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Form 10-300 (July 1969)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE:		
	MAINE	
COUNTY:		
	YORK	

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  (Type all entries - complete applicable sections)  NAME  COMMON:  FROST GARRISON AND HOUSE  AND/OR HISTORIC:  LOCATION  STREET AND NUMBER:  Frost's Hill  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE  Maine  CASSIBLE  TO THE PUBLIC  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  CODE  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  CODE  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  CODE  CONTROIN:  CODE  CODE  CODE  COUNTY:  CODE  C		MATIONAL REC	NOTER OF THE	101			IUKN	<u> </u>		
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7.	DESCRIPTION				-	-	
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	LOCATION	AND SETTING:				REG	IONAL ISTAR

The District is located at the end of a gravel drive about two-tenths of a mile in a northwest direction off from the Frost Hill Road in East Eliot about a tenth of a mile west of the York-Eliot town line.

Three buildings are included in the complex. All three of them could be encompassed by a circle with a fifty foot radius.

The surrounding area on top of Frost's Hill is largely open field with some scattered tree growth. Ten acres of land should provide ample protection.

#### BASIC STRUCTURES AND BUILDING MATERIALS:

The first building encountered when approaching the ground via the gravel drive is the old Frost family home, built in c. This building replaced an earlier garrison house built in 1733 and which was destroyed in 1760. It is a 40' x 28' two and one-half story wooden frame home with a gable roof, sheathed with cedar shingles. It is painted white. There are two brick chimneys which serve fireplaces in each of the eight There is a central hall which is entered from both the front and rear (long sides) of the building. This hall holds the stairwell. The original floors were made of wide pine boards; however, these have been replaced by hard wood on the first floor. The second story floor is original. Some of the interior walls are of wainscot panels up to about three and one-half feet from the floor. The walls are then, throughout, primarily plastered and very fine painted stencil work in excellent condition can be readily enjoyed. This building is a joy to the beholder, well preserved and properly restored.

It can perform a useful modern day function as a home. There is an electrical entrance, but water and plumbing are absent at this time. The entrance of these facilities will not adversely affect the architectural or historic significance of this building. This building was provided with a tunnel which led from beneath the stairway out to the second building considered in this district.

The second building directly behind the home is an original garrison used primarily as a powder house which was built in 1735 for protection. It served the original home of 1733. The small garrison measures about 15' x 15'. It was removed from its foundation over 30 years ago and reconstructed at Kittery Point. This Powder House has now been returned to its original location and rests on its original foundation. The tunnel that did connect with the home is not intact. The

Form\*10-300a \*\*
(July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
MAINE	
COUNTY	
YORK	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.7.23.0004	7/27/21

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Basic Structures and Building Materials (Con't.)

Powder House is a wooden structure made of hand hewn timbers of pine and oak, dovetailed at the ends. There are special timbers which lock the structure together. It has a loft beneath its low gable roof. Portholes are provided from which defenders could fire. The original blocks or plugs for these portholes are extant and in place.

The third building, the Frost Garrison, is again in back of the home and beyond the Powder House. This is the most outstanding building of this district - a large garrison house erected in 1738 or 1740. It is unique architecturally. Its twelve inch corner outside dovetails of hand hewn pine logs into squared timbers reveal its strength and enduring permanence.

Evidence of Indian attacks is seen around the small 3" x 3" portholes which are riddled with holes made by arrows and bullets.

Two such portholes are to be found in each of the garrison's walls. Five of the original porthole plugs are still in place.

Such niceties as hot oil scuttles are to be found in the structure.

The first floor has doors large enough to accommodate the cattle which were driven into the dirt floored downstairs area prior to Indian raids.

Forty-foot floorboards two inches thick, apparently made by an up-and-down saw, are used for the second story floor. A medieval style stairway secured on the landing by a planked door leads to the second floor. Found upstairs in all corners, as well as in the overhangs, are trap doors which served as openings to shoot through. The walls are made from huge pine trees and the supporting knees from giant roots. Most of the timbers measure 12" to 18" in width and are generally 8" in thickness. The foundation is of simple field stone construction with a thickness of about one foot. The gabled roof is covered by cedar shingles. Although the large garrison has been periodically repaired through the years, its general appearance cannot differ greatly from the original.

´ RECETVE[] Jan 11 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER

15	SIGNIFICANCE			
	PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
	☐ Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the earliest years of English settlement in Eliot (North Kittery until 1810), relations with the Indians were usually good. Increasing mistreatment of the Indians by the English settlers as well as encouragement by the French led to a series of Indian wars. These lasted from 1675 when King Philips's War broke out, until the end of the French and Indian War in 1763.

Southern Maine people were involved in a great many blood skirmishes with the local Indians during much of this period. In order to protect themselves from attacks, it was necessary for the local settlers to build many strong garrison houses.

Col. John Frost joined the ranks of citizens who constructed garrisons in the Eliot area. In about 1733 he built a house on the town's most prominent land feature, Frost's Hill. The house was the second to be erected on the Frost Hill land which the Frosts had owned since 1660. Within a few years, he erected a small garrison about 30' behind the house. This small building was later used as a powder house. The large garrison was erected for neighborhood use in 1738.

In any case, garrisons had been erected earlier in the surrounding areas. Many other families had garrison houses. One of John Frost's relatives, a Major Charles Frost, was the owner of a garrison until he was killed after being ambushed by Indians on July 4, 1697. At one time there were 28 garrisons in Eliot.

Although the numerous arrowhead marks found around the large garrison's portholes indicate that Indians had attacked the garrison on at least one occasion, there is no documentary evidence available indicating dates or circumstances surrounding any attacks.

After the Indian menace subsided, both Frost garrisons were used as storehouses for wood.

The large garrison was considered to be "very well preserved"

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Clayton, W. W. <u>History of York County</u>, <u>Maine</u> Philadelphia, 1880, P. 52.

Stackpole, Everett S., <u>Old Kittery and Her Families</u>, Lewiston, Maine, 1903, pp.

Howells, John Mead, The Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua

New York, 1937, plates 162, 163 and 299.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
MAINE	
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FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.7.23.0004	7/27/11
	710-11-1

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

#### SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

in 1880 and "still structurally sound" in 1903. The small garrison (powder house) still served as a woodhouse as late as 1880, but fell into decay and was eventually removed to Kittery Point. It has now been returned and restored on its original foundation.

The Frost house is well known for its fine stenciled interior walls. It remained in the Frost family until it was sold in 1930. It was slated for removal to nearby York Harbor at that time, but due to the depression plans were changed and removal was never effected. It is interesting to note that it is the ancest ral home of the American poet, Robert Frost, who made numerous visits to the Frost Hill area.

The present owner, Joseph Parsons, has done a goodly amount of restorative work on both the large garrison and the Frost house.

This is the only known 18th-century set of buildings in the United States erected strictly as a fortress against Indian attack by a single family.

STATE PARK & REDREATION COMMISSION AUGUSTA, MAINE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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			to this fou	ndation)			
			Photographe	r facing No	rthwest.	•	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Old Frost House:							
Photographer facing North.							

Form 10-301 (July 1969)

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TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

2. North arrow.

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3. Latitude and longitude reference.

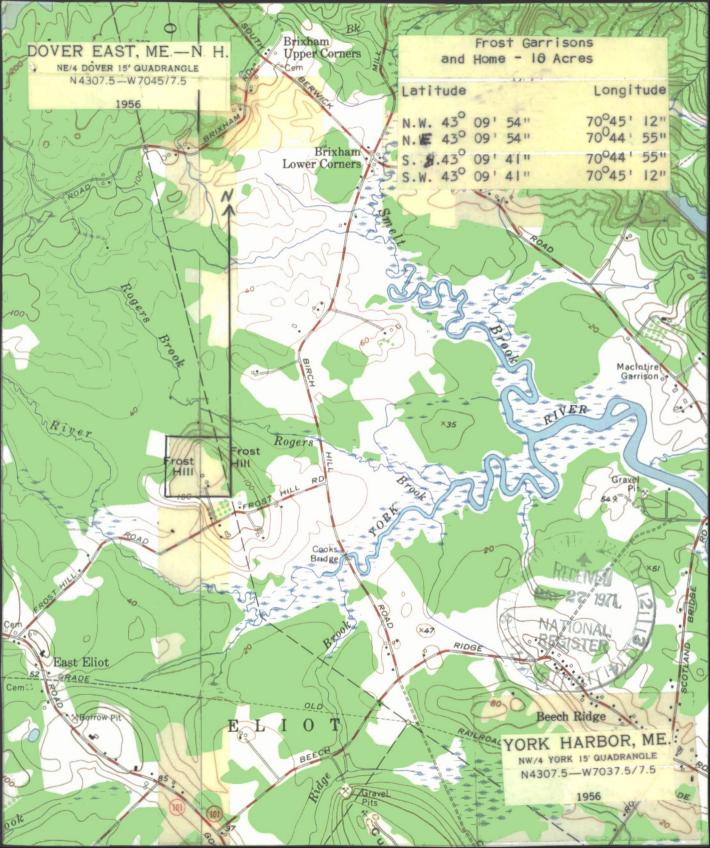
### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
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1.	NAME					
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HIG-HR

Mr. Lawrence Stuart Director State Park & Recreation Commission State Office Building Augusta, Maine 04320

Dear Mr. Stuart:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Margaret Chase Smith and Edmund S. Muskie and Representative Peter B. Kyros are being informed. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for each of the property owners. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincarely yours,

(Signed)

Director

Poclosures

Entered in the National Register JUL 2 7 1971

CC:

HR

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7/15/71

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

MAINE

Massachusetts Hall (Bowdoin College)

Cumberland County Brunswick, Maine

Frost Garrisons and House

York County Eliot, Maine

Percy and Small Shipyard

Sagadahoc County Bath, Maine

cc: Director, Northeast Region

Hon. Hardaret Chase Smith United States Senate Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Smith:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Covernor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Haine and have been entered into the Mational Register of Mistoric Places. Schator Edmund S. Muskie and Representative Peter E. Kyros have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Lawrence Stuart, Director, State Park & Recreation Commission, State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04339, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Director

Enclosures

JUL 2 7 1971 Entered in the National Register

cc: Mr. Lawrence Stuart, Director, State Park & Recreation Commission, State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Also notified: Hon. Edmund S. Muskie

United States Senate Washington, D. C.

Hon. Peter N. Kyros House of Representatives Washington, D. C.

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

MAINE

Massachusetts Hall (Bowdoin College)

Cumberland County Brunswick, Maine

Frost Garrisons and House

York County Eliot, Haine

Percy and Small Shipyard

Sagadahoc County Bath, Maine OCT 1 5 1971

1134-22

Hon. Margaret Chase Suith United States Senate Washington, B.C.

Dear Senstor Saith:

In response to your letter on behalf of Mrs. Raywond E. Wells, we are pleased to provide information concerning the Frost Garrison and Ecuse and Ambush Book in Maine.

It is quite likely that Mrs. Wells' statement of a recent declaration of historical sites has its basis in the entrance into the Mational Register of Mistoric Places on July 27, 1971, of three properties in Maine: Massachusetts Hall (Bowdoin College) in Grunswick, Percy and Small Shippard in Bath, and the Frost Sarrison and House in Eliot. You, together with Senator Muskie and Representative Myros, were advised of these registrations on July 27, 1971.

The Frost Garrisca and House is privately owned. According to information supplied by the State Limison Officer, the present owner Joseph Parsons, is engaged in restoration work. Presumably this would account for the "No Trespassing" signs. According to our information the buildings are accessible to the public on a restricted basis. However, unless regtoration work is accomplished with Federal assistance, which does not appear to be the case here, the private owner of a property cited in the National Register of Historic Places is not required to make it open to the public. Should Mrs. Wells desire more information on the Frost Garrison and House, we suggest she consult the State Limison Officer in Haine. He is Mr. Lawrence Stuart, Director, State Park and Recreation Commission, State Office Building, Augusta, Maine Ohlio.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with any information on Ambush Rock. The latter is not identified as an historic property by accelement of the Betional Fark Service; nor do we have a nomination for its inclusion in the Bational Register.

CL-23896

We are most appreciative of your continuing interest in the historic preservation activities of the Mational Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally

ACTING ASSOCIATE

Director

ee:

Br. Lawrence Stuart
Director, State Park and Recreation
Commission
State Office Building
Augusta, Maine 04330) w/c of inc.

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JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS., CHAIRMAN

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### United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Action Office FNP For info only

September 17, 1971

The Secretary Department of Interior Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed is copy of correspondence concerning:

Mrs. Raymond E. Wells Hellertown, Pennsylvania

Your consideration and attention, along with any information I may be furnished in this regard will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Margaret Chase Smith United States Senator

Polk Valley Rd. R. D. #1
Hellertown, Pa. 18055
September 15, 1971

Dear Senator Smith.

Since Major Charles Frost was an ancester of my mother's side of the family, it was of great interest and a sincere pleasure when I read recently that you have declared as historical sites both Ambush Rock and the Frost Garrison House. Though I have lived in Pennsylvania the past twenty years, Maine will always be "home" to me, and last week while "at home" visiting my father, we searched for and finally found the two sites. (My parents had visited them previously, but areas change so over the years!)

The Frost Garrison House was roped off, and "No Trespassing" signs kept us quite a distance away. Is that ultimately to be restored and opened to the public?

Also are both sites to be publicated more? When we asked local people for directions to them, very few had any knowledge of them whatever.

I am interested in further information on both (isites, and hope that you have some source material available.

Thank you for any help you may be able to give me--and especially, thank you for acknowledging the significant history represented by Ambush Rock and

the Frost Garrison House.

Respestfully yours,
Shuly & Hills

(Mrs. Raymond E. Hills)