

PH 0663239

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 15 1978

DATE ENTERED MAY 3 1978

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 Burgess House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *to ME 1*

CITY, TOWN Sebec Village

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sebec VICINITY OF 2nd

STATE Maine

CODE 23

COUNTY Piscataquis CODE 021

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 Mr. & Mrs. John Cotton

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sebec, VICINITY OF

STATE
Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dover-Foxcroft,

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 Burgess House of Sebec is a remarkably early building for its remote area and contains a unique series of wall stencils and murals of the early 19th-century. The house from west to east consists of the original dwelling of c. 1816, an ell of c. 1830, a second ell of c. 1850, and a small garage of recent construction. These components are all of frame construction with clapboard siding and gable roofs. All face north.

The earliest structure is of Cape form (1½ stories) with a central brick chimney. Its one-story facade is five bays wide with 9/6 windows flanking a central doorway. This doorway is equipped with five-paned side-lights and a recent louvered vent above the lintel. The west end of the house is of 1½ stories with two 9/6 windows in each story. Here as everywhere the windows are flanked by external louvered shutters.

The first ell is narrower than the main part of the house and is three bays long with a central doorway. It has 1½ stories, a central chimney, and 9/6 windows.

The second ell is of one story with three closely-spaced 9/6 windows on the facade.

The one-story garage at the eastern end of the complex contains a single 6/6 window in its facade and a single garage type door at the eastern end.

Although of widely ranging dates, all of these elements blend with each other very successfully.

The interior of the main part of the Burgess House contains well preserved and impressive wall stencils by Moses Eaton, Jr. and murals attributed to Rufus Porter; all date from c. 1824. In one room stencilling forms a border for a painted tree, suggesting that the men worked simultaneously in decorating the interior of the house.

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

c. 1816

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burgess House, so-called because of its occupancy during the latter half of the 19th century by the Thomas A. Burgess family, was probably built by Ichabod Young about 1816. In that year Young constructed a fulling mill across the Sebec River from the house, the first such mill in Piscataquis County.

This site, at the outlet of Sebec Lake into the Sebec River was the scene of the earliest settlement in the town beginning in 1802. A natural fall of 18 feet made it an ideal location for waterpower industry and by 1830 seven mills were operating in this location. At that time Sebec was the leading business center in the county and continued to be for another twenty years.

Sebec today is a tiny quiet village and all that remains of its once thriving industry are a few foundation ruins on the river bank. The Burgess House, though unpretentious externally, reflects through its interior the prosperity which once existed in the community. The rooms, small in scale, are nonetheless finished with great care and attention to detail and include fine wood panelling on the ground floor.

The most important feature, however, which is found throughout the original house is the extremely well preserved fresco and stencil work. Virtually every wall is ornamented with freehand or stencilled decoration which with the exception of a few slightly faded areas retains its original vibrancy of color or nearly so. Probably executed a few years after construction of the house, this work has been authoritatively attributed to Rufus Porter and his associate, Moses Eaton, Jr. in the early 1820's.

As one of the earliest houses remaining in this remote section of Maine and because of its remarkable interior, the Burgess House is eminently worthy of recognition and preservation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Loring, Rev. Amasa, History of Piscataquis County. Portland, 1880
Historical Collections of Piscataquis County. Dover, 1910
 Lipman, Jean, Rufus Porter, Yankee Pioneer. New York, 1968

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	4,9,0	9,9,0	5,0,1,2	7,0,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C						D					

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 Frank A. Beard, Historian
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian
 ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE January, 1978
 STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street TELEPHONE (207)-289-2133
 CITY OR TOWN Augusta, Maine 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 Carle S. [Signature]
 TITLE S.H.P.O. DATE 2/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>5/3/78</u>
ATTEST <u>[Signature]</u>	DATE <u>5-3-78</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	