

PH0365521

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 27 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 16 1977

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

(Quillcote) - Kate Douglas Wiggin House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Salmon Falls Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Hollis Center vic. VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st Hon David Emery

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

York

CODE

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Frances Turner Lasley

STREET & NUMBER

Quillcote, Salmon Falls Road

CITY, TOWN

Hollis

VICINITY OF

Maine

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

York County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Alfred

Maine

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 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 wood-frame Kate Douglas Wiggins House in Hollis, Maine, was begun in 1797. Work for the house was first started by Jabez Bradbury and completed in the nineteenth century by his neighbor Thomas Carrll after the two men decided to swap homes. In 1905 the house was purchased in sections from the Carrll Heirs by the authoress Kate Douglass Wiggin. Appropriately, she and her sister named the house "Quillcote" which means home of the pen.

The 2½ story gable facade has a portico, with two Doric columns of Federal style. To each side of the entryway are two bays of windows, with a second tier of similarly placed windows overhead. Above the portico is a single window, and above this -- over the cornice line which extends across the gable facade--is a third tier of three windows. The extension of the cornice across the gable facade gives the structure a pervasive Greek Revival look. Over the central window on the third tier is a pointed wooden ornament passively Gothic in inspiration. The north and south sides of this nineteenth century section have two tiers of two windows each, with chimneys running inside the house and between the bays.

Behind this front section Quillcote narrows to its original two-story part, which contains upstairs bedrooms as well as a sitting room, breakfast room and kitchen with pantries on the first floor. From the kitchen extends the shed and storerooms until they terminate at the red clapboard barn. This original portion of the house has a single chimney with a main fireplace and Dutch oven in the kitchen typical of early New England house plans.

Kate Douglas Wiggin decorated and furnished Quillcote in a Colonial Revival style with occasional English touches. Her criteria for decorating the house was that "all furnishings were to be as beautiful and fitting as possible but that nothing was to be rare or expensive" for she wished to make Quillcote homelike and attractive.

Quillcote's windows are made of imperfect glass. In form they alternate six panes over six and, in the ones installed later, nine panes over six. The sittingroom has seven "Christian Doors" which have six panels that form crosses. A bay window was added to this room during its 1905 restoration. Other additions include a "jog" added to the front section to make room for a desk in the library.

The room on the second floor above the sittingroom has a curved ceiling which indicates that it was formerly a small ballroom. There is a musician's balcony over the back staircase that has been partitioned off from the rest of the room. In 1905 a small balcony was added to this room, now a bedroom, when the bay window on the sitting room was complete.

While still decorated with many of its 1905 furnishings (executed by both domestic and foreign craftsmen) perhaps the most intriguing and unique room in Quillcote is the Painted Room. This room is decorated entirely with painted landscapes above wainscoting in muted colors and a gold frieze border running along the top of the room. This work dates from 1820, and was discovered during Wiggin's restoration of Quillcote when many layers of wallpaper were peeled from the wall. Some areas were re-touched in 1910 by E.P. Lee Hall from New York's Metropolitan Museum, and today the unvarnished (see continuation sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 27 1976
DATE ENTERED	SEP 16 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7 PAGE

2

walls are in an amazing state of preservation.

A harbor scene with fern-like trees and shrubs continues on to a pastoral landscape. Over a mantle two tall trees frame a row of box-shaped houses and a church with smaller trees set against jagged mountains. On another wall a single square brick house with gambrel roof and double chimney stands amid rolling countryside. These frescoes are generally attributed to Rufus Porter (1792-1884); an early New England muralist.

Apart from the history and legends which surround Quillcote, the home has a unique architectural value. The story of Quillcote is one of additions and alteration, for it has grown from a basic farmhouse plan through successive generations, until it is a unique composition of new and old. As the home of a famous American authoress, and as architecture which has survived as a comfortable aggregation of styles and tastes, Quillcote is a structure of broad significance.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 3 1977
DATE ENTERED	SEP 16 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

(This description replaces original Item 7)

The Kate Douglas Wiggin House in Hollis, Maine, is of wood-frame construction with granite foundation, white clapboard siding (match-board in the gable end of the main facade), and asbestos shingled roof. The main part of the house is of 2½ stories, dominating ells of 2 stories and 1 story.

The principal facade faces east and is five bays wide. A pair of nine-over-six double-hung sash windows flank each side of the central entrance. The entrance features a dignified portico supported by two fluted columns in the Doric order with denticulated entablature above. The doorway has transom lights (7 panes) and sidelights (4 panes each side). The door is panelled. The second story carries five six-over-six double hung windows. The third story, in the gable end, has three windows, a central twelve-over-eight flanked by six-over-six windows. Above the central window is a Gothic arch enclosing a single louvered shutter.

The south wall of the main part of the house is two bays wide and two stories high. It contains two nine-over-six in the first story and two six-over-six windows in the second. The north wall is one bay wide with a nine-over-six window below a six-over-six.

Running to the north from the main part of the house is a two-story ell with nine-over-six windows below six-over-six. On its east facade is a doorway next to the junction of this ell and the main part of the house. This doorway has sidelights of five panes.

To the west (rear) of the front of the house is a two-story ell similar in detail to the north ell. Beyond that to the west is a long one-story continuation which also contains nine-over-six windows. This one-story structure leads to a red clapboarded barn of 1½ stories.

Chronologically, the two-story west ell and 1-story sheds beyond date from 1797, a prominent post-colonial feature being the kitchen fireplace with Dutch oven. The main part of the house and the north ell date somewhat later in the first half of the 19th century, and are stylistically Greek Revival with a hint of the Gothic Revival above the central window in the facade half story.

All of the windows in "Quillcote" are flanked by black louvered shutters.

Three chimneys are present--in the west ell, and in the north and south walls of the main part of the house.

Internally, the house has some interesting features, particularly a second-floor room with a curved ceiling which was a small ballroom with musician's balcony, and the "Painted Room" which features murals above wainscoting. These murals are attributed to Rufus Porter (1792-1884), an itinerant muralist of New England. Minor restoration on these paintings was effected in 1910 by B.P. Lee Hall of New York's Metropolitan Museum, and today they are remarkably well preserved.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1797

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For all its interest as an evolving rural architectural specimen, "Quillcote" derives primary significance as the summer residence and home in later life of the distinguished educator and author, Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Born Kate Douglas Smith on September 28, 1856 in Philadelphia, she and her sister, Nora, lost their father at a very early age and, with their mother, moved to Portland, Maine. Shortly thereafter her mother remarried and the family went to live at the home of her new husband in Hollis, Maine, where Kate spent the remainder of her childhood. Her education was a curious mixture of tutoring by her stepfather, a year at Gorham Female Seminary, and attendance at Abbott Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.

In 1873 the family moved to Santa Barbara, California in hopes of repairing the failing health of her stepfather. His death three years later left the family in serious financial straits. In an effort to produce some income, Kate wrote and sold her first children's story to St. Nicholas Magazine. She also enrolled in a kindergarten normal training class at a time when pre-school children's education was just emerging as a new movement. With her naturally warm and happy temperament, she proved to be, as one contemporary described her, "an ideal kindergartner". After a short period as head of a private kindergarten in Santa Barbara, she was chosen by the Public Kindergarten Society of San Francisco to organize the first free kindergarten in California. This was located in Silver St., a wretched slum, where she quickly established communication with the local residents and organized a successful establishment. She also set up a kindergarten teacher training school at which her sister was one of the first pupils. Silver Street was always close to her heart and long after leaving California, she continued to raise money in its behalf.

In 1881 she was married to Samuel Bradley Wiggin, a Boston lawyer and friend of long standing. Three years later the Wiggins moved to New York City where Kate wrote, in 1889, The Birds' Christmas Carol to provide funds for Silver Street. It was an enormous success. Samuel Wiggin died later the same year, and, suffering from despondency and ill-health, she returned to Hollis, Maine for the summer. From then until her death she found rest and comfort in this quiet town.

With the publication of Timothy's Quest in 1890, her literary career was established and the remainder of her life was devoted to writing and an exhausting schedule of lectures and readings in the United States and Europe where she established a high reputation. On one of her trips abroad she met on shipboard,
(see continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wiggin, Kate Douglas My Garden of Memory, New York, 1923
 Smith, Nora Archibald, Kate Douglas Wiggin as Her Sister Knew Her, Boston, 1925
 Nalon, R.F., The Lady of Quillcote, Down East Magazine, August, 1975

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	374430	4828075	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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
 Stephen Kaplen, Graduate Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

October 1976

STREET & NUMBER

31 Western Avenue

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

Earle S. Shettleworth, Jr.

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

October 22, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

Wm J. Mumford
Charles [Signature]

DATE

9/16/77

DATE

9-15-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 27 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 16 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

George C. Riggs, a New York manufacturer whom she married in 1895. He took great interest and pride in her career during the remainder of their life together.

Her literary output increased and was crowned in 1903 by her greatest children's book, Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm which she later rewrote as a play. This drama was a tremendous popular success on both sides of the Atlantic.

In 1905 she purchased the old farm house in Hollis which she had admired since childhood and named it "Quillcote", meaning house of the pen. Although still spending much time travelling, "Quillcote" was from this time forward the scene of most of her literary production which included, in 1911, Mother Cary's Chickens, also transmuted into a highly successful play. She found time as well to contribute much to the local community not the least of which was the annual tradition of presenting her short play. The Old Peabody Pew, in the Tory Hill Meeting House in the neighboring town of Buxton.

During her later years many honors were bestowed upon her including a Litt. D. degree from Bowdoin College which she particularly treasured. In 1917 a ten volume edition of her collected writings was published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Her autobiography, My Garden of Memories, was published shortly after her death which occurred in England in 1923, when she was serving as a delegate to the Dickens Fellowship. Her ashes were scattered on the Saco River near "Quillcote".