

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
received FEB 23 1984
date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Eli and Sybil Jones House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Dirigo Corner N/A not for publication

city, town China, vicinity of South China ~~congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Kennebec code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Robert and Susan Seeley

street & number Dirigo Corner

city, town Weeks Mills, vicinity of South China state Maine 04361

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Augusta, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? 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 _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This small one-and-one-half story house is L-shaped with a gable roof and clapboard siding. The house sits on a granite foundation. The windows have one-over-one double-hung sash and the main entrance, which is located in the center of the five bay facade, has a panelled door dating from circa 1900. A small bronze plaque was placed to the left of the front door in July, 1983, by the China Historical Society at its annual Day of Remembrance which honors distinguished citizens of the town each year.

The main facade of the house faces North.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1833	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

Eli (1807–90) and Sybil (1808–73) Jones, whose home this was during their adult life, were internationally-known Quaker missionaries and lecturers who, beginning in 1840, for thirty years made numerous journies to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the British Isles, Scandinavia, Western Europe, Greece, Egypt, the Middle East, and Liberia. In a time when the 12-mile wagon ride from South China to Augusta was a day's project, these two Quakers repeatedly crossed the Atlantic by sail and by steam; they traversed the Norwegian coast in an open boat which they portaged from one fiord to the next, and rode donkey-back through parts of Syria and Lebanon.

Wherever they went they talked of their beliefs to people from all walks of life and all religious tenets. The president of Liberia received them; in Beirut, Sybil Jones spoke through an interpreter to women in harems; they addressed religious and educational groups, hospital patients and prison inmates.

Despite a debilitating back problem, Sybil Jones was the leader in many of their ventures. It was she who first went to Canada in 1840 and it was she who was called to Liberia in 1851. In the midst of all this activity she managed to bear 5 children between 1835 and 1850.

In addition to international travel, Eli Jones was elected to the Maine House of Representatives in 1854 and served as principal of Oak Grove, a Quaker preparatory school from 1857–1860. He was also an early and staunch supporter of equality for women. Of additional interest, he was the uncle of the most famous of all modern Quakers, Rufus Jones, who often wrote about the importance of his early association with Eli.

Eli and Sybil moved into their new house at Dirigo Corner when they were married in 1833, both having lived in the village of South China before. There they remained for the rest of their lives.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Eli and Sybil Jones "Day of Remembrance" pamphlet. Prepared by the China Historical Society, Mary Grow, Ed. 1983.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name China Lake

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 5, Lot 34

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 January, 1984

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 Eli S. Feltz

title S.H.P.O. date 2/16/84

For NPS use only

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

Melores Byer **Keoper of the National Register** **Referred to the National Register** date 3/22/84

Attest: **Chief of Registration** date