Ebenezer Farwell received a grant of two hundred acres [lot 53] on the east side of the Kennebec River." A deed showing how Isaac, Jr. or Sr. obtained Lot 53 from the Proprietors is not recorded in the Lincoln or Kennebec County Land Records. Perhaps Isaac, Jr. inherited it from his father who died in 1795 and whose Will has not been found.

The earliest Maine deed for the property as yet discovered by the writer is dated October 9, 1797 in which "Isaac Farwell of Vassalborough, County of Lincoln, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for many good services and love I bear towards my well and beloved son Jeremiah Farwell of Vassalborough, Yeoman, I do hereby give, grant, convey a certain tract in the town of Vassalborough."

The property was described as: "a certain tract or parcel of land in the Town of Vassalborough on the front lots viz beginning at Kenebeck River twelve rods from the south line of lot number fifty three North Northeast up said River thence running East Southeast until it strikes the County Road thence running South twelve rods then crossing said road to the East side thence running East Southeast between Lot number fifty two & fifty three until it strikes Herman Robbins Southwest Corner on to a stake, & stones thence running West Northwest until it strikes the first mentioned road thence running North Northeast on said road twelve rods, thence crossing to the West side of said road, thence running West Northwest until it strikes Kenebeck River thence running South Southwest on said River until it strikes the first mentioned bounds or corner it being the a part of the South half of lot number fifty three."

This description of the land remained essentially unchanged through several transfers of ownership within the family until the land was purchased by Josiah Brown in 1874.



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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RIVERVIEW HOUSE

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

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Deed Indexes of Kennebec County do not list a deed which transferred this land and its house to Hannebal Farwell, but on March 20, 1821 Hannebal Farwell of Vassalborough, in the County of Kennebec, yeoman, by his attorney Samuel Homans, sold to Benjamin Brown and William Farwell for \$1,200 two parcels of land in Vassalboro, one being the property described above and in the deed referred to as "the same on which Jeremiah Farwell, lately lived" (Kennebec County Deed Book, 39, pp. 116-118).

This is the same Benjamin Brown who witnessed the 1797 deed above. He is the same man whose marriage intentions to Polley Horn, both of Vassalboro, were published August 4, 1799, and whose marriage took place September 1, 1799 (Vassalboro Town Records). Benjamin Brown, and his father Benjamin Brown, Sr., were early settlers of Vassalboro and may also have had earlier marriage ties with the Farwells. William Farwell was a sea captain, son of Ebenezer Farwell, JP, brother of Isaac, Jr. Benjamin Brown probably never lived in the house but purchased the property for the use of members of their family. Elizabeth Farwell, widow of William, was enumerated as a resident of the house in the 1850 Census. On January 7, 1842, Daniel White, of Orono, Penobscot County, Maine, executed a judgement against Benjamin Brown, of Vassalboro and asked the Sheriff of Kennebec County to seize certain property of Benjamin including among other parcels, "part of lot No. 53 with the buildings and privileges thereto belonging [to Benjamin Brown] known as the Fairbush Place (Kennebec County, Deed Book 118, pp. 333-336).

Daniel White's claim was settled September 4, 1846, when Lois Brown of Charlestown in the County of Middlesex, Massachusetts, widow of Benjamin Brown, lately of Bangor, Penobscot County, Maine, deceased, in consideration of seven hundred and fifty dollars, by her attorneys David Branson and William Woart, gave a quit claim deed to Daniel White for the properties mentioned in the execution, including the portion of Lot 53. In her quit claim deed she refers to it as the "Albert Brown, place (Kennebec County, Deed Book 151, pp. 509-510). On October 5, 1846, Daniel White of Orono sold his interest to Margaret Tower (Kennebec County Deed Book 152, p. 129). Margaret, daughter of William Farwell, thereby consolidated her recently deceased father's interest in the property, with that of Benjamin Brown becoming its sole owner.

On April 26, 1858, George Tower of Vassalboro, Manufacturer, and Margaret N. Tower, wife of said George Tower and of said Vassalboro sold to William H. F. Tower the property excepting the family cemetery (Kennebec County Deed Book 213, pp. 417-419). William H. F. Tower was their son. Subsequently, on June 16, 1860, Margaret N. Tower purchased the property back from her son, noting that they all lived there (Kennebec Deed Book 226, p 21). Fourteen years later on March 26, 1874, "Margaret Tower, married woman...of Pittston, Kennebec County," conveyed the house and property to Josiah Brown of Chelsea, Kennebec County.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RIVERVIEW HOUSE

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

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Josiah, farmer and horse trader, lived in the house until his death shortly after conveying the property to his nephew Forrest Brown, 11, June 1912 (Kennebec County Deed Book 522, p. 489). Forrest Brown, continued to farm the land and served as the local rural mail carrier for many years. He was an active member of the Republican Party, served terms as a Kennebec County Commissioner and member of the Maine State Legislature. Forrest and his wife Jesse had six children of whom five were born in the house. Except for a short period of foreclosure during the Great Depression, the property remained in the name of Forrest Brown and his wife Jesse. Over the years several portions of the original farm land were sold to neighbors or conveyed to Brown's children. In October of 1995 Jesse Brown's estate conveyed the house to Richard M. Kelly and Elaine C. Crawford of Baltimore. At that time approximately 21 acres of the original farm were still intact. Eleven acres were conveyed to the Kellys along with the house. Ten acres were conveyed to Russell Brown, son of Forrest and Jesse.

## History of the House

No deed prior to 1821 has been found which refers specifically to a house on the property. However, Vassalboro Tax records indicate there was a house on the property by 1796. The simple, unadorned exterior of the house suggests that it was constructed in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century before the period of Greek Revival architecture significantly influenced Maine vernacular buildings. The nearby home "Seven Oaks" with its five massive, two story columns across the entire front of the structure and its deep cornice trim, is lavishly Greek Revival, and was built in the 1840s. Only a small Greek Revival Portico, an 1832 addition, adorns the front door of the older Cape. The *Riverview House* is certainly older than 1821, when Hannebal Farwell mentions it in his deed to Benjamin Brown and William Farwell that "Jeremiah Farwell lately lived" there.

Census enumerations, the architectural style and detail, the structure of the building itself, as well as a few additional facts, are consistent with the statement that Jerry Horn erected the house and that Albert Brown rebuilt it.

In the Federal Census of 1790 of Vassalboro Ebenezer Farwell and his brother Isaac Farwell, Jr. are enumerated as heads of household next to each other. Though Jerry Horn, purported to have erected the house appears nowhere on any of the deeds, the marriage intentions of "Jeremiah Horn of Dover in the County of Stafford, State of New Hampshire, and Miss Mary Farwell of this town" were published in Vassalboro, December 25, 1797. They were married in Vassalboro, January 14, 1798. This Mary Farwell and her marriage are not identified in the Farwell Genealogy. She may be the daughter of Bunker Farwell, younger brother of Ebenezer, and his wife Mary, born in Vassalboro about 1786. The Horn family of Dover, New Hampshire, were prominent ship owners. A number of the Farwell men captained Horn owned vessels. Jeremiah Horn does not appear as a head of household in the 1800 Census of Vassalboro.

Tax records for the town of Vassalboro (loose papers of early Town Clerk records in possession of the Vassalboro Historical Society) suggest that the house was built as early as 1796. Rateable Polls for 1791, 1792, and 1793 show Jeremiah Farwell as a taxable poll of 1, with no property. May 6, 1796, the next list available, shows Jeremiah Farwell

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

RIVERVIEW HOUSE

KENNEBEC, MAINE

**Section number** 8 **Page** 5

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with a poll of 1; house 1; barn 1; acres of English mowing 4; acres of tillage 1; acres of pasturing 4; acres unimproved land 41; horses 3 years of age and upward 1; oxen 4 years of age and upward 2; cows and steers 3 years and upwards 1; swine 6 months and upwards (total taxable acreage: 50). A deed for Jeremiah's land was not conveyed until October 9, 1797. The 1798 and 1799 list of rateables makes it clear that the number of acres on which Jeremiah was taxed in 1796 are the same in 1798 and 1799, the latter of which correctly identifies that the land is lot 53.

It is also clear from these records that Jeremiah's father, Isaac Farwell, Jr. was taxed on only one house in 1788, 1791, and 1796, so that Jeremiah did not simply take over an existing structure on his father's land, but that his 1796 taxable house and barn were recently built.

As the 1810 Census is recorded alphabetically it is not possible to infer where families may have lived. This Census, however, does list Benjamin Brown, Jr., William Farwell (son of Ebenezer, now deceased), Jeremiah Farwell (son of Isaac, Jr., now deceased), and Jeremiah Horn. Jeremiah Horn died the next year, and he and his wife are buried in Farwell-Brown Cemetery across the road from the house. The 1820 Census of Vassalboro shows Jeremiah Farwell enumerated next to William Farwell while Benjamin Brown was two households away. In the 1830 Census the Farwell name is no longer found in the area and Benjamin Brown was living elsewhere. His oldest son, Albert G. Brown is now head of a household.

Albert Brown, who is reported to have rebuilt the house, served one term in the Maine Legislature in 1832. It is related by a member of the Brown family, that a penciled note found in the early 1900s at the time of repair of the wooden columns stated that the portico was constructed in 1832. Lois Brown, widow of Benjamin Brown, referred to the property as the Albert Brown place in 1842. Albert does not appear as a head of household in the 1840 Census but his father does. It is not clear if this family was then living in "Riverview House" or the Benjamin Brown home further north along the County Road. Members of the Fairbush family were living in the area and may be the residents of the house as Daniel White refers to the property as the Fairbush place in his legal proceedings. Two households away from the Fairbush household was William Horn, while future owners of the house, Margaret Tower and her husband George were enumerated in the 1840 Census as residents of nearby Gardiner, Maine.

Riverview House possesses many unusual 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century architectural features. Though apparently a typical small Maine cape with ell extending to the rear, it is actually a very large structure of fourteen rooms with two grand parlors with 10' 3" ceilings. These front parlors are filled with light from great 8' high and 4' wide window openings. It has a large center hall with an intact 1832 grand staircase, landing and balcony. A plaster arch ceiling tops the second floor balcony landing. First floor center hall ceiling has a plaster and wood medallion. It has much of its original structure, molding, floor, and painted surfaces intact after more than two hundred years. It has had no major changes to its basic foot print or its exterior appearance since it was rebuilt in 1832. Eighteenth century or early nineteenth century paint and lime wash surfaces can be found in many places. Three Federal and one Greek Revival fireplace surrounds survive. Modifications made in 1832 include the large 4x8 windows in the front of the Cape; a small Greek Revival pillared portico, elegant center hall staircase and second floor balcony; and arched ceiling over the upstairs hall balcony.

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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RIVERVIEW HOUSE

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

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## Bibliography

First through Sixth Census of the United States. 1790-1840: Lincoln and Kennebec Counties, Massachusetts and Maine. Population Schedule. Microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy. Maine State Archives. Augusta.

Kennebec County Deeds, Kennebec County Courthouse, Augusta.

Robbins, Alma Pierce. *The History of Vassalborough, Maine: 1771-1972*. Privately published, 1972?

Town of Vassalboro Tax Records.

Riverview House  
Name of Property

Kennebec, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 9.1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9	4	4	2	7	6	0	4	9	1	4	3	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

3 

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Zone Easting Northing

2 

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4 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 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 Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 2000

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

RIVERVIEW HOUSE

KENNEBEC, MAINE

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## Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of 9.1 acres occupies the Town of Vassalboro tax map 1, lot 21.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot that is historically and presently associated with Riverview House.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

**RIVERVIEW HOUSE**

**KENNEBEC, MAINE**

**Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_**

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

January 22, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from W

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Kirk F. Mohny

January 22, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from SE

3 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

January 22, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of stairhall looking E

4 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

January 22, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of north parlor looking south