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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 \_\_\_\_\_  
other names/site number Stearns Hill Farm

2. Location

street & number 90 Stearns Hill Road N/A not for publication  
city or town West Paris N/A vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04289

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.)

[Signature] 12/22/08  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature]

2/11/09

**STEARNS HILL FARM**  
Name of Property

**OXFORD COUNTY, 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	Non-contributing	
5	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
6	1	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**

None

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single dwelling

AGRICULTURE / Animal facility

AGRICULTURE / Storage

AGRICULTURE / Processing

AGRICULTURE / Agricultural field

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single dwelling

AGRICULTURE / Animal facility

AGRICULTURE / Storage

AGRICULTURE / Processing

AGRICULTURE / Agricultural field

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID - 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / Granite

walls WOOD / Weatherboard

WOOD / Shingle

roof METAL / Steel

other BRICK

**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 a 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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

C. 1818 - 1958

**Significant Dates**

1818-1830

C. 1889 - 1915

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

STEARNS HILL FARM  
Name of Property

OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 131 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1   9	3   7   8   4   7   9	4   9   0   7   5   3   0	3	1   9	3   7   8   4   5   1	4   9   0   6   1   9   1
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1   9	3   7   8   9   6   7	4   9   0   6   4   9   5	4	1   9	3   7   8   3   6   7	4   9   0   6   5   8   6

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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 13 October 2008

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## MATERIALS, continued.

Foundation: Stone

Walls: OTHER / Tar paper  
SYNTHETIC / Vinyl  
ASBESTOS

Roof: ASPHALT

Other: METAL

## DESCRIPTION

Stearns Hill Farm is a small historic district comprised of residential and agricultural outbuildings, agricultural fields, stone walls, and remnants of an orchard located on 131 acres in the rural Oxford County town of West Paris. The property sits on the broad crest of the eastern summit of Stearns Hill, at an elevation of approximately 940 feet.<sup>1</sup> Settled by 1797, the property first contained the eastern half of lots 21 and 22 in the fifth range of lots laid out in Paris; but over time the configuration of the farm's property boundaries have varied but slightly. From its junction with Route 26 to the southwest, the Stearns Hill Road steadily climbs Stearns Hill before making a hairpin turn at the west northwest corner of the farm property. From here it climbs steeply, on a south southeast course, through a forested track before emerging near the top of the hill and arching broadly to the east. The house, barn, carriage house, and blacksmith's shop are clustered on the north side of the road just as it obtains a west to east orientation. The new barn is located on the south side of the road across from the barn, and the Sap House is located on the west side of the road just after the hairpin turn. Five wall-lined fields, and a large wood lot are located south of the road, and six more fields and another woodlot are located north of the road. The property has clear and expansive views of the Oxford Hills to the south. Past the historic district the landscape continues to be open, with some fields and orchards lining the road, but many of these lots have been subdivided and lightly developed. A Stearns family cemetery is located approximately ½ mile east of the farmstead. Directly across the road from the main house is a tree-lined dirt road that travels south through the farm's fields to access another property that has historically also been occupied by members of the Stearns family. Both this property and the cemetery are outside the boundaries of this historic district.

**Farm.** Contributing site.

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<sup>1</sup>The crest of the hill, at 989 feet is just east of the eastern boundary of the property. A secondary summit is located west of the property.

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The connected complex of the Stearns house, carriage shed and barn is located almost at the center of the property; the field system is adjacent to the house and barn, and the woods are located along the north and west periphery of the property. Almost all of the stone walls are oriented on a true north/south axis.

### *South side of road.*

The south side of the road has five distinct fields, each enclosed by a stone wall, and totaling about 24 acres. On the west side of the dirt access road is the largest field on the property, referred to as the "twelve acre field". The new barn sits in the northeast corner of this field, and a windmill was located in the same vicinity. An old well is also located in the northwest corner of this field. On the west side of the road are four fields of unequal size set in a grid: these are known as the "old orchard field", the "left" field (or "across the road field"), the "southeast" field, and the "east" field. West of the "twelve acre field" is a large woodlot. Located on the southwest side of the hill, this section of the property has been especially conducive to growing maple trees (and thus functions as a sugar bush), however a portion of the trees were lost during the hurricane of 1938. Presently, approximately 12 acres of the sugar bush are tapped each year and processed in the Sap House down the hill. The woodlot is also bounded by stone walls, and at least one segment of wall remains from an old field division now reclaimed by the forest.

### *North side of road.*

The 22 acres of fields on the north side of the road is divided into three tiers of fields. The southernmost tier contains the "below the barn" field in the west, and the "reservoir" field to the east and north of the house. The second tier of fields contains two, roughly equal-sized square fields, variously known as the west or northwest field and the east or hay pasture fields. A rectangular area in the southeast corner of the hay pasture field was previously wetland and known and utilized as the hog pasture. A farm road splits the reservoir field into roughly two equal sections and leads to the hay pasture field; another farm road traverses the field below the barn and provides access to the northwest. A stone wall lined cattle alley, or cattle lane is built off this farm road and leads west into the wood lot. In the third tier are two fields (the north and northeast fields), both of which are positioned north of the hay pasture field. Stone walls continue into the wood lots and mark all the edges of the property. Historically, most of the stone walls between the fields were lined with apple trees, and there were clusters in the vicinity of the pond and in the old orchard field. Approximately 24 trees are scattered throughout the property at present.

The 'reservoir field' was named for a wooden water reservoir that had been located near the site of the present farm pond. The reservoir was filled from the well via the windmill, and in turn the water was gravity fed through pipes into the house and the barn linter. The reservoir, or cistern was a hexagonal concrete structure with shingle walls and a conical roof. It was dismantled after 1927 when electricity was brought to the area. The farm pond was dug in 1974.

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Continuation SheetSTEARNS HILL FARMOXFORD COUNTY, MAINESection number 7 Page 4**1. Main House**, by 1797, with addition c. 1818-1830. Remodeled 1890-1915.

The residential property at Stearns Hill Farm was built in two stages. The earliest section of the house was built as a one-story cape that faced west. The original floor plan of this cape has been all but eradicated by later remodeling, but it appears that the building contained a series of three rooms with two interior chimneys running under a north-to-south gable roof. Large, hewn sills are extant in the cellar and indicate the original length and width of the cape, and a massive stone chimney base is positioned at the north end of the cellar. The thin partition wall surrounding the stairs to the cellar feature some feather edge boarding and re-used raised panels. A very thick double batten door hung on iron strap hinges is set at the base of these stairs. This door features both rose-head and cut clinch nails.

After the property was purchased by William Stearns Jr. the front portion of the house was constructed. This section is two stories high and faces south, under a low-pitched gable roof oriented east to west. The western room and hallway on the first floor of the new section was the southernmost room of the cape: a second story was added above. East of this the foundation was extended and the two story eastern parlor and chamber were built. By 1889, an addition had been made to the north end of the ell. At present the Stearns family home appears to be a two story, single pile house with a one story ell extending from the northeast corner - and for the remainder of this description that is how the house will be referenced. However this description does not reflect the construction sequence as detailed above. Inasmuch as the carriage shed connecting the ell with the barn was added to the house at a later date, that structure will be described separately.

Neither the ell nor main house can be characterized as any particular style based on exterior features, although they exhibit a symmetry and massing that was common to vernacular buildings in Maine during the Federal period. The house is set on a granite and field stone foundation and has a corrugated steel roof. A thin brick chimney extends from the north plane of the roof just inside the eastern portion of the north wall. Another brick chimney straddles the ridge of the ell about one-third the distance from the north end of the building. Several iron lightning rods with glass balls are positioned along the ridges. The south and west elevations have wooden clapboards and the east gable end is covered with vinyl siding. The north side of the main house and the east side of the ell are clad with asbestos shingles, and the north end of the ell has wooden shingles. The corners of the main house are marked by narrow corner boards, and the gable ends features narrow cornice returns and wide rake trim.

The primary elevation of the house faces south and is five bays wide and fronted by an attached, Queen Anne style hip roof porch. At the center of the facade is a wide six-panel-and-glass door flanked by two two-over-two single-hung wooden sash windows set in flat trim. On the second floor are five shorter, two-over-one windows positioned tight under the eaves with the tops of the windows extending into the frieze board. The facade is symmetrically composed, but the outer window bays are grouped closer than the three inner bays. The porch has turned wooden supports and scroll saw cut brackets. The porch ceiling is finished with beadboard and the floor is wood. Because the porch is low

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there are no formal stairs at the front, and only one step at the west end. Photographs show that this Queen Anne style porch was added by c. 1889. The earliest known photograph of the house, taken before the porch was added, shows that as originally constructed the front door was set in a decorative surround with sidelights and pilasters (vegetation in the photograph obscures all but the east edge of the surround). Another photograph, taken c. 1907, shows that sometime after the porch was added the first floor windows were replaced and enlarged, and the earlier entry replaced with the wide door and stock frames extant today.

Both the east and west gable ends of the main house are one bay wide. The east end has replacement one-over-one windows centered on each floor and under the peak of the gable; the same configuration is found on the west end with wooden two-over-two windows. The west side of the ell contains three two-over-two window bays and a small enclosed, shed roof entry in the corner between the carriage shed and the ell. The east side of the ell has a pair of two-over-two sash windows at its south end and a set of three modern casement windows near the center of the elevation. At the north end of the east wall of the ell is an older panel and glass door. The north end of the ell contains two old nine-over-six windows on the main floor and a six-over-six sash window under the gable peak.

The main section of the house contains two first floor rooms and two second floor rooms, one on either side of a central hallway. The eastern first floor room retains its original fireplace surround, comprised of beveled bed moulding, a wide entablature and moulded mantle, however the firebox has been blocked up and a thimble installed. The windows and doors in this room feature beveled trim and six panel doors, including closet doors on either side of the chimney stack. The floors are laid with random width pine and the walls and ceilings are plaster. At the center of the house the hallway has maple floors and a more delicate ogee and bead trim around the doors. A tapered, Federal-style newel post and tapered balusters line the straight-run staircase. The west parlor has simpler, flat stock trim with bulls-eye corner blocks around the doors and windows, maple floors and an acoustic tile ceiling. A corner post protrudes into the southwest corner. The north wall of this room has a hinged pair of double, four-panel doors leading into the dining room. These doors are located where a chimney stack once stood between these two rooms. This stack was removed, and a parquet floor laid in the dining room sometime between 1890 and 1915. A corner cupboard is built into the northeast corner of the dining room. The kitchen occupies the northern end of the original ell and features beadboard wainscot, linoleum floors, and a brick masonry heater built in front of the now blocked up fireplace. Northeast of this unit is pantry with beadboard cupboards and cabinets and northwest of the kitchen is a short hallway with stairs leading to the garret and cellar. A stud framed addition north of the ell contains storage space and access both to the northeast exterior of the house and to the woodshed and privy in the attached carriage house. Under this addition, and accessible only at cellar level, is a dirt-floored room that appears to have been used to house poultry at some time in the past.

The upstairs bedrooms have four panel doors trimmed with bed moulding, plaster walls and ceilings and pine floors. The portion of the main cellar under the hallway and eastern front room is separated from the remainder of the cellar by a brick partition wall. The framing of the roof over the ell consists of



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principal rafters and minor purlins, and charring on the rafters suggest that this part of the structure once had a fire. In contrast, the roof system of the main house features common rafters pegged to a ridge pole.

## 2. Carriage House. By 1890. Contributing building.

The carriage house connects the west side of the ell to the east side of the barn. It is a high posted, one-story structure with a standing seam metal roof oriented with the gable running east to west. The building sits on a stone foundation. The frame consists of hewn timbers comprising three interior dropped, or "H," bents and a common rafter roof. Distributed across the south facade are three wide bays of more or less equal size. The east and west bays feature exterior sliding batten doors (the west bay door is inset with a five light window) and the middle bay has an overhead garage door with four fixed lights. Above the western bay are paired six-light fixed sash, and over the remaining bays are single examples of the same. The interior is divided into a woodshed (east bay) and carriage shed (two western bays.) At the back of the woodshed a staircase leads to a walkway that accesses a loft over the carriage shed. Behind this staircase, and down a few steps, is a long back hallway that spans most of the length of the building before terminating in a privy. This hallway has a wooden floor and shiplap board walls. The north elevation of the carriage house has three, fixed six-light sash that illuminate the back hallway and the privy. The carriage shed bays has a wood floor and boarded wood walls. In the northeast corner, behind the privy is a small storage closet and a built-in grain bin. A large opening in the western wall of the carriage shed provides access to a whitewashed stable with three horse stalls. This stable is located in the northwest corner of the main floor of the barn, and a large hinged door in its south wall connects directly to the center aisle of the barn. A concrete slab is positioned in front of all three of the carriage house doors. Historic photographs indicate that prior to c. 1907 a covered walkway ran from the ell door across the front of the carriage house (and over the location of the slab), to the barn.

It is interesting to note the location of a retaining wall under the carriage house. This wall, which can be seen from the linter level of the barn, is positioned approximately between the two carriage bays and runs from the north sill to the center point of the building's width - it does not support either the west end of the carriage house nor the northeast sill of the barn (which are structurally tied together and partially supported on posts).

That the carriage house was the last of the connected complex to be erected is evident by the extant clapboards of the exterior barn wall visible in the west end of the loft, and the presence of a window on the south wall of the ell, now enclosed by the woodshed. It is not known, however, when the carriage house was erected in comparison to the addition on the north side of the ell. However, that the privy is accessed most directly from the west door in the ell addition suggests that the two components may have been contemporary. The carriage house is extant in the earliest photograph of the property, which was taken prior to 1890.

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### 3. Barn, c. 1818-c. 1915. Contributing building.

The barn at Stearns Hill Farm is a large building with four distinct levels, and can be categorized as a modified high-drive bank barn. As will be discussed in subsequent paragraphs it was erected in three or four building episodes, all of which were completed prior to about 1915, and although the framing of the eight bents (seven bays) vary, mortise and tenon joinery was utilized throughout.

The barn is built against the side of a hill and the front elevation of the barn faces east towards the door yard. The structure has a relatively low pitched gable roof, oriented east to west, and covered with corrugated steel. All four sides are clad with wood shingles, and the foundation is a mixture of dry laid fieldstone and wooden posts resting on stone or concrete. Vertically the building is divided into the main floor (which matches the grade of the door yard), mow level, the linter (first level below grade), and the basement, which is at ground level below the bank. A set of cut granite steps extends along the south wall from the dooryard level to the linter level. Adjacent to these steps is a dry laid stone retaining wall that extends south for about another thirty feet before turning east for a short distance. This retaining wall aligns with the second bent of the barn and creates a small terrace on the south side of the barn at the grade level of the door yard. A second, lower retaining wall (which aligns with the third bent of the barn) also extends towards the road from the south wall. This retaining wall starts next to the linter door and terminates in an earthen ramp that leads to the ground at basement level. A one-and-one-half story shed roof addition, historically used as a milk house, is attached to the last bay of the barn on the south elevation.

The front elevation contains a large, slightly-south-of-center wood door, made of diagonal boarding, and internally mounted on a sliding rail. Centered under the peak of the roof is a nine-over-six single-hung wooden sash window. The corners of the barn are marked by narrow boards above which are cornice returns and a moulded cornice under the gable eaves. The north elevation of the barn has two, fixed, six-light sash at the level of the main floor, and a sliding door, six-light sash and a ten-light sash at the linter level. The tall west elevation contains two six-light sash in the basement, three horizontally oriented openings now filled with old four-light storm windows at linter level, a wide interior sliding door on the main floor, and a twelve-over-twelve wooden sash under the gable peak. There is no access from the main level door to the ground twenty feet below, and a protective railing is set in the opening. The south elevation has three fixed, six-light sash on the main level. At linter level are four storm-windows (bays 3,4,5,6), an externally mounted sliding batten door inset with a one-light window in the second bay, and a fixed, six light sash in the first bay. At basement level four open structural bays are defined by vertical posts set on stone or concrete slabs. The westernmost bay is obscured by the milk shed, and the easternmost bays by the retaining walls.

The milk shed roof pitches down to the west. The eastern elevation is broken only by a low, batten door at grade level and a six-light sash higher on the wall. A larger, pedestrian door with a three light window is centered on the south wall, and the west wall contains only a louvered opening just above the foundation. This building is currently used as a chicken house.

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On the interior, the main floor of the barn is divided into three uneven aisles. The south and central aisles are approximately the same width, but the north aisle is wider. The central aisle stretches the length of the building and is separated from the south aisle only by the line of interior posts. The westernmost bay of the south aisle is partitioned off from the remainder by a partition of widely spaced horizontal boarding. Both the central and south aisle have a wood floor. While the south aisle is open to the rafters (except for the westernmost bay, which has a low wooden loft), there are a series of high lofts or scaffolds over the central aisle. These scaffolds are supported on rounded joists stretching between the girts (tie beams). The fifth bay (from the east) does not have a scaffold, but a narrow wooden catwalk hung from the rafters and resting on long joists spans the south side of the bay. (This opening allowed the hay to be hoisted up with a fork and distributed along the scaffold.)

The north aisle of the barn is more complex. The stable occupies the northeastern-most two bays. Until recently an enclosed staircase leading to the loft over the stable and to the linter below was positioned against the west outer wall of the stable. The third, fifth and sixth bays of the north aisle are open hay mows with their floor at linter level. The northwestern-most bay is partitioned off similarly to the bay in the southwestern corner. In the fifth bay a wooden interior silo is positioned within the structural beams. The silo rests on a brick and mortar foundation in the basement and extends vertically to the level of the girts. The silo is sided with vertical boarding attached to horizontal nailers, and the interior is plastered. An opening is framed into the south side of this structure; the bottom half of this opening is blocked by a series of horizontal rails have been nailed across the front. (A wooden ladder provides access to the higher portion of the opening.) The silo has no top cover.

The linter level extends the full length of the barn, and reflects the same three aisle configuration as found above. The hay mows and silo occupy the north aisle at this level. The linter level doors on the south and north elevation are offset by one bay. East of these doors is a dirt floor and the front foundation wall. The central aisle has a wooden floor and low ceiling, and the sides of the aisle are finished with wood boarding. Hatches and doors in the side walls provide access to the hay mows to the north, and to the feed bins in the tie-up to the south. The south aisle is lined with wood stanchions and features an elevated floor, and manure gutters with hinged doors to the basement. The walls and ceilings of the tie-up are whitewashed, and a series of pipes connect steel water troughs at each stanchion. The middle portion of the tie-up has recently been altered to house goats. Another set of small animal pens located under the stable were recently removed in order to attend to structural repairs.

The basement of the barn is undifferentiated space, save for the base of the silo. Structurally the basement features hewn and sawn posts set on concrete or stone bases. The north wall of the fourth bay features vertical boarding (as opposed to horizontal boarding in the adjacent bays), and may have previously been the location of a wagon-sized door.

The barn was constructed in three or four stages. The second, third, fourth and fifth interior bays all feature a unified framing method, with hewn common rafters supported by a major purlin and angled pike posts, a ridge pole, and wind braces at the north and south ends of the bay. The side walls have vertical boarding attached to nailers, and bracing between the girts, posts and continuous plate. The

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second bent (from the east) and the sixth bent (from the east) both have angle braces that were formerly positioned in the gable ends of the original building. The first bay is similarly designed but does not feature angle braces from the plates to the posts. Neither the sixth nor seventh bay of the barn has a ridge pole; in these bays the rafters are rounded rather than rectilinear. While the sixth bay also has vertical boarding the seventh bay features studs between the sills and the plate, and horizontal boarding. A wooden track is suspended below the ridgepole (or bridle joints in the westernmost two bays) and a hay fork is mounted upon this track.

#### 4. Sap House, c. 1880 -1890. Contributing building.

The Sap House is located on the south side of Stearns Hill Road as the road winds northwest down the hill. It is positioned adjacent to the road but well below the grade of the built up roadbed. The land around the Sap House (less than 1/4 acre) is cleared of trees, but has an intermittent growth of grass, weeds and undergrowth. A dirt and gravel driveway leads west from the road to the clearing south, west and north of the building.

This utilitarian structure is built of stud construction and sits on a stone foundation. The walls are covered with a mixture of wood boards, plywood sheets over boarding (held on with battens), and tar paper over boarding. The roof is clad with corrugated steel. There is an external sliding batten door centered on the north side of the building. A sign reading "Gibson's Stearns Hill Farm Sap House" is mounted on the door, with an arrow pointing towards the gable end of the building. On the west gable wall is a wide hinged door fronted by a set of wooden stairs and a fixed, six-light window each set in weathered flat stock trim. A three-pane fixed window is set high on the east gable end wall (above road level) and another six light is positioned on the south side of the building.

The roof line is asymmetrically gabled, with a lower pitched, longer plane extending from the ridge to the north, and a shorter, steeper plane descending from the south side of the ridge. An open monitor is positioned over the center of the ridge. Its steel roof is supported by exposed posts and rafters; directly below this the main roof opens to the interior.

The interior of the Sap House is unfinished; exposed studs and rafters belie the functionality of the building. The north and northeast end of the building is used for wood storage, and two large galvanized tanks are mounted in high cradles in the southeast end of the building. Wooden counters and work spaces ring the south and east walls, and a large evaporator is positioned under the opening in the roof. The building has a wood floor.

The date of construction of this building is unknown. Based on the construction method, the family believes it was erected by S. Porter Stearns who ran the farm between 1856 and c. 1889. That a sap or sugar house existed during S. Porter Stearns tenure are confirmed by documentary sources. A reference in the History of the Town of Paris, Maine indicate that 350 pounds of maple sugar were

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boiled down on the S.P. Stearns Farm in 1867.<sup>2</sup> The building is still used seasonally to produce maple syrup.

**5. Blacksmith Shop, by 1818. Contributing building.**

The blacksmith shop is located on the north side of the road, approximately 100 feet east of the main house. It is a small, post-and-beam structure with an asphalt gable roof, wood siding of shingles and clapboards, and wooden corner boards. The shop sits on low, piled fieldstones and is one story high. The main entrance, comprised of a two-leaf batten door, faces west towards the house. A concrete apron is set before and below the door. There are two lightning rods on the roof, and a two-light window on the east gable end. The interior of the structure features a wooden floor, hand-hewn corner braces and posts and the roof system is composed of three sets of hewn rafters with a ridge pole and no purlins. A rectangular hatch provides access to the upper loft floor, and it appears that a patch in the corner of this floor may have previously been the location of a chimney. The building is currently used for storage. While the date of construction of this building is unknown, based on its construction it may be the 'smithing shop' referred to in the 1818 deed.

**6. New barn, 1985. Non contributing building.**

The new barn is located on the south side of Stearns Hill Road, directly across from the milk house. This structure, which was erected in 1985 to replace an old cider mill/ blacksmiths shop, faces north. It is set on a low bank, has a concrete foundation, a combination of wood shingle and board and batten siding, and a gable roof covered with corrugated steel roof. A large cross-batten equipment door is located on the north elevation, and an open, shed roof addition is positioned against the south half of the west wall. In addition to this open bay there are two large equipment bays positioned under the building at grade on the south elevation, and a pair of one-over-one sash centered on the wall above. Several old apple trees are located in the yard immediately northeast of the barn. This barn is used to store farm equipment.

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<sup>2</sup>Page 190 "Gideon Powers now aged 84 years, made 350 lbs of maple sugar last spring on the S.P. Stearns farm." Recorded in the Annals of Paris, 1867, and quoted in Lapham and Maxim, page 190.

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the top of Stearns Hill in the Oxford County town of West Paris, Stearns Hill Farm is a collection of agricultural and residential buildings, fields, stone walls and working landscape that has been farmed by members of the Stearns family since 1818. This small historic district includes a connected residential complex, a notable example of a high-drive bank barn, and a field system that has evolved over time as the farm shifted from diversified agriculture to a tighter focus on dairy farming. Among the resources in this 131 acre district is a Sap House dating to the mid-nineteenth century and a blacksmith's shop from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Stearns Hill Farm has been worked by six generations of the Stearns family and is well known within the greater Paris area.

### National Register Criteria

The Stearns Hill Farm Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an intact example of a family farm which has been in continuous agricultural production since first being established in the late eighteenth century. The farm reflects its significance through an intact field system, agricultural buildings with a high degree of integrity, and a set of buildings that are associated with a diversified, traditional approach to farming, including orcharding, maple sugar processing, lumbering, the production of crops, and animal husbandry.

Within the district, the Stearns Hill Farm barn, house, and carriage shed are also significant under Criterion C for architecture as an example of a connected farm complex that developed in the mid-nineteenth century in Maine. In addition, the barn is notable as a modified high-drive bank barn, a type of barn developed in the latter decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and which is relatively unusual in Maine.

### Period of Significance

The period of significance commences c. 1818 and continues until 1958. The beginning date represents the purchase of the property by William Stearns, Jr. While the ell portion of the house, as described in Section 7, and possibly the blacksmith's shed, predate Stearns' purchase, the period of significance does not extend to c. 1794 due to the extent to which the ell was altered when the front section of the house was erected. In addition, the spatial layout of the farm, with regard to the arrangement of the house, barn and any other outbuildings through the first two decades of the nineteenth century is not known, and may have varied considerably from the current pattern. The end point of the period of significance reflects the fifty-year-old cut off date established by the National Register for resources that do not have exceptional significance in a modern context, but that continue to achieve significance through the present.

### Contributing Resources

All resources either constructed or altered before or during the period of significance are considered to contribute to this historic district. The five contributing buildings are the house, barn, carriage house, sap house and blacksmith's shop, and the one contributing site includes the field system, stone walls,

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sugar bush, and farm roads. Each of the resources retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship, design, association, location, setting and feeling, and with the example of minor changes to the exterior of the house, of materials. The loss of certain historic resources, including the windmill, cider house, sheep barn, apple trees and reservoir are not seen as detrimental to the integrity of the district as whole, as they signal the evolution of agricultural practices through the period of significance. The only building that does not contribute to the district is the new barn, which was built in 1985.

## Areas of Significance

### *Agriculture*

The Stearns Hill Farm is significant in the area of agriculture as a family farm that has operated historically from c. 1818, when William Stearns, Jr. first purchased the property, through the mid-twentieth century and continues to operate to a lesser extent today. The collection of farm buildings represent a diversified approach to agriculture, with structures that include processing (sap house), animal husbandry (barn), agricultural storage (barn, including the silo and milk house, carriage house), and an ancillary building for the maintenance of the farm's machinery and animals (blacksmith's shop). The arrangement of the barn, and the installation of the interior silo represents a progressive focus on and expansion in rearing cattle and dairy cows starting in the 1890s. Previous incarnations of this structure had included an attached sheep barn that was removed when raising sheep became less economically productive.

The layout of the field system exhibited at the Stearns Hill Farm is also significant. Arranged in a grid pattern paralleling the original lot lines are eleven agricultural fields, each defined by stone walls erected from rock that was removed from the fields as they were established. The number of the fields is a reflection of the size of the arable land on top of the hill, but the layout basically reflects a traditional system whereby crops, including corn, beans, potatoes and peas, were planted in close proximity to the house, and fields sown to hay, millet, wheat, rye or oats were placed just beyond. Pasturage was usually located in the outermost fields, or among the forest, and wood lots were located on less arable or hilly terrain. This type of pattern, along with locating the house and barns near the center of the property and adjacent to a road, was described in the agricultural dictionary written by Samuel Deane in 1791, but had been in practice since early settlement in the better agricultural lands of the state. The wood lots provided lumber for building, firewood and sale, and was an important component of diversified family farming. One of the low-lying fields that tended to be wet and could not be cultivated traditionally housed swine. The stone walls also outline the property lines and provided a perimeter enclosure for the cattle and dairy cows that foraged in the woods: a stone lined cow path was built specifically to drive the cattle from the barn to the woods on the north side of the property. The farm also includes a sugar bush (large stand of sugar maple trees) that has been maintained and culled since at least the mid-nineteenth century. An orchard had, at some point, been established in one of the fields at the south end of the farm (but exists in name only now), and other apple trees had been planted along the stone walls - a common pattern on Maine farms. The orchards provided apples for cider and sale. Taken together, these resources offer a tangible look into the range of agricultural practices that characterized successful farms during the period of significance.

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## *Architecture*

This historic district is also significant in the area of architecture for the manner in which the buildings represent the family's attempts to maximize efficiency and deal with both the terrain and the weather that the hill-top location offered. Commonly referred to as a connected complex, the house, carriage house and barn present a grouping arranged to conveniently store equipment, animals and people, facilitate the movement of animals and equipment through the complex, and create sheltered working and yarding spaces oriented to take advantage of southern exposure and block the northern winds. That these three buildings were connected over time rather than built as a unit reflects a prevailing pattern on farms that were settled in parts of Maine in the first quarter of the nineteenth century.

After the 1840s in various parts of the state agriculture became an increasingly difficult proposition: soil infertility and competition from newer farming areas in the near mid-west caused many Maine farmers either to switch professions or move west. Starting about this time, however, many agricultural reformers and the popular press began promoting strategies designed to help farms in northern New England meet these challenges. This movement is summarized by architectural historian Thomas Hubka in Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn:

Nineteenth-century New England farmers selected the connected farm building organization because it was a practical, efficient, and modestly fashionable arrangement of buildings to house their farming operation. Most farmers were motivated to consider reorganizing their previous detached house and barn system by declines in the agricultural economy caused by western agricultural competition and the effects of industrialization. With the survival of their rural society seriously threatened, they collectively reformed their farms to meet this challenge. The connected farm building arrangement was adopted because it met the requirements of a more commercially oriented, mixed-farming, home-industry operation, which had become the only viable means of farming in New England. (Page 202.)

The connected complex can be seen as a building type with distinct geographical boundaries. As per Hubka, they occurred in the greatest densities in southern and western Maine and portions of eastern New Hampshire. The establishment of these complexes was also period specific; buildings were either built anew or attached in this form between the 1820s and 1900, although examples continued to be erected in the 1940s, and earlier examples are also known. The residential and agricultural complex at Stearns Hill Farm is a good example of this type, with a high degree of integrity.

The barn is also notable for its distinctive design. Built against the hill, this modified high-drive bank barn is a type of agricultural structure that became popular during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. High-drive bank barns were first developed in Shaker communities in the 1830s and are characterized by two to four floors, oriented with the animal pens at a lower level and the hay drive above. The context for their development is described by Thomas Visser in A Field Guide to New England Barns:



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As the demand for butter and fluid milk increased with the advent of refrigerated railroad cars, many New England dairy farmers continued to increase the size of their herds. By the late 1880s and 1890s this growth brought another wave of barn building to the region. Led by the scientific farming approaches of the state agricultural colleges and the innovations of the Shakers and well-heeled gentlemen farmers, more and more dairy farmers invested in two-, three-, or four-story high-drive barns to minimize the labor required to move feed and manure....

Gable-front high-drive barns typically have a narrow drive floor running the length of the barn. In some, this drive has a T near the far end so that a hay wagon can be turned around inside, rather than requiring a team of horses or oxen to back out the entire length. Flanking the drive floor are open hay mows that drop down a story. The cows are stabled on the middle story, and the manure is collected in the basement. (Pages 85 and 86)

At the Stearns Hill Farm the barn was not built anew as a high-drive bank barn, rather it was adapted from an earlier New England bank barn. As a result storage for hay and other grasses are provided in mows that drop to linter level, on the main floor, and in mows and scaffolds above the stable and drive. The last bay of the barn, added by William C. Stearns sometime after 1889 is a modification of a T shaped turn.

## History and Context

The Stearns family was not the first to settle on the property that bears their name, but they were responsible for establishing the farm as it appears today. Originally from Waltham, Massachusetts, William Stearns, Sr. arrived in the Paris area sometime before 1796, when he and Jonathan Bemis purchased lots # 23 and 24 in the fifth range of lots in Paris.<sup>3</sup> In 1796 Stearns quit claimed to Bemis the western half of these lots. Immediately to the south were lots 21 and 22, the eastern half of which totaled approximately 100 acres and were owned by Abijah Pain. Pain had purchased the land from Joshua Whitney of Worcester, Massachusetts, and had built a dwelling house. That the house faced west suggests it was erected prior to 1794 when what became Stearns Hill Road was laid out by the town. In 1797 Pain first mortgaged, then sold, his property to Jonathan Bemis. Based on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax census Bemis was described as one of the "forty persons in Paris at this time, [who] occupied houses and probably frame houses which, with their lots, were considered worth one hundred dollars each, and were therefore taxable."(Lapham and Maxim, History of the Town of Paris, p. 100) In 1816 Bemis' estate was the eighth largest in Paris, valued at \$3,071. (Lapham and Maxim, p. 137) Two years later Bemis sold the eastern half of lots # 21 and 22 to John Porter, who later that same day sold the property to William Stearns, Jr.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>The town of West Paris was formed out of the town of Paris in 1957.

<sup>4</sup>Stearns to Bemis, 1796: Cumberland County Registry of Deeds, Book 26, p. 531  
Pain to Bemis, 1797: Cumberland County Registry of Deeds, Book 25, 552 and Book 26, p. 532  
Porter to Stearns, 1818: Oxford County Registry of Deeds, Book 15, p 396.

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Family tradition holds that William Stearns, Jr. (1790 - 1877) first built the ell of the house and later added the front portion; based on the deeds and tax records it appears clear that the ell was extant when Stearns obtained the property. The deed also references a "smithing shop," with the provision that this building could be moved off the property by Porter within the next five months. Based on the hewn frame and mortise and tenon joinery the building known now as the blacksmith's shop may be this same structure.

The layout and composition of the farm during William Stearns' ownership is not clear. Based on molding profiles and the one extant fireplace surround, the front portion of the house appears to have been built to serve his growing family by about 1830. Stearns married Joanna Porter in 1819 and over the next 20 years they had eight children. The nucleus of the barn (bays two through five) also appear to have been built at this time and share a similar roofing design to that found in the newer portion of the house. In 1844 the town of Paris foreclosed on Stearns for debt and the property was sold at auction - the buyers included his brothers Marshall (who owned the adjacent lots # 19 and 20 in the fifth range) and Phineas Stearns. They in turn sold the property to S. Porter Stearns, William's youngest son. According to family records S. Porter Stearns (1831 - 1916) officially took over the property in 1856 but it appears that William and the family remained on the property in the meantime. In 1850 the agricultural census reported that William Stearns, Jr. had 140 acres of cleared land, 50 acres of uncleared land, 1 horse, 3 milch cows, 1 oxen, 22 cattle, 19 sheep and 2 pigs. He produced 40 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of corn and 30 bushels of oats.

The first alteration to the barn probably was under taken by S. Porter Stearns. As originally constructed, the four bay bank barn was located across the dooryard from the house. The facade of the barn was positioned approximately 10 feet west of its current position (remains of a front foundation wall have been found at linter level under this location). It is not clear if the barnyard terrace originally stretched as far as this facade (and was later excavated out from under the front addition when it was built), nor is it known if this building was originally designed with tie-up below the first floor, or whether that was installed at a later date. Sometime after the eastern front bay was added to the barn the carriage house was built between the house and barn and a covered walkway installed across the front of the carriage house.

The location of the cow tie-up, or linter, is not commonly found below grade in Maine. The location makes sense: hay and grain are driven into the center aisle, stored on the main level of the barn, and distributed to the cows below. Placing the linter on the lower level allowed for a greater quantity of feed and equipment to be stored above, thus enabling a greater number of cows and cattle to be kept through the winter. The design of the linter also reflects the uneven grade between the south and north elevations of the barn. On the south the linter is reached by a ramp from the south barn yard, and on the north the cows could exit at field level and head towards the pastures or the woods. It is likely that the basement of the barn was used to shelter cattle or sheep. The extent to which the presence of the sheep barn off the southeast corner of the barn affected the design of the linter and the ramps is not yet understood.

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The earliest photograph of the property was taken during the stewardship of S. Porter Stearns and depicts the house without its porch. The corner of the carriage house is evident, as is the covered walkway between the house and the barn. This photograph appears to have been taken in the 1870s or 1880s, providing a basic time frame for these improvements. According to the family, S. Porter Stearns also built the back section of the ell and the Sap House. Another photograph, taken in approximately 1889, shows a long, gable roof extension attached to the southeast corner of the barn (on the terrace). This structure was a sheep barn. In the 1870 agricultural census S. Porter Stearns had 65 sheep, as well as 8 dairy cows, four oxen and 14 head of cattle. The farm produced 250 pounds of wool, 20 pounds of maple sugar, 5 pounds of beeswax and 100 pounds of honey, in addition to potatoes, 50 dollars worth of apples, 500 pounds of butter and 300 pounds of cheese. According to the historian Clarence Day, who wrote Farming in Maine 1860-1940, sheep had been an important component of diversified farming since the colonial era. During the Civil War the demand for wool increased dramatically and as a result the number of sheep throughout the state spiked. A subsequent drop in demand after the war weeded out some of the sheep farmers, but during the 1870s and 1880s the market rebounded for a time, before beginning a final decline that lasted into the 1940s. For many farmers the damage that grazing sheep could do to fragile soils was enough to discourage keeping them in large numbers after the price of wool started to drop. By the time another photograph was taken of the property in 1907 the sheep barn was gone. When Lapham and Maxim wrote their history of Paris in 1884 they described S. Porter Stearns as "one of our most successful farmers, and [he] has served in offices of the town." (Page 731) At about the same time that sheep started to fade as a productive asset, many Maine farms were turning to dairy cattle and this is what the next generation of Stearns did as well.

William C. Stearns (1866 - 1945) took over the farm from his father and eventually focused on dairy cows and beef cattle. Sometime prior to 1889 he and his father installed the interior silo (William C. Stearns later plastered the interior), and by 1907 he had extended the barn towards the west. The two westernmost bays of the barn do not share the same framing plan, and it is possible that the sixth bay was added when the front of the building was extended. The focus on expanding the barn to provide for a larger milking parlor, and for additional hay and grain storage was a result in part of a shift to semi-commercial dairying opportunities in the latter decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As summarized by Day:

The decade of the seventies saw the opening of another outlet for farm products. Cheese factories sprang up and flourished briefly. Later their owners gradually changed to the manufacture of butter and about the turn of the century began shipping sweet cream to the Boston market. The next change was to fluid milk, and the Boston milkshed gradually expanded until it included the whole dairy section of Maine except near the cities and larger towns. (Page 286)

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In 1915 the *Lewiston Evening Journal* ran the following short feature on the Stearns Hill farm in Paris:

Among the hill top farms of Oxford county is W.C. Stearns of Stearns' Hill, West Paris, whose fine big place is located almost on the pinnacle of that elevation. A winding road through the woods from the village of West Paris, leads to the place which has been in the Stearns family for a century or more. Carried on for a long while by Porter Stearns now retired, and living in South Paris, it is a very well kept place and for years a big herd of cattle has grazed in its pastures. Ever since the days of the great grandfather William Stearns more or less oxen have kept and the present owner like his predecessors has several yoke of steers and a big pair of sturdy cattle turned out.

The herd for dairying purposes are Jerseys while the beef cattle are Devons, Mr. Stearns purchasing the Maxim herd of Bowdoin, several years ago. These cattle mature early and are good feeders always keeping in good condition. A two year old bull at the present time girls 6 feet, 6 inches. In fattening them for the markets Mr. Stearns states that it does not require so much time as larger and coarser cattle and they take on flesh very easy. The product of the Jerseys is sold in the whole milk form.

Among the general crops raised this year was an acre of beans which yielded between 20 and 25 bushels. "I have always considered them a good crop," said Mr. Stearns, "and this year it looks as though they would be a good proposition." Three acres of sweet corn for the W.F. Webb Company of Norway, averaged \$75 an acre. Yellow corn is also raised here some years and a silo is considered an important thing in connection with the corn growing business. In filling the silo millet is also put in sometimes. The grain crop this year included three acres of oats which yielded heavily....

Like many other Oxford county farms, a fine bearing orchard adds to the income of the place yearly. Last season, 624 barrels were harvested, but this year as elsewhere the crop was much smaller.

The attractive looking stand of buildings shown in the picture here has been renovated by succeeding generations until they are now in excellent condition. The ell connected with the main house has stood the storms of nearly a hundred years. The barn has been enlarged and changed over since the days of the grandfather, but now, as in former days, the mild eyed ox is still kept in it. (November 6, 1915, p. 10)

William C. Stearns worked the farm until his death in 1945. After the death of his wife Blanche in 1915 he worked alone on the farm for several years. In 1932 his daughter Annette Gibson and her family moved to the property and assisted Stearns with the enterprise. Gibson continued to run the farm (her husband Leslie Gibson was not a farmer), providing milk to the Oakhurst dairy. In 1962 when Oakhurst required their farmers to install tanks for bulk milk storage Gibson stopped keeping commercial dairy cows. In 1971 her son William (Bill) Gibson and his family returned to the farm, and continued to hay the fields, log the wood lots and produce maple syrup. During their tenure the Gibsons installed the farm pond and replaced the

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aging cider mill with a new equipment barn. In 2003 Gibson and his wife Jane passed the property on to his niece Ellen Gibson and her husband Richard Long. Although dairy activities have long ceased the fields are still maintained and small scale livestock (goats and chickens) are being raised on the farm.

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## UTM'S, Continued

5. 19/ 378224 / 4906520
6. 19/ 378192 / 4906842
7. 19/ 378326 / 4906881
8. 19/ 378205 / 4907327

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is described by the Town of West Paris tax map number 12, lots 14, 36 and 39. The boundaries are drawn on Map 1 "Stearns Hill Farm West Paris".

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Stearns Hill Farm represent the portions of the farm that were originally purchased by William Stearns in 1818, and have been historically associated with the property since that date. Additional parcels of adjacent land which have been owned by members of the Stearns family and are mostly forested, have not been included.

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

ME\_OXFORD CO\_STEARNS HILL FARM  
HD\_001.tif

Photograph 1 of 8

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

4 September 2008

Main house and ell, south and east elevations;  
facing northwest.

ME\_OXFORD CO\_STEARNS HILL FARM  
HD\_002.tif

Photograph 2 of 8

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

4 September 2008

Barn and carriage house, south and east  
elevations; facing northwest.

ME\_OXFORD CO\_STEARNS HILL FARM  
HD\_003.tif

Photograph 3 of 8

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

4 September 2008

Ell, carriage house and barn, north elevations;  
facing south.

ME\_OXFORD CO\_STEARNS HILL FARM  
HD\_004.tif

Photograph 4 of 8

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

4 September 2008

Interior of barn, main floor. Hay mow and  
interior silo to right; scaffold above. Facing west.

ME\_OXFORD CO\_STEARNS HILL FARM  
HD\_005.tif

Photograph 5 of 8

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

4 September 2008

Interior, south aisle and wall of main barn.

Facing southeast.

ME\_OXFORD CO\_STEARNS HILL FARM  
HD\_006.tif

Photograph 6 of 8

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

4 September 2008

Sap House, west elevation; facing northeast.

ME\_OXFORD CO\_STEARNS HILL FARM  
HD\_007.tif

Photograph 7 of 8

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

4 September 2008

Blacksmith Shop, east elevation; facing  
southeast.

ME\_OXFORD CO\_STEARNS HILL FARM  
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Photograph 8 of 8

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

4 September 2008

Field system. Reservoir field (foreground), hay  
pasture field (background), farm road and cattle  
alley on left.



STEARNS HILL FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Sketch Map

16 October 2008



