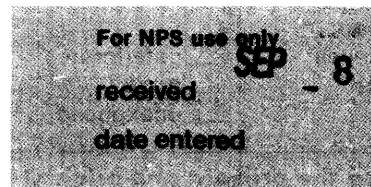


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Stephen Parsons House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Sw of Edgecomb
Parsons Creek N/A not for publication

city, town Edgecomb, Me. vicinity of congressional district

state Maine code 23 county Lincoln code 015

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Madene L. Nichols

street & number Parsons Creek

city, town Edgecomb, vicinity of _____ state Maine 04556

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Wiscasset, 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 Parsons House is a 2½ story, hipped-roofed, Federal-style building of frame construction. Six windows extend across the facade, and three on the sides. The simple louvred fan over the door was stolen recently, leaving plain semi-circular boarding. Two chimnies rise from the roof and two small dormers extend laterally to either side of the roof-joint. All windows contain 6/6 sash.

The front hall is pervasively stenciled on both stories, the design being vertical strands of ivy, evenly spaced. Doors throughout the house are Christian-cross, and floors are the original pine boards. An uncommon feature is the cove ceiling of the parlor and the tall parlor door-casings which actually reach into the cove. Recessed bookcases to the rear of the parlor have enframements identical to those of the windows.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1806 **Builder/Architect** Stephen Parsons 1778-1862

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Apart from its obvious significance architecturally, with its barrel ceiling, lofty door enframements and interesting stencilling, this house is important as the home of Stephen Parsons, its builder, a model of early 19th century upward mobility and entrepreneurial skill. Parsons (1778-1862) came to Edgcomb in 1801 with his wife, Margaretta Frederick Randall, daughter of Benjamin Randall, founder of the Free Will Baptist denomination. His career from that point was marked by continuous success for most of the rest of his life.

Beginning as a surveyer, he quickly became a community leader and at the age of 26 was chosen as a selectman and moderator of the town meeting. He built his beautifully sited house in 1806 and on the nearby creek constructed a tidal grist mill, a shipyard and a brick yard. He also purchased the schooner "Diamond" which proved a very profitable investment. In 1809 he set himself up as an engineer and was for many years actively engaged in bridge repair. He became the first postmaster in 1811 and by that time was also running a general store. In 1815 he completed the first formal general survey of the entire town of Edgcomb greatly to the relief of the community where land squabbles had been all too common.

By this time Parsons had become known statewide and entertained many notables in his handsome home with the help of his beautiful and cultured wife. He was an active worker for Maine statehood and served in 1818 and 1819 as a representative to the General Court of Massachusetts. When statehood was accomplished in 1820 he became the first state senator from his district. By this time he had achieved position, prosperity and was surrounded by a fine family. Only after the death of his oldest son, lost at sea at the age of 33, and of his wife in 1854 did his good fortune seem to decline. Nevertheless, until his death in 1862, he was cared for by two adoring spinster daughters who caused his stone in the family burial plot to be inscribed with the epitaph: MARK THE PERFECT MAN.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chase, Virginia, "Stephen Parsons: Country Squire", Down East Magazine, October, 1958.

Chase, Fannie S., Wiscasset in Powlanborough (Wicasset, 1941).

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Westport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	4	4	8	3	2	0	4	8	6	6	1	6	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

Assessor's Map 19, Lot 38

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/Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date July, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street 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 *Eva S. Felt*

title S.H.P.O.

date 9/6/83

For NPS use only

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

for Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Eva S. Felt
National Register

date 10/6/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration