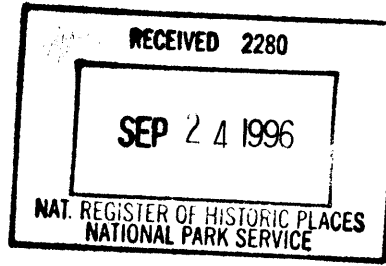


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 Butterfield - Sampson House

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

2. Location

street & number 18 River Road N/A  not for publication

city or town Bowdoinham N/A  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Sagadahoc code 023 zip code 04008

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.)

*Carrie S. Fitzgerald* 9/19/96  
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 R. Ball* Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 10-24-96

Entered in the  
Nat'l Register

Butterfield - Sampson

Name of Property

Sagadahoc, ME

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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Stick Style

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood/Wood Shingles

Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Front Porch

**Narrative Description**

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

**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

**Period of Significance**

c. 1820

c. 1890

**Significant Dates**

c. 1820

c. 1890

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_



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Constructed about 1820 and substantially enlarged in the late 1880s, the Butterfield-Sampson House is a two-and-a-half story polychrome Stick, cross-gable house prominently situated near the Cathance River on River Road in Bowdoinham, Maine. The building is composed of a Stick manner front block and a Federal period ell, the latter of which is the original house on the site. The house is of wood frame construction, sheathed in scalloped shingles and clapboards, and rests upon a full brick foundation. It features a full porch on the main elevation, wide overhanging bracketed eaves with intricately patterned decorative trusses at the gable apexes. A one-and-a-half story cross-gable carriage house dating from the main house stands just to the side and rear (northwest) of the house.

The full one-story porch on the clapboarded main (northeast) elevation of the house shelters the centrally located front door. Six narrow molded columns intersect with a course of light spindle work to support a shed roof which encloses the porch. The second story of the house, which flares out slightly where it meets the first story, is alternately sheathed in horizontal rows of scallop and square shingles. A centrally located bay projecting from the plane of the second floor contains two, two-over-two double hung sash. Vertical (picket fence) stick work applied over the square shingles above the windows and an Eastlake inspired motif on the gable truss embellish this central bay. Two smaller three-over-two double hung sash located on the attic story are flanked by two of four polychromed brackets with rafter tails which support the wide, overhanging eaves.

The southeast elevation of the house is one-bay wide and contains a projecting bay window on the first floor. Like the projecting gable end on the facade, the second floor of this elevation is sheathed in alternating rows of scallop and square shingles and adorned with picket fence stick work above the two windows. The attic story windows, gable truss detail, eave brackets, and rafter tails found on this elevation are identical to those found on the facade. Other than the absence of the projecting bay (and two, two-over-two double hung windows in its place), the northwest elevation of the house is similar to that of the southeast facade in all respects.

A Federal period two-story ell projects from the rear (southwest) elevation. Five bays wide and sheathed in clapboards, the facade of the rear ell features a central doorway which is flanked by three-quarter sidelights and surmounted by an elliptical fan. Storm doors presently cover the door and sidelights. The first story of the ell contains six-over-six double hung sash while the second story retains the earlier twelve-over-eight double hung sash. A small (recently constructed) deck and one-story addition with a shed roof extends from the southwest end of the ell. A floor plan of the Butterfield House drawn in 1867 shows that this portion of the house was oriented to River Road (then Bridge Street) and constituted the main building on the property with an ell running off of the back of the house. The main part of the

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BUTTERFIELD-SAMPSON HOUSE

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

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Federal building was presumably moved back and reoriented on the property when the new house was constructed in about 1880.

The carriage house is freestanding and located at the northwest corner of the house. This one-and-a-half story cross gable frame is very similar to the 1880s portion of the house with its clapboarded first story, shingled upper story, three-over-two windows and Eastlake inspired decorative motif on the gable truss. Two double doors provide vehicular access to the carriage house.

The interior of the one room deep, two room wide ell retains much of the original Federal period woodwork including chair rails, door and window moldings, and a central staircase with a later newel post. The second story of the ell contains two bedrooms. Exposed rafters and boxed in corner posts are visible on both the first and second floors of the ell. The front block of the house features a central stair hall with flanking parlors. Each of the front parlors contains darkly stained hardwood fireplace mantles and Queen door and window moldings. A central staircase with a dark stained hardwood newel post and bannister winds to the second floor of the house which contains a large stair hall with a sitting area and two bedrooms. The historic woodwork throughout the front block of the house is in a good state of preservation.

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BUTTERFIELD-SAMPSON HOUSE

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The Butterfield-Sampson House is an excellent example of late nineteenth century domestic architecture executed in the Stick manner, and is a rare example in Maine of a house design based on mail order plans produced by the Palliser and Palliser Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut. In addition, the property features a representative example of Federal period architecture in the rear ell. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its architectural significance.

Probably constructed about 1888, the main portion of the Butterfield-Sampson house is one of only a small number of houses in Maine designed in the "Stick style." It represents an interesting, well-preserved example of modest, yet embellished Victorian architecture in a village setting, and illustrates the effect that mail order designs had during the last decades of the century in spreading contemporary architectural tastes throughout the country. Generally, local builders would work from the plans and modify the design to fit the needs of the homeowner. This appears to have been the case with the Butterfield-Sampson house which bears a great resemblance to *Plate VII, Residence of Dwight Hotchkiss, Sharon, Connecticut* as advertised in "Palliser's Model Homes" published in 1878.

The Federal period rear ell of the house appears to have been constructed sometime around 1820 with the facade oriented to Bridge Street (now Center Street). It is a representative example of a two-and-a-half story, one room deep Federal house with a number of period details intact. The property on which the house was built is reported to have belonged to Jonathon and Salk Davis about 1815, but there is no evidence as to who owned the property or exactly when the house was constructed. The Kennebec and Portland Railroad apparently acquired the property about 1845 when the line was being surveyed. The railroad controlled the property until 1861 when it was sold to Robert Butterfield (who is shown residing on the property on the 1858 County Map) for two hundred and fifty dollars.

Little is known about Robert Butterfield, who served as Bowdoinham Postmaster in 1841. He is reported to have built and run a grist mill in Bowdoinham with several other residents in 1859 and between 1861 and 1867 he worked as a cashier at the Village Bank of Bowdoinham. In June of 1866, Butterfield was beaten in his house by burglars who then took him to the bank where he was forced to hand over the contents of the vault. The four assailants escaped with \$80,000, three of whom were later captured.

A deed dated April 28, 1888, records the transfer of the property from Butterfield's wife Henrietta Butterfield, to Harriet B. Sampson for one dollar. It is presumed that the Federal period house was moved back and the front block added during her residency. In 1907, Charles Randall bought the property from Harriet Sampson. In 1923, Randall sold the property to Ruth B. Dodge. It was probably under the ownership of Randall or Dodge that the grounds were landscaped with pergolas, foot paths, rock gardens,

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and perennial beds to create a Colonial Revival garden. This garden is documented in a series of c.1930 photographs, but little of the original design remains.



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Daly-Fleming, John Daly. *Richmond on the Kennebec*. Lewiston, Maine: Twin City Printery. 1966.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Butterfield-Sampson House occupies the Town of Bowdoinham Tax Map U 1, Lot 6.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire village lot that is historically associated with the Butterfield-Sampson House.