



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**NAME**

HISTORIC

Rockport Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

An irregular pattern along Pascal Avenue, Pleasant Street,  
Ambsbury Street, Birch Street, High Street, Main Street, Summer Street,  
Church Street, Franklin Street, Central Street, Union Street,  
and Russell Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rockport

VICINITY OF

1st Hon. David Emery

STATE

Maine

CODE  
23

Knox

COUNTY

CODE  
013

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☒ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☒ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Knox County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

62 Union Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockland,

STATE

Maine

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 Rockport Historic District is comprised of a cohesive, homogeneous group of 19th century architecture. The largest number of structures dates from the mid 19th century Greek Revival and Italianate periods when the community prospered as a major center for the manufacture and shipping of lime. Styles represented in the district include the Federal (i.e. 92, Jabob Graham House), the Transitional Federal- Greek Revival (i.e. 70, S. D. Carlton House), the Greek Revival (i.e. 6, Dillingham House), the Transitional Greek Revival-Italianate (i.e. 76, W. G. Morse House), the Italianate (i.e. 83, S. Dexter Carleton House), the Gothic Revival (i.e. 21, C. M. Knight House), the Mansard (i.e. 26, House), the Queen Anne (i.e. 1, H. L. Shepherd House), the Romanesque Revival (i.e. 96, Carleton (Shepherd) Block), and the Colonial Revival (i.e. 99, Rockport Opera House).

Of the 127 homes and buildings within the district, 1 is Federal, 1 is transition Federal-Greek Revival, 55 are Greek Revival, 1 is transitional Greek Revival-Italianate, 29 are Italianate, 1 is Gothic Revival, 5 are Mansard, 4 are Queen Anne, 1 is Romanesque Revival, 5 are Colonial Revival, 8 are Contemporary, and 16 are a 19th century vernacular which lacks the details of a period style. In this span of a century and a half of styles, the predominant characteristic has been a simple, forthright interpretation of the current architectural mode. While most of the structures can be classed as vernacular within the context of their styles, pretension toward high style architecture are found in such examples as the Mansard Philander J. Carleton House (69) and the Queen Anne H. L. Shepherd House (1).

The scale, proportions, materials, color and design quality of the structures are in harmony throughout the Rockport Historic District.

The following figures delineate the scale of the 127 homes and buildings in the area:

5	1 story gable roof
1	1½ story gambrel roof
54	1½ story gable roof
1	2 story gambrel roof
2	2 story hip roof
7	2 story gable roof
48	2½ story gable roof
1	3 story gable roof
1	3 story flat roof
1	3 story hip roof
4	3 story Mansard roof
1	3½ story gable roof
1	4 story mansard roof

Most of the structures exhibit a traditional concern for symmetrical design and proportion, especially the 55 Greek Revival ones. Of the 127 homes and buildings, 2 are of stone construction, 4 are brick and the remaining 121 are frame. Of the frame ones, 91 are clapboarded, while 1 has clapboarded and matched boarding, 1 has rusticated sheathing and clapboarding, 1 has board and batten, 1 has vertical boarding (See continuation sheets).

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1 has vinyl siding, 2 have matched boarding, 7 have wooden siding, 7 have shingling and clapboarding, and 9 have shingling. White is the predominant paint color, especially on the frame Greek Revival structures.

The Rockport Historic District's 127 homes and buildings stand in close proximity to one another on twelve streets, Pascal Avenue, Pleasant Street, Amsbury Street, Birch Street, High Street, Main Street, Summer Street, Church Street, Franklin Street, Central Street, Union Street, and Russell Avenue. Yet this close proximity should not be interpreted to mean the presence of a regularized pattern of structure location. Houses and buildings relate to the streets at varying angles and distances. The streets retain their shade trees. Several homes are handsomely sited on rises which afford views of the harbor. (i.e. 18, 19, 20, 21, 69 ).

Of the 127 structures in the District, 107 are residential, 14 are commercial, 3 are in public use (88,99, 107), and three are in church use (9,11,126). There are no Federally owned buildings in the area.

Most houses and buildings are currently being used for their original purpose. The few exceptions include the High School (81) and the Universalist Church (85), which have been adapted in recent years for apartments and the Livery Stable (116), which has been converted into a summer art gallery. The creative reuse of these three structures occurred as isolated instances. The only recent major restoration project is the refurbishing of the Rockport Opera House (99).

Most of the Rockport Historic District's homes and buildings are in good to excellent condition. Most structures have apparently always been well maintained. None of them can be classed as serious intrusions. Of the 8 structures which have been designated as contemporary (built within the last fifty years), 7 follow traditional Colonial lines and 1 (100) has a straightforward modern design of good quality. All of these are frame buildings with a scale and texture which enables them to blend successfully with their surroundings.

The Rockport Historic District represents the highest concentration of homes and buildings of architectural merit within the town. Adjacent streets have not been included because of their lower concentrations of quality 19th century structures and the presence of serious intrusions. The composition of the district reflects Rockport's greatest period of development as a mid 19th century coastal town with a strong Greek Revival flavor.

(See continuation sheets)

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Inventory of Structures Located within the Rockport  
Historic District

House and Building Names and Dates are based largely on the 1859 Map of  
Waldo County and the 1875 Map of Camden-Rockport

PASCAL AVENUE, South to North

1. H. L. Shepherd House, post 1875  
Queen Anne, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded first and second  
stories, shingled half story with elaborate wooden gable decoration.
2. Harkness House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
3. Ells House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior.
4. Capt. J. D. Piper House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior, Colonial  
Revival first story front porch
5. John Achorn House, by 1859  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
6. Dillingham House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded and shingled  
exterior, fine Ionic portico
7. Albert S. Ells House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
8. Piper House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
9. Congregational Chapel, 1854  
Greek Revival, 1 story, frame with clapboarded exterior
10. J. N. Farnham House, by 1859  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with match boarded facade, remainder  
of the exterior clapboarded
11. Baptist Church, 1854  
Benjamin Paul, master builder  
Queen Anne (as the result of an extensive late 19th century remodelling),  
2 stories, frame with clapboarded and shingled exterior.

(See continuation sheets)

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12. Caleb Andrews House, 1840  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with vinyl siding, Italianate doorway overhang.
13. J. S. Veazie House, 1840  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
14. Captain Wall House, 1850  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
15. Joseph Bowers House, 1840  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior, fine Ionic portico
16. Captain Winthrop Amsbury House, 1856  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
17. Mrs. Cheney Packard House, 1885  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
18. Captain Cheney S. Packard House, by 1859  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
19. Dailey House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior, Queen Anne first story porch and roof gables
20. Edward Shepherd House, by 1875  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
21. C. M. Knight House, by 1859  
Gothic Revival, 2 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

PASCAL AVENUE, South to North

East Side

22. Shibles House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded and shingled exterior
23. Shibles House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior, Queen Anne first story front porch

(See continuation sheets)

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24. House, post 1875  
Italianate, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
25. House, post 1875  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
26. House, post 1875  
Mansard, 3 stories with square corner tower, frame with clapboarded first and second stories, slated third story
27. Ellis House, by 1875  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
28. Tolman House, post 1875  
Queen Anne, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded first story, remainder shingled
29. Shop, post 1875  
1½ stories, frame with clapboarded and shingled exterior
30. Enos E. Ingraham Company Store, post 1875  
Mansard, 3 stories, frame with clapboarded first and second stories, slated third story
31. Moody House, by 1875  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior, Queen Anne facade, converted into apartments
32. House  
Modern, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
33. House  
Modern, 1½ stories, frame with shingled exterior
34. George Seidlinger House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior, Colonial Revival first story porch and window alterations
35. House, post 1875  
Colonial Revival, 2 stories, frame with shingled exterior

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36. House  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior,  
20th century enclosed first story front porch
37. Mallett House, 1849  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded  
exterior, Colonial Revival fan doorway and roof dormers
- West Street
- South Side
38. Abel Merriam House, by 1859  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with match boarded exterior
- North Side
39. Robert Harkness House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with match boarded exterior
- Pleasant Street
- South Side, West to East
40. Shepherd Company Double House, by 1875  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
41. Shepherd Company Double House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
- Amsbury Street, South to North
42. A. P. Corthell House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 1 story, frame with clapboarded exterior
43. House  
Modern, 1½ stories, frame with shingled exterior

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44. Gallery  
Modern, 1½ stories, frame with board and batten exterior
45. House, post 1875  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
46. Captain Jabez Amsbury House, c. 1860  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
47. Captain Wilson House, c. 1878  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
48. House  
Modern, 1½ stories, frame with shingled exterior
49. House  
Modern, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with shingled exterior
50. Captain Oliver Amsbury House, 1858  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
51. Captain Horatio Amsbury House, 1857  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

Birch Street

52. House, 1886  
Italianate, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

High Street, West to East

53. M. E. Lamb, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

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North Side

- 54. Fitzgerald House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
- 55. Andrews House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

Main Street, South to North

West Side

- 56. Blacksmith Shop, by 1859? (Site occupied by that date)  
1½ stories, frame with shingled exterior
- 57. Barn, post 1875  
1 story, frame with clapboarded and shingled exterior
- 58. McLaughlin House, by 1859  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
- 59. McLaughlin House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior,  
Italianate doorway and window trim
- 60. A. H. Miller House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
- 61. Sherman House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

East Side

- 62. The Granite Block, 1835, 1910  
3 stories, 1835 granite first and second stories with wooden trim,  
1910 frame third story with shingled exterior in the Colonial Revival  
style.
- 63. Dillingham House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

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64. J. G. Carver House, by 1859  
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
65. Piper Building, 1859, later remodelled into a hotel  
Mansard, 4 stories, frame with first, second and third stories,  
clapboarded, fourth story slated
66. Philbrook Building, by 1859  
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
67. Spear House, by 1859  
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
68. Pitts House, by 1859  
3½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
- ✓ 69. Philander J. Carleton House, by 1854, remodelled by 1875  
Mansard, 3 stories, frame with first and second stories, clap-  
boarded, third story slated, metal trim
70. S. D. Carlton House, by 1859  
Federal/Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded  
exterior, Italianate trim
71. J. G. Norwood House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, brick with wood and stone trim
72. John Pascal House, by 1859  
Italianate, 2 stories with cupola, frame with clapboarded exterior
73. House, post 1875  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

Summer Street, West to East

North Side

74. J. B. Howard House, by 1859  
Italianate, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
75. Quinn House, by 1859  
Italianate, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

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76. W. G. Morse House, by 1859  
Transitional Greek Revival, Italianate, Cape, 1½ stories,  
frame with clapboarded exterior
77. A. J. Thomas House, by 1859  
Italianate, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
78. House, post 1875  
1 story, frame with shingled exterior
79. House, post 1875  
Queen Anne, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior  
  
South Side
80. J. N. Magune House, by 1859  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with rusticated facade, remainder  
clapboarded
81. Rockport High School, 1892  
Joshua Southard, Builder  
Colonial Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
82. Kugeri House, by 1875  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior  
  
Church Street, West to East  
  
North Side.
83. S. Dexter Carleton House, by 1875  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
84. Shepherd House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
85. Universalist Church, 1844  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior,  
Gothic Revival corner tower, now remodelled into apartments.  
  
South Side
86. Sumner House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior  
(See continuation sheet)

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87. Summer House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2 stories, frame with shingled exterior
88. Fire Engine House, by 1875  
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

Franklin Street, North to South

West Side

89. House, post 1875  
1½ stories, frame with wooden siding  
East Side
90. Paul House, by 1875  
1½ stories, frame with wooden siding
91. E. P. Paul House, by 1875  
1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

Central Street, West to East

North Side

92. Jacob Graham House, 1830  
Federal, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with wooden siding, facade  
windows remodelled
93. Martin House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

South Side

94. Union Hall, c.1858  
Mansard, 3 stories, first and second stories brick with wood and  
granite trim, third story frame with slate exterior
95. Martin Block, c.1848  
Greek Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and granite trim

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96. Carleton (Shepherd) Block, 1891  
Carleton Norwood, Builder, *Blake L. Bush, Architect*  
Romanesque Revival, 3 stories, brick with wood and granite trim

97. Newspaper Office, post 1875  
2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

98. Commercial Building, c.1905  
1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

99. Rockport Opera House, 1891  
Colonial Revival, 2 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

Union Street, North to South

West Side

100. House  
Modern, 2 stories, frame with vertically boarded exterior

101. McLane House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

East Side

102. Merriam House, by 1859  
Italianate, 2 stories, frame with wooden siding

103. Packard House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

104. S. W. Stinson House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with wooden siding

105. Champney House, by 1859  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

106. Andrews House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

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Russell Avenue, West to East

North Side

107. Rockport Public Library  
Colonial Revival, 1 story, frame with clapboarded exterior
108. Talbot House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior,  
Italianate doorway overhang
109. Talbot House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, double house, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded  
exterior, Italianate window trim
110. Talbot House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
111. Alexander Pascal House, by 1859  
Alexander Pascal, Builder  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
112. J. H. Gould House, by 1875  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
113. House, post 1875  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior

South Side

114. Carey House, by 1859  
1½ stories, frame with wooden siding
115. Barrows House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
116. Livery Stable, post 1875  
2 stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
117. J. G. Myers, House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with wooden siding

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West of Russell Avenue

118. Charles Barrett House, c.1837  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, stone with wooden trim
119. House, by 1875  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
120. Huse House, by 1875  
Greek Revival, 1½ stories, frame with shingled exterior
121. H. B. Eaton House, by 1875  
Greek Revival, Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
122. House  
Modern Cape, 1½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
123. House, by 1875  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
124. House, post 1875  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
125. Methodist Parsonage, by 1875  
Italianate, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior
126. Methodist Church, 1874  
Italianate, 2 stories, with tower, frame with clapboarded exterior
127. Page House, by 1859  
Greek Revival, 2½ stories, frame with clapboarded exterior, extensive  
Colonial Revival remodelling.



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SITES

- A. Eels Kilns
- B. Eels Shipyard
- C. Talbot Shipyard
- D. Carleton-Norwood Shipyard
- E. Carleton-Norwood Kilns
- F. Ice House
- G. Kilns

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

First discovered by the explorer, George Weymouth, in 1605, the Camden area, of which the present Rockport was a part, was not permanently settled until the early 1770's. Conflicting land claims were finally settled by the Waldo Patent of 1766 which granted a large area in what is now Waldo and Knox Counties to the heirs of Gen. Samuel Waldo in severalty. A survey was conducted in 1768, by David Fales and settlement began three or four years later. In 1791 Camden was incorporated as a town by the Massachusetts General Court in honor of Lord Camden, a parliamentary friend of the colonists before and during the Revolution.

That part now known as Rockport was originally called Goose Creek but was renamed in 1852 because of the desire of the residents for a more euphonious and appropriate name. In 1891, after a long and acrimonious debate, Rockport, against the wishes of most of its residents, was set off as a separate town by the Maine Legislature.

By this time, Rockport, because of its excellent though small harbor, had become an important seafaring community where shipbuilding and the manufacture of capstans and windlasses, bricks, tinware, boots and shoes was carried on. There was also a considerable ice shipping trade and most importantly the manufacture and shipping of lime, produced in kilns still in existence on the waterfront. (See ~~Rockport Historic Lime Kiln Area - N.R. 1/27/70~~).

After 1900 most of Rockport's commercial enterprises began to decline as Rockland with its much larger harbor became the center of such activity, and change in methods of lime manufacture destroyed that industry. Fortunately, in these same years, its extremely beautiful location and surroundings began to attract an increasing number of summer residents and tourists and its harbor became a yachting center of great popularity. Rockport also became an important summer musical center through the efforts of Mrs. Efreim Zimbalist, Mme Lea Luboshutz, and her brother and his wife, the famed duo-pianists, Luboshutz and Nemenoff, and the Walter Wolfs and their sons Thomas and Andrew who initiated the Bay Chamber Concerts.

Beyond its architectural beauty, Rockport still possesses many reminders in its commercial buildings and its waterfront of its highday as a thriving 19th century Maine seaport.

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property lines on the east side of Union Street and Russell Avenue, turning west along the south property line of House #113. to the junction of Russell Avenue and Winter Street. Following the centerline of Winter Street to its junction with Mechanic Street, the boundary crosses the harbor southwesterly in a straight line from that point to a point on the opposite shore to intersect an extension of the centerline of School Street to the mean high water line. The boundary runs from this point westerly along the center line of School Street to its intersection with Pascal Avenue. Crossing Pascal Avenue, the boundary runs along the southwest property line of the H. L. Shepherd House (#1) thence northeasterly along the rear property lines on the northwesterly side of Pascal Avenue and the southwesterly side of West Street to the northwest property line of the Abel Merriam House (#38) and northeast along this line to West Street. Crossing West Street the boundary runs northeasterly along the northwest property line of the Robert Harkness House (#39), along the rear property line of this same house to the northwest property line of the Shepherd Company Double House (#40) and northeasterly along this line to Pleasant Street. Crossing Pleasant Street the boundary follows the rear property lines on the northwesterly side of Amsbury Street to its intersection with High Street. Crossing High Street at this point the boundary runs in a straight line northeasterly, crossing Goose River to the rear property line on the southwest side of Main Street at the southerly corner of the McLaughlin House (#59). From here it runs northwesterly along the rear property lines on the southwest side of Main Street to the westerly corner of the Sherman House (#61) property, thence northeasterly along the northwest property line of the same house to Main Street and the point of beginning.