

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 12 1986
date entered SEP 22 1986

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

1. Name

historic Holden House

and or common E. B. White House (preferred for listing)

2. Location

street & number Route 175 **N/A** not for publication

city, town Brooklin, **N/A** vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Hancock code 009

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Robert M. Gallant

street & number

city, town North Brooklin, **N/A** vicinity of state Maine 04661

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Ellsworth, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

With its splendid setting in a rural landscape on the Maine coast, the E. B. White House still retains some of its historic nineteenth century ambiance. Although the nominated property is itself carefully maintained with lawns, driveway hedges and trees, this reflects the period of its most famous occupant, E. B. White.

The large house is two-and-one-half stories high with a gable roof and clapboard siding. The rectangular, five bay structure has 6/6 and 9/6 double-hung sash and a central doorway with Greek Revival style pilasters and entablature. Extending perpendicularly from the rear elevation is a two-and-one-half story wing which is two bays long. The two brick chimneys on the main section of the house, plus the one on the ell and the oriel window and veranda at the intersection of the two sections date from the second quarter of this century.

Also on the property is a one-and-one-half story barn with a gable roof and shingle siding. There are six-light sash and a sliding door entry in the center of the long elevation facing the rear of the house. It is attached to the ell with one story wood passageway.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1795 **Builder/Architect** Captain Richard Allen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This fine and substantial late 18th century farmhouse was built by Capt. Richard Allen, a local housewright, for William Allen Holden, c. 1795. It is of unusually fine construction and has received no major alteration. It is one of the oldest and certainly the most impressive house in North Brooklin.

Of over-riding significance is the fact that it was bought in 1933 by E. B. (Elwyn Brooks) White, the famous author and essayist, first as a summer home, and then, after 1937, rehabilitated as a year-round residence.

E. B. White (1899–1985) was an internationally respected American writer, whose crisp, graceful and highly individual style, as well as independence of thought, made him one of the 20th century's leading essayists and also a noted author of children's books.

Graduating from Cornell University in 1921, he eventually joined The New Yorker magazine in 1926, a year after its founding. For 12 years he wrote the editorial essays in the magazine's "Notes and Comments" and contributed verse and other pieces. After moving to Maine he continued writing both for The New Yorker and Harper's for whom he produced the column "One Man's Meat" from 1938 to 1943.

White's publications included two books of verse; Is Sex Necessary (1929) satirical essays with William Furber; many other collections of essays; children's books, Stuart Little (1945), Charlotte's Web (1952) (located in the barn and garden at North Bristol), and The Trumpet of the Swan (1970); and The Wild Flag (1946), a plea for world law.

With his wife, the former Katherine Sergeant Angell, a New Yorker editor, he edited A Subtreasury of American Humor (1941). His revised edition of William Strunk, Jr.'s, The Elements of Style was issued in 1959.

He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963.

Of the White's home in Maine after it had been thoroughly rehabilitated for year-round living, White's biographer wrote, "The house the White's settled into in North Brooklin, Maine in the fall of 1938 was handsome, well-appointed, comfortable and spacious. The front room in the northwest corner became Andy's (White's nickname) study, and across the hall, the room in the southwest corner became Katherine's study, where she would continue her professional life as half-time editor of The New Yorker."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fish, E. S., History of Brooklin. Bangor, 1876.

Elledge, Scott, E. B. White, A Biography. New York, 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Brooklin

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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4	9	4	0	4	1	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 24, Lot 16

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 July, 1986

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 *Eric S. Peterson*
 title S.H.P.O. date 8/5/86

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Keeper of the National Register *[Signature]* date 9/22/86
 Attest: *Beth S. Savage* date 9/22/86
 Chief of Registration