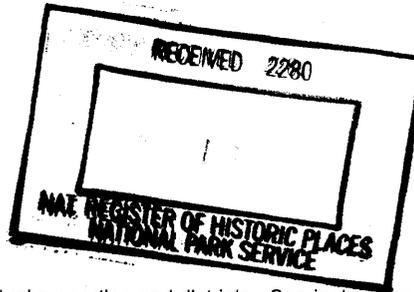


1468

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Colcord Farmstead
other names/site number Long Meadows Farm

2. Location

street & number 184 Unity Road N/A not for publication
city or town Benton N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Kennebec code 011 zip code 04901

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] 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]
Wilson W. Ball

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	2	buildings
1		sites
2		structures
		objects
8	2	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC / Single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE / Animal facility
- AGRICULTURE / Agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE / Agricultural outbuilding
- AGRICULTURE / Processing
- INDUSTRY / Manufacturing facility
- INDUSTRY / Energy facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC / Single dwelling
- AGRICULTURE / Animal facility
- AGRICULTURE / Agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE / Agricultural outbuilding
- INDUSTRY / Manufacturing facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate
- LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne
- No Style (sawmill)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Granite
- walls Weatherboard
- roof Asphalt
- other Brick
- Steel

Narrative Description

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

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COLCORD FARMSTEAD

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DESCRIPTION

MATERIALS, continued

Foundation:	Stone
	Concrete
Walls:	Shingle
Roof:	Steel

The Colcord Farmstead in Benton Maine is a remarkably intact example of architecture and agricultural landscape from the late nineteenth century. This farmstead is also notable for the long term tradition of rural living manifest in its structures and fields. The farm consists of almost 200 acres of fertile alluvial fields and carefully managed wood lot, a domestic complex designed in 1882, and a barn built in 1899. Four additional elements, including a windmill, sawmill and two agricultural outbuildings, link this ever-evolving farm from a historic period complex to the present.

Named for John B. Colcord and his family, who built most of the extant 19th century structures, the property is also known as the Richardson Homestead, after Captain Andrew Richardson who bought the original tract of land from the Kennebec Proprietors in 1786; the Moses Stacy Farm, after the owner of the property in the decades surrounding the Civil War; and Long Meadows Farm, the name given by the current owners who have taken care of the land since 1937. While each of these families left their mark on the buildings and the land, it is the contribution of John B. Colcord that is most architecturally significant.

Farm, 1786 -1955. Contributing site.

Presently the farm consists of 194 acres: approximately 170 of these were delineated in the 1842 survey of the Town of Sebecook, and 20 adjacent acres have been added by the Brown family since 1937.¹ The land commences on the east side of the Sebecook River, envelops a small, seasonal stream, crosses Old County Road and proceeds almost due east. All but the back 90 acres are open fields, marked by tree lines and stone walls. The homestead sits on the west side of the road, towards the middle of the parcel (measured north to south), and north of the stream. On the south side of the stream, set in the tree-ringed field is the c. 1950 saw mill, and at the mouth of the stream stands an aged steel windmill. A short-lived trout pond (breached by the first season's ice jam)

¹ The original platting of the land designated elongated east to west parcels running perpendicular to the Sebecook River. The north-south path of the river bends towards the northeast at the northern end of the subject parcel, and as such, the original lot lines angle slightly towards the northwest from the road. Nineteenth century deeds refer to either 160 or 165 acres *more or less* in the original parcels, but the current assessment identifies this as closer to 174 acres. Twenty long and very narrow acres on the south side of the easternmost portion of the parcel were added to the farm in recent decades. This addition consists of mostly wooded land, and while not original to the Colcord property, is included in this nomination due to a parallel history of land use.

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is located just east of the windmill, while set just to the north of the homestead is a (non-contributing) chicken house erected in the 1970s. On the east side of the road, all of the land associated with the farm is either open pasture or, towards the far eastern end of the property, forested wood lot. Approximately 20 acres of the parcel lies between the River and the Road, and provides the backdrop for the homestead and agricultural buildings.

The buildings that comprise the Colcord Farmstead can be generally divided into three temporal categories: structures built by John B. Colcord in 1882, those that followed the fire of 1899, and the twentieth century structures associated with the Brown family. It is important to note that while the domestic structures and the barn and equipment shed were built seventeen years apart, and are not technically connected from end to end, their alignment, orientation and function represents an evolution of the connected farm complex that became prevalent in Maine after the Civil War. Furthermore, while the house, barn, and intermediary structures represent at least three periods of structural evolution, the entirety is unified by architectural detailing, consistency of plane, and materials. The complex stretches along a north-to-south axis, with the 1882 farmhouse at the south and the south-facing milk house at the north end of the structures.

Colcord House, 1882. Contributing (House, ell, and shed.)

According to the *Illustrated History of Kennebec County*, the John B. Colcord house was constructed in 1882 on the "same pleasant site selected by Captain Richardson for his home more than a century [prior]." (Kingsbury and Deyo, p. 1234). This volume featured an engraved plate dedicated to the property which was recognized as one of the outstanding properties in Benton. The home is a two-story, Italianate style, side-hall structure with its primary façade facing west towards the road and the U shaped dirt drive that circles the interior barnyard. The house is sided with yellow painted clapboards, roofed with asphalt, and sits on a granite foundation. The mass of the farmhouse is L shaped, with a rectilinear, two-story, gable-roofed section oriented east to west, and a one-and-one-half story ell with a cross gable dormer and attached porch extending to the north. The facade of the house is two bays wide on the main section (comprised of a bay window and hooded entry, both with low hipped roofs) and three bays wide in the ell (a secondary entry set between a one-over-one window and a modern triple casement window). A pair of two, narrow, four-over-four sash are set in the cross gable of the ell. The south elevation of the house is two bays wide, and contains one-over-one windows on both floors, and a three-facet bay window in the southwest. A one-story shed roof addition, with four irregularly spaced and sized windows, stretches across the rear of the ell and covers the northern bay of the two-bay rear elevation of the main house. Two chimneys emerge from the roof of the main mass just to the north of the ridgeline, and a third is positioned at the junction between the cross gable and ridge of the ell.

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Stylistically, both the house and ell exhibit Italianate features. Wide frieze boards positioned under the eaves and along the rake of the gable roof and cross gable dormer are ornamented with paired decorative brackets. These brackets also mark the top of the wide corner pilasters, the underside of the entry hood, and the frieze over each of the bay windows. These brackets are missing from the porch that wraps around the east and north sides of the ell, and it appears that the chamfered porch supports replaced the earlier, bracketed supports seen in the 1892 engraving.

On the interior, the Colcord House retains much of its historic materials and plan. The most notable feature is the double parlor that occupies the south half of the main house. The two rooms are separated by sliding doors set in an arched frame trimmed with heavy wooden moldings. The arch form is repeated at each of the bay window projections. Adjacent to the double parlors, and spanning the interior space between the main house and ell is the dining room, which features an unusual curved rear wall that encloses a small bathroom. The kitchen is located at the far end of the ell, and has expanded slightly toward the west into the low, shed roof addition. The finishes in the house include maple, oak, and pine floors, plaster walls, original moldings around window and door openings, and a straight run staircase with a bulbous turned newel post in the front hall.

Connected to the north end of the ell is a one-story, gable-roofed shed. This is one of several structures that pre-date the construction of the House and ell, but which was situated in this location when the current complex was created in 1882. The east elevation of the shed contains only a single two-over-one wood sash window, and a frieze board that is markedly narrower than those found on the house. On the western elevation two pedestrian doors provide access into the back field, and a small, square, shed-roofed privy is lodged in the northwest corner. This H-bent shed is constructed of sawn and hewn timbers which create three narrow interior bays. The south and north bays are primarily used as storage space, while the center bay contains a staircase to the low garret and wood storage bin.

Shop, c. 1800-1810. Contributing.

The next structure in the connected complex is now referred to - and used as- the shop, but it was utilized as a stable during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Two stories high, the shop is situated with its gable end facing east, and its facade continues the even plane that extends from the shed through the equipment shed. The rear of the building projects much farther to the west. On the front, the shop is marked by a single, large barn door, over which is situated a decorative, semicircular recess filled with diagonal boarding. Situated under the gable peak

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is a rectangular hay loft door, also made of painted match board. A steel hoist is tucked into the peak of the gable, over the upper door. This building has narrow corner boards with trimmed capitals, cornice returns and a moulded cornice. The rear elevation consists of two bays of two-over-two windows, and further examples of these are found on both floors of the north and south elevations. On the first floor, the shop has a cement floor, exposed timber framing, and bead board wainscot topped with a fiberboard wall covering, which is also used on the ceiling. The second floor walls feature plaster on accordion lath. The exposed rafter-purlin roof system features both hewn and sawn timbers.

Close inspection reveals that the shop was originally a two-story, five-bay, center-chimney house, which dates to the early years of the 19th century. According to the present owners, the Italianate style house is the third to be built on its foundation: the first house burned, and the second house was removed by Colcord when he renovated the farm in 1882. It is evident that when Colcord established his stable, he did so utilizing the earlier house, which was simply repositioned about sixty feet to the north. While the interior partition walls and chimneystack were removed during this renovation, tantalizing details remain, and help to date the house. The patch in the roof where the chimney was removed is clearly visible, as are the locations of all the original windows on the second floor, with the exception of the eastern elevation. On the first level, several of the posts retain their decorative casings, as well as layers of paint and wallpaper. On the second floor, there are remnants of green painted, ogee moulded mopboard, as well as cove mouldings under the nosing on some of the stair treads in the corner staircase. Cut nails were used on the post casing and corner stairs, although some of these also feature hand-forged heads. Because the second floor of the structure is being used for storage, additional inspection of the floors and walls was not possible, however, it is likely that they can provide additional information that would enable the original interior house plan to be determined.

Equipment Shed, 1899. Contributing.

Completing the connected complex is a two bay, one-and-one-half story equipment, or wagon shed. This stud-framed building has two exterior doors that slide on a continuous track. The eastern elevation is two stories high under a single pitch roof that descends to one story in the west. A bead-board partition wall in the center divides the two interior bays, however the framing of the remainder of the building is exposed. The equipment shed has no foundation and a dirt floor. This building replaced a gable-roofed, one-bay wagon shed, seen in the 1896 engraving, that was destroyed by fire in 1899 as evident by scorch marks on the clapboards of the adjacent, exposed north wall of the shop.

Barn, 1899. Contributing

At the northern end of the connected complex is the large, south-facing bank barn built in 1899. Three-and-a-half stories high, with a high basement at grade, the front southwestern corner of the barn is located less than three feet from the northeastern corner of the equipment shed. The

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facade of the barn is dominated by a large, exterior sliding door (which itself houses a hinged pedestrian door at the center), which is accessed by a concrete and dirt ramp off the driveway. A 26 pane, double transom spans the top of the door, which is flanked on either side by wooden, sixteen-light, horizontal sliding sash. A pair of two-over-two windows is positioned in the third level, and another is located directly under the gable peak. The barn is sided with clapboards, with the exception of several layers of decorative, fish-scale shingles (painted red in contrast to the yellow of all the other buildings) above the third floor windows. At basement level, small sliding doors are positioned to either side of the ramp. On the east side of the building, four bays of the basement are open to the barnyard, and six sets of horizontal sliding windows are positioned at the first floor level. The rear of the barn, which also features a ramped entrance, mimics the front with the exception of lacking the two windows on the first floor. There is one window on the west elevation, and a low, exterior sliding door for accessing the basement. An external feed rack is attached to this side of the barn. This open sided, wood-framed structure, which was installed in the 1970s, is covered with a metal roof. It is essentially an elevated, covered cat-walk from which feed is distributed to cattle in the barnyard below.

The Colcord bank barn is constructed of sawn and hewn timbers, sawn common rafters, and sawn studs and braces. It is a large barn with a center aisle, milking parlor/tie-up on the east and grain room, stable, tack room, the remains of an interior silo, and hay storage on the west. Additional hay lofts are located over the milking parlor and on high racks over portions of the center aisle. The eastern side of the aisle is partitioned at the first floor level with horizontal boarding and hinged doors for feeding the cows. A wide passage just inside the front door gives access to the milking parlor, which contains 16 iron stanchions, a cement floor, painted horizontal boarding on the ceilings and walls and several manure chutes. An interior, wood and steel water tank located on the hayloft over the south end of the tie-up, a portable hay conveyer, and a hay fork and trolley are also permanent features of the barn. The basement of the barn is only partially enclosed (in places the underpinnings are simply posts on deeply imbedded stones), and provides free range shelter for the cattle that currently occupy the farm.

Milk House, c. 1937-40. Contributing

Located off the east end of the barn is a small, one-story, stud-framed milk house built by the start of World War I. This gable-front structure is connected to the barn through a short covered passage. It was built on a high post and stone foundation that is solidly clapboarded on the front and open on the rear allowing for tractor storage under the one room interior. The south-facing facade features a four panel wood and glass center door sandwiched between fixed eight-pane horizontal windows. A third fixed sash with six lights is positioned close under the gable peak. A wooden shelf, approximately three feet wide and eight feet long, is braced against the front of the building several feet below the door. This shelf was located so that full milk cans could be lowered onto it from the milk house and then be at the correct level for loading into the delivery truck.

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Pole Barn. 1970s. Non-contributing.

Located just south of the feed rack is a c. 1970, three bay, metal roof pole barn. Used for equipment storage, the pole barn is open on its southern elevation. This functional building, covered in vertical wood siding, sits on a low stone foundation. It is considered a non-contributing structure due to its recent construction date.

Chicken Barn. 1971. Non-contributing.

The 288' long, one story chicken house is located at the far northern end of the homestead parcel. This metal sided, metal roofed, cement-floored structure was built in 1971 and housed a commercial poultry operation for five or six years. It is now rented as warehouse space. This is considered a non-contributing structure due to its recent construction date, and to its current non-agricultural function.

Wind Mill. c. 1937. Contributing structure.

At the edge of the Sebasticook River is a 25' tall steel windmill, installed in the early 20th century to pump water into the barn's cistern. No additional information could be obtained regarding the windmill's manufacturer.

Saw Mill, c. 1950. Contributing structure

Located on the south side of the stream that bisects the western portion of the farm is a small structure that houses a Lane #2 left-hand circular saw with a 12' carriage set on approximately forty feet of track. The engine that runs the saw originally powered a World War II DUKW (Amphibious) Boat. Currently, a series of belts underneath the mill floor connects the engine to the pulley on the carriage. Historically these belts were re-routed to provide power to other small machinery, including a shingle saw and planer. The structure that houses the mill consists of a central one story, low-pitched gable roofed enclosure to which additions have been added towards the east (an even lower pitched, gable-roof three sided enclosure) and to the west (a single-pitch shed). The mill facility is roofed with asphalt, sided with horizontal and vertical planks and features several irregularly positioned, reclaimed old windows.

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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

C. 1800-1810 to 1954

Significant Dates

C. 1800-1810

1882

1899

1937

C. 1950

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John B. Colcord Farmstead is an agricultural complex comprised of fields and woods, house, barn, and outbuildings in Benton, Maine. While the history of the land stretches into the eighteenth century, the extant structures generally represent domestic and agricultural activities from the 1880s, 1899, and the 1930s through the 1980s. As opposed to some farmsteads in Maine that retain a high degree of integrity as a result of generations of lineal descent through a single family, the Colcord Farmstead has been owned, in part or in whole, by at least 13 families since it was first purchased from the Kennebec Proprietors by Andrew Richardson Esquire in 1786. From then until the present the Colcord Farmstead has been farmed consistently, even as the surrounding town of Benton has shed most of its agricultural heritage. This property is recognized for the quality of late nineteenth-century architectural design that is evident in the house, ell, and barn, and as an example of a complex that traces its spatial orientation to the connected complex ideal that emerged in the second half of the nineteenth century in Maine. This property is nominated as a historic district at the local level of significance to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a resource that provides an excellent source for understanding over 100 years of architectural and landscape design within an agricultural context.

The history of the Colcord Farmstead starts not with the family that bears its name, but with Captain Andrew Richardson, a soldier of the American Revolution who participated in the Battle of Bunker Hill before immigrating to the District of Maine in 1786. Richardson was one of the first settlers of the township of Clinton, a farming settlement on the east side of the Kennebec River that also occupied the rich alluvial soils of the Sebasticook River to the east. In 1786, Richardson established his home farm at the west end of Settler's lot #4, as numbered above the north line of Winslow, Maine. Within the next ten years Richardson built a sawmill in Benton village and oversaw the mapping of the town in 1794 as a perennial Selectman.² Despite being described as a leading citizen, who also represented the town in the General Court in Boston in 1809 and 1810, little is known about how he cleared his fields, established his farm or worked the land.

After Richardson's death in 1818 the property was initially divided among his heirs, but by 1820 his son Hobart had purchased his brothers' shares and taken control of the farm. According to the genealogist John Adams Vinton, Hobart joined the ministry in 1830, and while he was active in town government in the 1820s his tenure on the property is uncertain. In 1824 he sold 160 acres of the farmstead to Johnson Lunt of Clinton, who held the land until 1838, when it was sold to Lowden Brown. At the time of this sale Lunt resided in Augusta, and the deed indicates that the property was then leased to George W. Reed. (Even after the sale, the deed provided for Lunt to receive the 'rents and profits' from the land until the lease expired). It is likely that Brown also managed the property rather than actively farming it; he and his wife and daughter were listed as living in Waterville, Maine in the 1840 census, and when, in 1847, he in turn sold adjacent land to Asher

² Land Records at the Maine State Archives, Vol. 22, page 8.

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Barton, a merchant and prominent land owner in what was by then renamed the Town of Benton, reference was made to the 'farm now occupied by' John, Isaac and George W. Reed.³ In 1848 the property changed hands yet again. This time it was sold to Warren Doe. In this transaction the presence of buildings on the property is mentioned for the first time since Hobart Richardson consolidated his family's land in 1820. Three years later, Doe sold the property to Moses and William Stacy of Benton.

Moses Stacy had purchased other sections of the original Richardson property from Asher Barton and others in the late 1840s, although it was not until 1851 that he and his family moved from Waterville to Benton. It is during Stacy's residency that activities on the farm are first detailed in the public record. The 1860 Agricultural Census and the Town of Benton valuation books both indicate that in that year he kept two oxen, ten cows, three horses, 25 sheep, and several pigs. He also grew 30 bushels of corn, 80 bushels of potatoes, 150 bushels of oats, and produced 400 pounds of butter and 75 pounds of wool. The variety and quantity of agricultural products, land and livestock attributed to Stacy was on par with neighboring farms. While successful, Moses Stacy was not extraordinary, but rather typified the diverse agricultural strategies employed by central Maine farmers in the mid-nineteenth century.

In 1867 Moses Stacy died, and his widow Olive retained the property for the next three years. In order to run the farm she hired laborers, including John Colcord, a young Fairfield, Maine native who also worked in the local saw mills. After living on the farm for several years Colcord bought the property in 1870 for just under \$1100 dollars. This amount was considerably less than the \$2500 value that had been ascribed to the property in Moses Stacy's probate inventory, or the \$3000 value listed in the entry for Olive Stacy in the 1870 Agricultural Census. While the fifty years between the death of Captain Richardson and Moses Stacy had been a time of absentee land-owners, tenant farming and frequent changes in ownership, the property that Colcord obtained was nonetheless a profitable farmstead that retained viable and productive land.

The condition of the buildings on Colcord's property is less clear. According to Stacy's probate inventory, the farmstead contained an 'old barn', and thus probably a newer barn. Considering the number of cows that the Stacys' kept, (between 7 and 10 according to census and tax records), and the number of sheep, (between 20 and 30 prior to his death), along with oxen, horses, and hay storage it is not unreasonable to infer that two barns would have been necessary to support the farm. By 1880 Colcord had raised the value of the farm to \$2800, increased the number of cows (12 in 1880) and horses (he averaged 4 or 5 throughout the 1870s and 1880s), and kept forty or more sheep. While still not the most successful farmer in town, Colcord's focus on increasing his quantity of livestock, and on producing butter, cheese, and wool allowed him to gain prosperity and notice.

³Lowden Brown owned two abutting parcels of land: the southern parcel, which he obtained via Lunt and Richardson had been the home farm of Capt. Richardson. How he obtained the northern parcel, which was the northern part of Settler's Lot #4 is unclear, however, this was also originally part of Richardson's property.

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In 1882 John Colcord made the first of several significant changes to his farmstead by moving the extant farmhouse and erecting a new home and ell with a distinct Italianate style. Prior to this there had been two previous houses on the former Richardson property; the first of which burned, probably before the turn of the 19th century. When Colcord constructed the new house for his family he simply moved the second house north approximately 60 feet and placed the new structure on the old foundation. Examination of this earlier house, which was subsequently used as a stable (and later a shop), reveals that it was a two-story, five bay, south-facing, center-chimney structure. Even 120 years after its function was so altered, the building retains evidence of original fenestration, some moldings and trim, lath and plaster, wallpaper and paint, and a set of stairs, (although probably not in their original location). Based on this evidence, as well as an examination of nails, framing, massing and proportion, it is very likely that this structure was built in the first decade of the 19th century. Despite its re-use as an agricultural outbuilding, it provides the only structural touchstone to the Richardson's tenure on the land.

The home that Colcord built differed substantial from its predecessor. On the exterior, bay windows, bracketed trim, arched attic windows, a decorative cross gable, and attached porch, are hallmarks of the Italianate style. On the interior, double-parlors and a side hall replaced the center-chimney configuration. At this point the configuration of the farmstead also changed: the new house and ell were oriented to the east, towards the road, driveway and door yard. During his renovations Colcord used an older timber frame to connect the stable with the north side of the ell, and added a wagon shed to the north of the stable. The new façade of the stable was fitted with a large barn door surmounted by a decorative arch and a hipped roof cupola capped the previous chimney portal. While the rest of the ornamentation on these three rear structures was subdued when compared to the house, the entire connected complex was unified through its clapboard walls, painted trim and overall mass and siting.

The Colcord residence was the only property in Benton to be featured ten years later in the Illustrated History of Kennebec County. The engraving labeled "Residence of Mr. John B. Colcord, Benton, Me" shows nicely trimmed fields surrounded by wooden fences, a tree-lined circular drive to the east of the house and stable complex, and two English barns located at the north end of the dooryard. One of these barns was high posted (probably 2 stories) and had a large lean-to off the east wall that opened onto a small, enclosed barnyard in front of the second barn. A third outbuilding, possibly a milk house, sat in the corner between the wagon shed and the larger barn. Accompanying the engraving is a brief description of the Colcords as having "earned a place among Benton's successful farmers," and which remarks on their "pleasant and spacious home." (Kingsbury and Deyo, p. 1234-1235).

It is not known whether the two barns had always been located in the position seen in the 1896 engraving, or if these were moved by Colcord during the renovations. What is clear, however, is that by connecting and aligning the house, sheds and stable, and placing them at right angles to

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National Park Service

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KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

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the barns, Colcord was reorienting his farmstead along the ideal of a connected complex. Commencing in the 1820s farming advisors had slowly, and sometimes reluctantly, recommended creating sheltered east or south facing dooryards off of which the major functional buildings could be easily accessed. By the 1850s some prosperous farmers were reorganizing their farmsteads into connected complexes, and progressive farming journals were fully advocating the functional benefits of constructing new buildings in such a manner, believing that it maximized efficiency of function and space. Furthermore, they placed an emphasis on the aesthetic development of the farmstead, and advocated developing architectural and stylistic unity to the entire complex. According to Thomas Hubka, author of Big House, Little, House, Back House, Barn, "the idea of balance and unity between house and barn is the most critical planning idea separating the making of New England connected farmsteads from previous tradition and from other American farms." (Hubka, p. 185.) These ideals are clearly evident at the Colcord farmstead.

Shortly after 1896 the two barns and the wagon shed were destroyed in one or more fires. The new, large, New England style barn that Colcord erected in their place continued to facilitate the ideal of the connected complex, while at the same time incorporating new advents in agricultural practice. Standing three-and-a-half stories high, the massive bank barn includes a long milking parlor on the east (outfitted with in-floor manure drops), livestock pens, grain storage, and tack rooms on the west, and ample hay storage. The open cellar provided shelter for herds, a cistern in the hayloft was supplied via a windmill, and an interior wooden silo facilitated the diversification of cattle fodder, as was recommended at the turn of the 20th century. While Colcord still kept sheep after the new barn was built, the orientation and arrangement of the structure indicates a directed shift towards increased dairy farming. On the exterior, decorative shingles in the upper gable end-walls gave the structure a touch of Queen Anne architectural styling, and served to further increase the complex's aesthetic whole.

In 1911 Colcord sold his property to Fred G. Alexander, who eight years later sold it to Everett Colcord, John and Anna's son. According to census records for 1910 and 1920, the elder Colcords continued to live on the farm. In 1925 Everett Colcord died, and the next year his elderly father released all his interest in the farm, which Everett's widow Dorothy then sold to Mary Louise Shink. Shink mortgaged the property repeatedly, and in 1937 the property was foreclosed by her creditors, and sold to Charles O. Brown. Brown was a businessman who owned, among other interests, a car dealership in Oakland. Rather than settle on the farm he hired caretakers to oversee his dairy herd, and had the milk-house built off the southeast corner of the barn. After World War II was over his son settled on the farm and slowly shifted the emphasis away from dairy production to beef production by introducing milking Shorthorn Durham cattle. Under the Brown family ownership the property was re-named Long Meadows Farm. The operation continued to diversify with the construction of a sawmill about 1950 to facilitate management of the wood lots and provide a continuous supply of building materials (including shingles and lumber) for farm use. As the farm focused on cattle versus milch cows additional structures were added to the west side of the complex, including a pole barn for equipment storage and a feeding rack for the cattle. In 1970 the

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family also built a long, one story chicken barn, but due to changing market conditions, this building was only used for a few years.

Even with these newer structures, the integrity, function, and aesthetics of the buildings that Colcord built, on the land that Richardson first developed, and which four generations of Browns have carefully used and maintained, remains extremely high, especially in Benton, where very few farms remain. As such, the Colcord Farmstead is a remarkable specimen of nineteenth-century architecture and landscape set on a continuum of agricultural tradition that has stretched unabated for over 200 years.

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Vinton, John Adams. The Richardson Memorial. (Portland, Maine: Brown Thurston & Co), 1876.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 194 acres

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

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

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

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 15 April 2005
 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.

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UTM's, continued

5. 19/ 0456803 / 4937822

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Colcord Farmstead Historic District are depicted on the Town of Benton tax map number 6, property lots 85, 85a, and 86.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary represents all the property historically associated with the Colcord Farmstead as first deeded to Capt. Andrew Richardson in 1786, and subsequently purchased by Charles O. Brown in 1937. The boundary also includes 20 acres purchased by the Brown family (a portion of lot 85), as more fully explained in Section 7, footnote #1.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
March 17, 2005
Farmstead complex, south and east
elevations: facing northwest.

Photograph 5 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
March 17, 2005
Windmill; facing west.

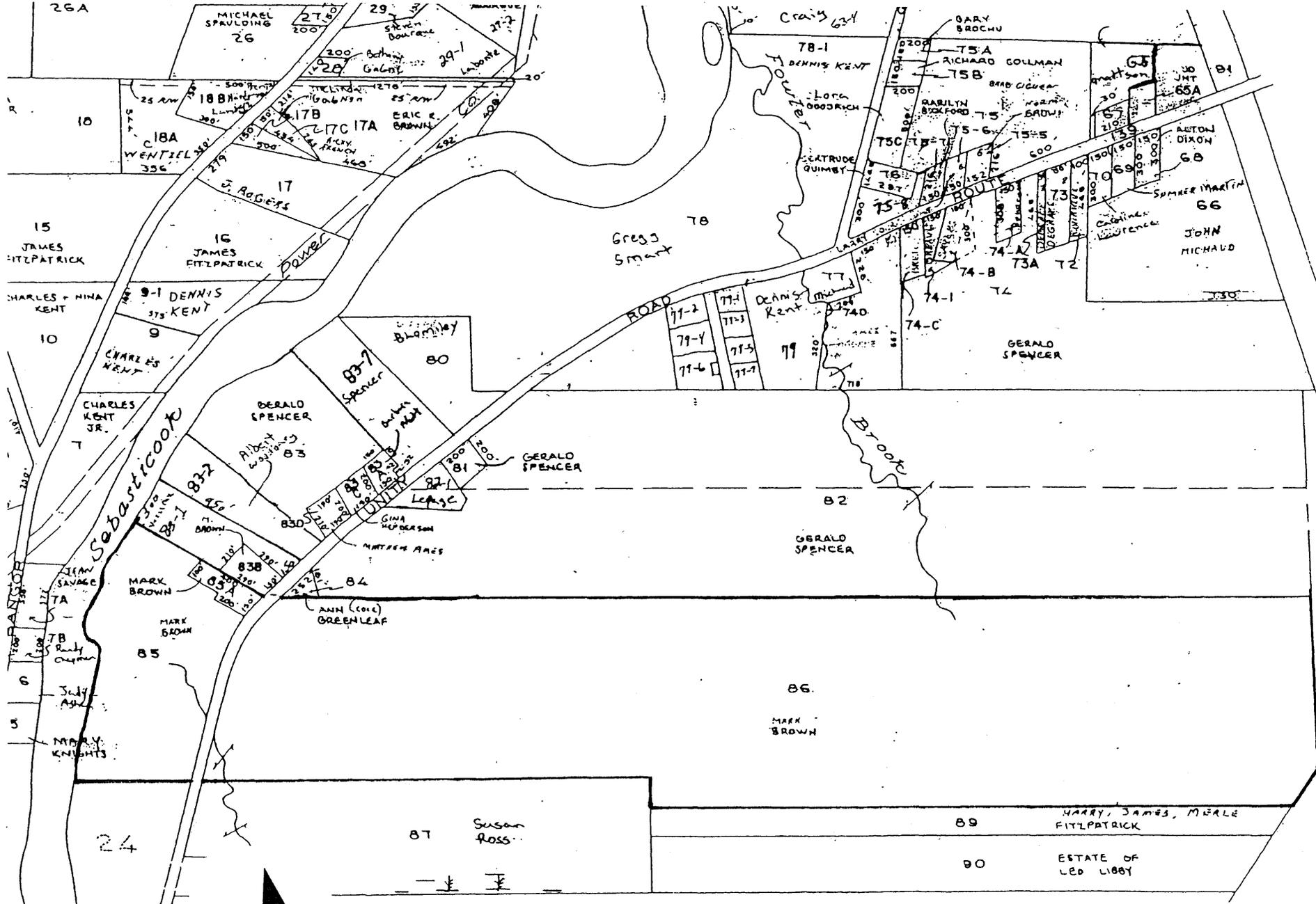
Photograph 2 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
March 17, 2005
Eastern facades: main house, ells and shop;
facing northwest.

Photograph 6 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
March 17, 2005
Interior, southeast parlor; facing west.

Photograph 3 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
March 17, 2005
Eastern elevations: shop, shed, barn and milk
house; facing northwest.

Photograph 7 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
March 17, 2005
Interior of sawmill depicting log carriage and
track: facing west.

Photograph 4 of 7
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
March 17, 2005
Farmstead complex, west elevation; facing
east.

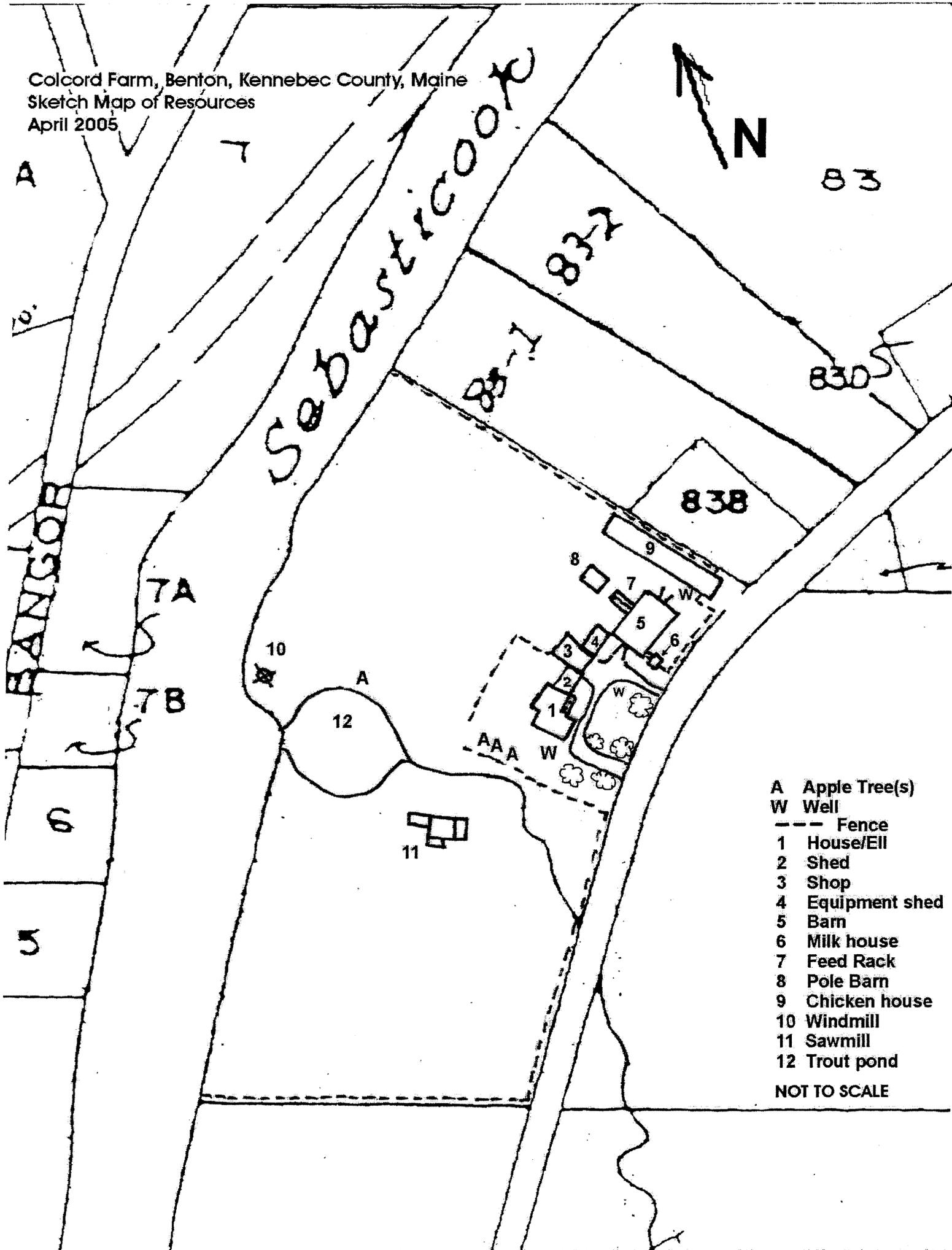


Nomination Boundary Map
COLCORD FARMSTEAD

TOWN OF BENTON
KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

PREPARED BY
JAMES W. SEWALL COMPANY OLD TOWN, MAINE
SCALE 1/2 INCH = 500 ± FEET

Colcord Farm, Benton, Kennebec County, Maine
 Sketch Map of Resources
 April 2005



- A Apple Tree(s)
 - W Well
 - Fence
 - 1 House/Ell
 - 2 Shed
 - 3 Shop
 - 4 Equipment shed
 - 5 Barn
 - 6 Milk house
 - 7 Feed Rack
 - 8 Pole Barn
 - 9 Chicken house
 - 10 Windmill
 - 11 Sawmill
 - 12 Trout pond
- NOT TO SCALE

CHARLES
KENT
JR.

GERALD
SPENCER

Sebastricook

ALBERT
SPENCER
833

832

831

T. BROWN

830

JEAN
SAVAGE

ITA

TB

Randy
Carpenter

Judy
Ash

MA
KNIL

A

B

C

D

E

F

119'
320'

138'

1200'

308'

110'

111'

111'

111'

111'

4)

5)

Colcord Farm, Benton,
Kennebec County, Maine

Key to Photographs
April 2005

