

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0699861

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 6 1979 JUN 15 1979
DATE ENTERED	

**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 Merriconegan Farm (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON Skolfield Farm

LOCATION

ME 123

STREET & NUMBER
Route 123

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Harpswell

VICINITY OF 1st

STATE
Maine

CODE
23

COUNTY
Cumberland

CODE
005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Lila Skolfield ✓

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
South Harpswell

VICINITY OF
Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
142 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN
Portland

STATE
Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Merriconegan Farm, with components dating from c.1830 to 1897, is a unique and extremely well preserved example of "extended architecture". The farm complex, which faces east, consists of a linear series of attached frame buildings with gable roofs and clapboard siding, supported by granite foundations. From left to right this complex is comprised of the following structures:

1. Barn, constructed in 1834 with 2½ stories and louvered roof ventilator. Principal entrance on north side. 6/6 fenestration. Simple Greek Revival style trim (cornice returns). Wing to east with shed roof and four light casements below eaves.
2. Ell, constructed shortly after 1834, with 2½ story and central brick chimney. 5 bay facade with 6/6 windows and two doorways.
3. House, constructed shortly after 1834, with 2½ stories and simple Greek Revival style trim (cornice returns). 3-bay facade in gable end with 2/2 fenestration (originally 6/6, presumably).
4. Ell, constructed shortly after 1834 as a part of #3, with 2 stories, 2/2 fenestration. 4 bays wide with entrance to right covered by small bracketed porch. First-story 3-sided balustraded bay window.
5. House, constructed before 1834, with 2½ stories, 2 large internal brick chimneys, 2/2 fenestration, and a 5-bay facade.
6. Ell, Constructed before 1834 as a part of #5, with 2 stories, central brick chimney, 4 bays of 2/2 windows. Entrance to the left covered by a small bracketed porch.
7. Ell, constructed after 1888, with 1½ stories, 3 bays, and two entrances. Half story facade dormer with shed style roof.
8. Barn, constructed in 1897, consisting of 2 stories with gable roof surmounted by cupola and weathervane. Principal entrance faces south.

Merriconegan Farm's remarkable collection of attached houses, ells, and barns is architecturally distinctive and unique. The evolution of this vernacular agricultural complex can only be understood by examining the history of its builders and inhabitants, which is related under "Significance".

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The primary significance of Merriconegan Farm lies in the fact that it is the most extensive and impressive example of extended or continuous architecture remaining and perhaps ever existing in Maine and possibly New England. In an excellent state of preservation, it comprises two complete houses with residential ells, sheds and two large barns, one at either end. The entire complex was gradually assembled between the early 1830's and 1897. Magnificently located on a rise overlooking Harpswell Bay and approached directly from the front by a long straight entrance road which joins an oval drive passing the length of the structure, Merriconegan Farm, although a working agricultural entity, also bespeaks the economic and cultural background of its builders.

Thomas Skolfield, son of a large Irish landholder came to America as a young man in 1757 with the Orr family, later proprietors of Orr's Island on the neighboring peninsula east of Harpswell. Skolfield, a graduate of Oxford University, taught for a time at both Boston Latin School and Harvard College. Later, coming to Maine with the Orr's, he acquired a large tract of land in the area of the present farm but at his death in 1796, had had little time to develop it. Of his five sons, Clement, a Harvard graduate, remained on the land, building a house (now standing in Brunswick a few hundred yards north) and working the farm. George (later always referred to as "Master George"), the eldest of Clement's seven sons, began a shipbuilding business with his yard on Harpswell Bay across the road from the farm. He became highly successful, constructing a long series of large sailing vessels, many of which were captained by his younger brothers.

It was "Master George" who, with his father, built the first house in the present complex and later the older of the two barns. His son, George Roger, and grandson, Daniel T. (father of the present owner's husband) built the remaining parts of the present structure and carried on the shipyard until the early years of this century. The tradition of education remained strong in the family, a number of Skolfield men being college graduates and the son of the present owner a graduate of Harvard Law School. The desire to preserve this remarkable property continues in the family so that its future appears bright for the time being.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Skolfield Family papers, unpublished.

Wheeler, G.A. and H.W., History of Brunswick, Topsham and Harpswell.
Boston, 1878

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 9	4, 2, 3, 6, 8, 0	4, 8, 5, 5, 9, 4, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Map R-1, lot 7

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

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

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

January, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

TELEPHONE

(207)289-2133

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta

STATE

Maine

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Carol S. Fretwell

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

5/16/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Adams

DATE

6.25.79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Bonnie Mae Dargatz

DATE

6/13/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER