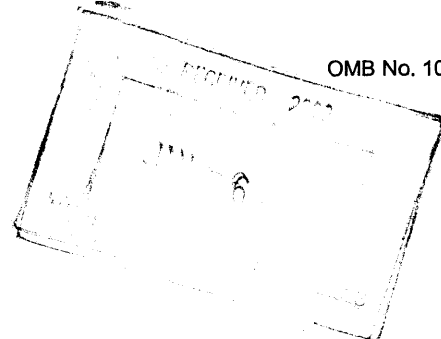


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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, 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 Parsons-Piper-Lord-Roy Farm

other names/site number Roy Farm

2. Location

street & number 309 Cramm Road N/A not for publication

city or town Parsonsfield N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04047

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.)

James J. Fitzjerald SHPO 12/30/04
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): _____

for
Edson H. Beall 2/15/05
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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	
3		buildings
		sites
	2	structures
		objects
3	2	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)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE / Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE / Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE / Agricultural Outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID - 19TH CENTURY / Greek Revival

MID - 19TH CENTURY / Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Weatherboard

roof METAL / Steel

other Brick

Concrete

Narrative Description

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

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PARSONS-PIPER-LORD-ROY FARM

YORK COUNTY, MAINE

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DESCRIPTION

Materials, continued

Walls: Shingle
 Asphalt
 Steel
 Concrete (Block)

Foundation: Fieldstone

The Parsons-Piper-Lord-Roy Farm in Parsonsfield consists of a house and two agricultural outbuildings constructed circa 1844 and set in a rural landscape at the southeastern corner of Parsonsfield, Maine. The farm, which contained 1000 acres when it was first homesteaded in 1778, now holds 37 acres divided between two parcels. On the south side of Cramm Road is an 11 acre parcel of overgrown pasture lined with stone walls and mature hardwood trees. Although part of the original farm, this section is not included in the present nomination as it has not been maintained as a pasture and has lost integrity. The second parcel of land is located on the north side of Cramm road and contains 26 acres of land, more than half of which is presently in tree growth. The nucleus of the farm occupies approximately 6 acres of open land to the north of Cramm Road, and east of Fendersen Road. Upon this site are the three contributing buildings, which flank a central grass and gravel drive that divides the property along a north-south axis.

The south facing house, with an ell extension to the north and east-facing connected barn, sits on the western side of the drive. Stylistically it is Greek Revival with a cross-gable wall dormer characteristic of the Gothic Revival period. On the east side is the equipment shed (facing west, but oriented north to south), and a large poultry barn fifty feet to the north. A hand-dug pond, that drains an upper pond in the northern portion of the property, is situated immediately to the west of the equipment shed. Between the equipment shed and poultry barn are several stone walls and granite fence pillars marking barnyard divisions. At the northern end of the open space is a timber-framed pole barn, erected in the 1970s, utilizing timbers from dismantled homes near by. Immediately north of the connected barn is a long concrete pad which marks the location of a metal-framed chicken barn that burned, also in the 1970s. Neither of these two features contribute to the present nomination.

House, ell and connected barn, c. 1844, with partial 1950s interior remodeling.

The residential building on the Parsons-Piper-Lord-Roy Farm is a tripartite structure containing a south facing, one-and-a-half story cape, with a one-and-a-half story ell to the north, which then terminates in a one-and-a-half story timber framed barn, now used primarily as a garage. Each segment of this building is clad in white painted clapboards (except the west wall of the barn, which is

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shingled), covered in a silver painted galvanized roof and sits on a fieldstone foundation with granite capstones under the house. The cape is five bays wide on the facade, and features a center door flanked on either side by two-over-two sash windows. Directly over the door is a gabled wall dormer, with a single two-over-two light window. The entry is detailed with five pane side-lights, and fluted pilasters situated under a narrow entablature with engaged capitals at the edges. The front door had six panels with clipped corners on each panel. Three granite steps lead to the front lawn. All of the windows are framed in moulded architraves, and the corners of the building are detailed with wide corner boards and cornice returns. These in turn intersect a narrower frieze board that trims the eaves and runs continuously around the dormer. On the roof peak, two brick chimneys are symmetrically placed on either side of the dormer.

The east and west elevations of the cape are simply arranged with two symmetrically placed bays of two-over-two windows. The east side of the ell is flush with the east side of the cape, and on both sides, an attached porch, supported by narrow, plain supports which rest on a slate patio stones, runs the length of the ell between the house and barn. Two small, gable roof dormers are evenly distributed across the ell roof on each side of the peak. The fenestration consists of three two-over-two windows, a door, and a picture window on the east elevation, and two similar windows and a door on the west side. A third window, located within the body of the barn, is located under the porch roof on the west side, and interestingly, the clapboard siding is continued to include this window, thereby visually extending the length of the ell on this side.

The connected barn at the end of the residential complex is oriented along an east-west axis. The eastern facade contains a pair of nine-over-six light windows on the southern side of the first floor, and a set of six-over-six sash windows under the gable roof. A brick chimney protrudes through the southern plane of the roof halfway between the front and rear of the structure. The original barn door was replaced with an overhead garage door. The barn essentially matches the house in terms of exterior finish and details (clapboards, corner boards, cornice returns). The barn windows are set in plain, flat trim, and feature a pointed arch muntin characteristic of Gothic Revival design. These likely are remnants of the original sash. While there are no windows on the north wall of the barn, five of these earlier examples are placed on the western gable end. A simple wooden door and another nine-over-six sash are located on the south side of the barn, at the end of the eastern porch.

The interior of the Parsons-Piper-Lord-Roy house and ell contains parlors on either side of the central hall and staircase, a diningroom, kitchen and bathroom on the first floor. In the center hall, a straight run staircase with large, turned newel post and turned banisters gives access to the three fairly plain bedrooms on the second floor. Each of the rooms is finished with wallpaper over plaster walls and either southern yellow pine or oak flooring on the first floor, or painted wide pine on the second floor. The most formal room is the southwest parlor, which contains a projecting chimney (with a replaced surround), and decorative panels under the window sash. In the ell, a semi-circular wall with arched doorways encloses a bathroom behind the southeast parlor. (This may have been another formal entry to the house before the bathroom was added). The dining room, kitchen and back staircase occupy the remainder of the ell. The kitchen was remodeled in the 1950s when the

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entire unit (cabinets, cupboards, appliances, counters and lighting) was purchased at a home show in Portland! At the north end of the kitchen is a staircase that leads to a pair of garret bedrooms over the ell (one behind the other) with two dormer windows providing light to each. The partition wall between the two rooms has been removed, however, its location is evident from marks on the painted floors and plaster walls.

On the interior, the connected barn is divided into two primary spaces. The southeast quarter of the barn was enclosed as a finished work room with a corner fireplace and stairs leading to the barn's second floor storage space. This work room functioned as a cobbler's shop during the last third of the 19th century, (and was left set up as such into the present century), and could be accessed either from the porch on the east side of the house, or through a door to the kitchen. Both the kitchen and the stair doors feature grain painting. Under the present owners, this room has been remodeled as a den. The remainder of the barn is unfinished, with the exception of a cement floor poured in the 1950s. The moderately low posted, timber framed structure has gunstock corner posts, studs placed between braced intermediary posts and a common rafter roof. Large transverse joists rest on the plates and carry a floor at the second level. Technically, this structure assumes the form of a New England style barn, however it probably functioned as a carriage house with overhead storage rather than as a processing or animal related outbuilding.

Equipment Shed, c. 1844

The structure here labeled as the equipment shed is a high-posted, one story elongated building comprised of two dissimilar timber frames unified within the exterior shell. The narrow structure is built against a steep bank, and contains a dirt floored cellar under the main floor. The foundation is of fieldstone topped with granite on the front, and the west facing building is clad with unpainted and very weathered clapboards on the east and south, and shingles on the north and east. The roof material is corrugated sheet metal. A square clapboarded cupola with window frames on each side sits at the midpoint of the gable roof. The front, or western, elevation is four bays wide and contains two internal sliding barn doors, a sash-less window between the doors, and a pedestrian door at the southern end. Each of these openings is set in plain architraves topped with 'Greek peak' trim. Four additional frames that once held narrow fixed windows are distributed across the facade, tight to the eaves. Short concrete ramps connect each of the barn doors to the yard. The south end of the building has two window bays (empty) on the first floor and a third under the attic gable. Although the trim has been removed, the shadow line in the clapboards indicate that these windows also featured the decorative, peaked trim work. An exterior sliding barn door provides access to the cellar. The rear of the equipment shed has three, wire-mesh covered frames on the cellar level, and two regular and two eave-level frames on the first floor. On the north elevation a single window opening is located in the attic, and two boarded up doors that previously led to outhouses in a small addition, now removed. On the interior, the first floor consists of one large, unfinished room, partially divided by a staircase enclosed in wood sheathing. In the cellar a range of wooden cow stanchions run north to south along the center of the building.

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As mentioned above, the equipment shed is composed of two separate timber frame units. The southern half of the building, containing three bents, is constructed with joists and girts let into the plates, angle-braced posts and intermediary nailers for vertical sheathing. The northern end of the building has a slightly shorter three-bent frame, which necessitated that the ceiling joists had to be placed on the eave level plates. The walls were constructed with a mix of braced posts and studs, (upon which is fixed horizontal sheathing,) and instead of full length joists the floor rests on longitudinal sleeper and intermediary joists. The northern half of the structure had large collar ties at plate level that have since been cut out. Both sections of the roof feature rafter-purlin construction, but the central rafters had to be inverted and re-mortised when the buildings were joined. Each section of the equipment shed is built primarily of hewn members. Based on design attributes, the southern section appears to pre-date the northern half. Neither the original function nor location of the two original buildings is known, however with they appear to have been joined and unified at approximately the same time as the house and barns were built.

Poultry Barn, c. 1844

The Poultry Barn at the Parsons-Piper-Lord-Roy Farm is a large, two-story, gable front bank barn with Greek Revival details built circa 1844. The front facade faces west and consists of a tall, two-leaf interior sliding door at the center (made with diagonal match-board). The barn door is topped with a thirty-two light, two tier transom window, which in turn is situated under a decorative 'Greek peak' entablature. Four window frames (one with a nine-over six sash intact) are symmetrically distributed in the attic under the gable. The face of the building is clad with clapboards and detailed with narrow cornice returns and corner boards. In the gable half-story the clapboards have been partially covered with brick patterned tar paper. The structure sits on a stone foundation and is covered with a sheet metal roof capped with a four-gable cupola.

The shingled south side of the barn is nine bays wide and contains a mixture of small square and larger rectangular window openings along with two blocked barn doors and a pedestrian door on the first floor. At cellar level is another pedestrian door and opening for an animal door that operates via an overhead pulley system. Adjacent to this door are two, odd, trapezoidal window openings. None of the windows on this elevation retains its sash. The west elevation mirrors that of the east, with the exception that the original cladding on this side is shingled (still partially covered with tar paper) and there is no pedestrian door. At cellar level are three fixed, six-light sash. Although this is a bank barn, there are no signs of a ramp leading up to the rear door. Affixed to the northwest corner of the barn is a small, concrete structure with a shed roof and external block chimney. The remainder of this shingled elevation has five regularly distributed window bays, a few of which retain fixed nine-light sash or one-by-one sliding glass windows. Each of the upper story windows contains a one-over-one sash.

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The barn was constructed as a transitional timber frame structure with braced posts and intermediary studs. As original built, the building had a center drive lined with animal stalls on one or both sides above which was hay storage in the longitudinal lofts. Currently the barn reflects its use as a poultry facility. The interior space was divided at the height of the hay lofts with the installation hardwood floor laid across the joists, and another level was added above the plates, thus creating three working floors in addition to the cellar. The effect of this change was to render useless the large gable doors at each end as the upper of the doors were now fixed at second floor height. A third floor was laid at plate level. In addition, a grain elevator was placed in the northwest corner near a new staircase. The small attached building housed a steam furnace, which heated the building via steam pipes on each floor. The walls of the upper floors are insulated and enclosed in plywood, as was the ceiling at collar tie height. Two large grain bins are positioned above the collar ties, and distributed grain through vertical chutes to feeding stations on each floor. Most of the window sash were removed when the building was renovated in order to stimulate ventilation, and wire mesh over the openings kept the poultry from fleeing the coop. In order to further strengthen the building, a six-bay truss system, utilizing steel rods suspended from the collar ties, was installed above the plates.

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)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

C. 1844-1954

Significant Dates

C. 1844

1948

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: _____

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Parsons-Piper-Lord-Roy Farm is a small farm property in southeastern Parsonsfield Maine with a continuous history of agricultural use. Built c. 1844 by members of the Enoch P. Parsons family, the house, ell and connected barn, equipment shed, and large barn have all worked in concert to support the farm's residents even as the demography and the products of the farm changed. The most important evolution of the farm occurred in 1948 when the Roy family purchased the property and converted the dairy barn into a large scale poultry barn. The Parsons-Piper-Lord-Roy Farm is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as a good example of a traditional 19th century agricultural complex altered to reflect the new opportunities presented by commercial chicken farming in the mid-twentieth century.

History of the farm

The property known as the Parsons-Piper-Lord-Roy Farm has a history stretching back to the founder of the town, Thomas Parsons. In 1774 the Shapleigh proprietors conveyed to Parsons "certain interests in the territory now Parsonsfield". (Ancient Landmarks, p. 188). The land had been surveyed by Joseph Cram three years earlier, and 80 lots platted for development. Parsons had four years to attract and settle forty families on the land. Among the first settlers was his son, Thomas Parsons Jr. who received 1000 acres, including Lot 58 in the fourth range, upon which he placed his homestead. The younger man had three children before being felled in a woods accident in 1788. The property descended to his children, Thomas III and Enoch, however by 1810 Thomas III had settled on the next lot to the north and left the homestead lot to Enoch, who had married in 1800. He and his wife Betsey had at least two children, Hannah born in 1809 and Joseph, born in 1828. In 1837 Hannah married Daniel Piper, and they joined her parents and brother at the farm.

According to local tradition, unverified, the house and barns were constructed in 1844 by the local building John T. Merrill. This date is viable given the style of the house (Greek Revival with Gothic Revival elements), the size, orientation and construction methods of the large barn, and the trim details ('Greek peaks') found on both the large barn and the equipment shed. However, the equipment shed is clearly two different post-and-beam buildings joined along a gable wall, and there is a strong possibility that it is comprised of elements of a previous house or barn, or both. The form of the earlier homestead is unknown, nor was its location necessarily where the current complex is sited. Although the history of the property can be traced to 1774, no buildings survive intact from this era, and thus, the period of significance commences with the erection of the surviving structures in c. 1844.

It is likely that the present buildings were built in response to the marriage of Hannah and Daniel, and in anticipation that the families would share the property. Indeed, the 1850 census places the Pipers and the three Parson family members all in the same dwelling house. Tax assessments for that year indicate that Enoch had divided his property equally between his son Joseph and son-in-law Daniel Piper. Until Piper died in the mid-1880s he and Joseph Parsons shared the farm and the

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house. In the 1850s the town property taxes were levied against the two men separately, but after 1860 (the year in which Enoch died) they appear to have combined their holdings into one legal estate, and were taxed together thereafter. Although they both owned the farm, Parsons is no longer enumerated as a farmer after the 1860 agricultural census, and in 1870 his occupation was listed as "works in shoe shop". By this time, however, the Piper's daughter Eliza had married Brackett T. Lord, a farm laborer, and this young family moved into the farmhouse. From Piper's death until Joseph Parson died in 1900, the land was taxed under the names of B.T. Lord and Joseph Parsons; later George W. Lord joined the venture with his father. The last of the Parsons lineage to live in the house were Lida Lord and her brother George, who occupied the farm until their death in 1934 and 1944 respectively.

Historic Context: Agriculture 1844-1944

For Maine farmers the middle decades of the 19th century were a period of general successes and periodic failures. Experimentation with new breeds of sheep and cattle led to higher production of wool and beef; crops such as potatoes and hops gained regional prominence, while wheat, corn, and hay provided relatively stable sustenance and income all over the state. In the decades before the Civil War, only the farms with the poorest soils and residents were generally abandoned in favor of emigration to the west, and the overall population of rural towns continued to grow. Sustainability in Parsonsfield was fairly easily achieved. Writing in 1880, the geographic compilers Everts and Peck, described the town in the History of York County. "The soil is generally fertile, producing good crops of hay and grain when properly tilled. The hills, where cleared, are covered with cultivated meadows nearly to their summits. Apples are grown in great abundance and form a chief source of income. Fine groves of maple produce sugar and syrups sufficient for home use." (Everts and Peck, p. 324). However, this generic description understates the capability of the town and its farmers. According to the 1870 census, Parsonsfield led the towns in York County in the number of cattle (1385, compared to the next highest number in neighboring Limerick of 792), the highest number of milch cows (815 versus 756 in Lebanon), oxen (583 vs. 480 in York), horses (349 vs. 295 in Buxton). Likewise, it put up the most hay, harvested the most oats and grew the most corn in the county, and it was among the highest producers of butter, wool, potatoes and orchard products. While it had only 1800 of the 60,000 residents in the county, it had the most improved acreage: 22,080 acres compared to Wells, where the one thousand more residents only improved 15,228 acres. (Old Maps of York county, p. 58).

As farmers adapted to new crops and breeds they cleared more land, harvested more of their timber resources, and generally expanded their operations to the extent that available labor (family members) and tools would tolerate. Certainly, in the days before agricultural experimental stations and progressive farming periodicals, diversified agriculture was the surest way for a family farm to hedge its bets against unpredictable weather, invading pests and the vagaries of the markets. The members of the extended Parsons family did not gamble with their land, or alter their agricultural formula substantially. They kept sheep periodically, but in limited numbers (15 in 1869, 4 in 1877),

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and between the family members there were usually one or two horses, four to six oxen, and one to four swine. The maximum number of cows the family kept in the 19th century was five (1890 and 1859), but the number of other cattle slowly rose (to a high of 18 in 1890). The farming operation was not extensive, but it was steady, and carried the families into the 20th century.

Little is known about the activities of B. T. Lord and George W. Lord after the turn of the century: town tax records no longer listed livestock or agricultural products. However, no lasting changes were made to the property, either in terms of its size, or composition, until after George died in 1944.

The Poultry Revolution

In 1948 Raymond P. and Ruth Roy purchased the farm from Evelyn Fall, who had inherited the property after the death of her cousin George W. Lord. A photograph taken of the property shortly thereafter showed stone walls lining the dirt road and pastures, and the house complex, equipment shed and large barn much as they are at present. The Roy family immediately started to convert the large barn from a multi-purpose agricultural facility to a poultry barn. They joined numerous other farmers in altering existing dairy barns to chicken barns. On the exterior, this conversion required adding a 10' square, concrete block furnace room with exterior concrete block chimney to the northwest corner of the original barn. The window sash were removed from all but a few windows on the north side, and the first floor cattle doors on the south were boarded up and the ramp reintegrated into the surrounding grade.

The changes to the interior of the structure were much more radical and far reaching. As originally built, the bank barn had a center drive from the east to the west. On the first floor animal pens (cow tie ups, horse and oxen stalls) were located south of the center floor, and hay was stored in the north bay and in the hay lofts above the animals. Hay could be stacked to the rafters, and with the exception of the animal facilities and possibly grain and tack rooms on the first floor, the remainder of the barn was open and undifferentiated. In order to meet the physical and economical needs of poultry farming, the Roy's subdivided the interior spaces by installing a floor at hay loft level. The effect of this change was to render useless the large gable doors at each end as the upper of the doors were now fixed at second floor height. A third floor was laid at plate level. While Visscher indicates that it was common for the owners of barns undergoing this transformation to install dormers in the roof to light the highest level, the Parsons-Piper-Lord-Roy barn already benefitted from four sash window in each gable end, as well as the ventilation provided by the cupola. Further modifications were made to the interior, including the installation of a grain elevator in the northwest corner, as well as steam pipes, grain chutes, and water and feeding stations. The interior walls were insulated and covered with plywood, while the window openings closed off with wire mesh (and covered with plastic in the winter). Hardwood tongue and groove floors were laid on the second and third levels. A secondary system of structural support was installed in the roof. Six bays of trusses, composed of interior rafters and heavy collar ties, were built above the third floor: from each truss unit two steel tie rods descended through the original frame to the first floor girts. This enabled the

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floors to take more weight, and it also provided space for the storage of grain. (The grain was blown into large holding bins at the collar tie-level from a grain truck parked outside.) Other than the steam pipes and mesh enclosed ventilation shafts, each of the three floors were open. There were no nesting boxes or roosts for the hens. The long-trough feeders and water cans could each be raised above head height when not in use.

As the Roy family continued the agricultural activities at the farm they did so not as a general, self-sufficient family farm, but as a commercial enterprise focused on poultry farming. Starting in the 1930s raising poultry on intensive levels benefitted from advances in agricultural science. Among those that emanated from the University of Maine's School of Agriculture was the discovery that the laying capacity of a hen was not passed on to her offspring, but to her 'granddaughters'. This revaluation enabled poultry producers to increase the level of egg production on a large scale, which subsequently reached 200 per hen per year by 1940. Similarly, the Maine Extension service dedicated research and teaching time to eradicating pullorum disease in birds and to controlling coccidiosis through better housing practices. Historian Clarence Day, summarizes the sea change that encouraged farmers like the Roy's, as follows:

"Although poultry still meant pin money or eggs for breakfast on a great many farms, that enterprise had become the third largest source of cash income for Maine farmers as a group and ranked next to potatoes and dairying in that respect. In 1940 the census enumerators reported 1,542,092 hens on 20,127 farms. During the previous ten years the hen population had increased while that of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine had declined. The increase had been most pronounced in the coastal counties of Knox, Lincoln, Cumberland and York."
(Day, 1963, p. 280.)

The Town of Limington, just a few miles from Parsonsfield, had the third highest number of birds in the state in 1940. Indeed, at the Roy farm two buildings were needed to house their flock, which at various times reached 2,500 laying hens and 25,000 broilers. The second barn, which was constructed of galvanized sheet metal and set on a cement pad, burned to the ground in the 1970s, after the family had ceased large scale poultry operations.

The wholesale renovations to the barn resulted in other changes as well. A spring was tapped and routed to the barn (the older spring in the basement was abandoned.). Two new ponds, one at the far northern edge of the property, the other just to the east of the equipment shed, were dug and connected in order to have a back-up supply of water for the chickens. In addition to storage, the equipment shed was used to raise rabbits on the main floor, and the family's few cows were quartered in the basement. After the family shifted away from poultry, Ruth Roy constructed a post-and-beam pole barn at the northern end of the property for the shelter of a few cattle. However, it was the conversion of the Payson-Piper-Lord-Roy barn from a structure that supported a diversified family farm to a commercial poultry operation that significantly altered the function and material culture of this property, and ultimately contributes to our understanding of the agricultural history of Maine.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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YORK COUNTY, MAINE

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 26 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 0 |

3 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 0 |

Zone Easting

Northing

Zone Easting

Northing

2 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 |

4 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 0 |

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 15 October 2004

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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is fully described by the Tow of Parsonsfield tax map R 14, lot 6 on file at the Parsonsfield Town Office.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above described boundaries represent the most intact and continuous portion of the property that descended through three generations of the Parsons family as a diversified farm. The boundaries represent the northern section of the property purchased by the Roy family and subsequently used for their commercial poultry business.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

18 August 2004

Homestead (house, ell, connected barn), south and east elevations; facing northwest.

Photograph 2 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

18 August 2004

Equipment shed, west facade; facing east.

Photograph 3 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

18 August 2004

Equipment shed and poultry barn, from Cramm Road; facing northeast.

Photograph 4 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

18 August 2004

Poultry barn, west facade; facing east.

Photograph 5 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

18 August 2004

Interior, poultry barn, top floor showing grain chute; facing east.