

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 12** 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Marion Parsons House

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number 90 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Fryeburg,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine

code 23

county Oxford

code 017

**3. Classification**

**Category**

district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

**Ownership**

public  
 private  
 both  
**Public Acquisition**  
 N/A in process  
 being considered

**Status**

occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress  
**Accessible**  
 yes: restricted  
 yes: unrestricted  
 no

**Present Use**

agriculture  
 commercial  
 educational  
 entertainment  
 government  
 industrial  
 military  
 museum  
 park  
 private residence  
 religious  
 scientific  
 transportation  
 other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Scott T. Soule and Susan O. Steller

street & number 90 Main Street

city, town Fryeburg,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04037

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Oxford County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town South Paris,

state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Located on the principal road through the village of Fryeburg, the Marion Parsons House is surrounded by a mixture of residential and commercial properties dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This mixture of buildings is not eligible as an historic district.

The house is a one-and-one-half story wood frame building with a steeply pitched gable roof that extends down to the first story window. The Parsons House has clapboard siding and brick chimneys at each gable end. The windows consist of two-over-one double-hung sash and the main entry, located in the center of the five bay facade, is enframed by molded architrave trim with corner blocks. The doorway is recessed and has sidelights.

Extending perpendicular from the main house is a smaller one-and-one-half story ell with a gable roof and single dormer. This replaced an earlier wing in the 1870s. The elevation facing the driveway contains a secondary entrance. Attached to the end of this wing is a one-and-one-half story barn with a gable roof, clapboard siding and Greek Revival cornice returns.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** c. 1838      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This simple late Federal Cape Cod house was the home during her retirement of Miss Marion G. Parsons a dedicated and decorated pioneering nurse who during her active career never knew the luxury of a permanent home. Her achievements loom large in the history of nursing both for her service in World War I for which she was internationally recognized and for her dedication to nurses' training.

Born and educated in Fort Fairfield, Maine, she entered nurses training at Boston City Hospital in 1902 and remained in service there as head nurse following her graduation. In 1909 she became superintendent of nurses at the old City and County Hospital which later became the San Francisco General Hospital. She next attended Teachers College at Columbia University for two years, then served for a year as Instructor of Nurses at New York City Hospital.

In the early years of World War I before the United States had made any commitments, she volunteered for overseas duty with the "Harvard Unit" formed in Boston and organized to serve at the British base hospital at Camiers, France. After a year with this organization she learned that Boston City Hospital was forming a unit for duty in France and returned to the United States to head training for the volunteers. Upon a return to France with this group she saw most of her war service near Tours.

In September of 1919, she returned to this country for demobilization preparatory to an assignment in the new country of Czechoslovakia. The government of the new republic had requested that the Red Cross set up a school of nursing under the American system of nursing in Prague. She served there for three-and-a-half years. The Czechoslovak government in 1923 decorated her with the Order of the White Lion, personally presented by President Thomas Masaryk with a citation, an honor bestowed on few women.

King George V of Great Britain had decorated her in 1919 at Buckingham Palace with the Royal Red Cross for service in the British Expeditionary Force in France. Other awards she received included the American Red Cross Service Bar and a badge from the Ladies Committee of the Czechoslovak State School of Nursing in Prague.

After her service in Prague she returned to the U. S. and accepted a position as nursing instructor at Boston City Hospital where she remained until her retirement in 1940.

The house, a large intact example of mid-nineteenth century architecture, was built in about 1838 by an English tailor named Robert Tonge. Miss Parsons purchased the property for her retirement in 1937. She lived here until her death in 1968 at age 92.

This is the only residence ever owned by Marion Parsons.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Portland Press Herald, August 31, 1968.  
Bittersweet, July, 1981.  
Boston University Nursing Archives

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{4}$

Quadrangle name Fryeburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 36, Lot 7

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

S.H.P.O.

date

8/5/86

For NPS use only

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

date

1/23/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration