

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 05001439

Date Listed: 12/21/05

Parson's Bend

Lincoln

ME

Property Name

County

State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

12-21-05
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Period of Significance:

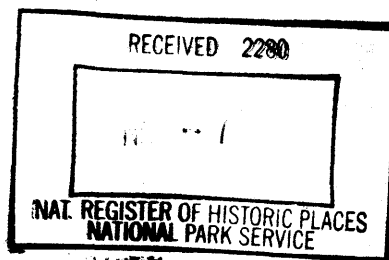
The justified period of significance for this property's architectural significance under criterion C is c.1800-c.1830.

This information has been confirmed with MESHPO staff by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

1439



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 Parson's Bend

other names/site number Nelson Farm

2. Location

street & number 100 Nelson Road N/A not for publication

city or town Alna N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Lincoln code 015 zip code 04535

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] 11/2/05
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): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

12/21/05
Date of Action

PARSON'S BEND
Name of Property

LINCOLN COUNTY, 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 1 buildings

2 1 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
None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE: Agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE: Agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
EARLY REPUBLIC / Federal
COLONIAL / Georgian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE (fieldstone)
walls WOOD/ Weatherboard
 WOOD / Shingle
roof ASPHALT
 STEEL
other BRICK (chimneys)

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PARSON'S BEND

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

Parson's Bend is an early 19th century homestead farm nestled against the Sheepscot River in Alna, Maine. As currently configured the rectangular property is roughly divided north to south with approximately 18 acres of fields and pasture in the west and 19 acres of mixed deciduous and coniferous woods to the east and south. The path of the southerly flowing Sheepscot River makes a right angle, or bend, around the property and forms the northern and western boundaries of the parcel. The buildings at Parson's Bend are situated just to the south of the river, near the eastern edge of the fields, and are accessed via a gently curving track that leads north from Nelson Road, a narrow, east to west dirt lane that forms the southern boundary of the farm. A gable fronted barn, a one story cape with attached ells, and a small seasonal cottage are arranged along a west to east axis at the head of the drive.

At the center of the Parson's Bend homestead is the low posted, south-facing, center-chimney cape built circa 1800. As with many of the remaining structures of this size in rural settings, the homestead has several gable-roof ells attached to the cape. The first of these extends north off the northwest corner of the house. The next section intersects the middle of the first ell and stretches towards the west. At the western end of this structure is attached a small shed with a single pitch roof. With the exception of the south and east sides of the cape, which are clad with clapboards, each of these buildings are covered with cedar shingles and roofed with asphalt shingles. The foundations of the main house and ells are of dry laid fieldstone.

On the exterior the center chimney cape is essentially vernacular in its lack of stylistic elements: only the massing and scale suggest its post-revolutionary period construction. The facade of the cape (south elevation) is five bays wide and contains two pairs of six-over-six wooden sash windows positioned symmetrically on either side of a four-panel door. The door surround is very simple in composition and consists of slightly tapered flat trim boards supporting a plain, un-moulded architrave. The windows, which were replaced prior to 1937, are set in matching trim, and they are fitted tightly to a relatively broad fascia board under the eaves. Narrow corner boards and a boxed cornice complete the unpretentious ornamentation on the face of the house. The identical western and eastern elevations contains two six-over-six windows on the first floor (set towards the north and south corners of the house), and two more in the attic story, nestled under the nine-pitch gable roof. Tapered rake trim with applied bed moulding ornaments the edges of the roof, which does not overhang the structure to any measurable degree. The rear of the house features two windows in the eastern bay; the western bay being occupied by the northern (first) ell. This short, gable roofed ell is slightly lower posted than the main house, and is 22 feet in length. The east side of this appendage contains a modern door in the south next to two six-over-six wood replacement windows, and the north side features a pair of the same sash framed together at the center of the wall. A wooden attic vent marks the center of the gable, and the rake is trimmed with a simple beveled moulding.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetPARSON'S BENDLINCOLN COUNTY, MAINESection number 7 Page 3

Extending to the west from the west wall of the first ell is a longer, timber framed appendage which is almost equally divided between a summer kitchen in the east and carriage shed to the west. Reflecting these functional divisions, the five bay facade contains a two-leaf batten equipment door hung on wrought iron strap hinges in the western bay, and three nine-over-six windows and a pedestrian door in the east. Two brick chimneys are present, both in the eastern section of the building, one rising on the northwestern side of the ridge, and the other in the southeast. Terminating this connected complex is a rectangular one-bay woodshed, under a single-pitched roof that slopes from south to north. The woodshed is entered by an interior sliding batten door, and its stud framing and common rafter roof suggest a 20th century date of construction.

The interior of the main house at Parson's Bend is a remarkably un-altered example of a post-Revolutionary war-era center chimney-cape, notable both for its undisturbed floor plan and for its finishes and materials. In plan, the building is oriented around the massive center chimney. Two front parlors open off a very narrow (and, due to lack of transom light, very dark) entry vestibule, while the rear of the structure is occupied by small, unheated corner rooms on either side of the long, original kitchen. A back staircase is placed in the northeast corner of the kitchen, against the western wall of the northeast corner room. On the second floor are three finished rooms: a plastered bedroom in the southwest, a tiny unheated room in the northeast corner, and a larger bedroom in the southeast that wraps around the back of the chimney. The northern end of the attic, west of the back staircase, is an open and unfinished garret.

The front staircase is almost as hard to describe as it is to ascend or descend. In many low-posted capes with low angled roofs, the original stairs have been altered over time, either by being eliminated completely, or re-designed after a replacement of the center chimney. At Parson's Bend, the front vestibule is very narrow (not more than six feet wide), and due to the width of the chimney stack, only about three and a half feet deep. The flight of stairs commences on the east side of the room. Initially two steep risers head north; the third riser angles northeast to southwest, and then the remaining stairs rise towards the west. In order to provide adequate head space under the low roof each stair is offset several inches towards the north, so that the entire staircase tracks towards the center of the house by appropriating the decreasing mass of the chimney stack as it rises towards the second floor. The height of the 12 risers varies and within the obliquely shaped stairwell, the six inch wide treads and tall risers appear to be set at an acute angle, but in actuality they parallel the front-to-back chimney girts. The stairwell is enclosed by wide pine boarding with beaded edges, and instead of a banister or handrail, a knotted rope provides assistance for climbing the stairs. The stairs are met at the top with a fielded, four panel door into the southwest bedroom, and a hatch door can be pulled down to further cover the stairwell when it is not in use.

The house features original finishes and mouldings throughout, as well as original wide-pine floors, and raised panel, ovolo-moulded doors, with original hardware. In the southwest parlor the floor has been painted, however, this finish was applied over an early floor cloth embedded into the wood. Other details reveal a mix of Georgian/Colonial and Federal treatments. The fireplace is

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PARSON'S BEND

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 4

surrounded by a two-part beaded casing with a quirk ogee and astragal edge moulding; a diminutive mantle consisting of cove and astragal moulding supporting a boxed cornice sits on a wide, plain frieze board over the surround. Bolection molding is used to trim the adjacent edges of a closet door and the door to the parlor. This parlor door (and most of the others on the first floor) is Georgian in its four panel composition, however, the ovolo mouldings and raised panel are generally considered Federal characteristics. The door to the northwest room on the first floor features an earlier style fielded panel door with a Georgian thumbnail bead.

The period details in the southeast parlor are unusual. Here, the firebox is set in a Federal surround consisting of pilasters supporting a narrow entablature over a wide architrave. The lower section of the pilasters, over the plinths, are reeded; this terminates below the architrave with an astragal molding. At architrave level the second, shorter section of the pilasters feature two ranks of four, elongated gouged grooves. Above this, the narrow frieze is decorated with a pattern of perfectly round, bit-and-brace formed punctures, while the fascia of the cornice exhibits pear shaped gouges. The bit-and-brace gouge work is utilized again to decorate the rooms unique crown molding.

Other important features in the house are the painted featheredge board walls that form the rear stairwell, the un-painted featheredge board walls the line the northeast and southeast bedrooms on the second floor, and part of the southwest bedroom, and an edge-bead moulded board-wall closet in the northwest room on the first floor. While the remainder of the southwest bedroom is plastered, and has a plaster ceiling, the other two upstairs rooms feature either cased rafters (front eastern room) or planed and chamfered beams (rear room). In these two rooms, and on the downstairs closet, the board walls have a reddish patina and may have once been stained.

The original mouldings around the kitchen fireplace had been removed from the house in the early decades of the 20th century. These were recreated in the late 1930s based on the extant example in the southwest parlor. The large brick hearth, firebox, and bake oven are original, however, as are the remainder of the moldings in this room (chair rail, mop board and door trim). Another unusual feature dates to the 1930s. Instead of wall paper, the walls of the southeast parlor are clad, over the original plaster, with early twentieth century resort and road maps, bird-eye views of towns and picturesque landscapes, and travel brochures.

The first ell, which contains the present kitchen, was remodeled in the 1930s and the wood that forms the present wainscoting and trim was milled at Head Tide, a village in Alna just up river from Parson's Bend, at that time. The western ell, however, has not been greatly altered since it was erected in the 1840s. The eastern portion of this timber-framed structure functions as a summer kitchen and work space, while the western portion is used to house equipment. While neither portion of this structure is finished on the interior a chimney and set kettle, narrow wood flooring, and several cupboards and shelves on the walls help to identify the function of the summer kitchen.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PARSON'S BEND

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 5

Barn, early 19th century. Contributing.

Two stories in height with the main entrance under the gable end, the barn at Parson's Bend is a timber-framed building with a rafter-purlin roof system. The main structural members are all hewn, and the posts feature traditional gunstock tops to support the complex rafter-plate-post joint. Stylistically and structurally, the barn at Parson's Bend appears to date from the first decades of the 19th century when New England gable-front barns were first developed in Northern New England, and when the gunstock posts and associated joinery that were a hallmark of the earlier English barns were still being used in the new barns. A central aisle separates the former animal stalls to the north from the hay mow on the south, however, some of the internal partitions have been removed to provide storage. As depicted in a 1937 photograph, the barn was six bents long, however, the western two bents were taken down shortly thereafter due to extreme deterioration. In the 1950s a lean-to addition was placed against the north side of the barn. This addition, which is also comprised of hewn members, was salvaged from another barn in the town.

Guest House, by 1890s. Non-contributing.

Immediately to the east of the main house is a very small, one-and-one-half story guest house, built in the later decades of the 19th century. This stud-framed building contains only one room on the first floor and a small loft above, reached by a ladder. A screen porch is attached to the north side of the building. On the facade, a pair of two-over-two windows flank a wooden door with applied molding on its four flat panels. The building has a high pitched gable-sided asphalt roof and sits on stone piers. The guest house was originally sited on the lawn to the south of the main house before being located to its present position. A plain and unpretentious structure, the date of construction is based on signatures on the interior walls from the 1890s.

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1800

Significant Dates

c. 1800

c.1830

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, listed in National Register, landmark, survey, engineering record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PARSON'S BEND

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Parson's Bend, on Nelson Road in Alna, Maine, is a very good, intact example of the simple, transitional Georgian - Federal period homesteads that flourished in Lincoln County at the turn of the nineteenth century. Situated on a low bluff over the Sheepscot River, one-and-one-half miles southeast of the Puddle Dock settlement in Alna, the home that Jacob Nelson built has changed very little since it was constructed circa 1800. Built neither as a mansion house nor a settler's cabin, the setting of the Nelson homestead farm, with its center chimney cape, barn, and surrounding fields evokes strongly the established but un-cluttered landscape that characterized much of inland Lincoln County at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Parson's Bend is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C as an intact example of a moderate sized rural Maine homestead with transitional Georgian/ Federal stylistic elements, an intact plan and interesting interior features.

The settlement patterns of mid-coast Maine first followed the coast, and then moved inland along the rivers. The peninsulas that extend southeastward into the Atlantic provided many sheltered harbors and inlets where early eighteenth-century communities got a toe-hold. Larger villages eventually clustered around the more substantial harbors at Bath, Wiscasset, and Lincolnville. Numerous rivers, including the Sheepscot, the Medomak, the St. George and the Ducktrap drew settlers along their deep runs of fish into interiors full of lumber and waterfalls for power. Difficult relations with large land owners, including the Kennebec Proprietors, and unsteady relationships with the Native Americans caused the fertile interior to develop at a slower pace than the coast, less than thirty miles away. Thus, the earliest structures in Alna and the surrounding towns on the inland Sheepscot rarely date as early as 1760. As a result of the slow development of the interior, center-chimney capes, and five-bay, double pile, two-story houses with center chimneys continued to be built in the interior settlements, long after the affluent coastal communities adopted the more refined center-hall, twin chimney models. But regardless of the floor plan of the home, Federal detailing was frequently used by the skilled joiners and housewrights responsible for the early nineteenth-century rural homes in the region. Such is the nominated property.

In 1762 David Nelson, a housewright and miller from Rowley, Massachusetts arrived in the North Precinct of Pownalborough, in the District of Maine and purchased 150 acres on the east side of the Sheepscot River. Within the next six years Nelson, and his son John, had purchased 150 acres more on the west side of the river and placed a dam across the water body. Between then and 1782, when Nelson removed to Boothbay, he and his son erected at the first two sawmills and a grist mill at the Head of the Tide in the settlement that later became incorporated as Alna. However, after the American Revolution neither David nor John remained in Alna, each having sold their portions of the mills and pursued other opportunities in the area. By the early 19th century their relations and descendants had expanded north along the Sheepscot to Palermo (Sheepscot Great Pond) and south to the mouth of the river at Southport Island. However, when David Nelson's nephew Jacob arrived in Alna by 1790 (followed shortly by his brother Jeremiah), this generation of the Nelson family planted their roots more firmly in the area, and built their houses and farms on the fertile

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PARSON'S BEND

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

shores of the Sheepscot River. By the time the 1850 census was recorded, at least four separate Nelson family farms lined the dirt road south of the Sheepscot River, causing the area to be referred to as 'Nelson Town'. Seven years later, the County map records yet another family home on Nelson Road and a tannery under their direction. Yet one by one, the Nelson properties have disappeared from the landscape, either through collapse, removal or fire, with the exception of the Jacob Nelson farm, known locally as Parson's Bend.

When Jacob Nelson came to Alna he brought with him seven children and his wife Annabel. The location of their first house is not known, although they may have obtained the use of some property that either the uncle, David, or cousin John still had in their possession. The first Nelson deed for the land that now comprises their homestead farm indicates that James Pickard (of nearby Ballstown) sold Jacob Nelson's son Andrew 65 acres of land in 1800. This parcel of land was identified as Lot #63 as shown on the Jones map of the lands of Doctor Silvester Gardiner, Esquire, from 1759; this lot is easily recognized by its location within the southwestern crook of the Sheepscot River east of the Head of the Tide. A second map of Gardiner's tract, updated with the names of property owners, from 1798 indicates that Lot 63 was still unsold at that time. While the deeds and maps do not fully establish the date of construction of the cape, that coupled with interior and exterior features of the cape support a general construction time frame of 1800. By the time that Andrew's father died in 1823 this land, as well as an additional and adjacent 13 acres, had become identified as Jacob Nelson's homestead farm. To date no deeds have been found to record a land transfer from son to father. Probate documents generated in 1825 describe the house as it was divided between Jacob's widow and heirs, and this document was used to determine that the ells were affixed at a later time.

The house that the Nelson family constructed demonstrates that in rural locations, the Georgian-inspired colonial aesthetics and designs lingered even as the Federal style was being adopted. With its low posting and low pitched roof, the massing of the center chimney cape is more closely related, stylistically, to colonial era capes (usually featuring Georgian detailing) than to the somewhat more delicately proportioned Federal capes that were starting to be erected in the 1790s. On the interior, Federal moldings on the mop boards, chair rail and door trim, along with the plastered southern first floor rooms and the southwestern second floor chamber, indicate that the joiner was versed in the emerging style. The thumb-nail moulded door, the use of Georgian profiles around one fireplace, and the plentiful use of featheredge board walls shows a reluctance to part with established building traditions of the Colonial period. At the same time, the as yet unidentified builder executed a bold and unique combination of Federal detailing and gouge work in the parlor, creating in the process a decorative element that is uncommon in houses of this type in Maine.

In 1827 Andrew Nelson, executor of his father's estate, sold the homestead farm to Joseph Decker. During the next forty years Decker farmed the property profitably, adding during that time the summer kitchen and carriage shed, and possibly building (or lengthening) the barn. Shortly after the end of the Civil War Decker sold the property to Henry and Woodbury Parsons, the latter of whom had lived with the Deckers occasionally, and worked as a farm hand for them. The Parsons, after whom the property received its popular name, held the property until 1921, when it was sold to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PARSON'S BEND

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

the Ayer family, who had also purchased several other parcels along Nelson Road. They apparently did not utilize the homestead much during their ownership. According to family tradition, when Rev. Joseph Barth purchased the property for back taxes in 1937, the house had been abandoned for the previous eight years or more. Unfortunately, during this time the original kitchen fireplace surround was removed.

The Town of Alna has numerous historic structures dating into the 18th and early 19th centuries, including the National Register listed Alna Meetinghouse (NR:7000079), the Alna School (NR: 75000101), two historic districts (Sheepscot Historic District, NR: 78000424, and Head Tide Historic District, NR: 74000320), and the Moses Carleton House (NR: 02000783). The town's most recent comprehensive plan identifies 14 existing homes said to date prior to 1790, and 25 examples built between then and 1825, six of which are identified as one-story, center-chimney capes. Although a complete evaluation of these historic resources has not been undertaken, the integrity of the Parson's Bend property, especially as measured in the workmanship, materials, design, setting, and location is exceptionally high. Even though this type of structure was once, and to some extent is still, common in the town, that does not diminish its ability to communicate important information about the material culture, social history, and aesthetic choices of its early 19th century occupants. That Parson's Bend is able to do so unambiguously is what sets this structure apart from the others in the town.

That the Nelson homestead survived with so much of its original materials and design intact is probably due to the fact that the Nelsons and the subsequent owners were essentially farmers of modest means: they were able to maintain the structures and make small improvements, but the main house never received a remodeling or renovation, (other than the replacement of the windows in the early 20th century), or even, as is the case on the featheredged board walls, more than one coat of paint! Neither a wealthy mill wright, prosperous ship owner, nor accomplished trader, Nelson nonetheless constructed a well-built, functional and compact home based on traditional precedents, that also utilized some of the newer post-Revolutionary design vocabulary. As the structure sits today, cared for, maintained, and surrounded by fields and forests much as it was over two hundred years ago, Parson's Bend is significant for its ability to physically represent in the present a once common rural past as expressed through its historic buildings and landscape.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PARSON'S BEND

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allen, Charles Edwin. The History of Dresden, Maine: formerly a part of the old town of Pownalborough From its earliest settlement to 1900. (Augusta, Maine: Kennebec Journal Print Shop), 1931.

"Cultural Resources" in Alna Comprehensive Plan, [Draft]. Prepared by the Town of Alna, Maine, 1991. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Carr, Sherwood E., compiler. The Nelson Family Geneology: Ancestors of Rinaldo E. Carr. (Tucson, Arizona: S.E. Carr), 2001.

Federal Nonpopulation Censuses--Maine, 1850-1880 (Agricultural, Industrial and Social Statistics). Available on microfilm at the Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

Goodwin, Samuel. "Plan of Lots on the Sheepscot River, 1798". Plymouth Company Collection, Map # 49. Maine Historical Society, Portland, Maine.

Jones, Jonas. "Dr. Silvester Gardiner's tract, 1761." Plymouth Company Collection, Map # 4. Maine Historical Society, Portland, Maine.

The Old Maps of Lincoln County Maine in 1857. (Fryeburg, Maine: Saco Valley Printing), 1985.

Pingree, Margaret C. and Elizabeth G. Rawlings. Alna, 1760 - 1800 and The Writing of the Constitution, June - September 1787. (Damariscotta, Maine: Alna Committee for the 200th Anniversary of the Constitutional Convention), 1987.

Probate Records for Jacob Nelson, Volumes 24/208, 24/544, 25/ 346-8 26/ 31-2 and 177-82 and 266, 27/1 and 240 and 399 and 4/4 and 418. Lincoln County Registry of Probate. Lincoln County Courthouse, Wiscasset, Maine.

Tax Valuation Books. Assessor's Office, Alna Town Hall, Alna, Maine. Volumes examined as follows: 1827, 1828.

United States Decennial Population Census, 1790 - 1930. Lincoln County, Maine. Copies on microfilm, Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

Various Deeds. Lincoln County Registry of Deeds; Lincoln County Courthouse. Wiscasset, Maine.

Walker, Nell. A Brief History of Old Alna. (Alna, Maine: Committee for Alna History), 1990.

PARSON'S BEND
Name of Property

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 39 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	9	4	5	1	7	9	6	4	8	8	3	0	6	9
Zone			Easting					Northing							
2	1	9	4	5	2	2	7	4	4	8	8	2	7	6	7

3	1	9	4	5	2	1	0	5	4	8	8	2	5	2	3
Zone			Easting					Northing							
4	1	9	4	5	1	9	4	9	4	8	8	2	6	2	0

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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 8 July 2005
street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132
city or town AUGUSTA state ME 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

PARSON'S BEND

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

UTM's, continued

5. 19/ 451700 easting
19/ 4882902 northing

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is fully described by the Town of Alna tax map R-5 lot 27.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The number of acres and the boundaries of the property associated with the Nelson Family farm, later known as Parson's Bend, has fluctuated greatly since it was set off as lot 63 by Silvester Gardiner in 1761. The above described boundaries of the property represent the current limits of the homestead parcel, which contain the cultural landscape features most immediately associated with the historic buildings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

PARSON'S BEND

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 July 2005
Parson's Bend complex, facing east.

Photograph 2 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 July 2005
South facade of Cape, ells and woodshed; facing north.

Photograph 3 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 July 2005
South and east elevations of barn, facing north-northwest.

Photograph 4 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 July 2005
Interior, winder staircase from second to first floor: facing east.

Photograph 5 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 July 2005
Interior, feather-edge board walls; southeast chamber, facing southeast.

Photograph 6 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 July 2005
Chimney surround with gouge details; southeast parlor facing west.

Photograph 7 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 July 2005
Interior, kitchen and back stairs; facing east.

Sketch Map of
PARSON'S BEND

Alna, Lincoln County, Maine

Not to scale. July 8, 2005.

