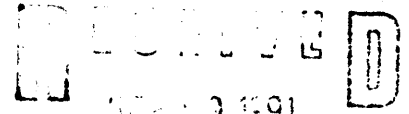


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Mortland Family Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number E Side Mortland Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Searsport

vicinity

state Maine

code ME

county Waldo

code 027

zip code 04974

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</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 80. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

9/3/91
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.
 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]

10/24/91

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single DwellingAgriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural FieldAgriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stonewalls Stone/Granite

roof Asphaltother Connected Farm Buildings

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Mortland Family Farm is a complex of connected buildings situated in a rural agricultural setting. It is comprised of a one-and-a-half-story granite block and rubble stone cape with short side and long rear ells, two barns, a wooden silo, and a mid-twentieth century milk house. These structures are accompanied by 16.3 acres of open space and remnant orchard that constitute the remainder of the once larger land holdings associated with the farm. In addition, a cellar hole located some 100 feet north of the stable is believed to be the site of the original owner's first dwelling.

Facing south at the head of the complex is the dwelling believed to have been erected by 1834. This modest five-bay building has a symmetrically-composed facade featuring replacement six-over-six windows below ironstone lintels. They flank a central entrance that has a glazed four-panel door and transom with a granite lintel. The door itself is a later nineteenth century replacement of the original. A trio of large gable dormers surmount the roof. Judging by the variations in placement and configuration, they appear to have been added at three different times. Finally, visible from this elevation are the two interior end brick chimneys, and a cellar bulkhead located below the southeast windows.

There are two windows on the west side elevation as well as the wooden frame three-bay ell projecting from the northwest corner (it conceals an original door opening). Structural evidence indicates that this ell originally had a central chimney which has been replaced by one located at the west end. The ell is believed to have been added in 1861. Placement of two windows on the east wall of the main house mirrors those on the west side. The long rear ell, which according to a family diary was added in 1863, contains the present newly remodeled kitchen, woodshed and carriage house. Fenestration of this structure consists of a variety of windows on the east side, as well as an entry door, three windows and the large track-mounted sliding door on the west side.

On the interior, the surviving trim exhibits a combination of Federal and Greek Revival style patterns. The southwest room in particular (originally the kitchen) contains Federal period baseboard, chair rail and a fireplace, whereas the opposing southeast room has modest but nonetheless decidedly Greek Revival trim. A steep enclosed stair leads from the entrance

 See continuation sheet

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2

vestibule to the second floor landing where there is a mahogany balustrade with a turned newel post and balusters, all of which were probably added sometime after 1850. Two small bedrooms with Greek Revival trim are located in this upper level.

Attached to the rear of the ell is the larger of the two barns. This gabled building has a double-hinged door and one window on the lower level, and three two-over-two windows in the upper story or loft area. The public face of the barn, that is the west and a slice of the south side, are sheathed in weatherboards whereas the balance is shingled or sheathed in asphalt. This commodious structure was built after 1894 for use as a cow barn, enlarged to the east after 1915, and after World War II gained a pair of wooden silos and had its interior rebuilt. This building was made in a traditional fashion using wooden members for construction of tie-ups rather than steel bars. The hay loft above is an impressive cavernous space.

The adjacent barn, whose historic use was that of a stable, was built in 1898 from lumber salvaged from the nearby "Webber Place" which the Mortland family acquired in 1897. Its interior retains a center drive and stables in the north side. Both its sheathing pattern and fenestration are similar to that of the cow barn. The southeast corner of this building was removed in the 1950s apparently, as tradition maintains, to make repairs to the cow barn. As a result the stable has an unusual profile when viewed from the back side.

Attached to the southwest corner of the cow barn is a small gabled frame building formerly used as the dairy. It was built in the late 1950s to replace an earlier structure which now stands to the northeast of the stable.

Surrounding the farm complex to the south, east and north is the balance of the original farm currently associated with the property. As described to the present owners by Donald Mortland, whose brother last operated the farm, these 16 plus acres consist of the "South Field," the "Old Field" (southeast) and the cleared pasture to the north and northeast. Additionally, a stand of trees known as the "Grove" stands southwest of the house and the remnant orchard to the southeast. These cleared areas continue to convey the historic setting of the farm complex.

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)

Agriculture
Architecture

Period of Significance

1834 - 1941

Significant Dates

1834
1861 1863
c. 1894 1898

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.

Occupying a 16.3 acre site in a rural part of Searsport, the Mortland Family Farm consists of a range of connected domestic and agricultural buildings surrounded by pasture and a remnant orchard. Constructed in three distinct phases during the second to fourth quarters of the nineteenth century, including the earliest in stone, this property depicts the dynamic changes in agriculture which took place in Maine during this period. These changes resulted in the creation of a distinct architectural ensemble commonly referred to as "connected architecture". Thus, the farm is significant under criterion A for its association with agricultural patterns of development, and also under criterion C for the representation of a notable "type" of architecture.

The history of this property in its association with the Mortland family began in the early 1820s. At that time Samuel Mortland I (1791-1873) and his wife Ann (Roulston) Mortland (1795-1864) emigrated from Ireland and sometime thereafter took up residence on this property. According to family tradition, their first house was a log dwelling whose cellar hole is thought to be about 100 feet north of the existing stable. The Mortlands and their surviving family of six children (their third born died in 1826 and two others died in 1835 and 1838, respectively) removed to the existing rubble stone cape in 1834. Since Samuel Mortland was a stone mason and farmer it is presumed that he built the house himself. Although no documentary or physical evidence survives to indicate the existence of other buildings at this time, the compound must surely have contained a barn (probably detached).

At the taking of the 1850 census, the Mortland farm consisted of 68 acres, slightly over half of which were unimproved. There were two milk cows, a pair of oxen, one pig, and a small number of crops with an output of 25 bushels each of oats and potatoes as well as 10 tons of hay. During the next decade the land holdings had increased slightly, sheep had been introduced and the farm output included \$10 worth of orchard products, 150 pounds of butter, 50 pounds of honey, and 30 pounds of wool. These figures

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mortland, Donald Frank. "A Sketch of Six Generations of the Mortland Family and A Brief Informal History of the Mortland Farm, Searsport." Copy on file at the MHPC, Augusta. 1990

Redlon, Rick and Roberts, Jan. Historic Structures Report. Mortland Farm, Mortland Road, Searsport. Copy on file at the MHPC, Augusta. 1990.

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 16.3

UTM References

A	<u>1,9</u>	<u>5 0,6 3,5,0</u>	<u>4,9 2,4 8,8,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1,9</u>	<u>5 0,5 9,7,0</u>	<u>4,9 2,4 4,6,0</u>

B	<u>1,9</u>	<u>5 0,6 3,5,0</u>	<u>4,9 2,4 4,7,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>1,9</u>	<u>5 0,6 0,2,0</u>	<u>4,9 2,4 8,9,0</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Mortland Family Farm occupies the Town of Searsport tax map 7, lot 3A.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the buildings and remaining parcel of land historically and presently associated with this property. As described in Section 7 the surrounding acreage included in the nomination retains its historic integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1991
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132
 city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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depict a small scale farm with an emerging pattern of reliance on outside markets for a meager cash income. This period also marked a generational transition as Samuel Mortland II (1827-1909) assumed greater responsibility for the operation of the farm. Additionally, and of considerable significance, it was in the early 1860s that the younger Mortland enlarged the dwelling by adding the side and rear ells.

The Mortland farm devolved to Frank Irving Mortland (1863-1936), the youngest child and only son of Samuel Mortland II. Like his father before him, Frank Mortland's ascendancy to the operation of the farm was accompanied by additions to the complex. About 1894 the cow barn was erected and four years later the stable was built. The latter was constructed in part from materials salvaged by an adjacent farm which Mortland acquired in 1897. With the building of the cow barn Frank Mortland had firmly entered the dairy business, a pattern of shifting agricultural trends that was emerging throughout the State at this time. This change in focus continued in two subsequent generations of the Mortland family through Frank's son Ralph and grandson Philip. The final additions to the farm including the silos and dairy house were made by Philip Mortland during the 1950s.

In 1987, after Philip Mortland's death, the farm was sold by his heirs thereby ending five generations of family agricultural activity. The new owners are undertaking a phased effort to rehabilitate the buildings and the remaining property with the hope of continuing some form of limited agricultural practice here.

Documentary records, principally photographs and postcards, reveal that the connected farm complex of which the Mortland farm is an example, existed in great numbers in Maine during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Built, as seen here, in distinct episodes and often in response to changing agricultural practices, these conglomerations of buildings reflect a distinct pattern of rural development. Unfortunately, they are an endangered resource. The decline of the agricultural system that sustained such buildings has resulted in their wholesale abandonment. Thus, although notable examples do exist, among them the Merriconegan Farm in Harpswell (NR 6/15/79), the identification and preservation of intact complexes remains a priority.