

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 27 1985

date entered JAN 10 1986

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

1. Name

historic Jed Prouty Tavern & Inn

and/or common Jed Prouty Tavern

2. Location

street & number 52-54 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Bucksport, 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Inn

4. Owner of Property

name Michele and Hugh Inglis

street & number 52-54 Main Street

city, town Bucksport, N/A vicinity of state Maine

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 Maine Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta, state Maine

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

Situated on Main Street in Bucksport, the Jed Prouty Tavern overlooks the Penobscot River. The nearby structures are a mixture of late nineteenth and early twentieth residential, commercial and public buildings, located on Main Street and on side streets up the hill behind the tavern.

Constructed of wood with clapboard siding, the main section of the tavern stands three-and-one-half stories high. The rectangular structure has a gable roof and extends eight bays on the principal (south) elevation. A one story veranda supported by Doric columns extends the entire length of this facade. The windows are double-hung sash with six-over-six lights.

Designed predominantly in the Greek Revival style, the Jed Prouty Tavern has corner pilasters and a roof entablature with cornice returns. There are two entrances on the south facade, one of which is trabeated with sidelights and a transom. The second entrance, in the older section of the building, is in the Federal style with pilasters flanking a lunette.

The interior contains a variety of nineteenth century woodwork, including a Greek Revival staircase and a Federal style staircase. Original interior moldings exist around the doors and windows and for the wainscot. One ornate mantelpiece in the main lobby dates from the late nineteenth century.

Exterior changes date mostly from the mid-twentieth century. By the 1960s a one story addition was made to the west side and the rear wing received a second story. Both additions are wood with clapboard siding. More recently, the wooden Tuscan columns were replaced with aluminum Doric ones.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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 c.1783/1820/c.1850 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jed Prouty Tavery is historically significant as the largest surviving early nineteenth century hotel building in eastern Maine and the most prominent landmark on Main Street in Bucksport. Initially constructed at the end of the eighteenth century, subsequent additions substantially enlarged the Inn to its present Greek Revival style appearance. The building has continued in use as a tavern and hotel since 1820.

Nineteenth century documents indicate that the oldest section of the tavern dates from circa 1783 when Asa Peabody erected his house on this site. The building was later occupied by the families of Deacon Darling and Colonel Skinner before being purchased for a tavern by a man named Sparhawk in 1820. He replaced the hipped roof with a gable roof. The existing Federal style doorway and some of the interior moldings in the east half of the building probably date from the conversion to a to a public house.

A variety of landlords succeeded Sparhawk in the early nineteenth century. Bucksport was situated on the stage route between Bangor and important coastal town Castine. In about 1850 Daniel Robinson purchased the building and named it the Robinson House. It was at this time that the major Greek Revival style additions were made. The building was extended to the west and a third story was added. The name "Jed Prouty" was adopted in the early part of the century to capitalize on the success of a popular play which featured this building. The hotel register includes the names of four presidents, Martin Van Buren, William Harrison, John Tyler, and Andrew Jackson, as well as Jefferson Davis and Daniel Webster.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bucksport: Past and Present, 1951, "Inns and Taverns", by Faye Davis, pp. 37-39.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Bucksport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	5	1	6	5	4	0	4	9	3	5	1	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 32, Lot 160

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 Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1985

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

title S.H.P.O.

date 11/22/85

For NPS use only

hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patricia Andrews

date 1/10/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Boris L. Sarge

date 1-9-86

Chief of Registration