

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received **MAR 8 1982**  
date entered **JUN 1 1982**

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

## 1. Name

historic Eastport Historic District

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Water Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Eastport \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 2nd

state Maine code 023 county Washington code 029

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Various

street & number See Continuation Sheet

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Machias state Maine

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Waterfront Research Committee has this property been determined eligible?  yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date 1981 \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta state Maine

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Eastport Historic District is a homogeneous and cohesive grouping of 29 architecturally and/or historically significant buildings. Nearly all were built within a year or two after a disastrous fire wiped out the entire waterfront and commercial area in 1886. The district encompasses the present commercial section which lies next to the shore where the sardine industry once flourished. Of further interest is the fact that most of the buildings were designed by a single architect and are stylistically similar. The buildings are in various conditions but are all capable of rehabilitation. In general the area reflects the rough and ready prosperity of a sea-oriented frontier community.

The district boundaries include all the significant commercial structures and there are no intrusions save for a small shed next to Building 24 which is to be removed within the next two months.

### Buildings and sites contributing to the character of the district:

#### Map #

1. United States Custom House and Post Office, 1890-91  
1 Washington Street  
Late Italianate, 2 stories with 3 story tower, stone.  
Granite railing on tower removed 1974
2. Fenderson Insurance Agency, 1887  
82 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, wood frame.  
Henry Black, Architect.
3. Jackson Block, 1887  
76-80 Water Street.  
Italianate, 2 stories, wood frame.  
Henry Black, Architect
4. Ellingwood Jewelry Store, 1887  
74 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, wood frame.  
Henry Black, Architect.
5. Bradish Bakery Building, 1887  
68, 70 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, wood frame.  
Henry Black, Architect.
6. Knights of Pythias Building, 1928-29  
66 Water Street  
Vernacular, 3 stories, wood frame.

(See continuation sheet)

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

Specific dates      N/A                      Builder/Architect      N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Water Street historic district serves as a testimony to the strength of Eastport's economy and that of a thriving commercial center during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The sardine industry at Eastport was at its height during this period, the North American sardine industry having been founded at Eastport a few years earlier in 1875. Eastport then served as an area tradine center for the greater lower Passamaquoddy Bay region, based to a large extent on water transportation. Reflecting this water based transportation, the commercial center was built on the very edge of the sea, not a block or more back from the sea. The district has remained the commercial center of Eastport up to the present, as there are no other commercial centers of shopping malls in Eastport.

As an indication of Eastport's commercial strength a century ago, 26 of the 29 district buildings were built in response to the large Eastport fire of October 14, 1886, in addition to one other building which had its roof rebuilt after this fire. Twenty-six of the buildings were built in 1887, with two more built by 1893. Considering even the population of Eastport then (in 1890: 4908), let alone what the population is today (about 2000), this is a phenomenal achievement. Larger cities than Eastport have had far worse fires, but when comparing a fire's size to a city's population, Eastport's 1886 fire was one of the worst. The entire commercial center--not just a good part of it--and all the commercial wharves were wiped out. The Boston Daily Globe stated that "No city in this country ever had its business portion so completely obliterated as has Eastport. . . ." The rebuilding strength displayed by Eastport following the fire must also be taken into account, that the same commercial district had been hit by two earlier fires--each about half the size of the 1886 fire--in 1839 and 1864.

A second major historical importance of the proposed district is its architecture. Nineteen of the district buildings were entirely designed or had their front facade designed by a Henry M. (or Henry N.) Black. Two more district buildings were very likely designed by him.

Very little is yet known about Black. In the Boston City Directories of 1873-1875, he is listed as a "draughtsman" at 17 Pemberton Square. The noted architect, Gridley J.F. Bryant, is listed during this time at the same address, and it is presumed that Black was then working for Bryant. After the large Saint John, New Brunswick fire of 1877, G.J.F. Bryant and an H.A. Black (probably the same Mr. Black) established a business as partners in Saint John (by late July, 1877).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8  
 Quadrangle name Eastport

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	1 9	6 59 0 60	4 9 74 3 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 9	6 5 9 0 2 0	4 9 7 3 9 8 0
E			
G			

B	1 9	6 59 1 60	49 74 0 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 9	6 59 0 0 0	49 74 3 5 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Comm. date January, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earle S. Feltre*

title S.H.P.O.

date 2/18/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6/1/82

*for* *Belona Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

Bldg. Number:

1. U. S. Custom House and Post Office  
USPS NE Field Office  
P.O. Box 324  
Lexington, MA
2. Fenderson Insurance Agency  
90 Main Street  
Calais, ME 04619
3. Mrs. Elizabeth Conti  
78 Water Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
4. Herbert Ellingwood  
78 Boynton Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
- 5, 23. Lt. Col. Harry M. Breuer, M.D.  
732--Med. Det.  
273-24-6362  
APO 09131 New York
6. Anchor Lodge Corp.  
2 Boynton Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
7. J.A. Ferris & Son  
4 Boynton Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
8. Alvin Kinney, Jr.  
c/o Kinney's Flower & Gift Shop  
Water Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
9. First Congregational Society of Eastport  
Eastport, ME 04631
10. Mr. Carl Milliken  
84 Bautell Road  
Bangor, ME 04401

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

11. Richard Flagg  
52 and 54 Water Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
  12. Mr. Gerald Dudley  
High Street  
Eastport, ME 05631
  - 13, 14. Kate Brown  
Shore Road  
Perry, ME 04667
  15. Gary Guisinger  
Perry, ME 04667
  16. Masonic Temple  
1 Dana Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
  17. Merrill Trust Company  
30 Water Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
  18. Eastport Library Association  
Peavey Memorial Library  
26 Water Street,  
Eastport, ME 04631
  19. Bangor Savings Bank  
41 Water Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
  20. Border Historical Society  
c/o Mrs. Ruth McInnis  
Todd's Head  
Eastport, ME 04631
  21. Allan Sutherland  
Sullivan Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
  22. John Foster  
Water Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
- Boyd Frankland  
Water Street  
Eastport, ME 04631

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

4

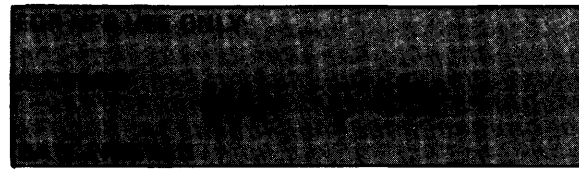
PAGE

3

24. John Burse  
Washington Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
25. Victor Liss  
424 N. County Road  
St. James, Long Island  
NY 11780
26. R. Stacey Burekes  
36 Miles Avenue  
Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064
27. Harry Richardson  
High Street  
Eastport, ME 04631
28. David Pottle  
P.O. Box 7  
Bath, ME 04530
29. Mrs. Winifred B. French  
16 Water Street  
Eastport, ME 04631

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

7. J. A. Ferris & Son Building, 1887  
4 Boynton Street  
Originally Italianate, 2 stories, wood frame.  
Partially burned in 1928 fire. Roof shape altered.
8. Berman Clothing Store, 1887, 1928  
60, 62, 64 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, wood frame.  
Left and center sections by Henry Black, Architect.  
Right hand section burned in 1928 and was rebuilt.
9. E.E. Shead Building, 1887  
58 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick.  
Henry Black, Architect.  
Second story window sash altered.
10. Rumery Brothers Building, 1887  
56 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with stone and cast iron trim.  
Henry Black, Architect
11. Bradford Block, 1887  
52, 54 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with stone trim.
12. Witherell Block, 1887  
48, 50 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and stone trim.
13. A.B. Davis Building, 1887  
44 Water Street  
Italianate, 3 stories, brick with wood and copper trim.  
Henry Black, Architect.
14. Sentinel Building, 1887  
42 Water Street  
Italianate, 3 stories, brick with ornamental brick decoration.  
Henry Black, Architect.
15. Beckett Block, 1887  
34, 40 Water Street  
Italianate, 3 stories, brick with stone trim.  
Henry Black, Architect.  
Wooden roof cornice removed.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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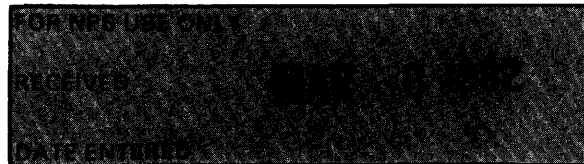
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

16. Masonic Block, 1887  
32 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with stone trim.  
Henry Black, Architect.
17. Frontier National Bank, 1882  
30 Water Street  
High Victorian Italianate, brick with stone and wood trim,  
iron cresting.  
Charles Kimball, Portland, Architect
18. Peavey Memorial Library, 1893  
26 Water Street  
Richardsonian Romanesque, 1 story, brick with stone trim.  
Rotch & Tilden, Boston, Architects
19. Eastport Savings Bank Building, 1887  
41 Water Street  
Italianate with pavillion, 3 stories, brick with stone trim.  
Henry Black, Architect.
20. Hayscale Block, 1887  
51, 53 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood trim.  
Henry Black very likely the architect.
21. Sutherland Building, 1887  
65 Water Street  
Vernacular, 2 stories, wood frame.
22. R.M. Tuttle Building, 1887  
67, 69 Water Street  
Vernacular, 2 stories, wood frame.
23. E.S. Martin Building, 1887  
75 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and cast iron trim.  
Henry Black, Architect.
24. Corthell and Gardiner Building, 1887  
79 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and cast iron trim.  
Henry Black, Architect.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 4

25. Sharland Building, 1887  
87 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with stone and cast iron trim.  
Henry Black, Architect.
26. Trefry Building, 1887  
95, 103 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and cast iron trim.
27. Leavitt Block, 1887  
107, 109 Water Street  
Italianate, 2 stories, brick with wood and cast iron trim.
28. Grady Building, 1887  
111 Water Street  
Italianate, 3 stories, wood frame.
29. Quoddy Tides Building, 1917  
123 Water Street  
Vernacular, 1 story, wood frame.  
This building served as office for Booth Fisheries Corporation,  
Eastport's largest cannery.

Nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district:

There is a small shed of no architectural or historic significance immediately to the north of building 24 which is due for removal within the next two months.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

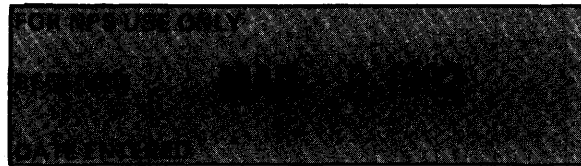
ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Black was described at the time as having a good deal of experience with a number of building types. Buildings designed in Saint John by Bryant & Black are the Stewart & White brick business building on Charlotte Street, as well as the John McCoskery large hotel building on Prince William Street. The Black & Bryant partnership dissolved in January, 1878, with Black remaining in Saint John to work on his own.

Black arrived in Eastport--to set up shop for the season-- in February 1887. Presumably he had had contact with Eastport people very soon after the October, 1886 fire, as about the first of January he had sent building plans to Eastport for the Masonic Block and the brick block to the north (most likely the Beckett Block). In the Eastport Sentinel of this time, Black is described as being formerly of Boston and having "extensive experience in the designing of public and private buildings of every character throughout the New England and Middle States." This experience may well be based on work done with Mr. Bryant, for as yet no information has been found on Mr. Black working as an architect in the Boston or Massachusetts area. Black may have remained in the Saint John, New Brunswick area from 1878 to 1886, for the two masonry firms doing all of the brick buildings--except three--designed by Black in Eastport after the 1886 fire were from Saint John. How Mr. Black came to Eastport, and why he was the only architect taking part in the rebuilding is unclear. In August, 1889, Black was drawing up plans for a substantial cottage for a New York man near Chamcook Mountain, not far from St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Davis, Harold A. An International Community on the Saint Croix,  
1640-1930. (1950, rpt., Orono, ME: University of Maine Press, 1974)

A Directory of . . . the Town of Eastport for 1888. (Portland, ME:  
Putnam, Tower & Co., 1888).

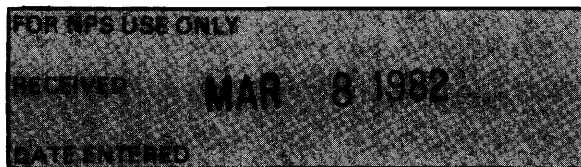
The Eastport Sentinel, 1853-1954.

Fernald, Anne. Sunrise County Architecture: Significant Buildings  
of Washington County. (Machiasport, ME: Sunrise Research Institute,  
1979).

Kilby William Henry (comp.), Eastport and Passamaquoddy. (Eastport,  
ME: E.E. Shead, 1888).

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



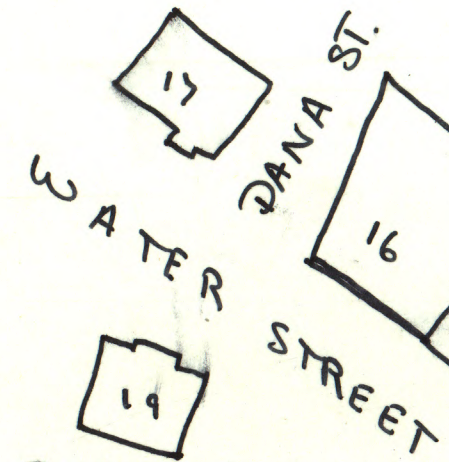
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

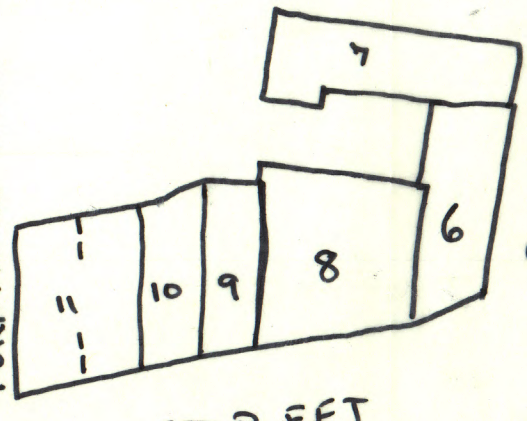
PAGE 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

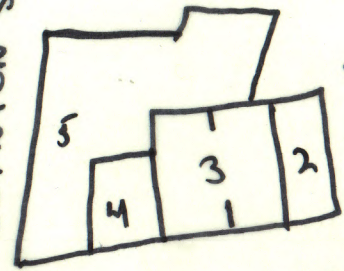
Beginning at the point where the north property line of the Custom House and Post Office (1) the boundary follows that line west to the northwest corner of the property and thence south along the rear property lines of the buildings on the west side of Water Street, crossing Washington and Boynton Streets, Furniture Avenue and Dana Street, until it reaches the southwest corner of the Peavey Memorial Livrary (18) property where it turns easterly following the south property line to Water Street. The boundary then follows Water Street northeasterly until it reaches the south property line of the Eastport Savings Bank Building (19) which it follows easterly to Sea Street. The boundary then follows Sea Street northerly to the south property line of the Hayscale Block (20), easterly along that line, thence northerly along the rear property lines of the buildings on the east side of Water Street to the north property line of the Quoddy Tides Building (29) which it follows westerly to Water Street and then southerly along said street to the point of beginning.



FURNITURE AVENUE.



BOYNTON ST.

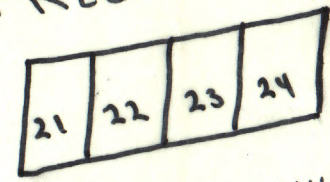


Parking lot

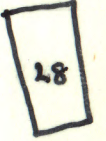
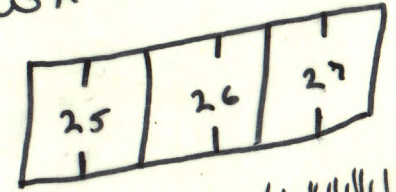
WATER STREET

SEA STREET

WATER STREET



TO BE PARK

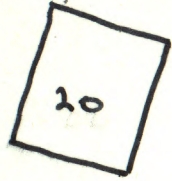


TO BE PARK



MORRISON'S WHARF & BUILDING

-SEAWALL & WALKWAY-



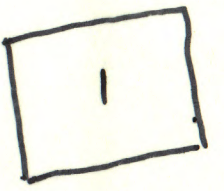
TO BE PARKING LOT

-SEAWALL & WALKWAY-

■ DENOTES INTRUSION INTO PROPOSED DISTRICT

SITE OF NEW FISH PIER

Washington St.



# MAP of PROPOSED EASTPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT