



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1358

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 Plummer, Capt. John, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 23 Pleasant Street N/A not for publication
city or town Addison N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Washington code 029 zip code 04606

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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/25/08
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature] 1/26/09

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
None

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)
MID 19TH CENTURY / Greek Revival
MID 19TH CENTURY / Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE / Granite
STONE / (Fieldstone)
walls WOOD / Weatherboard
WOOD / Shingles
WOOD / (Flush Board Siding)
ASPHALT
roof ASPHALT
other BRICK (Chimney)

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 a 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1842 --

C. 1865

Significant Dates

1842

C. 1865

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property One acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	599687	4941175
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	19		

3	19		
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	19		

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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 23 July 2008

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME 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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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DESCRIPTION

The Captain John Plummer House is a moderately sized vernacular cape-style house with a long ell centered on its rear elevation and a projecting tall, Gothic Revival style entry centered on its façade. The home is located on a relatively flat and grassy one acre village lot. The Washington County town of Addison contains 2 villages, of which the community in Addison Point is the largest. The village is located where the Pleasant River meets the Western Branch of the Pleasant River and forms a long narrow bay between two peninsulas. Addison Point is a compact, maritime community containing several streets, churches, a school and a couple of stores along with former shipyards, wharfs and chandleries. The Plummer house is located on Pleasant Street, less than two blocks from the harbor on the River.

The Plummer House is a braced frame structure that faces west towards Pleasant Street. The front section of the building consists of a one-story, twenty-four by thirty foot cape-style building with a side gable roof and a granite capstone foundation. Two interior end brick chimneys are positioned on the western plane of the asphalt roof. This section of the house has clapboards on the front façade, and the gable ends, but the east elevation is clad with painted cedar shingles. The rear ell is a full two stories in height, however the east-facing asphalt gable roof on this section is much lower pitched than on the main house, and thus the ridge lines of the cape and the ell meet at the same level. The ell sits on a fieldstone foundation and the north and south elevations are clad in painted shingles. A tall brick chimney extends through the roof ridge at approximately the mid-point of the ell's length. Attached to the east end of the ell (which is clad with asphalt shingles), is a small, one-story, roughly square attached shed, the southern half of which contains an engaged, open porch. Built in 2006/7 the shed sits on a concrete foundation and has cedar shingles and an asphalt roof.

The front façade of the main house (cape) is five bays wide and symmetrically composed. To either side of the entrance are a pair of six-over-six double hung wood windows set in frames trimmed with bed molding. Narrow wood corner boards, wooden water table, and a boxed cornice with bed moulding but no frieze complete the trim elements. In contrast to the fairly spare ornamentation on the cape is the decorative entrance which features both Gothic Revival and Greek Revival details. The tower is ten feet wide and protrudes six feet from the façade. It has a steep, high gable roof rising to the same height as the ridge of the cape and the ell. The eaves of the roof are trimmed with decorative, curvilinear verge boards. A lancet window with wooden tracery is positioned under the gable peak. The tower is clad with flush board siding and has a pair of close set six-over-six windows on its south wall and a fixed, two-light sash on the north wall. A set of wooden steps lead to a broad entry bay behind which is a platform positioned in front of the door. The entry bay is flanked by narrow pilasters which support a wooden lintel with a slightly triangular cornice (a "Greek Peak"). Inset from this is an outer door that is decorated with an applied moulding around a pointed arch panel. To either side of this door are two sidelights, each with five glass panels. Additional Grecian details are found around the original, or inner, front door at the back of the entry vestibule. This wooden door has six panels with applied beveled mouldings, and it is set in a

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detailed surround which includes a seven-light transom and four-pane sidelights over paneled bases. The sidelights are each framed by a pair of pilasters with moulded capitals. The interior pilasters are narrow, with the same beveled molding as the front door, while the exterior pilasters feature a broad rounded molding down its shaft. The outer sets of pilasters continue above the capitals, framing the ends of the transom, but the remainder of the entablature has been obscured by the board ceiling of the entry tower.

Both gable ends on the front part of the house are two bays wide and feature a pair of windows closely set in the attic gable. On the south elevation the first floor six-over-six windows are positioned near the exterior corners, while on the north elevation one of the windows is at the center of the wall and the other is positioned to its north. A third window at the north end of the wall was removed when a bathroom was installed sometime after 1924. The close set eaves feature narrow rake trim, and cornice returns executed in flat stock are suggested at the top of the corner boards. The east elevation of the main house has a single window on each section of the rear wall adjacent to the ell. The southern window contains a six-over-six double hung sash, whereas the unit on the north end is a narrower, four-over-four light.

The two story ell measures approximately thirty feet in length and fourteen and a half feet in width. The south wall is five bays wide on the first floor and has four evenly spaced windows on the second level. A piece of vertical trim on the first floor separates the second and third bays and marks a corresponding minor change in the foundation level. Similarly, a horizontal board set under the two windows at the east end of the ell suggests the location of a former frieze board. These details, as well as interior details, indicate that the ell was constructed in phases. The first and second bays on each floor, as counted from the east end wall, are evenly spaced and vertically aligned. Closer to the house two six-over-six windows flank a wooden side door set in plain trim. Above this door are two additional six-over-six windows. In contrast, the less visible north side of the ell contains only a single, narrow, four-over-four window on the first floor near the corner with the cape, and a six-over-six window on the second level west of the middle of the building.

The interior plan of the Plummer house is focused on a three-quarter length center stair hall with a pair of rooms opening north and south off the hall. At the west end of the hall is an open room (kitchen) which occupies the eastern quarter of the center portion of the cape and the western half of the ell. Based on the floor plan this half of the ell appears to be original to the structure; however, there is a change in framing evident in the ceiling of the kitchen which casts some confusion on this assertion. West of the kitchen a partition wall separates the kitchen from a small pantry and shed. A brick chimney rises through the roof just east of the partition wall.

The two front rooms in the cape are almost twice as deep as those in the southwest and northwest corners. The front rooms and hall are finished more formally than the back rooms, although all the rooms have plaster walls and ceilings and painted pine floors. Each of the parlors feature a chimney stack centered on the exterior walls, and doors leading both to the center hall and

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directly to the kitchen.

The two parlors visibly demonstrate the transitional nature of this house with regard to their finish details. Of the two, the southeast parlor is slightly more formal and slightly earlier in terms of stylistic detailing. The walls of this room are lined with wainscot with recessed panels with an elongated ogee moulding. The wainscot is set between a moulded baseboard and a wide, moulded chair rail which forms the sill of the room's three windows. Each window is adorned by a wide, ogee moulded frame, and the same trim surrounds the room's six-panel doors. While the brick fire box in the projecting chimney stack has been retrofitted with a cast iron insert, the fireplace surround is original. It consists of narrow, faceted pilasters which support a plain entablature and radiating, moulded mantle. (The proportions of this surround are Federal in style but the moulding profiles and recitation of geometrical facets are more typically Grecian.)

In contrast, the trim in the northeastern parlor is more solidly characteristic of the Greek Revival. The window and door frames are executed in a wide, fluted trim with square blocks at the corners and plinths at the base. Under the room's three windows are recessed panels formed by applied, beveled ogee trim. The fireplace surround features three pieces of this fluted stock with corner blocks and plinths. Above this frame is a plain, wide entablature and simple mantle. Set into the plastered chimney stack is a small cupboard with a recessed panel. The same trim elements are present in the front hallway as well, but the slender, turned newel post and tapered balusters are executed in more traditional Federal style proportions. The wide front hall rises in an arch which meets the slope of the gable roof to either side of this room. At the top of the stairs, to the south, a narrow walkway is cantilevered over the length of the hall and provides access to the chamber over the vestibule. This walkway, which is supported on short joists extending from the south wall of the hall, has a solid low wall and handrail down its length. Both this wall and the underside of the walkway are formed of long, hand-planed panels with beveled ogee mouldings which match the front door panels.

The southwest first floor room has a chair rail and baseboard to match the front southeast parlor, but its two windows and doors are trimmed in flat stock. The northwest corner room, now a bathroom, retains its plaster walls and painted random-width pine floors, but it has lost other original stylistic details.

The kitchen has a newer 20th century painted pine floor, plaster walls and exposed framing in the ceiling. The windows and doors have plain trim and beadboard wainscot, and chair rail is evident on the west wall. The ceiling framing (plastered in the past, but recently exposed after the removal of sheet rock) features east to west joists up to the back plate of the cape and transverse joists in the ell. At the junction of these frames an iron strap is attached to the plate and the first joist of the ell. This suggests that an existing structure was centered on the house to form the eastern half of the ell. The kitchen features a two chamber soapstone sink ('Alberene Stove, Chicago, New York, Boston') and an enamel 'Gold Medal Supreme' cook stove, as well as period Hoosier-style cupboards, a 1950s era refrigerator and two old wall-mounted cabinets. Examination of the kitchen floor framing

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indicates that a large chimney stack was previously situated at the west end of this room. In addition, patches in the flooring over the joists suggest that another, later chimney stack may have risen against the north wall, west of the window.

Between the kitchen and shed is a small, newly installed pantry. The north wall of this space previously contained an external door to a long-removed gable roof shed. The main shed contains a set of open stringer stairs to the second floor, and the remnants of a two-hole privy under the stairs. The pine floor shows an amalgamation of patches, either from previous repairs or removed partitions, and a portion of the eastern wall retains old plaster. This part of the ell has a hewn "H" bent frame. Exposed joinery at the top of the southwest corner post, as well as newer studs above the plate, show that the roof of the ell was raised to its current height. The ceiling was also raised, and a portion of the south wall exhibits newer and repaired stud framing. Close examination of the partition wall between the kitchen and the shed disclose exterior sheathing on the kitchen ell, thus confirming that the shed was a later addition. At some point, possibly after a catastrophic event, the south wall of the shed was reconstructed and the roof over the entire ell was raised.

The second floor of the Plummer House contains a large bedroom south of the hall, and a small bedroom and bathroom north of the hall. All three of these rooms have simple trim elements, wide pine floors and paneled doors in the knee walls. The south bedroom has an ornate tin ceiling, and both bedrooms contain corner chimney stacks with applied wooden mantles and stove pipe apertures. A third bedroom is positioned over the kitchen at the back of a narrow hall. This hall has two layers of plaster wall, indicating that the space at the back of the hall, under the sloping gable roof, had been finished before the roof was raised. At the front of the house, the small vestibule chamber has wide pine floor and unpainted plaster walls and ceiling. A set of broad, wooden shelves are set into a plastered niche in the west wall of the chamber.

According to a former resident of the house, prior to c. 1924 the current kitchen had interior partition walls, and a porch or entry was attached to the southwest junction of the ell and cape. Evidence for this structure can be seen in the sill of the ell, and is also depicted on the 1881 Atlas of Washington County map for Addison Point. This map also shows that the vestibule was added by this time.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house that Captain John T. Plummer first constructed circa 1842 was all but indistinguishable from the two houses north of his on Pleasant Street: all three were one story, side gable, five bay braced frame structures almost identical in terms of massing and plan. All three were essentially vernacular structures that featured Greek Revival style decorative central doors framed by almost identical sets of sidelights and top lights and ornamented with narrow pilasters and capitals. However, the Plummer House, at the south end of the street did not retain this facade for long - some time prior to John T. Plummer's death in 1880 the former ship captain, merchant trader, and state senator added a Gothic Revival style entry vestibule to the domicile. Measuring one and one-half stories in height, this rectangular vestibule features a pointed arch hardwood storm door above which is a steeply pitched gable roof. The rake trim of this roof is decorated with scroll saw cut bargeboards, and inset within the flush board siding. Under the roof peak is a pointed arch tracery window. This addition represents an important, if modest, adoption of Gothic Revival stylistic forms at mid-century, and also represents the only extant example of Gothic Revival architecture within this rural community. As such, the Capt. John T. Plummer House is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C, as an example of a type, style or method of construction that represents a stylistic trend in American architectural history. The period of significance reflects the original construction date of the house, 1842 and the approximate period in which the vestibule was added, circa 1865.

The town of Addison is located along the Atlantic coast in Washington County. It is situated south and east of U.S. Route 1, and the township fills a peninsula west of Pleasant Bay, and part of the peninsula east of Pleasant Bay. There are two villages in the town and several small settlements. Addison Point, or simply Addison, is located at the northern end of Pleasant Bay where it meets the two branches of the Pleasant River. As with many of the coastal towns in Washington County, much of Addison's sparse population is distributed along the roads that line the edges of the peninsulas. Addison attained a population of 1272 residents in 1860, before steadily losing population for the next one hundred years, reaching a low of 773 in 1970.¹ Addison Point, which was the most densely populated section of town lost many of its commercial and residential buildings during a series of devastating fires which leveled much of the village center in the 1930s. That being said, Addison Point is still the civic and social center of the town, and its four main roads are generally populated with wooden residential structures dating to the nineteenth century.

The first European settlers to the area arrived sometime prior to 1770, and in that year seven families arrived from Martha's Vineyard and made the first concentrated effort at establishing a town. The early residents were attracted to the area's rich supply of lumber and seemingly unending stocks of fish. The first ship was built in an Addison yard prior to the turn of the 18th century. Over the next

¹The number of residents rebounded strongly in the last three decades of the twentieth century, rising to 1209 residents in 2000.

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100 years at least 95 vessels - mainly schooners, brigs, and barks between 14 and 575 tons - were built in Addison shipyards. The town also yielded a substantial number of mariners and ship's captains, and its economy revolved largely around shipping lumber and granite and the coastal trade.

Captain John T. Plummer was born into a large, and well established Addison family in 1812. His grandfather, Moses Plummer, had been among the earliest settlers of the area, arriving in Addison in 1768 according to Pleasant River Families of Washinton County. In 1837 John T. Plummer married Rebecca Wass, daughter of another early settler, and the couple had four children, Edgar, Julia, Eliza and Millard Fillmore. Although Plummer is often referred to as "Captain," his career had many facets, as outlined in his obituary which originally ran in the *Lewiston Journal* and was reprinted in the *Machias Union*, in 1881:

Hon. John Plummer of Addison, who died recently, was long one of the most prominent citizens of the town and vicinity, where he had long resided. He was born in Addison, in 1812. He followed the sea until 1843, being for many years one of the most prominent captains in that section. When he left the sea he engaged in trade, ship building and lumbering, until his death. Politically, he was a democrat until the first gun of the rebellion, when he joined the Union republican party; and was elected to the State Senate, where he served with credit. He was a prominent member of the Universalist society, and contributed largely to its support. Capt. P. was a man of great force of character, of rare business capacity, and broad and generous nature. His death is a public bereavement, and is felt by the entire community. (January 11, 1881.)

At the time that Plummer purchased a house lot of 1/4 acre from David Wass in 1842 he was identified as a "Master Mariner," and two years later another deed from Wass for adjoining land referenced him as "Capt. John Plummer." Interestingly, while he is identified in Addison, Maine: A Bicentennial History as acting as the town's postmaster in 1849 he is not listed on the town's roles of ship builders or ship captains. It is possible that his maritime career was not based in Addison, and that once he 'retired' from the sea at age 32 his former career was overshadowed by his prominence as a merchant and trader.² In 1847 Plummer purchased another lot of land from Wass at the corner formed by the road that lead from the wharves to Columbia and the road that lead over the bridge to the east. Prior to the execution of the deed Plummer had already erected a general store and chandlery on the site. Lost in one of the town's fires, an image in Addison Maine: A Bicentennial History indicates that this two-and-a-half story wood frame structure had large windows bays separated by pilasters which supported a pedimented cornice, and was one of the most imposing, and stylistically distinctive commercial structures in town.

²After referring to himself as a 'merchant' or 'trader' in the previous two censuses, in the 1870 Federal population census Plummer identified himself as a 'retired sea captain.' However, in the year that he died, 1880, he was enumerated as a 'country merchant.'

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The lot on Pleasant Street that Plummer purchased in 1842 was identified as the "the third lot south of the Addison Point Meeting House on the Range of Luther P. Dyers and John A. Browns lots." While no plan of this name or relative date is registered at the Washington County Registry of Deeds, it seems likely that Pleasant Street was laid out just prior to Plummer's purchase.³ The Universalist Meeting House at the north east corner of the street was built in 1841 (it has since burned), and the two houses between the Plummer House and the former site of the church appear to have been constructed about the same time the Plummer House was. All three houses are essentially vernacular capes with applied stylistic details. They share the same massing and proportions, similar doorways and five bay facades. While the chimney position and window sash configurations have been altered on the adjacent examples they also share a consistent orientation and distance to the road. The dates of construction and the names of the original owners or builders for the adjacent two houses have not been ascertained, however it seems clear that all three were based on a similar design plan, if not by the same carpenter. While the exterior of these three buildings clearly adopted Greek Revival entries, on the interior Plummer's formal rooms exhibit moldings and stylistic details that incorporate both late-Federal era and Grecian motifs.

The deed from Wass to Plummer indicates, slightly obtusely, that Plummer's house was either complete, or under construction when the instrument was executed: "the same lot that the said John Plummer's House is, or his new residence." (Book 100, page 383, Washington County Registry of Deeds). Thereafter, Plummer added the Gothic Revival style entry vestibule - whether this happened immediately after the house was built, or decades later is unknown, but it is clear that the vestibule was an addition, not part of the original design. The extant tax valuation records for Addison start in 1892, eleven years after the footprint of the house (showing the vestibule) was drawn on the Addison Point map in the Atlas of Washington County. And while the census records indicate a two-thousand dollar increase in Plummer's estate between 1850 and 1860, during this time he was also buying and selling additional land in Addison and the surrounding towns. It is possible that Plummer added the vestibule as a way to distinguish his house as he personally gained social and cultural prominence, perhaps when he was elected to the State Senate, in 1862 and 1863, or even around the time he was chosen as a town selectman in 1845 and 1846, but to date no documentary evidence supports this theory.

Gothic Revival architecture was one of the romantic revival styles following the more austere Greek Revival style which dominated civic and residential architecture in Maine starting in the late 1820s. As summarized by the architectural historian Denys Peter Myers, the Gothic Revival "except for early and naive examples, was largely the province of professional architects and sophisticated clients and was generally a rather self-conscious style. In its more literate manifestations, it involved

³It is interesting to note that there are currently no houses on the west side of Pleasant Street, nor were there on the 1880 county map of Addison - as an example of an early development the geographical scope of the plan was limited.

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a much more basic change in design concepts than did the Greek Revival. A few thoroughly non-archeological attempts at Gothic design had been made in America as early as 1800-1810, but the style did not gain any real currency in Maine until the 1830's, when several notable examples by Richard Upjohn (1802-1878) were built. A moderate vogue for Gothic houses flourished during the 1840's and early 1850's in Maine, but the style never became as popular as the Greek Revival there." (The Maine Catalog, p. 71). The style appealed to those who preferred the picturesque to the chaste, or for whom the home was a sacred space, akin to a religious structure. And while historians agree that the style was never as popular in Maine as the Greek Revival or Italianate, there are certainly significant examples, some designed by architects, others modeled after Andrew Jackson Downing's drawings, throughout the state. But in Washington County, the style is markedly under represented. While architectural survey data has not been completed for the entire county, only eight properties (out of 919) were identified with Gothic Revival marked as the primary stylistic category. (Three of these are listed in the National Register in the Hinkley Hill Historic District in Calais, [NR: 94001244] and three others are churches). Six additional domestic examples are featured in the 1996 revision of Sunrise County Architecture, and include the National Register Listed Joshua Pettegrove House in Calais, (NR:94000179) and the Henrietta Brewer House in Robbinston (NR:83003688). Each of these examples, along with the Babb House (1869) in Eastport, the Noyes House in Harrington (1852), and the Hatch House in Pembroke (c. 1860) are well executed, and fully developed examples of the style. Yet, for every Gothic Revival style property that was wholly inspired by Andrew Jackson Downing or a cathedral in Europe, or designed by a mid-century architect, there are other houses which adopted modest elements of the style, such as pointed arch windows, or decorative trim, either as part of their initial design, or as later stylistic upgrades. The Elm Cottage in Eastport is a c. 1817 cape that, like Plummer's house, was remodeled with gingerbread trim after 1866. It is interesting to note that with the exception of the Noyes House in Harrington, each of the other known examples of the style in Washington County were erected in the larger towns in the far eastern end of the county, in the Calais/Eastport area.

The addition of the vestibule on the Capt. John Plummer House was more than a reference to the style: it is self consciously Gothic Revival in style and fundamentally altered the aesthetic of the house. With its well crafted details and excellent proportions, the vestibule elevates the Plummer house above its neighbors, both visually and culturally. Although the Plummer House has only selected Gothic features when compared with the properties noted above, within the context of both the town of Addison and greater Washington County, the Plummer House represents a significant example of how this relatively rare architectural style was manifest as an update to an existing structure. A similarly scaled vestibule was added to the Holmes Cottage in Calais (NR: 87001855) after the 1850s. In comparison, however, the vestibule on the Holmes' cottage is much plainer with only a bracketed hood over the front door to suggest elements of the Italianate.

In 1879 Plummer deeded all of his real estate to his younger son, Millard Filmore Plummer, including his homestead farm and store. Millard F. Plummer ran the store for only a few more years (he was identified in the 1880 census as a "grocer"), and after the death of his mother Rebecca in 1883 he divested himself of the family property. In 1884 he sold the homestead to his sister Julia,

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and the remainder of the real estate, (eight lots in Columbia, Columbia Falls and Addison) to his brother Edgar and sister Eliza Harden. He then left town. At some point between 1884 and 1923 the homestead was transferred from Julia Plummer to Eliza, and after the latter's death it briefly was owned again by Millard and his nephew Milton H. Plummer. They sold the property to the Dalot family, who retained the property until 2003, and were probably responsible for the alterations to the back ell.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are depicted on the Town of Addison tax map 1, lot 85.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above described boundaries represent the immediate lot and the extant structure currently associated with the Captain John Plummer House.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_PLUMMER, CAPT JOHN, HOUSE_001.TIF

Photograph 1 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

11 April 2008

West facade; facing east.

ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_PLUMMER, CAPT JOHN, HOUSE_002.TIF

Photograph 2 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

11 April 2008

South and east elevations; facing northwest.

ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_PLUMMER, CAPT JOHN, HOUSE_003.TIF

Photograph 3 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

11 April 2008

Detail: entry on west facade. Facing east.

ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_PLUMMER, CAPT JOHN, HOUSE_004.TIF

Photograph 4 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

11 April 2008

Interior of southwest parlor; facing west.

ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_PLUMMER, CAPT JOHN, HOUSE_005.TIF

Photograph 5 of 5

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

11 April 2008

Interior of center hallway and front door. Note paneled 'walkway' to tower room.