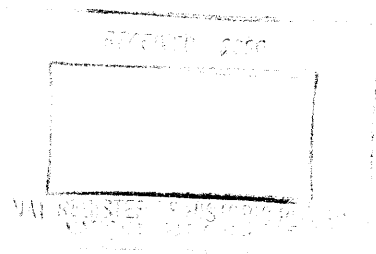


13

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 Jacobson, Pehr J., House

other names/site number Jacobson Hill Farm

2. Location

street & number 452 New Sweden Road N/A not for publication

city or town New Sweden N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04762

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 12/22/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

[Signature] 2-7-07
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	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Log House

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls OTHER: Masonite siding over Logs
roof METAL / Steel
other _____

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.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- EXPLORATION / SETTLEMENT
- ETHNIC HERITAGE
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

C. 1871

Significant Dates

C. 1871

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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.

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:

New Sweden Historical Society, Maine State Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	565296	5200183
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	19		

3	19		
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	19		

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 20 July 2006

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333 -0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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DESCRIPTION

The Pehr J. Jacobson House is log house built c. 1871. The building is set on a three acre parcel that is a portion of the original lot #96 that the State granted to Jacobson, a Swedish immigrant, in 1870. The property, which includes the original apple orchard and a 1936 gambrel roof barn (non-contributing) is located on the west side of State Route 161 (New Sweden Road) in the northern Aroostook County town of New Sweden, Maine. Situated on Jacobson Hill, the east facing property overlooks the valley of the Little Madawaska River and beyond that, Canada. Directly across the street, on Lot # 99 is Timmerhuset (NR: 73000102), another log house constructed by Swedish immigrants.

As was the custom among the Swedish immigrants to northern Aroostook County the home that Pehr J. Jacobson erected was of log construction. Presently covered by textured Masonite siding, it is a one-and-a-half story side-gable cape measuring 36 x 24 feet with a frame addition measuring 24 x 24 feet attached to the southwest corner. The primary elevation of the house faces east and contains two window bays with replacement six-over-six light sash flanking a central bow window. Directly over the center bay a gable roof dormer beaks through the eaves and rises flush with the plane of the facade. The dormer contains one six-over-six window. To the south of the intersection of the dormer ridge and the ridge line of the main house is a short brick chimney. The house is supported by a full concrete foundation and is roofed with painted metal. The side elevations each feature a pair of six-over-six windows on the first floor and a single window under the gable peak. The south elevation also contains a metal bulkhead cellar entrance. Narrow corner boards and minimal cornice returns mark the corners of the structure.

The addition is almost flush with the south side wall and contains one window and the main entry to the house. Another chimney rises through the west end of the east to west running gable roof, and the north wall contains several modern windows. On the west side of the log house is a single door.

The plan of the Jacobson log house is irregular. All four exterior walls are constructed of 6" wide cedar logs hewn flat on the interior and exterior faces. Each log course is rounded on the upper surface and concave on the bottom. On the interior are two long log partition walls running east to west and dividing the structure into three roughly equivalent bays, measuring 11 ½ feet, 12, feet and 10/13 feet from north to south. The northernmost bay is further divided by a log wall into two rooms measuring fifteen feet long in front and 7 ½ feet long in the west. The second bay is also divided into two by a log partition, this time set 7 ½ feet from the east exterior wall. The southernmost bay is undivided at present, however wood in-fill in the sub-flooring (visible in the cellar) suggest that a partition wall may have existed roughly 7 ½ feet from the west exterior wall. If so, than this wall was not constructed of log, as the exposed interior south walls show no evidence of being patched. If this was the case the southern pair of rooms would have matched in size and orientation those in the

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northern bay. It is important to note that all but the uppermost two courses of logs have been removed between the front middle room and the larger southern room. A newer frame partition running west to east has also been placed in the northwest corner room to create a hallway and bathroom, and another was installed in the northeast room to enclose a cellar staircase added in 1977. The front staircase is located in the northwest corner of the front middle room and runs along the northern long log partition wall. The second floor features three large bedrooms, one each over the north and south bays and the third in the front behind the dormer. All of these partition walls are of stud construction.

Several of the interior log walls are exposed including those in the south and west walls of the southern bay, and the south, east and west walls of the west center room. This room served originally as the kitchen. A door is cut through the partition walls on each side of this room with the western wall providing access into the new addition. The ceiling and north walls of the kitchen are covered with patterned tin panels and decorative tin mouldings. The remaining chimney is located in the southeast corner of the room, while the northeast corner ceiling shows a patch associated with a now removed second chimney. Along the north wall are built-in bead board cupboards and counters. The remaining interior finishes consist of carpeted floors (except for the northeast corner room, which has pine floors) and sheet rocked walls and ceilings. The exposed log walls are coated with a clear sealant, and in spots moss chinking is visible. The logs in the southwest corner of the kitchen retain sequential letters and numbers marked with a wax pencil marking the order of the logs.

When the addition was constructed against the west wall of the original house the exterior log wall was left exposed. Although partially obscured by a new partition wall in the addition, the joinery where the southern long log partition wall joins the west exterior wall is clearly visible. Here the joints consist of what appear to be square notches scribed with respect to the height of each log. A second set of similar joints are visible from the cellar staircase at the intersection of the north long log wall and the short center cross wall. However, the exterior corner joints are not visible and their form has yet to be determined.

In 1970 the Jacobson log house was jacked up and a full concrete basement built underneath. An undated, early twentieth-century photograph at the New Sweden Historical Society shows the house with a shed roof porch, a two-leaf front door with side lights, two-over-two windows and a balustrade spanning the lower face of the dormer. A second chimney was located north of the dormer ridge. The dormer was clapboarded but the lower walls of the house appear unsheathed and unornamented save for narrow corner boards. This photograph also indicates that the driveway passed to the north of the house.

In addition to the extant boundary features, the Jacobson Farm also contains an heirloom orchard parts of which were planted within a few years of settlement. The twelve original trees (and

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four newer trees) front the road north of the log house. Based on the location of the extant trees and old stumps the orchard was arranged in five rows of seven trees extending to the west. The extant varieties are thought to include Wealthy, Red Astrakhan, Dutchess of Oldenburg, Alexander and Yellow Transparent apples. Directly behind the orchard, to the west, is a large vegetable garden that occupies the former site of a side gable barn and wagon shed.

Barn, 1936. Non-contributing.

The barn on the Jacobson Farm is a large, three-story gambrel roof structure that faces south with a ridge that runs north to south. It is set on concrete pads, sided with wood shingles and features a metal roof over asphalt and cedar shingles. The primary facade is in the south wall and contains a large pair of exterior sliding wood batten doors and a single six light window on the first floor. Two windows covered with plywood and a louvered window are located high on the end wall. The structure features a center aisle between post and beam construction and a common rafter-major purlin roof. Although most of the original structural beams are intact many have been augmented with sistered dimensional lumber and cables and turnbuckles have been added for extra strength and stability.

Erected in 1936 to replace an earlier barn that had burned, this structure originally had a full cellar used to store potatoes. When the original foundation crumbled in recent decades it was filled with dirt and the structural elements placed on pads on the dirt floor. Evidence for lofts, tie-ups or stalls have also been removed. Although the overall external shell of this structure has been retained, and is a good example of a barn form found throughout Aroostook County in the early decades of the twentieth-century, the recent adaptations have compromised the integrity of the overall resource. For this reason, and because the period of significance for this nomination focuses on the early settlement of this property, the barn is considered to be a non-contributing resource.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pehr J. Jacobson House is one of several log houses that helps to illustrate the diversity of interior and exterior plan utilized by Swedish immigrants in New Sweden and surrounding towns. Probably built shortly after 1870, the house retains its floor plan, log construction, moss chinking and overall form even after changes of siding and windows and the construction of a rear addition brought the house into the twentieth century. This property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under criterion A for its important association with settlement of New Sweden, and criterion C for the architectural significance of the Swedish-style log house.

Responding to westward emigration which caused a decrease in Maine's population in the 1860s and 1870s, a movement began in 1861 to encourage the settlement of Scandinavian people in Maine. In 1864, the first attempt to bring Swedish laborers to Maine failed, but in 1870 the State Legislature passed "An Act to promote immigration and to facilitate the settlement of the public lands", and appointed William W. Thomas, Jr. as Commissioner of Immigration. The act identified an Aroostook County township to be settled and authorized Thomas to "Take the Swedes into our northern forests, locate them...west of the east line of the state, give every head of a family 100 acres of woodland for a farm, and do whatever else might be necessary to root this Swedish colony firmly in the soil of Maine." (Wilson, p. 137) Later that spring Thomas sailed to Sweden and returned with fifty Swedes, arriving in what became New Sweden on July 23, 1870. In addition to the land, each head of a household was given tools and provisions to begin farming. The program was very successful. By 1871 Thomas had to temporarily divert immigrants to other parts of the state and by 1873 there were 1500 Swedes in Maine with over 600 in New Sweden alone. At the end of 1873 Thomas recommended that "all special state aid to New Sweden should cease" due to the success of the venture. While the state aid did cease shortly thereafter, the immigrants continued to come to the area, settling also in the neighboring townships that would become Perham, Woodland, Westmanland, Caribou and Stockholm. (Hede, p. 46.)

Based on observation of 37 extant log houses, at the core of most of the log structures in the Swedish Colony in Maine is a side-gabled building, either three or five bays wide. While most are two rooms deep, some are only single pile. Chimneys are frequently located near the center of the ridge with only a few houses featuring two chimneys on the ridge.¹ There is only one (remaining) two story log house (Larsson-Ostlund in New Sweden), and at least one with an end gable entry. Of the thirty-seven log houses that existed or were documented by 1994 many of these had either been renovated or subsumed into larger structures. The form of others are now hidden behind numerous

¹The Nicholas Clase House had two chimneys, as did the Jacobson Homestead and the J.E. Lundwall House in New Sweden and the George Peterson farm in Woodland.

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outbuildings, sheds, porches or additions, while others will, or have, collapsed.² However, two historical sources also suggest the form of some of the first log houses in the area.

As part of the state's settlement plan log houses were to be provided to the immigrants. When the first group arrived in July 1870 only five of these were complete; a total of 22 were eventually erected.

The houses built by the state in New Sweden were all of uniform pattern. They were designed by our able and efficient land agent, Hon. P.P. Burleigh, and erected under the immediate superintendence of Jacob Hardison and Judah D. Teague, Esqs. They were built of peeled logs; were 18 x 26 feet on the ground, one and a half stories high, seven feet between floors, and had two logs above the second floor beams, which, with a square pitch roof, gave ample room for chambers. The roofs were covered with long shaved shingles of cedar, made by hand on the township. The space on the ground floor was divided off by partitions of unplanned boards, into one general front room 16 x 18 feet, one bedroom 10 feet square, and pantry adjoining, 8 x 10 feet. On this floor were four windows: one was also placed in the front gable end above. In the general room of each house was a second-size Hampden cooking stove, with a funnel running out through an iron plate in the roof. On the whole, these log-cabins in the woods were convenient and comfortable structures; they presented a pleasing appearance from without, and within were full of contentment and industry. (Hede, 1970, p. 26.)

While they may have been convenient, a later report suggests that they were "open to wind and weather" and after a big storm "the interstices [were] first "chinked up" with moss and then filled in with matched strips of cedar." (Hede, 1970, p. 30.)

Although the materials would have been familiar to the new arrivals these were not Swedish log houses, but buildings that simply utilized an available resource in an expeditious fashion. To date none of these structures have been identified as extant and the extent to which they were re-used, dismembered or improved upon is also unknown. In 1874 a census undertaken by the Colony's pastor, Rev. Wiren, to prove the success of the endeavor, lists for every family in the colony the size of their home and their barn as well as the numbers of livestock, acres of land cleared, and grain,

²This assessment is based on historic and current photographs of 37 log houses in the Swedish Colonies. Most (35) of these appear in the 1994 Namesday Calendar. Twelve of these also appear either in Maine Historic Preservation Commissions surveys, available historic photographs or both. In 1987 staff members of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission visited and photographed 10 log houses in the Swedish settlements. Of these they were able to gain access to six of them and subsequently made rough sketches of the plans.

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grass and potatoes cultivated.³ Close scrutiny of the 146 entries reveals only two houses that align with the 18 x 26 dimension. The most common housing size given was 28 x 18 feet (24 examples), followed by seven examples at 30 x 20 feet and four each at 18 x 14, 20 x 14 and 20 x 16. If these numbers are correct, either the State built houses did not match their stated intentions or the buildings had already undergone alterations.

The second historic source which describes an early log house was recorded by members of the Editorial Association of Maine on a trek through Aroostook County in 1878.

Here a halt was called, and all went in to inspect the domicile of Mr. Peterson. He with his wife, took this invasion very good-naturedly, and permitted the party to ransack the house at their pleasure. It is one of the larger and better class of houses, and shows the Swedish style of building to good advantage. It is built of hewn logs, clapboarded, with the interstices between the logs calked with moss - a warm and solid building. The interior partitions are also of hewn logs. The plan of the house struck us as being very convenient. The entrance hall does not run through the building but nearly across the front, having little depth, but considerable length. In the rear of the hall, opposite the outer door, entrance is given to a large, square reception room which occupies the middle of the house. On each side of this are two smaller rooms, entrance to which is gained from the hall, and also from the central room. These smaller rooms are used as kitchen, sitting room and bedrooms. (Hede, 1970, p. 41.)

The orientation of this plan, as described, bears some resemblance to the Jacobson house: there is a large central room and a front entrance hall, both of which open to side rooms. Log partitions are present in both houses. There are some differences however. In the Jacobson house the large central room appears to have served as the kitchen rather than a reception area, and the entrance hall at the Jacobson house cannot be said to run "nearly across the front, having little depth, but considerable length." Rather, it is the same size as the smaller room(s) in the western corners of the house. Nonetheless, the editors' historic description of the Peterson house suggests a plan similar to that of the extant Jacobson log house.

The Peterson house the editors described may be the same house depicted in a historic photograph at the New Sweden Historical Society, and labeled as belonging to George Peterson and located on Route 161 in Woodland. The house described by the editors was on the road between Caribou and the Capitol. The c. 1873 survey map indicated that Pehr Pettersson, a first year settler, obtained Lot A in Woodland, just south of the New Sweden line, on what is today Route 161.

³Originally published as a letter to the editor of *Sunrise*, a newspaper published in Presque Isle on September 2, 1874 the census is transcribed in The Centennial History of New Sweden, pages F-3 to F-8/

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The historic photograph also indicates another feature the two houses share: that of the central dormer that rises through the eaves. This feature is also seen on two early photographs (one from 1911, the other undated) of a third property, the J.E. Lundvall/John August Anderson House, on Station Road near the center of New Sweden. In the early 20th century all three properties also have two chimneys, and a hipped roof porch attached to the front wall of the house below the eaves. The Anderson house is also still standing, although its condition is unknown.⁴ This then suggests that the Jacobson house may be an example of a of Swedish log house that shared a common form as well as the traditional Swedish construction technology.

Little is known about Pehr J. Jacobson, who also went by the name John Jacobson. He arrived from Sweden in time to receive one of the first thirty-six land certificates, signed by the State Land Agent, Parker Burleigh, on October 25, 1870. In both the Wiren census and the 1880 Federal population census Jacobson is listed as unmarried. The 1874 census indicates that Jacobson had been in the country three years, had 2 acres of wood felled, six acres in grass and sixteen acres in crops, including potatoes. He owned a pair of oxen, a pair of cows, one calf, two pigs and four sheep. He had erected a barn that measured 36 x 24 and a house that measured 40 x 20. (It is possible that the size of the house and barn are reversed in the enumeration, as the present house measures 36 x 24.) By 1880 he had 30 acres of cleared land, \$1000 worth of buildings (a relatively high valuation), and had increased his livestock and was producing maple syrup. Between the 1880 and 1900 census he married (the number of years married is illegible), but never had any children. Considering his unmarried status, the size of the house that he erected is noteworthy. However, it is possible that he shared this house, at least temporarily with family members. One such person may have been C. Jacobson, another bachelor who arrived the same time as Perh Jacobson, and who had no house of his own in 1874 and who eventually settled on an adjacent lot.

Like the previously listed "Timmerhuset" (NR: 73000102), the Larsson-Ostlund House in the Lars-Noak Historic District (NR: 89000847), the Nicholas P. Clase House (NR: 89001699) and the log portion of the Anders and Johanna Olsson Farm (NR: 96000245) the Perh J. Jacobson log house illustrates a truly unique tradition of building in Maine. What few log buildings survive from earlier periods represent a wholly different technique of construction; forms that are more like those of the mid-Atlantic and southern parts of the country. As illustrated by the surviving log houses in the Swedish settlement areas of Aroostook County, the most significant differences between these traditions is the continuation of log end walls into the gable peaks (instead of a framed wall), the inclusion of interior log partition walls, the careful attention paid to weatherproofing the long horizontal joints between the logs, and the tendency to trim the overhanging corner ends of the logs and cover them either with corner boards or to sheath the entire structure. Although log construction was a building method employed elsewhere in Maine during the late nineteenth century, particularly for seasonal logging and sporting camps, documentary photographs of these buildings show them to

⁴This building was depicted in the 1994 Namesday Calender, albeit from the rear.

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have been crudely made with round logs of unequal size and no attention given to architectural ornamentation or finish; a form of building with little in common to the modest but well finished houses in New Sweden.

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Photographs. New Sweden Historical Society, New Sweden Maine. Photographs examined include 1. undated/unidentified photograph [Jacobson House], c. 1910 in Album # 5444. Donated by David Anderson; 2. photograph on board, "Originally George Peterson farm (came in 1871) Ernest Mahony place on Rt. 161 Woodland," item # 6178 3. photographs labeled "John August Anderson & Family" and E. Lundvall House 8/10/1911 then the house of John August Anderson," both in the Anderson Nelson album, item #5875.

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"Plan of Township 15 Range 3 W.E.L.S. with part of ...Perham and Woodland." Traced by James V. Elliot, Maine Forestry Department, Land Office Records, Division, from a plan on file in the Office of the Forestry Department. Plan Book 5A, Page 23. Original is undated, (c. 1873); copy 1969.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property are described by the Town of New Sweden tax map 7, lot 96-B.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary represent the limits of the property in the immediately associated with the Pehr J. Jacobson House.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 2

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

26 June 2006

East facade of house and barn, facing west.

Photograph 2 of 2

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

26 June 2006

Interior, entry way, facing south. Note remainder of log partition wall in ceiling and interior of log walls in background.