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7 DESCRIPTION

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ESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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The Parson Smith Homestead, built by Peter Thatcher Smith in 1764, is an example of colonial architecture. The house is located in that part of Windham known as South Windham. Built on the highest elevation in South Windham, the house looks out over many other well-kept farmsteads and the Smith-Anderson Cemetery where Peter Thatcher Smith is buried.

The Parson Smith House is a large two-and-one-half story colonial home finished in clapboards. The windows on the first floor have 12 over 12 lights and on the second floor are 12 over 8. There are two chimneys, offset at each end of the house. There is a large ell on the house but just when it was added is not known. The earliest mention of it is in a family document written in 1866. The original woodwork is still in most of the house with the exception of a few 19th century mantels. In some rooms are also fragments of the original wallpaper.

This fine 18th century house has had very little alteration over the years.



Sec. 82.

S. Street

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	X 18th Century	20th Century
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SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1764		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parson Smith House is one of the finest examples of colonial architecture in Maine. Its significance, in this respect, lies in the fact that it is in excellent condition and has been virtually unchanged since its construction in 1764.

The builder of this house was Peter Thatcher Smith, second son of the Rev. Thomas Smith of Falmouth (now Portland). He was born at Falmouth on June 14, 1731 and took his first degree at Harvard College in 1753. He kept school for a number of years at Weymouth, Massachusetts while studying for the ministry. He had preached occasionally in Windham, Maine and in November 1761 was asked by the citizens of Windham to settle there as permanent minister. He was ordained on September 22, 1762 at Windham where he had accepted the position. He built his home in 1764 on lot #33 called the Ministerial Lot.

Parson Smith resided in Windham until October 26, 1826, the day of death, ministering to the needs of his flock. He was a great man to the people of Windham for they came to him for all their needs. Except for serving as Representative to the General Court of Massachusetts in 1803 he did not enter the political arena.

(See Continuation Sheet)

9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGR	APHIC	AL RE	FERENCES								
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Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
Cumberland	
COUNTY	
Maine	
STATE	

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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The Parson Smith House never left the Smith family, although it did pass down through the female line. In 1944 Louisa A. G. Parker became the sole owner of the property. Upon her death on December 5, 1952, the homestead of her great-great-grandfather, Peter Thatcher Smith, was bequeathed to The Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. The house today is maintained by the Society and is kept in excellent repair.

