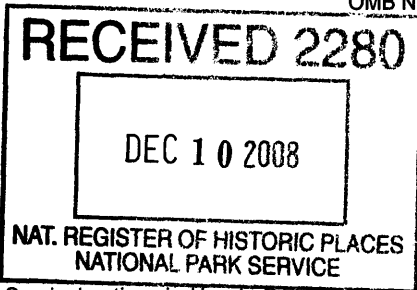


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1357



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, enter "N/A" for "not 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 Kromberg Barn

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number East side of East Pond Road, across from number 462 N/A not for publication

city or town Smithfield N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Somerset code 025 zip code 04978

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.)

[Signature] 11/25/08
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] 1.22.09
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

KROMBERG BARN
Name of Property

SOMERSET COUNTY, 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	
_____	_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____	_____ sites
_____	_____	_____ structures
_____	_____	_____ objects
_____	_____	_____ 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

None _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / Animal facility _____

AGRICULTURE / Agricultural outbuilding _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / Agricultural outbuilding _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN _____

OTHER / Gambrel roof barn _____

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ STONE _____

walls _____ WOOD / Shingle _____

roof _____ METAL / Steel _____

other _____ WOOD (trim and doors) _____

Narrative Description

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

KROMBERG BARN
Name of Property

SOMERSET COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

C. 1820-1830

C. 1923/4

Significant Dates

C. 1820-30

C. 1923/4

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

KROMBERG BARN
Name of Property

SOMERSET COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1/4 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 21 July 2008
street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132
city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333 -0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

KROMBERG BARN

SOMERSET COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The Kromberg Barn is a timber frame structure with a stick frame gambrel roof located on the east side of East Pond Road, in the Somerset County town of Smithfield, Maine. East Pond Road runs along the east side of East Pond, and is a rural paved track with widely spaced farms and homesteads lining the road and clusters of camps and cabins on dirt tracks leading from the road to the Pond. The Kromberg Barn is currently situated on a forty-five acre parcel of overgrown pasture but was originally part of an early nineteenth century farm, which spanned both sides of the road and stretched west to the shore of East Pond. The house, which is directly across the street, retains some of its nineteenth century stylistic characteristics (it is a vernacular Federal-era cape), in terms of basic massing, scale and fenestration, but due to numerous twentieth century alterations to its plan, materials, workmanship, and setting it is not eligible for listing in the National Register and is not included in this nomination, nor is the surrounding landscape outside of a twenty-five foot perimeter around the barn.

Based on tax assessment records, the Kromberg Barn achieved its current gambrel roof form c. 1923/24, however the frame of the structure appears to date from the second or third decade of the nineteenth century. On the exterior the structure appears to be a classic example of an early twentieth century gambrel roof barn, but the interior reveals that its structural members are much older.

The Kromberg Barn faces west towards East Pond Road and sits approximately twenty feet west of the traveled way. It measures approximately thirty and one-half feet wide and fifty and one-half feet long; its high ridge runs east to west. The two-and-a-half story barn measures fourteen feet eight inches to the soffit, and sits on stacks of low fieldstones. All four exterior walls are clad with wood shingle siding. The south elevation of the roof, and the upper hip of the north elevation are covered with standing seam steel roofing, installed circa 1976-77, while the lower section of the north roof retains earlier wood shingle shakes. A wooden cupola on a shingled base with two sets of louvered panels on each side and a hipped, metal roof capped with a weathervane on a short wooden spire is situated astride the center of the ridge. A dirt driveway and grassy lawn fronts the building on the east, but the remaining three sides are enclosed by a mixture of low, woody shrubs and deciduous and coniferous trees.

The east, or front elevation of the Kromberg Barn is four bays wide on the ground level. At the center of the elevation is the structure's entrance, a wide and tall bay capable of admitting a laden wagon. This entrance is comprised of two vertically oriented batten doors, each inset with a fixed sash window, which slide on an external track oriented north and south. The track is covered by an inclined pent roof clad with wood shingles. To either side of the central bay are a fixed eight light wooden window sash. A secondary, pedestrian door is located between the southern sash and the corner of the building. This door also opens on an external slide, however here the track is enclosed in a box hood rather than covered by a pent roof. All the exterior doors on the barn are made of vertical boarding stiffened with battens; the battens are held on with clinched *wire* nails. On the second floor two double-hung sash windows (originally configured with six-over-six sash, but now sadly missing much of

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KROMBERG BARN

SOMERSET COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

their glass and several muntins and mulleins) are positioned over the pent roof; above these, under the peak of the roof is a third window opening (sash covered by plywood) in the top level. Both end walls of the structure have narrow corner posts, prominent cornice returns, and exaggerated raking frieze boards and cornice moulding. The trim on the barn is painted white in contrast to the weathered gray of the shingle cladding.

The north elevation of the barn is unbroken by windows or doors; however a temporary plywood covering has been applied to the side of the barn in the vicinity of the fifth interior bent (counted from the west). The south elevation contains five sets of windows, one in each bay. While all of the windows feature elongated wooden sash containing five-over-five panes, all but the third and fourth sets (as counted from the north) are fixed. The sash in the third and fourth bays are backed with chicken wire, and are installed so as to slide east to west on external runners. Many of these sash are in poor condition and have broken panes or muntins. The east elevation of the barn has a low, wide earthen ramp leading to the center of the elevation. A pedestrian door, made of vertical battens, is centered above the ramp, and another is located in the far southern corner of the wall. Next to this door is a small poultry door. Centered under the peak of the roof is a rectangular window opening, now covered with plywood.

The interior of the Kromberg Barn is divided between a wide center aisle and two side aisles. The southern aisle is narrower than either the center or north aisle. Four interior bents (in addition to the two exterior bents) help to define rooms or functional spaces on either side of the center aisle. The north aisle is divided into a work room in the northwestern three bays (originally a two-bay area for horse stalls), and a two-bay hay mow without any interior flooring in the northeast. On the south aisle the first floor spaces are divided into a two bay tie-up (with five stanchions and elevated wooden floor in the feeding station, behind which is a concrete floor and manure trough), and three rooms designed to house poultry. The middle room contains built-in layer boxes, and the eastern two rooms, which have no boxes and are connected by an interior door, do have a poultry door on the eastern end wall. Above the north and south aisles are hay lofts. The center aisle, the northwestern rooms and the southern rooms all have wooden floors, and the doors and walls are constructed of horizontal boarding some of which is covered with cedar shakes. As originally constructed a large door was positioned on the east wall of the barn and led to the rear earthen ramp.

The barn frame is constructed primarily of hewn heavy timbers. New England barns with gable end doors and central aisles usually feature a bent-frame construction (characterized by timber bents containing interior and exterior posts connected by a transverse girt, which are raised in sequence and then connected via individual side wall plates), as opposed to the side-wall construction technique that characterized earlier English style barns. It is not unusual, however, to discover transitional buildings that feature the gable-end plan of the New England barn but retain the continuous plate and gunstock posts that were hallmarks of the earlier form. Such is the Kromberg Barn. Each of the two-story high, six side wall posts on both the north and south interior walls feature tapered gunstock posts and continuous plates, both of which are topped by the transverse girts and held together with complex

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KROMBERG BARN

SOMERSET COUNTY, MAINE

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joinery. Both the side wall and the center aisle posts are braced up and down to the girts and plates, as well to the intermediary plate at hayloft level. The combination of the side-wall construction and the gable-entrance plan suggest that this is an early New England style barn and that its builders had not yet made the transition to the easier, and more standardized bent frame construction. A date of 1820-1830 is estimated based both on documentary evidence and the framing details.

Approximately 100 years later, circa 1923/4, the Kromberg Barn underwent a substantial renovation. While the most obvious alterations are visible on the exterior (replacement of the gable roof with a gambrel roof) there were significant interior alterations as well. The location of the center aisle was altered: all eight of the aisle posts (four per side) were repositioned approximately four feet to the north. The original interior posts on the east gable wall remain in place, as does one post on the west gable wall - the other was removed to allow for the main door to shift towards the north. Each of the interior aisle posts were re-used, but their original locations can easily be traced by the empty mortises and drilled out pegs which show where they had been attached to each of the four transverse girts. Three new sawn posts were installed on the gable walls to align with the relocated position of the mows, however, oddly, only a stub post was used on the north aisle at the east gable wall. At the same time the height of the lofts were raised approximately eighteen inches: the original first floor plates remain in the side walls and additional timbers were inserted above them, and joists laid across these new members. As a result of these alterations the southern rooms (tie-up and poultry rooms) gained in both height and width, while the stalls and mow on the north side became correspondingly narrower. (The width of the aisle did not change more than a few inches.)

In order to install the gambrel roof, the original tapered and hewn principal rafters and minor purlins were removed. In their place common rafters of two-by-eight inch sawn stock were positioned on the plates at a space of approximately two feet on center. The lower and upper sets of rafters intersect at a sawn, six-by-six inch principal or curb, purlin, which in turn is supported by two angled six by six inch braces rising from the girts. (The interior struts are inclined at a lower angle than the exterior struts, and they also have laterally braces that rise back to the purlin.) Above the plate on the gable end the walls feature two-by-four studs below and above a pair of two-by-eight inch sawn lumber, laid on the flat, which stiffens the end walls at the height of the curb. At the ridge the rafters are butt-jointed together and secured with a wooden gusset.

Additional support for the roof and the cupola is provided at the middle two bents. Here, old rafters have been repositioned as to extend the posts on either side of the center aisle. Each pair of extensions in turn support a lateral beam, positioned midway between the curb and the ridge. This beam, which is also a re-used rafter, spans the four common rafters upon which the cupola rests, and a set on either side of the cupola.

The Kromberg Barn is generally in good shape, and retains a high degree of integrity from the 1923/4 remodeling. Some window sash are damaged or missing, but other examples remain intact. Of greater concern, however, is that the fifth gunstock post on the north elevation has recently suffered a structural failure which has weakened the plate, dislocated the post and caused a brace to swing freely.

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KROMBERG BARN

SOMERSET COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Kromberg Barn in the Somerset County town of Smithfield is a transitional agricultural structure that embodies two distinct periods of barn construction. The timber frame was originally erected circa 1820-1830 as part of the Benjamin Stevens farm, and features hand hewn, two-story gunstock posts, tapered rafters, and sidewall construction. Although oriented with gable end doors and a central aisle under the ridge, features which are hallmarks of a New England style barn, the framing systems displays the joinery and construction sequence of the older, English-style side wall system, marking this frame as an example of the transition between the two barn forms that were prevalent on Maine's farms in the first half of the nineteenth century. In the early twentieth century, circa 1923/24, the barn was remodeled and the gable roof was replaced with a much larger gambrel roof. Gambrel roof barns became popular in the waning years of the nineteenth century as farmers in many areas of Maine increasingly specialized in dairy cattle and the larger size of the herd required additional space to store large amounts of hay. At the same time Charles Kromberg, who obtained the farm in 1911, repositioned the central aisle, and new stanchions and poultry rooms were installed in the wider and taller south aisle. The Kromberg Barn is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance, under Criterion C as a structure that represents not one, but two types, periods and styles of construction. It is a good example of a multi-function, gambrel roof barn, that was popular during the early twentieth century, and it is an example of the transition between English and New England barn construction in the early nineteenth century. The area of significance is architecture, and the periods of significance, circa 1820-30 and circa 1923/24, represent the two building episodes that give the structure its current form.

The Kromberg Barn is located on property that was first established as farm in the early decades of the nineteenth century.¹ The first person to settle the property was most likely Benjamin Stevens. Stevens was enumerated in the 1810 census in Mercer, which included Smithfield, and in 1820 in the section labeled "adjoining the towns of Fairfield and Norridgewock," and in 1830 as part of "East Pond Plantation". Stevens' property on lot 64 was depicted on the 1823 survey of the town made by Soloman Adams Esq. In 1853 Benjamin Stevens deeded "the north half by metes and bounds of lot number sixty four....my homestead farm on which I now live," a total of ninety three acres, to Oliver H. Stevens for \$500.² Sixteen years later O. H. Stevens deeded the same property to Freeman M. Tilton, for \$1000. Freeman Tilton lived in the center chimney cape on the west side of the road, across from the barn. Although The History of Smithfield identified him as one of the most prosperous farmers during the 1880's, the inventory of his property filed at the Somerset County Register of Probate office reveals a modest estate: his livestock was limited to 1 horse, four cows, two cattle, 30 hens, two hives of bees and two young pigs. He owned a farm wagon, a riding wagon, a wagon sled and a pung, a

¹The family name is variously spelled Kronberg and Kran/mberg in the census and town tax assessment records. The spelling used in this document, Kromberg, has been chosen based on Charles Kromberg's signature on his World War I draft registration card.

²Kennebec County Registry of Deeds, Book 77, p. 379.

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KROMBERG BARN

SOMERSET COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

mowing machine and a harrow, along with various hand tools, hay knives, an ice saw and household furniture. The home farm, which included his barn and the cape was valued at \$1000, but when it was sold by his heirs to settle his debts in 1905 it garnered only \$300.

In 1911 Charles E. and Anna Kromberg purchased the former F. M. Tilton farm from their neighbor, Eliza E. Roakes (Rokes). Much of the personal information about Charles and Anna Kromberg is gleaned from the 1910 and 1930 Federal Decennial Population census - the only two enumerations in which the couple could be firmly identified. Charles Ernest Kromberg was born in Germany in 1876, and emigrated to the United States in 1895; Anna was also born in Germany in 1874, and emigrated in 1885. Charles Kromberg's World War I draft registration card indicated that he had become a United States citizen prior to 1918. The pair married in 1902, although it is unknown where, and they had no children. Sometime after they married they moved to Smithfield, where they were enumerated in the 1910 census. In that year they were renting a property just north of Horn Hill Road, and Charles was identified as a farmer and 'farm over seer'.³

The deed from Roakes specified that the purchase included all the buildings, together with "about four thousand feet of sawed lumber on the premises and a portable chicken coop". Roakes had purchased the property from Charles F. Perry in 1905; Perry had purchased the property the same year from the heirs of Tilton, who died in 1903. Except for a small, triangular shaped piece of property that fronted on Horn Hill Road which Perry reserved from his sale to Roakes, the land that the Krombergs obtained appears to closely correspond with the boundaries of Tilton's home farm, minus two wood lots elsewhere on East Pond Road.

Smithfield is located in southern Somerset County. The town features two large ponds, each about three miles long and two miles wide. North Pond is on the western edge of town (on the border of Mercer and Rome), and East Pond is in the southeastern part of town; part of this pond is in the town of Oakland. The Serpentine River (Harlow Stream) connects the two ponds, and the small village of Smithfield is clustered at the confluence of the River and North Pond. In the early decades of the nineteenth century the Serpentine was a much wider body of water, surrounded by bogs. As a result, after the town broke from Mercer and incorporated in 1840, residents on the east side of East Pond protested that they were too isolated. They petitioned to the state to allow the area, referred to as East Pond Plantation, to secede from Smithfield, but their request was denied.

The following passage from The History of Smithfield, written in 1990, summarizes the agricultural environment of Smithfield during the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

During its first hundred years Smithfield was primarily an insular farming community with its first

³The town valuation records and the U.S. Census variously spell the name 'Kronberg,' 'Kranberg,' 'Kramberg,' and 'Kromberg.' The latter option has been adopted here based on the signature on Kromberg's draft registration card.

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KROMBERG BARN

SOMERSET COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

major settlement on Mount Tom and later spread to the valleys as the streams grew smaller and the bogs dried up.....roughly 150 years ago the Serpentine was at least three times wider than it is today and the flat area over which route 8 passes from Smithfield to Norridgewock was all bog land, we can understand both why the farms were first begun on higher ground and why sawmills dotted the Serpentine. Later in the nineteenth century as the bogs dried up, the flats became a prime farming area....

Farming was the primary means of livelihood for most of the settlers and remained the predominant occupation in town until well into the twentieth century. This fact is borne out in the census reports. Family after family identified themselves as farmers, not originally commercial farmers (this came later), but farmers who raised crops and animals largely to feed their own families and friends. Sheep were raised throughout this area; in fact, at one time Franklin and Somerset Counties had more sheep than any other Maine county with the exception of Piscataquis. Beef cattle were plentiful and oxen were the primary means of providing power to do the work of the farm. Corn was the principal grain...and to a lesser degree oats and barley. Other crops were turnips, beets, wheat and rye. For a century or more potatoes were the primary cash crop. Apple orchards were in abundance...Around 1880 agriculture in Somerset County, Smithfield included, reached its peak. Since that period, farming has steadily declined, primarily due to competition from the western states and to the general decline in population. Beef cattle and sheep began to disappear, as did oxen which had been the primary source of power for the preceding 100 years. Horses replaced cattle...indeed, the drop in farming was so dramatic - especially after 1900 - that one historian of the period maintains that "the farmer who owned a few cows and delivered his own product was rapidly becoming a memory only." However, dairy farming grew rapidly in the early twentieth century until eventually it became a major farming enterprise. (Ferm and Campbell, page 22).⁴

A year by year examination of the Smithfield tax valuation records at the town office reveals that the Krombergs farmed on a modest scale. Between 1912 and 1934 the Krombergs generally owned one horse and one cow (although in a couple of years they had two or three cows), between one and three beef cattle, and usually a pig or two. By no means could they be characterized as commercial-level livestock or dairy farmers, nor did they acquire additional fields, pasture or wood lot. However, in 1925 the family added fifty chickens to their farm. Although in several years the number of their chickens was low (zero to eighteen), in other years the flock was much larger, for example numbering 134 in

4

According to Ferm and Campbell, dairy farming remained strong up through the second world war, with approximately 27 farms operating on a commercial level. However, during the 1950s and 1960s that number declined rapidly, in part due to changing technological requirements for milk storage and handling. As of 1990 only three commercial dairy operations remained within the town's limits.

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Continuation SheetKROMBERG BARNSOMERSET COUNTY, MAINESection number 8 Page 5

1926 and 154 in 1931.

The annual tax valuation records also offer two other interesting facts. Starting in 1923 Kromberg was listed as owning 'five small boats'. The second revelation is that the valuation of the buildings on the property increased in 1924 from \$450.00 to \$600.00. Between 1911, when they purchased the property, and 1916 when there was a town-wide re-evaluation, the value of the land and buildings had each been placed at \$300; this figure then increased to \$450 for both the land and buildings. The change in value in 1924 does not appear to be a town wide re-evaluation, but rather reflects an alteration or expansion of their buildings. This assessment did not increase again until after the Krombergs sold the property in 1945.

Although a handful of gambrel roof barns have dotted the Maine landscape since the early nineteenth century, it was not until the last decades of the century that a change over to this form of agricultural outbuilding occurred on a large scale. As summarized by historian Thomas Visser:

*By the late nineteenth century some new England farmers were building their bank barns [barns with high cellars] with gambrel roofs. Also known as a curb roof, the double slopes of the gambrel offer more volume in the hayloft, without increasing the height of the side walls. As *The Cultivator and County Gentleman* observed in 1871: *Many farmers prefer the curb roof to their barns, as being more compact in shape, or possessing more capacity for the exterior covering employed. The greater height above the plates forms no objection where the pitching is done by the horse-fork...In order that the horse-fork may be used freely, the cross-timbers above the cross-beams are entirely omitted, except at the ends or outside.* (Page 82-83).*

In general, gambrel roof barns were erected by those agriculturalists in Maine who made the shift from diversified family farming to large scale dairy farming, which as described above occurred in Smithfield in the early twentieth century. The increased number of cows on the dairy farms required larger barns with expansive hay storage capacity, which the gambrel form provided. After 1910 when new health regulations were imposed on dairy farms, agricultural college experiment stations promoted new barn forms with concrete floors, ventilators, and attached milk houses - and most of the new designs featured gambrel roofs to accommodate increased hay and grain storage needs.⁵ The efficiency of gambrel roof barns was touted in the agricultural press and designs for examples large and small were offered in builders' guides such as William A. Radford's Radford's Practical Barn Plans. Nationwide, building and contracting companies, including the Gordan-Van Tine Co., of Davenport Iowa, perfected

⁵Thomas Visser's analysis of barns in New England asserts that "the gambrel roof design was universally accepted for ground-level stable barns as it enclosed a much greater volume than a gable roof did, and its shape could be formed with trusses that did not require cross beams, which would interfere with the movement and storage of hay." (Page 100.) Ground level stable barns were used for dairy farming - by definition they did not have a cellar or basement, but instead were built on a cement slab that doubled as a floor.

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a gambrel roof system comprised of sawn trusses without any interior posts in the loft areas. (Both gambrel roofs and 'Gothic' style, pointed curve roofs were designed using this sort of truss.) Sears & Roebuck Catalog sold barn kits, which were shipped by rail, included all the necessary materials, and could be customized for size. For example, the Barn No. 16 in the 1911 catalog featured a 30' by 54' barn designed to stable twelve milk cows and six horses. The \$480 cost included framing lumber, plank flooring, shingles, hardware, sash, and enough paint for two coats. But for many of the farmers in Maine who continued to work modest, family oriented, subsistence scale farming there was no need to adopt the new forms, as their existing gable front (New England) or gable side (English) barns were generally adequate to store the needed hay for a handful of cows, oxen and horses.

A windshield survey of barns in Smithfield conducted in November of 2007, revealed a range of styles, sizes and functions. Twenty three barns were identified, of these half (11) were nineteenth-century gable front, New England style barns, eight of which were connected to residential structures. Four were either modern, garages, or other types of sheds, and there was one example each of a poultry house and an English barn, the latter in ruins. Seven of the barns, including the Kromberg Barn had gambrel roofs. Three of these had substantial alterations to their fenestration, and the condition of one was derelict. Two massive examples of the type were on active farms, and had clearly been erected to accommodate large dairy herds. (Both of these were connected to the farmhouses.) Only one example, located south of the Kromberg Barn on East Pond Road (on the grounds of Camp Somerset) appeared comparable in terms of design and integrity to the Kromberg Barn. While clearly this form of barn had been adopted by Smithfield farmers in the early decades of the twentieth century, relatively few examples remain in good condition.

Close examination of the Kromberg Barn reveals that the structure is a hybrid of two forms: within the gambrel roof form the barn has a nineteenth century timber frame. The roof does not exhibit the truss construction that was generally used in new gambrel roofs, instead, the supporting system was based on a style of common rafter, major purlin roof framing that had been used regionally through the nineteenth century to support large gable roofs.⁶ In order to accommodate the new, larger roof, and a new configuration of aisles, stalls and rooms the interior posts were repositioned, hay loft floors were raised and the former hewn rafters reused as post extensions and purlins to support the new roof structure. The criteria for evaluating significance also allows that "a property can be significant not only for the way it was originally constructed or crafted, but also for the way it was adapted at a late period, or for the way it illustrates changing tastes, attitudes, and uses over a period of time." The significance of this barn lies in how the earlier structure was adapted and re-used to create the new form, and for the manner in which the timber frame was integrated with stick-built construction. It was not unusual for old barns to be recycled into new structures: throughout the state's agricultural history barns were taken down and the timbers re-used, or older buildings were moved or modified as needed to sustain a farm's

⁶In its original form, the Kromberg Barn has a major rafter, minor purlin roof, as evidenced by the purlin pockets located on the re-positioned rafters.

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productivity.

While no records, letters, or photographs have survived of the original Stevens-era barn, it is not unlikely that the barn the Kromberg's purchased in 1911 was in need of maintenance - possibly even a new roof. Based on the extensive structural alterations that were necessary to reorient the existing structure, and on the yearly tax assessments, it appears that these changes were undertaken in 1923/24, and reflected in the \$150 increase in building value. The new barn contained three rooms dedicated to poultry, and one room with five cow tie-ups, a cement floor, and manure trough on the south side of the aisle. The three bays in the northwest corner of the building, now used as a workshop, contained horse stalls. The northeastern two bays are open mows with dirt floors. Additional hay and straw were stored in the mows over the first floor rooms, and scaffold poles were laid across the girts to allow for additional hay, or bundles of oats, straw or other grasses to be stored over the aisle. The rope and pulley that are affixed below the cupola were used to load hay into the mows. It is interesting however, that while the new barn was capable of storing substantially more hay and straw than the original structure had previously, the Krombergs neither increased the number of ruminants or horses they kept, or purchased additional hay fields or pastures. Indeed, other than the addition of the poultry, it does not appear that their farming activities changed in correlation with the renovations. Why then did they make such an investment in their barn?

One theory is that the Krombergs enlarged their barn and provided for additional hay storage capacity not for their own use, but to supplement the supplies needed by two commercial camping operations in the immediate neighborhood. By the turn of the twentieth century both North Pond and East Pond had become destinations for seasonal visitors - some to fish, others to boat - and establishments such as the North Pond Hotel "attracted guests from near and far, for a few days or even larger periods, to relax and to fish..." (Ferm and Campbell, p. 30.) Sailboat racing was popular on North Pond, and several establishments offered boat tours, overnight accommodations, fishing guides, beaches and dining. After a devastating fire leveled much of the village of Smithfield in 1913, including the hotels, a new establishment - Sunset Cabins - was erected. This resort eventually had "19 cottages and a lunch room, a dance hall and about 200 bath houses," along with a "huge water toboggan." (Ferm and Campbell, p. 38.) East Pond had a quieter reputation, and along its shores were several private children's summer camps, including Camp Mantoaka, Camp Manitou, Camp Somerset, Lakeridge and Eastwood. Camp Somerset, founded c. 1898 was located about a mile and a half south of the Kromberg's farm, while Lakeridge was built on the edge of the pond immediately south of, and adjacent, to the Kromberg's property line. Both camps were owned by Joseph Bernstein of New York City and he purchased both properties in the 1920s: he purchased Camp Somerset in 1920, three years before the Krombergs first purchased 'five small boats' and began the alterations to their barn.⁷

⁷While the number of boats the Krombergs owned varied slightly over the years (in 1930 it was four small boats and a canoe), boats were attributed to the family almost every year through the 1930s, suggesting that they might have made them available to their overnight guests.

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According to a long time resident of East Pond Road, Lakeridge Manor started as a fishing camp, later evolving into a children's summer camp. Indeed, both the Krombergs and their neighbors to the north, the Henningers, were said to provide overnight accommodations when Lake Ridge was over booked. At some point either the Krombergs, or more likely the Dublois family to whom they sold in 1945, added a new dining room and kitchen, and several more bedrooms, all of which opened onto a long back porch, onto their home. An undated photograph shows the house in winter with a sign on the roof advertising the establishment as "Sportsmen Lodge".⁸ In much the same manner that the large resort hotels at Mt. Kineo and Poland Spring created a large demand for produce, and the logging operations in the north woods relied on company farms in Pittston and elsewhere to provide food and fodder for men and teams it employed, the summer children's camps and tourist hotels and cabins had a ripple effect on the local economy. It is possible, therefore, that the Krombergs enlarged their barn as a response to the increased demand for hay required by these establishments, or that they anticipated growing their dairy herd over time.

⁸Interview with Viola Sadulsky and Sandra Marston, 21 May 2008. Sadulsky moved to the former Henninger House on the corner of Horn Hill Road and East Pond Road in 1949. Photograph in possession of Viola Sadusky.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Kromberg Barn is located approximately fifteen feet east of East Pond Road, directly across the street from number 462 East Pond Road. The parcel of land upon which the barn rests is described by the town of Smithfield tax map 4, lot 12, and in its entirety contains 45 acres. However, the boundaries of the nominated property include only a 25 foot perimeter around the building's foundation.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The 45 acre field that once surrounded the Kromberg barn on the north, east and south has become overgrown over the last half century and the setting as such, no longer retains enough integrity to contribute to the eligibility of this property. As such, the boundary is limited to the structure and its immediately adjoining landscape. This boundary was drawn so as to encompass the access ramp on the east side of the barn and the driveway between the barn and the road.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

ME_SOMERSET_KROMBERG BARN_001.TIF

Photograph 1 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 May 2008

West elevation; facing northeast.

ME_SOMERSET_KROMBERG BARN_002.TIF

Photograph 2 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 May 2008

Cupola; facing northeast.

ME_SOMERSET_KROMBERG BARN_003.TIF

Photograph 3 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 May 2008

Interior framing: transverse girts and roof rafters. Facing southeast.

ME_SOMERSET_KROMBERG BARN_004.TIF

Photograph 4 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 May 2008

Interior framing: gunstock corner post and side walls. Facing northeast.

ME_SOMERSET_KROMBERG BARN_005.TIF

Photograph 5 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 May 2008

Interior framing: center aisle and east end wall. Note two posts on end wall in original locations, repositioned post along aisle and empty mortise in girt.