

~~FORMER~~ EAST MACHIAS POST OFFICE
Bridge Street, at the head of High Street
East Machias
Washington County
Maine

HABS No. ME-225

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ME
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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Location: Bridge Street, at the head of High Street, East Machias, Washington County, Maine

USGS Machias Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 19.607545.4954990

Significance: A relatively naive interpretation of the Colonial Revival, the significance of the structure is derived from its construction for and use as the third post office in the town of East Machias.

Description: The former post office is a one-story with a full basement, three-bay frame gable roofed structure that sits facing U.S. Route 1, just east of the Pope Memorial Bridge that crosses the East Machias River. The facade has a full pediment with a fixed triangular window in the tympanum, and is sheathed with pine boards designed to appear as recessed paneling. Windows at this elevation are twenty-four light fixed sash, windows in the side and rear elevations 2/2 double hung sash. These three walls and the tympanum of the front pediment are sheathed with simulated shiplap clapboard drop siding. The front entrance has a wood platform and a six raised panel door with a three light flat transom. The gable roof has a molded cornice at the eaves and is covered with modern asphalt shingles. The concrete foundation is exposed full height at the rear elevation, serving as a retaining wall. An open deck along the rear half of the east elevation is post 1970.

History: The former post office was built in 1936 by the Gaddis Brothers Company of East Machias for use as a post office. Building materials were provided by the Gaddis Brothers Lumber Company, Machias, except for the drop siding, which was manufactured at the Chapman Planing Mill, Machias. Mrs. Richard Gaddis was the postmistress until the post office was replaced in 1959. The former post office is now used as a summer cottage.

The former East Machias Post Office is listed as a contributing structure within the East Machias National Register Historic District (4/11/73). It is situated within the right-of-way of a Federal Highway Administration/Maine Department of Transportation project that will widen the approaches to the adjacent Pope Memorial Bridge.

Sources: Interview with Henry Reynolds, carpenter and caretaker for the present owner, September 17, 1996.

Historian: Russell Wright, Preservation Consultant
October 18, 1996