

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

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

1. Name

historic James R. Talbot House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Route One US 1 N/A not for publication

city, town East Machias, N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Washington code 029

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Health</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Walter Semenov

street & number c/o Community Health Services, Route One

city, town East Machias, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04630

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Machias, 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

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The James R. Talbot House is a three-story mansard-roofed house constructed of wood on a granite foundation. The house's facade is three bays across, the sides two. The walls are entirely clapboarded and framed between decorative cornerboards, while the mansard roof is cedar-shingled.

An arched doorway is cut into the facade's central bay, bordered by a fascine and topped by a wooden keystone. Above this are doubled rectangular windows with a peaked cornice. All the first-story windows (facade and sides) are tripled rectangles, capped by peaked cornices on the facade, and Palladian cornices on the sides. All second-story windows are single rectangles whose peaked cornices bear a star-like decoration at their apexes.

The side eaves of the house are supported by twenty-two decorative modillions on the facade, and sixteen on the sides. A hooded dormer occupies each roof bay. The window of the central facade dormer has a three-sided top with matching cornice, while those that flank it are arched. The side dormers are similarly three-sided in their upper sashes.

The two mansard slopes are separated by a heavy, dentiled cornice, and the roof's cornerboards are roped.

The rear bay of the house's south side holds a three-storied square bay window, fenestrated and decorated in the same manner as the house.

A two-bayed, two and one-half storied, pitched-roofed ell stands behind the main house, clapboarded and roofed with asphalt shingles. Behind this extends a smaller, one and one-half story, pitched-roofed ell, similarly clapboarded and affixed with asbestos roof shingles. Entrance doors stand on the north side of the first ell, and south side of the second. The rear ell pre-dates the house, having been a part of the Peter Talbot House (1772), which stood on this spot until 1875 (when it was moved to the top of a nearby hill). Both ells contain multi-paned windows, the house's only original glass.

The interior decorative features are a first-floor pressed-tin ceiling, plaster cornices with floral decorations along the stairway and upper stones, and the stairway's newel post, which boasts three small, carved lion's heads. The stairwell raises three stories in the central bay, accompanied by a hallway on each floor. Twin parlors open on both sides of the first-floor hall, which has a wooden parquet floor. Five rooms open off both the second and third-story halls. Interestingly, the third-story ceiling is at least a foot higher than that of the first or second stories, the reverse of the usual arrangement.

The house is in an excellent state of repair, and is now used as a community health center.

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WILLIAM M. NASH HOUSE

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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A two-bayed, pitched-roofed ell projects from the rear wall. The ell has two dormers and two windows to each side, and all windows (including the dormer windows) are 6/6. A smaller pitched-roofed ell extends back from the main ell, and holds a narrow door (in its north wall) capped by a transom light. Both ells are probably Greek Revival survivors. The ells' foundations are brick, while that of the house is granite.

The property also includes a detached, pitched-roofed carriage-house, and a detached, pitched-roofed barn. Both are cedar-shingled.

The only features missing from the house since its last remodeling are a small bit of cresting about the roof, and the front steps and railings. The house remains in very good condition.

## 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** 1874 **Builder/Architect** James A. Tenney

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The James R. Talbot House is the most important mansard house in the Machias-East Machias area, and one of the principle examples of the style in Washington County.

The house was designed in 1874 by James A. Tenney of Portland. Tenney designed at least three other large houses in Washington County, but two have been destroyed by fire. The Talbot house is Tenney's only remaining mansard in eastern Maine.

Most mansard houses in central and eastern Maine were designed according to a particular formula, even the smallest architectural details hardly varying from house to house. The Talbot house uses a different decorative vocabulary, incorporating a number of features rarely found elsewhere in the region. Among them are modillioned eaves, tripled windows, minutely decorated window cornices, a variance in window cornice design between facade and sides, and most strikingly, a doorway with decorated Arched molding instead of the usual portico. Decoratively, the Talbot house is very individualized, a rare characteristic among Maine houses of the 1860-70's.

James R. Talbot (1819-1899) was one of the Machias area's foremost lumber manufacturers and shipbuilders. Talbot was also an influential Democrat, and served in the Maine State Legislature (1860-1869), and Senate (1875-1879).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Fernald, Anne. Sunrise County Architecture. Machiasport; Sunrise Research Institute. 1979.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Machias

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	9	6	2	7	3	8	0	4	9	5	4	9	1	5
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

Tax Map #4, Lot 12B

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1982

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 Earle S. Fretter

title S.H.P.O. date 11/24/82

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date 1/4/83

Alvina Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration