

**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

For NCRS use only
received JAN 12 1982
date entered FEB 11 1982

1. Name

historic Robert Reed ^{House} Homestead
and/or common Robert P. Tristram Coffin Home

2. Location

street & number ME Route 128 and Chop Point Road N/A not for publication
city, town Woolwich, N/A vicinity of congressional district First
state Maine code 23 county Sagadahoc code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> 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 Kayda & Samuel Selby
street & number R.F.D. #1; Box 443
city, town Woolwich, vicinity of state Maine 04579

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds
street & number
city, town Bath, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no ___
date N/A federal ___ state ___ county ___ local ___
depository for survey records N/A
city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Robert Reed House of Woolwich, Maine, dating from ca. 1765, is a well-preserved and classic example of later colonial vernacular architecture in a rural residential context.

The 2½-story house is of frame construction (post and beam), with large central chimney, gable roof, clapboard siding, and field-stone foundation. The facade, which faces south, is five bays wide with a central entrance. This entrance consists of a single door with transom below an entablatured lintel. Fenestration throughout is 9/6. A secondary entrance is located on the east end of the house.

Extending west from the west side of the house is a one-story gable-roofed ell with a three-bay facade facing south. This wall contains a door and two 6/6 windows. In the west end is a barn door.

Attached to the northeast corner of the house is a center-chimney cape with a five-bay facade facing east. This cape, moved onto the property at an early date, functions as an ell for the house.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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.1765 **Builder/Architect** Robert Reed

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Robert Reed House in North Woolwich, built c.1765, is a splendid and beautifully restored example of a rural colonial homestead. Although there is no record of the Cape which forms its ell and was moved there from another location, internal evidence indicates its being of nearly the same period. It is likely, indeed, that it was attached to the main house at an early date since Reed proceeded, after building the house, to sire twelve children in less than sixteen years!

The house is of further significance as the home, beginning in the 1930's of Robert P. Tristram Coffin, Pulitzer Prize winning poet and author, while a professor at Bowdoin College. Coffin, sometimes referred to as Maine's poet laureate, wrote fondly of the house in his book, Kennebec, Cradle of Americans:

"My house on Merrymeeting Bay, where I write these lines, is only one among many places waiting to flower again by the river that runs through the heart of Maine. A fireplace wide enough to take a family of twelve into its warm arms..a fireplace in every room, and cranes and S-hooks to hold porridge in them all. That is the kind of place a house ought to be. Bedrooms above, paneled in pine cut on the farm, golden brown and velvety with the sunshine and use of many years. Door latches made by hand and worn away by hands of many people who sprang from the loins of the maker. Eye-hooks to hold the rug frames in the kitchen ceiling, and all the delicate wooden vitals of a hand loom stowed in the attic, waiting to be set up again and minister to a new family, each small reed and bobbin made by hand. A shad net hangs there too, high up so the mice cannot gnaw it, among the axe-hewn rafters that are pegged with wooden pins instead of nails. There are pantries with half doors and a sloping outside cellar door, waiting to lift up and let life in and out again. The walls of this house of mine are not merely paneled wood and plaster, they are the rhythms of life and love that went on inside them, they are the stuff of loyalties and fealties that could not be buried under six feet of cold earth in the little graveyard back of the grape arbor. The walls are alive, and they call out to the life of me and my children."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Coffin, R. T. P., Kennebec, Cradle of Americans. Farrar and Rinehart, Inc., 1937

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Gardiner

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	4	3	5	1	0	0	4	8	7	2	4	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map R14, Lot 35

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

state N/A code county code

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 July, 1981

street & number 55 Capitol 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 *Eileen S. Speltz*

title S. H. P. O. date 12/18/81

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 2/11/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration