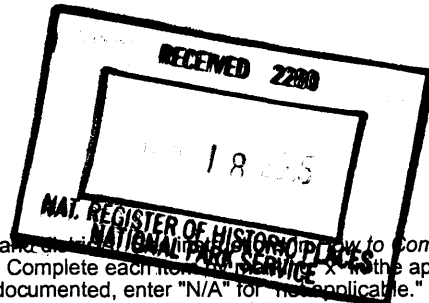


1470

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. Use 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 Joseph H. Underwood House

other names/site number 'The Brick House'

2. Location

street & number 1957 Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Fayette N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Kennebec code 011 zip code 04349

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] 11/14/05
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] 12.28.05
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 12.28.05

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	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

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY / Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / Granite
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNDERWOOD, JOSEPH H., HOUSE

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

MATERIALS, continued

Wall: SYNTHETICS / Vinyl

DESCRIPTION

The Joseph H. Underwood house is an imposing brick building located on Main Street in the Fayette Mills section of Fayette, Maine. Constructed in 1837, the large dwelling and nicely landscaped yard is situated on a seven and one-half acre house lot that backs up to the southern shore of Echo Pond less than a quarter-mile west of the outlet from which this pond drains along a short stream into Lovejoy Pond to the south. Directly across Main Street from the house is the intersection with Lovejoy Pond Road, and the house is sited to fill the viewshed at the intersection when traveling north on this road. Immediately northwest of the house is a gable-fronted two car garage built in 1977 (non-contributing), and between the house and the street is a curved driveway that climbs a slight knoll and passes between a flight of granite steps that descend to the roadway, and the dooryard, which is defined by a low retaining wall and rectilinear terrace. Carefully landscaped lawns punctuated with mature hardwood trees and dotted with garden beds and terraced patios flank the house. To the north of the buildings the land descends towards the pond, and the landscape becomes more densely forested.

Stylistically, the Underwood House is a vernacular building that in its massing, proportions, and a few architectural details shows the influence of Greek Revival design. The two-story brick house faces south towards Main Street. In plan, the building consists of a primary two-story, side-gabled mass (measuring forty-six by thirty-four feet) with a one-story, thirty by fifty foot long, gable-front ell running north from the northeast corner of the main building. Based on construction details and spatial organization of the interior rooms, this ell appears to have been constructed at the same time as the frontal mass. Both the house and the ell are set on pecked granite foundations and roofed with asphalt. The main house presently has three brick, end-wall chimneys: two in front of the ridge, and one on the eastern wall behind the ridge. The fourth chimney, which fed interior fireplaces and was located behind the ridge one third of the distance from the east, has been taken down below the roof. A single chimney is positioned just to the west of the ridge line of the ell, about one-third of the way north of this appendage's intersection with front part of the house. The brick walls are laid in running bond and on the side walls of the house and ell the bricks exhibit substantial color variation.¹ The gable peaks of both the main house and ell are covered in vinyl siding, which replaced earlier clapboards. On the main house this treatment covers the brick end walls (as seen in the attic), however it is not clear whether the ell has brick walls to the gable peaks. Historic photographs dating to at least 1900, and an etching of the house published in 1892, indicate a long-standing, if not original, use of two siding materials

¹According to local tradition the bricks were manufactured on site, however this has not been verified.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNDERWOOD, JOSEPH H., HOUSE

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

The main facade of the Underwood house is five bays wide, with a center door surrounded by side and transom lights. The original six-over-six window openings measure three feet by five feet four inches and contain ten by fourteen inch panes of glass. The wood framed windows are set on granite sills and capped by rectangular granite lintels. A large granite lintel also surmounts the transom lights over the eight panel front door, and three pecked granite slabs are utilized as front steps. Louvered shutters flank the windows on the front wall. No other ornamentation is present, however, the overhanging roof, which projects almost one foot beyond the plane of the wall, does provide visual depth to the otherwise stark facade. The southern elevation of the ell contains a single six-over-six window and a six panel door on the first floor, and a single window of the same dimensions in the vinyl sided half story. Both the first floor bays are trimmed with granite lintels and sills.

The east and west elevations of the main house contain four window bays on each floor, and two windows in the upper gable end walls. The southernmost windows on each floor are set at a greater distance than the remaining openings. On the second story the second and fourth bays (from the south) are blind windows filled with brick. This treatment also occurs in the most northerly first floor window on the east elevation. Although in this case there is evidence that the brick has recently been repointed, there is nothing on the interior to suggest that any of these bays originally held window sash. Three of the blind windows would 'open' into closets, and the other two back onto what appear to be original plaster walls. In all nine historic photographs found during the preparation of this nomination these windows were covered with shutters. The side walls of the ell contain five regularly spaced, but slightly smaller six-over-six windows with granite lintels and sills. Halfway along the east side of the ell, the grade to the north drops significantly, and a leaf-and-a-half four-panel door and six-over-six window provide access into the cellar. This pattern is repeated on the west side of the ell, although the location of these door and window bays are slightly farther to the north. The rear of the main house contains two, centrally located windows on each floor, and the northern end of the ell has only one window on each level.

The interior of the front portion of the Underwood house contains five primary rooms on each floor and a central hallway. The southern rank of rooms, including the southeast and southwest parlors, the southeast and southwest chambers, and the halls, are deeper than the rear rooms. On the first floor the northern end of the house contains a narrow study in the northeast corner, a wide, central dining room, and an almost square room in the northwest corner. All five of the downstairs rooms had fireplaces originally, although several of them no longer are functioning. The plan of the second floor mimics that of the lower story, with the addition of a staircase to the attic located between the back center bathroom and the northeast chamber.

The original function and layout of the rooms in the ell are somewhat more obscure. On the first floor of this structure the kitchen presently occupies the entire width of the ell for the first third of its length. To the north, behind a wall that contains the large kitchen fireplace, is a series of rooms, each about ten feet wide, that run down the length of the east wall. The remainder of the first floor is a large, open room. A staircase to the garret of the ell, which is divided into three full-width rooms of equal length, is positioned along the eastern interior wall. Cellar access is also provided at this location. At

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNDERWOOD, JOSEPH H., HOUSE

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 4

present there are three rooms along the eastern wall, however, two additional rooms in the southeast corner were removed when the kitchen was renovated and expanded across the full width of the ell in the late twentieth century. On the second floor, only the most northern of the three rooms was finished historically: the other two were also recently completed.

The interior of the Underwood House is finished formally, but not ornately. In the front portion of the property the rooms retain pine floors (not painted), plaster walls, six-panel doors, and moldings. Several of the original plaster ceilings have been replaced (either with sheet rock or acoustic tile), or covered with paper. The southeast parlor and the front hall are the only rooms with papered walls. Overall the rooms are detailed with classically-inspired, if repetitive, trim. Each of the rooms in the main house have a high baseboard with an elongated quirked ogee profile. On the first floor, all the rooms but the southwest parlor have chair rails, the most unusual of which is an exaggerated and elongated covetto profile situated under a simple nosing. Windows and doors alike are trimmed with a machine-produced stock molding with a central, wide but shallow hollow flanked by filleted steps. In the rear rooms, including the den, study, and northern chambers, a simpler variation of this molding that is lacking in one level of filleted steps is used. The house presently contains ten fireplaces (originally there were as many as thirteen), and with the exception of the utilitarian basement fireplace, the surrounds are very similar throughout. (The southeast and southwest parlors are identical to each other.) The surrounds are formed with pieces of the more complex stock molding positioned as pilasters, and used to support first a broad, but plain entablature, and then a mantle comprised of a series of fillets. The only real variation to this form is found on the kitchen mantle, which is supported by a graceful cove molding. In the front hall, the straight run staircase features hand rail, balusters, newel posts, and a scrolled bottom newel that are based on examples depicted in plates 43 and 44 of the 1827 edition of Asher Benjamin's the The American Builder's Companion.

There is a full basement under the entire Underwood House. A raised, granite platform, approximately eight feet wide by twenty feet long is positioned inside of the eastern basement door, and appears to have been used as a staging area for moving items in and out of the basement. Directly under the kitchen the cellar is partitioned into a large room, finished with plaster and lath on the ceiling and walls, and a dirt and stone floor. Built into the arch of the kitchen fireplace is another brick fireplace with an adjacent set kettle, and a stone hearth.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

1837 - 1867

Significant Dates

1837

1841

1853

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Underwood, Joseph H.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNDERWOOD, JOSEPH H., HOUSE

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph H. Underwood House in the Fayette Mills section of Fayette, Maine is a building that reflects the achievements and status of one of this town's most successful merchants, farmers and politicians. Constructed in 1837, the large brick house and integral ell was Underwood's third residence in the town to which he had moved thirty years earlier. During these three decades, Underwood had established a successful store, invested in numerous local industries, and served as an elected official in a variety of local and state offices. Over the next thirty years he was to expand his interests to include establishing one of the earliest and best blooded herds of Hereford cattle in the state. "Mr. Underwood," as described by his contemporaries was "in his time, the foremost citizen of Fayette," a statement that is reflected in this his last residence, a building which remains the largest and most architecturally prominent house in the town. The Joseph H. Underwood House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B, for its association with Joseph H. Underwood, an outstanding and influential, politician, merchant and early breeder of Hereford cattle.

The documentary records reveal little about the details of Underwood's life, but the local history books and several newspaper articles from the twentieth century offer a fair amount of information. Underwood was born in Amherst New Hampshire in 1783 and emigrated, along with his brothers Thomas and later, Parker, to central Maine in 1800. He is said to have spent several years teaching school in Wayne, Leeds, Readfield, Thomaston and Fayette, before settling in the latter community about 1807. In that year he purchased the former Haskell Store near the mill stream between Lovejoy and Echo Ponds, and built the first of his three houses shortly thereafter. According to several sources Underwood ran the store for over 55 years, during which time he also owned, or was part owner, in a fulling and carding mill, and a tannery, all located in the part of town that was known during the nineteenth century as Underwood's Mills. Certainly, the base of Underwood's financial underpinnings was his success as a merchant (or trader), the titles by which he was identified in the census records of 1840, 1850, and 1860. According to Mitchell's account in the Fayette and Mt. Vernon Register (1903), "at one time in his life he had open accounts with 800 different and scattered traders from Oxford County to London." According to the 1850 Federal Census, Underwood's real estate was valued at \$18,000 in that year: a considerable amount more than any of the other residents in this small community of 1085 people². His store, which no longer remains recognizable if it still exists, was located at the center of a bustling industrial area.

At Underwoods Mills or Fayette Mills as it is now generally known, there is found one of the best water powers to be found on a small stream in the state. In the early time there was a sawmill as well as mills for the manufacture of shingles and clapboards. There was also a tannery as well as plants for a grist mill and wool carding and cloth dressing. In later years the North Wayne Scythe Company built up a large works here and carried on an extensive

²The next most wealthy residents, as indicated by the census, were Asa Hutchinson and John French, both farmers, who had real estate valued at \$4000.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNDERWOOD, JOSEPH H., HOUSE

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

business for many years. The year 1857 brought a severe disaster to the community. Every building on the power was destroyed by fire. But this did not discourage rebuilding and soon a new tannery and new shops for the scythe industry were erected. The tannery was destroyed a second time within a few years and was not rebuilt. (Mitchell, p. 19)

Although Underwood's name does not appear in the Industrial Census for 1850 or 1860, several sources, (including his grandson J.H. Underwood), state that the elder Underwood was "engaged part of the time" with a tanning operation, as well as in wool-carding and cloth-dressing. Although the suggestion has been made that the rear ell and the basement fireplace were used in association with these activities, it is unlikely given the proximity of the known industrial sites nearby.

Underwood was also very active in the political life of Fayette. As a store owner, he was appointed quartermaster of the militia in 1814. The first town office he occupied was as Selectman, a post he held in 1812-14, and again between 1817 and 1820. He was also elected as the Town Clerk between 1819-1822 and 1837-1840, served as the town treasurer in 1827 and 1853, and was frequently elected to the School Board. In 1824 he filled the role of moderator at town meeting (a post that was later frequently filled by his son George and grandson Joseph). His political roles also extended beyond local political involvement. In 1813 and 1814 he served as the Representative to the General Court of Massachusetts, and was elected Representative to the Maine House in 1833, 1835 and 1838. When Governor Kent was elected to the highest state office in 1841 Underwood was appointed as a member of the Governor's Council. After that he was encouraged to run for state-wide office, but declined.

At the time of Underwood's death in 1867, his personal wealth was inventoried. His entire estate was valued at \$19,940.79, of which just over \$8000 was in trade goods, notes, and personal items. Eight separate properties (and a church pew), worth a total of \$11,918 were identified in the inventory. In addition to his homestead lot there were three named 'places' (i.e. the "Ford Place", homesteads or buildings that were identified by the name of a previous or current occupant), two additional lots, and two properties identified as the "purchases." The size of the homestead and the "Pettengil and Dunn Purchase" were not given, but the remaining lots totaled 394 acres of land in Fayette. Two of these properties, possibly the Ford, Heating or Walton places, may have been the earlier homes he built before 1837. Another annotation reflects that some of his property was rented, with income due on these agreements.

Among the personal estate that Underwood possessed at the time of his death were numerous farming tools, two wagons, harnesses, saddles and 40 tons of hay, as well as lots of shingles, boards, bags, barrels, casks and boxes. He also had six oxen, five cows, three heifers and one bull. While there is no tradition of a barn being attached to the 1837 Underwood House, it is likely that either a barn or some other type of store house was located on one or more of his properties. While Underwood's primary employment was as a merchant, the legacy for which he was more widely known and respected was as a cattleman. According to several sources, Underwood established one of the earliest herds of Hereford cattle in the state. While he was not the only cattleman in Fayette, he is widely acclaimed as being the most important, as described by a local historian:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

UNDERWOOD, JOSEPH H., HOUSE

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

Farming became increasingly important. The acreage for orchards was considerable and good profits were realized. It was cattle, however, which gave Fayette a real reputation. Francis Hubbard, Sewall N. Watson, and Joseph H. Underwood, listed by Samuel L. Boardman together with other prominent Kennebec County farmers, are credited by Mr. Boardman with working for stock improvement between 1835 and 1853. Mr. Boardman speaks of Mr. Underwood as "one of the most prominent farmers and breeders this county has ever had." He acquired stock descended from the first Herefords brought into this country. About 1852 he purchased a Hereford bull and cow brought from England. He later acquired celebrated bulls one of which, "Wellington Hero", was purchased in Ontario. A choice herd was developed. Mr. Underwood's three sons, Albert, George, and Gilbert followed him in farming and cattle breeding. The younger Joseph H. Underwood, later became associated with his father Gilbert. The Underwood herd of Herefords became the oldest in the county. (Underwood and Tuck, 1956, p. 76).

According to the agricultural historian Clarence Day, the first Herefords made their limited debut in Hallowell, Maine in 1830. In 1846, Capt. Phineas Pendleton of Searsport imported a Hereford heifer and a bull from Cardiff Wales. Known as the Pendleton stock, Day reports that these two specimens 'left numerous progeny', including those that were incorporated into the Fayette area herds. Underwood initially purchased the offspring of the purebred bull from Hallowell, and in 1853, he purchased a cow and bull of the Pendleton stock. Over time, the family established a considerable herd known for its relatively pure bloodlines. As traders, the Underwoods raised and sold the cattle, and according to the agricultural censuses in 1850, 1860 and 1870, the family had between 12 and 23 head of cattle on the premises at any given time.³ Herefords were valued for their beef, and as working oxen, and prior to purchasing the Herefords, Underwood had already been investing heavily in oxen. Identified by Day as 'the foremost Hereford breeder in Maine before the Civil War,' Underwood quickly made a name for himself with relation to these animals. (Day, 1954, p. 179). After his death this legacy continued, first under his sons George and Gilbert, and grandson Joseph H. Underwood who continued to breed noted Herefords until 1939. Eventually Underwood's grandson and namesake became a noted judge of the animals at state fairs (Young, 1929). While the market for beef cattle declined somewhat in the 1890s, the family's promotion and cultivation of this breed remains a notable achievement.

³In 1850 Underwood had 10 oxen and two 'other cattle'. Ten years later, the number of oxen dropped to 4 and the number of 'other cattle' rose to 12. By 1880, the agricultural census indicates that his sons George and Albert had four oxen and 19 'other cattle' between them, and that 5 calves had been dropped that year.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNDERWOOD, JOSEPH H., HOUSE

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

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Day, Clarence A. Farming in Maine, 1860 - 1940. University of Maine Studies, Second Series, No. 78. (Orono, Maine: University of Maine Press), 1963.

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Young, O.E. "The Underwoods of Fayette - A Notable Family and a Fine old Homestead," in *Lewiston Journal Magazine Section*, February 2, 1929. (Lewiston, Maine). Page A-1. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

Manuscript Sources

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Probate Records: Joseph H. Underwood, File 1, docket 1289; Jane A. Underwood, File 1, docket 4166; George Underwood, File 1, docket 10170; C. Alberta Underwood, docket 16854; Jane Aiken Underwood, docket 17126; Caroline F. Underwood, docket 19747. Kennebec County Registry of Probate. Kennebec County Courthouse, Augusta, Maine.

United States Diennial Population Census, 1790 - 1930. Kennebec County, Maine. Copies on microfilm, Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

Federal Nonpopulation Censuses--Maine, 1850-1880 (Agricultural, Industrial and Social Statistics). Available on microfilm at the Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 7.5 ACRES

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 417675 4917626
Zone Easting Northing

2 19
Zone Easting Northing

3 19
Zone Easting Northing

4 19
Zone Easting Northing

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 17 October 2005

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNDERWOOD, JOSEPH H., HOUSE

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is described by the Town of Fayette tax map number U7, lot 13.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated property represent the limits of the homestead parcel that is presently associated with the Joseph H. Underwood House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNDERWOOD, JOSEPH H., HOUSE

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 October 2005
South facade; facing north.

Photograph 2 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 October 2005
East elevation, main house and ell; facing west.

Photograph 3 of 3
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
11 October 2005
Interior, southwest parlor; facing west.