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NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 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 Larsson-Noak Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Station Road N/A not for publication
city, town New Sweden N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04762

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>4</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>5</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.

Carol J. Peterson SHPO 6/7/89
Signature of certifying official Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Bobby L. Savage 7/26/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Extraction/Manufacturing
FacilityWork in Progress

Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural Outbuilding
Domestic/Single Family

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

foundation ConcreteOther: Maine Swedish Log Housewalls Wood/ShingleOther: Aroostook Potato CellarWood/Weatherboardroof Asphaltother Hewn Log Construction in House

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located on Station Road in New Sweden, the Larsson-Noak Historic District consists of the Larsson-Ostlund log house, the adjacent potato cellar and garage, and, opposite the house and across the street, the Lars Noak Blacksmith Shop. The Larsson-Ostlund house and potato cellar, less than a hundred yards apart, are oriented facing the Station Road, which was in existence as early as 1877. Between these two buildings is the garage, whose opening faces the log home and whose rear wall faces the potato cellar. Across the road and further up the hill is the Lars Noak Blacksmith Shop, which is oriented with a side wall facing the Station Road. There are four contributing buildings and one contributing site.

The Larsson-Noak district buildings are located on a 50 acre tract of land in rural Aroostook County. Sited on the east side of Capitol Hill with other frame and log dwellings in the vicinity, the surrounding terrain on the hill is mostly open land with wooded areas east of the hill near Sealander Brook. This landscape retains a considerable share of its historic integrity.

Larsson-Ostlund House, c. 1888

The Larsson-Ostlund House is a two-story log structure sheathed in weatherboards, that rests on a granite foundation and is covered by a gabled roof. Attached to but set back from the end of the main block of the house is a frame two-story saltbox wing, and projecting from its north end is a deteriorated one-story shingled wing, both of which are later additions. One centrally-located interior flue rises through the ridgepole of the asphalt roof.

The west facade of the main block of the house is arranged in three symmetrical bays. The central first story doorway has been replaced by a small two-pane window and shingles to cover and close the former entrance. The former entrance is flanked by a six-over-six double-hung sash window with two-over-two storms. On the second story the central six-over-six double-hung sash window is also flanked by a six-over-six window. Each of these original windows is surmounted by a curved and narrow hoodmold. At the corners of the facade, where the log timbers are half-dovetailed, the overhang in each direction is sheathed to cover the joints and exposed ends.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture
Architecture
Industry

Period of Significance

c. 1888-1940

Significant Dates

c. 1888
c. 1928
c. 1900

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.

The Larsson-Noak Historic District embraces a small cluster of wooden buildings, each of which illustrates important aspects of the development of New Sweden, a northern Maine community settled by immigrant Swedes beginning in 1870. Despite the loss of certain secondary features, principally shed additions, the buildings - a two-story log house, a blacksmith's shop, an automobile garage, and a potato cellar - have remarkable integrity. In addition to their closely related histories the group shares a rural environment that has changed very little from the periods of significance. The district is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A for the information that it reveals about New Sweden's pattern of growth and criterion C for the unique character of the log dwelling.

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

New Sweden was organized as a plantation on April 6, 1876, and by 1880 the population was 517. In 1885, the Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual carried the following description of the colony:

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Maine State Year Book and Legislative Manual, Portland: G. M. Donham.
Various Editions

Presque Isle Sunrise. Sept. 2, 1874.

Centennial History of Maine's Swedish Colony 1870-1970. Edited by Richard Hede.
New Sweden Historical Society, 1970.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 50

UTM References

A

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

C

1,9	5,6,7,5,7,0	5,1,9,9,6,3,0
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B

1,9	5,6,7,5,9,0	5,1,9,9,1,9,0
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

1,9	5,6,8,7,7,0	5,1,9,9,6,5,0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of 50 acres occupies the Town of New Sweden tax map lot 121.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the buildings and remaining farm land historically associated with the period of significance.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Jester, Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1989

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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The south gable end of the main block of the house has three first story six-over-six windows, two similar second story windows and one window in the gable peak. The windows on this elevation also have narrow, curved hoodmolds, and there are wide eaves with a molded cornice. The north gable end also has wide eaves, in addition to one first story six-over-six double-hung sash window on the west end of this elevation and one two-pane window in the gable peak. The remainder of the north gable end is comprised of the set back wing.

The rear (east) elevation of the main block of the house has two first story six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Above each of these first story windows is a second story six-over-six window. All four of these windows have hoodmolds similar to those on the other elevations. Running underneath the north end first story window sill to the south end of the set back wing is a shed roofed, concrete bulkhead, which has a wooden door with vertical slats, leading to a cellar.

The west elevation of the set back wing is comprised of an entrance with a six panel door nearer the main block of the house and one other first story six-over-six window. On the second story there are two six-over-six double-hung sash windows. These windows and the doorway also have the curved hoodmold present on the other elevation's windows. Carrying across this side of the wing is a shed roofed porch between the first and second stories, which is supported by three diagonal beams attached to the wing's wall halfway between the first story and ground. The north gable end of the wing has one six-over-six double-hung sash window on the second story located west of center with a plain frame and no hoodmold. The one-story rear elevation of the wing has two first story six-over-six windows.

Inside the entrance hall in the wing of the Larsson house, the staircase leading to the second floor has continuous steps which create a quasi spiral staircase within a square framework. South of the first story steps is a small closet sheathed with tongue-and-groove paneling. North of the entrance hall is an unfinished storage room. South of the entrance hall is the kitchen and this adjoins the southeast living room. The central hallway where the original entrance was located has been converted into a bathroom. There are two other small rooms on the first floor in the northwest and southwest corners.

At the top of the staircase, there is another room (north) in the wing which was used as a work room. South of the second story landing is a large unfinished room, a stair leading to the attic, and there is a finished bedroom east of this room. Entering the south half of the main block of the house on the second floor, separated by an interior log wall, are three bedrooms which were plastered and finished in the 1920s. In the unfinished attic, there is evidence of the log construction rising to the gable peaks, and the cellar clearly shows the stone and concrete foundation.

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Potato Cellar, c. 1928

The potato cellar is a shingled two-story structure resting on a concrete foundation with a gambrel roof. Like so many potato cellars in Maine, each end of the barn reaches ground level because the barn is sited in the hill to take advantage of the cool ground temperature.

The shingled west gable end of the potato cellar has two large sliding track-mounted doors built of vertical boards which open into the second story storage space. The east gable end is also shingled and has a first story sliding track-mounted door, flanked by a two-over-two double-hung sash window. There are two second story windows which are now boarded shut. Each of the other two elevations (north and south) are shingled and each wall is terminated where the building meets the rising slope of the ground. These elevations also have wide flared eaves which have a shallower slope than the steeper pitch of the gambrel roof. The first story interior of the potato cellar is divided into two large storage areas surrounded by concrete walls. Near the first story door is a wood burning stove which remains intact.

Garage, 1910s

Between the potato cellar and Larsson-Ostlund House is the garage which is a small one-story gabled structure covered in shingles. The north gable end has a two-leaf garage door and is built of vertical boards. The south gable end has one two-over-two double-hung sash window, and the east and west elevations have no openings and are covered in shingles.

Lars Noak Blacksmith Shop, c. 1900

Sheathed entirely in shingles, the Lars Noak Blacksmith Shop is a long, one-story gabled structure resting on stone, grade, and concrete posts. The interior remains unaltered and contains its original tools, machinery, and forge.

On the south gable end there is a large opening which has a two-leaf door made of vertical boards. East of this first story drive is one six-over-six double-hung sash window. On the second story is a one-leaf door above the right-hand side of the larger first story drive, and there is one six-over-six double-hung sash window above the first story window. On the north gable end there is one doorway on the west end of the building, three first story six-over-six double-hung sash windows, and two second story double-hung sash windows. The east elevation has six evenly-spaced six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The west elevation was once covered by a shed roofed addition (which housed the engine powering many of the tools) that has fallen down, exposing the original wall of the building. The

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south half of this wall is shingled and the north half, sheathed but not covered, includes the protruding gearwork and belts from the original machinery. At the north end of the wall is another door built of vertical boards.

The first story room at the north end of the building is a woodshop that contains much of the original machinery. The larger south room features the original forge and other blacksmith's implements. The second floor loft space is distinguished by a triangular truss system used to support long beams framing the loft floor.

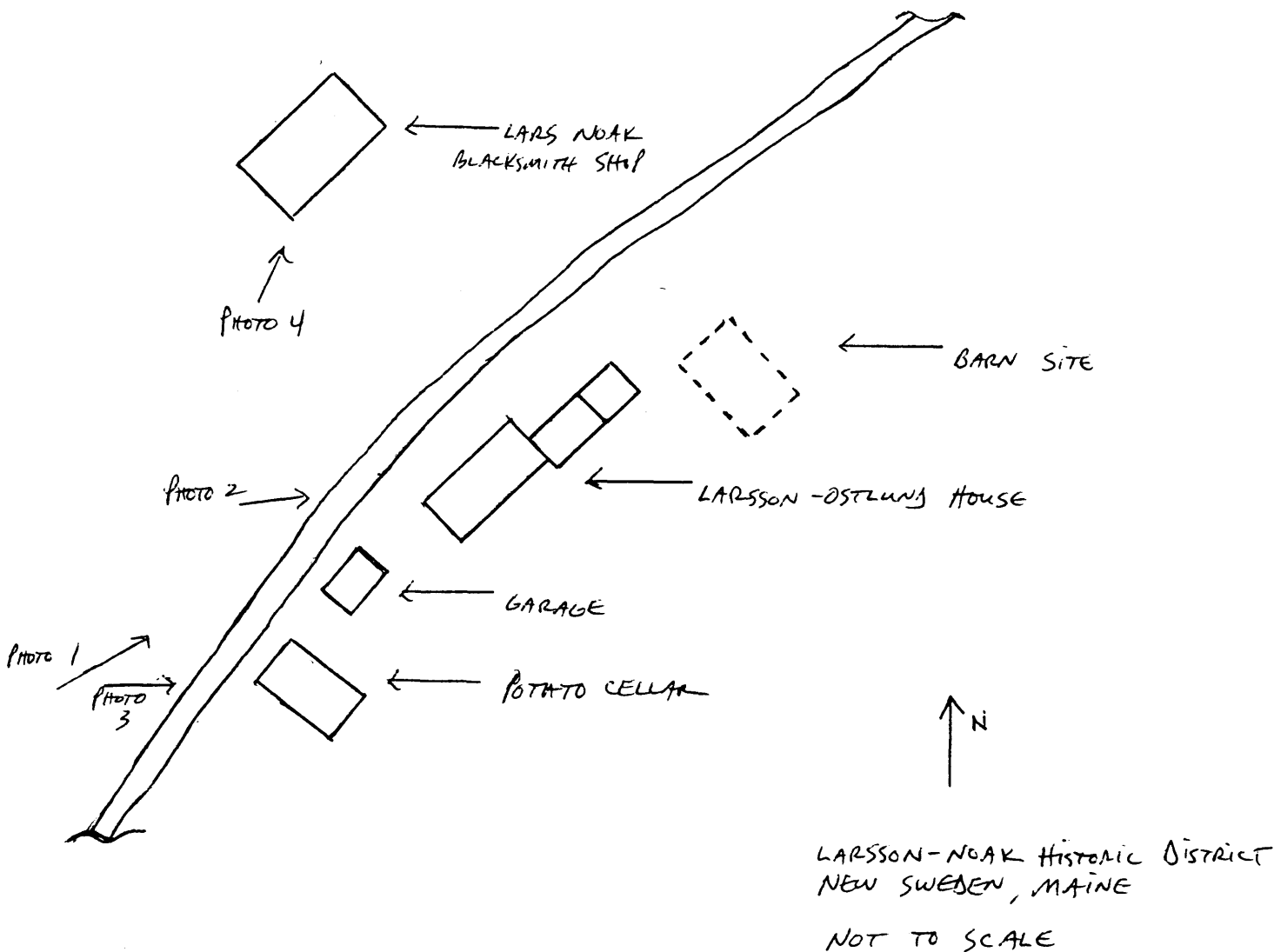
Barn Site

Located at a point off the northeast corner of the dwelling's wing is the foundation of a large wood frame gable roofed barn. A documentary aerial photograph of the property shows that it was oriented with its gable end facing the road and that a broad shed addition extended from the south side. It undoubtedly predated the potato cellar and was probably constructed by the Larsson family for use as a livestock shelter and storage facility for hay and equipment.

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In 1880 this Swedish colony had cleared 4,438 acres of land, built a church, townhouse, 5 school houses, 3 mills, 163 dwelling houses and 151 barns, and constructed 42 1/2 miles of road. The colony owned 164 horses, 659 head of cattle, 530 sheep and lambs, 175 swine, and 1,920 poultry. In 1879 the colony harvested 982 tons of hay, 1,364 bushels of wheat, 5,256 bushels rye, 2,861 bushels of buckwheat, 8,501 bushels of oats, and 25,000 bushels of potatoes. The egg product was 9,715 dozen. The Swedes made one ton of cheese and 7 tons of butter, and clipped 1,393 pounds of wool. The colony is a thrifty and successful agricultural community, and has attracted to Maine a thousand Swedish immigrants in addition to its own numbers, who are located in every section of the State.

New Sweden (incorporated in 1895) experienced its largest increase in population between 1890 and 1900, when it rose from 607 to 867 persons. In 1900, according to the Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual, there was one shingle and long lumber company, a starch, shingle, lumber, and grist mill company, and a planing mill. The potential for future success and development of small-scale industries and farming at the turn of the century was enhanced in 1899 when the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad reached New Sweden and began transporting potato crops and lumber products produced by the town.

Among those families who prospered during New Sweden's development at the turn of the century were the Larssons, who were among the first group to arrive from Sweden in 1870. They were assigned lot #121, previously assigned to Andrew Malmquist. At the eastern edge of this lot, which was located at the top of Capitol Hill, tradition maintains that the Larsson family settled and probably built a one-story log dwelling. A report published in the September 2, 1874, edition of the Presque Isle Sunrise provides some of the most detailed information about the early colonists. That year (1874) Larsson had been in New Sweden four years and he had felled ten acres of land, had two acres of crops, six cows, two pigs, a barn measuring 42X12 feet, and a house measuring 30X18. By all standards, the Larsson farm was typical when compared with other New Sweden settlers in 1874. By 1877 the Station Road had been constructed between New Sweden and New Sweden Station, bisecting the Larsson lot. It is believed that Larsson's two-story log house on the east side of Station Road was constructed in 1888, employing the traditional Swedish dovetailed joinery.

Examples of altered, deteriorated one-story log houses are scattered throughout the New Sweden region. However, few remain as intact as the Larsson house and no other one is of this size. Probably completed by 1890, the two-story house is unusual because it is two stories and carries

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the log construction (half-dovetail) into the gables where it is held together by wooden pegs. The house was probably sheathed in weatherboards soon after it was built to protect the log walls, whose individual members are fashioned with convex top edges and concave lower edges that form a tight joint lined with moss. Because the second floor doorway framing indicates the previous existence of a window, the set back wing was probably added at a later date. A second floor interior log wall suggests that a similar wall may have existed on the first floor until being hidden and cut away by the various room partitions. The Larsson house retains its original integrity and is a unique example of a two-story log house in New Sweden.

The particular methods of construction exhibited in existing log houses that have not been extensively altered, reveal a tradition of building not previously found in Maine prior to the 1870s. What few log buildings survive from earlier periods represent a wholly different technique of construction, forms that are more like those of the mid-Atlantic and southern parts of the country. As illustrated by the Larsson house, the most significant differences between these traditions is the use of logs into the gable peaks (instead of a framed wall), the inclusion of interior log partition walls, the careful attention paid to weatherproofing the long horizontal joints between the logs, and the overhanging ends of the logs which appear to have been covered with planks. The only other contemporary log buildings being erected in Maine in the late nineteenth century were the seasonal logging camps. Numerous documentary photographs of these buildings show them to have been crudely made with round logs of unequal size and no attention given to architectural ornamentation or finish; a form of building with little in common to the modest but well finished houses in New Sweden.

In 1899 Noak Larsson deeded 30 acres of his 100 acre farm to his son, Lars Noak, where he built a blacksmith shop. Lars Noak and his wife Anna Kajsa Noak lived just north of the blacksmith shop in a framed house that is still standing but has been extensively altered.

Noak first appears in the Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual as a smith in 1900 and continues to appear until 1940. During these forty years, Noak worked in his shop, woodworking, wheel making, machining, and blacksmithing. he died on August 14, 1940, after which time the shop remained undisturbed up to the present day. Remarkably intact, the interior of the shop retains its original forge, machinery, tools, and manufactured goods. It is the only known example of its kind in the area and is representative of the small-scale industry which developed in New Sweden after the turn of the century.

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The second owner of the Larsson House was George Ostlund, a later immigrant who purchased most of lot 121 from the Larsson family in 1910. A few years later he added the garage and in 1928 Ostlund built the potato cellar adjacent to the log house. The potato cellar is a remarkably intact example of a once common building type in Aroostook County, where the production of this valuable cash crop continues to this day. It is sited into the side of Capitol Hill to take advantage of the cool ground temperature needed to store potato crops.

Within the New Sweden Historic District are buildings which portray a cross-section of New Sweden's development as a Swedish colony and as a community whose small-scale industry and agricultural production succeeded in rural Aroostook County. The integrity of these buildings and the history associated with them make this district a vivid reminder of the successful Swedish colony, its tradition of log building, and way of life. In recognition of their significance a newly formed group called Maine's Swedish Colony, Inc., has acquired title to the 50 acres of the original 100 acre farm. Plans are being developed to restore all of the buildings with the goal of opening them to the public as a museum.