



## Old Town Canoe Factory

Old Town, Maine

*Maine Historic Building Record (MHBR No. 79)*

The Old Town Canoe Factory in Old Town, Maine is a complex of industrial buildings dedicated to the construction of canoes and various other water vessels from 1900 until 2009. Old Town Canoe is a well-known Maine brand and an important element of the state's history as a center for outdoor recreation.

The site of the Old Town Canoe Factory is located along the former right-of-way of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad and a short distance from the Penobscot River. Previously on the site was a shoe factory, which was purchased by the Gray family in 1901. The Grays began expanding canoe manufacturing, requiring additional buildings.

The first substantial addition came in 1907 and growth continued through the 19th and 20th centuries.

Old Town Canoe quickly became widely known and popular among outdoor sportsmen. The company was known for the quality of their craftsmanship and cutting edge technology for canoe construction. Although the powerboat industry eventually became more and more popular, Old Town Canoe developed new models and used new materials to continue production. The Old Town Canoe Factory remained in use until 2009 when new facilities were constructed.

