



**Name of Property:** Perkins Homestead  
**City, State:** Newcastle, Maine  
**Period of Significance:** 1880-1965  
**NHL Criterion:** 2  
**NHL Theme(s):** IV. Shaping The Political Landscape  
4. Political ideas, cultures and theories  
V. Developing the American Economy  
7. Governmental policies and practices  
**Previous Recognition:** 2009 National Register of Historic Places  
1960 Historic American Buildings Survey  
**National Historic Context:** Women's History Initiative  
VII. Political and Military Affairs (1865-1939)  
H. The Great Depression and the New Deal

**NHL Significance:**

- The Frances Perkins Homestead is the ancestral home and lifelong summer residence of Frances Perkins, the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet as U.S. Secretary of Labor from 1933 to 1945. She owned and maintained the homestead from 1927 until her death in 1965.
- There is no place more strongly associated with Frances Perkins, a figure of undisputed national significance who was the driving force behind New Deal programs that still provide financial security for all Americans: Social Security, unemployment insurance, and minimum wage.

**Integrity:**

- The property retains a high degree of historic integrity having been continuously-owned by the Perkins family for over 250 years. Frances Perkins preserved the home and its landscape features with few alterations during her ownership, and her grandson continues to maintain it today as his year-round residence. The rooms are furnished almost as she left them, full of her books and memorabilia.
- A saltwater farm on the tidal Damariscotta River, the site is anchored by the well-preserved Brick House-connected barn complex that is scarcely changed since its recording in 1960 by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).
- The site's cultural landscape is also intact: its 2.8 miles of stone walls defining pastures, woodlands, the remains of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century home sites, and the wharves, clay pit, and brick kilns of the family-owned brickyard.

**Owner of Property:** Tomlin Perkins Coggeshall, grandson of Frances Perkins

**Acreage of Property:** 57 acres

**Origins of Nomination:** Seeking to ensure the homestead's long-term preservation and to honor his grandmother, Tomlin Coggeshall organized a group of supporters who established the Frances Perkins Center as a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in 2009. The Frances Perkins Center prepared the nomination in consultation with Mr. Coggeshall and the Maine State Historic Preservation Office. The nomination was prepared by Sarah Peskin, a board member of the Center and a retired National Park Service planning professional.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- Frances Perkins is becoming more widely known through the efforts of the Frances Perkins Center and current public discourse about the importance of Social Security.
- There is growing national interest in sites that recognize notable American women.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known.

**Landmarks Committee Comments:**

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:** Designation. Dr. Allan moved, Dr. Stevens seconded; unanimous approval.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 12/30/13):**

Tomlin Perkins Coggeshall (owner waiver received), Newcastle, Maine  
Steven Hufnagel, Executive Director, Damariscotta River Association, Damariscotta, Maine  
The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane, Bishop of Maine, The Episcopal Church in Maine  
The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, D. Min., Episcopal Diocese of Washington, Washington, DC

Margaret Carleton

Carl R. Nold, President and CEO, Historic New England, Boston, Massachusetts

The Honorable Christopher Johnson, State Senator, District 20, Augusta, Maine  
Stephen Bromage, Executive Director, Maine Historical Society, Portland, Maine  
Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., State Historic Preservation Officer, Maine Historic Preservation  
Commission, Augusta, Maine  
Neil Rolde, York, Maine  
The Honorable Chellie Pingree, Congress of the United States, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Maine  
Gregory Paxton, Executive Director, Maine Preservation, Yarmouth, Maine  
Brian Foote, Chair; Ellen Dickens, Vice-Chair; Christopher Doherty, R. Benjamin Frey, and  
Patricia Hudson, The Newcastle Board of Selectman, Maine (HEO waiver received)  
Nathaniel H. and Susan W. Bowditch, Westport Island, Maine  
Margaret Strobel, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Gender and Women's Studies, University of  
Illinois at Chicago; Board Member and Former President, National Collaborative for Women's  
History Sites  
Lynn Pasquerella, President, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts  
The Honorable Susan M. Collins, United States Senator, Maine  
The Honorable Angus S. King, United States Senator, Maine  
Kirstin Downey, Managing Editor, Washington Watch, Alexandria, Virginia

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**