

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

SEP 15 1987

received

date entered OCT 30 1987

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 Salmon Falls (West) Historic District

and or common

2. Location

street & number Salmon Falls Road and Portion of US 202 not for publication

city, town Hollis vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county York code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation Library
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Private Res.

4. Owner of Property

name Various (See Continuation Sheet)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Alfred state Maine 04002

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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 checked="" 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 Salmon Falls (West) Historic District embraces a cluster of nine dwellings and a former store turned library picturesquely sited on the west bank of the Saco River. Tall hardwoods interspersed with pine trees line the principal road through the district and frame the ten buildings, eight of which date to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Located astride the north-south Salmon Falls Road as well as a short stretch of U.S. 202 and ME 4A, the district contains approximately thirteen acres of land, the majority of which lies at an elevation of 150 feet above sea level. The most dramatic change in the topography occurs at the east side of the district where the terrain rapidly falls some thirty feet to the Saco River.

The district's irregular boundary is established by a combination of natural features, changes in the historic use of border lands and the loss of architectural integrity to adjoining buildings. The eastern edge of the district is formed by the west bank of the Saco River. Both the northern and western edges adjoin undeveloped wooded land which, although perhaps once associated with the properties in the district, no longer maintain their historic land use and characteristics. This is especially apparent with the large tract of land that accompanies Quillcote (4). An early twentieth-century postcard view of Salmon Falls shows an open meadow behind the house which is now partially overgrown and reforested. The district boundary crosses U.S. 202 to include the lot on which the Salmon Falls Village Library stands, but does not take in buildings to the north and west because of the loss of historic architectural integrity and/or their advanced state of deterioration.

A number of strong landscape features contribute to the rhythm and texture of the district. While individual lot sizes vary widely, uniformity of scale is achieved by the siting of buildings on larger or smaller lots as their size dictates and through relatively regular setbacks. Each lot is punctuated with numerous trees while a number of the buildings feature foundation plantings, primarily evergreen bushes. More heavily wooded areas occupy a number of the open spaces, principally those along the Saco River. A low dry laid fieldstone wall marks the northern boundary of Quillcote (4), and a handsome granite wall frames a long section of the east side of the Isaac Lane property (7).

With the exception of the brick Moses Dunn House (10), the buildings in the district are of wooden frame construction. They are sheathed, by and large, with clapboards. Wood shingles are employed on a number of the barns. The houses exhibit both side and front gable end orientations.

Architecturally, the Salmon Falls (West) Historic District contains handsome and well-preserved examples of house forms and details typical in Maine during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Those range in size from one-and-a-half-story capes to large two-story transitional Federal/Greek Revival style dwellings. Extending to the rear or side of six of the houses are long ells, five of which terminate with barns.

See Continuation Sheets

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 checked="" 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Salmon Falls (West) Historic District contains one of the two (see the Salmon Falls [East] Historic District) most architecturally significant and least altered clusters of buildings in this widely scattered village located astride the Saco River. Its late eighteenth and early nineteenth century houses are important reminders of this once thriving community of small scale manufactories and general mercantile establishments. The district is also distinguished by its intimate association with the life and literary career of Kate Douglas Wiggin (1856-1923), an acclaimed author of such works as Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm (1903).

Settlement of the Salmon Falls area is believed to have commenced in 1794 when Isaac Lane occupied his property in what was then Little Falls Plantation. Three years earlier, however, he contributed six pounds sterling worth of labor to the construction of a bridge at Salmon Falls, an improvement which must have substantially increased the value of his property. By 1795, as illustrated on the Granger Plan of Little Falls Plantation, three roads came together at or near Salmon Falls. The County Road connecting Alfred and Salmon Falls met with the River Road on the west side of the bridge. A southerly route to Dayton branched off of the County Road just to the west of the bridge intersection. This early map also shows the existence of a sawmill in Salmon Falls.

Isaac Lane and his neighbor Jabez Bradbury are thought to have begun the construction of houses in Salmon Falls in 1794. Both still stand although Bradbury's was substantially enlarged in the 1830s or 1840s. Sometime after he settled in Salmon Falls Lane established a general mercantile firm. Bradbury's occupation is not positively known.

Further development of the community seems to have lagged until the second or third decade of the nineteenth century. About 1820 Moses Davis, a farmer, and Dr. William Sweat, a physician and surgeon, built houses to the south of Bradbury. Moses Dunn, who operated a general store out of a brick building, had probably settled here during the period. According to tradition, he first occupied a small frame building which was pulled down and replaced by the present Greek Revival style brick house.

Local historians have identified the existence at one time of four stores and a shoe shop in or near the present district. One of these stores was located in the two-story frame building which now houses the village library. The abundant water resources available from the Saco River provided the motive power for both a shingle mill and a grist mill.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jewett, Martin H. and Hannaford, Olive W. A History of Hollis, Maine Formerly Little Falls Later Phillipsburg. Farmington, Me.: Knowlton and McLeary Co., 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Approx. 13

Quadrangle name Bar Mills, Me.

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	7	4	2	10	4	8	2	8	4	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B

1	9	3	7	4	4	4	0	4	8	2	8	3	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	9	3	7	4	4	9	0	4	8	2	7	9	8	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	9	3	7	4	2	9	0	4	8	2	8	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July 15, 1987

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132

city or town Augusta state Maine 04333

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 *Lucas S. Peterson*

title 9/10/87 S.H.P.O.

date 9/10/87

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Anders

date 10/30/87

for Keeper of the National Register

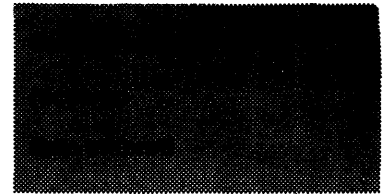
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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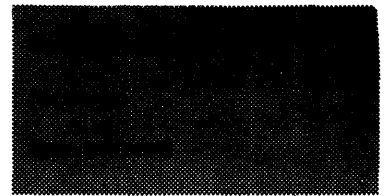


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1. Town of Hollis
RFD #1,
Hollis, Maine 04042
2. Edward W. Klein
Linda and Edna R. Trapkin
R.R.#1, Box 333
Hollis, Maine 04042
3. Frederick and Jean Snyder
R.R.#1, Box 31
Hollis, Maine 04042
4. Frances Turner Lasley
R.R.#1, Box 30
Hollis, Maine 04042
5. William R. Turner, Jr.
R.R.#1, Box 28
Hollis, Maine 04042
6. Mark J. and Janice L. Belby
R.R.#1, Box 26
Hollis, Maine 04042
7. Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Gannett
R.R.#1, Box 25
Hollis, Maine 04042
8. Mr. and Mrs. Allen G. Pease
R.R.#1, Box 27
Hollis, Maine 04042
9. Elise B. Williams
Anne W. Vanlonkhuyzen
109 Shore Road
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107
10. Simone and William Roussin
R.R.#1
Hollis, Maine 04042
11. Central Maine Power Company
Edison Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330

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The oldest known building in the district is the two-story Isaac Lane House (7), which is thought to have been built about 1794. It is five bays wide, two rooms deep and retains its large center chimney. A narrow entrance vestibule is a Greek Revival style addition.

Diagonally across the road from the Lane House is the Isaac Merrill House (8), a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay cape, probably built in the 1820s or 1830s. It too has a center chimney, and features a narrow north wing which terminates at a barn.

One of the largest complexes in the district is Quillcote (4). It is composed of a late 1790s main block with a broad Greek Revival style addition to the front and a wing to the north. This front addition has a pediment framing a center lancet arched window, and a flat roofed porch over the typical Greek Revival entrance. A long one-story ell links the main section of the house to the barn.

The Moses Dunn House is a two-story Greek Revival style house which is five bays wide. A low hip roof, punctuated by interior end chimneys, covers the main part of the dwelling and its two-story ell. The barn at the end of the ell has a distinctive flush sheathed gable end.

The district contains eight (8) contributing buildings and two (2) non contributing twentieth-century houses.

Inventory List

1. Salmon Falls Village Library, 1820s-30s

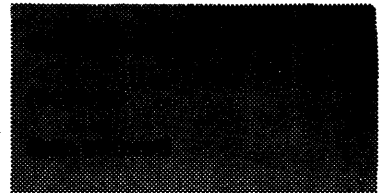
Contributing

The library in Salmon Falls is a two-story frame building probably erected in the 1820s or 1830s. Sheathed in clapboards, the structure was formerly a store. The library was established in 1911 by the community's most famous resident, the author Kate Douglas Wiggin. Little is known about the early history of this building. However, when the property was acquired by William Milliken in 1866, the deed from Susan Carll refers to the "...certain piece of land and the store therein." Whether the Carll family had established the store or whether it already existed is uncertain. Subsequent deeds continue to make note of the store on this property indicating a well-established nineteenth-century use. In 1911 Kate Douglas Wiggin, the occupant of nearby Quillcote (also located in the district), founded a public library and kindergarten in the building. The first floor was converted to a tea room supervised by Wiggin's neighbor Mrs. William Moulton. In 1924 Nora A. Smith, the sister of Kate Wiggins, willed the property, including its contents, to the town of Hollis. It is still in use as a library which is open on Saturdays.

Built and detailed with a form more characteristic of residential structures, the Salmon Falls Library has a projecting central entrance vestibule on the front elevation which is flanked by nine-over-six double-hung sash windows. The vestibule would appear to be a later addition. There are four nine-over-six windows on the second story. At one time the building had an interior chimney.

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2. Moses Davis House, ca. 1820

Contributing

The Moses Davis House is a large and handsome two-and-a-half-story frame dwelling with a five-bay gable front orientation. A smaller two-story ell links the house with the large gable front barn. The complex stands on a shallow knoll at the intersection of the two roads in the district. Thought to have been built in 1820, it was the residence of Moses Davis (1784-1861). Davis was the son of John and Hannah (Fletcher) Davis of Kittery, Maine. According to tradition he was a farmer and lumberman. Davis married May Elden of Buxton, and they had twelve children, perhaps explaining the size of their house. After the death of Moses and Mary (Elden) Davis, the property descended to their son George Davis. It then passed to his sister Emily Davis and remained in the family for a number of years thereafter.

The front (east) elevation of the house features a symmetrical fenestration pattern focused on the center entrance bay. On the first story a six-panel door is framed by sidelights and a broad fanlight. Four large twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows flank the entryway. The second story contains a central Palladian window and twelve-over-nine sash directly above the first story windows. A broad pediment frames a trio of twelve-over-nine sash in the half story. The center window is surmounted by a louvered fan. There is an asymmetrical five-bay division of the south facade including a second entrance. The ell is recessed from this facade. However, on the north elevation the ell forms a continuous facade which is nine-bays wide. The building is sheathed in clapboards. There are three chimneys in the front block.

3. Dr. William Sweat House, ca. 1820

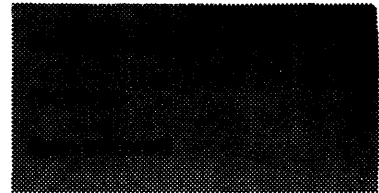
Contributing

This one-and-a-half-story five-bay frame cape, which is sheathed in clapboards, features a narrow ell that extends toward, but does not connect with, a gable front barn. Tradition holds that it was built about 1820 and first occupied by Dr. William Sweat. Sweat is thought to have established his medical practice in Salmon Falls as early as 1824. He was still active as late as 1880 when his name last appeared in that year's edition of the Maine Register. The house has apparently had a number of subsequent owners.

The Sweat House stands on a large lot sheltered by hardwoods. Its symmetrically composed front elevation contains a center door bordered by sidelights and surmounted by a fanlight. Two small nine-over-six double-hung sash windows are located on either side of the entrance. A narrow boxed cornice carries across the elevation. The house has two interior end chimneys. A hipped roof screened porch and a dormer are located on the ell's south elevation.

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4. Quillcote, 1790s, 1830-40s

Contributing (National Register, 9/16/77)

Quillcote is a large two-and-a-half-story frame dwelling, covered with clapboards, which has a somewhat irregular configuration and connected buildings at the rear. Construction of the house is believed to have commenced in 1794. It obtained its present form primarily in the early nineteenth century. The house was given the name Quillcote by the author Kate Douglas Wiggin, its most famous owner and occupant. Local tradition holds that the oldest section of the house was built for Jabez Bradbury. For what period of time he occupied it is not certain. The property was later acquired by the Carll family who retained possession of it until 1905. It was at that time that Kate Douglas Wiggin (1856-1923) purchased the house. She was the daughter of Robert and Helen (Dyer) Smith, and in 1881 married Samuel Bradley Wiggin, a Boston attorney. In 1889, while residing in New York City, she published her first children's book entitled The Bird's Christmas Carol. After her husband's death later that year, she returned to Salmon Falls. Wiggin's literary output continued during the following year combined with a full schedule of lectures and readings in the United States and Europe. In 1903 her book Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm met with widespread acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic. After 1905 Wiggin made Quillcote her residence for the remainder of her life. At her death her ashes were scattered on the Saco River near her home.

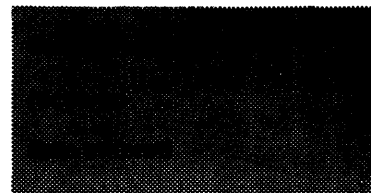
The front (east) elevation of Quillcote is composed of a primarily Greek Revival style single-pile, five-bay block framed by a pediment, and a recessed two-story two-bay wing to the north. The symmetrical fenestration pattern of the principal facade contains a center entrance sheltered by a Doric porch, nine-over-six double-hung sash windows on the first story and five six-over-six sash on the second story. There are three windows in the flush sheathed tympanum of the pediment, the middle one of which has a twelve-over-eight configuration surmounted by a lancet arched louvered fan. All of the windows retain their blinds. The two fluted porch columns support a wide entablature that is covered by a flat roof. Behind the porch the six-panel door is bordered by sidelights and a transom and framed by a pair of fluted pilasters. There are two interior chimneys in this section of the house.

An asymmetrical fenestration pattern on the north wing contrasts with the symmetry of the principal facade. There is a Greek Revival style entrance with narrow sidelights and a nine-over-six window on the first story. Two similar windows are located on the second story. This wing appears to have been built at the same time as the front block. The original building is the large two-and-a-half-story ell which has an enclosed porch on its south elevation. It is linked to the gable front barn by way of a long, low one-story building.

Notable among the interior features of the house are the painted landscape murals in one room attributed to the New England artist Rufus Porter (1792-1884). Uncovered by Wiggins during the early twentieth-century rehabilitation of the house, they depict on separate walls a harbor scene, a pastoral landscape, a small village and a brick house amid rolling countryside. They are believed to have been painted in 1820. Other significant interior details include a curved ceiling in a second floor room whose use is believed to have been as a ballroom, and a large cooking hearth with a Dutch oven in the original structure.

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5. House

Noncontributing

Probably built in the mid-twentieth century, this one-story four-bay cape is sheathed in clapboards and has a center chimney. A breezeway links the house and a large two-bay garage. The building is one of two noncontributing structures within the district.

6. House

Noncontributing

Most probably erected in the 1970s, this two-story frame house has a second story overhang inspired by seventeenth-century English colonial dwellings. Other features include a gable end chimney and a two-bay garage wing extending to the north.

7. Isaac Lane House, 1794

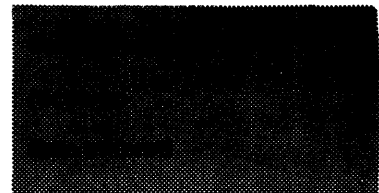
Contributing

Said to have been built in 1794, the Isaac Lane House is a large two-story five-bay frame dwelling sheathed in clapboards. Its features include a large center chimney, later Greek Revival style exterior details and a long two-story ell. The house was first occupied by Isaac Lane (1764-1833), a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Little is as yet positively known about Lane and his activities in Salmon Falls. He was the son of Daniel Lane and served as a "fifer" in his father's company during the period 1777 to 1780. Lane married Ruth Merrill, the daughter of Samuel Merrill. She died in 1799, five years after the house is thought to have been built. According to tradition, Isaac Lane maintained a store in Salmon Falls adjoining the store operated by Moses Dunn. Later occupants of the Lane House include one Dr. Doughty and Judge George L. Emery.

The Isaac Lane House has a symmetrically composed front (east) elevation which faces the Saco River. It has a center bay entrance vestibule with a Greek Revival style pediment and wide sidelights and a transom. Nine-over-six double-hung sash windows are used throughout. The double-pile front block joins a narrow two-story five-bay ell featuring a Greek Revival style entrance and flat roofed porch. A one-story frame building telescopes the ell far to the rear of the main house. The present owner removed the barn which stood near the ell and has replaced it with a new building.

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8. Isaac Merrill House, 1820s

Contributing

This low one-and-a-half-story cape is five bays wide and sheathed in clapboards. It has a center chimney and a one-story wing connecting the house to the barn. Probably built in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, local tradition holds that it was originally occupied by Isaac Merrill (1793-1862). Merrill was the son of John and Rebecca (Lane) Merrill and the nephew of Isaac Lane whose house stands to the west of here within the district boundary. He was a merchant, Justice of the Peace and a mill owner. On November 18, 1839, Merrill was chosen to be the first president of a newly formed debating club in Salmon Falls. At the second meeting he became the secretary of the organization. Merrill and his wife Lucy (Merritt) Merrill apparently lived here until they died.

The Merrill House is a typical early nineteenth century cape similar to others found throughout Maine. Its front (west) elevation contains a center six-panel door surmounted by a narrow transom. Paired replacement two-over-two double-hung sash windows flank this entrance. The one-story wing extends from the north gable end of the house to a tall two-story barn. This barn is covered with clapboards and wood shingles.

9. Dr. Albion Bradbury House, 1820s-1830s

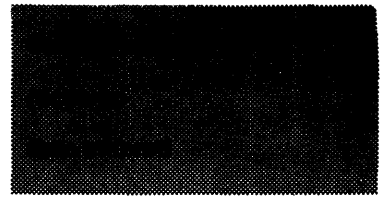
Contributing

Standing on the lot to the south of the Isaac Merrill House, this one-and-a-half-story frame house appears to have been initially built in the 1820s or 1830s and remodeled sometime later. It was occupied by Dr. Albion Bradbury in the mid-nineteenth century, but the builder is not positively known. Albion Keith Parris Bradbury (1822-1875) was the son of Jabez and Ann (Knight) Bradbury, but whether he is directly related to the Jabez Bradbury who is thought to have built Quillcote is not established. Bradbury, who was a physician and surgeon by profession, married Helen E. (Dyer) Smith, the widow of Robert Nash Smith. One of Mrs. Bradbury's daughters from her previous marriage was Kate Douglas Wiggin, the noted author who later acquired and gave the name to Quillcote. The Bradbury's lived in their house in Salmon Falls for a number of years prior to removing to Santa Barbara, California, where Bradbury died in 1875. There have apparently been a number of owners of the house since then.

The Bradbury house has a five-bay front (west) elevation with a narrow Greek Revival style entrance vestibule flanked by nine-over-six double-hung sash windows. A chimney rises through the center of the main block of the house. Attached to the south elevation is a three-sided bay window. A narrow one-story wing extends to the north.

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10. Moses Dunn House, 1830s-1840s

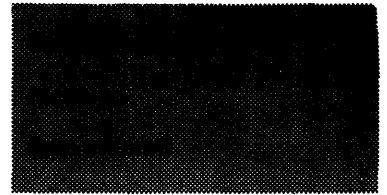
Contributing

The transitional Federal/Greek Revival style Moses Dunn House is a two-story five-bay dwelling constructed of brick. It is covered by a hip roof and has a two-story ell. Probably built in the 1830s or 1840s, the house was the residence of Moses Dunn. Moses Dunn was the son of Nathaniel and Elizabeth (Atkinson) Dunn. His father had settled at Salmon Falls where he operated a lumbering and milling business. On March 12, 1792, Dunn married Louisa Elden, and they are said to have first occupied a frame house which formerly stood on this property. Dunn owned a store in Salmon Falls. Its demolition in 1884 was recorded in the diary of Gibeon E. Bradbury, in which he stated that the bricks from the building were made by Gibeon Elden (his relationship to Louisa Elden has not been established). The Dunns occupied the house until their deaths. It was then sold to William Moulton. Moulton's wife was responsible for establishing the tea room in the Salmon Falls Library which is located to the south of the house.

Standing on the crest of a knoll which falls to the banks of the Saco River, the Moses Dunn House occupies one of the most picturesque sites in the district. Its front (south) elevation has a symmetrical fenestration pattern composed of a center door bordered by sidelights and a transom. The entrance is flanked by nine-over-six double-hung sash windows with granite lintels and sills. There are five six-over-six sash on the second story. The front block of the house has a pair of interior end chimneys. A secondary entrance is located on the west side of the four-bay brick ell. The house's common bond brick walls rise from a granite foundation punctuated by small windows. A one-story replacement frame ell connects the main house to the barn. The barn's gable front is sheathed in flush boards, and its small upper door retains wrought iron strap hinges.

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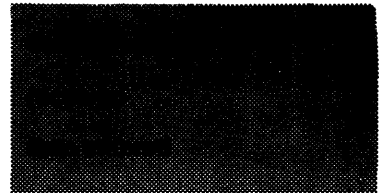
Judging by the style of the extant buildings, the district had probably achieved much of its present appearance by mid-century. The village apparently maintained its importance as a trading center, but its manufacturing growth was limited. During the 1850s a wool carding mill was established in Moderation Falls (West Buxton) upriver from Salmon Falls, and in 1866 a second mill was built there. For whatever reasons, the tradesmen and residents of Salmon Falls never fully developed the water power of the Saco. In 1884 Moses Dunn's brick store was pulled down. An early twentieth century postcard of Salmon Falls shows empty areas on both sides of the river near the bridge (a Double Intersection Warren Truss, since removed) and no sign of industry. The only visible store building in the photograph is the one which is now the library.

The late nineteenth century decline of Salmon Falls' trading and manufacturing enterprises contrasts with its increasing importance as the home of Kate Douglas Wiggin. Wiggin had first come to Salmon Falls as a child after her mother married Dr. Albion Bradbury. For a number of years they occupied a small cape which still stands on the east side of the Salmon Falls Road. She returned to the village in the late 1880s and remained here for the duration of her life. In 1905 she acquired the Jabez Bradbury home renaming it Quillcote. Six years later Wiggin and her sister Nora Smith founded a kindergarten in the old frame store building and later added a public library to the second floor. After their deaths the library was left to the Town of Hollis which still maintains the facility.

Despite the loss of its nineteenth century commercial buildings and mills, the Salmon Falls (west) Historic District, retains much of its historic character. The quality and integrity of its resources, which are still well maintained, clearly illustrate the late eighteenth and early to mid-nineteenth century importance of this community, and the prosperity achieved by its residents.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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The boundary of the Salmon Falls (West) Historic District is described with reference to the Town of Hollis Tax Map number 1-2 (1986). Commencing at the northeast corner of the Salmon Falls Road and U.S. 202, the boundary follows U.S. 202 easterly to the point where it crosses the Saco River. From there it proceeds along the west bank of said river to the north property line of Lot #1, turns west and continues along the north side of Lot #5 to the west side of the Salmon Falls Road. It turns north following the west line to the north boundary of Lot #107A, proceeds along that line and then continues across the rear or west property lines of Lots #107A, 107B, 109, and 110, and takes in the one-acre property of Quillcote, which is a part of Lot #107 as previously nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (9/16/77). The boundary extends to the north line of U.S. 202 and follows that line in an easterly direction until it meets the projection of the west property line of Lot #7. The boundary follows the west and south property lines and then extends to the west side of the Old Alfred Road. It turns north and follows this line to the point of beginning.

Salmon Falls (West) Historic District
Hollis (Vic), Maine
Not to Scale

