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Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Aroostook
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 20 1973

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Site of Acadian Landing - St. John Valley, 1785

AND/OR HISTORIC:

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: E of Madawaska on the St. John River South Bank in St. David Village

CITY OR TOWN: Madawaska CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd - Hon. William Cohen

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Aroostook CODE: 003

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Ceremonial</u>

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Ernest Chasse

STREET AND NUMBER: R.F.D. #1, Box 102

CITY OR TOWN: Madawaska STATE: Maine CODE: 23

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Aroostook County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Houlton STATE: Maine CODE: 23

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the Acadian Landing in the St. John Valley is perhaps the most important historical site in the Valley. The site is marked by a cross called the Acadian cross. It was here that the settlement of this valley began and the culture and language of these Acadian settlers prevail today.

The site is located at the foot of a large potato field about three tenths of a mile from U.S. Route #1 and a few hundred feet from the St. John River.

The cross marking the site was erected in 1922 in approximately the same spot as the original cross which was erected in 1785. A wooden platform surrounding the cross was built in 1969 and is sometimes used for religious services.

Located above the cross on U.S. Route #1 is the new Madawaska Historical Society building which houses many artifacts of the early settlement. It is hoped that the site of the Acadian Landing will eventually become the property of the Madawaska Historical Society.

Site Name: Madawaska  
 Location: St. John Valley, Maine  
 Date: 1979



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1785

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | <u>Original</u>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | <u>Settlement</u>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Generally speaking, Acadia included what is now known as Nova Scotia, the shores of the Bay of Fundy and Prince Edward Island.

In 1755, the long-term British effort to deport the French from Acadia finally bore fruit. Religious differences as well as suspicion that the French were encouraging the Indians to harass them led the British to issue the expulsion orders.

Acadia came under the rule of England in 1710, and the Dominion of Canada in 1760. The Acadians, refusing to take the oath of allegiance to the King of England unconditionally, were treated as a stubborn people, a sort of riffraff to be gotten rid of as soon as possible. They were willing to pledge allegiance to England, but they were unwilling to take up arms against the Frenchmen in Cape Breton Island, New Brunswick and other French settlements in case of war between England and France.

In 1755, Acadians were summoned to Church by orders of Governor Lawrence; a proclamation was sent to the effect that they were prisoners of the King and that they would be deported.

Groups were taken to Louisiana, points along the Atlantic Coast, Bermuda and even England.

Those who were fortunate enough to be warned of the deportation plans fled to Fredericton, what is now New Brunswick. Others went to the shores of the St. Lawrence. Little by little a new settlement was made near Fredericton and the Acadians who had fled to the Province of Quebec and some of those deported to the Boston area rejoined them there.

At the end of the Revolution, the Tories in the United States found life far from pleasant. Several of them were hanged, and others shot. After the Treaty of Paris, they came in large numbers over the line into New Brunswick. The English Government owed many obligations to these people. These obligations were fulfilled by giving the Loyalists and disbanded soldiers large grants in New Brunswick. The Loyalists found Acadians on these grants. The Loyalists speedily made the region of the Lower St. John River as uncomfortable for the Acadians as the Americans

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Collins, Rev. Charles W.  
1902

The Acadians of Madawaska, Maine Boston:

Violette, Lawrence A.

How the Acadians Came to Maine. 1951

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47° 21' 10"	68° 16' 23"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
John Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Department of Parks and Recreation DATE: Feb. 26, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State House

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta, STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: James H. Munday  
Title: State Historic Pres. Officer  
Date: August 24, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

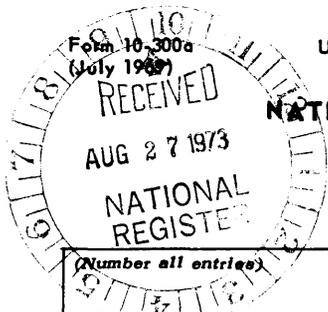
Date: 9/20/73

ATTEST:  
Wm. Huntington  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 9-19-73

19/574925/824-50

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

had made the United States for them. This was all the persuasion needed for the Acadians to abandon their farms and start out in the wilderness again. The Acadian current was finally set in the direction of Madawaska.

In 1785, about twenty families from the Fredericton area went up the St. John passing near the boundary line between the present United States and New Brunswick and entered the long, narrow valley of the upper St. John. The Acadians traversed this valley for some thirty miles before halting on the south side of the river one or two miles below the present town of Madawaska. It was there where Joseph Daigle and his weary companions first set foot on the south bank of the St. John River on one of the most elevated flats about 2½ miles from the Melecite village located at the junction of the St. John and Madawaska Rivers. As they were making camp, Joseph Daigle, Sr., erected a crude cross in thanksgiving for the final arrival at their promised land.

By the time Maine became a State in 1820, the twenty original families had grown to 148 families with a population of 1,171.

The Acadians of Madwaska were involved in the famous border dispute stemming from the ambiguous wording of the Treaty of 1783. As the controversy gained momentum, New Brunswick lost no time in claiming the territory on both sides of the St. John River by virtue of the Madawaska settlement, declaring the inhabitants subjects of the King. Moreover, the Provincial Government eagerly deeded farms and lots to the Acadians for small sums of money, and was lavish with commissions and appointments, also organizing companies of militia among the residents.

On the other hand, the State of Maine hastened with its own claims. Besides colonizing the Aroostook Valley, a number of settlers from the Kennebec Valley were encouraged in opening farms in the St. John Valley in the vicinity of Fort Kent and St. Francis.

In 1827, the border trouble was intensified by the rival lumber operations in the upper St. John Valley where an onslaught on the rich forests was underway. There followed a series of provocations, protestations, proclamations, counter-proclamations, mobilizations and demobilizations which brought the two countries to the verge of a bloody war.

In 1830, the United States and Great Britain submitted the boundary question to the King of the Netherlands as a neutral arbiter, but his suggestions failed to be accepted by both governments.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

In 1831, Maine incorporated the town of Madawaska on the south shore of the St. John River and caused town officers to be elected. This brought a wave of protest from New Brunswick. During the dispute, the Acadians of Madawaska remained generally neutral.

In 1831, the Governor of New Brunswick, Sir Archibald Campbell, arrived at St. Basile with a large force of militia. A number of settlers, who had taken part in the Madawaska town election under American sponsors, were arrested.

In 1839, the Maine Legislature decided to drive Canadian woodsmen from the upper St. John River where vast operations were conducted in the disputed territory. For the next three years, a very tense atmosphere hung over the northern Aroostook County area. Troops were raised on both sides and war at times seemed inevitable. Cooler heads prevailed and in 1842 the Webster-Ashburton Treaty ended the long dispute and the present boundary was established.

The cross itself is of little, if any, significance; it is not even a replica of the original cross. The significance here lies with the site of landing of the Acadians which occurred at or near this spot in 1785.

The sources for the location of the Acadian landing are in the form of several secondary works and local tradition. The descendants of the Acadian settlers of the St John Valley living today know this as the site for the knowledge of this place has been handed down for many generations.

