



02 1269

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 Moody Farm

other names/site number Bickford Farm, Maple Brook Farm

2. Location

street & number Corner of Lawry Road (Belfast Road) and Rt. 173 N/A not for publication

city or town Searsmont N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Waldo code 027 zip code 04973

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.)

Earle S. Johnson 5490 9/12/02
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): _____

Edson W. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 10/31/02

MOODY FARM

Name of Property

WALDO CO., 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.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling, AGRICULTURE/ Agricultural outbuilding, AGRICULTURE / Agricultural field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling, AGRICULTURE / Agricultural outbuilding, AGRICULTURE / Agricultural field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EARLY REPUBLIC / Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Stone, Brick, walls Weatherboard, Shingle (Barn), roof Asphalt, other

Narrative Description

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

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DESCRIPTION

The Moody Farm is a small complex of buildings built at the junction of two country roads in the rural town of Searsmont Maine. The Federal style story-and-a-half center chimney cape is located on in the 'v' of the cross roads; across the street to the south are two joined timber framed barns, surrounded by fields. Stone walls, wells, a chicken coop, farm pond and apple orchard complete the complex, and encompass all off the necessary elements to support a family farm in the 19th century.

Contributing Resources

Main House and ells.

The homestead was constructed c. 1830. Later in the nineteenth century two sheds were added to the west side of the house. The five-bay clapboarded structure is roofed with asphalt and supported on a granite-topped field stone foundation. The facade faces the junction of the country roads to the east. The center entrance contains a wide, six-panel, ogee moulded door set in a Federal style surround. Five-light side lights reaching half way to the ground, are positioned between the door and a pair of pilasters with simple Doric capitals and plinths. The entire entry is surmounted by a nicely proportioned entablature composed of a medium width frieze, bed moulding and a simple ovolo cornice. The large chimney rises through the center of the ridge behind the front door. A pair of two-over-one windows are placed to either side of the door. The cape is very high posted, and the window spacing is somewhat unusual when compared to the majority of early 19th century capes in mid-coast Maine,. Rather than having the windows spaced evenly across the facade, they are placed closer to the door than is the norm, leaving a broad, unarticulated plane on the outside corners of the building. Additional stylistic details include a narrow frieze, thin corner boards and a boxed cornice, which returns slightly on the south and north elevations. Each of the gable ends contain a pair of two-over-two windows on the first floor and another pair on the second story. In addition, a small four-pane knee-wall window is placed between each of the two-over-twos and the tapered rake trim. The west side of the structure contains a pair of two-over-two windows on its south end, while the ell intersects the north half. The ell continues for almost eighty feet to the west. Two sliding barn doors, and an entrance door and several windows are located on its south elevation. A chimney rises through the ridge of the ell roof about twenty feet west of the main house. The kitchen is located between the chimney and the main structure; beyond that is a summer kitchen, wood shed and small animal shed. On the opposite side, the ell is flush with the gable end of the main house and contains two windows in the kitchen area, and a single window and door in the summer kitchen. The roof of the clapboarded ell barely overhangs the clapboarded wall and there are no other stylistic features. The apple orchard is located to the north of the house, and the farm pond directly west of the gable end of the shed.

The interior plan of the Moody Farm house is that of a traditional, five-room center chimney cape. A steep winder stair with a tall square newel post and square banisters rises from the front hall. The

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ends of the stairs are carved in an ogee form. In the wall below the staircase are two ogee molded doors. The door on the south gives access to a closet lined with hand planed wide board paneling, with beaded edges. The northern door opens to a crawl space under the stairs which leads to a smoke chamber built into the chimney stack.

To the north and south of the hall are two parlors; each is accessed through ogee molded six-paneled doors with butt hinges and box locks. As with all the rooms on the first floor, the floors are varnished wide-pine, and most of the walls and ceilings are of original plaster. Each parlor contains a fireplace with Federal surrounds. The southeast parlor is the more ornate of the two, and is composed of pilasters surmounted by a narrow frieze with rectangular molded panels above the pilasters and a simple ogee and cove molded mantle. Door, baseboard and window trim on the first floor, as well as the trim surrounding the kitchen fireplace features a slightly elongated, Greek-inspired ogee and bead molding. Three rooms stretch across the back of the house. The northwest corner contains a modern bathroom, but the shadow of an earlier back stair case is seen on the hand-planed beaded board wall. The first kitchen in the house is situated directly behind the center chimney, and contains a large cooking fireplace, with two adjacent bee-hive ovens, one over the other. A small warming cupboard is positioned over the left side of the fireplace surround, which features ogee and bead moulding, a narrow frieze supported by truncated pilasters and a two part cove and bead cornice. Wide pine wainscot adorns the walls. The modern kitchen is located in the first section of the ell, and retains its wide pine wainscot on the walls. A heavily worn, broad threshold between the two kitchens attest to the generations of feet that have trod through the house.

The southwest corner of the house contains a small room, which, based on the presence of two thresholds under the partition wall, had been originally divided into two spaces. Stenciling is present in the back of a high, modern, cupboard on the east wall of this room, and also has been found along the southern wall, albeit in very poor condition. The stenciling in the cupboard depicts swags of green leaves and red cherries, tied with a garland of leaves and tassels. As this is located at the top of the wall it was probably a border and it is not known what the overall pattern was originally. The border is almost identical to that found in the front hall of the Salmon Wood House in Hancock, NH, which dates to 1801. The artist of this earlier work has not been identified, however his work is found in a wide band from Marblehead, Massachusetts to Peterborough New Hampshire. (Waring, p. 52).

Barns

Across the street from the homestead are a pair of shingled barns, joined together at their gable ends and oriented towards the road. The eastern barn is English in form, although the roof is supported with common rafters rather than rafter-purlin prevalent in the area. This three bay barn contains a center drive/threshing floor and hay lofts to either side, below which are several small

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animal pens. The western barn is slightly wider and longer than its neighbor, and tradition holds that it was moved here in the mid-nineteenth century from an adjacent farm. This structure is also roofed with common rafters, but the interior of the barn is divided in half below the ridge. On the south side are cow tie-ups, with doors and windows leading directly to the fields to the south. The north half of the barn was used for hay storage. An opening was cut in the shared gable wall to allow for a hay fork to move hay between the two buildings.

Non-contributing Resources.

Milk shed

Directly in front of the barns is a small, milk shed with cement floor. Of recent vintage, this small shingled structure is visually compatible with the barns, and it may have replaced an earlier milk storage structure.

Chicken Coop

As with the milk shed, the chicken coop positioned to the west of the barns was built recently and does not qualify as a contributing resource.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

C. 1829

Significant Dates

C. 1829

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph Moody Farm at Bickford's Corner in Searsmont, Maine contains a one-and-a-half story high-posted Federal style cape. The homestead is surrounded by fields and orchards, barns, ponds and outbuildings, all connected with almost 200 years of family farming. The house was built circa 1829 on land purchased from Israel Thorndike, David Sears and William Prescott, Jr., three of the creditors who had obtained all of the unsold land of Henry Knox's Waldo Patent after his bankruptcy earlier in the century. For almost 30 years, lots in the interior mid-coast Maine were developed and settled, but until about 1820 there was unmitigated tension between the settlers in the back country and the Proprietors and land speculators that tried to develop the region. Many of the earliest settlers were squatters without deeds, who lived in isolated communities unlinked by roads or trade. By the 1820s however, the tensions had been resolved and towns such as Searsmont became increasingly attractive for more prosperous and gentlemanly settlers. The architecture of the Joseph Moody Farm represents the wave of settlement that brought families from southern New England into Maine after it gained statehood, and who reproduced in their new homes the Federal Style that had signified refinement, accomplishment and success in their home towns.

In many areas of mid-coast Maine the Greek Revival was the up and coming stylistic choice for domestic architecture by 1830. Nearby coastal towns that were developing at the same time as Searsmont, including Belfast and Searsport, are known for their concentration of Greek Revival houses. The Federal style had prevailed in communities settled earlier, and usually further south on the coast, such as Lincolnville. The Moody Farm homestead is an interesting combination of time periods. Stylistically, it was constructed in a Federal Style at a time when this style was on the wane; but both the exterior and interior ornamentation, and especially the stenciling, is unabashedly and skillfully executed using Federal motifs. Structurally, the building is high-posted, which created more usable living space on the second floor. This is a feature that is frequently seen in Greek Revival structures, indicating the builder was familiar with the advantages of this plan. The fenestration pattern is somewhat puzzling; the front windows are spaced closer to the door than is normal, creating a facade that is very broad in appearance. This is not a common feature of capes in Maine, but does appear with some frequency among capes built in the first decades of the century in the Nobleboro area, about 40 miles to the south. The gable end knee wall windows are a feature that appear on even earlier, often in 18th century, low posted houses, along the coast of Southern Maine from Bath to Kittery.

It is not known from where Joseph Moody immigrated, only that he arrived in Searsmont with his brother John by 1827. He purchased his land two years later, and shortly thereafter began construction on his house. It is likely that he brought with him the desire to construct a home that would suggest that he was a gentleman of some refinement and accomplishment (rather than another back country squatter), and that in his experience this had been expressed through finely articulated Federal style houses. Yet his stylistic sensibilities were tempered by the labor pool of

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Searsmont, which incorporated into the form of the house older, traditional and vernacular features that had dotted the Maine landscape over the previous five decades. Over the years, his farm prospered, and upon his death he owned almost \$3000.00 in real estate. The Moody homestead survives as a testament to the intersection of culture and development along the settlement frontier of Maine. For this reason, the Joseph Moody Farm is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, as an example of local architecture distinctive of rural settlement in the first decade of Maine's statehood.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albin, Dorothy. *Searsmont: The Old Township of Quantabacook, 1764 - 1976*, ([Camden, Maine]: Camden Herald Publishing Company Incorporated), 1977.

Claes, Frank E. *Waldo County: The Way It Was*. (Camden, Maine: Down East Books), 1985.

Mitchell, Lawton and Bryant, compilers. *The Town Register: Lincolnville, Northport, Belmont, Morrill, Searsmont, and Waldo*. (Brunswick, Maine: The H.E. Mitchell Co.), 1907.

Taylor, Alan. *Liberty men and Great Proprietors*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press), 1990.

Waring, Janet. *Early American Stencils on Walls and Furniture*. (New York: Dover Publications, Inc.)1968.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 63 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

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

2 1 9 4 8 8 1 0 0 4 9 1 1 9 3 5

4 1 9 4 8 8 2 3 5 4 9 1 1 1 0 0

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 11 JULY 2002

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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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is fully described by the Town of Searsmont, Maine tax map number 5 lot 3, (barn and fields) and tax map number 6 lot 108 (house and lot).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The 63 acres in two adjacent parcels as nominated have always been part of the Joseph Moody farm, purchased in 1832 by Joseph Moody, and described in the Waldo County Book of Deeds book 185 page 12.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
26 June 2002
East facade; facing west.

Photograph 2 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
26 June 2002
Northeast elevation; facing southwest.

Photograph 3 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
26 June 2002
Barns, south elevation; facing north.

Photograph 4 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
26 June 2002
Interior, front hall; facing north.