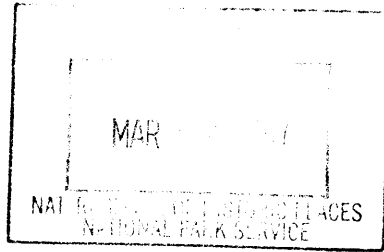


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Burgess, Walter and Eva, Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 79 Shaw Road N/A not for publication

city or town Macomber Corner vicinity

state Maine code ME county Piscataquis code 021 zip code 04426

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.)

[Signature] SHPO 3/1/97
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 the 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): _____

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 4-14-97

Burgess, Walter and Eva, Farm
Name of Property

Piscataquis, 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	
2		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	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
Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural Field
Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural
Outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Square House

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Wood/Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other Ell Linked to Large Barn

Narrative Description

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

Burgess, Walter and Eva, Farm
Name of Property

Piscataquis, Maine
County and State

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 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

Architecture

Period of Significance

1914 -1947

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Brann, C.B., and Sands, F. E., Builders

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Burgess, Walter and Eva, Farm
Name of Property

Piscataquis, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 206

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	481680	4995700
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	19	482310	4995690

3	19	482640	4994480
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	19	481670	4994480

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. Mohney, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1997
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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

BURGESS, WALTER AND EVA, FARM

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Walter and Eva Burgess Farm is comprised of a two-and-a-half story frame “square house” whose one-story rear ell extends to a large gambrel roofed barn with shed additions, as well as a 206 acre parcel of land. The farm is located in the southwestern part of rural Dover-Foxcroft near the Sangerville town line.

Facing southwest, the front elevation of the house features a shallow hip roofed porch spanning the facade (and carrying along the southeast side elevation) and a dormer on the high hipped roof. The porch roof is supported by four Tuscan columns on the front and six along the side. It shelters a central door that is flanked to the west by paired one-over-one double hung sash windows, and to the east by a single one-over-one as well as a third angled window located at the southeast corner of the first story. There is a single window in the center bay of the second story, and paired windows in the outer bays. The hip roofed dormer also contains a pair of one-over-ones.

The porch on the southeast side elevation shelters four asymmetrically placed one-over-ones in the main block of the house, as well as two windows and a door in the ell. A more symmetrical fenestration pattern prevails on the second story with a central pair of one-over-ones flanked by single one-over-ones. A chimney punctuates the roof on this elevation. In addition to the two windows and door under the porch, the ell contains a shed roofed dormer over the porch as well as two additional windows and a double door in the woodshed section. A brick flue rises through the rear (northeast) slope of the main roof at about the point where it meets the ell roof. The northwest side elevation features a three sided bay window, door, and short porch at the northeast corner, as well as a window at the southwest corner. There are two widely spaced windows on the second story. The ell has two windows of unequal size and a door on the northwest elevation, as well as three windows on its rear wall.

In plan, the house features a central stair hall that extends through the first story to the relatively narrow kitchen that is located across the entire back wall. To the right (east) of the hall is a double parlor separated by pocket doors, and to the left (west) is a bedroom, bathroom, and dining room. The second floor contains six rooms. Wood trim throughout the house is varnished, and the lone fireplace is located in the front parlor.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

BURGESS, WALTER AND EVA, FARM

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

The barn is connected to the ell at its northeast corner. Its broad front elevation has a symmetrical fenestration pattern comprised of a pair of large centrally located track mounted doors flanked by single six-over-six double hung windows (a third window at the southwest corner is a later addition). There are two additional six-over-sixes high in the hay loft, and a large louvered vent in the gambrel peak. A shed roofed addition with five windows extends across about three-quarters of the southeast elevation. It is joined to a gable roofed shed at its southwest end, and a shed roofed addition that was attached to the rear elevation of the barn in 1986. This shed partially obscures the original fenestration pattern which was virtually the same as on the front elevation.

Additional buildings on the farm include the aforementioned shed connected to the barn, and an equipment shed that stands farther to the southeast. There was also a much smaller barn and an L-shaped gable roofed wing attached to the rear of the main barn (apparently replaced by the present shed).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BURGESS, WALTER AND EVA, FARM

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

Comprised of a main house and barn erected in 1914 as well as 206 acres of largely open agricultural land, the Walter and Eva Burgess Farm is a good example of an early twentieth century farmstead. The existing “square house” and large gambrel roofed barn were built to replace a set of nineteenth century buildings that were destroyed by fire. This property is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A for its association with early twentieth century patterns of agriculture in Dover-Foxcroft, and criterion C for its representative farm architecture.

In 1834, William Burgess (1802-1883) acquired 100 acre lot number two in the third range of lots in Perham’s survey of Dover, upon which he established his farm. Tradition holds that he initially occupied a log cabin until he could erect a frame house. Burgess sold one-half interest in his “Homestead Farm” to his son John O. Burgess (1831-1916) in 1860, and the remainder in 1877 with the provision that he and his wife would be cared for by his son during the remainder of their life. John Burgess continued to farm this property with his wife Betsey Ann (Merrill) Burgess until its operation was assumed by their youngest child Walter H. Burgess (1867-1964).

The Agricultural Schedules of the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 census provide important information about the Burgess family farm in this period. In 1850 it was reported that the farm was comprised of seventy acres of improved land and fifty-five acres of unimproved land. Burgess owned 1 horse, 4 milch cows, 2 oxen, 7 other cattle, 2 swine, and 17 sheep. Subsequent census figures reveal significant changes in the type and amount of grain that was raised, butter and cheese produced, acreage (up to 223 by 1880), and the size of the herd of sheep (34 in 1860, 21 in 1870, 45 in 1880). The Burgess farm illustrates the importance of sheep to the nineteenth century rural economy. As the number of woolen textile mills increased, the local market for raw wool stimulated the growth of sheep herds. In the nearby village of Dover-Foxcroft, for example, the first woolen mill was erected in 1836, two years after William Burgess purchased his farm.

It is uncertain whether the original dwelling and outbuildings erected by William Burgess were still in existence at the time that his grandson acquired the farm, although it is likely that some or all of them were. In any event, on the afternoon of December 23, 1913, the complex appears to have been completely destroyed by fire. In its December 25, 1913, edition *The Piscataquis Observer* (Dover-Foxcroft) reported under a headline titled **Farm Buildings Burned:**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

BURGESS, WALTER AND EVA, FARM

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

The farm buildings of John O. and Walter H. Burgess at West Dover were entirely destroyed by fire Tuesday afternoon, causing a loss of three horses, six hogs, 12 or 14 head of stock, 1700 bushels of potatoes, the grain from 25 acres and a large amount of hay. Considerable of the furniture in the lower part of the house was saved but that in the upper part was burned.

The Observer has heard no estimate of the loss, which is heavy as the buildings were finely equipped. There was some insurance. Great sympathy is felt for the family in their misfortune and particularly for Mr. and Mrs. J.O. Burgess who had lived on the farm so long. The fire started in the barn from some unknown cause.

As reported in the *Piscataquis Observer*, reconstruction of the Burgess farm began with the addition of an ell to the blacksmith shop where the family would reside until a new house was built (1/22/1914). On April 30, 1914, it was reported that "C. B. Brann is working at West Dover, helping build a barn for Walter H. Burgess." Finally, in its May 21, 1914, edition the *Observer* noted that "C. B. Brann and F. E. Sands are building a house at West Dover for Walter H. Burgess." Burgess and his wife Eva Leah (Pratt) Burgess (1865-1940) subsequently occupied the family farm until their deaths.

The new buildings erected by the Burgesses in 1914 reflected both the popular fashion in farmhouse architecture as well as modern ideas about barn design. The dwelling fully illustrates the characteristics of the "square house" or "foursquare" with its nearly square footprint, two-story height, hip roof with a dormer on the front elevation, and the double-pile arrangement of the interior. The immense gambrel roofed barn represents a design that emerged at the turn-of-the-century and whose chief benefit was the increased hay storage in the upper level. In Maine, such barns are relatively scarce due to the fact that few farmers could justify the expense of replacing their nineteenth century barns at a time when agriculture was in steep decline.

Walter Burgess' choice of design for his new barn indicates the substantial change that had occurred relative to the farm's focus in the early twentieth century. The hay storage area and the incorporation of milking stanchions in the lower level reveals that a shift to dairying on a large scale was underway (it had probably already begun as a dozen or more head of stock were lost in the fire). This was a pattern repeated throughout the central and southern areas of the state in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as demand increased, dairy herds were improved, and advances in processing and transportation made it possible for a farmer to market his product. Although little specific information has been uncovered about the size and nature of the Burgess dairy operation, the investment made in the buildings underscores the significance of this agricultural activity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BURGESS, WALTER AND EVA, FARM

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Day, Clarence A. *Farming in Maine: 1860-1940*. Orono, ME: University of Maine Press. 1963.

“Farm Buildings Burned.” *Piscataquis Observer* (Dover-Foxcroft). December 25, 1913.

“John O. Burgess of Dover.” *Piscataquis Observer*. August 7, 1958. Reprint of a biographical sketch that is believed to have been written about 1895.

Piscataquis County Registry of Deeds. Dover-Foxcroft.

Piscataquis Observer. Editions of January 1, 1914; January 8, 1914; January 22, 1914; April 30, 1914; and May 21, 1914.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BURGESS, WALTER AND EVA, FARM

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property of 206 acres occupies the Town of Dover-Foxcroft tax map 1, lot 19.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary embraces the entire parcel of land that is historically associated with the Walter and Eva Burgess Farm.