

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 10 1985  
date entered FEB 8 1985

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

1. Name

historic Huston House

and or common Down Easter Inn

2. Location

street & number Bristol Road not for publication

city, town Damariscotta, vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Lincoln code 015

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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" 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 Robert Colquhoun

street & number Bristol Road

city, town Damariscotta, vicinity of state Maine 04543

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Wiscasset, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984  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**

The Huston House, a large Greek Revival style structure, is a timber frame building two-and-one-half stories high. A steeply pitched gable roof and brick end chimneys contribute to the vertical character of the house. The most imposing feature, however, is a massive two story portico which extends across the entire five bays of the west facade. This portico is formed out of a section of the gable roof rather than a separate structure and is supported in four columns.

Attached to the south side is a one-and-one-half story wing with a gable roof. The entire house is sheathed with clapboards except for the principal facade of both the main section and the wing, which have flash-board siding. Most of the windows consist of six-over-six double-hung sash. Exceptions are the tall French windows off the porch, and a late-nineteenth century dormer on the wing which has modern sash.

The Greek Revival ornament on the Huston House includes fluted columns in the Composite Order. The columns support an entablature with deeply recessed panels extending around the entire frieze. A cornice with dentils caps each window on the first story of the west facade. Enframing the main entrance are pilasters supporting an entablature which repeats the same denticulated motif. In addition, the architrave contains carved floral designs which are Italian Renaissance in derivation. Original interior features include marble mantel pieces and heavy cornice moldings.

## 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/ 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 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** 1853 **Builder/Architect** Peabody Simmons

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Huston House is an extremely fine and monumental example of a version of the Greek Revival style which is rare in Maine, i.e., a single gable structure with an impressive colonnaded porch running along the longitudinal axis.

In 1852, seven years after the great fire of Damariscotta, James Gilmore Huston (1808–1865) inherited his father's vast estate on the Damariscotta River. He was descended from James Huston (1690–1755), who settled in Bristol in 1729, fled from Indian attacks and returned, in 1747, to found a large family engaged over the succeeding five or six generations, in various rewarding enterprises. In 1853 Gilmore Huston moved his father's house (1794) one-hundred yards to the north of its foundation and erected on the site a house befitting his wealth and position within the community. He owned a hardware merchandizing and shipping business with offices and wharves in downtown Damariscotta. He operated a sawmill on Mill Brook, one mile east of the river, at the far end of his property. He cut ice there, on the millpond. He ran a brickyard on the shore of the river and a large orchard behind his house. He served as trustee of Lincoln Academy and died a rich man.

The house that Gilmore Huston built was designed by Peabody Simmons (1817–1894), a native of Union Maine, who studied architecture in Bangor. He carried on a building trade in Damariscotta for fifteen years following his education, and among structures to his credit are the First Methodist Church and the Joseph Day Block-Maine Hotel (1850). He moved to California in the mid-1850s where he built the Masonic Temple in San Francisco. He ended up in Somerville, Massachusetts, practising his skills until his death.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Lincoln County News, September 11, 1980.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Damariscotta

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	9	4	5	7	5	0	0	4	8	7	3	7	8	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 1, Lot 28

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 / Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1984

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine

# 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 *Evan S. Felt*  
title S.H.P.O date 12/12/84

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
*John Helms Byer* Entered in the National Register date 2-8-85  
Keeper of the National Register  
Attest: Chief of Registration date