Architectural Survey Report 000389

ACAD 1

THE BLUE DUCK

Islesford, Maine
Acadia National Park
August 1969

By

Architect O. W. Carroll
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Division of Historic Architecture
National Park Service

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Boston National Park Service Group
Post Office Box 160
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

August 4, 1969

Memorandum

To: H. A. Judd, Chief, Historic Architecture, OAHP

From: Architect Carroll, Minute Man NHP

Subject: Report on "The Blue Duck," Acadia NP

Monday, July 14, I inspected the building called "The Blue Duck," as requested by Mr. Palmer, Assistant Regional Director, NERO, in a memorandum written to Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. I was accompanied by Mr. Howard Warren, Maintenance Superintendent, who drove me from the Visitor's Center to Northeast Harbor, where we were boated across to Little Cranberry Isle, arriving in Islesford at 9:30 a.m. We left Islesford at 2:50 p.m. for our return trip back.

Mr. Warren and I spent approximately one hour interviewing Mr. Elmer Hadlock in his home at Islesford. Mr. Hadlock is a direct descendent of the Hadlock family who originally settled the island. He permitted us to examine several personal items relating to his family's history. Later, Mr. Hadlock accompanied us back to "The Blue Duck," during the course of the architectural investigation.

Other than lifting two short floor boards on the 2nd floor to confirm the existence of an early stairway, the writer did not remove any building fabric. A more detailed architectural investigation of the structure would be required if the decision is made to retain the building as an integral part of the islands interpretation by the National Park Service.

On Tuesday, July 15, I met with Superintendent Good and Robert Benniweiss to discuss the results of my architectural investigation. This information is summarized in the accompanying report. I returned to Concord, Massachusetts, Tuesday afternoon arriving at 7:30 p.m.

Orville W. Carroll

Orville W. Carroll

cc:
Supterintendent Acadia NP w/Report
Associate Regional Director Palmer, NERO, w/Report

H2215

H

HHA

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, WASO

From: Associate Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Blue Duck at Acadia

Reference is made to my conversation with Hank Judd, Monday, April 21, concerning an historic structure at Acadia known as the Blue Duck. Superintendent Good has indicated that the building is of questionable historic value and in addition is in extreme disrepair. To date we have been unable to program any research on the building and we see no likelihood of doing so before fiscal year 1972 or 1973.

Would you please try to send Building Restoration Specialist Orville Carroll who is now at Minute Man up to Acadia for a one or two day trip to give us a professional opinion on whether the building can and should be saved until its historical value can be determined. He may be able to report on such architectural values as the building may or may not have.

George A. Palmer

cc:
Supt., Acadia

I FOREWORD

The objective of writing this report is namely (1) provide a brief introductory sketch of the area and its early history (2) provide a brief description of the physical changes that have occurred to the building since its initial construction and (3) to describe the existing structural conditions of the building fabric. Most of the information pertaining to its physical changes were obtained by studying photographs compiled years ago by the Islesford Historical Society. Several of these photographs have been copied and are included at the end of this report.

II HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Town of Cranberry Isles, situated to the south and east of Mt. Desert Island, Maine, is comprised of five islands; Big Cranberry Isle, Little Cranberry Isle, Baker Island, Sutton Island, and Bear Island. The building with which this report is concerned, "The Blue Duck," is located in Islesford, a small settlement found on the northwest side of Little Cranberry Isle.

Samuel Hadlock (V) of Ipswich, Massachusetts, moved to Mt. Desert Island in 1785 and settled at Manchester Point near Northeast Harbor.[1] His son, Samuel Hadlock (VI) 1770 - 1854, later moved across the harbor to Little Cranberry Isle, according to family tradition, in 1791, where he acquired a large part of the island property and was instrumental in establishing the waterfront settlement now called Islesford.[2] Samuel (VI) built one of the first commercial waterfront buildings in Islesford in

---

[1] Typewritten research paper on the Hadlock family, written by William Otis Sawtelle, now in possession of Mr. Elmer Hadlock, Islesford, Maine. Hereinafter called Hadlock family history (ca. 1927).

[2] Ibid.

1808[3] which was used as a store and may have served for that purpose up until it was removed in the early 1900's. (See photo Illustration Nos. 1 and 2.) "The Blue Duck" was constructed sometime after 1848, most likely 1850.[4] It was built by or for Edwin Hadlock (VII) 1814-1875, son of Samuel Hadlock (VI), and was used as a ships chandler, serving the maritime trade for, at least, a period of 25 years. At the time it was built, it may have been called Hadlock's "New Store."[5]

As early as 1858, the "new" store was operated jointly by two sons of Edwin Hadlock, Gilbert theodore (1837-1913) and William E. (d. ca. 1911).[6] Although not definitely known, the mercantile business seems to have ceased operations about 1875. An Islesford Market sign appears above the west doorway in photo Illustration No. 3, indicating possibly the building was operated as a general store after 1875. The last member of the Hadlock family to own the building was George Hadlock. Around 1912,[7] George Hadlock converted the interior of the 1st floor into apartments. Soon after, the building was sold to a Harvard College Professor, William Otis Sawtelle.

William Otis Sawtelle became interested in the history of Little Cranberry Island, and the Hadlock family in particular. He took up summer residence there and soon formed the Islesford Historical Society and a small arts group called "The Islesford Painters." By 1919, a sizeable collection of Island memorabilia had been collected and placed on exhibition in the 1850 building which became the first home for the Islesford Historical Society.[8] (See photo Illustration No. 6.) A few years later

---

3 [3]Dated photograph compiled by the Islesford Historical society. Album part of the Park Museum accessions.

[4]Op. Cit., Hadlock Family History.

[5]Entitled the "New" Store in Photograph Album (Footnote No. 3).

[6]1858 Day Book and others now in possession of Elmer Hadlock, Islesford.

[7]Elmer Hadlock interview July 14, 1969.

[8]Dated photograph by Islesford Historical Society.

it was decided that the historical collection needed a more permanent building. At the instigation of Professor Sawtelle, enough money was donated to erect in 1927, the present three room brick museum. (See photo Illustration No. 11.) The two buildings along with an acre of land, more or less, were donated to the Acadia National Park. William Sawtelle's grave, marked by a granite stone, lies to the rear of the museum.

III ARCHITECTURAL CHANGES

The name "The Blue Duck" was given to the 1850 building by William Sawtelle.[9] As indicated before, it was probably called "The New Store" in 1850; later, we definitely know it carried the name of Islesford Market. (See photo Illustration No. 3.) The architectural changes made to the exterior of the structure can be studied, in part, from photo Illustration Nos. 1 through 11, included in the appendix. The major changes can be listed as follows;

A. Exterior Changes:

1. East gable end: probably no changes made in the location of the four original windows and one double door. Original 6 over 6 light, double hung sash removed and replaced with 2 over 2 light sash about 1912. Door glass may have been added at this time. Shingles nailed over clapboards. Platform or steps, if any, missing from door front. Window blinds removed ca. 1890.

2. South side: two window openings cut into south wall, one window placed on either side of double doorway; door panels altered. Clapboard replacement at lower level noted. Beach level raised over eighteen inches since 1915. Foundation joints pointed ca. 1946 and painted gray ca. 1946 (Hadlock-Sturling interview July 14).

---

[9]According to Elmer Hadlock. Interview July 14, 1969. See photo Illustration No. 10. The placement of wooden figures above doorways seems

Short dock missing from south doorway.

3. West gable end: Second floor windows removed about 1915, (6 light over 6) then enlarged about 1920 to their present size and shape, 2 over 2 light, double hung sash. 1st floor changes not determined by investigation but it seems certain that the present double doors are not original and that perhaps a single door occupied this location. Window fenestration is not known. More architectural investigation needs to be done.

4. North side: the original openings in the north wall consisted of two door openings; the central double doorway and one single doorway near the extreme west corner leading to a 2nd floor stairway. About 1916, the stairway was removed and the door opening boarded over. Next to the old doorway, a single window was cut through the wall (existing opening) and on either side of the double doors, two double windows cere cut into the wall (existing openings--see photo illustration nos. 1 and 5). The window glass could have been added to the upper part of the doors and used with removable blinds. One blind in storage in loft space.

5. Roof: the original roof covering was wooden shingles capped at the ridge with comb boards. The 24 inch eave overhang and the 12 to 14 inch gable overhang is a typical building detail in this area including the mainland. The present roof covering is asphalt shingles in poor condition. The second brick chimney was added to the east end between 1900-1908.

6. Foundation: The existing masonry work seems to be the original foundation walls but the south wall has been repointed. In ca. 1945, the masonry work was painted gray according to Mr. Spurling, Caretaker. The rocky beach has built up over 18

inches in depth since 1915.

B. Interior Changes:

Less information is known about the interior changes on the 1st floor. The writer found evidence of a small stairway once built in the northwest corner of the building. A 1916 pamphlet was found under the short floor boards, 2nd floor level, as well as the original stair header. A new central stairway was constructed prior to 1915 (according to the memory of Elmer Hadlock who recalls the stairway and two rooms on the 1st floor in 1915). There are now several rooms on the 1st floor, dates undetermined. Most rooms seem to date after 1900. Over 15 years ago, the National Park Service installed rest rooms on the 1st floor; these are still kept in operating condition for public use. The east end contails two rooms that are used for occasional summer quarters for NPS personnel.

The 2nd floor loft space remains virtually unchanged. Shortly after 1900, a small room was constructed in the northeast corner of the loft and recently the NPS has built wooden racks for the storage of museum pieces not on display. Some removal of lath from the knee walls was noticed (ca. 1920?).

IV EXISTING CONDITIONS

General Description: The "Blue Duck" is a wooden frame building, one and a half stories high, measuring 28' 6" x 49'. It is constructed predominately of spruce lumber, all sawn with a vertical saw. Machine cut nails and spikes were used in the original construction. The south wall borders immediately on the waters edge.

A. 1st floor joists and sills: the 1st floor joists seem to be hemlock and measure 6" x $8\frac{1}{4}$" spaced 3 ft. on centers. These in turn

are supported at third points by 12" unpeeled hemlock logs surfaced on the top and bottom sides. These joists, stringers, and floor boards are in very good condition but are kept kamp along the south wall by sea water seeping through holes in the foundation wall. This condition should be corrected. The ground surface of the crawl space consists of smooth stones & gravel in clean condition. The south foundation sill under the south doorway has rotted away (perhaps more). This should have immediate attention as well as the south door sill; both pieces should be duplicated in size & shape when replaced.

B. Frame and roof: The walls of the building are constructed of 6" x 6" posts of spruce on 3 ft. centers and are covered with 1" sheathing boards 8" to 15" wide. Spruce clapboards 3/8" - ½" x 5½" x 47" - 49" long are spaced 3" - 3¼" to the weather and are nailed on with machine cut nails. Corner board pairs measure 7/8" x 4-3/8" and 7/8" x 5-3/8". The wall posts (or studding) extend past the 2nd floor level about 3'-6" somewhat akin to balloon framing.

The wall plates measure 6-3/4" x 7". The rafters rest directly on the plate and extend 24" beyond the wall to form the boxed in cornice. The rafters measure 4" x 6" and are spaced on 4 ft. centers. Collar ties, 4" x 6", are notched 1½" into the rafters at about midway or about eight feet above the floor. These are nailed to the rafter with cut spikes. At the ridge, the rafters butt each other on a plumb cut and are held together with a 1" wooden gusset plate. The spruce roof sheathing measures 1" x 10" - 15" wide and lies parallel with the wall plates.

The condition of the framework and sheathing is in good conition. No deterioration was noticed with the exception of some roof sheathing

where leaking occurs in the asphalt shingles.

C. Interior: Much of the interior has been altered since 1900. Some original floor boards (three 1st floor rooms) still remain intact and all the 2nd floor has original floorboards. On the 1st floor, only the extreme west room has ceiling and wall boards (excluding the partition) that could date from 1850. The remaining rooms have wall and ceiling sheathing boards that seem modern, perhaps 1915. The extreme east end of the 1st floor has been divided into two rooms, occasionally utilized as quarters. One room contains a cookstove and wall cabinets (with a hardwood floor). Adjacent to these rooms is one long room running full length north and south, containing museum pieces, photographs, etc. The central part of the 1st floor is occupied by the stairway & entry hall, and to the south, a small toilet. Adjacent to the west room are men; & women's rest rooms installed over 15 years ago by the NPS; the floor covering in this area is linoleum.

Restoration of the interior space may be difficult to perform in view of so many changes. The loft space remains virtually unchanged. It is a space open to the rafters.

V CONCLUSIONS

Architecturally speaking, "The Blue Duck" has little to offer. It is am extremely plain building dating from the 1850, which has undergone, like most buildings, minor architectural changes to the interior and exterior while retaining its basic original form. Structurally, it is in good condition and cannot be condemned from that point of view. Of the four local persons contacted, all expressed strong desires to have the building preserved; there is local interest.

Restoration of the exterior, if undertaken, presents several problems

such as (1) lowering of the beach front some 18" or more (2) rebuilding of the long and short wharves (3) changes of window and door locations will affect the natural lighting of the interior rooms (4) restoring the old roadway around the north and west sides of the building (5) eliminating the exterior appearance of the vent stacks (these could utilize the original flue), (6) restoring the original grade around the structure.

The following suggestions (not recommendations) are offered in dealing with the structure: (1) complete restoration (2) exterior restoration with the ramifications listed above (3) selling the structure and removing it from NPS property (4) revitalization of the Islesford Historical Society and the deeding of the 1927 museum, "The Blue Duck" and the land to the Society, then abandoning Little Cranberry Isle (5) razing the structure (the writer does not recommend this approach because of Island sentiment).

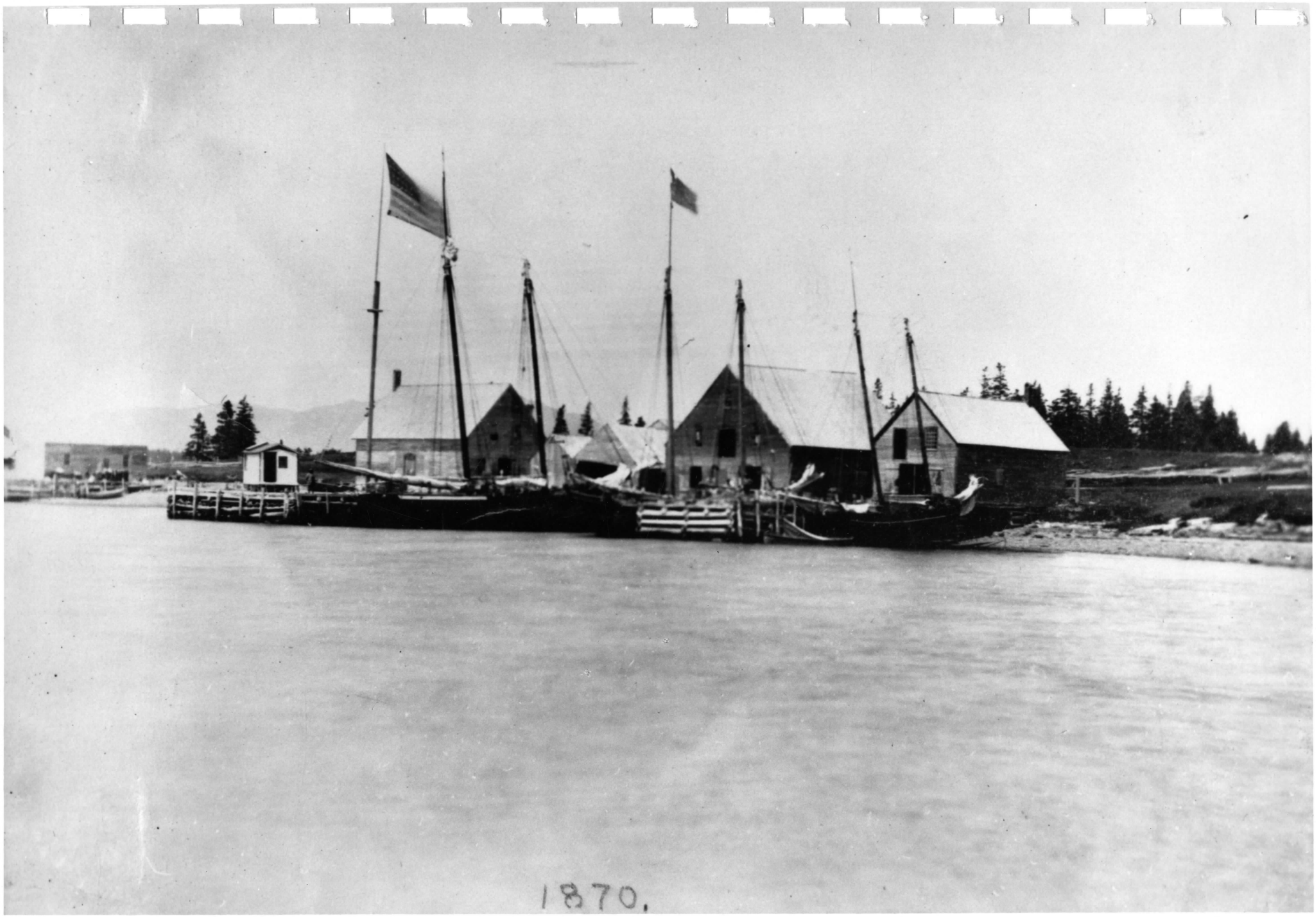
VI RECOMMENDED REPAIRS (MINIMUM)

1. Repoint south stone foundation wall w/matching mortar.
2. Replace rotted foundation sill, south wall.
3. Replace rotted door sill, south doorway. Match original sill.
4. Paint clapboards white (white lead & oil, two coats).
5. Paint trim, doors & window sash, historic color (white lead & oil w/tinting colors, two coats).
6. Remove asphalt roof & replace with white cedar shingles (extra grade) having comb boards to match old photographs.
7. Protect 1st floor joists & foundation sill from moisture.
8. Replace poor clapboards where necessary & renail w/cut nails.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 1

Oldest known photograph taken of "The Blue Duck" which is the building to the left having the single end chimney. Notice seemingly lack of windows along the south or waterfront side of the structure. Building in center (gable facing water) was buildt in 1808, and was the first Samuel Hadlock store.

Photograph by: Mr. Bragg (Tintype) July 4, 1870
Copy negative in Acadia NP



1870.

ILLUSTRATION NO. 2

View from the northwest. Location of window and door openings on west gable end remain unchanged. Center double doors, north wall, remain unchanged but single doorway near east end has been removed. Pamphlet dated 1916 was found under short floor boards on 2nd floor indicating the original stairway could have been removed at this time. Dark color of double doors suggest no glass in doors but there is a possibility that removable blinds could have been used to cover glass for protection. Notice 6 over 6 light window sash, wooden shingle roof with comb boards.

Photograph credit given to B. T. Williston, ca. 1880's
Copy negative in Acadia NP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 3

View of southwest end of building. Notice sign over door "Islesford Market." Window sash are still 6 over 6 lights. It appears some changes have been made to 1st floor door and window openings in the west end; more architectural study needs to be done to determine the original conditions. The window opening and blind on the south wall may be a later addition when compared to the windowless wall in Illustration No. 1. The brick museum built in 1927 centers in line with the wharf of this view.

Photograph by: B. T. Williston, ca. 1895
Copy negative in Acadia NP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 4

William Sawtelle standing in west doorway of "The Blue Duck." The far chimney was added between 1900 - 1908. The old 6 over 6 light, double hung sash have been removed and replaced with 2 over 2 light sash. In the south wall, an additional window opening was added right of the doorway and the double doors altered. The blind has been removed from the left window (south wall). Notice the pointed trim board above the door which is not part of the narrower double door in the west end. The level of the rocky beach along the foundation wall appears to be about four feet below the foundation sill. Today this depth has been reduced to about thirty inches or 2½ feet.

Photographer: Unknown, probably B. T. Williston, ca. 1916
Copy negative in Acadia NP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 5

View from northwest showing additions and changes to the window and door fenestration. The original single door leading to the narrow stairway in the northwest corner has been removed and a single window cut into the wall immediately to the left. Two window openings have been cut on each side of the north double doors and paint applied to the sash and doors. The arched chimney cap has been removed. The old road leading to the wharf can been seen in the foreground. Recently dug well shows in lower right. Sign on glass door reads, Islesford Historical Society.

Photograph by: B. T. Williston, ca. 1919
Copy negative in Acadia NP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 6

Interior view of west room, 1st floor, looking northeast, two weeks after exhibits of local island history had been arranged. The wooden wall and ceiling boards (excluding the new partition and wainscot) are probably the original room finish. Ceiling scuttle may be original. Window opening dates to about 1916. The partition probably dates shortly before photo was taken in 1919. A small stove appears in the left foreground.

Photograph by: B. T. Williston, 1919
Copy negative in Acadia NP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 7

View from the southwest approximately where the 1927 museum stands. The old store of 1808 was removed sometime after 1900. To the east of "The Blue Duck" is the old coal wharf, still standing. Notice that there are larger 2 over 2 light sash in the west gable end, 2nd floor. Why longer sash were needed is not known.

Photographer unknown, probably B. T. Williston ca. 1920
Copy negative in Acadia NP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 8

Present day view of "The Blue Duck" as seen from the old coal wharf, looking northwest. The east gable end is now shingles over clapboards. The present roof is asphalt shingles, very deteriorated near the west end. Notice the rotted foundation sill under the south door. The structure is much like it was left in ca. 1920. The west wharf is gone as well as the short dock opposite the south double doors. The short beach between the coal wharf and "The Blue Duck" is the Town Landing, a public right of way. Vent stack in roof is for modern plumbing.

Photograph by: Howard Warren, July 1969
Copy negative in Acadia NP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 9

Present day view looking southeast. The ground elevation is approximately eight inches higher than 1915. The old road to the wharf has been obliterated. The west room, 1st floor, is currently used as an access to rest rooms on the interior. Some exhibits are on display.

Photograph by: Howard Warren, July 1969
Copy negative in Acadia NP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 10

Symbol of "The Blue Duck" as seen over the north doorway. Notice unusual construction of lock rail in door. The glass in the doors seem to match the ca. 1915 window sash but the doors still have cast iron split leaf hinges and cast iron thumb latches that could date back to 1850. A wooden blind in the attic appears to be the size of the present door glass.

Photograph by: Howard Warren, July 1969
Copy negative in Acadia NP



ILLUSTRATION NO. 11

Front or south view of the 1927 museum.

Photograph by: Howard Warren, July 1969
Copy negative in Acadia NP

