

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 11 1975
DATE ENTERED APR 28 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Moody Homestead

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ridge Road

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

York

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maine

— VICINITY OF

CODE

23

COUNTY

York

CODE

031

1st Hon. David Emery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Virginia N. Freeman

STREET & NUMBER

11 Plandome Drive

CITY, TOWN

Plandome

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

York County - Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Alfred

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1790, the main block of the Moody House conforms to traditional formula. It is a large gable roofed wooden structure 2½ stories in height and rectangular in plan with two symmetrically distributed chimnies on the ridge, placed with their widest faces toward the gabled ends. To the back on the left side is an attached ell which incorporates an earlier structure of c.1690-1700, used after the construction of the new house as a dairy, woodshed and root cellar.

The exterior is sheathed in narrow clapboards with plain cornice and corners. The whole is painted white with black shutters. On the left gable end, an entry way has been contrived in a small box like addition at the center. On the opposite side a similar feature exists on the right half of the first story, but lacks a door. The main facade is of traditional design, five bays in length with a central bay of considerable width. The upper story windows are close under the eaves. The left gable end features two windows per floor, placed close to the ends of the building. On the first floor is the projection with its gabled end. The gables both feature two small shuttered windows. The windows of the main block are of equal height, sash hung with lights of a six over six pattern. The front door is wide and is panelled. It is flanked by simple Doric pilasters supporting a thin, rudimentary entablature, below which is a long narrow transom of six lights. The left gable door is narrower and simply framed with a transom of four lights.

The floor plan is also of traditional form, being divided into four rooms on either side of a stairhall, in this case of generous proportions. Fireplaces are located back to back in the central partitions. By tradition the house is claimed to have been modeled on the Dummer Mansion in Byfield, Mass., a town in which the builder, Joseph Moody, had spent considerable time. The Moody house, however, shares little but its general form with the Dummer House, lacking the latter's distinctive features, such as its brick end walls and three impressive chimnies. The two both possess generous central halls and gabled ends, though, and the tradition may have a germ of truth to it.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER
—1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	—OTHER (SPECIFY)
		—INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1790-ell earlier

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Moody Homestead stands as the most substantial reminder of the Moody Family in Maine, a family closely identified with notable episodes on the political, literary and educational heritage of New England. It is located in York, one of the oldest English outposts in America and situated on the venerable Post Road.

Although the main block ^{was} as built by Joseph Moody in 1790, its rear ell preserves a structure of perhaps a century earlier. This original building was built by a Stone ^{LEBON 4-75} and sold, along with considerable acreage, to Moody in the 1770's by his descendents.

Joseph Moody was the second son of "handkerchief" Moody (1700-53) and the grandson of Rev. Samuel Moody (1675-1747). Samuel Moody, a native of Newbury (now Byfield), Massachusetts, and graduate of Harvard College, 1697, came to York in 1698 with an appointment as chaplain to the garrison and settlers who were in the process of recovering from the devastating Indian raid of 1692. He stayed for almost fifty years, being ordained and heading York's first parish when it was organized in 1700. The Reverend Samuel Moody was an enthusiastic successor to the tradition of New England Puritanism espoused by his teacher Cotton Mather. He was an eloquent preacher, though given to eccentricity. Moody served with gusto as chaplain of the Louisburg Expedition of 1745 headed by his brother-in-law, Sir. William Pepperell. He was also a great-great-grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The eccentricities of Samuel Moody pale, however, when compared with those of his son Joseph. Joseph followed in his father's footsteps and was ordained a minister in 1732. He also served as Clerk of Court for the town of York and as Register of Deeds for the county which at the time included the entire district of Maine. Soon after assuming his duties as pastor of the Second Parish of York, perhaps as the result of a feeling of spiritual inadequacy or stemming from continuing remorse over a youthful hunting accident in which he had killed a friend, Joseph Moody began to hide his face behind a dark handkerchief. He continued in this fashion for some twenty years until his death. It is supposed that Ralph Waldo Emerson amused his friend Nathaniel Hawthorne with stories of his Maine ancestors. The result was a short story included in Twice Told Tales entitled The Black Veil.

The builder of the Homestead, also Joseph, assisted his brother Samuel who was the first Preceptor of Dummer Academy in Byfield, Mass., for many years. Concurrently he was buying up property in York to which he retired and raised the existing house in 1790. Tradition maintains that it was inspired by the Dummer Mansion in Byfield, one of the earliest Georgian structures in New England. The house is now owned by Mrs. Virginia Freeman, a direct descendent of the builder.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Banks, Charles Edward, History of York Maine, Vol. 1, Calkins Press, Boston, 1931
- Moody, Charles, Biographical Sketches of the Moody Family, Samuel G. Drake, Boston, 1847
- Moody Herbert, Historical Notes Concerning the Moody Family, Cabinet Press, Milford, N.H., 1947

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2
 UTM REFERENCES

UTM OK CD

A

1	9	3	6	7	1	5	0	4	7	7	9	2	5	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian
Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE April 4, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE 207-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta, Maine STATE Maine

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
 NATIONAL STATE X 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE *Jamess H. Mundy*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE April 7, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE 4/28/75

ATTEST: *[Signature]* DATE APR 24 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER