

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For NCRS use only
received JAN 6 1982
date entered FEB 4 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name Parsons, Josiah K., Homestead

historic ^{K.} (Josiah) Parsons Homestead

and/or common The Lilly Farm

2. Location

street & number Greenleaf Cove Road N/A not for publication

city, town Wiscasset vic. Westport, N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county Lincoln code 015

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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Elisabeth B. Lilly

street & number The Farm, Box 2010, R.F.D. #2

city, town Westport (Wiscasset), vicinity of state Maine 04578

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Wiscasset, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date N/A ^{N/A} federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Josiah Parsons Homestead in Westport, Maine, consists of a post-colonial dwelling, a trading post of the Federal period, and a dolphin pool built in 1964.

The 2½-story house, completed in 1792, is of frame (post-and-beam) construction with two internal end-chimneys, gable roof, shingle siding (clapboarded facade), and field-stone foundation. The facade, which faces east, is five bays wide with a central entrance. This entrance consists of a single panelled door flanked by Doric pilasters and surmounted by a 4-light transom; above this is an entablatured lintel with denticulated frieze. Fenestration today is 2/2, but would originally have been 9/6. The north and south sides of the house are two bays wide. Extending from the rear of the house is a 1½-story shed-roofed ell with a single chimney and a door facing north, flanked by two 9/6 windows to the left and three to the right (along with a single sash 9-light window). Attached to the west of this side of the ell is a one-story, gable-roofed barn. The south side of the ell contains another door and windows in the first story, and four 9-light single sash windows in the half story.

The trading post, built c.1815, is a frame building of Cape Cod form with an asymetrically-placed central chimney, gable roof, and clapboard siding. Fenestration is 9/6. On the water side of the building are porches on two levels, supported by tall wooden posts. Many of the original interior store furnishings remain.

The oval dolphin pool is of concrete construction measuring horizontally 75 by 50 feet with a maximum depth of 10 feet.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input 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/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Settlement
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1792, 1815 **Builder/Architect** Capt. Josiah Parsons

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Josiah Parsons House is a fine example of the rural Federal style and his trading post, of frame Cape Cod form, is significant as an early commercial building; the addition of the dolphin pool by the homestead's modern inhabitants demonstrates the continuing importance and usefulness of this pioneer settlement.

Captain Josiah Parsons, "a Patriot of Bunker Hill", settled on Westport Island upon his return from the Revolutionary War. The York, Maine, native constructed his Federal style home in 1792 on what is now Greenleaf Cove. Certainly one of the finest homes on the island, that of Captain Parsons remains almost as it was in 1792 with fine architectural detailing throughout, including fireplaces, mantels, wainscoting, moldings, corner posts, curving bannister, stone hearths, etc. Local people reported that the parlor was so large that they could have "four squares" going when they danced there. The "keeping room" still has the removable panel in the north wall which was used to take a casket in and out of the house.

Parsons became the second largest landholder in Westport and, by 1815, operated the only store, or trading post on the island. The Trading Post, built over the water with a boathouse underneath, provided for the needs of the island inhabitants. The original counter, cash drawer, and store kerosene lanterns are still intact.

In 1964, scientist John C. Lilly, M.D., purchased the Parsons property and constructed a concrete pool which he and Mrs. Lilly used in the summer while conducting communication research with dolphins; the Trading Post became a laboratory for recording the human and dolphin sonic output. Man and Dolphin and Mind of the Dolphin, Dr. Lilly's books, led the Washington Post to call him "one of the most original and fascinating scientists of our time, when original, fascinating scientists are hardly a rarity. He is one of the pathbreaking explorers of that great terra incognita, the human brain."

Throughout its existence the Parsons Homestead has displayed its adaptive and useful nature and thus has served its inhabitants well.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fannie W. Chase, Wiscasset in Pownalborough, Wiscasset, 1941.

Elizabeth S. Lilly, Typed Ms., 1981.

UTM NOT LINKED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7
 Quadrangle name Westport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	4	4	4	3	6	5	4	8	6	3	0	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing					

C

Zone		Easting						Northing					

D

Zone		Easting						Northing					

E

Zone		Easting						Northing					

F

Zone		Easting						Northing					

G

Zone		Easting						Northing					

H

Zone		Easting						Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Josiah Parsons Homestead property is bounded on the north by Greenleaf Cove Road; on the southeast by Greenleaf Cove and on the west by an inlet running southerly into Greenleaf Cove.

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

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian/Bette A. Smith, Assistant

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1981

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

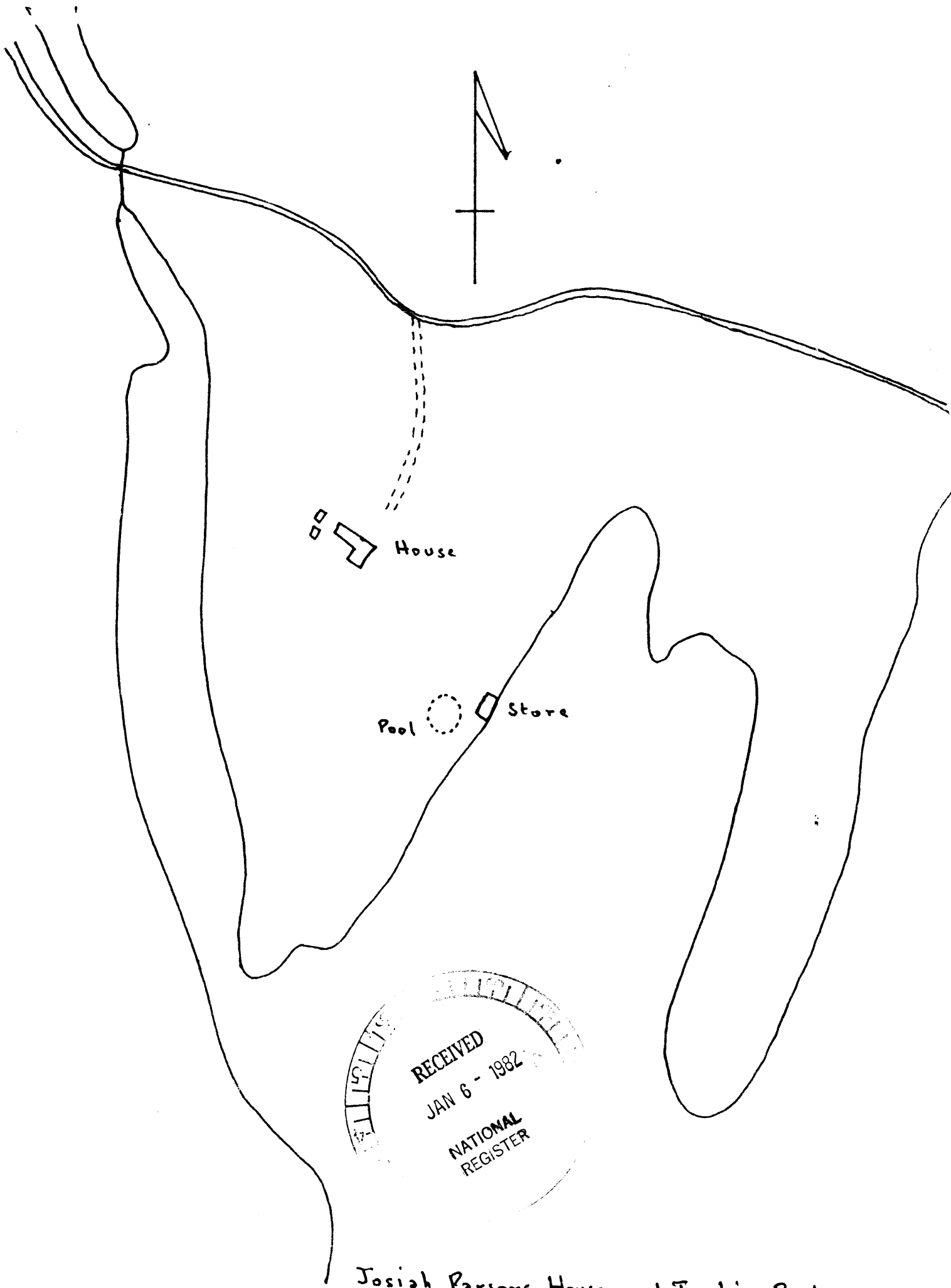
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earle S. Feltreworth*
 title S.H.P.O. date 12/18/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Melous Byers</i></u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>2/4/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	



RECEIVED
JAN 6 - 1982
NATIONAL REGISTER

Josiah Parsons House and Trading Post