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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 in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Daigle, Jean-Baptiste, House  
Other names/site number: la maison Jean-Baptiste Daigle  
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 4 Dubé Street  
City or town: Fort Kent State: Maine County: Aroostook  
Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

### 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  
 A  B  C  D

[Signature] 8/16/13  
Signature of certifying official/Title: SHPO Date  
**MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*Joy Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

*10-16-13*  
Date of Action

**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



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

October 24, 2013

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically entered in the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 2013

This is due to the fact that there was a lapse in appropriations by Congress and our offices were closed from October 1-16, 2013. "Nominations will be included in the National Register within 45 days of receipt by the Keeper or designee unless the Keeper disapproves a nomination" (30CFR60.(r). If the 45<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day.

The documentation is technically sufficient, professionally correct and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation. Thus, this property is automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1 _____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1 _____	0 _____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC / Single dwelling  
DOMESTIC / Multiple dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE /Museum

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER / Acadian Log House  
MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE foundation, ASPHALT and METAL roof and OTHER: MASONITE siding.

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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**Summary Paragraph**

The Jean Baptiste Daigle House is a one-and-one-half story, log cape with a traditional construction date of 1837-1840. The vernacular house has a side gable roof, Masonite siding and a fieldstone and mortar foundation. The west and east elevations both have small gable roof entry porches. Located on the east side of US Route 1 (East Main Street) between Dube Street and Highland Avenue, the building faces west towards the road. Across the road is the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad track and beyond that the St. John River, which forms the international border with Canada. Directly in front of the house, at the edge of the road are two lilac trees. Most of the half-acre lot is terraced flat and planted to grass. East of the house is a small two story barn; and at the back of the lot, behind a neighboring structure, a one-story replica school house is under construction. Surrounding the Daigle house is a modest, residential neighborhood featuring homes from the later 19<sup>th</sup> and entire 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Less than three hundred feet to the southeast is the Fort Kent Railroad Station (NR: 89000249), erected in 1902 and south of the station are former potato warehouses now converted to commercial buildings. Half a mile further to the south is the Fish River and the Fort Kent Block House (NR/NHL 69000005), beyond which is the commercial and civic core of the town. Although the building was moved to its current location in 1864 and has had a moderate

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number of changes to its materials and design, the important, traditional Acadian *pièce sur pièce* log construction of the house remains intact.

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## Narrative Description

### Current appearance

#### Exterior

The Daigle House has a rectangular foot print measuring thirty-six feet, four inches by twenty-six feet under a side-gable roof. The façade of the Daigle House is essentially symmetrical and contains a center entrance flanked on the east and west by two one-over-one sash windows. In front of the wood and glass door (installed 1949) is a low rectangular stoop and one-bay wide front gable roof entry porch with a side railing of turned balusters and turned porch supports.<sup>1</sup> On either side of the door the windows are positioned close to each other and are clustered closer to the front door than to the corners of the building. This design feature, along with the very high eave line and gable roof entry porch, create a façade that is characterized by tightly grouped fenestration surrounded by a relatively broad expanse of unarticulated wall. Ornamental trim consists of narrow window and door frames, and overhanging, closed soffit. Instead of corner boards, shingles of Masonite wrap around the corners at each row. A low, brick chimney pierces the ridge of the roof just south of center. The roof is covered with standing seam metal on the west slope and asphalt shingles on the east slope.

The east and west elevations contain two widely spaced window bays on each floor and a louvered vent in the attic gable. The overhanging roof is not accented with any rake trim, however, cornice returns are present at eave level. As with the front, the windows contain one-over-one sash in narrow frames. Although at first glance the openings on the two stories appear to be vertically aligned this is not the case: on each elevation the first floor windows are positioned slightly closer together (about 6") than the upper windows. At the center of the south elevation cement stairs between retaining walls descend to a cellar entrance. The rear, or east, elevation was originally similar to the front, with its centered, gable roof entrance porch and door flanked by windows. However the fenestration pattern was previously altered to accommodate a rear ell and currently the openings consist, from south to north, of a pair of new casement windows, a three-panel-and-glass door and another casement window. Another window, at the north end of the wall, was blocked when the function of the northeast room changed from a bedroom to a dining room. The original back door, which has been retained, was a thick batten door.

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<sup>1</sup> The original six panel door with beveled moulding is in storage, as are the side and transom lights that formed its original surround. Due to the fragility of this and the original rear door, reproductions will be installed in the future, and both period doors will be retained in the Historical Society's collections.

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**Interior**

The interior spaces are oriented around a central hall located in the western half of the house. Originally this hall provided access to a large front room in the northwest corner of the house (parlor), a bedroom in the southwest corner (now a den) and the stairs to the second floor. A portion of that bedroom has been partitioned into a bathroom which is accessed from the hall. Beyond the hall, the east half of the house opens into a large space divided by function: in the northeast corner is a dining room (formerly the priest's bedroom), and the kitchen occupies the middle and southeast corner of the house. The back door opens directly into the kitchen. The c. 1949 kitchen features an L shape counter with wooden cabinets below and open shelves above, on the east and south walls, an ice box on the south wall and a large, cast iron woodstove attached to the chimney on the west wall. Between the stove and the south gable wall is a half-height partition wall and opening that now provides access into the former southwest bedroom, most recently used as a den. At the other end of the room a vertical board wall partitions the dining room off from the kitchen. Historically referred to as the "priests" room, the dimensions of this room were expanded when a partition wall (possibly a closet) between this room and the parlor was removed in the early twentieth-century.

On the second floor is a large bedroom in the northwest corner, a wide corridor immediately adjacent to the stairs, a six feet by twelve feet long closet or bedroom (lacking an exterior window) in the southwest corner, and a larger bedroom centered against the south gable wall. The entire east third of the second floor is an unfinished attic (also described as the home's *granier*, or *granary*) which has exposed log framing and is open to the timber rafters.

Below the house is a small cellar. Much of the cellar is un-excavated dirt into which are set several wooden support posts. Directly adjacent to the cellar stairs thick planks bank back the dirt and provide a cool winter storage place for food (root cellar).

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**Finishes and features**

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The interior finishes are varied, with some dating to the initial construction of the house and others representing updates by the Daigle family. Throughout the house the floors are of wide pine (the parlor floor retains some of its original red paint). Most of the exterior walls on the first floor are sheetrock that was papered and then painted; however, the exterior walls in the northeast room still retain exposed sawn logs, although it is clear that they were covered with wall paper previously. The interior partitions are non-load bearing vertical board walls. The ceiling of the parlor is finished with board-and-battens (the battens are wide and have moulded edges) but the kitchen, dining room and former bedroom have wide pine painted boards with square cut nails on the ceilings. On the second floor the rooms have horizontal sheathing on the exterior walls, vertical board interior partition walls (covered with wall paper), and board ceilings. The floors are painted soft wood, probably pine or spruce. The two southern bedrooms on the second floor have early twentieth-century two-panel, veneer doors, as does the door to the basement, located on the first floor under the stairs. The northern bedroom has a four panel door. On the first floor the door to the parlor is a six panel door with Suffolk latch. In the center hall the vertical board walls under the staircase are hand planed

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and two small cupboards with doors cut from the boards, are set into the staircase wall. The staircase features turned balusters downstairs and straight balusters on the second floor.

Displays of furniture, tools, appliances, toys, and photographs are distributed throughout the house, and several of the rooms are in the early stages of a restoration project.

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## Structure

The Jean Baptiste Daigle is an example of Acadian "*pièce sur pièce á tenons en coulisse*" log construction, in which sawn timbers or logs, generally measuring four by eight inches, were laid horizontally one over the other. While the logs form the exterior structural walls they are themselves set into a separate frame which supports the roof. Based on structural elements visible in the granary (eastern third of second floor), the building has a post and beam frame consisting of the vertical corner and intermediary posts which support thick, hewn plates on the east and west wall. On each gable-end wall thick girts are tenoned into the corner posts; these girts are positioned at the bottom of the window openings. Diagonal corner braces extend down from the corner posts to the gable end. Above the girts the walls are made of vertical planks either nailed to or tenoned into the outermost rafters. On the eave wall, the hewn plate is continuous from gable to gable but as the logs reach only to, and between) the intermediary posts, they are shorter in length. The pair of intermediary posts appear to flank what was originally the back door opening on the first floor. The layers of logs are held together by trunnels (tree nails) at regular intervals, and by mortise and tenons at the vertical posts. The horizontal layers of *pièce sur pièce* logs end just below the girt and the plate and there is a pronounced gap between the logs and the larger beams above. In the absence of oakum, dry moss was laid between the timbers for insulation. The common rafter roof is supported by nine pairs of widely spaced, hewn rafters with collar ties.<sup>2</sup> The rafters land directly on the plate and may be nailed into place: no pegs or other joinery is visible. Small sticks of dimensional lumber are nailed to the sides of the rafters and extend the roof line beyond the log walls to create the roof overhang and soffit.

## Alterations

In 1864 the house was moved a short distance back (east) from the Saint John River to its current location and an ell added to the east elevation. The roof was originally shingled with split shakes of white cedar that were tapered at one end, about 30" in length; this was replaced with asphalt in 1973. It is likely that the current roof overhang was established when the house was moved. The original chimney was of clay reinforced with salt, and the house rested on a stone foundation approximately two feet in thickness. Photographs show that by the 1890's two gable roof dormers had been added to the front of the house; these were removed in 1973. In 1908 the wall between what had been a back bedroom on the first floor and the kitchen was removed and the space remodeled as a dining room. Two years later a full width covered porch was added to the front of the house and a summer kitchen built in the ell. The

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<sup>2</sup> A few, smaller sticks applied diagonally between the face of adjacent rafters may be after-the-fact wind braces.

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first bathroom was installed in 1939, as was electricity, and a decade later the summer kitchen was removed and the current kitchen updated. The house received new exterior siding in 1973 when the clapboards were covered with Masonite; replacement windows were installed at the same time.

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## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1839-1844

1864

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1839-1844

1864

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The Jean Baptiste Daigle House in Fort Kent, Maine is a well preserved example of an Acadian log house built following traditional, regional techniques. Built either by Jean Baptiste Daigle (1792-1846) or his son Jean Baptiste Daigle, (also known as John B. Daigle, 1818-1860) in circa 1839-1844 it is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for the architectural significance of the property as a relatively rare example of 19th century Acadian log construction.<sup>3</sup> The one-and-one-half story Daigle House, located in what would become Maine after 1842, features *pièce sur pièce* log construction cloaked by Masonite siding. The number of Acadian log houses remaining in northern Aroostook County is unknown: only a few of this once common property type have been documented or researched.<sup>4</sup> Due to their relative rarity and their distinct regional affiliation each example is considered significant. Although the house has been modified over time with the addition and then subsequent removal of dormers and porches and the replacement of exterior materials, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as a rare, surviving example of a type, period and method of construction. The building was moved several hundred feet east approximately 20 years after it was constructed, but as this did not affect the integrity of the log construction, or greatly alter the setting of the property, Criterion Consideration B also applies.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Pièce Sur Pièce Construction**

It is important to distinguish between the Acadian log house of the Saint John River Valley and the geographically, temporally, and structurally separate form of log construction that characterized Swedish (and other Scandinavian) settlement that occurred further south in Aroostook County in the towns of Woodland, Stockholm and New Sweden starting in the 1870s. Those structures generally had notched corners (trimmed and covered with corner boards), interior log partitions, log construction in the gable ends, and a plan that often

<sup>3</sup> While both the father and the son went by Jean Baptiste and John Baptist or John B I will use the French spelling to refer to the father and the English spelling to refer to the son in this document.

<sup>4</sup> The Violette House, a two-story log house originally located in Van Buren was listed in the National Register in 1976 (NR: 76000088). It has subsequently been dismantled and is in storage. The National Register listed Acadian Historic Buildings, 1977 (NR: 77000062) include the log Morneallult House (c. 1855) and the LeVasseur-Oullette House (c. 1865), both of which were moved to the L'Heritage Vivant museum site in 1973-1975. A third log house, the Roy House was moved to the museum after 1977. It is traditionally dated to 1790, although we do not know upon what information this date was based.

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included a large central room, wide entrance hall, and side rooms accessed from the hall. In contrast, some of the known Acadian log houses had framed gables, no (or minimal) interior partitions, and utilized corner posts rather than notched corners. The Acadian log tradition developed over three centuries in the Maritime Provinces and was used by the Acadians when they settled the upper St. John River Valley starting in 1787. The Scandinavian tradition arrived with the Swedish settlers after 1870.

The following paragraphs summarize the Acadian log building tradition in Maine. These are excerpted from the National Park Service study of Acadian cultural traditions in the St. John River Valley, undertaken in the early 1990s. The results of this study, which included surveys of linguistics, oral traditions, architecture, furniture, textiles, land tenure, music and culture were published in 1994 under the title Acadian Culture in Maine. As this volume provides the most up-to-date and cohesive summary of the history of the Acadian people and of their material culture traditions, including architectural trends, it is the best source to provide the background context and history for this property. Please see the original publication for information on the citations quoted within the text.

Although there are studies of French vernacular building traditions in other places in North America (see Gowans 1964, Kniffen and Glassie 1966, Lessard and Vilandr  1974, Moogk 1977, Upton and Vlach 1986, and Edwards 1987), there has not been systematic analysis of architecture in the Upper St. John Valley. Analysis of architectural resources is further hindered by the fact that prevalent features of Valley traditional architecture are not obvious to the casual observer. Local authors (Michaud 1974, Albert 1969) have drawn attention to features such as ship's knees, the use of ship's ladders instead of stairways, and the caulking of log walls with oakum. Howard Marshall prepared a preliminary glossary of terms related to Valley vernacular architecture during 1991 fieldwork (Brassieur 1992).

### **Maine Acadian Houses**

The cultural meaning of architectural features cannot be understood apart from their social and historical context. Accordingly, the salient features of Maine Acadian dwellings derive from traditional techniques, skills, and aesthetic values passed down and adapted by successive generations of craftspeople. The builders were not generally professional carpenters, nor did they work from architectural plans. The construction details of Maine Acadian houses indicate a high level of woodworking skill. Though they are generally hidden by exterior Greek Revival or Georgian features, they help identify the special characteristics of Upper St. John Valley architecture.

Early Maine Acadian houses were small, simple, and built of logs. Many were built *pi ce sur pi ce   tenons en coulisse*, a traditional construction technique featuring horizontal layers of hewn or sawn logs or planks set "piece on piece." In an Anglo- or Germanic-American log house, the logs were notched

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at the corners. In the Valley they were often built *en coulisse*. That is, tenons or tongues on each end of the logs (*pièces*) or planks (*madriers*) were inserted into vertical grooves (*coulisses*) in upright members at critical locations such as corners and doorways. One of the virtues of *pièce sur pièce* construction *en coulisse* was that the builder was able to use short logs or planks instead of the longer lengths needed in other log buildings. It is important to note that "*pièce*" is used in the Valley as a shorthand term for more than one type of log construction.

The log walls of Valley houses were often chinked with local materials from the field or forest, such as flax, buckwheat chaff, peat moss, or birch bark. This chinking was rather more like marine "caulking" than chinking of the sort familiar in other regions of the U.S. where logs are laid up with distinct gaps between them. Since the logs fit flush in *pièce sur pièce* construction, "oakum" made of buckwheat chaff or other materials worked well as chinking.

Brassieur and Marshall (1992) documented three corner-joining techniques in *pièce sur pièce* construction of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: *tenons en coulisse* (see above), *tête de chien* or half-dovetailing, and the "stacked and pegged" treatment found in Van Buren, Maine, Maison Heritage (Vital Violette House) and the Roy House at the Acadian Village in Keegan, Maine. In the latter style, the dressed wall logs were held in place by trunnels (wooden pegs). The logs were sawn flush at the corners and alternately stacked one on top of the other. Each corner joint was secured by two trunnels. While one publication contains a sketch of this construction method drawn from memory (Bourque 1971:8-9), an extant example of "stacked and pegged" has apparently never been field documented.

Houses were constructed near the St. John River until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when many were moved to sites along the principal road. For example, three houses examined for *Acadian Culture in Maine* were apparently moved from the flats along the river: the Fred Albert, Val Violette, and Ernest Chasse houses. When houses were moved, they were often enlarged by adding one or more stories, as in the Val Violette House; by extending the walls laterally, as may have been the case in the Albert House; or by expanding both vertically and laterally. The alteration of these *pièce sur pièce à tenons en coulisse* houses seems to have offered little challenge to Maine Acadian carpenters. In those cases of alteration that Brassieur and Marshall observed (1992), the additions were accomplished using the same precise axe and adze work and careful joinery employed in the original construction.

The typical mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century Maine Acadian house had an essentially Georgian plan: two rooms deep, a central hallway, central chimney, one or one-and-one-half (rarely two) stories high, under a simple gable roof. The exterior resembled standard large New England houses of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – white frame with Greek Revival detailing (cornices and pilasters). Ceilings were often

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paneled, and interior molding and finish often echoed the classical exterior stylistic elements.

Houses built *pièce sur pièce* by well-established farmers and merchants were generally covered on the exterior with *planches debout*, flush vertical boards. The *planche debout* provided insulation and finishing for a wall, when used with *pièce sur pièce* bearing-wall construction. They were sometimes also used on the interior. The vertical boards were usually tongue-and-groove construction and fitted tightly together. Each hand-planed or sawn board (*planche galbée*) measured about 2x8 inches. Many houses were finished with clapboards to dress up the buildings and provide an additional layer of protection and insulation. The roof frames included massive, relatively wide-spaced, square-hewn, white-pine rafters. The rafter couples were half-lapped and joined with through-trunnels at the peak. There was no ridgepole. (NPS, pages 54-56).

As characterized above, the Daigle House features *piece sur piece* log construction with *tenons en coulisse*; however pegs were also used to fasten the layers of log together. What has not been addressed in the sources consulted to date is the plate and girt framing seen in the granary. In the Daigle House example these large timbers rest on top of the vertical corner posts and intermediary posts. The girts have diagonal corner bracing the corner posts and the rafters sit directly on top of the plate; both of these beams are located several inches above the top layer of the log walls. It is unknown at this time whether this is a common arrangement in *piece sur piece* log construction, (but is generally obscured by finished interior walls), or whether this framing was installed along with a wide, overhanging roof, perhaps when the building was moved in 1864.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (If appropriate.)

In 1785, Acadian exiles who had settled in the lower St. John River Valley were forced out by the arrival of American Loyalists. They resettled in the upper St. John Valley above Grand Falls, New Brunswick and below the Madawaska River. Gradually that stretch of good alluvial soil filled up with settlers and settlements were carved above the Madawaska River twenty miles further up the St. John to the Fish River in Township 18, Range 7 WELS and Township 18, Range 6 WELS. Jean-Baptiste Daigle (1792-1846) and his parents and siblings were among these early settlers in what was later to become the town of Fort Kent.

The numerous Daigle families became American citizens by the Treaty of Washington (Webster-Ashburton Treaty) of 1842, which established the Saint John River as the international boundary between Canada and the United States. After the treaty was signed a Commission was formed to "locate grants, and determine the extent of possessory claims" under the treaty. While some of the residents of the upper Saint John Valley had received grants from the British in 1790 or 1794, most of the families in townships south of the River

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were technically squatters. In 1831 the governor of Maine commissioned a survey to determine the number of people living on public lands in the disputed territories claimed by the British and the Americans. Known as the Deane and Kavanagh Report on the Inhabitants of the Madawaska Settlements, this survey identified almost every family on the north and south banks of the river and described the lot or lots that they claimed, and whether they had a grant or not.

According to the Deane and Kavanagh Report Jean Baptiste Daigle (Sr.) possessed four lots on the Saint John River. His home lot, a "river lot", described as 30 rods wide was located just south of Daigle Island, and was obtained circa 1816. According to the report "his improvements are large" on this homestead.<sup>5</sup> In about 1829 he acquired another lot near his home. The largest of his holdings was at the junction of the Fish and St. John Rivers, which he took possession of in 1819, but which had not been developed beyond the point of "clearing" in 1831. He owned a fourth property outright, having bought it from Joseph D'aigle who had a grant from the British, probably in 1790. This 30 rod wide river lot was located on the north bank of the Saint John.<sup>6</sup>

Using this survey and the 18<sup>th</sup> century British grants the Commission, over the course of the next three years, examined the claims of possession and then issued deeds to those who had possessed their lands prior to 1836. The treaty established ownership of all properties along the south shore of the river from the Allagash some 55 miles downstream to the proximity of Grand Falls. On July 12, 1845 John B. Daigle (Sr.) received a deed to lot # 32, containing 431.33 acres on the east side of the junction of the Fish and St. John Rivers.<sup>7</sup> He also received lots 50 and 53; the latter of which contained the house in which he and his family lived.

According to tradition, when the United States military established Fort Jarvis (later Fort Kent) in 1839 ten acres of Daigle's valuable alluvial property was taken for use as a garden for the soldiers.<sup>8</sup> It may have been this action that prompted Daigle to build on this large lot (later #32) as a hedge against having more of the property appropriated. Alternately, in the tradition of establishing male children on their own land, this may have been his plan all along as in 1839 his oldest son, John Baptiste Daigle (1818-1860) obtained his maturity. Various dates have been traditionally assigned to the construction of the house (1839, 1840, or 1844, the

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<sup>5</sup> The house of Jean-Baptist Daigle, located several miles to the east on what would later be termed lot 53, is still extant. Dated to circa 1820, this too appears to be a log house, albeit with the dormer windows and full width front porch similar to what was added to, and then removed from, the Daigle House in town.

<sup>6</sup> There is another lot located further to the east, probably past Madawaska, which was deeded to a Jean Baptiste D'aigle by the British, which contained a house, barn and 30 acres; however it was not possible to verify if this was the same Daigle that settled in the Fort Kent area.

<sup>7</sup> Maine, State of. Survey by the Commissioners to locate grants, and determine the extent of possessory claims under the Treaty of 1842: *Claims ungranted, based on possession and improvement since before August 1836, part 1*, Volume 12, p. 175, Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

<sup>8</sup> Beatrice Craig and Maxime Dagenais, et al. *The Land in Between* (Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House, 2009), 124. An "abbatis", or defensive fortification made of tree branches and roots, is seen on Daigle's land on a sketch map of Fort Jarvis (Fort Kent) originally drawn by Lieut. Bainbrigg in a report to the Lieut. Governor of New Brunswick in 1839 and re-drawn by B. and S. Craig.



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year of John Baptiste's marriage to Anastasie Cyr). However, both a sketch map of Fort Jarvis (Fort Kent) from 1839, a sketch map of the Fish River from 1838 and a British map of houses along the Saint John River from 1839/40 indicate one or more buildings were already present on Daigle's lot at the rivers' junction.<sup>9</sup> This suggests the log house, or perhaps at least an out building, was erected on the property by 1838. Yet, the 1840 United States Federal Census only enumerates one family under the name Jean Baptiste Daigle, and in that household were two men ages 20-30. Perhaps the buildings were erected over time and the younger man did not take up residence until after his marriage in 1844. Regardless, Jean Baptiste Daigle (Sr.) still owned the property upon his death in 1846; it was not formally deeded to John B. Daigle by his mother and his father's heirs until 1858.<sup>10</sup>

When Daigle first developed the lot the most common form of transportation was by river. However, the St. John River occasionally flooded the river flats, and it is probably for this reason that the house was relocated to the east side of the relatively new road that had been laid several hundred feet further inland from the river, in 1864.

During the 1840s and 1850s, according to family tradition, the northeast bedroom had served as the guest room for Monsieur l'Curé on his bi-weekly trip to Saint Francois, New Brunswick visitation. Still later after the house was moved to its present location, the bedroom served as a funeral parlor-the first in the border town of Fort Kent. Until 1860 when the parish erected the first chapel the Daigle parlor also served the purpose where masses could be celebrated, babies were routinely baptized and weddings were performed.

Before John B. Daigle died in 1860 he and his wife Anastasie Cyr had nine children. Daigle left approximately half of this homestead farm (along with the house) to his wife. Within less than two years she remarried Adolphe Dube (Sr.), a former farm laborer who had worked and lived with the family with whom she had at least three more children. In 1902 Anastasie and Adolphe Sr. conveyed the property to Alice and Adolph Dube Jr., in exchange for life rights and maintenance while they were still alive. The property descended through the Dube family until 2007 when it was conveyed to the Fort Kent Historical Society. During the summer it is open to the public as a house museum furnished with traditional furniture and artifacts. The Historical Society is restoring the house to its c. 1844 appearance in advance of the World Acadian Congress in 2014, which will be held in Madawaska, Maine.

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<sup>9</sup> Craig and Dagenais, et al, p. 124, shows one building on the 1838 sketch by Lieut. Bainbrigg in his 1839 report; this page also contains the aforementioned Lieut. Bainbrigg sketch of Fort Jarvis with two buildings and the "abattis" on the property. Three buildings appear to be on the property on the "Map of the houses along Upper St. John from Madawaska River westward, 1839/40" and originally published as an appendix in *North American Boundary, Part II. Correspondence Relating to the Boundary Between the British Possession in North America and the United States of America, under the Treaty of 1783, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty, July, 1840.* (London: t. R. Harrison). Viewed at [www.upperstjohn.com/madasaska/stjohnriverv1.htm](http://www.upperstjohn.com/madasaska/stjohnriverv1.htm) on July 15, 2013. S

<sup>10</sup> Book 4, p. 163, Northern Aroostook Registry of Deeds, Fort Kent, Maine.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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 Raymond, W.O., *The River St. John*, St. John NB, 1908

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-See also *State of the Madawaska and Aroostook settlements in 1831: report of John g. Deane and Edward Kavanagh to Samuel E. Smith, Governor of the State of Maine*. Edited by W.O. Raymond. (Saint John, N.B.: New Brunswick Historical Society), 1914.

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### Manuscript Material, Maps

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Deed, State of Maine to Jean Baptiste Daigle, July 12, 1845. Lot 32, T18 R 7 WELS. Plan Book Volume 12, page 175. Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

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Fort Kent Historical Society. Notes and photographs pertaining to the history and family of Jean Baptiste Daigle. Copies on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

Maine, State of. *Land Records (microfilm)*: 4-4-9 and volume 15, p. 1-9. Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

Roe, F. B. and N. George Colby. "Fort Kent, Wallagrass and Township 17 Range 6" in *Atlas of Aroostook County* *Atlas of Aroostook County*. (Philadelphia: Roe & Colby), 1877.

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Sproul, George. [Survey of 1826 showing British Land Grants]. Tracing of original survey is reproduced on the inside cover of Papers of Prudent L. Mercure. A similar, undated map is reproduced on page 1 of Light on the Past.

State of Maine. *Master Abstract of the Denis Daigle Farm, Part of lot #32, Township 18, Range 7, W.E.L.S. 1845-1977*. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

**Internet Resources**

Gagnon, Chip. "The Upper St. John River Valley. Northern Aroostook County, Maine and Madawaska & Victoria Counties, New Brunswick. A history of the communities and people." <http://www.upperstjohn.com>. 12 July 2013. Relevant subsidiary pages on this website include U.S. and New Brunswick census records, <http://www.upperstjohn.com/#census>; the Deane and Kavanagh Report, <http://www.upperstjohn.com/aroostook/deane-kavsouth.htm>; Fort Kent pages, <http://www.upperstjohn.com/aroostook/fortkent.htm>; general list of topics, <http://www.upperstjohn.com/#survey> and maps <http://www.upperstjohn.com/#maps>.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: FORT KENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

**DAIGLE, JEAN-BAPTISTE, HOUSE**  
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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** .5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84:  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 531022 | Northing: 5233732 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

The Daigle House occupies the northern portion of the lot owned by the Fort Kent Historical Society as described by the town of Fort Kent tax map 20, lot 62. The boundary of the nominated property is limited to the immediate vicinity of the house, and does not include the barn or replica school house located on the southern portion of the lot.

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is limited to the historic resource that is the subject of the nomination and does not include any additional properties that may or may not have been present during the period of significance.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Chad Pelletier, president  
 organization: Fort Kent Historical Society  
 street & number: PO BOX 181  
 city or town: Fort Kent state: Maine zip code: 04743  
 e-mail: fkhistory1@yahoo.com  
 telephone: 207-834-2115  
 date: 28 February 2013

name/title: Christi A. Mitchell, Architectural Historian  
 organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
 street & number: 55 Capitol Street, State House Station 65  
 city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04353  
 e-mail: christi.mitchell@maine.gov  
 telephone: (207) 287-2132 x 2  
 date: 19 July 2013

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo

DAIGLE, JEAN-BAPTISTE, HOUSE

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date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Daigle, Jean-Baptiste, House  
 City or Vicinity: Fort Kent  
 County: Aroostook State: Maine  
 Photographer: Chad Pelletier  
 Date Photographed: 23 July 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 8 ME\_AROOSTOOK COUNTY\_DAIGLE HOUSE\_0001.TIF  
*West façade, facing east.*
- 2 of 8 ME\_AROOSTOOK COUNTY\_DAIGLE HOUSE\_0002.TIF  
*South and east elevations; facing northwest.*
- 3 of 8 ME\_AROOSTOOK COUNTY\_DAIGLE HOUSE\_0003.TIF  
*North elevation; facing south.*
- 4 of 8 ME\_AROOSTOOK COUNTY\_DAIGLE HOUSE\_0004.TIF  
*Interior, log wall of dining room; facing northeast.*
- 5 of 8 ME\_AROOSTOOK COUNTY\_DAIGLE HOUSE\_0005.TIF  
*Interior, front parlor; facing north.*
- 6 of 8 ME\_AROOSTOOK COUNTY\_DAIGLE HOUSE\_0006.TIF  
*Staircase with board walls and cupboards; facing northwest.*
- 7 of 8 ME\_AROOSTOOK COUNTY\_DAIGLE HOUSE\_0007.TIF  
*Second floor granary showing log wall, hewn plate, post and girt, sawn angle brace and vertical boarding in south gable end wall; facing east.*
- 8 of 8 ME\_AROOSTOOK COUNTY\_DAIGLE HOUSE\_0008.TIF  
*Second floor granary showing log wall, hewn post and plate, and common rafters; facing northeast.*

**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.460 et seq.).

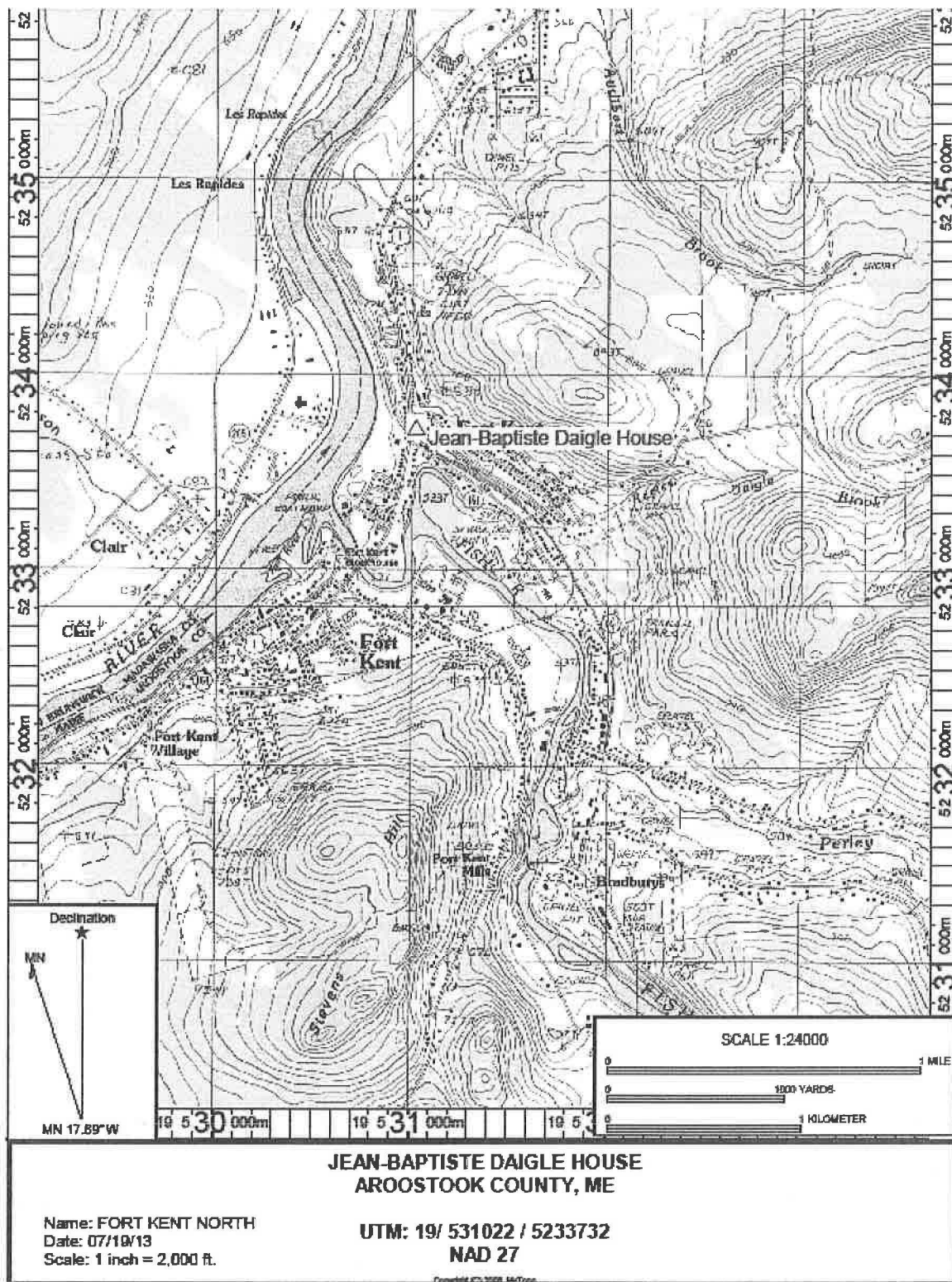
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**DAIGLE, JEAN-BAPTISTE, HOUSE**

**AROOSTOOK CO., MAINE**

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County and State



**JEAN-BAPTISTE DAIGLE HOUSE  
AROOSTOOK COUNTY, ME**

Name: FORT KENT NORTH  
Date: 07/19/13  
Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 ft.

UTM: 19/ 531022 / 5233732  
NAD 27





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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Daigle, Jean-Baptiste, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, Aroostook

DATE RECEIVED: 8/30/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/23/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/08/13      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/16/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000833

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    10-16-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
55 CAPITOL STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333



26 August 2013

Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW,  
Washington D.C. 20005

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find four (4) new National Register nominations for individual properties in the State of Maine:

William M. Shaw Residence, Greenville, Piscataquis County  
Edgecliff, Southwest Harbor, Hancock County  
Jean-Baptiste Daigle House, Fort Kent, Aroostook County  
John and Maria Webb House, Bridgton, Cumberland County

Please note, the photographs for Edgecliff were printed from film; thus there are no digital images to submit on CD.

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-2132 x 2.

Sincerely,

Christi A. Mitchell  
Architectural Historian

Enc.