

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**  
RECEIVED AUG 6 1979  
DATE ENTERED 30 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Islesford Historical Museum; <sup>and</sup> Blue Duck Ships Store

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Little Cranberry Island

CITY, TOWN

Islesford

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maine

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF  
CODE

COUNTY

Hancock

CODE

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___ DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	___ PRIVATE	___ UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	___ WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	___ ENTERTAINMENT ___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___ GOVERNMENT ___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES: UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL ___ TRANSPORTATION
		___ NO	___ MILITARY ___ OTHER

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

North Atlantic Region

STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hancock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Ellsworth

STATE

Maine

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

### Islesford Historical Museum

The Islesford Historical Museum, located on the northwestern end of Little Cranberry Island near the Islesford Harbor Dock, was built in 1927 at the behest of William Otis Sawtelle, a native of Bangor, Maine, and professor at Haverford College in Pennsylvania. He summered on Little Cranberry, became very interested in regional history, and accumulated a sizeable collection of documents and artifacts related to the Islands.

Initially, the collection was housed in the Blue Duck Ships' Store, but by the early 1920's, Sawtelle realized that the import and quantity of his acquisitions demanded more secure storage and display. He then actively mounted a campaign for a fireproof museum building, soliciting the funds for its construction and as a result, opened the Islesford Historical Museum in 1928. This use continues to the present.

The Islesford Museum is a late-date and rather plain descendant of the Georgian Colonial Revival Style, popularized again decades prior to its 1927 construction.

The one-and-one-half story building has a main block, rectangular in plan, with dimensions approximately 60' x 30' and a rear portion measuring 30' x 25'. It is red brick laid in Flemish bond and has a hipped, shingled roof. Running just beneath the cornice line is imbrication set to resemble dentilation. The foundation of the structure is quarry-faced random laid ashlar, and the flight of six stone steps leading to the main door has plain cast-iron railing fanning out at the bottom. The dominant entrance, centered on the facade, has a heavy, double leaf, three-panel door which is flanked by three-pane sidelights over panels. They are all surmounted by a formal, semi-circular fanlight with ornamental wooden muntins. The fanlight is dormered into the roof. Two massive brick chimneys with stone copings emerge at either end of the roof ridge and a third one at the east wall of the rear annex. The windows are 6-over-6 pane, double-hung sash and have stone lugsills and decorative brick-arched window heads with radiating voussoirs. They are all fitted and protected with tree-panel, dark green painted wooden shutters.

The interior elements in the main block include a wide entrance hallway and a south room used for display, as well as a north room which now houses the extensive collection of documents, books and other materials related to the region's history. Both north and south rooms have fireplaces in them on their interior walls, one of which has a marble front. These partition walls were put up by the National Park Service. The windows have deep reveals and wide sills and there is a stone floor.

The rear annex is a single, large room entered up a step and through an elegant Federalist doorway. The semi-elliptical fanlight with intricately patterned, wooden muntins crowns glazed sidelights set over single wood panels. The door itself is five panel with the odd member being a very narrow lockrail panel. The brick hearth is oversize with spare moulding on the architrave and mantel shelf.

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The artifact collection of the Islesford Historical Museum reflects the influences and concerns that island existence imposed on its historic period inhabitants. There are shipboards and scrolls from old sailing vessels and lifesaving apparatus for shipwrecks; household items, tools, and furniture that eased the hardships of island life; spinning and needlework accoutrements, cooper's and cobbler's gear; imported items such as a 1779 Brown Bess gun and powderhorn; primitive paintings and Maine Coast memorabilia. The library room is the repository for the extensive written materials that preserve the regional history and make up the documentary portion of the collection.

The Blue Duck Ships' Store

The Blue Duck Ships' Store is located at the northwestern end of Little Cranberry Island near the Islesford Harbor Dock. It was built about 1850.

The Ships Store is an unadorned wood frame structure in a rectangular plan, measuring 28'6" x 49", characteristic of many utilitarian buildings in the area. It has undergone minor structural alterations through time which have changed window and doorway fenestration but not the overall mass. The two-story structure has a new gabled wood shingle roof with a moderate overhang at both the eaves and gables, rests on a random rubble foundation of local stone, and is sheathed in spruce clapboards which are currently painted a light grey with navy trim. There are corner boards and a boxed cornice and there was a ridge board. Two inset brick chimneys emerge, one at the west gable and the other at the east, but further down on the north slope. The latter was added between 1900-1908, and an arched chimney cap was removed.

The scattered windows are two-over-two double-hung sash, all of which were enlarged, some of which were added to the structure and some of which were obliterated in the early 20th c. The windows, historically, were six-over-six light. The doorways on all faces have double leaf, two-panel, glazed doors. On the north and south facades, the door surrounds are capped by Gothic pointed wooden lintels and the north lintel has a wooden Blue Duck silhouette. A granite step is in front of this doorway. The west doorway has been considerably altered for the installation of washrooms into part of the first floor.

The interior elements on the first floor include several rooms of indeterminate age and the washrooms with their spacious anteroom in the west end of the building. A central staircase to the upper floor reputedly dates from ca. 1915, when an earlier one in the northwest corner of the building was removed. The second story loft space, open to the rafters, is now used as Museum storage. The two east rooms on the first floor are living quarters for Museum staff at present.

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A stabilization program has been executed to protect the structure from further deterioration, during which the new roof was put on. It is worth noting that since 1915 the beach has experienced accretion of 18" and two wharves have disappeared.

The Islesford Historical Museum, William Otis Sawtelle's gravesite behind it, the Blue Duck, and 1.3 acres of land were acquired by the National Park Service in 1948.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1875, 1928

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Blue Duck Ships' Store and the Islesford Historical Museum are significant for their association with the history of Little Cranberry Island. The Store is significant because it is a surviving artifact of the nineteenth century fishing village on the island. The Museum represents the efforts of both the permanent residents and the summer population to preserve a collection devoted to the history of the region. These two structures commemorate an earlier period in the history of the Acadia region before the decline of sailing ships and the coming of the affluent summer colony transformed the economy of the area.

The Blue Duck Ships' Store was built in 1850 either by or for Edwin Hadlock who was then a third-generation store owner and resident of the island. The Blue Duck was operated as a ships' chandler by Edwin's two sons, selling provisions, supplies and equipment for at least 25 years.

The maritime business seems to have ceased operation ca. 1875, but the store continued on as the Islesford Market, a general store for local islanders.

George Hadlock was the last member of his family to own the Blue Duck and ca. 1912, converted the interior of the first floor into apartments. Within the next few years he sold the Blue Duck to William Otis Sawtelle, a Haverford College physics professor who summered on the island.

Sawtelle who founded the Islesford Historical Society first used the Blue Duck in 1919 to house and exhibit the collection, and as the headquarters of the Islesford Historical Society. It served this purpose for approximately nine years until the collection was transferred to the new Museum in 1928. It was also Sawtelle who named the building "Blue Duck."

The Islesford Historical Museum built in 1927 contains deeds, maps, engravings, papers, and artifacts related to the early history of the Acadia region. The collection also includes artifacts of the region's cultural history including furnishings, tools, photographs and scrapbooks. The records of the active schooner which carried cargoes from the Cranberry Isles to ports all over the world cover about one hundred years beginning in 1796.

There are also genealogical records of many families, descendants of original settlers.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Appleman, Roy. "Report on the Sawtelle Collection, Islesford Museum". 9/15/48. NARO file  
 Carroll, Orville. "The Blue Duck." Architectural Survey Report. August, 1969. NARO file

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.3

UTM REFERENCES

<sup>650</sup>  
 A | 19 | 560065 | 4901000 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bronwyn Krog, Preservation Historian

ORGANIZATION

North Atlantic Region

DATE

2/14/78

STREET & NUMBER

15 State Street

TELEPHONE

223-3778

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_

*See the enclosed copy of nomination sent to SHPO for his signature.*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is    National    State    Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*[Signature]*

TITLE

*ant. Dir. Cultural Resources*

DATE

*5/30/79*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. Ray Luce*

DATE

*9/30/80*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

*11/12/79*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Blue Duck Ships Store

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William Otis Sawtelle founded the Islesford Historical Society in 1919. The society's collection was initially housed in the Ship's store which Sawtelle dubbed "Blue Duck." It served this purpose for approximately nine years until the collection was transferred to the new museum in 1928.

The United States, in the 1920's, had only a handful of museums devoted to local history. Sawtelle had few prototypes to refer to but managed to rally community support for the Islesford Collection's preservation and display. Through his efforts funds were solicited for the construction of the present museum.

As part of the early twentieth century museum movement concerned with the preservation and display of locally important historical materials, the Islesford Historical Museum is of considerable significance. Only two or three museums of this type currently exist in Maine. The Islesford Historical Museum of 1927 and the pre-1920's Blue Duck Ship's store are an unusual example of the evolution of structures which housed historical collections in early twentieth century Maine and America.

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Architecturally both buildings represent vernacular styles. The Blue Duck Ships' Store, which at first glance has little to offer, represents a building style, which as historic photographs of the island show, was common on the island in the late nineteenth century.

Dr. William O. Sawtelle gave Acadia National Park the collection as well as his personal library which contains many rare books on the early history of the region. The gift also included a plot of land and two buildings: the Old Hadlock Store and Sail Loft (the Blue Duck Ships' Store), and the Georgian brick structure, built in 1926, to house the collection.

1?