

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 Foster Family Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number West Side of Sunday River Road, 1.5 miles Northwest of Junction with Skiway Road N/A not for publication

city or town Newry vicinity

state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04261

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.)

E. J. [Signature] SHPO 9/21/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State of 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 the 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 of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 11/9/94

Foster Family Farm
Name of Property

Oxford, 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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 3 | | buildings |
| 1 | | sites |
| 1 | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 5 | | 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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Agriculture/Agricultural Outbuilding

Agriculture/Agricultural Field

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Camp

Agriculture/Agricultural Field

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

Wood/Wood Shingle

roof Asphalt

other Two Story Pedimented Porch on Facade

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- [x] 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.
[x] 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 grave.
[x] 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.

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Agriculture

Period of Significance

c. 1850-c. 1900

Significant Dates

c. 1850

1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

York, Hiram, Builder of Barn

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Woster Family Farm
Name of Property

Oxford, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 255

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 9 | | 3 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 0 | | 4 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | 1 | 9 | | 3 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 5 | | 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 0 |

3 | 1 | 9 | | 3 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 0 | | 4 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | 1 | 9 | | 3 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | | 4 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 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 Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1994

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 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.)

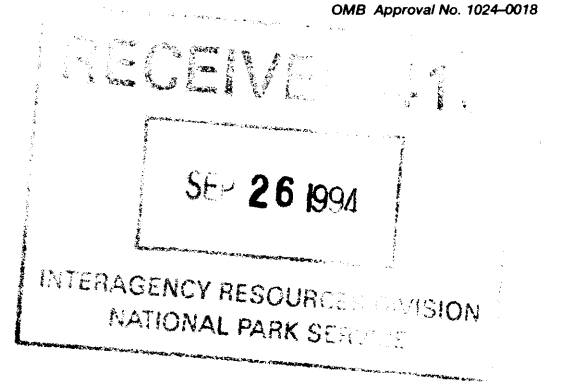
name _____

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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**FOSTER FAMILY FARMSection number 7 Page 2

The Foster Family Farm in Newry consists of an L-shaped two-story Greek Revival style frame dwelling, an 1895 barn, a stable, and a cemetery. These buildings are set amidst open meadows which are part of the historic 255 acre property.

HOUSE

Facing east, the dwelling's long front elevation is composed of a projecting two-bay block with a pedimented portico featuring unusual sawn supports in place of columns, a two-story, four-bay recessed ell extending to the larger ell's south gable end. The northernmost block has a side entry, broad paneled corner pilasters rising to a wide entablature, and a six-over-six window in the pediment. A second entry is located off-center on the two-story ell. It is framed by narrow sidelights and a shallow pedimented hood; a detail which appears above all first floor openings on the facade. There is a single six-over-six window to the south of the door and a pair to the north. Four similar windows punctuate the second floor on axis with the openings below. The three-bay kitchen ell has a central doorway flanked by six-over-six windows to the north and two broad doors to the south.

The north side elevation features a pair of French doors on the first story separated by an exterior brick chimney, and a trio of windows on the second story. The chimney is a c. 1940 alteration, but the doors appear to be original. The entablature continues along this elevation meeting a pilaster at the corner and then makes a short return onto the rear side. In contrast to the primary elevations, the rear elevation is very modest in its treatment, with six windows arranged across the first and second story of the main block and ell and one in the gable peak. A concrete block exterior flue is located mid-way along the main ell. Two nine-over-six windows are located on the projecting north side of the kitchen ell, and three small openings and one window are randomly positioned on the rear wall. The southern half of this wall is sheathed in wood shingles rather than weatherboards.

In plan, the house features a full length side hall and single large living room on the first story of the main block with two bedrooms and bathroom above. The two-story ell has a short central hall surrounded by a dining room to the north, bedroom to the south and office to the rear. Four bedrooms are located on the second story. The one-story ell contains the kitchen at the north end, a hall and wood storage area and a shed at the south end. The trim varies from wide eared surrounds and tall baseboards in the first floor of the main block and dining room to more modest and typical Greek Revival trim elsewhere.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FOSTER FAMILY FARM

Section number 7 Page 3

BARN - 1895

Located across the Sunday River Road from the house, the barn is a modestly sized frame building oriented with its gable to the road. It is sheathed entirely in weatherboards. The front elevation has a centrally located sliding door with a single six-over-six window located above and a round louvered vent below the gable peak. There are three small basement level windows on the north side, a window and door on the rear elevation, and a trio of windows and door on the south side. The entry is sheltered by a broad gabled hood.

STABLE - BY 1896

Standing immediately north of the barn, the stable is a one-story frame building with a gable roof. Its front (west) elevation has a central track mounted sliding door, above which is a smaller loft door flanked by a pair of double-hung windows. There are two windows on the south side, two small openings on the north side, and two doors - one above the other - at the rear.

LANDSCAPE

At present about thirty acres of the property in the vicinity of the house are maintained as open meadow with the balance in forest. Nineteenth century census figures indicate that while the amount of improved acreage was greater during the farm's intensive use, the wooded area always accounted for a substantial portion of the property.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FOSTER FAMILY FARM

Section number 8 Page 2

The Foster Family Farm consists of a Greek Revival style dwelling and a detached barn and stable set amidst open meadows which make up a portion of the 255 acre property. There is also a small local cemetery to the west of the house which contains the graves of family members who occupied the farm. Believed to have been initially settled by Joel Foster during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the farm is still held by a descendant and used on a seasonal basis. This property is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A for the manner in which it represents a typical nineteenth century Newry farm, and criterion C for the architectural significance of its buildings. Criteria consideration D also applies by virtue of the cemetery's presence.

Local historians have concluded that the property occupied by the Foster farm was first settled by Joel Foster (1790-1877) whose father Abner Foster and grandfather Asa Foster were among the first settlers of Newry in the 1780s. All three of these men were active in local town government having served in various positions including selectman, treasurer, highway surveyor, and clerk. Joel Foster's father and grandfather took up property on the north side of the nearby bridge crossing over the Sunday River, whereas Joel's farm (which he may have begun to develop around the time of his marriage to Marcia F. Jackson in 1815) was on the south side. It has been speculated that the existing kitchen ell of the present house may be his original dwelling, but the structural evidence and its apparent later attachment to the new house suggests a different conclusion. By the time of the 1850 census, Joel Foster's farm contained 90 acres of improved land and 110 acres of unimproved land with a total value of \$1,500. Compared to his neighbors, Foster's was an average size farm which produced a variety of products including corn, oats, potatoes, butter, cheese, hay, and wool from his herd of 15 sheep. Local tradition maintains that the Foster's operated a soap factory on this property in a small, two-story building which stood until recently to the north of the house. No documentary evidence has yet been discovered to indicate the scope or duration of this small-scale industry. A building located to the south of the house on the 1858 wall map of Oxford County is labeled "shop" without further reference to its purpose, but whether the two buildings are the same although on different sites is unknown.

Joel and Marcia Foster had five children, two of whom, Joel, Jr. and Caleb Fuller, appear separately in the 1860 census. In fact, the 1858 map shows that Caleb had already settled on another property north of the bridge that was also occupied by one A. Kilgore. (Caleb had married Priscilla Kilgore six years before and A. Kilgore may, therefore, indicate her parents' home.) Joel Foster, Jr., meanwhile, appears to have been farming part of his father's land since the size of Joel Foster's farm was reduced by half (as reported in the 1860 census) and no value was placed on the 100 acres which

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**FOSTER FAMILY FARMSection number 8 Page 3

Joel, Jr. is associated with. Family tradition holds that a second dwelling was located on the property on or near the existing stable, although it is not shown on the 1858 map. If this is true, however, we can picture the development of an extended family compound with the real estate held by Joel Foster.

It seems likely that sometime prior to 1860 Joel Foster undertook the construction of the stylish two-story Greek Revival style house which exists today. This theory is supported by the architectural characteristics of the dwelling and by the number of persons in the household. Family papers may also yield a clue to its construction in that a receipt shows that Foster insured his dwelling house in 1852 for \$1,000. A second policy was issued in 1854 for an additional \$450 which covered the house (\$300), barn number 1 (\$100), and barn number 2 (\$50). Further scrutiny of all papers in the present owner's possession may yet reveal more information about this building program. The whereabouts of Foster's first house must also be accounted for in further research, since it seems unlikely that the present one-story ell is a remnant of it.

The mid-nineteenth century witnessed the peak of Newry's developed agricultural landscape and the population it supported. The 474 persons recorded in the 1860 census was only 16 more than a decade before but nearly 60 more than a decade later. Newry's population continued to decline thereafter until by 1900 there were only 286 year-round residents (not many fewer than today's 316).

In 1870, the Agricultural Schedule of the census shows Joel Foster occupying a 140 acre farm valued at \$2,000 and his son Caleb with a 100 acre farm valued at \$900. It is reasonable to speculate that the relationship between these two households and farms was the same as that of a decade earlier with Joel Foster and Joel Foster, Jr. This is further supported by their sequential enumeration in the census and their separate dwellings (perhaps supporting the family tradition of two houses). Of additional note is that both Joel Foster, Jr. and his brother Silas P. Foster do not appear in the Newry census. Since neither one is apparently buried in the nearby cemetery (and they were not killed in the Civil War - they did not serve), they appear to have left Newry and become part of the exodus which is reflected in the declining population figures of this period.

Among the noteworthy patterns which are apparent in this period, one in particular stands out: the fact that in 1870 Caleb Foster produced 200 pounds of hops. Hops had been raised in Oxford County as early as the late 1830s, but the peak of production occurred in the 1860s when nearly 300,000 pounds were raised statewide with more than half of the total in Oxford County. The relatively high - albeit often wildly fluctuating - price of hops made their

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FOSTER FAMILY FARM

Section number 8 Page 4

cultivation desirable as a source of cash income, but Maine farmers could not sustain their position in the market, particularly after the country's first major commercial growing area began to develop in New York State in the 1860s.

The actual course of events and family relationships that shaped the Foster farm in the first three quarters of the nineteenth century, probably changed significantly upon Joel Foster's death in 1877. This is evident in the 1880 census which shows that Caleb Foster's mother was residing in his household, and that his farm had grown to 146 acres valued at \$1,500. Undoubtedly, this property is his father's homestead; Caleb's other 100 acre parcel subsequently being integrated into the farm which has descended to the present generation.

Caleb Foster was apparently the last member of the family to actively farm this property and make it his year-round residence. His widow remained here until her death in 1909, after which the farm seems to have taken on the role of a summer residence, having descended to Foster's eldest son Celden B. Foster. Celden Foster was responsible for the construction in 1895 of the existing barn, a building erected by the local carpenter Hiram York. As stated in his obituary which appeared in the May 3, 1934 edition of the Bethel Citizen, Celden B. Foster had been engaged in the produce business in Boston for more than forty years. The seasonal use of the property has been sustained by three subsequent generations of the family.

In addition to its reflection of agricultural and demographic patterns in nineteenth and early twentieth century Newry, the Foster farm is noteworthy for the architecture of the main dwelling. Although the Greek Revival style was popular throughout Maine from the 1830s into the 1860s, the use of a full portico - particularly with a porch on the second story - in a rural setting is uncommon. The presence of the lattice supports is also unusual, although this may be a replacement of more conventional posts or columns. The configuration of the portico is reminiscent of several other buildings found in western Oxford County including both residential and commercial properties. As a group, they form a noteworthy local variation in the panoply of Greek Revival forms which developed in Maine.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FOSTER FAMILY FARM

Section number 9 Page 2

Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Census of the United States. Agricultural and Population Schedules. Microfilm of the original manuscript copy. Maine State Archives, Augusta.

"The Foster Family." No author. No date. Typescript copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Wight, Paula M. Newry Profiles: 1805-1980. Privately printed. 1980.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

FOSTER FAMILY FARM

Section number 10 Page 2

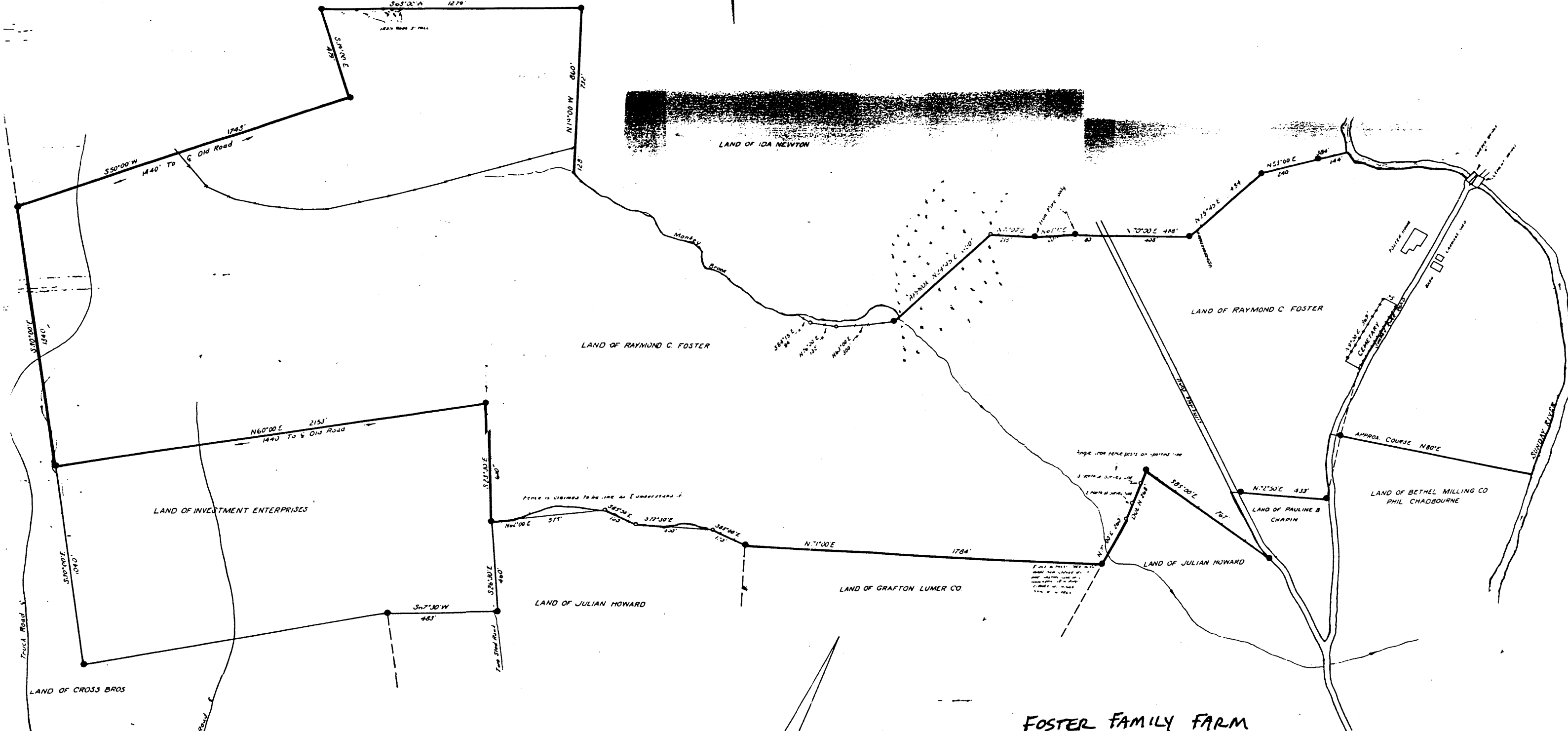
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See map.

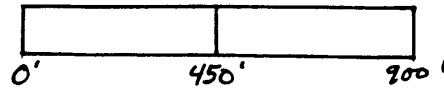
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire 255 acre parcel which historically and presently constitutes the Foster Family Farm.

LAND OF IDA NEWTON



**FOSTER FAMILY FARM
NEWRY VIC., MAINE**



SCALE 1" = 450'

ADJOINING OWNERS AGREEING TO ABOVE SURVEY

- CORNER IRON PIPE & STONES
- ANGLE IN SURVEY NOT MONUMENTED
- STONE WALL
- STONE POST FENCE
- IRON FENCE
- BARBED WIRE FENCE
- MEADOW