

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0689742

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | NOV 7 1978 |
| DATE ENTERED | DEC 22 1978 |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Gen. John Williams House (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON The Mason House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 62 High Street

CITY, TOWN Bangor VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

STATE Maine CODE 23 COUNTY Penobscot CODE 019

CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Ellen R. Lewis

STREET & NUMBER 56 High Street

CITY, TOWN Bangor VICINITY OF STATE Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Penobscot County Registry of Deeds
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Bangor STATE Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The General John Williams House, built between 1822 and 1825, is a solid two and a half story west-facing building of brick with granite trim in the Federal style. The building has an asphalt gabled roof and four internal end chimneys.

The second story of the five-bay facade contains 6/6 windows. One window is centered with a pair of windows symmetrically placed on each side. Leading to the first story central doorway is a set of five granite steps. The recessed doorway itself features flush sidelights and a fan above, partially hidden by an exterior granite lintel. All of the windows in the house, as well as the central doorway, have granite lintels. A pair of windows, each identical to those in the second story, appear on each side of the doorway.

On the north and south ends of the building, three windows appear in the first two stories, with one window in each story off to one side. The half story contains twin windows which are slightly smaller than those elsewhere in the building. A black cast-iron fire escape is attached to the north wall. In addition to the 2½ stories, there is a partial basement with a small granite-framed casement window and a full-size window appearing on each side. All of the windows in the building, with the exception of these basement windows, are flanked by exterior wooden louvered shutters.

8 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input 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 1822-1825

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the few Federal houses in Bangor and almost certainly the oldest brick residence in the city, the Gen. John Williams House is closely tied through its first owner to the early history of the area.

Originally the lot at 62 High Street was part of the tract owned by James Dunning, one of the first proprietors in Condukeag, as the region was then known. It appears as "Lot no. 10" on the famous Park Holland survey of 1795. Dunning's heirs sold the land to Jeremiah Dudley in 1800 and his holding is shown as "Lot no. 16" on Moses Hodsdon's survey of 1801. No buildings are shown on this location on either survey.

After passing through several owners, the lot was sold to John Williams in 1822 by Andrew Morse. The City of Bangor Tax Records indicate that in 1825 a house was first assessed against Williams.

Born in 1791, John Williams first appears in recorded history in 1814 as a sergeant of artillery in the local militia under General Blake which was ignominiously dispersed by the British, who then occupied Hampden and Bangor. In 1818 Williams, now a 2nd Lieutenant, was in charge of a unit honoring Commander-in-Chief, John Brooks. By 1823 he had risen to the rank of Major and is recorded as insisting successfully on the proper observance of July 4th as Independence Day.

In 1824, in the saddle and harness business, Williams was listed among 29 leading businessmen and merchants in Bangor. Four years later he was placed in charge of the "Washington Engine", a unit of the Bangor Fire Department, and also in that year, 1828, received his commission as Brigadier General in command of the Bangor Militia. He was one of the four original incorporators of the Bangor Mechanic Association, founded for the cultural improvement of artisans and craftsmen. In 1830 he became the second president of this prestigious organization which still exists in support of the famous Bangor Public Library.

Williams was appointed Register of Probate for Penobscot County in 1842 and served until 1849. He died on June 16, 1868.

In 1835 Rev. William Mason acquired title to the property and resided there with Dr. John Mason, a wellknown Bangor physician. The house remained in the Mason Family until 1955, when it was purchased by the present owner.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Godfrey, John E., Annals of the City of Bangor and Penobscot County, 1626-1882, Boston, 1882.
 City of Bangor Tax Records.
 Park Holland Survey, 1795.
 Moses Hodsdon's Lot Plan, 1801.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4

UTM REFERENCES

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 0 |
| ZONE | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | | | | |

B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ZONE | | EASTING | | | | NORTHING | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*City Sheet 42, Parcel 102
 (per Frank Beard, 12-15-78 SD)*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE October 1978

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street

TELEPHONE 207/289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta

STATE Maine

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Charles S. Hitt

TITLE S.H.P.O.

DATE 11/2/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles S. Hitt
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Charles S. Hitt
 MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Mary Ann...*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12 22 78
 DATE 12/28/78