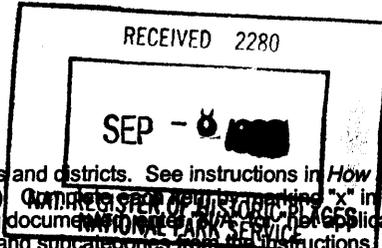


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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, check "N/A" where 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 Harper Family House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number West side of Route 5, .95 miles south of Junction with East Range Road Not for publication

city or town Limerick vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04048

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.)

Eure S. [Signature] 8/20/98
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] Edson H. Beall 10-8-98
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Harper Family House
Name of Property

York, Maine
County and State

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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | 0 | 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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence/Animal Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other 20th Century Attached Garage and Barn

Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

HARPER FAMILY HOUSE

YORK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Harper Family House is a one-and-a-half story, five-bay brick (common bond) dwelling that has a brick wing distinguished by the fact that the plane of its facade wall is flush with the facade of the main block. Both of these portions of the house stand on granite block foundations. The wing extends to a mid twentieth century garage behind which is a barn constructed in 1948 after an earlier barn was destroyed by fire. Additional features of the property include stone walls located to the east and south of the house, and the foundation of a blacksmith shop to the northeast. The buildings stand on a five acre parcel of property that is the remnant of a much larger nineteenth century farm.

Facing northeast (for the ease of description the front elevation will be referenced as facing east), the symmetrically composed facade of the main block is comprised of a central entrance flanked by nine-over-six double hung sash windows. The doorway features a six-panel door framed by full length sidelights. A second door and two additional windows are located in the east wall of the wing. The stacks of two interior end chimneys punctuate the roof about one-third of the way from the ridge.

There are three nine-over-six windows on the first story of the south gable end, and a pair of six-over-sixes in the gable peak. The rear elevation contains three nine-over-six windows, a shallow gable roofed bulkhead at the northwest corner, and a gable roofed dormer above the northwestern most window. Two windows and an exterior brick flue stack are located on the recessed west wall of the wing. The north elevation of the wing contains a fixed sash window on the first story and a small double hung window in the gable peak. There is a single six-over-six in the gable peak of the main block.

Attached to the northwest corner of the wing is the frame, gable roofed garage. It has a pair of small windows in its gable peak, a trio of windows on the north wall, and a shed roofed porch on the south side that shelters a door and two small windows. The west wall of the garage is joined to the barn whose principal elevation faces south and contains two doors and a pair of windows. A second large door is centered on the north side where it is flanked by two additional windows. There is also a small window at the east-northeast corner.

The plan of the house is organized around a central staircase which, as presently configured, runs through a pair of inter-story landings and has a tapered newels and newel posts. The orientation of the staircase was changed in the early to mid 1950s and replaced the original enclosed stairway that was entered from the dining room located to the right of the hall. This room has Federal style trim in the mantelpiece and mitered door and window surrounds. A door at the northeast corner of the room leads to the second vestibule, and two doors on the west wall lead to a pair of smaller rooms at the rear. The parlor

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HARPER FAMILY HOUSE

YORK, MAINE

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is distinguished by its wide reeded chairrail and an unusual mantelpiece. This latter feature might best be described as a "double" mantelpiece in that the normal composition of frieze, corner pilasters (in this case they are paneled) and mantel shelf is repeated as an overmantel with slightly larger proportions. This entire composition is repeated on the sides of the projecting chimney, whereas the balance of the chimney breast is finished in plaster over lath with paneled pilasters at the corners. French doors presently open into a third back room, but tradition holds that during the occupancy of Dr. Samuel Harper, Jr., the two rooms had been combined into one large one in which he maintained his office. Evidence on the floor and ceiling, however, indicate that before this change was made there were two distinct rooms. The kitchen wing contains a single room in which is located a broad hearth surrounded by a modest mantelpiece. There are two bedrooms on the second story with a closet/hall between them.

In addition to the alterations noted above, changes made to the house during the 1950s include the replacement of two-over-two double hung sash windows with the present nine-over-sixes, removal of the two-leaf front door and insertion of the present single leaf door, and the installation of a large shed roof dormer on the rear of the roof. The dormer was removed by the present owner and replaced with the much smaller gabled dormer that presently exists. The two-over-two windows and the two-leaf door were in existence at the time a photograph was made of the house at the turn of the century, but no earlier photograph has been discovered to document the earlier appearance.

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1809

Significant Dates

c. 1809

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetHARPER FAMILY HOUSEYORK, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Believed to have been constructed in 1809, the Harper Family House is a one-and-a-half story brick cape that features a brick wing whose front wall is flush with the facade of the main block. The house is said to have been built for Revolutionary War veteran Samuel Harper, and it remained in the continuous possession of the family for 144 years. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its local architectural significance.

According to local historians, Samuel Harper (1748-1834) settled on the property containing this brick house in 1787 having relocated here from Brentwood, New Hampshire with his wife Sarah Godfrey (1748-1840) and their seven children. Tradition holds that the first dwelling on the lot was a log cabin which was subsequently replaced by a frame dwelling. Although the date of construction of the existing house is not positively known, it is thought to have been erected about 1809. The house was the centerpiece of a large farm that contained some 300 acres in the nineteenth century, of which just over five acres are presently associated with the property. The farm appears to have descended to Samuel and Sarah (Godfrey) Harper's next to last child and only son Ezekial G. Harper (1783-1863). On December 9, 1804, Ezekial Harper married Betsey Ames of Parsonsfield, and it seems reasonable to speculate that the construction of the brick house was prompted by this event. The 1872 *Atlas Map of York County* indicates that S. Harper was residing on the property. He is probably the Samuel S. Harper that is listed as a farmer in the 1912 *Souvenir of Limerick, Maine*.

The local architectural significance of the house derives from its position as one of the oldest -- if not the oldest -- brick capes in Limerick, as well as from the unusual configuration of its brick wing. Judging from an abbreviated survey of historic houses in the town that appears in the 1975 history titled *Limerick: Historical Notes*, brick buildings of any type were rarely constructed in Limerick. Among the other extant examples is a two-story transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style residence in Limerick village erected in 1859 by Jeremiah M. Mason, and the Italianate style town hall that was built there in 1860. Although the precise reason for organizing the house in the fashion exhibited here is not known, it does represent a departure from the more common configuration in which a wing's facade was recessed from the front block or an ell was attached to the rear. The overall effect of this composition is not the balanced five-bay facade that was common in Federal period architecture, but rather one that is more Medieval in character with two doors and windows of unequal size.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

HARPER FAMILY HOUSE

YORK, MAINE

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Bibliography

Taylor, Linda Maule. *Limerick Historical Notes*. Limerick, Maine: Town of Limerick. 1975.

Taylor, Robert L. *Early Families of Limerick, Maine*. Privately Published. 1984.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

HARPER FAMILY HOUSE

YORK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of approximately 5.3 acres occupies the Town of Limerick tax map 49, lot 10.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the remaining rural lot that is historically associated with the Harper Family House.