

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." 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 Crockett, Knott, House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 750 Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Rockland, N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Knox code 013 zip code 04841

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.)

*Ernest J. Peterson* 9/3/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State of 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 the 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 Entered in the National Register Date of Action

*Delores Byers* 10/14/93

Crockett, Knott, House  
Name of Property

Knox, 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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Decorative Doorway with Fanlight  
and Pilasters

**Narrative Description**

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

**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.)

- 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.
- 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Commerce \_\_\_\_\_

Politics/Government \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c. 1825-1857 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c. 1825 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Crockett, Knott \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Crockett, Knott, House  
Name of Property

Knox, Maine  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9
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4	9	1	4	3	0
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4	8	8	4	0	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2 

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3 

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Zone Easting Northing

4 

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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. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1993

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 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 Peter K. Orne

street & number 70 Elm Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Camden, state Maine zip code 04843

**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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation SheetCROCKETT, KNOTT, HOUSESection number 7 Page 2

The Knott Crockett House is a two-story, five-bay Federal style frame dwelling which is capped by a hipped roof. It is sheathed in weatherboards and rests on a granite foundation of finely cut granite blocks. A one-story ell projects to the rear. The house stands in a mixed neighborhood of residential and commercial properties.

Facing south, the building's symmetrically-composed facade is centered on the elaborate entryway. This feature is comprised of a six-panel fanlight whose surround is highlighted by a keystone. The six-pane sidelights are located above a panel in the lower third of the enframingent. The central composition is in turn framed by Doric pilasters which rest on tall plinths and support a narrow entablature with a thin cornice sporting consoles. Flanking the entry are two six-over-one double-hung windows with pronounced surrounds. Five slightly smaller six-over-six windows are located on the second story where they are centered on the openings below. Narrow corner boards rise to an equally narrow unadorned cornice. Two brick chimneys are visible from the facade as they rise above the roof midway back and in about one-quarter of the width from the sidewalls.

The west side elevation is punctuated by four equally placed windows which repeat the sash pattern on the facade. A fifth small square opening with a Queen Anne sash located between the second story west windows denotes the presence of a closet. On the east side there are two six-over-six windows on the first story separated by a small bathroom window, as well as another six-over-six window on the second story and a tripartite unit of more recent origin. Projecting from the middle of the rear elevation is the ell, which appears to be an original feature. It is framed on the east side of the main block by a window on each story, and on the west side by a window and a projecting attached second story addition with a shed roof. There is an original six-panel door and a twelve-over-eight window on the east side of the ell, a replacement window and an original opening below the gable peak at the rear, and another twelve-over-eight window on the west side adjacent to a narrow shed roof addition.

Unlike most of its contemporaries which employ the same general proportions, the interior of the Knott Crockett House is configured as if it were designed around a central chimney. In place of a central hall - which one would expect from a quick exterior view - the front door opens into a narrow space in which the stair ascends in a tightly wound spiral. The components of this structure include simple slat balusters and newel post, a volute projecting to the side of the bottom step which matches the handrail, and overlapping rectangular blocks along the curved wall which serve as a baseboard. The two front rooms are, as is typical, the most highly detailed. Both spaces feature a projecting fireplace framed by black marble surrounds and mantelpieces composed of broad entablatures, thin

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CROCKETT, KNOTT, HOUSE

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cornices, and paired, turned colonettes with paneled bases. The projection of the fireplace allows the mantelpiece to turn along both sides where the colonettes are repeated. The colonette detail appears in Plate 28 of Asher Benjamin's The American Builder's Companion (1806), suggesting the source of its use here. In addition to the mantels, the two front rooms share paneled wainscot. A narrow door in the southwest room opens into a hall/room behind the stair where a second door opens from the northeast room. The mantels and trim in the remaining two first floor rooms and in two rooms on the second floor are intact, standard designs common to the period. The ell has been completely remodeled, although it does retain the original doors which open from the interior rooms and the exterior. One of these doors leads into a back stair hall which no longer functions, but a portion of the stair remains.

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CROCKETT, KNOTT, HOUSE

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The Knott Crockett House is one of Rockland's most intact and elaborate Federal style dwellings. Probably constructed about 1825, it was the long-time residence of Knott Crockett, a locally prominent businessman who served as the city's first mayor. The house is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion B for its association with Knott Crockett and criterion C for its local architectural significance.

Although the precise date of the construction of this house is not yet known, certain architectural details - which are based upon published designs - suggest that it could not have been built before 1814. This conclusion is based on the fact that two pattern books published by Asher Benjamin, The American Builder's Companion (1806) and The Rudiments of Architecture (1814) are the sources for a pair of mantelpieces and the front entry, respectively. Unfortunately, the early deed history of this property is obscure and, therefore, does not aid in accurately dating the dwelling's construction. Knott Crockett is positively known to have occupied the house at his death in 1857, but his numerous recorded property transactions do not clearly indicate when he acquired this lot and house. However, on June 24, 1824, Crockett did purchase a seventy-five acre farm adjacent to James Fales along Owls Head Bay, a property on which he may have subsequently put up this house.

Knott Crockett (1792-1857) was the descendent of one of the earliest settlers in the Rockland vicinity. According to tradition, he established a general store in Rockland in 1817 and thereafter was closely associated with numerous efforts to promote the community's development. He was one of the original directors of the Georges Insurance Company (1834); he was the first president of the Lime Rock Bank (1836) and served in this capacity until his death; he was the first president of the East and South Thomaston and Marine Insurance Company (1846); and he served as local director of the Maine Telegraph Company (1848). Crockett's prominence in the community is further measured by his election as Rockland's first mayor (serving two one-year terms) upon the city's incorporation in 1854. In 1856 he was chosen to be a Presidential elector. Upon Crockett's death on September 6, 1857, the house descended to his "beloved sister" Sophia (he never married). It subsequently remained in the family until 1948.

Architecturally, the house presents a fairly typical form with its low hip roof, pair of interior chimneys, and double-pile configuration. However, its interior plan - particularly the spiral stair - is unusual in a building of this form. The majority of Federal period houses in Maine which employ a chimney pattern similar to the one used in the Knott Crockett House have a fully developed central hall. By contrast, center chimney houses typically utilize a steep, compact stair in the entryway and in front of the chimney stack. Thus, the plan of the Knott Crockett House represents a hybrid of the

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CROCKETT, KNOTT, HOUSE

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two forms. Furthermore, there is no surviving structural evidence to suggest that the interior was originally organized around a central chimney and then later remodeled. It may be, therefore, that while the spiral stair represents an attempt to create an admittedly more stylish architectural feature, a constraint was placed on the space allowed for it. One element which contributed to this is a secondary stair which led from the kitchen ell to the second floor. Only a portion of the single flight of this stair survives and it is no longer accessible from above. Nonetheless, its form and central location in the original design (rather than a multi-flight configuration perhaps leading to one back second floor room) is important to understanding the plan.



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CROCKETT, KNOTT, HOUSE

KNOX, ME

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Eaton, Cyrus. History of Thomaston, Rockland, and South Thomaston, Maine.  
in Two Volumes. Hallowell, Maine: Masters, Smith & Company. 1865.  
Reprinted by Courier-Gazette, Incorporated (Rockland) 1972.

Shore Village Story: An Informal History of Rockland. Rockland, Maine: The  
Rockland Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

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CROCKETT, KNOTT, HOUSE

KNOX, ME

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the City of Rockland Tax Map 14, Block F, Lot 9.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the city lot historically associated with the Knott-Crockett House.