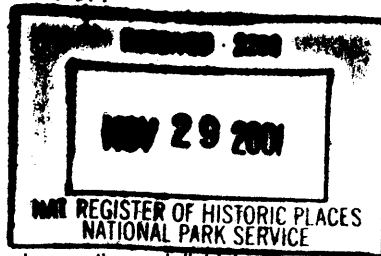


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1433

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 KNOWLTON, EBENEZER, HOUSE

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number RFD 1, Box 3225, Choate Rd. N/A not for publication

city or town Montville. N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Waldo code 027 zip code 04941

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] 11/27/01
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]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson Beall 1.11.02

EBENEZER KNOWLTON HOUSE

Name of Property

WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	2	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single dwelling

Agriculture / Subsistence / Animal facility

Agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / Single dwelling

Agriculture / Subsistence / Animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic / Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite / fieldstone

walls Shingle

roof Asphalt / Tin

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1827

c. 1850

Significant Dates

1827

c. 1850

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

EBENEZER KNOWLTON HOUSE
Name of Property

WALDO COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 50 acres +/-

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19/478575/4914285	3	19/478790/4913360
	Zone Easting Northing		Zone Easting Northing
2	19/479040/4913585	4	19/478640/4913510
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 26 October 2001

street & number 55 Capitol Street, State House Station 65 telephone 207/287/2132

city or town Augusta state Maine 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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Beaudry, Michael. *The First Wave of Settlement on the Waldo Patent As Democracy yields to Men of Capital*. (Liberty, Maine: The Davistown Museum), n.d.

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EBENEZER KNOWLTON HOUSE

WALDO COUNTY, MAINE

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DESCRIPTION

The Knowlton Farm is comprised of a late Federal cape, connected to a small New England Barn; a second, earlier New England barn is located across Choate Road, in South Montville Maine. Historically this farm was comprised of over 70 acres and was located just on the north edge of the village center. The most prominent component of the complex is the forward placed, rectilinearly massed, medium-posted, timber-framed main house, which faces the road to the southeast, and is flanked to the northeast by a single pile rectilinear, timber-framed ell. The three bay gable fronted barn is attached to the northeast back corner of the ell. The house and ell share the same 10/12 roof pitch, while the roof of the attached barn is steeper, approximately 11/12. Across the street is the earliest barn in the complex; this timber framed, gable fronted barn with shed addition on the south faces the house and the road. The remnants of fields and pastures surround the structure; and a discontinued early county road runs NW to SE just to the north of the two barns. About 200' to the southwest Choate Road crosses the mouth of True's Pond, near the site of an early local sawmill.

Main House and Ell

The main block of the house is a classic example of local vernacular Federal architecture. The front facade is composed of two pairs of nine-over-six double hung windows that flank the slightly off-center front door; the rooms to the south west of the entry are several feet wider than those to the north east. The entry door is a six panel door surmounted by a four-light transom. A single chimney stack rises from the ridge at the center of the longitudinal axis. The box cornice, narrow corner boards and flat, plain trim around the windows and door completes the decorative treatment of the facade. The front facade of the main block is sided with white painted pine clapboards; the remaining sides of all the structures are shingled, although the shingles on each of the barns are unpainted. The roof is asphalt. The foundation of the main house is fieldstone (now mortared) capped with granite. The southwest gable end contains two first floor nine-over-six windows evenly spaced between the peak of the roof and the exterior walls, and a single six-over-six window centered on the peak of the roof. The rake trim is slightly tapered towards the peak. A pair of fieldstone retaining walls mark the path to a 5' batten door to the cellar. The northeast gable is a mirror of the first other than that the ell is attached in the vicinity of where the northwest first floor window would occur.

A second entryway is located on the front facade of the four bay ell. As with the main house, a chimney stack pierces the center of the ridge; two nine-over-six windows are evenly spaced to the southeast of center while a batten door and paired nine-over-six windows are evenly spaced to the north west of center. Again, the trim is simple and limited to the widows, doors and cornerboards. The foundation is dry-laid fieldstone .

The north west, or back elevation runs on a continuous plane from the southwest edge of the main house to the northwest junction between the ell and the barn. A break in the foundation and change in in the roof height mark the attachment of the ell to the house. On the main house the fenestration is irregular; a single 12/8 window is located off center towards the south (neither in line with the front door or the chimney) and two nine-over-six's

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EBENEZER KNOWLTON HOUSE

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are placed towards the north end of the main house. Four six-over-six windows are spaced evenly along the back ell wall. A field stone well is located midway along the northwest exterior wall, about 8' to the west of the house.

A large fieldstone and brick barrel arch is situated in the middle of the the cellar and is oriented along the long axis of the house. The arch is comprised of two parallel piers, the lower three and a half feet of which is constructed of solid fieldstone. Surmounting the stone are a series of brick piers into which three wooden boards have been placed, on each side forming shelves for food storage. The brick arch rises from and between the fieldstone piers and is buttressed on the outside by the shelves and brick piers. Four three-light windows are recessed into the granite foundation: two on the rear and one each on the gable ends.

The interior floor plan is that of a vernacular cape. The front door leads to a small entry; immediatly ahead is a door in a board wall that leads to a small closet space. Through the back of the closet is an opening in the brick of the center chimney and a small (smoke) chamber is accessible behind the fireboxes. To either side of the entry hall six-panel ovolo molded doors lead to the plastered front rooms. The predominant feature of the southwest parlor is a Federal era fireplace surround characterized by a band of reeded fields, ovolo moulded trim and diminutive pilasters. The Federal detailing is also evident in the chair rail, baseboard and door trim. No posts or framing members are visable. To the north of the entry way is the original kitchen; again a large Federal fireplace surround (cove and astragal moulded) dominates the room. The tall cooking fireplace has the pintal for a crane imbeded in its east wall; a bee-hive oven and clean out, both with iron doors, are located to the west. Wide pine wainscot is present on the south, east and north walls of the kitchen; the west wall contains three doors and an enclosed staircase, all set in hand-planed board walls. Three rooms are found across the west end of the house; only the center room was heated by a small fireplace. The enclosed stair case accesses the second floor. The only finished chamber is located on the south end of the house; it was unheated, and is separated from the garrett by a hand-planed beaded board wall.

The ell is divided into two rooms; a mostly modern kitchen adjacent to the main house and beyond that a summer kitchen adjoins the barn. A chimney divides the two rooms, and corner posts are exposed. The summer kitchen features vertical tongue and groove bead board, hardwood floors and calcimine paint on the ceiling. The exterior door is a five-paneled Victorian door with high relief applied moulding. The modern kitchen contains some wainscotting as well as at least two picture rails embeded in the front wall, and hardwood floors. A four panel door separates this room from the summer kitchen. A back door leading from this room to the well was removed recently.

As with many connected barn complexes the Ebenezer Knowlton house appears to have grown overtime. There is some indication that originally the structure was finished only on the first floor, and the garret was accessed through a ladder or stair case, of which no sign remains. The original kitchen was in the northwest front room and contained the cooking hearth and bake oven. The next building phase involved moving the west wall of the kitchen back about five feet, altering the entrance to the middle back room from the kitchen, changing the cupboard in the front southeast room to a door to the back corner room, and installing a staircase to the second

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floor. The kitchen ell would have been added at the same time.

In the last several decades several steps have been taken to preserve and restore the structure. All the two-over-two windows, installed in the late nineteenth century, have been replaced with new wooden sash. New door hardware was manufactured to match the one original Suffolk latch extant in the house. The northwest corner room was reconfigured to allow for the installation of a bathroom and laundry room. The fireplace wall in the middle back room on the first floor has been newly paneled, but care has been taken to match the moldings found throughout the rest of the house. A box cornice installed to allow for ventilation in the attic.

Barn #1

The gable fronted barn across the street from the house is the earlier of the two major outbuildings on the property, and was constructed contemporaneously with the house. The three-bay common rafter major purlin, post and beam frame is comprised of sawn timber, with the exception of the ridge pole, which is hewn and hexagonal in form. A shed extension added to the southwest side of the barn is built primarily with dimensional lumber, and included one horse stall and five cow stalls. The front and rear doors of the structure are set to the south of center, creating a drive through. North of the drive through is a partial hay-loft and to the southwest is the shed addition. The front barn doors and exterior slider are covered by a sloping shingled brow. A pair of six light sash are centered on the first floor of the facade and a single six-over-six is centered in the peak on the second story. The barn is shingled over vertical sheathing and sits on a low fieldstone foundation; plank flooring is evident throughout. The framing of this barn is interesting and may have been reconfigured over time. Each of the four main girts are supported by a single post in the middle of the floor, (to the north of the drive). Near the end of each girt rises a secondary support post into which the segmental major purlins are tenoned. (All posts are braced off). However, these purlins do not actually come in contact with the common rafters that they purport to support; there is approximately an 8" space between these structural members.

Barn #2

The three bay New England barn attached to the northeast side of the ell is both similar and different from the barn across the street. It too is gable fronted, but the interior sliding door is centered under the peak and surmounted with a transom light. It is also framed with sawn timbers in a common rafter major purlin form, however, in this structure the purlins actually come in contact with the rafters. Many of the timbers appear to be recycled and include rough-sawn, hewn, and dimensional sticks. Hay lofts are found on either side of the center aisle, which is the only area floored in thick plank. (This is not a drive through). In addition to the sliding barn door a hinged door is located on the southeast end of the facade and another on the southwest eave wall; both provide direct access to an interior door from the barn to the summer kitchen. Both this barn and the one across the street are roofed in tin, (installed in the 1930's) and neither is ornamented other than with rake trim and corner boards.

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UTM REFERENCES, cont.

5 19/478880/4913705

Zone Easting Northing

7 19/478760/4913690

Zone Easting Northing

6 19/478815/4913760

8 19/478420/4914150

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the Town of Montville tax map 51, lot 12, and map 53, lot 2.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

All the property embraced by this boundary has been historically associated with the Ebenezer Knowlton house in Montville.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 3

Christi A. Mitchell

September 17, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Early New England Barn; west elevation, looking east.

2 of 3

Christi A. Mitchell

September 17, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Main house and connected barn, front facade, looking west.

3 of 3

Christi A. Mitchell

September 17, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Main house and connected barn, front facade, looking southwest.

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EBENEZER KNOWLTON HOUSE

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ebenezer Knowlton house is a modest, center chimney, shingled cape with attached barn in South Montville, Maine. Montville is in the western part of Waldo county, on the edge of a series of spring fed ponds and is enveloped by gentle rolling foothills. The nearest large town, Belfast, is 16 miles to the east. It was first settled between 1778-1779, and the earliest industry revolved around sawmills built on the narrow rivers flowing between the ponds. The Knowlton house was built by Elder Ebenezer Knowlton starting at least by 1828, but possibly earlier. The complex contains two New England barns and the interior contains superb Federal features. Throughout the next century the structure's form and fashion was modified to enhance and reflect the economic and social activities of the Knowlton Family. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C as an example of a nineteenth century connected farm complex.

Elder Ebenezer Knowlton was an itinerant minister who found his calling during the Great Awakening of the early 1800s. Born in Pittsfield, New Hampshire in 1782 and married to Abigail True twenty years later, he began preaching shortly thereafter. Marriage records in South Montville indicate he was conducting marriage services in that community by 1812, however he must have been passing through as he remained listed in the NH census through 1820. In 1827 he and his three sons, wife and daughter took up residence in South Montville. Yet he must have been considering moving his family to Maine for some time; his wife's family were large landholders in Montville and in 1823 town records mention a road passing across Knowlton's property, which had been part of Ezekiel True's land next door. It is possible that Knowlton built his house in stages, working on it periodically as he passed through the area; evidence in the house suggests its original form was that of a hall and parlor cape with one heated back room and an unheated garret. The transom light over the front door and the absence of side lights suggests an earlier, non-Federal, structure. Yet the refined Federal moldings and woodwork suggest a more progressive, grander design ethic; almost a proclamation of Knowlton's piety, prestige and community standing, especially in rural Waldo county. More than likely the house had been started years earlier when Knowlton had just begun his career and only finished when the family relocated to town, by which time Knowlton had grown in experience and prestige. Another in-law, the Rev. John True, sold Knowlton an additional 68 acres in 1828, and possibly had some influence in calling Knowlton to the South Montville Free Will Baptist Church that year. While living in NH Knowlton had been a member of the Legislature, and within a year of moving to Montville he was voted to serve the first of many terms in the Maine Legislature. Weeks before he died in 1841, Knowlton and Abigail sold their farm to their sons David, Ebenezer, Jr., and John Colby for \$2000.

When the senior Knowlton moved his family to Montville in 1828 his middle son, Ebenezer Jr., was thirteen; within four years he had a major conversion and also took up the ministry. The younger Ebenezer followed closely in his father's footsteps. In 1844 he was voted to the first of six terms in the Maine House of Representatives, and served as speaker of the House in 1846. An ardent abolitionist and supporter of education, Knowlton also served one term as a member of the Thirty-fourth Congress in 1855-1857, before settling again in Montville and resuming his ministry at the Baptist Church. While his connection to Montville remained consistent in one form or the other over the decades, just as he started his political career he sold his interest in the house to his brother John Colby Knowlton.

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John C. Knowlton purchased each of his brothers and sister's interest in the house in 1844. Newly married, he moved his wife and first of four children into the house; later his mother joined the household. Although in 1867 John became a Justice of the Peace for Montville, he was never as well known politically as his brother. Rather he was a farmer. In the 1860 Industrial, Agricultural and Social Statistic Census for Maine, John C. Knowlton was listed as having 43 improved acres and 60 unimproved acres, on which he grew 50 bushels of Indian corn, 25 bushel of oats, 6 bushels of peas, 12 bushels of potatoes, 25 bushels of barley, and 12 tons of hay. His 2 milch cows produced 125 pounds of milk, his trees 10 pounds of maple syrup and his 12 sheep yielded 45 pounds of wool. A horse, pig and four cattle rounded out his animal husbandry. As John's farming and family grew, so did the structures. First, the second floor room was finished and a new stairway constructed, then the new kitchen ell with cooking stove and pantry was added. The second barn was attached to the ell, and appears to have been used in part as a wood and chaise house. It is likely that this barn was added both to provide space for his agricultural activities, but also as a convenience. The earlier barn was across the street, and did not provide a sheltered yard for work. It is significant to note that the house was built to face the road rather than the south. When the ell and barn were attached, their placement was constrained both by the desire to have the new work space adjacent to the original kitchen, and the presence of the east-west county road less than fifty feet to the north. Thus the barn was attached so as to provide an east facing door yard, directly across from the main barn, linking the two structures spatially. An addition was added to the south side of the earlier barn to house the cattle and horses. The footings of another structure remain to the east of this barn and indicate that either the barn was a bay longer initially, or that a structure was added to house the sheep.

There are several other examples of small farms along the Choate Road. Just to the south of the Knowlton place is a south facing, center chimney cape with similar transom and a detached barn, as well as a 4-bay Federal cape with an ell. Up the road, the True homestead is a center chimney, south facing cape with a framed overhang and a series of ells connecting to a west facing New England style barn. Beyond the Trues about a mile is a 2 story late Federal center hall house, facing the road, with a wooden fan over the front door and a transom over the ell entrance. A small detached barn remains. Finally, another south facing, center chimney cape with a small back ell and attached (but heavily renovated) barn lies just beyond the Federal. Each of these properties include some fields and orchards, however many of them have been subdivided for housing. Indeed the 1860 agricultural census suggests that John C. Knowlton's farm was about average in size and production for the area, although he alone maintained a flock of sheep.

The importance of the connected farm complex in Maine cannot be overstated. Although not all of Knowlton's neighbors may have connected their barns to their houses, some did. Other examples may not have survived. Thomas Hubka's study of farmsteads places Knowlton's actions within a larger context. "New England farmers developed and popularized the connected farm building arrangement in the nineteenth century because it was well suited to the multipurpose agricultural production employed by most of the rural population...it was a system of mixed-husbandry, home industry, small-scale family farming....Perhaps it is because these buildings are so common that they have evoked no particular designation from New England's rural population. This is surprising to a visitor from outside New England because elsewhere the connected farm building organization is extremely unusual. What is even more surprising is the extent of its popularity within the region. For almost one

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EBENEZER KNOWLTON HOUSE

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hundred years the connected farm building flourished in New England, and in many areas it was the most popular form of rural and small-town domestic architecture before 1900.” (Hubka, p. 9,10)

By 1881 John C. Knowlton sold his farm and moved to nearby Searsmont. Over the next decade the property changed hands at least five times until it was purchased by Advril L. Pease in 1890. As each of the previous owners had done the Pease family updated the house in the latest style; in this case they installed new two-over-two windows throughout. The Pease family inhabited the farm for less than 20 years and sold it to Orren and Eva W. Ripley in 1910, who maintained it until 1935, when it passed on to the Martin family. None of these owners made any significant changes to the fabric or design of the house or barns (save removing the southern most section of the earlier barn and roofing both barns in tin). Between 1961 and 1978 the farm was occupied by the Souza family only in the summers, however the current owners have once again made it into a working agricultural property.