

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 15 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Chandler-Parsons Blacksmith Shop
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Dawes Road not for publication
city, town Dover-Foxcroft vicinity
state Maine code ME county Piscataquis code 021 zip code 04426

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Carol A. Hildreth SHPO 9/8/89
Signature of certifying official 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Adores Lynn Entered in the National Register 10/16/89
 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 of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction/Manufac-
turing Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction/Manufac-
turing Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Wood/Shingle

roof Asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Chandler-Parsons Blacksmith Shop is a small one-story gable-roofed frame building sheathed in wood shingles. It stands on a narrow rectangular lot along a secondary road in rural Dover-Foxcroft, a setting which has not been intruded upon by twentieth century development.

Facing south, the building has a four-bay facade that consists of a wide two-leaf doorway flanked to the west by a pair of six-over-six windows and to the east by a single six-over six window. The vertical board doors are mounted to their frames with heavy wrought iron strap hinges. A second doorway is located in the south end of the shed-roofed addition that extends across the west gable end. In addition, the brick chimney from the forge rises through the roof ridge at the west end.

The east gable end of the building has a symmetrical fenestration pattern composed of a trio of six-over-six windows on the main level and a single one in the gable peak. There are three similar windows on the north side. The west side has a window located off-center in the gable peak, as well as a small window and a low door in the shed.

Inside, the building houses a collection of tools and mechanical devices, most of which were either used directly in the blacksmithing trade, or were manufactured by the shop. The brick forge stands at the west end in front of the addition. The building's framing system is entirely exposed, and the floor is of plank construction.

It is thought, and there is structural evidence to suggest, that the building was enlarged at some point. The framing visible on the interior shows that the rafters were altered so as to change the pitch of the roof. In addition, lines on the chimney indicate the position of another roof. Furthermore, the east bay (nearest the road) is probably an addition based on the structural configuration. Finally, the shed along the west end is believed to have been built in the 1880s by the shop's second owner, Henry Parsons. Parsons is also credited with the other changes.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Period of Significance

c. 1860 - 1905

Significant Dates

c. 1860
c. 1880

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Chandler-Parsons Blacksmith Shop, which is believed to have been built in the early 1860s, illustrates a chapter in Maine history that has few evident reminders today. Housed within this modest wood shingled building is a complement of original tools and mechanical devices utilized in a once common small-scale nineteenth century industrial enterprise. Because the property represents an important aspect of rural life in Dover-Foxcroft, it is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A.

The blacksmith shop was apparently constructed by Nicholas A. Chandler for use in his business of horse breeding. The small-scale and personal use of the facility is implied by the absence of Chandler's name in the list of manufacturers that appear in the annual editions of the Maine Register. For what period of time Chandler owned and operated the shop has not been determined, although the 1882 Atlas of Piscataquis County shows that the building was on property owned at that time by the Chandler family.

Tradition holds that the shop came into the possession of Nicholas Chandler's sister Cynthia Chandler Parsons whose husband, Henry L. Parsons, was a blacksmith by trade. Parsons was listed as a blacksmith in the 1869 Maine Business Directory, but he is absent from the Maine Register until 1883. In that year he was listed as the agent of the Cooperative Blacksmithing Company, a local organization about which little is known except that it filed annual returns of stockholders (among whom was Parsons) between 1882-87. Parsons is thought to have practiced his trade in the building until 1905. For about the next sixty years it was occasionally used by residents of the neighborhood for their smithing needs and storage. In 1964 it came into the possession of the Dover-Foxcroft Historical Society which now maintains it as a museum.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Returns of the Cooperative Blacksmithing Company, 1882-87.
Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

Atlas of Piscataquis County, Maine. Houlton and Dover, ME: George
N. Colby & Co., 1882.

"Dover-Foxcroft: Centennial of the Town of Dover."
Piscataquis Observer (Dover-Foxcroft), 1923.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

1	9
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4	7	9	7	1	8	0
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5	0	0	5	3	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Dover-Foxcroft tax map 13, lot 40.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire lot historically associated with the blacksmith shop.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date June, 1989
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132
city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

The intact rural blacksmith shop is a truly rare element in Maine's surviving historic building inventory. While buildings that housed such small-scale enterprises may exist in scattered locations, it is unlikely that many retain the level of integrity as exhibited here. Certainly there are no others in the Dover-Foxcroft area. In fact, only the c. 1900 Lars Noak Blacksmith Shop in New Sweden (nomination pending) has been identified to date.

For generations the local blacksmith provided a vital service to the community and their numbers underscore this. In 1869, for example, there were no fewer than 1,000 blacksmiths listed in the Maine Business Directory, most of whom presumably had their own shop. With the demise of the local blacksmith during this century the buildings associated with them were abandoned, removed, or converted to new uses. The survival of an intact example such as this one, therefore, is of particular significance.