

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

RECEIVED MAR 07 1990

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DIVISION OF NATIONAL REGISTRATION PROGRAMS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Holmes, Dr. Job, House other names/site number The Holmestead

2. Location

street & number 247 Main Street city, town Calais state Maine code ME county Washington code 029 zip code 04619

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal. Category of Property: [X] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1. Name of related multiple property listing: N/A. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 2/27/90. State or Federal agency and bureau: Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: _____ Date: _____ State or Federal agency and bureau: _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: [X] entered in the National Register. [] See continuation sheet. [] determined eligible for the National Register. [] See continuation sheet. [] determined not eligible for the National Register. [] removed from the National Register. [] other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 4/5/90.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Family

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/Weatherboardroof Asphaltother Bracketed Entrance Hood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dr. Job Holmes House is a large two-story with attic three-bay frame dwelling with pronounced Italianate style features. A two-story ell and attached shed project from the rear elevation. Weatherboards cover the entire building which rests on a rusticated granite slab foundation. The house occupies a rectangular lot adjoining the related Holmes Cottage (N.R. 4/4/88) in proximity to the commercial district.

Facing northeast, the symmetrically composed front elevation features a central paneled door and sidelights sheltered by a broad hood. The hood is supported by four over-scaled brackets with ornate pendants. Low balustrade walls composed of short, squat balusters and large square corner posts define the edge of the porch. Flanking the porch are single six-over-six double-hung sash windows framed by bracketed hoods and sills. A trio of similar windows are arranged across the second story although the center unit is capped by a segmentally-arched hood. Operable shutters, which are original, are still in place on these as on all the windows. Closely spaced shaped brackets support the broad roof overhang, and wide corner pilasters extend from the wooden water table to the narrow cornice. Two interior end chimneys rise through the roof.

The gable ends of the main block have identical fenestration patterns consisting of two six-over-six windows on each story and a smaller six-over-six in the attic. Bracketed sills similar to those on the facade are utilized here whereas they are surmounted by shallow triangular hoods. The wide corner pilasters are repeated and the short cornice returns are bracketed.

The four-bay ell extends from the southwest corner of the front block. Three six-over-six windows and a door are located on the first story of the west side and four are placed above. A narrow cornice carries across the elevation. The east side is less symmetrical with three windows and a door at the lower level but only two on the upper story. A porch originally sheltered the first story, but it was recently removed. There are also two windows on the rear side of the main block located above and below the former porch roof. There is a window in the gable peak of the ell, and a centrally-placed chimney. The small gabled shed at the rear features a door and window on the west and east sides.

 See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The interior of the house is remarkably intact, and displays some of the same qualities of robust detailing found on the exterior. A broad central hall, which is reached through a narrow vestibule, separates the house into one large room on each side, a pattern also repeated on the second floor. The open string stair has a turned newel post, thin turned balusters, and a curved handrail. Wide plaster wall cornices articulate the hall and the principal first floor rooms. A ceiling medallion is also located in the hall. Modest Italianate mantelpieces are located in the parlor and living room and the trim on the first floor is typical of the period. Symmetrically molded Greek Revival surrounds are utilized in one of the second floor bedrooms. The ell contains the kitchen, utility rooms and additional bedrooms.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1850 - 51

Significant Dates

1850 - 51

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bassford, Asher B., Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Holmes House is among the most architecturally significant Italianate style dwellings in Calais. It was constructed in 1850-51 for Dr. Job Holmes, a physician who had established his medical practice in the second quarter of the nineteenth century in what was at that time a booming lumber shipping port. Construction of the house was undertaken by local architect/builder Asher B. Bassford, although it is not certain that he designed the building. It is one of only three extant documented projects in Maine by Bassford, all of them in Calais. The property is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for its architectural significance.

Beginning in the 1820s, Calais witnessed a phenomenal rate of growth predicated on its development as a lumber milling and shipping center. In the thirty year period between 1820 and 1850 its population soared from a mere 418 persons to 4,749. By 1855 there were seven sawmills in operation. This activity stimulated an attendant rise in other commercial and service-oriented businesses. For example, in 1855 there were thirty-six general merchants, two music stores, six dealers in millinery and fancy goods, and eight insurance agents. There were also six physicians, one of whom was Job Holmes.

A graduate of Maine Medical School, Holmes married Vesta Hamlin, the sister of Vice President Hannibal Hamlin. Another brother, Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, was a class-mate of Holmes at medical school and established his practice in Calais about 1830. Holmes and his wife followed Hamlin some years thereafter where they initially settled in the Holmes Cottage. Their subsequent prosperity is reflected in the size and detailing of the new house built in 1850-51. Upon the death of Job and Vesta Holmes, the property passed to their daughter Agnes and her husband Edward Moore. It subsequently descended to their maiden daughter Josephine who willed it to a non-profit organization charged with maintaining the house for elderly men and women. This use is continued today.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clancey, Gregory K. "Asher B. Bassford: 1805 - 1887." A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine. Volume II, No. 3, 1985. Augusta, ME: Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

1	9
---	---

6	3	5	6	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	0	0	5	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the City of Calais tax map 7, block 5, lot 4.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the building and entire city lot historically associated with the Dr. Job Holmes House.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date December, 1989

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone _____

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

The rapid development of Calais in the early and mid-nineteenth century resulted in the construction of a large number of Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and to a lesser degree, Gothic Revival residences along a grid pattern of streets behind the commercial district. A number of these dwellings, including the Alexander Gilmore House, George Washburn House, and the Hamilton House are already listed in the Register. The former two, both erected in the 1850s, are of Gothic Revival inspiration with a wealth of applied sawn ornamentation. Both the Hamilton House and the even more notable Charles Newton House are Italianate houses from the 1870s. It is in this context that the Holmes House, erected many years before its above-named stylistic cousins, assumes significance. Not only is it substantially intact, unlike many mid-nineteenth century houses in Calais, it plainly illustrates the transitional nature of design between the Greek Revival, seen principally in the corner pilasters and interior details, and the emerging Italianate with its window treatments and brackets.

Of further note is the house's builder, Asher B. Bassford. Born in Mount Vernon, Maine in 1805, Bassford removed to Calais in 1829 where he joined his brother as a house carpenter. Although undoubtedly engaged in a variety of projects soon after his arrival, Bassford's first known commission was for his own house (as yet unlocated) on Cooper Road, built in 1835. He built a second residence (altered) for himself in 1846-47 followed a few years later by the Holmes House and the Calais Academy (destroyed). A number of his subsequent commissions were obtained in neighboring St. Stephen, New Brunswick, most of which have been destroyed. By the late 1850s Bassford was advertising himself as an architect and builder, a fact which implies that he was probably the designer for the projects to which he is credited. In any case, Bassford continued his practice until at least the early 1860s, and remained in Calais until his death in 1887. The Holmes house remains as one of the earliest known and most intact reminders of Bassford's long career.