

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 07 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

N.
REGISTER

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 Peabody - Fitch Farm
other names/site number Narramissic

2. Location

street & number Off Ingalls Road not for publication
city, town South Bridgton vicinity
state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04009

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>3</u>	<u>0</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>1</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 S. Felt 3/1/89
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:)

Melores Byer Entered in the National Register 4/7/89

f Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling
Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural
Field
Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural
Outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other L-shaped wooden porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Atop Fitch Hill, with the White Mountains as a backdrop, stands the Peabody-Fitch Farmstead, an early Federal style two-story framed house sheathed in weatherboards and featuring a central chimney and a gable roof. It has a two-story ell, a one-story wing, and the entire building rests on a granite foundation. A large barn and a smaller building, formerly a blacksmith's shop, also contribute to the farmstead. A complete field system of rock fences surrounds the buildings. There are 3 contributing buildings, 1 contributing site and 1 contributing structure in this district.

Facing south, the front elevation of the main block of the house has five bays arranged symmetrically with the exception of the central second story window which is slightly off-axis. The centrally-located entrance vestibule is gabled, has a rounded cornice and returns, sidelights, louvered fanlight, and a six paneled door. This entrance is flanked by paired nine-over-six double-hung sash windows on the first story and these are in turn matched on the second stories. A boxed cornice with short end returns carries across the facade.

The eastern gable end of the main house has seven nine-over-six windows. The first and second stories each have three windows with two grouped apart from the third, and the other window is in the gable peak. Below the first story group of two windows on the ground level is a bulkhead and below the single window on the first story is a small foundation window. The western gable end of the main house has another entrance with similar detailing as that on the south elevation, flanked by nine-over-six windows. There is one more first story nine-over-six window on the south end of this elevation and another fixed cellar window. The remainder of this gable end has two second story nine-over-six windows and one in the gable peak. The rear section of the main house has three nine-over-six second story windows, and the first story has two nine-over-six windows and a door which opens to an L-shaped screened porch. Abutted to the rear of the main block and to the east side of the ell, the porch has a shed roof and rests on eight square posts.

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The ell which projects off the northwest end of the main house has one chimney and a gable roof. Its west side has two nine-over-six windows grouped together on the first story and two nine-over-six on the second story. The north end of the ell has two first story nine-over-six windows, five fixed casement windows grouped together on the second story, and one window in the gable peak. The east side of the ell has two nine-over-six windows on the second story, below which is another section of the enclosed porch.

Set back from the main block and projecting to the west off the ell is a wing leading to the carriage house. On the south elevation, the wing has two nine-over-six windows and the carriage house has a sweeping arched entrance, the gable having a large loft door and two fixed windows with six panes. The north end of the wing has two nine-over-six windows and the rear of the carriage house has two fixed windows which each have eight panes.

Inside, an irregular house plan is based around the massive central chimney. In front of a small entrance hall inside the main door is a staircase with two inter-story landings. The southeast room, or parlor, has a simple but elegant curved mantle which is painted black. The southwest room also has a plain Federal mantle and the doors each have four panels. To the north lies the original kitchen, and its mantle and hearth are intact. A small keeping room is located at the east end of the kitchen and a door opens onto the screened porch.

The ell contains a kitchen, a pantry and two second story bedrooms. Upstairs in the main block there is a bedroom on each side of the second story hall. The rear room on the second story of the main house has a small fireplace, an added staircase to the attic, and it houses a large loom. The full cellar contains the granite base of the chimney and the granite sidewalls. The wing between the carriage house and ell appears to have been used as a wood shed.

The barn which stands to the west of the house has a gable roof, is shingled, and rests on a tall granite foundation. The east facing gable end has a large sliding, track-mounted entrance, a transom with thirty-two panes, and two six-over-six windows in the gable peak. The through drive runs the entire length of the barn. A door is located in the northeast corner of this facade, and the southeast end of the barn has a small shed roofed addition. The barn is timber framed.

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Located southwest of the house is a small shingled building, at one time the blacksmith's shop. It has a six pane fixed window in the gable peak, a two-leaf doorway, and there are two more windows on each of the other three sides.

In the fields surrounding the house and ancillary buildings, a network of rock fences provide demarcations for a number of farming fields and the town road. Starting between the carriage house and barn and running north, is a fence which marks the town road. It forms the western side of a large field on the northeast part of the property. Another field (northwest) runs to the west of the town road. To the southwest of the main house is another large field and a smaller field is intact southeast of the house. Two cattle drives, one running west of the main house and the other running south, separate the adjacent fields.

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

Period of Significance

c. 1790 - c. 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1790

c. 1828

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 Peabody-Fitch Farm is a remarkably intact cluster of buildings and field systems which provide a rich sense of an early 19th century Maine farmstead. Believed to have been built in 1797 for William Peabody, a pioneer settler of Bridgton, the house retains the majority of its Federal period interior and exterior architectural features as well as its agricultural context. It meets criteria A and C.

The house was first occupied by William Peabody (1770-1843) and his wife Sally (Stevens) Peabody, who had ten children. Little is known about the Peabody's, but a number of their children died at an early age. Their fourth child, Mary Peabody, married George Fitch of Sebago on December 1, 1823. With her father in his late 50s and her mother probably ill (she died in 1829), Mary and George returned to the family farm around 1828. To accommodate the two families, including Mary's three younger siblings, it became necessary to make additions to the house. Fitch added the ell with a new kitchen, larder, pantry, and two bedrooms. A wing and carriage house were also added, and Fitch updated the house with late Federal style entrances with louvered fanlights.

By 1850, Fitch had 80 improved acres and 128 unimproved acres, two horses, six milk cows, sixteen sheep, working oxen, and other cattle. Among the products he produced were wheat, Indian corn, oats, buckwheat, butter, and cheese. This suggests that the large barn, affixed to an earlier barn whose foundation is still evident, was probably built between 1828 when he moved to South Bridgton and 1856 when he died. The blacksmith's shop was probably added in this time period, too.

Of the Fitch's 13 children, only Sarah stayed on the farm with her mother (who lived into the 1890s) when George Fitch died in 1856. She married Richard W. Long (1836-1871), who was a partner in Fitch (Sarah) and Long Dry Goods, later remarried after Long's

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Census of the United States, 1850-70, Cumberland County, Maine, Population and Agricultural Schedules, Microfilm of the Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

Shorey, Eula M., ed. Bridgton, Maine 1768-1968. Bridgton: Bridgton Historical Society, 1968.

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:

Bridgton Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 19.4

UTM References

A

119	36113810	487113910
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

119	36210210	487111310
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

119	36117410	4871151210
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

119	361171010	4871091210
Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Peabody-Fitch Farm occupies the Town of Bridgton tax map 2, Lot 30A.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the buildings and fence enclosed pastures that lie in immediate proximity to the house and that are historically associated with the farm.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January 1989

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

city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333

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death, and died sometime around 1910. Occupied by a collateral cousin into the 1920s, the farm fell into disrepair and was acquired by the town for back taxes in 1936. In 1937, Mrs. Margaret Monroe of Providence, Rhode Island purchased the property, preserving the original early elements of the house. Once a working farm, the house then became a summer retreat for Mrs. Monroe, and she added a screened porch and casement windows to the second story on the north end of the ell overlooking the White Mountains. When Mrs. Monroe died in 1986, the house was given to the Bridgton Historical Society, which has begun to restore the pastures to their original condition.

Because so many features of this farm are intact, including the stone fences which operated as livestock enclosures and the detached barn and blacksmith shop, it is a unique and rare example of the layout of an early nineteenth century Maine farm. Obviously the labor of many years, the field system, based on stone fences, was probably begun by William Peabody, and it was intended to keep the cattle and livestock contained. As George Fitch improved and expanded the farm, it is likely that the fences were completed. While these enclosures and field systems were probably common in the nineteenth century, very few of them can be identified today. Combined with the integrity of the farm buildings, this complex is an important reminder of South Bridgton's agricultural roots.