

5-25-73

PH 0004111

Hon. William D. Hathaway

HB  
E 508175  
2419 N 5064100

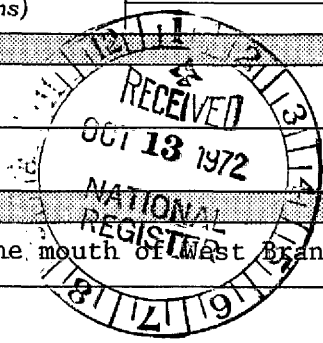
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Piscataquis	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 2 1973	DATE APR 2 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Ambajejus Boom House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Southwestern Island, at the mouth of West Branch of the Penobscot in Ambajejus Lake

CITY OR TOWN:  
Township 1, Range 9, W.E.L.S.

STATE Maine	CODE 23	COUNTY: Piscataquis	CODE 021
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Great Northern Paper Company

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Millinocket

STATE:  
Maine

CODE:  
23

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Piscataquis County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Dover Foxcroft

STATE:  
Maine

CODE:  
23

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
STATE:  
CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Piscataquis

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 2 1973

DATE: APR 2 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

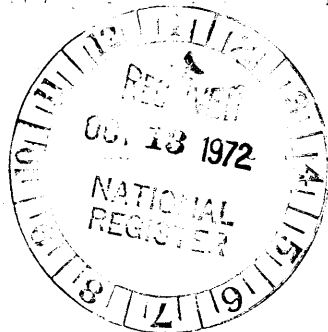
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the southwestern island on Ambajejus Lake, near the mouth of the West Branch of the Penobscot River, is the site of the original West Branch Boom House which was a simple, one-story log structure. The first Boom House was built at Ambajejus around 1835. This may have been the building that Henry David Thoreau referred to in 1846: "Here was the site of an old loggers camp...now overgrown with weeds and bushes." There was a log Boom House at the site in 1865 and Hempstead described it as an "old institution then".

The present Boom House was built about 1907 and was used by the Great Northern until the fall of 1971 when the West Branch drive was discontinued. The white and green shingled building is approximately 100 feet long by fifteen feet wide. The building is about ten feet from the lake and is divided into three sections. The center section is forty-three feet long and is one and a half stories high, with a gable overlooking the lake. This was the original building; the two other sections could not have been added much later. There are four rooms on the ground floor, three of which are wainscotted. The fourth, on the southern end, is not finished and appears to be used as a storage place. The building has electric lights (with its own generator plant), running water, and is heated by combination wood and oil stoves. The building is fronted by a low porch which extends nearly two-thirds of the building's length.

The Boom House is directly in front of a rocky bluff and the whole island is lightly forested, predominately with pine. There is also a small log cabin on the island besides several frame out-houses. There are still booms running across the mouth of the West Branch and on one log float is an old wooden capstan, used to pull boom together.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1907

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>House is only</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>surviving build-</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	<u>ing connected</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	<u>with West Branch</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<u>log drive.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The nineteenth century belonged to the lumbering industry in Maine. First pine and then spruce was the "King" species sought after by woodsmen. The northern forests in the Penobscot basin made Bangor the "Queen City". The men who drove the wood down the river to the sawmills carried her name with them as they lumbered their way to the West Coast. At least ten other cities were named after the Penobscot Bangor. The log drive provided work for all the men along the river. At the turn of the century, Millinocket and East Millinocket sprung up overnight to turn the wood from the drive into paper.

At the head of Ambajejus Lake and at the mouth of the West Branch is one of the most significant remaining sites connected with Penobscot lumbering history. To the northeast and the southwest of the Penobscot's mouth are two islands which were used until the fall of 1971 as anchoring points for booming the logs driven down the river. Once collected the boom was towed, at first by hand and then by steamer, down the chain of Lakes (Ambajejus, Pemadumcook, North Twin Lakes) to the North Twin Dam where they were sluiced to the Great Northern's mills at Millinocket and East Millinocket. Before the turn of the century when the mills and towns were constructed, the trees of the Penobscot basin found their way to the collection point of the Penobscot Boom Company above Bangor, There the logs were sorted and consigned to their owners.

There has been a Boom House at the present site since 1835. The present building has been used continuously since 1907, until the West Branch drive finally ended in the fall of 1971. For practical and conservation reasons, the Great Northern has build a new road to carry the wood harvest directly to the mills. Only the Boom House remains to remind us of the Maritime provinces to move the wood to saw and paper mills.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Coolidge, Philip T. History of the Maine Woods. Bangor, 1963.  
 Eckstorm, F. H. The Penobscot Man. Bangor, 1924.  
 Hempstead, A. G. The Penobscot Boom. Orono, 1931.  
 Thoreau, H. D. The Maine Woods. Boston, 1868.  
 Springer, J. S. Forest Life and Forest Trees. New York, 1851.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		45° 43' 54" N	68° 53' 36" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Maine	23	Piscataquis	021
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Kenneth M. Morrison**

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: **July 21, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Department of History, University of Maine**

CITY OR TOWN: **Orono** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>James H. Mundy</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>10-9-72</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert Van Utley</u>              Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>4/2/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:  <u>Edward M. [Signature]</u>              Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>3-26-73</u></p>
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