

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99000771

Date Listed: 7/12/99

Property Name: Jefferson Town House

County: Lincoln

State: ME

Multiple Name: N/A

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews

(or) **Signature of the Keeper**

7/12/99
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR makes a technical amendment to the form. In Section 5 of the form (level of significance) no category was selected. An amendment to the form is made to note that the level of significance is **local**.

This information was confirmed with Kirk Mohny of the Maine SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

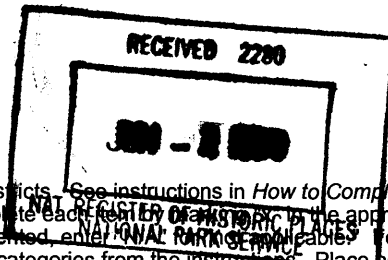
National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

771



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each section of the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter N/A. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Jefferson Town House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number North side of Route 126 at the Junction with Route 213 N/A not for publication

city or town Jefferson vicinity

state Maine code ME county Lincoln code 015 zip code 04348

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Edward F. Andrews 5/21/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews 7/12/99

Jefferson Town House
Name of Property

Lincoln, Maine
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
Contributing Noncontributing

_____ 2 _____ buildings
_____ sites
_____ structures
_____ objects

_____ 2 _____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

_____ N/A _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

_____ 0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ Government/City Hall _____
_____ Government/Other/Hearse House _____

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ Recreation and Culture/Museum _____
_____ Work in Progress _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

_____ Mid-Nineteenth Century _____

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ Stone/Granite _____
walls _____ Wood/Weatherboard _____
_____ Wood/Wood Shingles _____
roof _____ Asphalt _____
other _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JEFFERSON TOWN HOUSE

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Jefferson Town House is a two-story, gable roofed frame building that is sheathed in clapboards. It stands on wooden posts that bear on field stones and replacement concrete pads. The building is located in an undisturbed rural setting at the junction of State Routes 126 and 213.

Facing south, the symmetrically composed front elevation contains a pair of replacement six-panel wooden doors on the first story, a trio of six-over-six double hung windows on the second story, and a single six-over-six in the gable peak. The windows and doors are set in wide, flat surrounds. The elevation is framed by the steeply pitched roof and its broad overhang. A wooden flagpole is affixed via metal brackets at a point below the upper window, and it extends above the peak of the gable. Behind it is a brick flue stack. In the wall space between the doors and the second story windows is a rectangular wooden sign that bears the following inscription:

TOWN	HOUSE
Jefferson	Built 1869

The three-bay side elevations contain six-over-six windows, whereas the rear elevation features a pair of six-over-sixes on the first story and two more on the second story. A small wood shingled shed containing a pit toilet with a single two-over-two window is attached to the rear elevation near the northeast corner. It was added in 1929.

Inside, the walls and ceiling of the single first floor room are finished in plaster over lath, and the majority of the wooden bench seating is located along the side walls on risers. The enclosed stairs to the upper story are located at the southeast corner adjacent to one of the doors. On the opposite corner is a brick vault that was constructed in 1897. Structural support for the second floor is provided by a central exposed beam which is in turn supported by chamfered posts. A wood stove located near the middle of the floor is connected to a metal pipe that extends to the southern end of the room where it enters the flue. There are two rooms of unequal size on the second story which, like the room below, is finished with plaster over lath.

Standing off the town house's southwest corner is the former town "hearse house," a gable roofed frame building featuring a two-leaf hinged door on its facade. The building is clad in wood shingles and weatherboards. It is believed to pre date the town house, and was moved to its present site after the town house was constructed.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location.
[] C a birthplace or a grave.
[] D a cemetery.
[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
[] F a commemorative property.
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1869-1949

Significant Dates

1869

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bruce, Josiah, Builder

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JEFFERSON TOWN HOUSE

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

The Jefferson Town House is a two-story gable roofed frame building that was constructed in 1869 at a cost of \$895. Built to replace a town house that had been erected about 1828 on a site a short distance to the south of this one, the present building continued to be used for municipal functions until 1958 when town meetings were moved to the village school. The former town house is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A for its historic association with town government in Jefferson, and Criterion C for its local architectural significance.

Jefferson is believed to have been initially settled by emigrants from the coastal towns of Boothbay and Woolwich in the years just prior to the Revolution. It was incorporated on February 24, 1807. By 1870 -- a year after the town house was constructed -- Jefferson's population stood at 1,821 persons, a figure representing a pattern of population decline that is reflected in the U.S. Census beginning in 1860 and continuing through the mid twentieth century.

At the annual town meeting in 1869, it was voted to build a new town house and to raise the \$700 which it was expected to cost. A committee composed of John E. Linscott, and William and Joseph Jackson were appointed to submit a plan, select a site, and report to the town. On March 29, a meeting was held at which time the committee's draft plan was amended to incorporate two windows in the rear gable instead of one. The Moderator of the meeting appointed a second committee composed of Darius Fowles, Joseph Ross, and John S. Ames to superintend the construction. Meanwhile, the members of the planning committee were directed to furnish the building committee with "a full plan with specifications as soon as practicable and the building committee receive sealed proposals until two weeks from then at which time they would meet at the town house at one o'clock, p.m. and open the proposals." The building committee was further instructed to cause the town house to be completed on or before September 1. The contract was subsequently awarded to the Somerville, Maine builder Josiah Bruce. The first voting meeting in the new town house was held on September 13, 1869.

Town records are not entirely clear about the intended use of the upper story, which is a somewhat uncommon feature in rural Maine town houses of this period. During the September 13 meeting a committee was formed "for the purpose of finishing, renting or disposing of the hall in the town house," and it is presumed that the reference to the "hall" is to the second floor rooms. In 1870 it was voted to use the town house as a high school and to rent the building (probably the second floor). Sometime thereafter, the William C. Hall Post, GAR is known to have met in the upstairs, but the duration of its use by the GAR is unknown. It is also unclear if a high school was formed in 1870, but in 1893 the town house was readied for a "Free High School" at a cost of \$5.80. After one term, however, a recommendation was made not to use the town house for this purpose, and the high school was thereafter conducted in two school houses.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

JEFFERSON TOWN HOUSE

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

In 1897 the town constructed a brick vault in the town house, the bricks having come from the old Bond School on East Pond Road. During World War II the upstairs room is said to have been used by volunteers to identify any aircraft that were spotted in the area. Use of the building for town meetings ceased in 1958, and four years later the town voted to allow the newly formed Jefferson Historical Society to use the building for the display of its collection. The annual town meeting in 1973 approved funds for the construction of a new municipal building, and one of the alternatives that the building committee considered was the extensive remodeling of the historic town house. However, no action on this plan was taken at subsequent town meetings, and in 1976 an entirely new facility was built on a different site. In 1996, the town house was leased to the Jefferson Historical Society. Since then the Society has restored the adjacent hearse house, and is developing its plans for the rehabilitation of the town house.

The fact that many historic town houses like the one in Jefferson survive in Maine, is due to a number of factors including their relatively recent use for town meetings, their on-going function as polling places, and perhaps most significantly the attention they receive from local historical societies and other preservation minded citizens who place a high priority on ensuring that such buildings are maintained. The majority of these town houses are one-story vernacular wooden buildings with rectangular footprints and gable roofs. In this regard, they are not unlike the many functional, utilitarian one-room schoolhouses that were scattered across the Maine countryside in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Likewise, their settings vary from rural locations as is the case in Jefferson (others include the Embden Town House [NR 10/16/89], and the former Fryeburg Town House [NR 10/2/92]), to small villages (Wayne Town House [NR 1/1/76], Turner Town House [7/9/79]).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

JEFFERSON TOWN HOUSE

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Bibliography

Hall, Philip A. *A History of the Old Jefferson Town House*. Jefferson Historical Society, 1998.

Jefferson Town House
Name of Property

Lincoln, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9	4	6	1	2	4	0	4	8	9	4	0	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2

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3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1999

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

JEFFERSON TOWN HOUSE

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Jefferson tax map 39, lot 41.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot that is historically associated with the Jefferson Town House.