

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Capt. John P. Nichols House

and/or common Homeport Inn

2. Location

street & number Route 1 US 1 N/A not for publication

city, town Searsport, N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Maine code 23 county Waldo code 027

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 checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. & Mrs. F. George Johnson

street & number Homeport Inn; Route 1

city, town Searsport, N/A vicinity of Maine state Maine 04974

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waldo County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Belfast, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 John P. Nichols House is of the classic, hipped-roofed, "cubic" type, having two and one-half stories, a three-bayed facade, two-bayed sides, and a consoled belydere flanked by two chimneys. The house is sited seventy to eighty feet from Route One, just outside the village of Searsport, and presently serves as an Inn.

The only noticeable alteration to the house's facade has been the removal of the original Italianate portico (two sets of squared posts connected by bowed members) and its replacement with a Colonial Revival portico of two fluted, Doric columns. The alteration probably took place in the early twentieth century; the new portico, being of the same general shape and character as the original, does not seriously detract from the facade.

The first-story windows in all but the rear bay of the south wall are rectangular and capped by simple wooden cornices. The south rear bay holds a one-story oriel window, whose two original arched windows have been replaced by rectangular multi-paned windows. The second-story windows, excluding those over the portico, are segmental with drip moldings. Above the portico is a double arched window with drip molding.

The eaves of the roof project beyond the walls and are supported on each side of the house by four pairs of small brackets.

The house's cupola shows three arched windows across its facade and back, and two on each side. Two lavishly carved consoles are affixed at right angles to each of the cupola's corners, their uppermost sections becoming brackets under the overhanging cupola roof. The cupola was originally fitted with a bulbous wooden finial which has since been removed.

A one and one-half story pitched-roofed ell, roughly equivalent in length to the house's width, projects from the rear wall of the main house. The ell has a doorway in its north side and an enclosed porch of multi-paned windows running the length of its south side. This porch was originally open, and overlooked an ornamental garden.

The rear of the ell attaches to a two and one-half story carriage house, placed perpendicular to the ell, its gable ends facing north and south. The original north door opening has been clapboarded over, making the carriage barn an extension of the house. Atop the barn stands a simpler version of the house's cupola.

The house is presently undergoing extensive renovation, the following having occurred to date: Upstairs bedroom ceilings, dropped during this century, have been restored to their original heights; Original moldings have been replicated where missing; A shed which occupied the rear section of the ell (adjoining the barn) has been made into a parlor; The interior of the carriage house has been remodelled into bedrooms, and a small clapboarded addition is being raised along the south wall; The missing carriage-house finial has been replicated. None of these contemporary renovations violates the spirit of the original architecture.

The grounds to the south of the house were originally laid out as a landscaped garden whose centerpiece was a wicker gazebo, finialed in the manner of the house's cupolas. The gazebo was later removed.

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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1865 Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Captain John P. Nichols House (1865) is a fine hipped-roofed, cupola topped Italianate house. The only example of the type in Searsport, the house is also one of the major Italianate-style residences in Waldo County. The decorated cupola adorning the house's roof is probably Waldo County's major piece of Italianate-style wood carving.

The replacement of the original portico was unfortunate, but does not affect the house's balance nor mar the overall design. Except for the minor alterations previously described, the house retains its original appearance and remains in an excellent state of repair.

The house was commissioned by Captain John P. Nichols (1818-1883), who resided there from his retirement in 1865 to his death. Nichols was one of the most financially successful of Searsport's multitudinous sea captains. He first went to sea when eleven years old, and was captain of his own ship at the age of twenty-one. The Nichols were perhaps the largest of Searsport's sea-going families, boasting twenty-seven ship's masters in the nineteenth century.

The house is also interesting as the home of Commodore (later Vice Admiral) Carleton P. Bryant (1892-). As a Rear Admiral with the Atlantic Fleet, Bryant was Commander, Gunfire Support, during the Allied invasion of Normandy (June, 1944), and Commander, Center Support Group, Western Naval Task Force, in the invasion of Southern France (August, 1944).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Black, Col. Frederick Frasier. Searsport Sea Captains. Searsport: Penobscot Marine Museum, 1960.
 Obituary of Capt. John P. Nichols in Republican Journal (Belfast), November 3, 1883.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Searsport

Quadrangle scale 1/24000

UMT References

A

1	9	5	0	6	7	1	5	4	9	2	2	5	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map #11, Lot 2

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 Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 *Evelyn S. Pettaworth*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/23/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 1/4/83

Shelton Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration