

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 8/12/86  
date entered

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

SEP 25 1986

1. Name

historic Off-The-Neck Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number <sup>ME</sup> Route 166 N/A not for publication

city, town Castine, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Hancock code 009

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Various (See Continuation Sheet)

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Ellsworth, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

**Condition**  
 excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**  
 unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**  
 original site  
 moved    date 1982

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

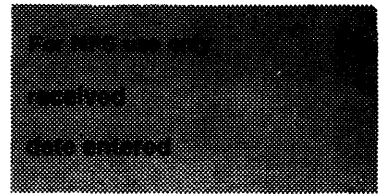
The Castine Off-The-Neck Historic District consists of eleven scattered farm-houses strung along a rural highway leading to the village of Castine. The southern boundary of this district is formed by the British Canal, a man-made earthen ditch which separates the peninsula from the mainland. Hatch Cove marks the southeast and eastern boundary, and a heavily wooded area defines the natural boundary on the west and northwest. The northern terminus of the district is at a private driveway which was formerly Ferry Road where it intersects the highway, Route 166.

The following buildings and one site contribute to the character of the historic district. All are located on Route 166:

<u>Site No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	British Canal, 1814-15 Dug for defensive purposes. Earthen ditch, 10-12 feet wide and 80 rods long extending from Wadsworth Cove to Hatch Cove at the beginning of Castine Neck.
2	Jonathan Hatch House, c. 1795-1800 Federal style, 2 story, wood frame, clapboard siding, large central chimney, 6/6 double-hung sash, entrance with sidelights and fan-lights.
3	Hatch/Keener House, c. 1795-1805 Federal style, 2 story, wood frame, clapboard siding, hipped roof, double chimneys, windows with 2/2 or 6/6 double-hung sash, entry with pilasters, cornice and Gothic transom light. House moved a few hundred feet in 1982, ell detached and retained on original site, porch added to south side of main house.
4	James Scott House, c. 1765 Vernacular, 1½ story, wood frame, clapboard siding, gable roof, 6/6 and 9/6 double-hung sash, central chimney.
5	Miles Gardner House, c. 1805 Federal period, 1½ story, wood frame, clapboard siding, gable roof, one story ell on north side, 6/6 and 9/6 double-hung sash.
6	Oliver Parker House, c. 1690-1810 Federal period, 1½ story, wood frame, gable roof, clapboard siding, 2/2 double-hung sash, central chimney, two large dormers and ell added early twentieth century.
7	James Hatch House, c. 1824 Federal period, 1½ story, wood frame, clapboard siding, gable roof, central chimney. Renovation in 1960 removed attached carriage barn and two ells, added new smaller ell, replaced late nineteenth century 2/2 sash with 6/6 sash, rebuilt central chimney.
8	Joseph Wescott House, c. 1800 Federal period, 1½ story, wood frame, clapboard siding, gable roof

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OFF-THE-NECK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Continuation sheet

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<u>Site No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
8(cont.)	extending down to late nineteenth century veranda with brackets and spindle-work. House has 6/6 double-hung sash, central entry with sidelights. Two chimneys rebuilt within ten years.
9	George Wescott House, c. 1815 Federal style, 2 story, wood frame, clapboard siding, hipped roof, two large chimneys, 9/6 double-hung sash, entry with pilasters, entablature, and fanlights. Wescott family cemetery on site.
10	James Witham House, c. 1820-28 Federal period, 1½ story, wood frame, clapboard siding, gable roof, central chimney, 2/2 double-hung sash.
11	Frank Wescott House, c. 1790 Federal period, 1½ stories, wood frame, clapboard siding, gable roof, windows with 2/2 or a variety of multi-pane double-hung sash, attached carriage barn connected by smaller 1½ story wing.
12	House, c. 1820-30 Federal style, 1½ story, wood frame, clapboard siding, gable roof, vestibule with louvered fan, 2/1 double-hung sash, one story wing and connected carriage barn.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates**      Various      **Builder/Architect**      Various

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The area included in this nomination represents a rural landscape which has changed little in the last two centuries and includes eleven farmsteads dating between 1760 and 1820.

The turbulent history of the town of Castine is well known. Disputed for a long period between the English and French and later the English and Americans, it was an important seaport until the end of the days of merchant sail.

Geographically the town is dramatically separated between the more heavily populated and commercial peninsula located between Penobscot Bay and the Bagaduce River and the Off-The-Neck or mainland area connected to it by a narrow piece of land. The peninsula area was listed on the National Register as the Castine Historic District on February 23, 1973.

The Off-The-Neck area, part of which is the subject of this nomination, is separated from the village historically and economically as well as by geography. Settled beginning in the 1760s it depended largely on an agrarian economy and provided the produce required by the more heavily settled peninsula which was entirely maritime oriented with shipping, ship building and fishing. Also unlike the peninsula, this region was relatively unaffected by the political and military strife which typified the history of the village. Indeed, the "British Canal", which marks the southern boundary of the district, was actually a defensive barrier constructed during the English occupation in the War of 1812. This earthen ditch is both a real and symbolic symbol of the division between the mainland and the strategic port of Castine.

The houses in Castine Off-the-Neck Historic District are typical examples of Maine farmhouses built during the Federal period (1790–1830). Similar examples can be found scattered throughout Hancock County. The hilly terrain, with combinations of woodland and open fields bordering rocky inlets, are also characteristic of the region. What distinguishes the area included in this district is the very high concentration of relatively unaltered Federal and Greek Revival style farmhouses located in an unspoiled area. Thus, the boundaries of the district are easy to discern and to extend them in any direction would take in large numbers of houses ranging in age from the late nineteenth century to the 1980s.

This historic district is based on a survey conducted by the Castine Historical Society of the entire Off-the-Neck region of the Town of Castine in 1985.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Wheeler, G. A., History of Castine, Penobscot and Brooksville. Bangor, 1875.  
 Wheeler, G. A., Castine, Past and Present. Boston, 1896.  
 Castine Historical Society Archives.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 380  
 Quadrangle name Castine

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	1 9	5 1 7 8 0 5	4 9 1 7 7 1 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 9	5 1 6 3 3 0	4 9 1 6 6 8 0
E	1 9	5 1 5 0 0 0	4 9 1 5 6 0 0
G			

B	1 9	5 1 8 1 3 0	4 9 1 7 4 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 9	5 1 5 3 9 0	4 9 1 5 5 6 0
F	1 9	5 1 5 8 6 0	4 9 1 6 9 8 0
H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at the west end of the south bank of the British Canal, the distridt boundary runs up the eats shore of Wadsworth Cove to the rear property line of building #2 and follows this line and the rear property lines on the west and north side of Route 166 to the north corner of the property of building #12.

### 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 Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian  
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1986  
 street & number 55 Capitol 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 *Eric S. Feltner*

title S. H. P. O. date 8/5/86

### For NPS use only

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

*Patrick Andrews*

date 9/25/86

*for* Keeper of the National Register

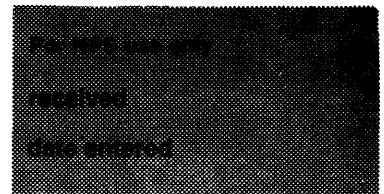
Attest: *Beth A. Savage*

date 9/25/86

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet

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From this point it runs southeasterly along the northeast line of this property, across Route 166, and follows the rear property lines on the south side of this road to the south corner of the property of building #3 whose south line it follows to Route 166 and along this road to the south bank of the British Canal along which it runs to the point of Beginning.

This area encompasses the only cohesive rural area in the Off-The-Neck section of Castine.

