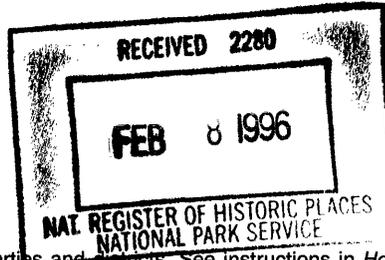


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Olsson, Anders and Johanna, Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 114 West/Lebanon Road N/A not for publication

city or town New Sweden vicinity

state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04762

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.)

Evel S. Peterson 2/2/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State of 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 the 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:)

Edson W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Entered Date of Action
National Register

Olsson, Anders and Johanna, Farm
Name of Property

Aroostook, 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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural
Outbuildings

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Maine Swedish Log House

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Wood/Weatherboard
Wood/Wood Shingle
roof Asphalt
other Hewn Log Walls

Narrative Description

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

Olsson, Anders and Johanna, Farm
Name of Property

Aroostook, Maine
County and State

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.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Exploration/Settlement

Ethnic Heritage/European

Period of Significance

1871-1946

Significant Dates

1871

1873

1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 # _____
- 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:

Olsson, Anders and Johanna, Farm
Name of Property

Aroostook, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 60

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9
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5	6	3	2	1	0
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5	2	0	2	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3

1	9
---	---

5	6	2	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	0	1	8	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

2

1	9
---	---

5	6	3	3	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	0	1	8	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

1	9
---	---

5	6	2	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	0	2	3	1	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 Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1996

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Sta. telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

OLSSON, ANDERS AND JOHANNA, FARM

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Anders and Johanna Olsson Farm is comprised of a sixty acre parcel of land on which are located a frame and log house and a log barn (with a frame addition). The house is sheathed in clapboards, whereas the gambrel roofed barn features one partially exposed log wall with the balance shingled and clapboarded. The house rests on a stone foundation, whereas the barn stands on early twentieth century concrete footings.

Facing east, the front elevation of the one-and-a-half-story frame portion of the dwelling (which was added in 1889) has an attached porch that spans the first story and wraps around the south side. The porch (whose hipped roof is supported by nine posts) shelters a three sided bay window containing a trio of two-over-two windows, as well as an eight pane fixed window near the northeast corner. There are two symmetrically located windows in the gable peak. Four windows on the south elevation flank a central doorway, and a shed dormer is positioned near the southeast corner of the roof. A shed roofed addition spans the north side of the main block, and a dormer is centrally located on the roof. Two windows occupy the rear gable peak over the lower roofline of the log ell. A single brick flue stack rises through the roof ridge of the frame section of the house.

The log section of the house is attached to the rear of the frame block, and is oriented with its gable roof parallel to the higher main one. Its south elevation features an engaged frame porch that was added in 1889 when it was relocated to this site during construction of the main house. There are four two-over-two windows and a door on this elevation, and a smaller two-over-two in a gabled dormer. Behind the porch is the woodshingled exterior log wall of the original house that Olsson built in 1871. Two doors and a single six-over-six window are symmetrically arranged on this wall. A decorative touch is given to the surface of the wall through the use of three rows of sawtooth cut woodshingles. The north side of the log block contains a centrally placed pair of two-over-two windows. On the interior, the log walls are exposed with the exception of about the lower three feet on the first story where horizontal wainscot remains. Wide board sheathing is utilized on the ceilings. The existing stairs to the loft that are located near the junction with the frame section appear to have been relocated from the original position behind the door at the southwestern corner. The log ell is connected to the barn by way of an exposed log covered passage. This is not original.

The barn, which is about 57' by 18' in dimension (the log section is 32' by 18'), is located to the southwest of the house. Its east facing front elevation contains a large track mounted double door on the first story and a pair of six-over-six windows as well as a louvered vent in the hayloft. The upper section of the barn is clapboarded. There are a variety of window and door openings on each of the side and rear elevations, as well as a shed addition at the northwest corner. As originally constructed the barn had a gable roof. About the time of World War I, the gable roof was removed and the present

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

OLSSON, ANDERS AND JOHANNA, FARM

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

gambrel roof was constructed in its place. In addition, the barn was expanded to the west by some twenty-five feet and cement footings for the entire structure were installed. Of additional note on the barn are the pronounced corners of the original section. As seen on other Swedish log buildings, vertically hung boards provide a weather tight cover for the overhanging ends of the logs, a construction method that appears to offer greater protection to the corner joints than if they were merely flush.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

OLSSON, ANDERS AND JOHANNA, FARM

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

The Anders and Johanna Olsson Farm was initially settled in 1871 by Anders G. Olsson, one of the Swedish immigrants to the New Sweden colony of northern Maine. Olsson erected a log house in 1871 on the one-hundred acre lot he obtained; in 1873 he added a substantial log barn; and in 1889 he moved his dwelling and enlarged it with a frame addition. All three of these buildings survive. This property is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion A for its important association with the early settlement of New Sweden, and criterion C for the architectural significance of the log house and barn, the latter of which is the only known example in existence in Maine.

Responding to westward emigration which caused a decrease in Maine's population in the 1860s and 1870s, a movement began in 1861 to encourage the settlement of Scandinavian people in Maine. In 1864, the first attempt to bring Swedish laborers to Maine failed, but in 1869 the State Legislature endorsed the plan and appointed W. W. Thomas Commissioner of Swedish Immigration. Thomas sailed to Sweden and returned with fifty Swedes, arriving at the selected Aroostook County township (No. 15, Range 3) on July 23, 1870. Each head of a household was given a one-hundred acre plot of land as well as tools and provisions to begin farming.

Anders G. Olsson (1833-1902) arrived in New Sweden on May 23, 1871, accompanied by two children: eight year old Erick W. Olsson, and four year old Mathilda Olsson. His wife Johanna (Andersdotter) Olsson (1831-1910) followed in October with her infant son Carl (who died the following year). The Olssons received lot number 75 ½, a one-hundred acre parcel at the western edge of New Sweden Plantation that was crossed by the Lebanon Road. According to tradition, Olsson built the existing 20' by 14' log house some five-hundred feet downhill from its present location in order to be in close proximity to the well. It is thought that he erected the 32' by 18' log barn two years later. An article reporting on the progress of the Colony that appeared in the September 2, 1874, edition of the *Sunrise* (Presque Isle), noted that Olsson had six acres in crops and three in grass. This article also confirms the existence and dimensions of his house and barn.

In addition to the three children named above, the Olssons had four daughters born in New Sweden and two others who were stillborn (they are buried near the southern boundary of the property). Perhaps because of the size of their family, the Olssons undertook a major expansion of their house in 1889. This undertaking is said to have been reported in an as yet unidentified edition of the *Aroostook Republican* where it noted that "Mr. A.G. Olsson plans to build a house of grand style late this spring." The new house was a one-and-a-half-story frame building with a wraparound porch to the rear of which was appended the log dwelling that is said to have been dismantled and reerected in its original configuration. From 1895 to 1897 the Olssons' eldest child Erick and his wife Edith resided on the farm with his parents (and probably siblings), and thereafter Mathilda (1867-1948) and her husband

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**OLSSON, ANDERS AND JOHANNA, FARMAROOSTOOK, MAINESection number 8 Page 3

John Holmquist lived here. Anders and Johanna remained on the farm until their deaths, whereafter the property descended to the Holmquists. It subsequently passed to Harold and Jennie (Carlson) Holmquist and was sold out of the family in 1976, the present owner acquiring it two years later.

Like the previously listed "Timmerhuset" (N.R. 8/23/73), the Larsson-Ostlund House in the Lars-Noak Historic District (7/26/89), and the Nicholas P. Clase House (10/16/89), the log house and barn on the Olsson farm illustrate a truly unique tradition of building in Maine. What few log buildings survive from earlier periods represent a wholly different technique of construction; forms that are more like those of the mid-Atlantic and southern parts of the country. As illustrated by the surviving log houses in New Sweden and surrounding communities settled by Swedish immigrants, the most significant differences between these traditions is the continuation of log end walls into the gable peaks (instead of a framed wall), the inclusion of interior log partition walls, the careful attention paid to weatherproofing the long horizontal joints between the logs, and the overhanging ends of the logs which appear to have been covered with planks. Although log construction was a building method employed elsewhere in Maine during the late nineteenth century, particularly for seasonal logging and sporting camps, documentary photographs of these buildings show them to have been crudely made with round logs of unequal size and no attention given to architectural ornamentation or finish; a form of building with little in common to the modest but well finished houses in New Sweden.

In addition to the significance of the Olssons' original dwelling as an example of the Swedish log building method, the surviving log barn represents the only remaining glimpse of how the Swedes applied the tradition of building in logs to an agricultural outbuilding. An examination of the two building types reveals similarities in the treatment of the protruding corner joints, but less effort given to providing the weather tight horizontal joints found in houses. In addition, the use of both hewn and round log construction in the barn differs from the practice employed in houses where the walls were made entirely of hewn members. Since the original gable roof of the barn was altered around World War I, it may be impossible to know if the log end walls were carried into the gable peak as they are in the houses. Judging from the 1874 enumeration of houses and barns that existed at that time, it is reasonable to assume that many of the outbuildings that existed in the Colony were constructed of logs.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

OLSSON, ANDERS AND JOHANNA, FARM

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Hede, Richard, ed. *Centennial History of Maine's Swedish Colony: 1870-1970*. New Sweden, Maine: New Sweden Historical Society. 1970.

Hildebrand, Raymond and Carolyn. "Anders G. Olsson House and Barn." Typescript copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Jester, Tom, and Mohny, Kirk F. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Larsson-Noak Historic District. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta. April, 1989.

"Letter From New Sweden." *Sunrise*. Presque Isle, Maine. September 2, 1874.

Mohny, Kirk F. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Clase, Nicholas, P., House. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta. July, 1989.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

OLSSON, ANDERS AND JOHANNA, FARM

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property of sixty acres occupies the Town of New Sweden tax map lot number 75½.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary is drawn to encompass the remaining sixty-acres of land containing the house and barn that were historically part of the Anders and Johanna Olsson Farm. The remaining forty acres of land that were originally part of this property and located on the other side of West Road are now held by another owner.