

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 on the back of the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking 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 Holden, Samuel, House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number East Side of Route 201, .25 Miles North of Junction with MDOT Road Inv. #25-704  not for publication

city or town Moose River N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Somerset code 025 zip code 04945

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.)

*Earl S. Peterson* 11/6/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
5HPO  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State of 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 the 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:)

*Edson A. Beall* 12.14.95  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

Holden, Samuel, House  
Name of Property

Somerset, Maine  
County and State

**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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Two Story Ell with Full Width Porch

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Holden, Samuel, House  
Name of Property

Somerset, Maine  
County and State

### 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.

#### 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 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

#### Period of Significance

1829-1858

#### Significant Dates

1829

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Holden, Samuel

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Holden, Samuel, House  
Name of Property

Somerset, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

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

3 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

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 Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1995

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

HOLDEN, SAMUEL, HOUSE

SOMERSET, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Samuel Holden House is a modest one-and-a-half story five-bay timber framed cape that has one and two-story ells. It is sheathed in weatherboards, and the original main building stands on a dry laid field stone foundation. A detached barn is located to the east of the house. The complex is located off the east side of US Route 201 at the edge of a golf course that has been developed on the former Holden property.

Facing south, the symmetrically composed front elevation contains a central doorway flanked by two-over-two double hung sash windows. The paneled door is framed by simple pilasters that rise to narrow molded capitals, and it is surmounted by a transom light. A boxed cornice carries across the elevation meeting corner boards of moderate width. Unarticulated flat boards frame the window openings, the sash of which appear to be turn-of-the-century replacements of the originals (whose pattern is not known). A single gabled dormer is located on axis with the doorway and about midway up the roof. To its east is a brick flue that punctuates the roof ridge.

The west gable end of the cape features a symmetrical fenestration pattern consisting of two widely separated two-over-two windows on the first story and a single one in the attic level. There are unequally spaced two-over-twos on the rear elevation and another dormer located in the same relative location as the one on the south side.

A two-story recessed ell is attached to the east side of the main block. Its first story enclosed porch is supported by eleven chamfered posts. With the exception of the entry, the space between these posts is infilled with long nine-pane windows. This porch shelters two doors and a trio of windows. There are three rectangular windows on the second story, and a second brick flue rises through the roof ridge. The rear elevation of this ell contains six asymmetrically placed windows as well as a door, and the east gable end has two additional windows. A one-story ell is attached to the east end of the larger one. Its roof on the south elevation rises above the adjacent porch roof, and it extends over an extension of this porch which is enclosed in a similar fashion. A tall brick flue punctuates the roof near its intersection with the two-story ell, and its north side features a single six-over-six window as well as attached privy.

The original plan of the cape has been considerably modified, an alteration which probably occurred when the complex was converted into a boarding house around 1900. A large stone base for a centrally located chimney survives in the basement, although the chimney itself is gone. When this modification took place, a single large room was formed from the entrance vestibule and the space previously occupied by the chimney. It is unclear whether the existing narrow enclosed staircase located opposite the front door is original. The location and configuration is certainly appropriate, however, given the likely original floor plan. Enlargement of the doorway into the narrow room on the north side further increased the openness of the first floor plan. However, two small rooms were retained in the west end the southernmost of which had a fireplace that was removed when the main structure was taken out. The kitchen is located in the ell along with a variety of other small bedrooms. The one-story ell contains the woodshed.

The gable roofed barn faces west, and it is covered entirely in weatherboards. It was probably built at the

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HOLDEN, SAMUEL, HOUSE

SOMERSET, MAINE

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turn-of-the-century, although it could be earlier since it exhibits a very traditional configuration and detailing. There are two large track-mounted doors on the southwestern half of the facade along with a smaller entry door and a single two-over-two window. Two similar windows are located on the upper story and a third is positioned below the gable peak. There are four windows on the south side, two windows and a door on the north side, and another track-mounted door on the east end.

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HOLDEN, SAMUEL, HOUSE

SOMERSET, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

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Erected in 1829, the Samuel Holden House is a modest frame cape built by the first settler in the Jackman-Moose River area. The existing building is the third dwelling erected by Holden, the previous two having been log cabins, at least one of which was destroyed by fire. In addition to its serving as the home to the large Holden family, this building housed the community school for several years and was the post office during Holden's tenure as postmaster. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion A for its important association with the exploration and settlement of this hitherto unoccupied area of the state, and Criterion B for its association with Samuel Holden.

Samuel Holden (1772-1858) was born in Groton, Massachusetts, the son of a Revolutionary War veteran. On August 11, 1797, he married Jane Farnsworth, and in 1811 the couple and their children moved to Norridgewock. The family resided in Norridgewock until 1815, at which time they relocated to North Anson some thirteen miles to the north. In 1820 the Holdens, whose family now consisted of nine children, were again on the move this time to a remote, unsettled area of northern Somerset County not far from the border with Quebec. The Samuel Holden family was recorded in the 1820 Census in Carrying Place (the present Caratunk), but a marginal note made to the original census manuscript implies that they had passed through this settlement and were now located in the most northerly part of Maine at an undetermined location. This notation is a fascinating record pertaining to the movement of settlers in early nineteenth century Maine, and it provides us with an important sense of the isolation faced by these people.

According to tradition, Samuel Holden came to Moose River in 1819, erected a temporary log cabin, and planted a crop of wheat. In March of the following year he brought his entire family. Tragedy soon beset the settlers, however, when their house and all of its contents was destroyed by fire in May of 1820. A second dwelling was built at a site some 1600 feet south of the first one, and in 1829 this cabin was replaced by the existing frame house. The fact of its frame construction indicates that by this date Holden had access to sawn lumber, although the source of this material is unknown. In both its traditional overall form and very simple detailing the new house reflected the frontier conditions in which it was erected. Nonetheless, it would serve an important community function during the succeeding two decades. For example, until the first schoolhouse was built in 1849, classes were held in the Holden house under the supervision of one of Samuel Holden's daughters. Likewise, when Holden served as postmaster from 1834-1843 the house became the settlement's post office.

It is not positively known why Samuel Holden chose to venture into the Maine wilderness and settle in the Moose River area. One plausible theory, however, is that he was drawn by the opportunity presented by the construction of a road (which came to be known as the Canada Road) linking central Maine to Quebec. In 1817, the Massachusetts General Assembly authorized the surveying and construction of that segment of the road leading from Bingham's Million Acres grant to the border (Moose River is about midway along this route). Construction of the section through the "Million Acres" to North Anson continued in 1818. Subsequent efforts to improve this

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road made in the late 1820s suggests, however, that the original northern portions of this road were far from adequate. For example, in 1829 Jane (Farnsworth) Holden mentioned construction of the road in a letter to her relatives in Massachusetts, and the erection of the present dwelling (which a recent survey concludes is the oldest standing frame house on the Canada Road) along this road and at this time may very well be related to the family's expectations about the future traffic. Of additional note is an article about the Canada Road which appeared in the March 1830 edition of the *Mechanicks Magazine* (Boston) reporting on its pending completion. In reminding its Massachusetts readers of the assistance which they had given to its construction (the State had funded the original road and given a township of land to Maine in 1827), the author remarked on "...the immense trade which is about to be opened immediately upon Maine, and hence, the great interest we have in Boston of giving a new impetus to our steam navigation, with Portland, Bath and Hallowell."

Samuel and Jane (Farnsworth) Holden occupied the house until their deaths in 1858 and 1859, respectively. It apparently remained in possession of their children until it was acquired by Helon Colby, a grandson. He transferred it in 1872 to Abel Kimball who retained it until 1900. During the following eighty-two years it changed hands six times, finally being acquired by the Town of Moose River in 1993. Local tradition maintains that the Holden house served as a boarding house for many years in the early years of the twentieth century, if not before. An interesting reference to this activity is contained on a postcard from about 1920 which has a handwritten note on the back stating: "Oldest house in town. Our rooms are on the back. Inside fixed up very nice and comfortable." The two-story ell addition is believed to have been built to accommodate boarders.



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HOLDEN, SAMUEL, HOUSE

SOMERSET, MAINE

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“Canada Road.” The Mechanics Magazine. Volume I. March, 1830. Boston: Samuel N. Dickenson. 1830.

Faulkner, Alaric and Rodrique, Barry. “Canada Road Survey Part I: Jackman to the Canadian Border.” Orono, Maine: University of Maine, Department of Anthropology. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta. 1994-95.

History of the Moose River Valley. Jackman, Maine: Jackman Bicentennial Book Committee. 1976.

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HOLDEN, SAMUEL, HOUSE

SOMERSET, MAINE

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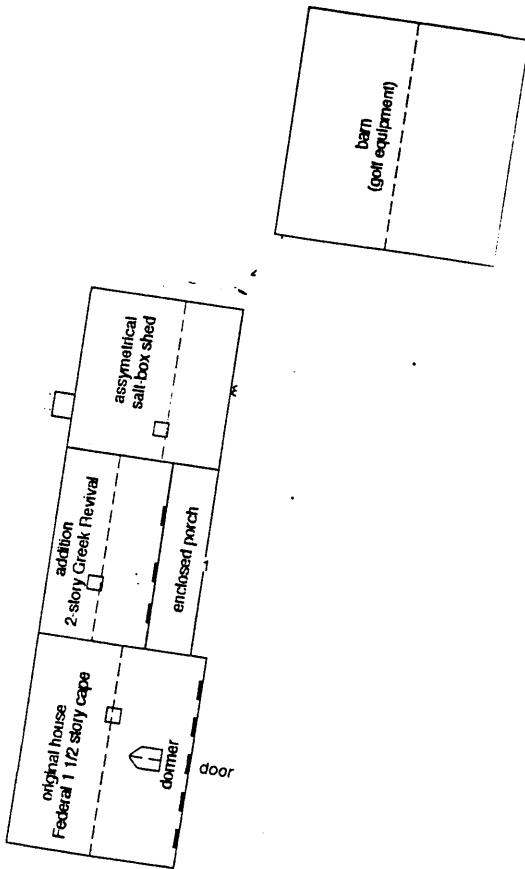
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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

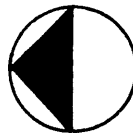
See map.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property of approximately one acre embraces the Holden house, its associated barn, and the immediate property extending to Route 201. The surrounding property is now part of the Moose River Golf Club and, although it was originally associated with the Holden house, its appearance and function have changed dramatically. Therefore, it is not included in this nomination.



HOLDEN, SAMUEL, HOUSE  
MOOSE RIVER, ME



0 5 10 m

SCALE: 1" = 10M

US ROUTE 201