

PH0025071

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: MAINE	
COUNTY: YORK	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.7.23.0004	DATE 7/27/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
FROST GARRISON AND HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Frost's Hill (1st District,

CITY OR TOWN:
Eliot *vic* **Hon. Peter N. Kyros)**

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23 18** COUNTY: **York** CODE: **031**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	No modern day use	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
JOSEPH PARSONS

STREET AND NUMBER:
BRIXHAM ROAD

CITY OR TOWN:
YORK

STATE:
MAINE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
YORK COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Alfred

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

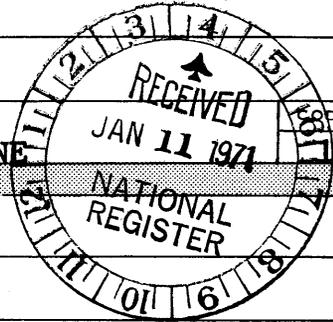
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **MAINE**

COUNTY: **YORK**

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Frost Garrisons & Home

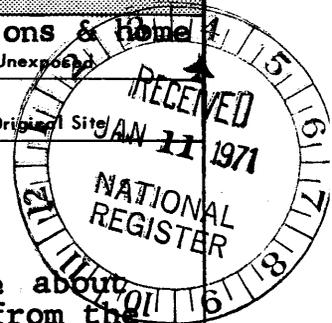
(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

LOCATION AND SETTING:

The District is located at the end of a gravel drive about two-tenths of a mile in a northwest direction off from the Frost Hill Road in East Eliot about a tenth of a mile west of the York-Eliot town line.

Three buildings are included in the complex. All three of them could be encompassed by a circle with a fifty foot radius.

The surrounding area on top of Frost's Hill is largely open field with some scattered tree growth. Ten acres of land should provide ample protection.

BASIC STRUCTURES AND BUILDING MATERIALS:

The first building encountered when approaching the ground via the gravel drive is the old Frost family home, built in c. 1778. This building replaced an earlier garrison house built in 1733 and which was destroyed in 1760. It is a 40' x 28' two and one-half story wooden frame home with a gable roof, sheathed with cedar shingles. It is painted white. There are two brick chimneys which serve fireplaces in each of the eight rooms. There is a central hall which is entered from both the front and rear (long sides) of the building. This hall holds the stairwell. The original floors were made of wide pine boards; however, these have been replaced by hard wood on the first floor. The second story floor is original. Some of the interior walls are of wainscot panels up to about three and one-half feet from the floor. The walls are then, throughout, primarily plastered and very fine painted stencil work in excellent condition can be readily enjoyed. This building is a joy to the beholder, well preserved and properly restored.

It can perform a useful modern day function as a home. There is an electrical entrance, but water and plumbing are absent at this time. The entrance of these facilities will not adversely affect the architectural or historic significance of this building. This building was provided with a tunnel which led from beneath the stairway out to the second building considered in this district.

The second building directly behind the home is an original garrison used primarily as a powder house which was built in 1735 for protection. It served the original home of 1733. The small garrison measures about 15' x 15'. It was removed from its foundation over 30 years ago and reconstructed at Kittery Point. This Powder House has now been returned to its original location and rests on its original foundation. The tunnel that did connect with the home is not intact. The

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Basic Structures and Building Materials (Con't.)

Powder House is a wooden structure made of hand hewn timbers of pine and oak, dovetailed at the ends. There are special timbers which lock the structure together. It has a loft beneath its low gable roof. Portholes are provided from which defenders could fire. The original blocks or plugs for these portholes are extant and in place.

The third building, the Frost Garrison, is again in back of the home and beyond the Powder House. This is the most outstanding building of this district - a large garrison house erected in 1738 or 1740. It is unique architecturally. Its twelve inch corner outside dovetails of hand hewn pine logs into squared timbers reveal its strength and enduring permanence.

Evidence of Indian attacks is seen around the small 3" x 3" portholes which are riddled with holes made by arrows and bullets. Two such portholes are to be found in each of the garrison's walls. Five of the original porthole plugs are still in place. Such niceties as hot oil scuttles are to be found in the structure.

The first floor has doors large enough to accommodate the cattle which were driven into the dirt floored downstairs area prior to Indian raids.

Forty-foot floorboards two inches thick, apparently made by an up-and-down saw, are used for the second story floor. A medieval style stairway secured on the landing by a planked door leads to the second floor. Found upstairs in all corners, as well as in the overhangs, are trap doors which served as openings to shoot through. The walls are made from huge pine trees and the supporting knees from giant roots. Most of the timbers measure 12" to 18" in width and are generally 8" in thickness. The foundation is of simple field stone construction with a thickness of about one foot. The gabled roof is covered by cedar shingles. Although the large garrison has been periodically repaired through the years, its general appearance cannot differ greatly from the original.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1733 Powder House c. 1738

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Frost Garrison and Frost Home

- Aboriginal Education Political Urban Planning C • 1778
 Prehistoric Engineering Religion/Philosophy Other (Specify) Architecture?
 Historic Industry Science _____
 Agriculture Invention Sculpture _____
 Architecture Landscape Social/Humanitarian _____
 Art Architecture _____
 Commerce Literature Theater _____
 Communications Military Transportation _____
 Conservation Music _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the earliest years of English settlement in Eliot (North Kittery until 1810), relations with the Indians were usually good. Increasing mistreatment of the Indians by the English settlers as well as encouragement by the French led to a series of Indian wars. These lasted from 1675 when King Philips's War broke out, until the end of the French and Indian War in 1763.

Southern Maine people were involved in a great many blood skirmishes with the local Indians during much of this period. In order to protect themselves from attacks, it was necessary for the local settlers to build many strong garrison houses.

Col. John Frost joined the ranks of citizens who constructed garrisons in the Eliot area. In about 1733 he built a house on the town's most prominent land feature, Frost's Hill. The house was the second to be erected on the Frost Hill land which the Frosts had owned since 1660. Within a few years, he erected a small garrison about 30' behind the house. This small building was later used as a powder house. The large garrison was erected for neighborhood use in 1738.

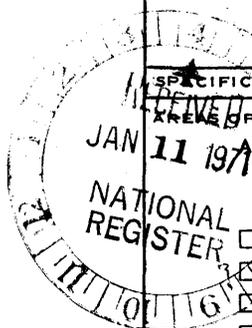
In any case, garrisons had been erected earlier in the surrounding areas. Many other families had garrison houses. One of John Frost's relatives, a Major Charles Frost, was the owner of a garrison until he was killed after being ambushed by Indians on July 4, 1697. At one time there were 28 garrisons in Eliot.

Although the numerous arrowhead marks found around the large garrison's portholes indicate that Indians had attacked the garrison on at least one occasion, there is no documentary evidence available indicating dates or circumstances surrounding any attacks.

After the Indian menace subsided, both Frost garrisons were used as storehouses for wood.

The large garrison was considered to be "very well preserved"

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clayton, W. W. History of York County, Maine
Philadelphia, 1880, P. 52.

Stackpole, Everett S., Old Kittery and Her Families,
Lewiston, Maine, 1903, pp.

Howells, John Mead, The Architectural Heritage of the
Piscataqua and other novel jobs in the
New York, 1937, plates 162, 163 and 299.

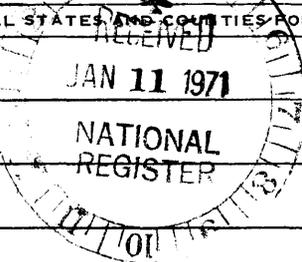
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	43° 09' 54"	70° 45' 12"		43° 09' 43"	70° 44' 58"	
NE	43° 09' 54"	70° 44' 55"				
SE	43° 09' 41"	70° 44' 55"				
SW	43° 09' 41"	70° 45' 12"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

JOHN BRIGGS, HISTORIAN

ORGANIZATION

MAINE STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

DATE

Nov. 4, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

STATE HOUSE

CITY OR TOWN:

AUGUSTA

STATE

MAINE

CODE

18

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name

Lawrence Stuart

Title

Director

Date

1/4/71

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

Ernest A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST

William H. Murray
Keeper of The National Register

Date

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE MAINE	
COUNTY YORK	
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71.7.29.0009	7/27/71

(Number all entries)

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

in 1880 and "still structurally sound" in 1903. The small garrison (powder house) still served as a woodhouse as late as 1880, but fell into decay and was eventually removed to Kittery Point. It has now been returned and restored on its original foundation.

The Frost house is well known for its fine stenciled interior walls. It remained in the Frost family until it was sold in 1930. It was slated for removal to nearby York Harbor at that time, but due to the depression plans were changed and removal was never effected. It is interesting to note that it is the ancestral home of the American poet, Robert Frost, who made numerous visits to the Frost Hill area.

The present owner, Joseph Parsons, has done a goodly amount of restorative work on both the large garrison and the Frost house.

This is the only known 18th-century set of buildings in the United States erected strictly as a fortress against Indian attack by a single family.

DOVER EAST, ME. — N. H.

NE/4 DOVER 15' QUADRANGLE
N4307.5 — W7045.7/7.5

1956

Frost Garrisons
and Home - 16 Acres

Latitude

Longitude

N.W. 43° 09' 54"

70°45' 12"

N.E. 43° 09' 54"

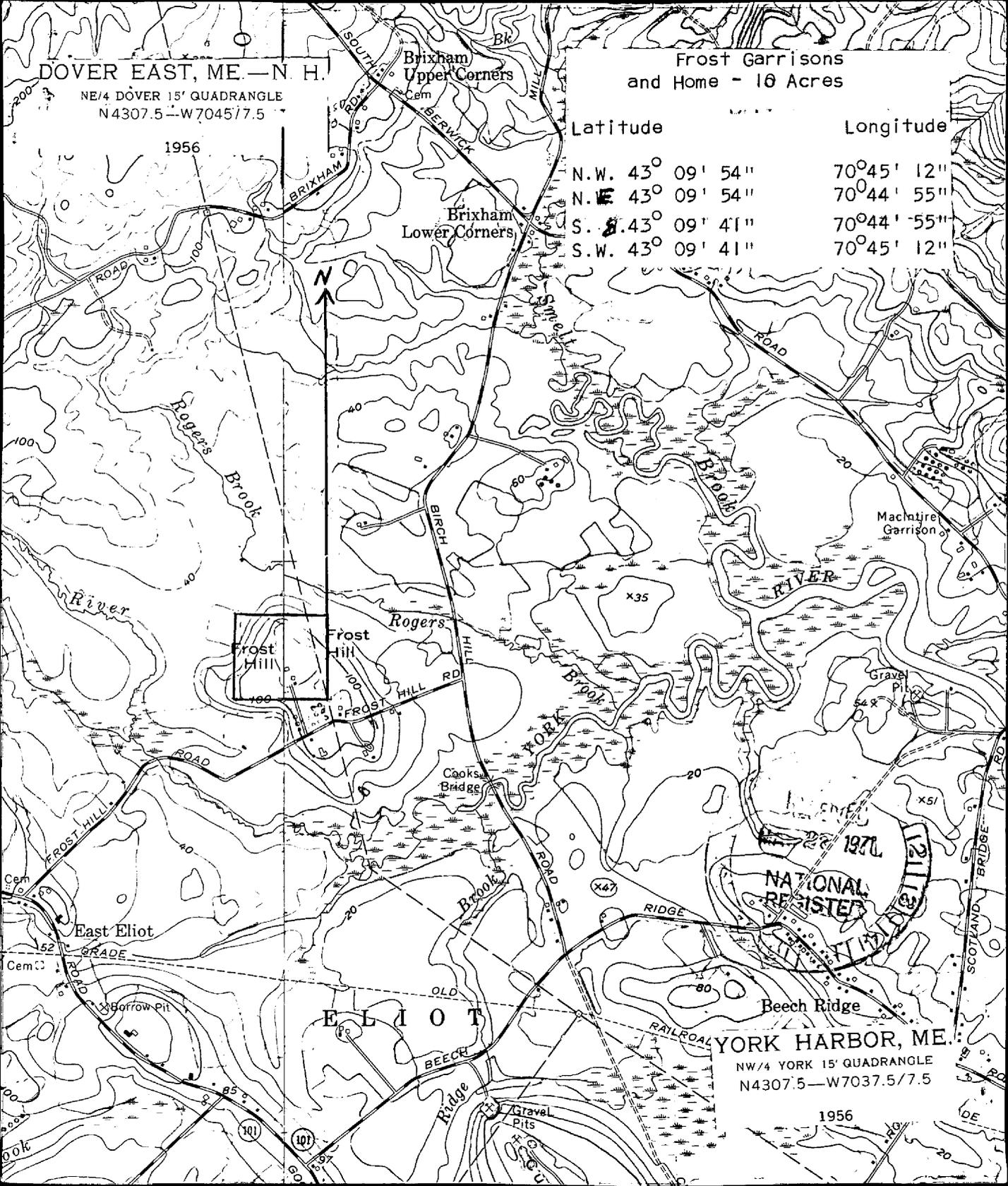
70°44' 55"

S. 43° 09' 41"

70°44' 55"

S.W. 43° 09' 41"

70°45' 12"



Brixham
Upper Corners

Brixham
Lower Corners

Frost Hill

Frost Hill

East Eliot

E L I O T

Beech Ridge

YORK HARBOR, ME.

NW/4 YORK 15' QUADRANGLE
N4307.5 — W7037.5/7.5

1956

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Frost Garrisons and House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Frost Hill Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Eliot			
STATE: Maine	CODE 23	COUNTY: York	CODE 031
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: York Harbor Quadrangle Dover East, Maine - N. H.			
SCALE: 1:24,000		1:24,000	
DATE: 1956		1956	
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

