

KNOX-CO.SUR
KIRK#4

KNOX COUNTY ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY REPORT

The Knox County Architectural Survey was carried out in four phases beginning in the first half of fiscal year 1981 and lasting into FY 1984. Conducted under the direction of Jeff Cotton (who had previously undertaken the Lincoln County Architectural Survey), this reconnaissance-level project produced some 1,600 survey cards, each of which contains a contact photograph and some form of locational data. These properties are keyed to 7 1/2 minute USGS topographic maps, or to other base maps where appropriate. The original data set is filed at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. No historical information was generated on the properties recorded with the exception of a few buildings in Hope and Thomaston.

Unfortunately, the survey was apparently not completed. A review of the data files at MHPC indicates that no survey was conducted at all in the towns of Cushing, Matinicus Isle Plantation, North Haven, South Thomaston, and Washington. Furthermore, portions of Camden outside of the village, Rockland, St. George, and possibly the southeast section of Union were not surveyed. All of these areas should be considered for further activity.

The survey was designed to record the physical remnants of Knox County's historic built environment. Evidently, all buildings over 50 years of age were surveyed, thereby creating a substantial body of raw data. It should be noted that the recordation process was focussed on residential, commercial, and a handful of industrial properties. Some of the photographs do show agricultural buildings either connected to or detached from their related houses, but in general these structures may be under-represented in

the data base. Likewise, little attention appears to have been given to recording the relationship between farm complexes and the associated agricultural landscape. Further evaluation of these landscapes throughout Knox County hopefully will result in the identification of rural historic districts. Finally, future survey efforts must be directed toward the identification of any historic designed landscapes.

Despite its shortcomings, the survey provides an important source of information from which further preservation planning activities may proceed. It is with this in mind that the following list of properties was compiled from the survey cards. Each entry provides the general stylistic category (Fed: Federal; G. R.: Greek Revival; Ital: Italianate; Col. Rev.: Colonial Revival) and/or historic use of the building and the survey card number. Vernacular dwellings with little or no outward stylistic features are noted simply as "House". Asterisks in the list denote buildings which, from an architectural and in some cases historical perspective, are worthy of further study and possible listing in the National Register of Historic Places. These properties are also mentioned in the Evaluation paragraph at the end of each town's respective list. This provides a brief summary of the architectural impression which this reviewer has gained from an admittedly brief, and in some cases incomplete, visual inspection of a town's historic resources.

It is very important to understand that the study lists have been compiled almost wholly from the standpoint of architectural significance. By definition, a reconnaissance-level survey can provide nothing more. Therefore, it will be necessary to investigate the history of each community in order to identify the names of significant persons and/or historic patterns of development which are reflected in the standing buildings. This

process will in all likelihood augment the study list. Since the MHPC may not, in the near future, be in the position to undertake these studies, local historical societies are encouraged to pursue this task with technical assistance from the Commission. Given the statutory requirements of the Growth Management Act, this activity may in fact be taking place.

As of this writing (March, 1991) over 58 individual Knox County properties and 5 historic districts are listed in the National Register. One additional district is pending as are members of the Windjammer Schooner fleet. Hopefully, additional properties worthy of preservation will be identified through this process.

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Town: Union**Route 235**

G. R. House, U-1
 G. R. House, U-2 (1/2 Cape)
 Ital. House, U-3
 G. R. House, U-4
 G. R. House, U-5
 Col. Rev. House, U-6
 G. R. House, U-7
 G. R. House, U-8
 Ital. House, U-9
 Bungalow, U-10
 House, U-11
 Bungalow, U-12
 House, U-13
 House, U-14
 Ital. House, U-15
 House, U-16
 House, U-17
 *Industrial Complex, U-18
 Bungalow, U-19
 House, U-20
 House, U-21
 Bungalow, U-22
 Ital. House, U-23
 House, U-24
 G. R. House, U-25
 House, U-26
 G. R. House, U-27
 Gothic/Ital. House, U-28
 Methodist Church, U-29
 *Fed./G. R. House, U-30
 Fed. House, U-31
 G. R./Ital. House, U-32
 G. R. House, U-33
 Comm. Bldg., U-34
 House, U-35
 Ital. House, U-36
 House, U-37
 G. R. House, U-38
 House, U-39
 G. R. House, U-40
 G. R. House, U-41
 G. R. House, U-42
 Fed. House, U-43
 G. R. House, U-44
 Fed. House and Barn, U-45

Route 17

House, U-46
 Ital. House, U-47
 *G. R. House, U-48 (flush
 sheathed facade)
 G. R. House, U-49

Route 131

G. R. House and Barn, U-50
 G. R. House, U-51
 Fed. House, U-52
 Fed./G. R. House and Barn, U-53
 Fed./G. R. House, U-54
 House, U-55
 *Fed. House, U-56 (similar to
 Alden House)

Middle Road

Ital. House, U-57
 Fed./G. R. House, U-58
 G. R. House, U-59
 G. R. House, U-60
 Fed./G. R. House, U-61
 Fed. House, U-62
 Queen Anne House, U-63

Route 131

Ital. House, U-64
 Fed./G. R. House, U-65
 G. R. House, U-66
 Ital. House, U-67
 *Factory Bldg., U-68
 Mill Bldg., U-69
 Fed./G. R. House, U-70
 Fed. House, U-71
 Fed. House, U-72
 *Fed. House, U-73
 G. R./Ital. House and Barn, U-74
 House, U-75
 Fed. House and Barn, U-76
 G. R. House, U-77
 House, U-78
 Thompson Memorial School, U-79

Evaluation

Union's extant historic resources include a fairly large number of Federal and Greek Revival buildings, most of which are of modest design. A large percentage have also been altered. Few of the historic structures date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. There are a number of buildings worthy of further study including #s U-18, U-30, U-48, U-56, U-68, and U-73. Numbers U-68 and U-18 are industrial complexes.