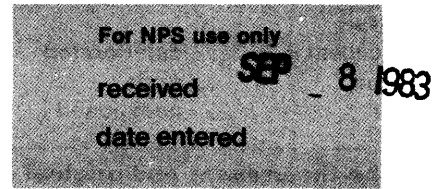


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



1. Name

historic John Peters House  
and/or common Altenhofen Inn

2. Location

street & number Peters Point off ME 176 N/A not for publication  
city, town Blue Hill vicinity of ~~congressional district~~  
state Maine code 23 county Hancock code 009

3. Classification

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Ownership</b>                               | <b>Status</b>   | <b>Present Use</b>                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private    | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                  | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                      | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input type="checkbox"/> government            |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial            |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military              |
|   |  |   | <input 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:                |

4. Owner of Property

name Peter Altenhofen  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Blue Hill, 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 N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes \_\_\_ no \_\_\_  
date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local \_\_\_  
depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Peters House is a 2½ story brick and frame Federal mansion (1815) with Grecian 2-story colonnade and large sun-porch, both added c. 1900.

The main section is brick on three sides, the southeast gable end and the northwest gable being frame walls with clapboard siding. The gable roof sports four chimnies, two at either end. The facade is six-bayed, the brick gable end three, and the wooden gable end two. The first-story windows are 9/6, and the second story 6/6. The doorway has a simple Greek Revival surround.

The later Grecian porch is quite oversized, and its entablature was not carried around the eaves of the gable end. Colonial Revival fencing which originally stood above the entablature has been removed. A large, one-story Colonial Revival sunporch was added to the house at the same time as the colonnade, and wears identical fencing and entablature detail.

A wooden ell extends to the rear of the house (nearer the northwest gable end), and a larger brick and frame ell adjoins it perpendicularly. This later ell is similar in proportion and material to the main house, having brick walls with one frame gable end and a frame gable opposite. Its facade also holds a major door opening with sidelights.

The interior is restrained and Federal in decoration, the house retaining most of its original mantelpieces, moldings, door casings, etc.

## 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/<br>humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)         |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention                         |   |  |

**Specific dates** 1815 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Apart from its architectural significance as an impressive and happy blending of Federal and Colonial Revival styles, this beautifully sited mansion was built by John Peters, an important figure in the early history of Blue Hill. The house is by far the finest of its period in the region.

Peters, one of the original proprietors of Blue Hill, moved there from Andover, Massachusetts in 1765. He was town clerk and served on various committees from 1769 to 1779. In 1784 he served on the Committee chosen by the General Court of Massachusetts to receive and examine the claims of land in Lincoln County. In 1788 he was deputy naval officer for the Penobscot (Castine) District.

He was a noted land surveyor, for many years in the employ of the agents of the Bingham Purchase and surveyed many townships in Penobscot, Hancock and Washington Counties. He will be remembered for generations as his surveys are the foundation for a large majority of the deeds of lands in these counties.

Peters also became a shipbuilder and owner and was involved in both a saw mill and a grist mill in Blue Hill. He was one of the original trustees of Blue Hill Academy, its treasurer and also served as Justice of the Peace. In 1790 his estate was the largest and best in the town, consisting of 35 acres of copper mining land, 35 acres of pasture, and 1,692 acres of wild land.

In his old age he built the mansion in 1815, enjoying it only until 1821 when he died at the age of 86, leaving his estate to his son Lemuel. The property is now used as a first class year round inn and resort.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Candage, R. G. F., Historical Sketches of Blue Hill. Ellsworth, 1905.

"Ellsworth American", October 8, 1981.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Blue Hill

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

|      |         |       |          |     |       |
|------|---------|-------|----------|-----|-------|
| 119  | 51313   | 81715 | 419      | 117 | 41510 |
| 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

Hancock County Registry of Deeds, Book 1418, Page 431

### 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 Frank A. Beard, Historian/Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street 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 *Eula S. Feltkowitz*

title S. H. P. O.

date 7/6/83

For NPS use only

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

*for Melissa Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 10/6/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration