

**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**

historic Thomas Hobbs, Jr. House

and/or common The Hostelry

**2. Location**

street & number Wells Street N/A not for publication

city, town North Berwick, N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county York code 023 <sup>031 mpp 05/08/84</sup>

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Robert & Edith Pickett

street & number Wells Street

city, town North Berwick, vicinity of state Maine 03906

**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 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 Thomas Hobbs, Jr. House of North Berwick, Maine, dating from 1763, is a fine and well-preserved example of vernacular domestic architecture of the later colonial period.

The 2½-story house is of frame (post-and-beam) construction, with gable roof, central brick chimney, clapboard siding, and fieldstone foundation.

The facade, which faces northwest, is five bays wide with a central entrance, reflecting the center-hall plan typical of the period. The entrance consists of a simple door covered by a later added hipped-roof portico. Fenestration in the first story is 2/2, while in the second story it is 2/1. In each half of the half-story gable-ends is a 6/6 window. In all likelihood the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century fenestration was 9/6 or perhaps 9/9. The ends of the house are two bays wide, but, typical of this early period, the building is only one room deep.

Extending from the rear (southeast side) of the house is a low, one-story ell which contains 2/2 sash and a simple doorway facing northeast.

## 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/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1763

Builder/Architect Peter + William Morrill

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thomas Hobbs, Jr. House, also known as the "Hostelry" is one of the earliest surviving buildings in this old mill town and was for many years the social center of the community. This simple structure, lacking any detailed refinements, is typical of mid-18<sup>th</sup> century rural domestic architecture in Maine. Significantly it is only one room deep as was common during the period.

The house was erected in 1763 for Thomas Hobbs, Jr. by Peter and William Morrill, Hobbs himself having assisted in cutting the timber during the spring two years before. The building soon became a popular stopping place for travelers, supplying food, drink and lodging.

Hobbs, a veteran of the Old French and Indian War was evidently a popular host and a good businessman. His account books reflect great activity beyond that of a landlord. Accounts show large amounts of powder and shot, with flints in the hundreds, being sold in 1773 and 1774 to those who later appear as Captains of the Militia in 1775.

Reflecting the position Hobbs had attained in the community, his son William served for many years as Representative from York County to the Massachusetts General Court. William and another son, Nathaniel, also served as delegates to the Maine Constitutional Convention in 1819.

The "Hostelry" stands today, a private residence, on the bank of the river - a quiet observer of the change of 200 years.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Account Book of Thomas Hobbs: 1740-1776.  
Records and Manuscripts of Mr. John Hobbs, Historian, Maine Historical Society,  
Portland, Maine.

UNVERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2  
Quadrangle name North Berwick

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 22, Lot 80

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1981

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *E. S. Feltner*

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

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 2/11/82

*Melissa Byers*

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration