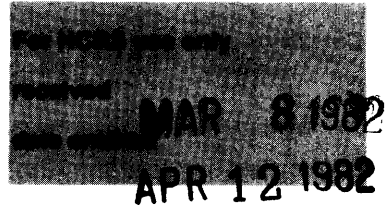


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Barrows-Steadman Homestead

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 134 Main Street not for publication

city, town Fryeburg, vicinity of congressional district Second

state Maine code 023 county Oxford code 017

**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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Georgiana Barrows Steadman

street & number P.O. Box 74

city, town Fryeburg, vicinity of state Maine 04037

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number

city, town South Paris, state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Barrows-Steadman Homestead in Fryeburg, Maine, dating from 1809, is a large and well-preserved example of a Federal style dwelling in a rural context.

The 2½-story house is of frame construction (post-and-beam), with gable roof, two large internal chimneys, clapboard siding, and field-stone foundation. The facade, which faces northwest, is five bays wide with 12/8 fenestration and a central entrance. This entrance consists of a single door with fan and sidelights flanked by Doric pilasters, the whole surmounted by an entablatured lintel.

The ends of the house are three bays wide, and a secondary entrance faces southwest; here fenestration is 6/6 in the first story, 12/8 in the second. In the half-story is an arched window in the Italianate style. This, along with large brackets in the roof overhang, is a result of minor exterior embellishments of the mid-19th century.

A large 2½-story ell, built in 1910, extends from the rear of the house toward the southeast. This has two doors facing southwest, and it is four bays long. Although of much later date than the house, this ell is fully compatible in its color, size, materials, and detail.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      1809                              **Builder/Architect**      Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Barrows-Steadman Homestead is a straightforward rural Federal style house built c. 1809. More outstanding than its architecture, however, are the frescoes in its "Tree Room," the upstairs back bedroom. These murals, painted by Rufus Porter with the assistance of Jonathan D. Poor in 1830, are in an outstanding state of preservation rivaling any in New England. The house has been owned by successive generations of the Barrows family since 1820.

Rufus Porter attended Fryeburg Academy in 1804 and went on to become a farmer-shoemaker-soldier-fiddler-drummer-painter-teacher-builder-portrait painter-dancing master-inventor-journalist-muralist. He was, indeed, a jack-of-all-trades who is best remembered in Maine for the murals he painted on the interior walls of homes and taverns. His style and subjects all derived from his life experiences. For example, his most often painted landscape is a Portland Harbor scene he often views from the new Observatory (N.R. 4/24/73) in that city while he was residing there.

Another frequent subject used in the early 1830's was trees which occupied most of his landscape space. Full designs and rich colors were used in creating these trees which appear in "Quillcote" (N.R. 9/16/77) in Hollis, Maine, as well as the Barrows-Steadman Homestead in Fryeburg. Even after a century and a half the colors are still fresh and clear.

The Barrows family, which has owned the house since 1820, has included a noted lawyer, a successful doctor, as well as a pioneer Home Economist. Their connection with Porter and Poor is unknown, but the family has taken great pride in their "Tree Room" and has been extremely careful in the treatment and preservation of it.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Jean Lipman, Rufus Porter: Yankee Pioneer, New York: 1968.  
 John Stuart Barrows. Fryeburg Maine: An Historical Sketch, Fryeburg, 1938.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT NEEDED

ACQUIRE NOT NEEDED

Acreage of nominated property 1/4  
 Quadrangle name Fryeburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	9	3	4	1	3	3	0	4	8	7	5	5	4	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 42, Lot 40

List all states and counties for properties overliapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Hist./Robert L. Bradley, Arch. Hist./Bette A. Smith, Ass't.

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eileen S. Hetherington*

title S.H.P.O. date 2/18/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Delores Byers</i></u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>4/12/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registratlon	