

PH0004777

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Waldo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-7-18-0032	7/1/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Penobscot Marine Museum

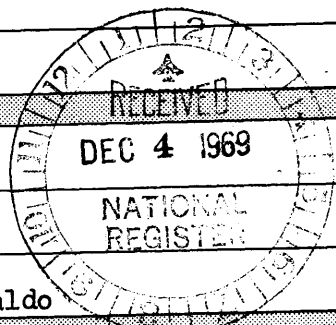
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Searsport

STATE: Maine      CODE: 18      COUNTY: Waldo      CODE: 027



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Penobscot Marine Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Searsport      STATE: Maine      CODE: 18

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
73 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Belfast      STATE: Maine      CODE: 18

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Waldo

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

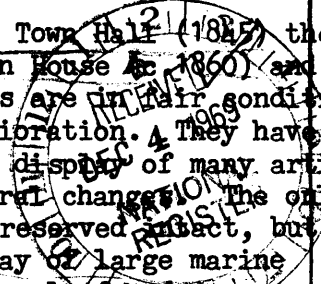
The Penobscot Marine Museum has four buildings, the Sears Town Hall (1825), the Captain Merithew House (1816), the Nickels-Colcord, Duncan House (1860) and the Fowler-True-Ross House (1825). All of these buildings are in fair condition, but show the effects of time and are suffering from deterioration. They have not been altered to any great degree and are used for the display of many artifacts. The interiors have not required any great structural changes. The only exception is the Sears Town Hall where the exterior was preserved intact, but the entire interior was opened widely to permit the display of large marine exhibits. The exterior of the Merithew House had the removal of a dormer window and of a stairway and porch to the second floor to restore it to its original configuration. The Nickels-Colcord-Duncan House is in need of extensive foundation construction and roof, wall and chimney reconstruction. This Ross House has had foundation work, but needs roof repair and reconstruction of the interior of the barn to provide greater display area. Deterioration of the porch and sidings necessitate removal which will return the building to its earlier appearance.

A more complete description of the individual buildings reads as follows: The Town Hall Building. In the large single room building at the north of the museum group a variety of maritime items have been arranged. Full size boats as well as ship models are very much in evidence. On the walls hang ship portraits and house flags, while exhibits of ship chandlery, knot work, ship-building tools and ship fittings evoke the maritime past. Here, also, is housed the bulk of the Museum's collection of ship's half models, an example of a method of ship designs now obsolete.

The Captain's House: The old Captain's Home is a sizeable building of red brick, two and one half stories high, with a two story ell and large brick barn attached. Exhibited on the ground floor of the Captain's Home are numerous objects of nautical craftsmanship as well as many oriental items brought home in the days of sail by shipmasters and the wives who sometimes accompanied their husbands in the China trade. In the back part of the house is displayed an outstanding collection of photographs of Searsport sea captains. Also to be found in the Captain's House is a Chart Room containing over a thousand charts, most of them showing in pencil day by day tracks of vessel passages across the major waterways of the world. Represented in this collection is every form of chart from the early private issue of 1800 to the famous British bluebacks. In 1952 the old barn behind the Captain's House was converted for the exhibition of the whaling collection. Here are models, whaling portraits, examples of scrimshaw, whaling prints, and other whaling memorabilia.

The Yellow House - "The Yellow House" across the street from the Captain's House was acquired by the Museum in December, 1960. The sizeable house provided several large rooms for temporary exhibitions, an administrative office, a Trustee's room as well as quarters for the Executive Director and his family. The Yellow House also contains a Research Room, in which logbooks, shipping registers, ship's account books and other manuscripts have been installed. True House - The recently acquired True House has been converted to a museum and contains many excellent maritime paintings. The Museum has on display over seventy-five maritime paintings in all.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



**SIGNIFICANCE**

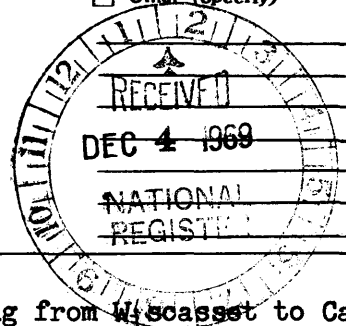
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian       |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |  |  |  |



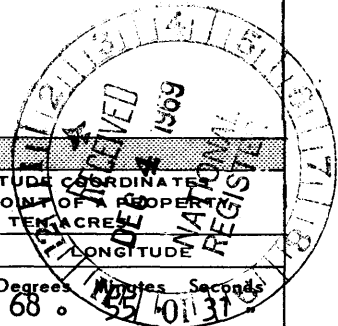
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The eastern section of the Maine coast, stretching from Wiscasset to Calais and centering around Penobscot Bay, was one of great importance in the hey-day of New England shipping. Its history reveals in integral part of the whole maritime activity of the nation in the century that followed the American Revolution. Its history is that of the rise and fall of Maine ship-building; it is the tale of innumerable men who left seacoast towns to sail vessels into ports throughout the world. The scope of activity in the area can be measured when one realizes that during the 19th century the Town of Searsport alone produced 250 sailing vessels of substantial size and boasted more sea captains than any other small town in the United States. Searsport has produced over 300 sea captains. This is a remarkable feat when one considers that the population of Searsport never went over 5,000 and is presently only approximately 2,000. At the peak of the sailing era, just after the Civil War, Searsport had eight shipyards in operation. Even today Searsport ranks second only to Portland as a Maine seaport. Over twenty ships per month on the average anchor in Searsport's harbor. In the town itself are found many stately old sea captain's homes, which give an indication of the great Maine heritage the Town of Searsport enjoys.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dooley, William, Early Ships and Sailing Men, Portland Press Herald, Jan. 2, 1937  
 Cobb, Joseph, Portland Press Herald, September 4, 1949  
 Pictorial Supplement X, Penobscot Marine Museum, The American Neptune, Salem, 1968



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	° ' "	° ' "		44 ° 27 ' 35 "	68 ° 55 ' 37 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**John W. Briggs, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: Maine State Park & Recreation Commission DATE: Nov. 24, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State House

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 18

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National  State  Local

Name Lawrence Stuart  
 Title Director

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUL 1 1970

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William J. Monteght  
 Keeper of The National Register

JUN 3 1970

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

19/505 950/49000700  
 07/11/70  
 2067  
 WNW

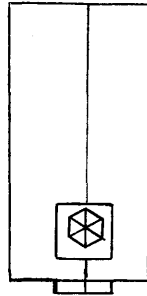
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

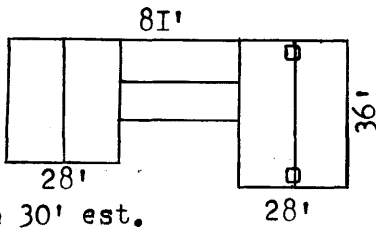
STATE <b>Maine</b>	
COUNTY <b>Waldo</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
<b>70-7-18-0032</b>	<b>7/1/70</b>

(Number all entries)

Congregational Church I815



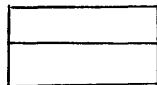
Captain Merithew House I816 ✓



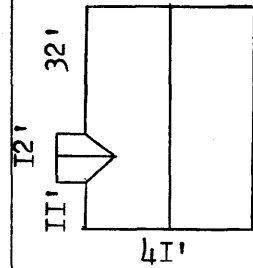
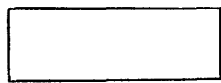
Workshop



Congregational Vestry

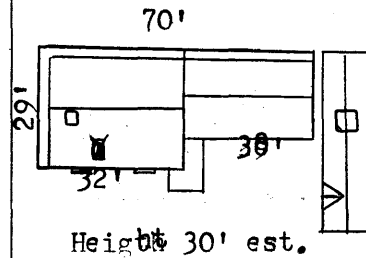


Gasoline Station

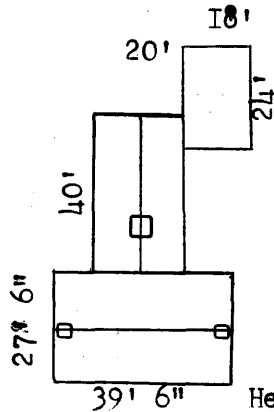


Searsport ✓  
Town Hall I845  
Height 25' est.

Church Street

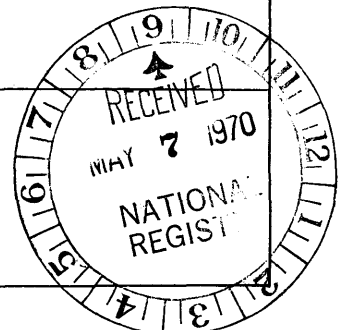


Nickel-Colcord,  
Duncan House  
c.1860



Fowler-True-Ross House  
I825  
Height 30' est.

U.S. Route # I



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
Waldo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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10-7-18-0032	7/1/70

(Number all entries)

1. Searsport Town Hall (1845) Greek Revival style: This one and one-half story gable roof, red brick building resting on a granite foundation, employs common bond brick work with bond course headers every tenth row. Curtain wall effects are provided for by extended granite foundations at the four corners set out approximately 3", upon which rise brick formed pilasters of 24" in width. These pilasters extend out beyond the curtain wall for about 3 5/8". The extended brick across the top of the front and rear sides' curtain walls accentuate the girt. The length of the building is 55' and it is 41' in width. The height of the brick wall including both the curtain and brick girt extension from the foundation is 15'. The entablature on the front and rear sides is incomplete by classic criteria. It does have a plain flat wood 9' architrave and small wooden block dentils in the 12' cornice. The frieze is omitted on the front and rearsides. The entablature in the end gables are complete by classic criteria as a plain wood frieze is in evidence. The height of the gable is 10'. The total height of the building is about 25'. All the trim work is painted white.

Fenestration: Three doors have served, one is on the front and two that are on the south end are now sealed. The front door is located on a brick portico which extends out from the main front wall for some 8'6". This portico rises above a granite foundation and is served by four granite block steps. A low gable roof covers the portico with the same incomplete entablature above the pediment and again in the low gable. This six panel front door is flanked on the sides by four lights and seven lights are placed above the top of the door frame. The two doors are now sealed on the south end of the building and the original steps leading to these doors have been removed. These two south doorways are supported by granite lintels and granite stoops. All window apertures have granite lintels and sills. The south end of the building has three windows, one 24 light window between the two sealed doors and two 12 light windows in the gable. The north end of the building holds two 24 light windows on the first story and one 12 light window in the gable. The front side on the west has two 24 light windows and the rear or east side has three 24 light windows. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

There can still be found three iron rings inserted in the curtain wall of the front side of the building. These were used in earlier times for ties to tether horses. This building is in good condition. (See photo enclosures 1 & 2)

2. Captain Merithew House (1816). This two and one-half story red brick, common bond, gable roof building consists of three joined sections. The main house, Section I, is 36' in length and 28' in width. The style is Greek Revival.

Fenestration: The front, long side, facing east, ground floor has apertures for the front entrance and four windows. The front door has four panels. The entrance way is indented with side panels and framed by wood in characteristic Greek Revival style. There are two pilasters with capitals and an incomplete classic entablature. The architrave is omitted. The frieze is plain, the cornice has wooden block dentils. The windows hold 12 lights. The window apertures are supported with granite lintels and sill. The second story front

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COUNTY <b>Waldo</b>	
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Page 2

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

provides apertures for five 12 light windows. The north end ground floor holds four 12 light windows. The second story hold four 12 light windows. At some time there was a doorway and balcony. These have been removed. Both gable half story holds two 12 light windows. The south end ground floor holds three 12 light windows. The second story holds three 12 light windows. There are two chimneys through the east slope of the gable roof. The west side or rear of this building is joined by Section II, a two story addition 25' in length and 20' in width. This section holds two windows, a doorway (on the ground floor, south side) and two windows on the second floor. The north side of this section, ground floor, holds two windows and the second story holds a three window complex, four lights to each window unit.

Section III, a brick building was built for a barn, workshop and storage area, 28' wide and 30' long. This Section III is joined to Section II. The three sections' roofs are sheathed with asphalt shingles. Granite lintels and sills have in past years been painted white as is the trim throughout. The brick again had in the past been painted in red. At this point in time, the building in three sections is in fair condition. The paint on the brick and granite is being weathered away, and at a given time it is intended that the paint's residue will be sand blasted. (See photo enclosure 3.)

3. Nickels-Colcord, Duncan House (1860). This two and one half story gable roof wooden frame, clapboard sheathed building has two sections and an adjacent barn. The style is Greek Revival. Section I, the basic structure 32' in length and 29' in width. The building from the top of the cut granite foundation (which provides a full cellar) to the peak of the gable is approximately 30' in height. Looking east at the front and entrance end, there is attached to the ground story a roofed porch which is supported by four wooden columns with capitals and an incomplete entablature. The architrave is omitted. The frieze is flat and the cornice holds wood block dentils. Above the porch roof there is a low 2'6" balustrade. The balustrade continues around the north side of the building for its two full sections' 70' length. The fenestration for the first story consists of the front door and two full 4 light windows on the front end. Three full length 4 light windows are on north side. The south side of the first floor has two bracketed bay windows. The east side first story has a new second entrance pavilion addition which comes by the corner of the building to include a portion of the south side. The remaining east side is joined by Section II with one window on the first story. The second story fenestration front end holds two 4 light windows with a 6 light window between. The width of the second story is reduced to allow a walkway with a balustrade. This extends the full 70' length of Sections I and II. The half story gable area on the front holds two round arched side by side 4 light windows, the top lights rounded. The entablature in the gable is incomplete by classic criteria. The architrave is omitted. The frieze is flat and the cornice hold wood block dentils. The peak has a pair of brackets. Pairs of brackets are again evident midway of the end rafter and again inside of the eaves. Pilasters at the corners of the building reach to the eaves with capitals and entablature. The clapboard sheathing is painted yellow and all the trim is painted white. The roof of Section I provides an aperture for a chimney and an attic gable on the south roof slope.

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Maine	
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Page 3

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

This building is in good condition. (See photo enclosure 4)

4. Fowler-True-Ross House (1825). Vernacular. This is a two and one half story wood frame, gable roof, clapboard building which rises above a granite slab foundation. There are two sections with a barn attached. Section I is 39'6" in length; 27'6" in width; and about 30' high at the peak. This section has a cellar. The front or south side faces on the main street of Searsport which is U.S. Rt. 1. This side's first floor fenestration includes the front doorway flanked on both sides with two full 24 light windows. At one time a full length porch was attached to the front of this building. It has been removed and will not be replaced. A small flight of steps with a landing will provide access via the front door. This building is then in the process of being restored at this very time, with alterations being made for museum activities. The second story on the front side has five full 24 light windows. The first floor of both the west and east ends hold two full 24 light windows. The same holds true for the second story. The gable section on both ends have two 16 light windows. The roof is sheathed with asphalt patent shingles, and apertures are provided at the peak near both ends for chimneys.

Section II is a one story gable addition extending north for a length of 40'. It is 20' in width and about 15' high. This section served as a kitchen and storage area, with a loft.

Fenestration: A doorway is provided on the west side and there are four windows with 16 lights. There are two windows on the north end, one on the first floor and one to light the loft, both with 16 lights. A very large and high chimney rises from the foundation and passes through the peak. There is no cellar under this section.

This old and large dwelling house is plain. At this time it is painted in yellow which is faded, the trim is black. As stated before, this building in poor condition is presently being restored. The finished product will be a worthy compliment to the four building complex.



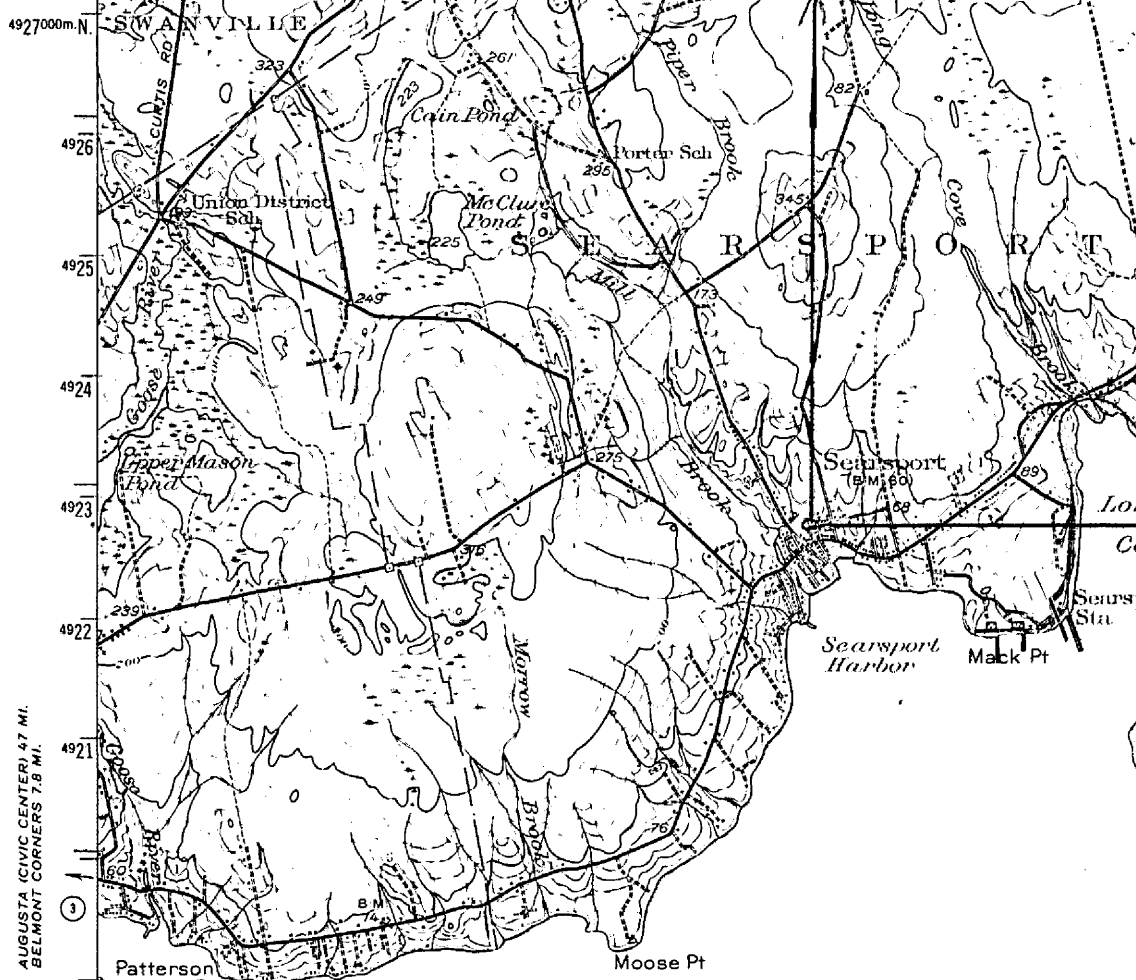


UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

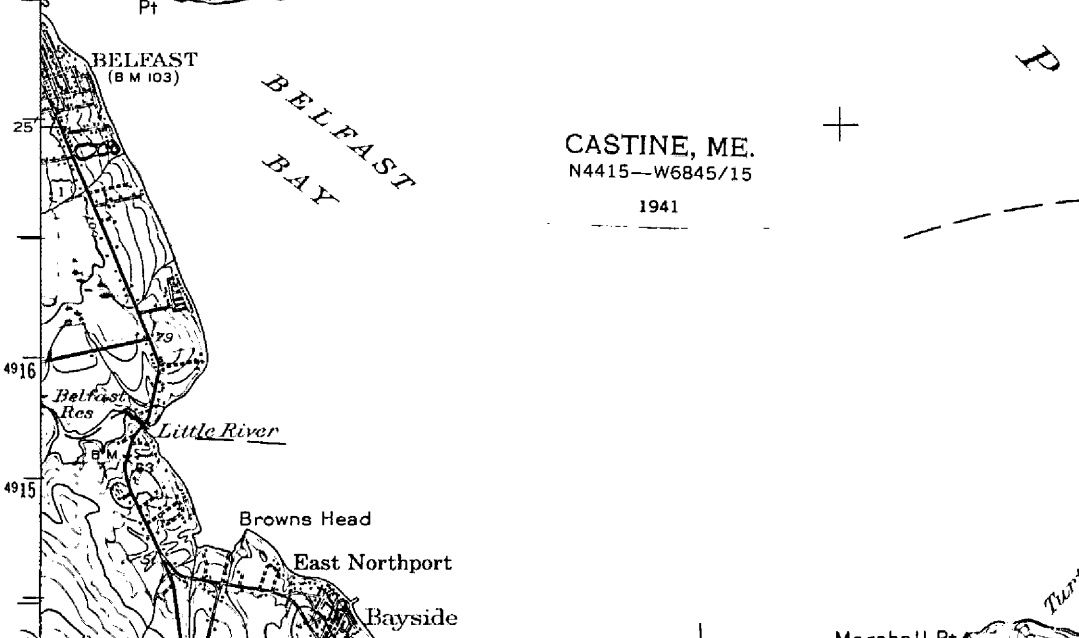
DEP

1173 (Brooks)

69 00' 4.4" 30" 501000m.E. 502 504 505 55' 507 508



AUGUSTA (CIVIC CENTER) 47 MI.  
BELMONT CORNERS 7.8 MI.



CASTINE, ME.  
N4415—W6845/15  
1941

P

Turtle

Marshall Pt

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Waldo	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10-7-18-0032	DATE 7/1/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Penobscot Marine Museum  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Searsport

STATE: Maine	CODE 18	COUNTY: Waldo	CODE 027
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:  
U.S.G.S. 15 min. quadrangle, Castine

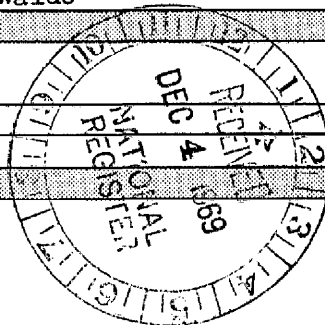
SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1941

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



PH0004987