

PH 365491

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 12 1976  
DATE ENTERED SEP 29 1976

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  
\*\*

*sh*  
Old Morrell House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*N of N. Berwick on*  
Bauneg Beg Pond Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

North Berwick *vic* VICINITY OF

1st Hon. David Emery

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maine

23

York

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jerry T. Ballantine

STREET & NUMBER

Bauneg Beg Pond Road

CITY, TOWN

North Berwick VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

York County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Alfred,

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

The Old Morrell House of 1763 was restored by its present owners, Jerry and Clara Ballantine, in 1969. The house is a two and a half story Colonial design of frame construction with a clapboarded exterior. It is rectangular in shape with a gable roof and a central chimney.

The five bay facade is symmetrically designed. A central doorway is the focal point of the elevation. Tall, unadorned pilasters frame the door and support a simple horizontal pediment. The recessed panel door is surmounted by four panes of glass to light the interior entrance-way. The two bays on each side of the doorway contain nine over six windows on both stories. A similar window is located above the doorway.

The left side wall is comprised of four narrower bays. Two nine over six windows are placed to the right of a side door, while one window is at its left. Over these are three more windows on the second story. Two six over six windows appear within the gable. The side door lacks the ornamentation of the front door.

The interior lay-out was planned around the central chimney. Each room has a fireplace. For the period of its construction, it was a large house. In the Morrell house, the rooms at the rear are incorporated under the main roof. Often these rooms were contained in a shed-like addition which developed into a salt-box design.

The front door opens into a small foyer and the staircase. The stairs are built against the chimney wall. A door to the left leads to the study, while another on the right leads to the parlor. The kitchen occupies the back part of the house, stretching the full width of the structure. The second floor plan is identical to the lower level. Two front bedrooms are over the study and parlor, while a third bedroom is built above the kitchen. A separate set of stairs leads to this room from the kitchen.

The interior of the house has been carefully restored. True to the style of the last half of the eighteenth century, the ceilings are plastered, and the walls are white washed. Wide planks of wood form the floor boarding. The fireplace wall in the study is completely paneled. The kitchen and rear bedroom walls are also entirely paneled. The entire house radiates with rediscovered beauty.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The restoration consultant for the Old Morrell House was Mr. Gustav A. Hagen, A.I.A., who participated in the restoration of the Wayside Inn, Sudbury, Massachusetts, and the Abraham Browne House in Watertown, Massachusetts.

The actual work was performed by local craftsmen whose families have lived in the area for many generations and who were very familiar with the type and style of the older houses in North Berwick.

Mr. Richard Day was in charge of the restoration and was assisted by Mr. George Gupstill and Mr. Forrest Stillings, all of North Berwick. Because of their wide knowledge of the old houses in this area they were able to obtain various materials for the restoration such as floor boards, old glass, doors and hardware that were contemporary with the Old Morrell House. They are currently working on the restoration of the Joseph C. Hill House (circa 1790) in North Berwick for other owners.

Mr. and Mrs. Ballantine have been involved in a number of restoration projects over a period of several years and have gained a broad background in the field from this participation.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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      1763                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Winthrop Morrell

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Morrell House was built in 1763 by Winthrop Morrell, a descendent of one of the first settlers in North Berwick. The house is a fine example of the architectural style of the late colonial period. In the last few years the house has been beautifully restored.

John Morrell of Kittery, Maine received from his father-in-law a tract of land in what was called at the time Kittery Common. This land was part of what is now North Berwick. The Morrell family was one of the first settlers in the area.

John Morrell Jr. built a log-house on Kittery Common in 1640. Later he built a larger house which is known today as the Morrell-Sherbourne house. John Jr. had two sons, Peter and Jedediah. Peter owned all the water power and adjacent lands on both sides of the Great Works River. He erected a grist mill on the river and later tried unsuccessfully to run an ironworks. This was replaced by a wool carding mill which led to the establishment of the wool industry in the town.

Jedediah was a farmer and a blacksmith. His knowledge of medicine won him the reputation of "the first town doctor". He built a saw mill on Bauneg Beg lake which was burned by the Indians. It was replaced, however, and operated until 1925.

At his death, Jedediah left his son Winthrop the farm, while another son got the homestead built by John Jr. In 1763 Winthrop planned and built his own house. The original barn was destroyed, so another eighteenth century structure from a neighboring farm was moved onto the site. Winthrop tried his hand in the sawmill business, but the Abenaki Indians burned all three mills that he built.

Throughout the early days of the settlement Indian relations were uneasy. The Morrells were a peaceful family of the Quaker faith. This helped the relationship, for when the Indians learned the family were Quakers, they made peace. A young cousin of Winthrop's, a sickly girl, was literally scared to death by an Indian. The Indian confessed and the Morrill family believed the story, thus war was avoided. "No scalp was ever cut from a human head in Kittery Corner", the town history boasts.

Built by a family descended from the earliest settlers in the area, the Old Morrell House is a worthy and beautifully restored example of mid-18th century rural architecture in southwestern Maine.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buffum, Samuel, Historical Sketch of North Berwick, 1931

Clayton, W.W., History of York County, Maine, 1880

McCollister, Ethel Morrell, "Short Sketch of the Morrell Family of Eliot, Maine,  
Lewiston Journal, 1936

Mitchell and Campbell, North Berwick Register, 1904

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	9
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3	5	9	0	8	5
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4	8	0	1	5	7	0
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B 

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C 

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D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian  
Frank Beard, Historian

ORGANIZATION Patrica Brown and Jasper Wyman, Student Assistant DATE April 2, 1976  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue 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 Earle S. Shettleworth, Jr.

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE April 8, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 9/29/76

DATE 9/27/76

ATTEST: [Signature]

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Original research provided by Jerry T. and Clara E. Ballantine of  
North Berwick