

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places -
Registration Form

012

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 Donovan - Hussey Farms Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 546 and 535 Ludlow Road N/A not for publication
city or town Houlton N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04730

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] 12/22/08
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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature]

2/13/09

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	
5	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
6	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
- AGRICULTURE / Agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE / Animal facility
- AGRICULTURE / Storage
- AGRICULTURE / Agricultural Field

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC / Single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE / Agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE / Animal Facility
- AGRICULTURE / Storage
- AGRICULTURE / Agricultural Field

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19TH AND 20TH C. REVIVALS / Colonial Revival
- LATE 19TH / EARLY 20TH C. AMERICAN MOVEMENTS
- OTHER / Gambrel roof barn
- OTHER / Ground-level stable barn

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE
- CONCRETE
- walls WOOD / Weatherboard
- WOOD / Shingle
- ASPHALT
- roof ASPHALT
- METAL / Steel
- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

C. 1906 - 1958

Significant Dates

1906, c. 1910

1925

1931

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 82 .93 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 9	5 8 5 1 7 0	5 1 1 1 2 9 2	3	1 9	5 8 5 7 9 7	5 1 1 0 6 2 8
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 9	5 8 5 7 8 8	5 1 1 1 3 0 1	4	1 9	5 8 5 4 6 1	5 1 1 0 6 7 3

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 16 October 2008

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

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The Donovan-Hussey Farms Historic District is a small complex of residential and agricultural buildings surrounded by actively cultivated agricultural fields. The resources in the district are located on the north and south sides of Ludlow Road in Houlton, Maine. Houlton is located on the Canadian border in southern Aroostook County. The town center is located about 2.5 miles west of the border, and approximately 3.2 miles southeast of the historic district. Ludlow Road extends west from Route 1 (a major corridor running north and south through town), and parallels Interstate 95 (which terminates at the border), at a remove of approximately 3/4 mile. Although the road is generally oriented east to west, it takes a jog to the northwest about a mile east of the historic district. For ease of description in this nomination, all resources will be described as if the road continued on a true east-west axis. The landscape the road traverses is characterized by almost flat topography, broad expanses of agricultural fields and widely spaced residences dating from the mid-19th century through the present.

The Donovan-Hussey Farms Historic District is comprised of two family farms located almost directly across from each other on Ludlow Road. While each farm was established prior to the 1860s all of the contributing buildings were generally built or remodeled during the first three decades of the 20th century. The Donovan Farm is located on the south side of the road and has a connected house/ell/barn complex. The Hussey Farm, on the north side of the road, contains a house, barn, milk house, equipment shed and agricultural fields.

Donovan Farm. 546 Ludlow Road.

The connected complex on the Donovan Farm is "L" shaped in form. At the north end of the complex is the one-and-one-half story house, which faces east towards a tree-lined, tear-shaped driveway. A long, one-story ell extends south from the south edge of the house. At its southern end the three story gambrel roof barn is connected to the east wall of the ell. The barn is oriented north to south, and its principal entrance is on the north wall. A secondary entrance, to the cellar level of the barn, is located on the eastern wall, and is accessed by a farm road that extends south from the end of the driveway and then curves west behind the barn.

Historically the Donovan Farm contained approximately 200 contiguous acres located immediately to the south, east and west of the homestead.¹ The southern portion of the farm was truncated when Interstate 95 was laid to the south in 1966. In 1980 the entire property was sold out of the family for the first time since 1844; however, the connected complex and a rectangular lot of land measuring just under one acre was repurchased by the family shortly thereafter. Immediately adjacent to the western edge of the property line is a large farm pond (formed by diverting Dog Brook, which lays just outside the district boundaries) and a timber-framed, four bay wagon shed. To the east, south, and southwest

¹Through most of its history the farm also included non-contiguous parcels of agricultural and woodlands, totally at least 265 acres.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

of the homestead the formerly associated agricultural fields are actively cultivated by a local farmer. Although these fields, the pond, and the wagon shed are not included within the boundaries of the district, they contribute to the property's rural setting and agricultural association.

1. House/Ell, c. 1845, 1920, 1931. Contributing building.

The Donovan house was originally constructed c. 1845 as a center chimney cape off of which a long ell extended to the south (and connected to an earlier barn). A fire in 1920 destroyed this barn, the ell, and part of the kitchen in the house. The house was repaired and the current ell constructed after that fire. In 1931 the cape was substantially remodeled into its present, gambrel roof, Dutch ColonialRevival form.

The house consists of a rectangular, one-and-one half story mass under a gambrel roof, with a short wing connected to the southwest corner of the house. This integral ell is almost the same height as the main mass, but has a gable roof. A one-story enclosed porch with a hipped roof occupies the corner in front of the east wall of the wing and the south wall of the house. The house is clad with painted clapboards and sits on a foundation of ornamental concrete block atop fieldstone, and has an asphalt roof. An external brick chimney is centered on the north end wall and a second chimney emerges from the peak of the roof at the south end of the main block. Large shed-roof dormers are positioned on both the east and west sides of the roof. The pitch of the upper plane of the gambrel extends continuously onto the roof of the dormers. On the west elevation, there is no return to the lower roof plane either below or south of the dormer, and the dormer extends southward to meet the west wall of the wing.

The east facade is five bays wide and symmetrically composed. On the first floor two double-hung wood windows with two-over-two sash flank a four-panel and glass door. At dormer level there are three sets of windows: at the center is a one-over-one (replacement) window; to the north is a paired set of two-over-two windows; to the south is a paired set of one-over-one windows. All the windows are adorned with thin-rail shutters. Fronting the main entrance is a small portico set under a pediment that extends from the eaves of the roof. The portico is supported on slender posts and enclosed with wooden latticework on the sides. The corners of the house are marked with narrow corner boards, and a water table separates the siding from the foundation capstones. There is a moulded cornice at the first floor eaves (the soffits under the dormer roof are unadorned), and on the northeast and northwest corners of the house the corner boards are capped with band mounding to suggest a capital. South of the main mass, the enclosed porch features four large one-over-one windows and a wood and glass storm door. Above the porch, on the east wall of the wing is another set of paired one-over-one windows.

The north elevation of the house contains two two-over-two windows on each floor, one positioned to either side of the chimney stack. The west elevation contains three widely spaced sets of paired two-over-two windows in the upper level, and six window bays below, containing a mixture of two-over-two sash and smaller fixed sash.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 4

The interior of the Donovan house was thoroughly remodeled in 1931 when the gambrel roof and dormers were installed. A partition wall was removed between the northeast and northwest first floor rooms, creating an expansive living room. The center staircase and partition wall between the front hall and the southeast room were also removed and a new stair constructed in this now larger, open room. A bathroom was installed behind where the staircase had been. The new staircase leads to a landing and then bifurcates east and west to access the front and back sets of bedrooms. The staircase appears to be of pine with a coat of varnish, however, the newel post and baseboard on the stair, as well as the baseboard in the dining room is of tiger maple. This decorative wood was also used for window and door trim in the living room. In the original dining room (southwest room) is a china cupboard and 'pass-through' window from the kitchen. This appears to be finished in a mahogany veneer. Between the entry area and the living room are two-panel veneer-covered plywood pocket doors; throughout the first floor are other examples of two panel plywood doors with 1930s hardware. Most of the rooms retain plaster walls and ceilings (the living room has acoustic tile). Most of the wood floors are covered either with linoleum (patterned to look like wood in the dining room) or carpet. The kitchen, which is located in the wing has varnished beadboard wainscot on the walls, and a linoleum floor. The cabinets, which appear to have been updated in the 1950s, include a built in flour bin. Extending from the south end of the kitchen is pantry, a hallway (both of which connect to the ell) and stairs to the cellar. Features to note in the cellar include what appears to be a concrete cistern, as well as wooden board dividers which were used to form potato storage bins. (A trap door in the floor of the enclosed porch was used to convey potatoes into the bins.) In the cellar the exposed joists, sills, girts and sleepers for the main block of the house contains mostly hewn members and attest to the age of the frame. Stored in the cellar are several six panel doors with applied quirked bead and torus mouldings.

The one-story, wood framed, gable roof ell is attached to the south side of the kitchen wing, and matches the wing in width. Near the center of the east elevation of the wing is a large interior-sliding door with starburst battens; to either side are sash windows, one a two-over-one sash, the other a two-over-two sash. On the west wall are two more two-over-two sash windows, and a large exterior-sliding batten door. (This door is directly opposite the door on the east wall, but due to fact that the entire length of the ell is visible from this perspective, its location as north of center is revealed.) The south gable end of the ell has two windows on the first floor and a third under the peak of the roof. The northernmost portion of the ell contains a work room (backing up to the pantry) and another hallway. South of the passage between the two exterior doors the middle section of the ell is used to store firewood (and some lumber above the tie beams). A walkway along the east wall leads to the former outhouse, an entrance to the barn, and a room in the southwest corner with interior boarding that was used to store loose oats. The ell sits on a combination of stones and concrete piers, some of which at the south end have shifted, resulting in some instability in the back room. The ell is sided with wood shingles and has an asphalt roof.

2. Barn, 1925. Contributing building.

The Donovan Farm barn is three story, gambrel roof, wood framed structure with a full poured

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 5

concrete basement. The north facing barn measures 36 feet six inches across the gable ends and forty feet in length. Attached to the east side wall is an addition with a two pitch roof, two stories at its maximum height, that measures 18 feet six inches in width and forty feet in length. Centered on the west wall of this addition is an eleven feet wide, fifteen feet long gable roofed wing which provides a sheltered, ramped entrance to the barn cellar. All three sections have standing seam metal roofs. The building is clad with a variety of wall coverings: wood shingles on the main barn, a mixture of asphalt shingles and tar paper on the shed, and vertical metal sheathing on the north and south walls of the wing.

The north facade of the barn features an irregular fenestration pattern. There are a pair of two-over-two single hung sash on the side addition. The main barn features a two panel pedestrian door in the northwest corner, next to which are a pair of two-over-two single hung sash windows. The main door of the barn is located near the east corner of the main building and is filled with an interior-sliding batten door. Originally the barn door was hung on the exterior as evidenced by the remains of a exterior door track mounted on the front elevation. A grass and gravel ramp leads from the driveway to the door. Directly above the main entrance is a four panel-and-batten hay door. Above the top plate are three two-over-one windows, one mounted just below the peak of the roof and the other two below and towards the exterior. The eaves of the roof overhang the plane of the wall and feature a moulded rake trim and cornice, however there are no cornice returns.

The south elevation of the attached shed had a pair of two-over-two windows on the first level and a window frame without sash just under the plane of the upper roof. On the south elevation of the main barn there are presently no well defined windows or doors, however there are two covered doors on the first level (one near the center and the other at the southeast corner), and what appears to be two blocked window bays on the second level of the barn. A large hay door, now boarded over and covered with old tar paper, is centered under the peak of the barn. While there are currently no windows on the west side of the barn, newer, in-filled shingles indicate the location where a pair of windows had previously been located just under the eaves. On the east side of the addition is a single two-over-two sash north of the wing. There is no door nor wall on the east side of the cellar entrance, only large pieces of canvas which are used to block the wind.

The cellar of the Donovan barn was designed to provide spaces for the storage and packing of potatoes. The entire cellar has a dirt floor. The long entrance wing leads down a ramp and to a center aisle lined by large wooden posts set on concrete piers under longitudinal sleepers. To either side of these posts the cellar space was used to store machinery and barrels of potatoes. The aisle stops at approximately the east-to-west midpoint of the main barn: from here the remainder of the basement is a large, un-posted space with a high ceiling that extends all the way to the level of the hayloft above the main floor. The concrete foundation extends to grade: above this the walls of the storage room are formed by log studs covered with sheathing and a wood-covered joisted ceiling. Set into the north end of this chamber is a cantilevered wall set in from the foundation - on the first floor this partition forms the hallway from the ell to the center of the barn. A large hatch in the upper east wall of this potato storage room provided access to the bin from the main floor of the barn.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 6

Because the potato storage room occupies the west end of the barn at both ground level and on the main floor, the remainder of the interior space is divided into only two aisles - one in the addition and the other aligning with the large front door.² The barn is only three bays in length, with two interior bents and two end wall bents. Examined from the interior, it appears that the east aisle (under the two-pitch roof) was an addition rather than an original component to the building, however the substructure in the basement does not appear to support this theory. The main aisle is covered with loose wooden floor boarding, while the east aisle has narrower, nailed wooden flooring. (These loose boards would be taken up when the potatoes were being stored in the eastern portions of the cellar.) The ceiling of the main aisle has north-to-south log joists, while the east aisle has east-to-west oriented sawn joists. The northeast two bays of the east aisle provide a workroom space. The former cow tie-up was located across the southern end of the barn. While the stanchions have been removed the cement floor, partially whitewashed walls, manure troughs and exterior drain remain, as does a trap door to the hay loft. Historically a door in the east wall of the tie up led to an attached milk room, and an internal chimney stack from the cellar rose up this wall; both of which have since been taken down. The chimney was attached to a stove used to keep the cellar at an optimal temperature for the storage of potatoes. At the front of the barn is the walkway to the ell, and a staircase to the hayloft above.

The hayloft occupies an area approximately ten feet below the top plates of the main barn, the upper level of the addition and the entirety of the space under the gambrel roof. All of the structural members are sawn. The interior bents consist of a centered post braced to a transverse girt. This girt is joined to the interior face of the plates with large steel staples. The center post is braced to the girt. The roof is framed with two by six inch common rafters, and the hip, or curb of the roof is formed of three by six planks on the flat. The upper rafters are face nailed - there is no ridgepole, however a hay track is suspended below the peak. On each bent two angled braces rise from near the center of the girt to the curb plate; these members are in turn braced by a pike post that is set in from but almost parallel to the lower rafters. The rafter for the addition overlap the east plate, and the curb here is made of another set of three-by-six plates, which are supported by vertical posts which rest on the loft floor.

In each bay of the hayloft vertical tie-rods drop from the hayloft girts to the first floor girts, and help to hold up the hayloft floor. Two telephone poles have been installed as angled braces under the girt from the top of the tie-rod down to the exterior and center vertical posts in the east bay. No corresponding braces are located in the western bay. The gable end walls feature vertical studs and horizontal boarding. One wooden ladder scales the south gable end wall, and another, formed of horizontal boards, is nailed to one of the braces set between the curb plate and the girt.

The Donovan Farm barn is generally in fair condition, however there are two structural concerns of

²The orientation of the barn is deceiving. On the main floor are three longitudinal aisles (running north to south), each approximately 18 feet wide. The east aisle is located in the addition and the west aisle is the enclosed potato room. The supporting posts between the middle and western aisle are enclosed in the partition wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 7

note. The northwest segment of the northern interior girt in the hayloft has broke and no longer connects to the plate; the angle brace from the curb plate dangles unsupported. In the basement the south foundation wall is starting to collapse inward. Within the last twenty years the north and east foundation walls have been reinforced with a combination of log braces and interior concrete linings. Cables were installed in the 1960s between the north gable wall and the first floor girts to keep this wall from racking.

The present barn is at least the third barn constructed on this property. Historic photographs depict what appears to be a side-gable barn connected to the original ell prior to the 1920 fire. The second barn, built after the fire, was a 100 foot long, two-story gambrel roof structure located across the dooryard from the house, on the west side of the farm road. This structure burned just 18 months after it was finished. The current barn, which was built on the site of the first barn, was erected in 1925.

Several outbuildings historically associated with the farm, and evident in historic photographs, are no longer extant. From c. 1940 through the 1980s a single-pitch lean-to style cattle shed was attached to the south end of the ell and the west wall of the barn. Previously a low, long, gable roof structure (for either hogs or chickens) stretched west from the southwest corner of the barn. A small garage and machine shop were located across the farm road from the entrance to the potato cellar. Until the 1990s a potato house that was traditionally used by the Donovan family, was located across Ludlow Road, on the edge of the Hussey Farm's east field.

Hussey Farm, 535 Ludlow Road.

The Hussey Farm is located on the north side of Ludlow Road and contains 82 contiguous acres. A tree-lined oblong driveway provides access to the milk house, barn and house, which are roughly oriented in a east-west line. The two-and-a-half story house is positioned slightly closer to the road than the agricultural buildings, but is oriented east towards the driveway and door yard. A farm road passes between the house and the barn and provides access to the fields immediately behind the buildings and then continues through a wood lot to an approximately 20 acre field north of the house. A small camp is located on the south edge of this north field. Another 7 acre field stretches east from the agricultural buildings, and a narrower band of cleared land is positioned west of the house. A small residential structure on a .91 acre lot fronting on Ludlow Road interrupts briefly the road frontage of the Hussey Farm, but north of this parcel is another irregularly shaped field, containing approximately 7 acres. The remainder of the property is covered with wetlands or woods. The three bay equipment shed and a large vegetable garden are positioned northwest of the house.

3. House, built c. 1910. Contributing building.

The residence at the Hussey Farm is a two-and-a-half story, frame structure with a four-square plan and pyramidal roof. Attached to the center of the north elevation is a two-story ell which connects to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 8

another two-story ell oriented east to west. This back segment of the house extends approximately 10 feet beyond the wall plane of the main house. A hip roof porch supported on round columns stretches across the south and east elevations of the house and continues along the east elevation of the kitchen wing. The main roof features a pyramidal roof dormer on the east and south elevation, and a brick chimney stack is located on the north plane of the roof near the center of the structure. Cast iron lightning rods with glass balls are positioned along the peaks and ridges of the building. The building is clad with painted wooden shingles, sits on a concrete foundation, and the slightly overhanging room is covered with asphalt shingles. The windows are set in wood frames, which on the upper stories are positioned tight to a wooden frieze board under the eaves. A wooden water table is positioned above the foundation.

The south elevation of the Hussey house features two bays on the first floor and four on the second. The first floor openings consist of two widely spaced sets of paired two-over-one sash. On the second floor the window sash are evenly distributed across the elevation. Another, smaller pair of two-over-one sash are located in the dormer. A set of wooden stairs are positioned at the west end of the porch, and latticework obscures the porch foundations. The west side of the house has two windows on the second floor, and two window bays on the first floor, the northernmost of which are paired windows. The west elevations of the wings contain a mixture of two-over-one sash on the upper floors, and casement windows on the first floors and under the gable peak.

The primary facade faces east, toward the door yard. On the first floor the front door is positioned slightly south of center; south of this is a two-over-one window. The second floor level contains three, equally spaced two-over-one windows. A pair of joined, but smaller, two-over-one sash are located in the dormer. On the east side of the wing are two more two-over-one windows on the second floor and a two-light casement window on the first floor. A back door is located at the north end of the porch, and leads to the back ell, which has no windows on the south or east elevations. The north wall of the ell contains two sets of casement windows on the second floor, and one set of casement windows and a sliding door leading to an open deck at first floor level.

All of the window sash in the Hussey house have been replaced; however, with the exception of the casement windows in the kitchen wing and ell, the new sash replicate both the size and pane configuration of the original windows. The front door is also new, but was chosen to resemble the original door, which has been installed at the milk house.

As originally configured, the back ell contained a work room and wood shed. In 2005 the current owners of the property undertook a substantial remodeling of the building's interior, which included all new finishes, and some alterations to the four-square plan, including combining the southeast and southwest rooms into one space. Although the interior does not retain integrity of design, workmanship and materials it is worth noting that the footprint of the dining room and kitchen have remained intact, and that several five panel doors and a maple floor in the dining room were retained. In the cellar is a massive circular cistern. The plan of the second floor has not been substantially altered. Throughout the first floor the new window and door trim was made from boards milled and moulded on the property,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 9

as were the kitchen cabinets.

4. Barn. C. 1906, addition c. 1963. Contributing building.

The Hussey barn bears several similarities to the Donovan barn across the street: it is three stories in height; has a gambrel roof; and features a two story addition on the east side. Set on a low, concrete foundation, this building was erected to house dairy cows rather than potatoes and has many of the characteristics of a ground-level stable barn, including a milking parlor at grade, an attached milk house, a large hay loft and the liberal use of concrete. The milking parlor, or cow shed, spans the main barn and the addition, which has a single pitch shed roof (rather than a two-pitched roof). Attached to the north side of both sections is a low pitched, gable roof addition extending to the north, that was erected c. 1963. (For ease of reference the side addition will be referred to as the cow shed and the rear section as the 'addition'.) The addition is slightly wider than the cow shed, and overlaps the eastern aisle of the main barn. The barn has a corrugated metal roof, and is clad with wood shingles. Narrow cornice returns and wooden rake trim mark the eaves, and painted boards are located on each of the corners.

The principal facade faces south towards the driveway. At ground level it is five bays wide. Two fixed six-light windows are positioned on the wall of the cow shed, and two more flank the centered entrance in the main barn. This entrance features tall, two leaf, batten doors mounted on an external sliding track. There are three two-over-two windows in the top of the barn, one under the peak and two offset below. A new wooden sign positioned midway between the door track and the lower set of windows reads "Dog Brook Farm Built 1906." The west elevation of the main barn contains only a single pedestrian door in the northwest corner, and the west elevation of the addition features five, equally spaced, fixed four light windows. The north elevation of the main barn has a single two-over-two window under the peak. At ground level the original tall, two-leaf, hinged rear door was partially blocked when the addition was constructed; a newer, somewhat shorter batten door mounted on an external slide has been inset within the earlier frame. The north elevation of the addition has two four light windows set on either side of a sheet metal exhaust vent. In the northwest corner of the wall is a wood batten pedestrian door. Two breaks in the concrete foundation on this elevation were provided so that the mechanized gutter cleaner could exit and enter the building. The east walls of the cow shed and addition are both lined with windows. There are nine four-light sash and an externally sliding door on the addition. The nine eight-light sash on the cow shed are grouped in sets of three.

The main portion of the Hussey barn is five bents long, creating four interior bays. Each bent contains two story wall posts and two story aisle posts all braced to a transverse girt. The side wall plates rest on this girt and the bottom rank of the common, four by six inch rafters sit on the continuous wall plate. The upper rank of rafters rest on an eight-by-eight inch plate located at the curb (or hip) of the roof, which in turn is braced down to the girts. The rafters meet at a ribbon board under the ridge. A secondary brace almost parallels the lower rafters and reaches from the curb brace to the intersection of the girt and wall posts. The plate over each of the side wall posts features a wide, oversized shoulder cut into the underside of the timber. At each bent a stub post has been bolted to the south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 10

side of the main post - this feature acts as a wedge and forces the shoulder of the plate close against the upper edge of the post. The side walls feature vertical boarding attached to nailers stretching between the girts. In between the structural members of the frame the end walls are stiffened with studs, to which horizontal boarding is nailed.

The interior of the Hussey barn is divided between the general barn and hayloft to the west and the milking parlor to the east. The main aisle of the barn stretches the length of the building and has a wooden floor. A low, joisted ceiling extends over the northern two bays, and a higher scaffold is present above the southernmost bay. The west aisle of the barn is divided into four rooms of roughly equal size, with a loft above. The southern two rooms were originally grain rooms formed by studded partition walls with horizontal boarding. The northern two bays have recently been reconfigured as animal stalls, but the dirt floors in this space and newer-looking joists in the ceiling above the stalls suggest that these bays may have originally stored hay.

The east aisle of the main barn is separated from the center aisle by a long stud wall through which only one wide opening is provided. Although located within the footprint of the main barn the east aisle is fully integrated with and open to the cow shed and addition.³ The cow shed features two long rows of stanchions. Although the stanchions run continuously into the addition, there are three distinct eras of stanchions, representing the three phases in which the milking parlor was developed. The entire room has a concrete floor, and a long pedestrian aisle (or feed ally) extends from the south to north end walls. (The side wall posts for the main barn are positioned on the western side of this aisle, which was poured when the cowshed was added.) A transverse aisle leads from the door to the main barn across the milking parlor to the east side wall. Each section of the floor has a manure gutter, raised cow ramp, a feed manger and curb, all fashioned in concrete. Water is piped along the top of the stanchions to steel water troughs mounted at the side of each tie up.

The oldest set of stanchions are located within the footprint of the main barn. These are rectangular, wooden stalls coated with remnants of whitewash, and have wooden stanchions. In contrast, the stalls in the cow shed are made of high pipe metal frames and have adjustable tubular steel stanchions. Some of the stalls in the addition have been removed; those that remain are lower, and made of curved pipe rail (these were probably used for calves rather than heifers). There are approximately thirty stalls in the addition and a similar number originally installed in the front half of the room. It is worth noting that the window sash in the addition are set in an inward-tilting frame with steel side extensions - a type sold and recommended by dairy barn provisioners such as the Loudon Machinery Company.

5. Milk House, no date. Contributing building.

³The existence of the side wall sheathing boards at the junction between the main barn and shed indicate that cow shed was not an original component of the building. The date at which it was added is unknown.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 11

The one-story milk house is located immediately east of the barn, and is connected to it with a short wood frame connector. It is a gable front building, with a steel roof, wood shingle siding, and a concrete foundation that rises approximately two feet up the side walls. The front elevation contains a single wooden door with a frosted oval window. A small vent is positioned under the gable. The west elevation contains a one-over-one wooden sash window, and what appears to be a low hatch door, hinged at the top, in the lower northeast corner. There are two one-over-one windows on the east elevation, and none on the west elevation. The interior of the milk house has recently been converted to a farm store and features gypsum board ceiling and walls, and the floor is covered with an indoor-outdoor carpet.

6. Equipment Shed, no date. Contributing building.

The equipment shed is located northwest of the house, at the edge of the backyard field. It is a three-bay structure with a single-pitch roof that slopes down to the west. The walls are covered with wood shingles and the roof is clad with steel. The structure is built of heavy timber posts and plates, with a common rafter roof supported at its midpoint by a major purlin braced down to lateral tie beams. A single, sliding batten door with diagonal braces is positioned in front of the southernmost bay. The building sits on piled rocks and has a dirt floor. Loose boards connect the northernmost tie beams and create a storage area under the front of the roof over the north bay. A shed roof addition, with wood shingles and a heavy-duty corrugated clear plastic roof is positioned off the south end of the equipment shed. This structure was originally part of an early garage that has been dismantled. The addition now functions as a greenhouse.

7. Camp. 1960s. Non-Contributing building.

This wood frame structure is located in the edge of the woods on the south edge of the north field. Minimal in form and composition, it has a single pitch tar paper covered roof that rises to the north, and is covered with asphalt shingles. No foundation is apparent, although the sills probably rest on rocks that are now sunken into the ground. The entrance, a simple wood frame doorway, is located on the west corner on the north elevation. (The door is off its hinges and leans against the building.) The east wall contains a window opening that appears to have originally held two fixed sash; another opening on the south wall held a single sash. A metal stove pipe emerges from the southern corner of the west elevation. Wooden boards trim the corner a a wood frieze and soffit mark the eaves.

The building's interior is one large room, with exposed studs and rafters, and a partially collapsed wooden floor. Two wooden bunk platforms are built into the northwest corner, and a small portion of the west wall is covered with painted boards. Several shelves are built between the studs, and a piece of sheet metal is affixed to the rafters over the site where a woodstove had been installed. Two appliances, a gas and wood enamel cook stove and a 'Atlantic kitchen heater', both from the 1940s, are laying on the ground outside the building. Originally connected to the farm's garage, this building was moved to the back field for recreational use in the late 1960s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Surrounded by hundreds of acres of agricultural fields on the outskirts of the town of Houlton, the Donovan and Hussey Farms provide a visually striking image. Facing each other across the road, the two properties contain similarly looking large gambrel roof barns and nicely composed early twentieth century houses. Together they form, and inform, a distinctive image of the region's agricultural history.

National Register Criteria

The Donovan - Hussey Farms Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of agriculture as a group of buildings that represent broad trends in agriculture in Aroostook County during the first five decades of the twentieth century. During this period both farms experienced significant alterations of their domestic and agricultural buildings. Both houses reflect current stylistic trends and the barns were designed to take advantage of changes in technology and more efficiently compete in the local agricultural economies. Of special note within the district are the two gambrel-roof barns, one on each farm, which were designed specifically for potato storage and dairy farming, two of the most important agricultural pursuits in the Houlton area. The district retains a high degree of integrity of workmanship, setting, location, association, feeling, and design, and to a somewhat lesser degree, of materials. Within the overall context of the district the recent interior alterations to the Hussey house do not diminish the ability of these resources to convey their historic significance. Both the Donovan and Hussey farms were utilized for agricultural purposes into the 1980s, and since then several historic resources have been lost, including an old potato house and a garage on the Hussey Farm, and an equipment shed/machine shop on the Donovan Farm. However, the loss of these resources do not adversely affect the overall integrity and significance of the district within its agricultural context.

Period of Significance

The period of significance commences in 1906, the traditional date given for the erection of the Hussey barn, and ends in 1958, fifty years before the present. While both farms were established in the 19th century, all of major domestic and agricultural buildings within the district were either rebuilt or updated during the first three decades of the twentieth century.

Contributing Resources

The Donovan - Hussey Farms Historic District contains five contributing buildings. Each contributing building was erected during or before the period of significance, and retains sufficient integrity to contribute to the significance of the district. The contributing buildings are the 1906 Hussey

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

barn, the , the c. 1910 Hussey house, the 1925 Donovan barn and the Donovan house, which was substantially remodeled in 1931. In addition, the equipment shed on the Hussey farm is a contributing building which, although its date of construction is unknown, exhibits a form and use of materials that could reasonably be dated to the period of significance. The contributing site is the Hussey farmstead itself, containing a total of 82 acres (35 acres of agricultural fields,) and a farm road. The only non-contributing building is the camp located in the back field of the Hussey farm. This building, which had been part of an old garage, was moved to that location in the late 1960s for recreational purposes.

History

The Donovan and Hussey Farms have an inter-related history, with the Donovan farm's history stretching into the 1840s. In his history Farming in Maine 1860-1940, the agricultural historian Clarence A. Day describes Aroostook County as the "Garden of Maine." In 1805 a settlement was established at Houlton, at the southern end of the county, and twenty years later English speaking Canadians started to settle along the Aroostook River in the Presque Isle area. Not until a road was established between Lincoln, Maine and Houlton in 1828, and extended to Presque Isle after 1844 did immigration into the county start in earnest. In 1838 the editor of the Maine Farmer, Dr. Ezekial Holmes visited the region and extolled the fertility of the soil and the agricultural potential of the county in his publication. According to census figures, between 1820 and 1860 the population of Houlton increased from 115 to 2035 residents, among them Michael Donovan and his family.

As recorded in a manuscript history of the Donovan family of Houlton, Michael Donovan (1804 - 1876) was born in County Cork, Ireland, and along with his brother Jeremiah, immigrated to the United States approximately thirty years later. Michael and Jeremiah are both listed on the poll tax list for Houlton in 1836. They initially purchased a plot of land together and erected a small house and barn, but in 1844 Michael purchased his own parcel, which became his home farm. Located on what is now known as Ludlow Road, the property was described as lot number 19 in the twelfth range of lots in the north division of Houlton. The next year Donovan purchased the westerly half of lot number 19 in the eleventh range of lots, followed by a small gore of land, described as "that part of lot numbered 18 in the eleventh range in the north division of Houlton, which lies South of the road." By 1856 the Houlton tax valuation for Michael indicated that he owned 265 acres in town, at least 180 of which were associated with his homestead farm. Just before his death in 1876 he purchased "part of lot 18 range 12...lying south of the Ludlow Road" which was adjacent to the farm on the west.⁴

Within three years of purchasing the first portion of the property Michael Donovan erected a barn for his six sheep, three cows, six cattle, two horses and two pigs. Family tradition asserts that Michael and his wife and nine children lived initially in a log house on the property, and the 1853 town tax assessment appears to confirm this as it listed a house of 'no value'. By 1856 the Donovan house was

⁴ Aroostook County Registry of Deeds. Book 4, p. 213 and 313 (1844); book 5 p. 392 (1845); book 10, p. 355 (1851); book 11, p. 517 (1853), book 43, p. 303 (1869); book 75 p. 14 (1875).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

valued at \$350. This date correlates nicely with the early 20th century photographs taken of the Donovan house which depict a modest one-story cape with end chimneys, a symmetrical facade, and Greek Revival style pilasters, frieze, and door surround. These photographs also indicate that Michael Donovan's barn was an English style barn, connected to a long ell off the south end of the house. He typically kept 3-5 cows, 6 or 7 head of cattle, between 1 and 5 horses, a yoke of oxen, and raised four or five pigs, and between 14 and 33 sheep. The day before Michael Donovan died in 1876 he sold all his real estate, along with four horses, six cows, agricultural implements, building and household furniture to his two sons John C. (1847 - ?) and Timothy Donovan (1850 - 1927), in exchange for which the sons agreed to maintain their parents, brother Jeremiah and sister Margaret on the homestead.

The history of the Hussey Farm on the north side of the road is less clear. In 1865 Ivery K. Maxwell purchased three adjacent lots containing 200 acres from William Trewin of Fort Fairfield. These were lot 18 in the 11th range, (except the portion that Donovan owned south of the road), lot number 18 in the 12th range and the west half of lot number 17 in the 12th range, along with the buildings thereon. Between 1859 and 1865 the real estate had traded hands at least three times, but based on the 1865 deed, Maxwell was already living on the property when he finally purchased it. In 1886 Maxwell sold the west half of lot number 18 in the 11th range and the portion of lot number 18 in the 12th range north of Ludlow Road to John and Timothy Donovan. The next year the brothers purchased the east half of lot number 17 in the 12th range from William Betts of Houlton, which, with the Maxwell lots, created the nucleus of the Hussey Farm as it remains today.

In 1880 the brothers lived in the Donovan homestead, with two of their siblings and Timothy's young family. In 1893 Timothy deeded his portion of the property north of Ludlow Road to John, who by 1900 was living on and farming the property, with a housekeeper, and two boarders. The location of this house, assuming it was the same dwelling that Ivery Maxwell had occupied and as depicted on the 1877 Atlas of Aroostook County, was located a bit further west along Ludlow Road than the current house.

Around 1912 Timothy Donovan retired from farming and turned the farm over to his son Edward (1883 - 1939) and his wife Myrtle. It was during Edward and Myrtle's tenure that the current gambrel roof barn was erected and the Donovan house thoroughly renovated. They ran the farm until their son Wilfred (born 1916) and his wife Marion took over around 1940. Wilfred Donovan died in 2000, but Marion Donovan still lives on the property with her son James.

On the north side of the street the farm that John Donovan owned also changed hands in the early 20th century. In 1912 Donovan sold the property to Joseph F. Hussey, (born 1868) who had grown up a mile or two down the road to the east, but Hussey may have been occupying the property before the deed was drawn up. According to local legend, Hussey first built a barn on his property, and when he brought his fiancé to look at her future home she cancelled their engagement because he had not built a house. He then built the house that is currently on the property, and again became engaged to a widow with thirteen children. When she looked at the new house she too broke off the marriage, as the house was too small. Joseph Hussey never married. While this story may be apocryphal, it may also

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 5

contain elements of the truth. The current owner of the Hussey farm has found the date "1906" incised in the barn foundation, and the four-square, frame house with simple Colonial-Revival style detailing certainly could have been built in the first or second decade of the 20th century. The 1910 census indicates that Hussey owned the farm on which he resided, and that it was in close proximity to Timothy Donovan's property. Only one name separated the two properties in the census, that of a carpenter who rented a house. What became of the house and barn that John C. Donovan had occupied is not known, although there is some indication, in oral tradition, that it burned.

Hussey owned the farm on the north side of Ludlow Road until 1944 when he sold it to Albert T. Donovan (1919 - ?), the brother of Wilfred Donovan and son of Timothy Donovan. Albert and his wife worked the farm until 1955, when they deeded it to his brother Timothy Donovan (1927 - ?). Two years later Timothy and his wife Rosemary sold the property to John and Willa Callnan, who in 1963 sold it to Allen and Margaret Moody. It was Allen Moody who put the addition on the cow shed shortly after he purchased the property. When the Moody's sold the property in 2000 it ceased, temporarily, to be farmed. The current owners plan to raise cattle and other livestock in the near future.

Area of Significance

Agriculture

The Donovan - Hussey Farms Historic District represents two family farms with a shared history, that illustrate two specific agricultural tracts that developed in southern Aroostook County during the first half of the 20th century. Over their 160 year history both farms have been owned and worked by members of the Donovan family and others including Joseph Hussey, and both farms evolved from diversified, family-centered subsistence level farming in the 19th century to commercial agricultural operations in the twentieth century. Although the timing and orientation of their evolution was not always parallel, taken together the two properties illustrate important trends in the broad patterns of Maine's agricultural history.

At the dawn of the 20th century brothers Timothy and John Donovan were farming large tracts of land on opposite sides of Ludlow Road. Timothy and his family lived in a fifty year old cape, which was connected by an ell to an English Barn. They practiced diversified farming, which included rotating fields of potatoes, hay, corn and canola, and keeping a few cattle, a few work horses, a few milk cows and at times oxen. Potatoes were their primary cash crop, and the basement of the house was used to store the tubers when necessary. Less is known about John Donovan's farm. The farm contained approximately 200 acres, but neither photographs nor records have emerged that suggest the layout or components of the farm. At some point prior to 1912 John made improvements to his western field by installing tile and draining it under the road and into Dog Brook.

By 1906 Joseph Hussey had replaced John Donovan on the farm that was to become known as the Hussey farm. The first project that Hussey undertook was to build a new barn on the property. The barn that he erected was substantially different from the barn across the street: it was free standing, gambrel roofed, and sat on a concrete foundation - it was a ground-level stable barn designed to house

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 6

a herd of dairy cows. Although dairy farming never even approached the same level of prominence in Aroostook County as potato farming, nor was it as important as in the more populated portions of the state, there was a small dairy industry in southern Aroostook County, focused on the award winning Pine Tree Creamery in Sherman and the local Houlton Creamery.⁵

Although a handful of gambrel roof barns have dotted the Maine landscape since the early nineteenth century, it was not until the last decades of the century that a change over to this form of agricultural outbuilding occurred on a large scale. As summarized by historian Thomas Visser:

*By the late nineteenth century some New England farmers were building their bank barns with gambrel roofs. Also known as a curb roof, the double slopes of the gambrel offer more volume in the hayloft, without increasing the height of the side walls. As *The Cultivator and County Gentleman* observed in 1871: *Many farmers prefer the curb roof to their barns, as being more compact in shape, or possessing more capacity for the exterior covering employed. The greater height above the plates forms no objection where the pitching is done by the horse-fork...In order that the horse-fork may be used freely, the cross-timbers above the cross-beams are entirely omitted, except at the ends or outside.* (Page 82-83)*

In general, gambrel roof barns were erected by those agriculturalists in Maine who had made a shift from diversified family farming to dairy farming, and for whom putting by a large store of fodder and bedding was integral to their operation. The efficiency of gambrel roof barns was touted in the agricultural press and designs for examples large and small were offered in builders' guides. Not long after building the structure Hussey enlarged it with a shed-roof addition on the east. He integrated the original tie-up with the new cow shed in a manner that bares a striking resemblance to designs for milking parlors distributed by the Loudon Machinery Company in their publication Loudon Barn Plans from c. 1915.

In addition to providing a large hay loft, the design of the Hussey barn took into account new technology and advances in agricultural science, as explained by Visser:

By the early twentieth century the availability of mechanized power, the desire to improve sanitation, and the development of concrete as a common building material helped agricultural engineers develop a new approach to dairy barn design: the ground-level stable barn. With the discovery that the bacteria responsible for tuberculosis can pass through the digestive system

⁵In 1902 the 15th Annual Report of the Board of Industrial and Labor Statistics rendered this opinion on the dairy industry in Aroostook County: "The fact is that Maine ought to have and could have four times as many creameries as she has to-day. The county of Aroostook is more than half as large as the state of Vermont and has a soil fully as fertile and productive, yet Aroostook has only four small creameries and three cheese factories, while Vermont has 183 creameries and 61 cheese factories." (Page 53)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 7

and remain active in the airborne dust of manure, agricultural engineers sought ways to reduce the spread of the disease by improving ventilation to reduce dust levels in barns. The resulting improved barn design standards also called for increased interior light levels to help reduce bacterial growth. As the name implies, the main floor level in a a ground-level stable barn is at grade. With no manure basement, the problems of odors and disease-carrying dust in the air are greatly reduced. A four- or five-inch thick concrete slab poured over compacted gravel typically serves as a floor for the cow stables....Separated by steel pipe stanchions, the cows are typically aligned in two rows, with elevated feeding troughs running in front of the cows. At their tail ends, a shallow gutter is recessed in the concrete to gather the manure. (Visser, p. 97-8)

With a 'modern' barn, a stylish, new house, a milk house, an equipment shed and substantial acreage Hussey's property was well set up to serve its subsequent owners through the first half of the twentieth century, In the 1960s the size of the cow shed was approximately doubled when an addition was built, which just adds another level of evolution to the property.

In 1920 a devastating fire destroyed the Donovan barn, the connecting ell and the kitchen in the house. After the fire Edward Donovan decided not to rebuild the barn as it had been, but instead also opted to build a gambrel roof bank barn. The sole photograph of this barn suggests that it was almost three stories high, six or seven bays long and topped with a cupola. Based on the form and the number of windows on the east elevation (four) it appears that this was built as a mixed-use barn for horses, oxen, and a few cows, rather than as a dairy barn, but that cannot be fully confirmed from the photograph.⁶ As reported by historian Clarence Day, 1919 had been the highwater mark of the dairy industry in Aroostook County, so the Donovans may have adopted this form of barn in order to expand their herds in the future. Whatever plans they had were curtailed when the new barn was destroyed, again by fire, only eighteen months later.

It took three more years for the Donovans to recover from this loss and erect another barn. While the potato industry was generally strong, the markets varied from year to year and were based on national, not regional yields and demands. During the "ten dollar years" (ten dollars per a barrel of potatoes) of 1916 and 1919 farmers were able to get out of debt and invest in their farms, but the following five years offered only fair to poor prices, and caused concern. However, as Clarence Day cites, in 1925 the crop returns improved immensely and it was "the largest in both volume and value produced in any state that year...Many potato farmers were able to discharge obligations incurred during the preceding years and in some instances to make substantial improvements in plants and equipments."⁷ Through the remainder of the decade the potato industry only grew, with record yields and prices being recorded one year and broken the next.

⁶It is interesting to note that a photograph of the 1920 fire shows a continuous-track, Lombard-like tractor, the farm's first, moving the debris around in the front yard.

⁷Frank P. Washburn, *Agriculture in Maine*, 1924-26, as cited in Day, p. 137.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 8

It is not surprising then, that the third Donovan barn was erected with potatoes in mind. In some ways, this structure was a combination of the previous two: it was sited where the first barn was located, and connected to the house, but it had the gambrel roof form of the second barn. Based on photographic evidence the current barn is only half as long as the second barn and the main section is about two-thirds as wide without the addition. This suggests that the family had moved away from keeping a large quantity of livestock, and instead decided to focus on cultivating potatoes.

While the hayloft in this barn is fairly standard, the first floor and basement were designed to specifically fulfill the function of storing potatoes. The large basement storage room occupied fully half of the barn's footprint. Potatoes would be off loaded onto a conveyor belt placed between the main door of the barn and the opening in the first floor wall of the potato cellar. The potatoes would be gravity fed into the cellar for storage, and when the market price was right, barrels stored in the cellar would be filled with potatoes, put onto the back of the farm truck and driven up the ramp and off to market. Evidently the potato cellar paid off. Six years later, in the midst of the Depression, Edward was able to extensively remodel the family home, and remake the cape into a modified Dutch Colonial with expensive figured trim on the interior.

There is a distinctive building type found throughout Aroostook County for the storage of potatoes - referred to as a potato shed or potato barn, it is usually a concrete and wood structure with a gambrel roof set into a bank. These buildings have an opening under the roof for filling the shed, and a large lower door that opened into a work space where potatoes were packed. The Donovan barn worked on the same principals, but in this case, combined these requirements with space for a few cows and horses, several tractors, and a lot of hay. No other barn with a similarly planned interior arrangement has yet been identified in Maine.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1900 Inventory and Valuation of the Polls and Estates liable to be Taxed in the Town of Houlton, for the Year A.D. 1900, together with the Taxes assessed on same. Municipal Office, Town of Houlton, Houlton, Maine.

"Donovan Vir Super Hostem." Manuscript history of the Michael Donovan Family. Author unknown. C. 1980. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

[Inventory Town of Houlton]. Manuscript tax assessment records. Municipal office, Town of Houlton, Houlton, Maine. All extant volumes examined: 1836, 1841, 1843, 1845, 1852, 1853, 1848, 1849, 1840, 1864, 1865, 1860, 1847.

Louden Machinery Company. Louden Barn Plans. (Guelph, Ontario: Louden Machinery Co.), c. 1915.

Maine Bureau of Industrial and Labor Statistics. Fifteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Industrial and Labor Statistics. (Augusta: Kennebec Journal Print), 1902.

Maine Register, State Year-Book and Legislative Manual. (Portland, Maine: Greenville M. Donham), various years, 1900 - 1950.

Roe, F. B. and N. George Colby. Atlas of Aroostook County, Maine. (Philadelphia: Roe & Colby), 1877.

Tasker, William. The Pioneer Homes of Houlton. (Caribou, Maine: Monkey Publishing), 2007.

Thibadeau, W. J. The Irishman A Factor in the Development of Houlton. (Augusta, Maine: O'Ceallaigh Publishing), 1992.

Varney, George. J. A Gazetteer of the State of Maine. (Boston: B.B. Russell), 1882.

Visser, Thomas Durant. Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings. (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England), 1997.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

UTM'S, continued

5) 19/584956/5111018

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are described on the Town of Houlton tax map number 19, lots 002 and 012. For precise boundaries please see the map "Donovan - Hussey Farms Historic District."

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above described boundaries represent all the property currently associated with the house and barn owned by the Donovan family at 546 Ludlow Road and the full historic extent of the Joseph Hussey Farm at 535 Ludlow Road. The boundaries do not include agricultural land that was separated from the Donovan homestead in 1980, and are now owned and farmed by A local farmer with extensive land holdings. While the surrounding landscape on the south side of Ludlow Road contributes to establishing the Donovan Farms's setting and association, it is no longer possible to distinguish the boundaries of the historic farm as distinct from those of formerly adjacent and nearby farms. The boundaries of this nomination are also exclusive of the .91 acre lot on the north side of Ludlow Road represented by the Town of Houlton tax map number 19, lot 11.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number ____ Page ____

PHOTOGRAPHS

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_001.TIF

Photograph 1 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

10 June 2008

Donovan Farm house and barn; facing southwest.

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_002.TIF

Photograph 2 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

10 June 2008

Donovan Farm house, ell and barn; facing northeast.

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_003.TIF

Photograph 3 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

10 June 2008

Donovan Barn, interior of potato cellar (basement level); facing northwest.

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_004.TIF

Photograph 4 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

10 June 2008

Donovan Barn, interior of barn, main floor, with walls of potato cellar behind the vehicle. Facing northwest.

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_005.TIF

Photograph 5 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

22 September 2008

Hussey Farm house; facing north.

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_006.TIF

Photograph 6 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS, continued.

10 June 2008

Hussey Farm barn and milk house, south elevations; facing northwest.

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_007.TIF

Photograph 7 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

22 September 2008

Hussey Farm barn, addition and milk house; facing southwest.

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_008.TIF

Photograph 8 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

22 September 2008

Hussey Farm equipment shed; facing west.

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_009.TIF

Photograph 9 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

22 September 2008

Hussey barn, interior: original tie-up (left), second tie-up (right), newer milking parlor (back). Facing north.

ME_AROOSTOOK COUNTY_DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HD_010.TIF

Photograph 10 of 10

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission


22 September 2008

Hussey Farm; facing southwest.

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HISTORIC DISTRICT

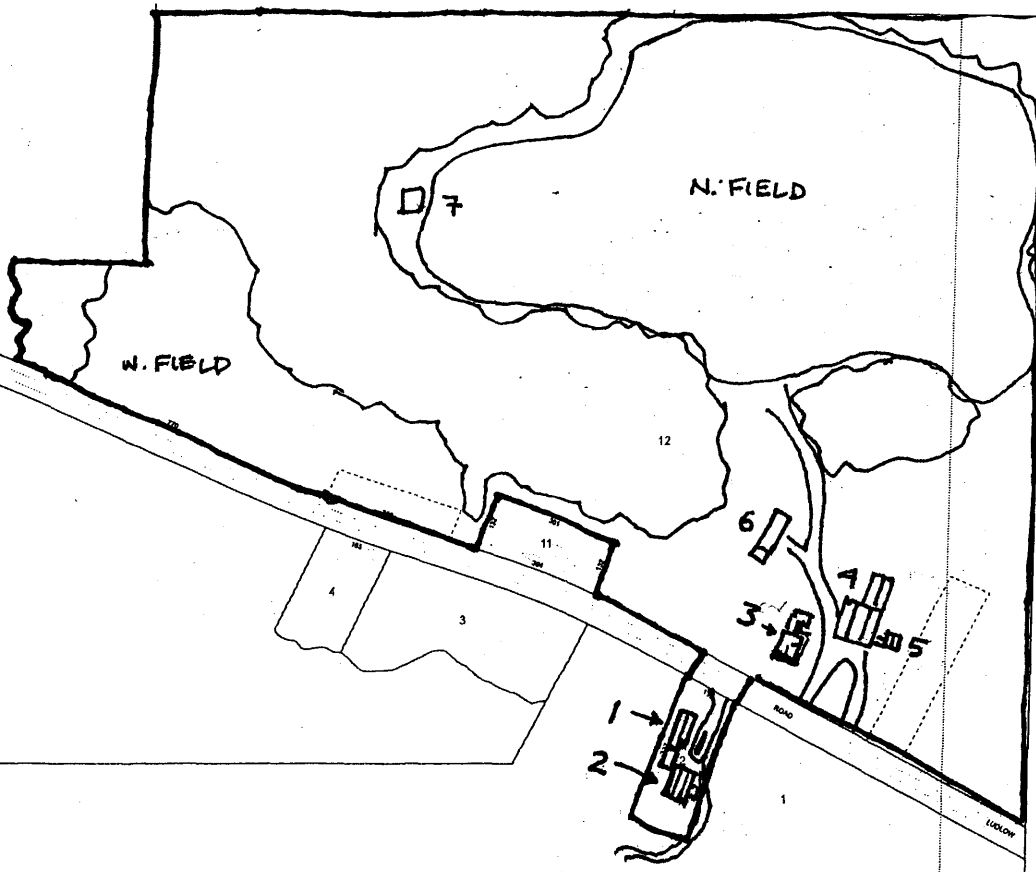
Sketch Map

16 October 2008

Boundary 

- 1. Donovan House
- 2. Donovan Barn
- 3. Hussey House
- 4. Hussey Barn

- 5. Hussey Milk House
- 6. Hussey Equipment Shed
- 7. Hussey Camp












Tax Map
19

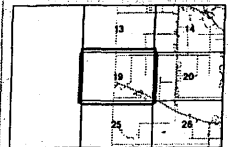
HOULTON
MAINE



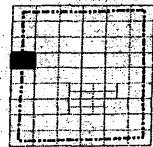
LEGEND

	PROPERTY LINE
	OLD PROPERTY LINE
	PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY
	PRIVATE RIGHT-OF-WAY
	RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY
	CITY/TOWN LIMIT
	EASEMENT
	HYDROLOGY
	WETLAND LINE
3	PARCEL NUMBER
100	SURVEY DIMENSION
7	SURVEY LOT NUMBER

THIS MAP IS PREPARED FOR THE INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN TOWN OF HOULTON AND IS COMPILED FROM RECORDED DEEDS, PLATS, TAX MAPS, SURVEYS, PLANIMETRIC MAPS, ORTHOPHOGRAPHY AND OTHER PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA. USERS OF THIS TAX MAP ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE AFORESAIDED PUBLIC PRIMARY INFORMATION SOURCES SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR VERIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP. THE TOWN OF HOULTON AND ITS MAPPING CONTRACTORS ASSUME NO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.



SHEET INDEX



Completion Date : April 1, 2005

Date of Revisions:

DONOVAN - HUSSEY FARMS HISTORIC DISTRICT
Key to Photographs

16 October 2008

— Boundary

←(# Photograph # and direction

Tax Map
19

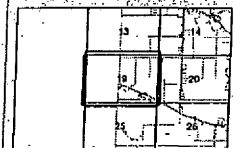
HOULTON
MAINE



LEGEND

- PROPERTY LINE
- - - OLD PROPERTY LINE
- PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY
- - - PRIVATE RIGHT-OF-WAY
- RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY
- - - CITY/TOWN LIMIT
- - - EASEMENT
- - - HYDROLOGY
- - - WETLAND LINE
- 3 PARCEL NUMBER
- 10 SURVEY DIMENSION
- 7 SURVEY LOT NUMBER

THIS MAP IS PREPARED FOR THE INVENTORY OF REAL PROPERTY WITHIN TOWN OF HOULTON, MAINE AND IS COMPILED FROM RECORDED DEEDS, PLATS, TAX MAPS, SURVEYS, PLANIMETRIC MAPS, OTHER PHOTOGRAPHS AND OTHER PUBLIC RECORDS AND DATA. USERS OF THIS TAX MAP ARE HEREBY NOTICED THAT THE TOWN OF HOULTON, MAINE, AND THE PUBLIC PRIMARY INFORMATION SOURCES SHOULD BE CONSULTED FOR THE VERIFICATION OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP. THE TOWN OF HOULTON AND ITS MAPPING CONTRIBUTORS ASSUME NO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.



SHEET INDEX



Completion Date: April 1, 2005

Date of Revisions:

Date of Revisions	Description

