

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

For NPS use only

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

received **DEC 22 1987**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic

and or common Holmes Cottage

2. Location

street & number 241 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Calais,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine

code 23

county Washington

code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. Croix Historical Society

street & number R.F.D. #1, Box 93

city, town Calais,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04619

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Machias,

state Maine 04654

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 Machias,

state Maine

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Holmes Cottage is a one-and-a-half-story five-bay wooden frame building covered by a gable roof. A two-story vestibule and small dormers are located on the front elevation and a large center chimney rises through the roof. The house rests on a rubble stone foundation and is sheathed in clapboards and woodshingles.

Facing north, the building has a symmetrically composed facade dominated by the late nineteenth century vestibule addition. The vestibule's steeply pitched gable roof frames a six-over-six double hung sash window and a paneled and glazed door framed by a bracketed hood. Paired nine-over-six windows with molded surrounds flank the vestibule. The shallow pedimented dormers, containing six-over-six windows are located above the inner windows. These consist of nine-over-six sash on the first story and six-over-six sash in the half story. The rear elevation, which is sheathed in woodshingles, contains a trio of asymmetrically placed openings including a door and two windows of unequal size. The windows are undoubtedly later alterations, but the door may be an original opening.

The interior plan of the cottage is focused on the large central chimney. A narrow hall and open string stair are located behind the vestibule, and a pair of doors open into the flanking parlor to the left and kitchen to the right. The rear third of the first story contains a long narrow room behind the parlor and chimney as well as a short hall and pantry flanking a flight of stairs leading to the basement. There are four second floor bedrooms of unequal size linked by an L-shaped hall.

A wide range of woodwork is to be found on the interior. The most impressive room in this respect is the parlor. Both its six-panel doors, one of which retains a complete Carpenter box lock, and windows are framed by mitered Federal style three-part surrounds. A similarly molded chairrail carries around the room as does a baseboard. The deep window reveals feature three narrow panels. An impressive Federal mantel surrounds the fireplace. It is composed of a molded mantel shelf above a denticulated cornice and wide frieze and side panels featuring thin paired Corinthian pilasters. The woodwork in the kitchen, including the mantel, is simpler than that in the parlor but nevertheless more detailed than the plain surrounds in the upper floor.

Despite the vestibule addition and the later windows at the rear, the Holmes Cottage retains sufficient exterior and interior integrity to illustrate its period of significance. The symmetrical facade with its original windows and surrounds, narrow cornice, flush gable ends and large center chimney clearly illustrate the building's Federal period of construction. This unmistakable exterior form is strengthened by the surviving interior woodwork.

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 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 ca. 1820-1830 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Holmes Cottage derives its primary significance from the fact that it is the oldest known dwelling in Calais, a community in eastern Maine whose remarkable growth beginning in the 1820s was linked to a burgeoning lumber industry. Although the original owner has not been positively identified, the house later became the residence and medical office of Dr. Job Holmes (1799-____), a leading physician during the town's most formative period of development.

In 1790 the Federal census of the Calais area enumerated the names of only sixteen heads of households. In 1809 the town of Calais was incorporated and by 1820 the population had risen to 418 persons./1 During the next decade, however, the number of inhabitants quadrupled, a clear reflection on the growing importance of the town's position as a lumber milling center. The first sawmill is thought to have been erected in Calais in 1780./2 In 1855 there were seven in operation./3

Calais was admirably located on the west bank of the St. Croix River with access to the tremendous forest resources on the interior. Its phenomenal growth beginning in the 1820s included the establishment of the "Calais Club" literary society in 1827, the Calais Bank in 1831, and the formation of the Calais Railway Company in 1832.4 By 1874 the various mills produced 78,000,000 feet of long lumber and 64,000,000 feet of lathe./5 The importance of river transportation in this local industry is reflected by the fact that in 1874 twelve vessels were built in Calais and 222 repaired.

Local tradition maintains that the Holmes Cottage was built prior to 1805. However, given the fact that the community's population in 1800 was only about 100 persons, and the description of the early settlement as one "...composed mostly of families of limited means dwelling in poor, small houses..." it seems unlikely that the cottage was standing here before 1805./6 In that year the property came into the possession of Artemus Ward a Boston resident who appears to have been a land speculator in Calais. Both the overall form of the cottage and the historical context conspire to suggest that it was during his ownership of the property that the present building was erected, probably between 1820 and 1830. Dr. Shilomette S. Whipple acquired the property from Ward and he in turn sold it in 1836 to Dr. Cyrus Hamlin. Sometime later Hamlin transferred the house to Dr. Job Holmes who occupied it with his family until the 1850s when he built a new house on an adjoining lot. The cottage remained in the Holmes family, at some point acquiring the vestibule, until 1954 when it was given to the St. Croix Historical Society. This organization is now undertaking a project to restore the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Knowlton, Rev. I. C., Annals of Calais, Maine and St. Stephen, New Brunswick: Including the Village of Milltown, Maine, and the Present Town of Milltown, New Brunswick Calais, Maine: J. A. Sears, Printer, 1875.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1

Quadrangle name Calais, Maine

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	6	3	5	5	5	0	5	0	6	5	0	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

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on Town of Calais Tax Map 7, Block 5, Lot 9.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July 15, 1987

street & number 55 Captiol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

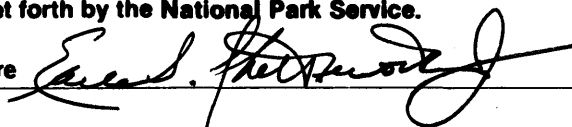
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title S.H.P.O.

date 2/17/88

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrews

date 4/4/88

Keeper of the National Register

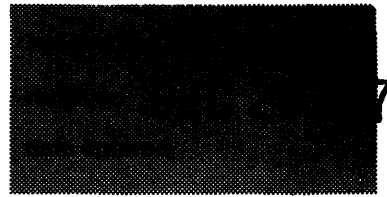
Attest: Beth S. Savage

date 4/4/88

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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HOLMES COTTAGE
Continuation sheet

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The Holmes Cottage is the oldest known and most intact Federal period house in Calais. For this reason the dwelling is architecturally significant under National Register criterion C. Because Calais's greatest period of growth took place after the house was most probably constructed, subsequent extant buildings exhibit later nineteenth century stylistic forms. In addition, the cottage, which is arguably, more substantial than the dwellings of the settlement period (of which there are no known survivors) is not as stylistically conscious, for example, as is the c. 1850 Gothic Revival style Gilmore House (N.R. 6/14/79) at 316 Main Street. Nevertheless it illustrates a vernacular building tradition making use of a very traditional building form (the one-and-a-half-story cape) with fashionable woodwork and window sash configurations.

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ENDNOTES

1

Rev. I. C. Knowlton, Annals of Calais, Maine and St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Including the Village of Milltown, Me., and the Present Town of Milltown, N. B., (Calais, Me.: J. A. Sears, Painter, 1875), preface, hereinafter cited as Knowlton, Annals of Calais.

2

Knowlton, Annals of Calais, p. 184.

3

George Adams, The Maine Register for the Year 1855: Embracing State and County Officers, and an Abstract of the Laws and Resolves; Together with a Complete Business Directory of the State, and a Variety of Useful Information (Hallowell, Me.: Masters, Smith and Co., 1855), p. 383.

4

The Calais Railway Company operated from 1839 to 1841. Knowlton, Annals of Calais, p. 175.

5

Knowlton, Annals of Calais, p. 167.

6

Knowlton, Annals of Calais, p. 47.