

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

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

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



**1. Name**

historic Todd House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 11 Capens Avenue not for publication

city, town Eastport vicinity of congressional district Second

state Maine code 23 county Washington code 029

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input 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 Ruth McInnis

street & number 3 Green Street

city, town Eastport, vicinity of state Maine 04631

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number

city, town Machias, state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Sunrise County Architecture has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Sunrise Research Institute

city, town Machiasport, state Maine

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Todd House, built as early as c.1781, is probably the oldest house in Eastport. As a remarkable survival, it is the more remarkable in its almost completely unaltered state.

The house is of familiar Cape Cod design, post-and-beam construction, with large central brick chimney, clapboard siding, and field-stone foundation.

The facade, which faces south, is five bays wide with a central entrance. The panelled door is surmounted by a 6-light transom. Fenestration throughout the house is 9/6. The ends of the house are two bays wide with asymmetrically-spaced windows.

Extending from the rear of the house is a one-story ell with rear door in its shingled end. Here again windows are 9/6.

Internally, the house is also remarkably well preserved, with two principal rooms on each side of a small entrance hall. The original front staircase was altered in 1801 to afford more privacy for the upstairs Lodge meeting room. Across the rear of the house is the kitchen with its large cooking fireplace. The ell contains a separate bake-oven, but no fireplace.

## 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 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates      c.1781                      Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Probably built by John C. Todd who was at least the earliest recorded owner, this small Cape Cod dwelling is judged to be the oldest frame house in Eastport. It appears as the only structure shown on Joseph Des Barres' Passamaquoddy Bay chart in the American Neptune published in 1781. It is known that the first settlers on Moose Island (now Eastport) were fishermen from Newburyport and Portsmouth who came as early as 1772.

On August 11, 1801, the Eastern Lodge of F. A. Masons (easternmost in the United States and first in Washington County) was instituted in this house and meetings continued there for many years. The first lodge hall was not built until 1887. Among the charter members of this lodge was Hopley Yeaton, commander of the first U. S. revenue cutter in the area and generally acknowledged as "Father of the Coast Guard". In 1901 on their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Lodge installed a suitably inscribed polished pink granite stone in the foundation of the house.

In 1814, Eastport was seized by a British force and not finally relinquished until 1818. During this period the Todd house was occupied by English officers.

The Todd house stands today as an important local landmark dating from the very earliest settlement of the community. It is also a prime example of the Cape Cod house type as interpreted in eastern Maine in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Williamson, Joseph, A Bibliography of the State of Maine. Portland, 1896. Vol. I, p. 362 (Des Barres).  
 Kilby, William H., Eastport and Passamaquoddy. Eastport, 1888.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4  
 Quadrangle name Eastport

ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	9	6	5	19	0	10	10	4	19	7	14	8	18	10
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

Assessor's Map 15, Lot 28.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1980

street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

# 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

*Eula S. Phelps*

title S.H.P.O.

date 2/15/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*for [Signature]*  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 4/23/80

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*

date 4/22/80

Chief of Registration