

The historic keepers of this land are the Wabanaki (Abenaki), stewarded in the past, present, and future by the Penobscot Nation. The town of Newcastle was incorporated in 1775, and has supported industries such as shipbuilding, lumber and grist mills, and brickmaking through its unique geography and abundant natural resources.

The Damariscotta River is a 19-mile tidal river flowing from Damariscotta Lake to the Atlantic Ocean. The name is derived from the Abenaki phrase for "river of fishes." Its historic banks are home to 2,500-year-old shell middens, 19th-century brickmaking sites, and active shellfish farms.

- Visitor parking is only permitted in lot
- No parking on River Road, private roads, or driveways
- No overnight parking
- Two accessible parking spaces



The Brick House and historic farm buildings were built in 1837 as a wedding gift for Frances Perkins' grandparents. In 2024, the 57-acre Perkins Family Homestead was designated the Frances Perkins National Monument.

Foundations of another Perkins Family house and barn built c. 1760s


Location of the first Perkins dwelling: a garrison built c. 1750


Brick Yard Clay Quarry


The Perkins Brick Yard from c. 1795 to c. 1896


 Woods  Open Field

 North/South Loop Trail - Easy to Moderate

 Shore Trail - Moderate to Difficult - Uneven Terrain

 Historic sites - please leave bricks & artifacts undisturbed

 Benches

 Look upriver for the white spires of the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle, constructed in 1848 from Perkins bricks

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Homestead History

In 2024, the 57-acre Perkins Family Homestead was designated the Frances Perkins National Monument - Maine's second national monument. The 1837 Brick House, barn, and surrounding 2.3 acres is now federal property managed by the National Park Service. The Frances Perkins Center owns and maintains the remaining acreage, including the trails.

The Perkins Family Homestead along the Damariscotta River deeply influenced Frances Perkins and her landmark work to protect American workers. It was her lifelong sanctuary.

From childhood summers visiting her grandparents, and throughout her historic career, Perkins returned to her ancestral home in Newcastle for refuge and renewal. Continuously inhabited by the Perkins family for about 270 years, the homestead's buildings and trails remain largely unchanged from her time here.

We invite you to walk in Perkins' footsteps, exploring the grounds and enjoying the quiet beauty that inspired this trailblazer.



Frances Perkins with family dog Balto at the Perkins Homestead c. 1935
Frances Perkins Center Collection

Our Mission

The Frances Perkins Center inspires current and future generations to understand and uphold the government's role in providing social justice and economic security for all. Our work is guided by Frances Perkins' effective leadership style and one woman's power to change the world.

Frances Perkins (1880–1965) had a pioneering career as a labor reformer, teacher, social worker, industrial safety inspector, author, and the first woman to serve in a U.S. presidential cabinet as Secretary of Labor under Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933–1945).

In the face of the Great Depression, Perkins authored and championed landmark "New Deal" legislation and reforms including:

- Social Security Act of 1935
- Federal minimum wage and overtime pay
- The 40-hour workweek
- Modern industrial safety standards

Philanthropic Partner of the Frances Perkins National Monument



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FRANCES PERKINS CENTER

Perkins Family Homestead Trail Map

Walk in the footsteps of Frances Perkins

Leave No Trace

- Carry-in, Carry-out
- No fires or camping

Protect and Respect

- Stay on trail (pets too)
- Leashed pets only
- Carry out pet waste

Stay Safe

- Trail open dawn to dusk
- Pack water
- Check for ticks

francesperkinscenter.org | 207-563-3374
478 River Rd | PO Box 281
Newcastle, ME 04553