

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 20 1978
DATE ENTERED JUL 10 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Deacon Hutchins House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

N W of Rumford on ME 5

STREET & NUMBER

State Route 5

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

North Rumford

X VICINITY OF Rumford

Second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maine

23

Oxford

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. and Mrs. Edward Martin

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

North Rumford, VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Oxford County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

South Paris,

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Deacon Hutchins House of Rumford, Maine, built c. 1802, is a substantial and well-preserved vernacular example of the Federal style in a rural setting.

The house, which faces south-west, is of frame construction with gable roof, two large internal brick chimneys, 2½ stories, clapboard siding, and granite foundation.

The five-bay facade contains a central entrance with a single panelled door below an entablatured lintel. Fenestration throughout is 12/12, save for the half-story which contains a 9/6 at each end of the building. A secondary entrance occupies the center of the 3-bay-wide south-east end of the house. This single doorway is capped by a triangular pediment.

A 1½-story ell is attached to the north^{east} corner of the house and runs to the east. This features 9/9 windows in the first story and a 9/6 in the half-story.

One of the most important features of the house (see also "Significance") is a series of impressive murals decorating the south^{west} parlor, executed by the well-known itinerant painter, Rufus Porter.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c.1802

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Deacon Hutchins house is a finely restored example of a very early 19th century farmhouse whose ample proportions denote the substantial position of its first owner. Its primary significance, however, lies in the stunning frescoes by Rufus Porter (1792-1884), that remarkable painter and natural philosopher, which adorn the front parlor.

Hezekiah Hutchins, born in Hampstead, New Hampshire in 1771 was the son of Major Hezekiah Hutchins a distinguished soldier who served at Louisbourg in 1745 and in major engagements during the Revolution including Bunker Hill and Saratoga. In 1801, Hutchins with his wife and four children moved to Rumford where he resided until his death in 1856. He was one of the founders and first Deacon of the Congregational Church at Rumford Center. His stature in the town is reflected by his election in 1810 as moderator of the town meeting, in 1821 as collector and constable and his appointment in 1827 as justice of the peace.

The frescoes were executed c.1840 by Porter, then at the height of his career as an itinerant muralist. Beyond his artistic achievements he was a personal embodiment of the era of travel adventure, of free wheeling invention, of scientific, journalistic and artistic enterprise. He was a New England farmer's son and shoe-maker's apprentice who explored the world on all levels: voyaging to the Hawaiian Islands, becoming America's leading mural painter, founding the Scientific American magazine, designing an automobile and an airship planned for travel at one hundred miles an hour. His was a life which embodied the spirit and force of 19th century America.

In addition to the frescoes, for the most part in good condition, Porter also painted the paneling and wainscoting in the room including a primitive bit of graining over the fireplace. He also decorated the doors in the room employing a type of candle-smoke graining or patterning that is most effective.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Lipman, Jean, Rufus Porter, Yankee Pioneer, New York, 1968.
 Martin, J. E., Jonathan Adams Bartlett, Folk Artist from Rumford Center, Maine.
 Rumford, 1976.
 Byam, Edward, Descendants of John Hutchins of Newbury and Haverhill, Massachusetts.
 Washington, D. C., 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	3	6	5	3	4	5	4	9	3	3	7	3	5
ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING									

B

ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING										

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Assessors Map 59, Lot 18

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

April, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

TELEPHONE

207/289-2133

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta,

STATE

Maine

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

Charles S. Fretterworth Jr.

TITLE

S. H. P. O.

DATE

5/18/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles S. Fretterworth Jr.

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

7/10/79

ATTEST:

Bruce M. ...

DATE

7/6/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER