

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

no. 200301

historic Jacobs Houses and Store

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 9-17 Elm Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Saco

vicinity of

congressional district

1st

state Maine

code 23

county York

code 031

3. Classification

Category

- district
- building(s)
- structure
- site
- object

Ownership

- public
- private
- both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
- being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Alfred

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 Jacobs Houses and Store on Elm Street in Saco, Maine are a compact grouping of three buildings all constructed in a short space of time in the late Federal period.

The Benjamin Jacobs House, built c. 1820, is a dignified example of late Federal style architecture in a residential context. The house is of frame construction (post-and-beam), with hipped roof, two internal brick chimneys, two stories, clapboard siding, and field-stone foundation. Like the other two buildings, the facade faces north-west and is five bays wide with a central entrance. This entrance consists of a single door flanked by side-light and surmounted by a delicate fan-light. Fenestration here and elsewhere is 2/2, but originally it would have by 9/6, in all likelihood. Extending from the rear of the house is a two-story ell with a one-story porch of c. 1900 on its north-east side.

The Moses Jacobs House, built shortly after that of Benjamin Jacobs, but by 1826, is very similar in detail, but for the fact that in the mid-nineteenth century the house was converted to two-family form and from that period now has a pair of entrances forming the central bay of its facade. These two doorways share an entablatured lintel. The ell to this house is small, with 1 1/2 stories covered by a shed roof.

The Jacobs Store is a large brick block with hipped roof, three stories, and granite trim, dating from 1826. Fenestration here, as in the houses, is 2/2, capped by granite lintels of typical Federal form.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1820-1826 **Builder/Architect** *Benj. + Moses Jacobs*

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This grouping of buildings, all dating from within a decade and all built and owned by brothers, Benjamin and Moses Jacobs, both successful businessmen, present a late Federal streetscape of unusual unity, historically and architecturally.

In 1817, a two acre parcel on Elm Street between Water and Storer Streets was purchased by the Jacobs brothers. Benjamin completed a house for himself on the Storer Street corner in 1820. This house, a virtually unaltered Federal structure was described by Maximilian L. Ferro, AIA, RIBA, in a 1976 report for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, as "particularly harmonious, well-proportioned and unspoiled."

Sometime afterward and before 1826, Moses Jacobs built a house next to that of his brother in the middle of the block. This house, from internal evidence appears to have originally been virtually identical to his brother's but a later owner changed it to a double house. This was accomplished fortunately, with little interior alteration.

In 1826, Benjamin built on the corner of Water Street a fairly ambitious brick commercial block, apparently as an investment rental property, the first floor of which has been considerably altered but always, it seems, used as a store.

The apparent success of the brothers came to a disastrous end in 1827 when Moses died and Benjamin apparently went bankrupt. In that year both houses were sold to different buyers and the store and all of Benjamin's other property was sold for \$10,000 and the payment, by the new owners, of all his debts.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Roy P. Fairfield, Sands, Spindles, and Steeples, Portland, 1956.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1 1/2
Quadrangle name Biddeford

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 1 9	3 8 1 2 7 1 2 1 0	4 8 1 1 7 0 4 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessors Map 38, Lots 10, 40, 41

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

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			
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 October, 1980
 street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133
 city or town Augusta state Maine

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

Earle S. [Signature]

title S.H.P.O.

date 10/30/80

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Bralham

date 3.2.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

BUILDING:

Benjamin Jacobs House

Moses Jacobs House

Jacobs Store

OWNER:

Mark Johnston
17 Elm Street
Saco, Maine

Same as Above

Mrs. Samuel Peterson
7 Elm Street
Saco, Maine