

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 21 1986

date entered MAR 20 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William Briggs Homestead

and or common

2. Location

street & number 1470 Turner Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Auburn,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine

code 23

county Androscoggin

code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Karen and Daniel Stearns

street & number 1470 Turner Street

city, town Auburn,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04210

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Auburn,

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Constructed as a one-and-one-half story residence with a long ell attached to a barn, the Briggs Homestead is timber frame construction with clapboard siding, gable roof and a granite foundation. The windows are nine-over-six double-hung sash and the main entrance, located in the center of the five bay facade, consists of a door flanked by sidelights and molded pilasters supporting an entablature which is in the Federal style. There is a large brick chimney in the center of the main house and a smaller one in the ell. The west side of the ell also has three doorways. The attached barn has large double doors surmounted by transom lights in the center of the gable end.

The interior of the house is distinguished for its original architrave trim, mantelpiece, wainscot, and panelling. Especially outstanding is the molded cornice which extends around the ceiling of the parlor and the mantelpiece and overmantel in the sitting room. This woodwork is a mixture of Georgian and Federal styles.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1797 **Builder/Architect** William Briggs

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Evidence indicates that this residence which is mainly in original condition (later ell added) may well be the oldest house surviving in "East Auburn". This area is the oldest settled part of the present City of Auburn and was first known as Berry's Mills, part of the Town of Minot.

The original land grant was made to Samuel Berry of Cobbosseecontee as recompense for his services as a scout and guide on Benedict Arnold's expedition to Quebec in 1775.

William Briggs of Dighton, Massachusetts acquired his land from Berry in 1779 and built this commodious homestead for his large family.

The house is marked by elegant woodwork in the two principal front rooms.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Merrill, O. D., History of Androscoggin County. Boston, 1891.

Auburn History Committee, Auburn, 1869-1969, 100 Years a City. Lewiston, 1968.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Lake Auburn East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 29, Block 1, Lot 60

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 *Eric S. Feltner*

title S.H.P.O. date 2/19/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

James M. McPherson Entered on the National Register date 3/20/86
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration