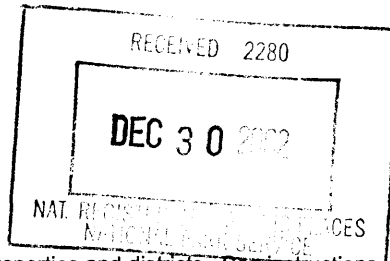


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" 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 Frankfort Dam

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

2. Location

street & number Just south of where Route 1A crosses the North Branch of Marsh Stream N/A not for publication

city or town Frankfort N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Waldo code 027 zip code 04438

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.)

[Signature] 12/26/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or 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 this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 2/12/03  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

FRANKFORT DAM  
Name of Property

WALDO CO., 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	buildings
		sites
1	1	structures
		objects
1	2	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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/ EXTRACTION/ Waterworks

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/ EXTRACTION/ Waterworks

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/ EXTRACTION/ Energy

Facility

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

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**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other Granite \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

FRANKFORT DAM

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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## DESCRIPTION

### *Contributing Structure*

The Frankfort dam is a 250 feet long cut granite step dam which cross the North Branch of the Marsh Stream in Frankfort, Maine. Constructed in 1904 -1905, the east-west axis of the dam is located about 100 feet south of the Route 1A bridge over the stream, and forms a small containment variably know as the Mill Pond or Pierces Pond. The surface of the dam is not at a uniform height; rather there are two platforms fourteen feet in height that anchor the outermost 45 feet of the structure to the east and west banks of the stream. The remaining, central section of the dam is about five feet lower than the ends. The upstream face of the dam is nicely faced and almost completely vertical, while the downstream side is composed of a series of granite steps that widen towards the base of the dam. The top of the dam is relatively flat and is approximately five feet wide. Photographs taken during the dam's construction in 1904 show a sluiceway or void in the dam in the middle of the western platform to allow water to be channeled into the mill that was constructed after the dam was complete. This is a nine by nine foot floodgate. The massive granite blocks were dry-laid, with additional small voids periodically located in the lower courses of stone to allow limited amounts of water to continuously flow through the structure.

### *Non-contributing structures*

A concrete fish ladder was constructed on the downstream side of the west bank of the dam in 1982, and a small hydroelectric station was installed just above the fish way in 1985. The installation of this building required filling a small amount of the original containment on the upstream side of the western bank, however the entire dam remains intact. Neither of these two structures affect the integrity of the original dam, however neither are historically significant relative to the dam.

FRANKFORT DAM  
Name of Property

WALDO CO., 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 a 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

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**Period of Significance**

1905

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**Significant Dates**

1905

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

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**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

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**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

FRANKFORT DAM

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present stone dam across the Northern Branch of Marsh Stream is at least the third dam in the current location. Frankfort's earliest settler Joshua Treat constructed the first saw mill and log dam across the stream in 1774. These structures were subsequently burned by the British in 1779 and rebuilt by Treat four years later. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century a sawmill and gristmill, which continued to be referred to as the Treat mills, processed lumber that was floated down the stream in massive log drives. Pilings from these early mills are still evident on the west side of the stream, about 50 feet south of the present dam. The stone dam, built in 1904 and 1905 of local granite, ensured that the water power on Marsh Stream could be harnessed long into the future. The Frankfort dam is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the Mt. Waldo Granite Company, and as a remnant of the logging and granite industries that provided the economic underpinnings of Frankfort for over 100 years.

The earliest settlers arrived in what became Frankfort, Maine in 1773. The village that developed around the North Branch of the Marsh Stream quickly harnessed the river's energy to run saw and grist mills. The forest offered a seeming endless supply of wood, which in turn fed the saw mills, and further down stream, near its confluence with the Penobscot River, several thriving shipyards. In addition to the lumber and shipbuilding industry that supported a vast region of settlement along the Penobscot River, Mosquito Mountain in Frankfort was the source of foundations stones for Fort Knox in nearby Prospect. In 1846 the granite on nearby Mt. Waldo became the preferred building material for the Fort, and over the next 16 years partners George A. Pierce and John P. Rowe extracted stone and built a thriving business based on the Fort Knox commission. In 1873 George A. Pierce died and his share of the business descended to his sons George and John Pierce. In 1880 Rowe retired and the two Pierce sons incorporated themselves as the Mount Waldo Granite Company. In 1898 George Pierce sold all of his share of the company to John Pierce, who over the next few years became a "kingpin" of granite, with holdings not only in the Mt. Waldo operation, but in Mosquito Mountain through his other company, the New York and Maine Granite Paving Block Company. In 1905, after weathering several years of rocky business John Pierce formed a new granite contracting company, the John Pierce Company; one of the first actions of this new venture was to purchase the brand new, stone dam in Frankfort, Maine.

Very little information is available relative to the construction of the dam: no records were located that identified the builder or engineer. A brief history of the dam prepared by researchers in Frankfort states "according to court records at the Waldo County seat Belfast, Maine, the dam has been under the ownership of the Treat/Pierce families through the late 1800's to 1905, whereas on February 25, 1905 it was sold to the Mount Waldo Granite Works by [the heirs of] George Pierce." Photographs show the construction of the dam; in the background are the pilings that formed the foundation of the Treat sawmill. (Frankfort Maine; n.p.) A spate of fires in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century destroyed many of the stores and businesses on the west side of Marsh stream and it is possible that the construction of the new stone dam

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

FRANKFORT DAM

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

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followed upon the heels of a fire at the sawmill then owned by George Pierce. No documentation was located that confirms that the massive cut stone blocks used in the Frankfort dam were quarried at Mt. Waldo, however due to its proximity to the quarry and the ownership of the dam by George Pierce, that is quite likely the source.

The dam was constructed to facilitate the harnessing of water power for industry rather than for flood control. In the next few years after purchasing the dam the John Pierce Company suffered financial losses and was placed in receivership; in 1917 the dam was sold to a mortgage agency who leased the waterpower rights to different tenants over the next 35 years. Photographs from 1921 indicate that a large frame structure had been constructed on the western edge of the dam. Known as Turner Sawmill, this venture manufactured shingles during the 1930s. The dam and waterpower was sold by Merrill Mortgage Company in 1942 to Frederick L. Thurston who in turn sold it to Havilah S. Hawkins in 1953. In 1968 the dam was purchased by the Town of Frankfort, who continues to own the property and rent out the water power rights. By the mid-seventies the Turner Mill had been removed and in 1982 a concrete fish way was installed to assist the local salmon and alewife migration. In 1985 a new hydroelectric station was constructed on top of the dam at the site of the former mill. While the construction of this and the fish way somewhat altered the west bank of the dam, the original spillway that powered the mills was adapted for use with the hydroelectric station.

The granite industry in Frankfort floundered during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and Mt. Waldo cut its last commercial stone in 1965; the log drives on the river had ebbed decades before, and the 19<sup>th</sup> century ship yards further downstream had ceased commercial operation by 1875. Each of these industries shipped and marketed their products largely outside of Frankfort; lumber, shingles and spools traveled to markets down the coast while the granite was used in many important structures including the Washington Monument, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City and the Library of Congress. No less important to the residents of Frankfort, the stone dam is a tangible testimonial to the importance of the granite industry in Frankfort, even as it continued to support the lumber products industry well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

FRANKFORT DAM

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Claes, Frank E. Waldo County The Way It Was. (Camden, Maine: Down East Books), 1985.

Frankfort Maine Bicentennial Committee. Frankfort Maine 1774 - 1976. (Belfast, Maine: J.A. Black Co.), 1976.

Lewis, Ernestine. The History of Mt. Waldo Frankfort, Maine. (Belfast, Maine: J.A. Black Co.), 1996.

FRANKFORT DAM  
Name of Property

WALDO CO., MAINE  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

3 1 9  
Zone Easting Northing

2 1 9 5 1 0 0 4 8 4 9 3 9 3 2 1

4 1 9

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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 16 October 2002

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

FRANKFORT DAM

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Frankfort Dam is 250 feet long by 14 feet high, and crosses the North Branch of Marsh Stream 100 feet south of the Route 1A bridge in Frankfort, Maine.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

This nomination includes only the stone dam structure, which spans the Stream for a distance of 250 feet, but does not include any of the remains of the mill sites below the dam, or the containment pond north of the dam.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

FRANKFORT DAM

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

November 2001

Downstream face of dam: facing northwest.

Photograph 2 of 3

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

November 2001

Downstream face of dam: facing north.

Photograph 3 of 3

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

November 2001

Downstream face of dam: facing northeast.