

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Riggs-Zorach House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Off Robinhood Road  not for publication  
city, town Georgetown,  vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Sagadahoc code 023 zip code 04548

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Eileen S. [Signature] 11/16/88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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] 12/30/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5/8

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Granite

walls Wood: Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Two Chimneys at Rear

5/8

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Riggs-Zorach House is a modest two-story with attic five-bay frame dwelling sheathed in weatherboards and covered by a gable roof. It has a long one-story ell that extends to a carriage house located parallel to the main block and terminating at a gable roofed barn. A granite slab foundation supports the building.

Sited with a view to the east of Robinhood Cove, the symmetrically composed facade features a Greek Revival style entrance with narrow sidelights and a simple entablature flanked by nine-over-six double-hung windows. Five six-over-six windows are positioned on the second story. These windows are framed by typical Federal style molded surrounds. A thin cornice with short returns carries across the elevation. Both gable ends contain two nine-over-six windows on the first story, a pair of six-over-six windows on the second story and a smaller six-over-six in the gable peak. A cellar bulkhead is located on the south end. Two chimneys rise through the rear roof plane.

The ell, which appears to be original, has a paneled door on the south side as well as three small nine-over-six windows. Similar windows punctuate its north side. The carriage house and barn are probably mid-nineteenth century additions. Both feature large two leaf doors for equipment as well as smaller doors.

In keeping with the modest detailing of the exterior, the interior has typical finishes including six-panel doors, thin molded surrounds, mantelpieces, and a central stair with turned balusters and shaped handrail.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Art  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1923-1966  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

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

Significant Person

Zorach, William  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the Riggs-Zorach House is a two-story frame building with typical Federal period characteristics. It was built for James Riggs, a local merchant and one-term state legislator (1824-26), but its primary significance derives from the period 1923-1966 when it served as the summer residence and studio of nationally recognized sculptor and painter William Zorach (1887-1966). Because of its association with Zorach, the property is presented for nomination under criterion B and criteria consideration G.

The early history of this property is closely associated with the development of the small community of Robinhood by members of the Riggs family. Benjamin Riggs settled here on the eve of the Revolution and during the last decades of the century had prospered in his mercantile pursuits. By 1800 his son James Riggs had joined the family business. Some years thereafter James erected this dwelling and occupied it until his death. It apparently remained in the family throughout the duration of the 1800s but had been vacant for some thirty years prior to 1923 when it was acquired by the Zorachs.

From 1923 until his death here in 1966, the Riggs house became the summer studio of William Zorach, a Lithuanian-born immigrant whose sculptures are in the permanent collections of more than eighty museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Arts and the Museum of Modern Art. Zorach's wife Marguerite (Thompson) Zorach gained individual distinction as a painter and examples of her work can also be found in the above-named museums.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Anderson, Wayne V. American Sculpture in Process: 1930-1970. Boston: New York Graphic Society, 1975.  
Green, Samuel M. American Art: A Historical Survey. New York: The Ronald Press Company, 1966.  
New York Times. William Zorach Obituary, November 17, 1966.  
Zorach, William. Art is My Life: The Autobiography of William Zorach. Cleveland/New York: World Publishing Company, 1967.

See continuation sheet

**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 # ME-27
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 22

**UTM References**

A 

1	9	4	4	0	6	9	1	0	4	8	5	5	2	1	1	0
Zone	Easting		Northing													

C 

1	9	4	4	0	9	1	1	0	4	8	5	4	7	4	1	0
Zone	Easting		Northing													

B 

1	9	4	4	0	9	3	1	0	4	8	5	5	1	1	9	0
Zone	Easting		Northing													

D 

1	9	4	4	0	6	5	1	0	4	8	5	4	8	5	1	0
Zone	Easting		Northing													

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property of 22 acres occupies the Town of Georgetown, Tax Map R-2, Lot 40.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification** The boundary of the nominated property embraces the building and surrounding parcel historically associated with the Zorachs' ownership and residence here. This includes shorefront on Robinhood Cove and a combination of meadows and woodlots whose appearance is largely unchanged from its description in the July 17, 1936, edition of the Portland Press Herald.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1988  
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

William Zorach came to the United States in 1891 and settled with his family near Cleveland. His first formal art studies were begun in 1902 at the Cleveland School of Art and this was followed by two years at the National Academy of Design. From 1909-11 Zorach was enrolled at the LaPallette School in Paris and it was during this period that he met Marguerite Thompson, whom he married in 1912. Their paintings were featured in the 1913 Armory Show in New York which was noted for its display of modern art. Zorach's initial interest in painting was slowly displaced by his work in sculpture, and about the time that the Robinhood property had been acquired, this had become his dominant medium (although he continued to work with water-colors for which he gained additional fame). The abstract nature of his early work ultimately gave way to his growing fondness for the realistic creations of human and animal forms which characterize his most widely recognized works. Among these is the "Spirit of Dance" (1932) at Radio City Music Hall, a figure of Benjamin Franklin (1937) for the Post Office Building in Washington and "Mother and Child" (1927-30) which Zorach felt was his finest piece (the Metropolitan acquired this in 1952). Subsequent major commissions include four large figures for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota (1954) and the Kiener Memorial Fountain in Saint Louis (1965).

Zorach has long been recognized as a major figure in the development of American sculpture, particularly for his adoption of the carve-direct techniques and its emphasis on materials and form. As Samuel Green has pointed out in his survey entitled American Art (1966), Zorach's "...productivity is hardly matched in the history of the art in America." In addition to his own work at his studios in Robinhood and at 271 Hicks Street in Brooklyn Heights, Zorach taught for more than thirty years at the Art Student's League and was a founder of the Sculptor's Guild.