

*PHOTO*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine  
 COUNTY: Lincoln  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: NOV 19 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Head Tide *Historic* District  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: both sides of Sheepscot River  
 CITY OR TOWN: Alna CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st: Hon. Peter N. Kyros  
 STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Lincoln CODE: 015

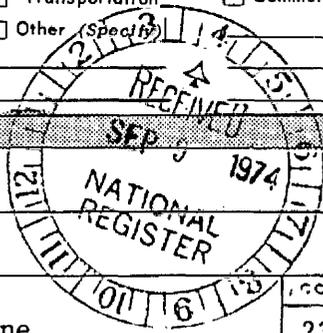
3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):  
 Agricultural  Government  Park  Transportation  Comments  
 Commercial  Industrial  Private Residence  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Educational  Military  Religious  
 Entertainment  Museum  Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Several  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Alna STATE: Maine CODE: 23



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lincoln County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Wiscasset STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maine Historic Resources Inventory  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1974  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 19 1974  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

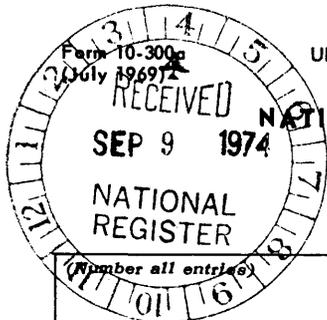
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Listed below are the buildings within the district which are of special interest:

1. NATHANIEL PLUMMER HOUSE - c.1800-1810 - The Nathaniel Plummer House is a fine central chimnied, one and a half storied Maine House of the early 19th century. Built for Plummer between about 1800 and 1810, the house has a triple arch beneath its large center chimney, which has three fireplaces entering from the first floor. The front hall features a circular staircase.
  
2. J.A. JEWETT GRAIN STORE - c.1907-08 - The Jewett Grain Store is a straightforward two and a half story frame structure with a gable roof. Although built for J.A. Jewett in the early 20th century, its simplicity of design has its origin in 18th and 19th century rural Maine architecture. In addition to selling grain here, Jewett used the building for a grain and hardware warehouse.
  
3. CAPTAIN CLARK HOUSE - c.1787 - A Captain Clark had this handsome two and a half story double chimnied house built for himself about 1787. Jeremiah Carleton purchased the house in 1826 and maintained a tavern there. It is believed that he placed the one and a half story addition on the back of the house. Later in the 19th century, this became the home of J.A. Jewett. The dwelling has become known as "The Spring House" because a spring flows directly from the ledge beneath the floor in the corner of of the kitchen. Other interesting features include early hardware and a back door which opens out from the second story because of the terrain.
  
4. J.A. JEWETT GENERAL STORE - 1884 - Like the Jewett Grain Store, the Jewett General Store is a two and a half story frame structure of straightforward Maine design. The building is in a good state of preservation with its original exterior store front and second floor dance hall intact.
  
5. J.A. JEWETT STABLE - 1881 - J. A. Jewett's stable stands adjacent to his general store. Erected in 1881, the stable is a large one and a half story frame building designed in a forthright manner. In addition to providing stabling for horses, Jewett used this structure as a warehouse for his store.
  
6. REV. JEREMIAH JEWETT HOUSE - Early 19th century - Rev. Jewett's house is an imposing country homestead of the early 19th century. It exhibits the two and a half story double chimnied form which was most popular in Maine from the mid to the late 18th century.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maine
COUNTY	Lincoln
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	NOV 15 1974
DATE	NOV 15 1974

2

7. DESCRIPTION

6. REV. JEREMIAH JEWETT HOUSE CONT.

Connected to the house at the right is a long story and a half ell which has three arched doorways outlined in a simple country Federal manner. The arches of these entrances are surrounded with a flat band of molding which is accented at the top by a simple keystone. Adjacent to the ell is a two story shed structure. Rev. Jewett (1780-1860) was the minister for Head Tide during the first half of the 19th century, and his home was known as the Parsonage. The interior of its parlor has fine decorative paneling and moldings. Rev. Jewett was instrumental in the building of the church on the hill, and his will provided a large bequest for its maintenance.

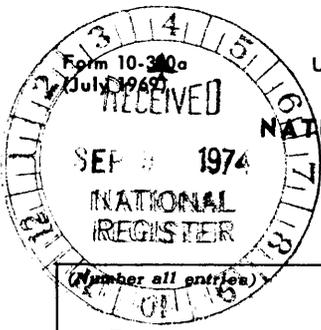
7. WARD LEWIS HOUSE - c. 1800 - The Ward Lewis House is a dwelling in the salt box form, of which few examples now survive in Maine. The house possesses a pleasing directness of design. The facade is lighted by an entrance with Federal style pilasters and horizontal pediment as well as Greek Revival moldings outlining the the door and sidelights.

8. ROBINSON HOUSE - c.1835 - Built about 1835, the Robinson House was owned by Edward Robinson and was in 1869 the birthplace of his son, Edwin Arlington Robinson, a major late 19th -early 20th century American poet. This two story hipped roof house is late Federal style in form but displays a broad Greek Revival doorway.

9. TURNER HOUSE - c.1820 - Little is known about this story and a half, central chimney house, which was probably built by the Turner family circa 1820. In form the house is typical of many constructed in Maine during the early 19th century. The Turner House exhibits a simple Federal style doorway and restrained period window trim. The left side porch is a later addition.

10. TIBBETT HOUSE - Later 18th-early 19th century - This low posted story and a half house probably dates from the late 18th or early 19th century. The facade arrangement is assymetrical with two windows at the left of a simple doorway and one at the right. A.J. Tibbett owned a mill on the river about 1820 and is believed to have occupied the house at that time. A large central chimney has been replaced by a later narrow one which is located at the left of the center of the house.

(See Continuation Sheet)



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maine
COUNTY	Lincoln
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 19 1974

7. DESCRIPTION

- 11. GLIDDEN HOUSE - Mid-19th century - The Glidden House is a substantial mid-19th century Greek Revival farmhouse which stands two and a half stories in height. The Glidden family apparently first owned this property in the 18th century, and one section of the house may date from an earlier period.
- 12. SCHOOL HOUSE - c.1860 - The school house was built about 1860 to replace the community's first school, which burned in 1859. The school house is a classic example of the many one and a half story, one room school houses which dotted the rural Maine landscape in the 19th century. In recent years, this school has been successfully adapted for a residence.
- 13. HEAD TIDE CHURCH - 1838 - Located on a hill overlooking the village, the Head Tide Church is a handsome rural Maine house of worship which exhibits a combination of Federal style, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival elements in its design. The facade displays the outline of a Grecian temple front with its six pilasters and strongly accented triangular pediment. However, the Federal fan motif appears above the two facade windows as well as in the center of the pediment. The influence of the Gothic Revival is felt in the two pointed arch windows on either side of the church and in the simple pinnacle at the top of each corner of the belfry. The interior features a painted trompe l'oeil window with draperies behind the pulpit.

The Head Tide Church was established by members of the congregation of the 1789 Alna Meeting House who wanted a church closer to their homes at Head Tide. The building was dedicated on November 21, 1838. Parish scribe E. Merrill's entry for that date reports, "The New Meeting House near the Head of the Tide was this date dedicated to the service of God... The day was fine, the audience numerous and attentive, and the occasion of great interest."

In April of 1839 a town agreement was made to hold worship at the Head Tide Church 3/4 of the time and 1/4 at the older Meeting House. After 1868 the new building was used most of the time. Although prosperous at first, it fell into decline. In 1913 it was reclaimed, rededicated, and incorporated into the Congregational Christian Conference. However, after 1922 public interest and support again lapsed, and the church deteriorated once more. In 1940 the Committee for the Restoration and Preservation of the Old Head Tide Church was created to care for the structure. For almost thirty-five years, this dedicated organization has worked diligently to maintain the

(See Continuation Sheet)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maine
COUNTY	Lincoln
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 19 1974

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

4

13. HEAD TIDE CHURCH CONT.

church as a landmark and as a meeting place in which to have an annual address by a distinguished speaker. The group's greatest challenge came on July 9, 1962, when the steeple was struck by lightning, which destroyed the belfry with its Revere bell and damaged part of the front of the building. Within a year the Committee had restored the church to its original appearance, and thus it remains today.

14. PLUMMER HOUSE - Late 18th century, c.1805 - This house was built in the late 18th century by David Plummer. An early 19th century owner, Squire Josiah Stebbins, greatly enlarged the structure about 1805 to its present appearance of a massive frame two story Federal style house with a hipped roof and double chimney arrangement.



**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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

The village of Head Tide began to develop as a mill community in the mid-18th century because of its excellent location on the Sheepscot River. From before the Revolution through the first half of the 20th century, the River's water power was harnessed for saw mills, grist mills, a stave mill, a shingle mill, a planing mill, a carding mill, and a fulling mill. Although the last of these various mills burned in 1949, the surviving homes and buildings of this once active commercial center form one of the most picturesque and well-preserved historic districts in Maine.

Head Tide and the surrounding region were settled as the result of a decision by the Boston based Plymouth Company to develop their holdings in the Kennebec River valley. Comprised of such prominent Boston families as the Bowdoins, Vassals, Hancocks, Hallowells and Gardiners, the Plymouth Company decided in the mid-18th century to encourage settlement on its Maine lands to keep out the French, to protect fur trapping, and to secure timber for the mast trade.

Dr. Silvester Gardiner was the most diligent of the Company's proprietors in securing settlers on the Kennebec River, spending much of his time and money in this effort. He furnished a sloop at his expense and brought settlers to this territory.

To show their appreciation of Dr. Gardiner's work, his fellow proprietors presented him with two tracts of land between 1759 and 1761. Located on the Sheepscot River, this acreage included the present village of Head Tide. Within a year after acquiring title to these lands, Dr. Gardiner began selling them to settlers. His first sale at Head Tide was in 1762 to David Nelson, who purchased 150 acres for 60 pounds. This included the dam site and land upon which mills were later erected.

Concurrent with the development of the Kennebec River was the creating of Lincoln County in 1760. Head Tide was included within the town of Newcastle when this new county was formed. By 1794, so many mills had been built on the upper Sheepscot River that a town

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HB E450325  
 Zm19 NY884750  
 E450325  
 NY884450  
 E447100  
 NY884450  
 NY884750  
 E449750

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hassan, Emin W., History of Certain Lands in Alna, Maine, 1964. An unpublished manuscript on file with the Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Association, Wiscasset, Maine.

Jewett, Allen, Notes of Mr. Jewett's recollections of Head Tide provided by Dimmes McDowell.

The Old Head Tide Meeting House, pamphlet of the Committee for the Restoration and Preservation of the Old Head Tide Meeting House.

Wells, Walter, Water Power of Maine, Augusta, 1868

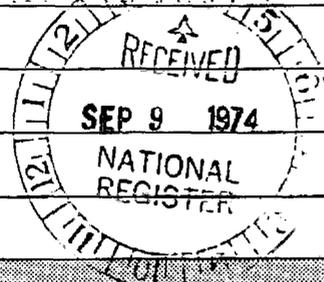
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	°	'	"	°	'	"	44	6	58.8"	69	37	40.8"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	44	6	58.8	69	37	16.5
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	44	6	48	69	37	16.5
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	44	6	48	69	37	40.8

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **60**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mr. Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: June, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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. Mundy

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date September 3, 1974

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

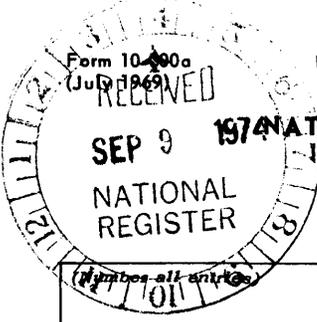
A. R. Quentance  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/19/74

ATTEST:

W. A. Mumby  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-18-74



Form 10-100a  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maine	
COUNTY	Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		NOV 19 1974

8. SIGNIFICANCE

called New Milford was set aside from Newcastle. The town, which included Head Tide, derived its name from the many mills which had been established on the river and its tributaries. In 1811 the name was changed to Alna, the Indian name for alders.

By the early 19th century, the village of Head Tide possessed the major concentration of mills in Alna. At that time six water wheels were powered by the dam at Head Tide, two for saw mills, two for grist mills, one for a planing mill and one for a cloth finishing mill. Terraces were cut into the side of the hill behind the dam for the purpose of drying cloth after it was dyed.

Head Tide's growing influence in Alna became apparent in the 1830's when three-fourths of the town's church services were transferred to the new Head Tide Church completed in 1838. After 1868 most of the town's services were held there. That year Walter Wells gave the following description of the village in his Water Power of Maine:

Head-of-Tide Falls about five miles above Sheepscot Falls, wooden dam, head and fall about ten feet; can be increased to thirteen feet. Grist mill, stave, and shingle mill. Large building adjoining, formerly used as a grist mill and carding mill, now as a shingle mill. Would make an excellent carriage shop or factory in connection with still another building attached, formerly used as a fulling and cloth dressing mill.

However, by the late 19th century, the rural economy which had supported Head Tide for almost a century and a half began to change. When a freshet in 1896 destroyed the mills on the north side of the river, they were not rebuilt. In 1924 a fire leveled the mills on the river's south bank. Of these, only one grist mill was replaced, and this was destroyed by fire twenty-five years later.

Today the tangible remains of Head Tide's more than two centuries of history are its fourteen fine 18th and 19th century homes and buildings as well as its beautiful natural setting. The structures are characteristic of rural Maine architecture in the forthright simplicity of their design. With the exception of the now-vanished mills, these buildings are representative of the basic elements of an old Maine village: dwellings ranging from a humble Cape to the minister's parsonage, a store, a stable, a school, and a church. The man-made and natural assets of Head Tide have been fully appreciated by current residents, who have worked individually and as a group to maintain the special character of their community. The results have been the preservation of one of the most authentic village settings to survive from Maine's past.

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(Continuation Sheet)

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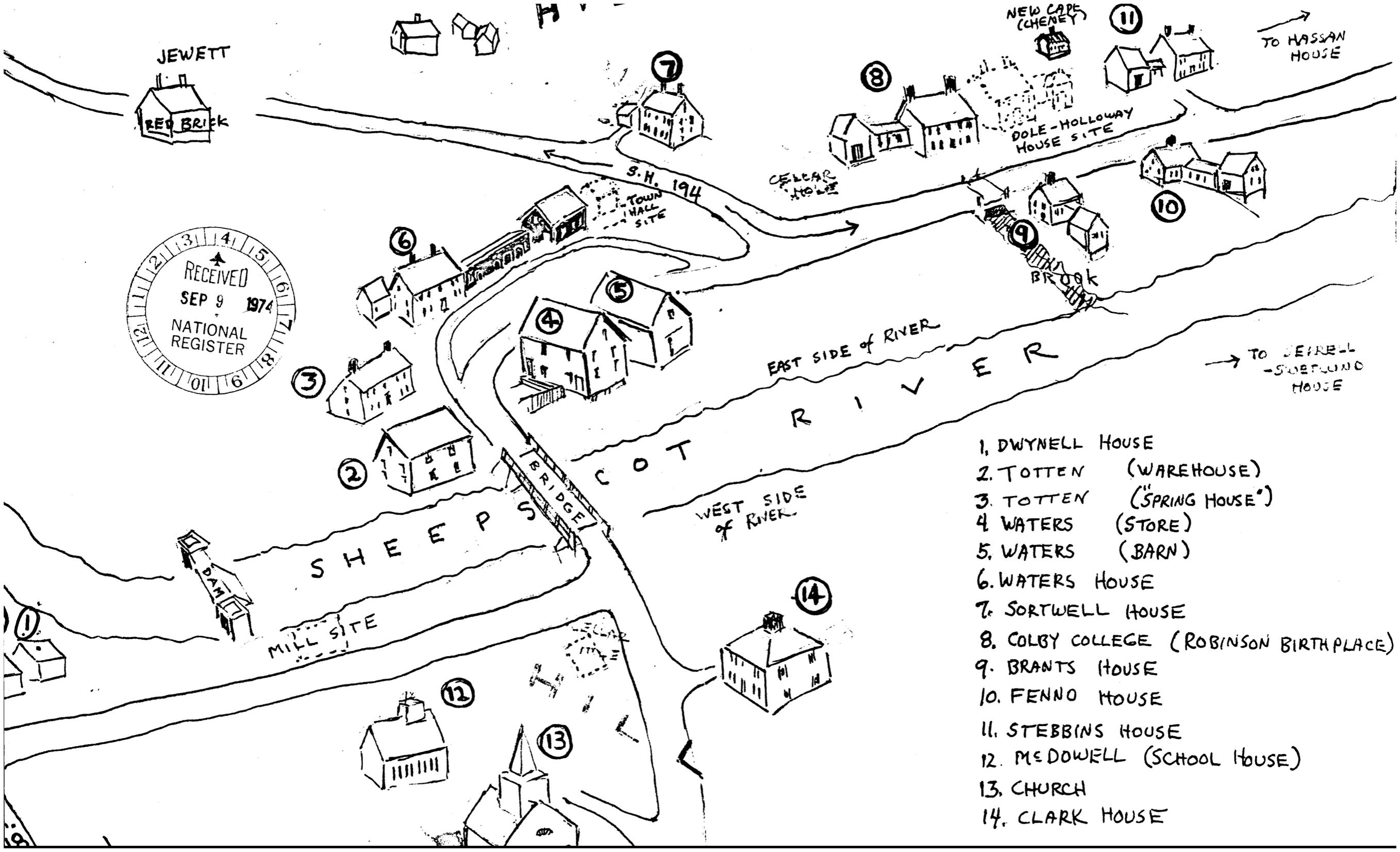
District Delineation

5. The country village of Head Tide is located on State route 194 one mile northeast of the town of Alna. The community is located on both sides of the Sheepscot River at a junction where a road crosses the river and joins 194 which runs along the eastern bank. The generously spaced houses are agreeably sited to take advantage of the natural beauty of the rolling landscape and the river. There are no modern buildings or commercial structures.

Along the roads, which are asphalt, the district extends from the junction .08 miles north and .09 south on rt. 194 and .16 miles across the river to a junction with state rt. 218. The district comprises an area 200 yards either side of these roads except that on the south side of the road on the western side of the river it is deepened to 500 yards to include the fine meeting-house structure.

The district is delineated in this fashion to include all structures and sites of historic and architectural merit.





1. DWYNELL HOUSE
2. TOTTEN (WAREHOUSE)
3. TOTTEN ("SPRING HOUSE")
4. WATERS (STORE)
5. WATERS (BARN)
6. WATERS HOUSE
7. SORTWELL HOUSE
8. COLBY COLLEGE (ROBINSON BIRTHPLACE)
9. BRANTS HOUSE
10. FENNO HOUSE
11. STEBBINS HOUSE
12. MCDOWELL (SCHOOL HOUSE)
13. CHURCH
14. CLARK HOUSE