

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 Jefferson Cattle Pound

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 3/4 mi. west of the junction of Gardiner Road and Rt. 213, on east side of the road. N/A not for publication

city or town Jefferson N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Lincoln code 015 zip code 04348

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] 6/11/04
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
Edson H. Beall 2/26/04
Date of Action

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	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE: Animal Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Granite

roof N/A

other

Narrative Description

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

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DESCRIPTION

The Jefferson Pound is a circular enclosure about forty feet in diameter and built of dry laid field stone. (See figure 1). The walls of the pound are approximately seven feet high with a nearly vertical interior face. The exterior face of the pound slopes towards the top, and thus the width of the wall ranges from approximately 4 feet at the foundation to 3 feet at the top. Most of the stone used in the construction of the structure is rounded to sub-rounded small boulders, with larger, angular foundation stones set on ledge or in the ground. Smaller cobbles fill the core of the wall between the interior and exterior faces. The wall height and width remain the same throughout the circumference of the structure although the land on which the pound sits rises slightly from the southwest to the northeast. The enclosure has a single entrance located in the northeast quadrant and facing the Gardiner Road (Route 126) to the north. The pound was constructed in 1828-29 by a local resident, Silas Noyes, and by one estimate, contains 190 tons of rock.¹

The entrance is lined with three courses of transverse-laid, large granite boulders which are vaguely rectilinear in shape. These boulders form the sides of the 4 ½ to 5 foot wide doorway: a wooden gate was hung from eye-bolts driven into the western side wall, one of which still holds a wrought iron pintle. A large, rectangular granite lintel, measuring roughly 8 feet by 1 foot thick spans the 5'10" high entry way. Atop the lintel is a wooden sign stating "Jefferson Cattle Pound Built by Silas Noyes in 1828 for \$28." Flanking the exterior of the entrance are the remains of two stone walls which extend in a modified "V" shape out and away from the pound, before previously joining a stone boundary wall that paralleled the road. This exterior feature served to assist the wardens of errant animals by funneling them into the enclosure. However, the exterior components of the pound have experienced substantial collapse, offering currently only a suggestion of their former location and function. The stone boundary walls along the road, which were documented in the 1937 HABS drawing done by Josiah T. Tubby, have been removed².

¹ Estimate made by Eleanor E. Jannell, HABS Data page 2, ME-60.

² These low walls can also be seen in a c. 1940 photograph of the Pound by George French, a copy of which is on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

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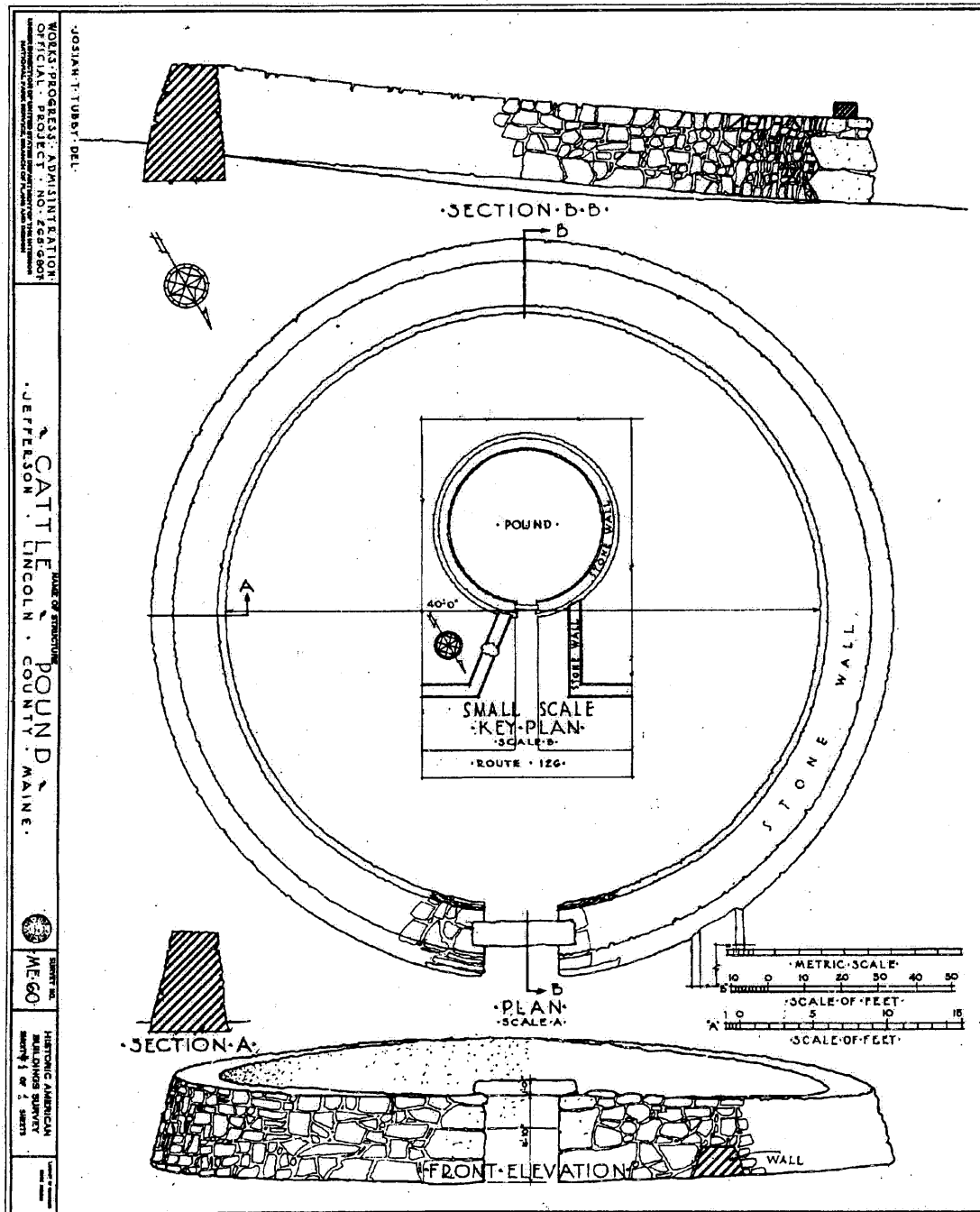
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Figure 1.



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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1829 - 1888

Significant Dates

1829

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Silas Noyes

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 a 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 # HABS-ME-60
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary location of additional data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Name of repository: _____

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As Maine communities began to lose some of their frontier aspects in the early 19th century and assumed a more settled appearance, rudimentary civic improvements were initiated. Among these improvements in the largely agricultural world of rural Maine was the regulation of the livestock which were becoming numerous. To control this problem towns constructed shelters for the temporary control of wayward animals. The current existence of 21 of these structures in Maine had been verified, and their condition varies from almost unrecognizable to good. The Jefferson Cattle Pound is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as a good example of a 19th century structure that was built by the town to regulate one specific aspect of its agricultural economy.

Farmers have always found it necessary to control wandering livestock. In the earliest, 17th century settlements of southern New England, cattle, sheep and swine were grazed on commonly held town lands located outside the denser residential landscape. Inevitably some livestock found their way into cultivated fields and gardens. This had the potential to threaten both the annual animal and human food supplies in these communities, many of which existed at the subsistence level during the early decades of settlement. By 1635, the courts of Massachusetts Bay ordered that every town under its jurisdiction construct a strong impoundment in which the wayfaring beasts could be held until claimed by their owner and returned to the pasture. This action was the origin of a class of common, publicly-supported and ordained structures found in almost every agricultural community in New England: the Town Cattle Pound.

With the exception of extreme southern and coastal locations, the majority of Maine's development started much later, in the decades after 1750. Although heavily settled by immigrants from the southern New England States, the patterns of land distribution in Maine had shifted. Few towns designated common pastures, rather individual settlers were expected to care for their own livestock. Noting that "gardens were small and the return from fencing them was large," one historian asserts that the greater acreage required for pastures made them "difficult and expensive" to fence, and that "with near neighbors, cattle could easily stray from one pasture to another." (Locke, p.214). Thus, the institution of the cattle pound continued to be called upon in Maine, albeit in response to slightly different circumstance.

William Locke's history of cattle pounds in Maine is useful in understanding the important role these public structures played in maintaining order in agricultural communities. The following excerpt is from "The Rise and Demise of the Cattle Pound Harpswell and Maine", published in 1993/4.

"At the earliest town meetings there were angry demands for an end to damage by marauding cattle. Towns may have hastened their incorporation partly because the election of pound keepers was apparently accepted as establishing a legal basis for impounding strays.

From the beginning several implicit concepts underlie the pound solution to the stray cattle problem: first, the owner was responsible for damage done by his animals; second, it was in the

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public interest that the person harmed or others should round up and drive offending animals to the pound - originally the pound keeper's barn or farmyard; third, to get his animals back, the owner should pay for damage done. Later, two more concepts were added: the owner was to pay for the cost of feeding and caring for impounded animals, and fines were to be levied on the owner by the town. Eventually, the state legislature incorporated these and other sanctions."

"When pound keeping in barns and in farmyards became too onerous, towns throughout the District or later the State of Maine authorized construction of one or more log pounds in strategic locations on land loaned for the purpose. No money was appropriated. Trees were there for the felling, and neighbors, no doubt, joined in the common effort, as they did for roads and barns. Later on, more prosperous voters would appropriate money to pay for the work. Then log pounds were replaced by more secure and permanent stone structures." (Pages 214-215).

Indeed, within the first year of statehood, the Maine Legislature passed two resolves requiring that towns construct pounds for "curbing stray beasts," although by this time many town had already fulfilled that decree, either with a wooden or a stone pound.

The following excerpt from an article on the Jefferson Cattle Pound, published in 1980, provides a concise background of the particulars of the development of this specific pound.

"Organized in 1791 as Balltown Plantation, the Town of Jefferson was incorporated on February 24, 1807, becoming the 166th town in the District of Maine. As the town grew in population, farming activities increased. Forest land was cleared for crops and pasturage, and cattle, horses, sheep, oxen and goats roamed free over the landscape until stone walls and rail fences marking boundaries were built to contain the ranging animals on their owners lands.

The first town meeting was called on May 11, 1807, followed by another a week later. Among important issues settled were the choosing of 17 highway surveyors, 12 tything men, 10 field drivers, 10 fence viewers, 8 hog reeves and seven pound keepers. It was also voted that all pound keepers make pounds of their own barns, free of expense to the town. Thus, strays wandering into a neighbor's barnyard were captured and turned over to the nearest pound keeper and kept until their owners claimed them.

The need for a central pound resulted in the vote at the 1829 town meeting for construction of a town pound, "...near the rushing brook on P.T. Gray's land, providing he gives the land, otherwise on Francis Eames land." (Town Record, 1829). On the third Monday of April 1829, a committee consisting of Esquire Trask, Joseph Weeks, Justus Richardson and John Murphy was chosen to design the pound. They reported that a pound would be built "...in a circular form lay 40 foot diameter inside of the wall to be built of good Granet Stone six foot thick at the bottom seven foot high with a good gate and to be hung with iron hinges and to be done in a workman like manner to the acceptance of a committee which is to be chosen." (Town Records, 1829).

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It was also voted at the time to "...set up the building of the pound at auction also to be completed by the first of July next and was bid off by Silas Noyes for \$28." (Town Records, 1829)." (*Lincoln County News*, 7/3/1980).

For the next sixty years, the Jefferson Cattle Pound provided a sturdy temporary shelter for the town's livestock and source of income for the pound keeper. However, during this period the demographics of the town changed. Examination of the State of Maine's Agricultural Census's for the years 1850 and 1880 reveal that although the number of farmers in town had risen slightly (from 301 to 319), the quantity of livestock they owned had decreased dramatically. Where as 301 farmers had owned cows, oxen, cattle, sheep, swine and horses to the total of 4979 animals in 1850, 319 of them cared for only 3866 animals thirty years later. Of these, only the number of horses and swine increased: the numbers of oxen, milch cows, cattle and sheep, (all of which tended to wander when given an opportunity) dropped dramatically. Between better pastures bound by barbed wire, and fewer animals on the hoof by 1888 it was no longer necessary to elect a pound keeper in Jefferson, and the structure stopped seeing regular use.³

³The last pound keeper was John S. Ames, who served in this capacity between 1873 and 1888. He was last elected to this office in 1887. The Ames family lived almost across the street from the pound.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Allport, Susan. Sermons in Stone. (New York: W.W. Norton and Co.), 1990.

Locke, William. "The Rise and Demise of the Cattle Pound Harpswell and Maine" in *Maine Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 3-4, Winter-Spring 1993-1994. (Portland, Maine), p. 210-221.

Shaw, Dick. "Town Pounds In Maine Have All But Disappeared." *Lewiston Evening Journal Magazine Section*. Lewiston, Maine. (September 28, 1974), p. 4A.

"The Jefferson Cattle Pound" in *The Lincoln County News*. Damariscotta, Maine. (July 3, 1980), p. 14.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3/10

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 460324 4894030
Zone Easting Northing

3 19 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 19 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 19 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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 9 April 2004
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.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is fully described by the Town of Jefferson tax map 13, lot 4.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above described property boundary contains all the land upon which the Cattle pound sits, and which has been historically associated with this structure since it was constructed in 1828.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
7 April 2004
North facade, facing west.

Photograph 2 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
7 April 2004
Entrance and lintel: facing southwest.

Photograph 3 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
7 April 2004
Interior, facing southwest.