

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 10 1985
date entered FEB 14 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Newfield (Willowbrook) Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Elm Street N/A not for publication

city, town Newfield, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county York code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Various (See Continuation Sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town York, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes _____ no _____

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Newfield (Willowbrook) Historic District is comprised of a cohesive and compatible grouping of 19th century buildings located on Elm Street (also known as the Old Limerick Road) near the present center of Newfield Village. These structures are all that remain of the old center of the town which was ravaged by the great forest fire of 1947 that destroyed vast areas of York County. The district runs southwest and northeast on both sides of the road which crosses Chellis Brook with a mill pond and dam on the southeast side. The buildings are generously spaced and form an aesthetically pleasing grouping. Very little change in the buildings or landscape has occurred in the last one-hundred years so that the sense of time and place of a remote southwestern Maine rural community of the 19th century remains strongly present. All of the structures are in good to excellent condition. With the exception of a barn and a connected general store with public hall above, all of the buildings are residential.

Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

1. Murry House, c. 1835
Cape with ell and attached barn, 1½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior.
2. William Durgin Homestead, 1813.
Italianate porch, bay windows, and interior decoration as well as chimney changes carried out in 1870's. 2 stories, frame with clapboard exterior.
3. Amos Straw Barn, c. 1850
Frame with clapboard exterior.
- 3A. Store and Hall (second floor), attached to barn, c. 1855
Greek Revival; 2 stories, frame with clapboard exterior
4. Dr. Trafton House, 1856, 1860, 1877
Italianate-Gothic, 1½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior. Attached barn.
5. Zachariah Dunnells House, 1847-1850
Greek Revival with columned porch on two sides. Recessed balcony on north gable end. 1½ stories, frame with clapboard exterior.
6. Morse Mill, c. 1890
Interior converted in 1960 for residential use.
Post and beam, 3½ stories, clapboard exterior.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

These few surviving structures in what was once a thriving agricultural community in remote western Maine bespeak a life and time whose evidence is fast disappearing. Despite the immense 1947 conflagration, they still stand in beautiful surroundings and have a better chance of survival than most such 19th century enclaves.

The reason for this is primarily the wisdom and foresight of Donald F. King, Sr., founder of Willowbrook at Newfield, a museum dedicated to the preservation of this community and the collection and restoration of 19th century artifacts, buildings (including interiors) and symbols of a bygone way of life. By way of example, the interior of the Durgin House (#1) retains untouched all of its Victorian embellishments, the barn contains an enormous collection of meticulously restored horse drawn vehicles of all kinds and other collections include farm machinery of all kinds as well as early steam engines. The Dr. Trafton House (#4) has also been carefully preserved including the completely equipped 19th century medical office.

The mill which sits astride the dam, although now a residence, was originally devoted to the manufacture of shingles and boxes, a typical activity of the period.

The general store, now restored, and the hall above, wherein were held all the social, entertainment, and educational events in the community are further reminders of the life gone by which lives here in memory.

The bulk of the architecture, often vernacular, is typical of rural southern Maine, but the Dunnells House (#5) is an arresting adaptation of the Greek Revival.

While not dramatic, the Newfield (Willowbrook) Historic District is a rare and pure survival of an earlier time which ought to be recognized and preserved.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Local sources including letters, diaries and oral history.

York County Deeds, Alfred, Maine.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 8

Quadrangle name Newfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting						Northing									

C

Zone			Easting						Northing									

D

Zone			Easting						Northing									

E

Zone			Easting						Northing									

F

Zone			Easting						Northing									

G

Zone			Easting						Northing									

H

Zone			Easting						Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning on Elm Street at the southwest corner of the Murray House (#2) property, the district boundary follows said street northerly and northeasterly to the south corner of the Dr. Trafton House (#4) property and then follows the southwest, northwest and northeast lines

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1984

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eric S. Felt*

title S.H.P.O. date 12/12/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melores Byers Keoper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register	date <u>2-14-85</u>
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Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



NEWFIELD (WILLOWBROOK) HISTORIC DISTRICT
Continuation sheet

Item number

4

Page

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1. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Murry
P. O. Box 34
Newfield, Maine 04056

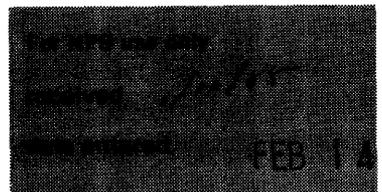
- 2, 3, 3A, 4.
Donald F. King, Sr.
P. O. Box 80
Newfield, Maine 04056

5. Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. McIntosh
56 Westland Road
Weston, Massachusetts 02193

6. Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Stamell
68 Linden Avenue
Swampscott, Massachusetts 01907

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1985

NEWFIELD (WILLOWBROOK) HISTORIC DISTRICT
Continuation sheet

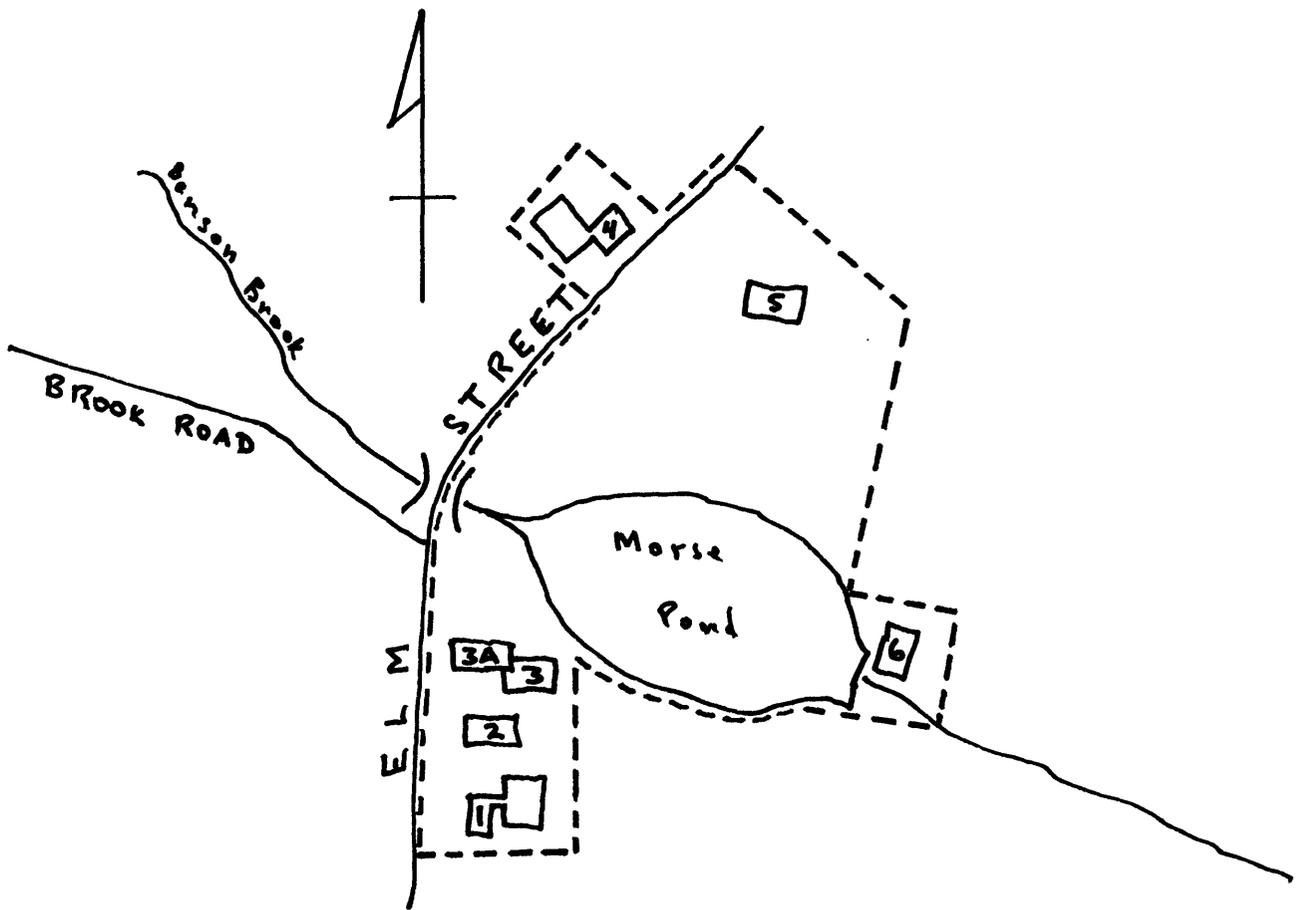
Item number

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of said property returning to Elm Street. From this point the line follows said street northeasterly to the north corner of the Zachariah Dunnells House property and thence along the northeast line of said property to the east corner where it turns southerly and runs to the junction of the north property line of the Morse Mill and Morse Pond. From this point the boundary follows the north, east and south property lines of the Morse Mill returning to Morse Pond whose southern shore it follows to the northeast corner of the William Durgin Homestead (#2) property where it turns southerly running along the east line of said property and the Murry House property to its southeasterly corner, thence along its south line west to the point of beginning.



NEWFIELD (WILLOWBROOK) HISTORIC DISTRICT - Newfield, Maine

District Boundary - - - - -

Scale 1:~~1700~~ 3500