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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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AUG 20 1990  
NATIONAL REGISTER

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Maine Experiment Station Barn

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number University of Maine Campus

N/A not for publication

city, town Orono

N/A vicinity

state Maine

code ME

county Penobscot

code 019

zip code 04469

### 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>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</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 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

8/14/90  
Date

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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Alton Byers

**Entered in the National Register**

9/18/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural Out-  
building  

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use  

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No style  

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Wood/Weatherboard  

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roof Asphaltother   

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Farm Barn is a long, rectangular frame building which is sheathed in weatherboards and covered by a gable roof. It stands upon a concrete foundation at a graded site allowing access to the main floor along one long side and the basement on the other. This is the building's second site, the original one having been taken for a new building about 1930.

Oriented with its gable ends in a north-south direction, the barn contains two widely separated four-over-four windows flanking a group of three windows on the first story of each of these ends. The latter occupy what originally were the doors to the main floor. These doors were surmounted by transoms, one of which survives on the north end. A pair of original six-over-six windows occupy the gable peaks.

A series of nine four-over-four windows are arranged across the west side. In the basement below there are five large twentieth century garage doors and a smaller opening. Shadowed by the broad eaves are four small rectangular openings for ventilation. The building's west side now has two large garage doors and a number of the windows as well as the vents.

The interior is largely unaltered. Still evident are the many stalls located along the side walls, the hay loft, and the heavy timber framing system typical of late nineteenth century barns.

**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

Period of Significance

1885-c. 1930

Significant Dates

1885

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.

Constructed in 1885, this long gable roofed building was the original agricultural structure used by the Maine Experiment Station. It was built adjacent to the State College's 1874 cow barn and stood amid a variety of other structures that comprised the college farm. Today, this is the lone remnant of that complement of agricultural buildings that stood on the campus during the late nineteenth century. By virtue of its association with the founding and development of the experimental station, and despite the fact that it has been moved from its original site, the barn is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion A and criteria consideration B.

In its session of 1885 the Maine Legislature enacted a law establishing the Maine Fertilizer Control and Agricultural Experiment Station for the express purpose of "protection from frauds in commercial fertilizers, and from adulterations in foods, feeds, and seeds, and for the purpose of promoting agriculture by scientific investigation and experiment." The station was located at, although not initially linked administratively to, the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, which itself was founded nineteen years earlier as Maine's land grant institution.

As described in the Maine Agricultural Experiment Report of 1900, the activities of the station were initially conducted in two campus buildings. A chemical laboratory was provided in a portion of the main college laboratory (Fernald Hall), and a three acre parcel for field experiments was set aside from the farm. Feeding experiments were undertaken in the subject barn which had been newly constructed by the College. The interior arrangement of the barn as it existed in 1891 was described at length in the Station's annual report of that year. Among the features were a hospital, scales, bins arranged to store a variety of experimental grains and fodder, and a room devoted to digestion experiments. Stalls were provided for seventeen cows and a number of horses, the latter of which were for "...such station officers as live at a distance from the College buildings." The interior arrangement included a series of trap doors behind the cattle stalls

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Annual Report of the Maine State College Agricultural Experiment Station. 1891.  
Augusta: Burleigh and Flynt, 1892.

Annual Report of the Maine State College Agricultural Experiment Station. 1900.  
Augusta: Burleigh and Flynt, 1901.

**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**

Acres of property Less than 1

**UTM References**

A 

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

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at a point 80 feet due southwest of the junction of Belgrade and Sebago roads on the University campus, the boundary extends south and parallel to Sebago Road 100 feet; then 40 feet due west; then 100 feet north; and 40 feet east to the point of beginning. Said boundary is meant to embrace the barn site only.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The significance of the barn lies in its association with the development of the Maine agricultural Experiment Station. Since the barn has been moved from its original site, at which time it ceased being used in a significant manner, the boundary is confined only to the limits of the building.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 7/1990  
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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where manure could be passed to the basement.

The experiment station remained an independent agency until 1887 when Congress enacted the Hatch Act, thereby establishing similar institutions in every state. Shortly thereafter, the Maine Legislature repealed the Act of 1885 and made the station a separate department of the College. It was not until a decade later, however, that the entire College farm was placed under the management of the experiment station. By then, the buildings associated with the station included Holmes Hall (built for the station in 1888), a horticultural building, a dairy building, the two barns, and a host of other smaller structures such as a hospital barn and a poultry breeding house. There were 80 acres under cultivation and 40 in pastures and paddocks.

The extensive number of agricultural-related buildings on the campus is clearly evident in the sequence of early twentieth century Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps which cover the area. They also show that between 1912 and 1918 the cow barn had been destroyed, and the remaining building had been designated the "Farm Barn." With the finalization of plans for the construction of Merrill Hall, on this site, the barn was moved about 1930 to its present location, some few hundred feet to the east of its original site. At this time the building was relegated to use as a "tool shed," a storage function which it has maintained to this time. Presently, however, plans are being developed to rehabilitate the barn for use as a museum which will focus upon the University's agricultural history.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SEP 9 1991

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Maine Experiment Station Barn  
Orono, Penobscot County, Maine  
Amendment to Section #10  
August 28, 1991  
Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian  
MHPC, Augusta, Maine

As indicated on the attached maps, this building was relocated to a new site on Friday, July 19, 1991. (The reasons for this action have been described in a letter dated June 4, 1991, from Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., SHPO, to Carol D. Shull, Chief of Registration.)

The revised boundary description should read:

Beginning at a point 85 feet due southeasterly of the southwest corner of Perkins Hall, the boundary extends east 100 feet, south 40 feet, west 100 feet, and north 40 feet, so as to embrace the entire footprint of the barn.

The new UTM coordinates are:

19/526320/4971410

6/7/91

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Maine Experiment Station Barn Penobscot County, MAINE

PROPOSED MOVE APPROVAL  
90001468

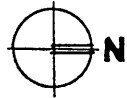
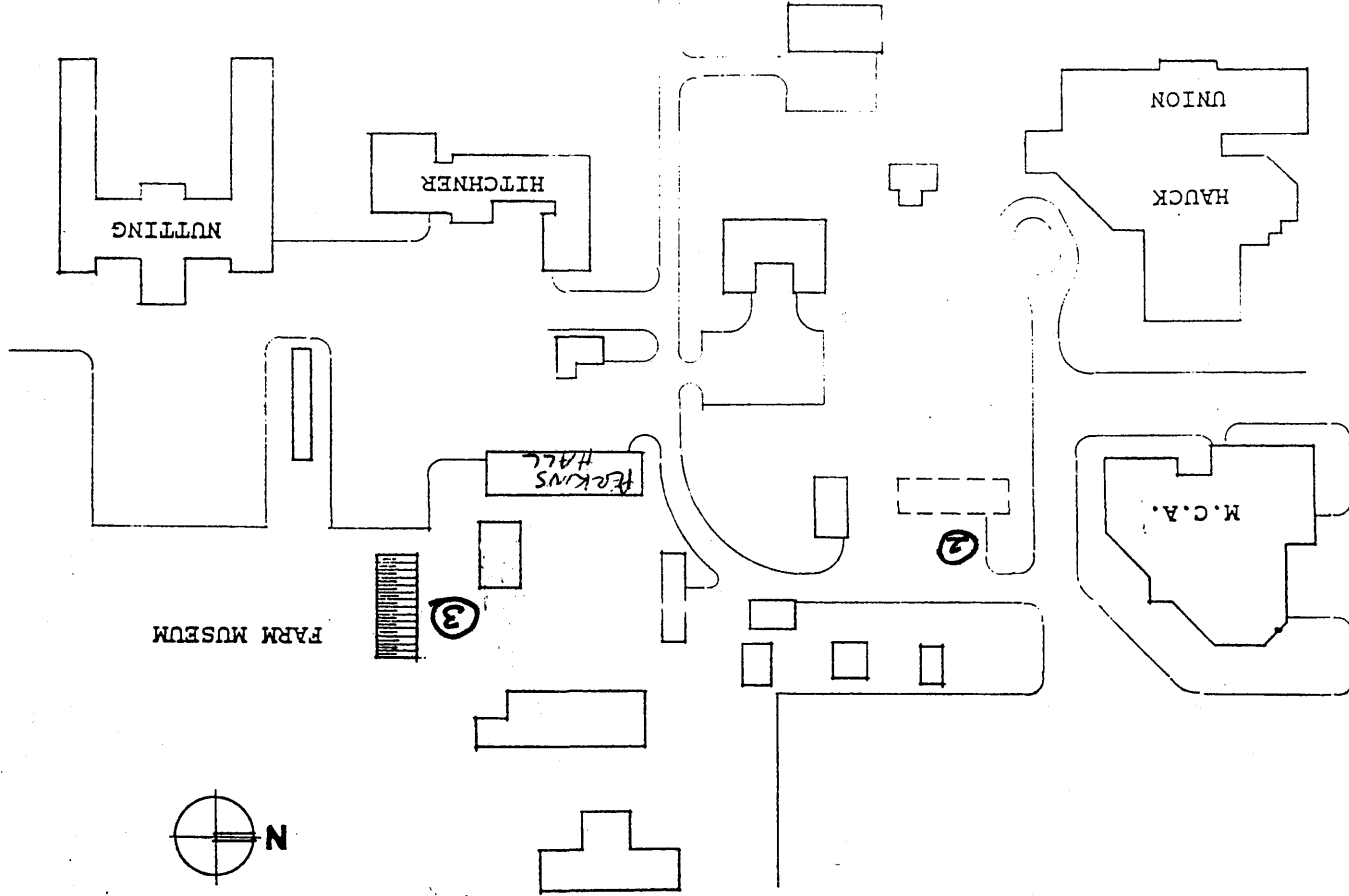
*JK*  
Keeper Betty Savage  
7/22/91

Accept Additional  
Documentation on  
New Site

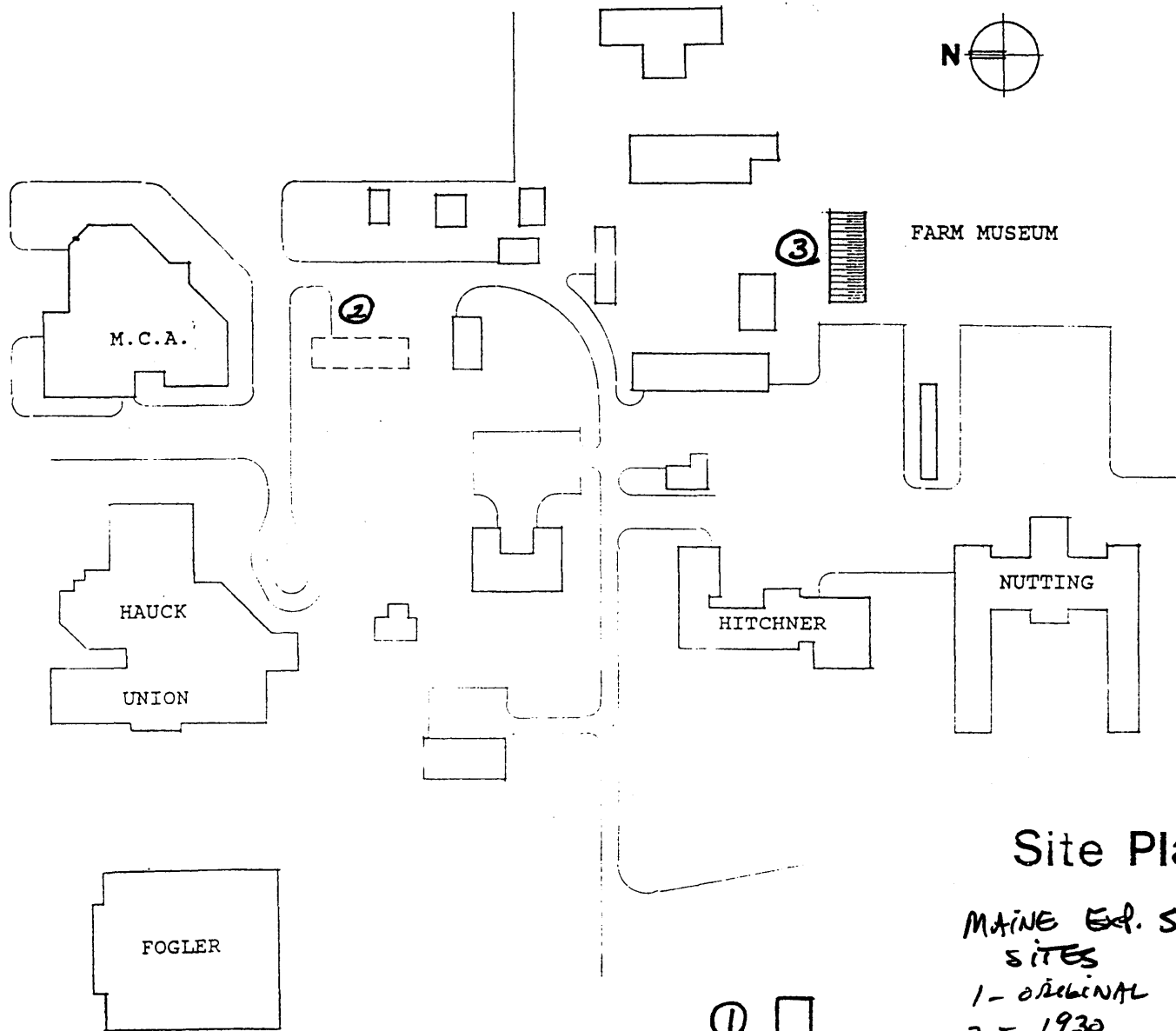
Betty Savage 10/23/91

Native Ex. Station *Brown*  
sites  
1 - present  
2 - 1930  
3 - proposed 1991

# Site Plan







# Site Plan

MAINE EXP. STATION BARN  
SITES  
 1 - ORIGINAL  
 2 - 1930  
 3 - PROPOSED 1991

