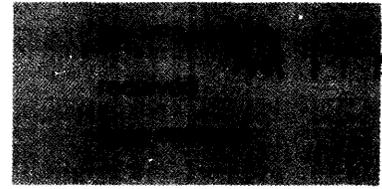


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



983

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

1. Name

historically Martin, Kinsley House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Main Road, Hampden Highlands N/A not for publication

city, town Hampden, N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Penobscot code 019

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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Hampden Historical Society

street & number Box 175

city, town Hampden, N/A vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Penobscot County Registry of Deeds

street & number Hammond Street

city, town Bangor, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? 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 Martin Kinsley House is a Federal style residence of frame construction, located on the main road in Hampden Highlands, Maine. The house is presently home to the Hampden Historical Society, which uses the main portion and first floor of the ell as a museum/meeting area. The second story of the ell is a contemporary apartment.

The main portion is two-and-one-half stories with pitched-roof. The entrance is centrally located on a long wall (flush to the street), and the facade is divided into five window bays. The main portion is one room deep, and has only one window bay on each gable end.

A two-and-one-half story ell attached to the rear of the main portion, and is similarly pitched-roof. A simple Colonial Revival porch extends across its south side, while an enclosed vestibule stands in the angle formed by house and ell. A smaller two-and-one-half story ell, presently a shed, attaches to the rear of the main ell. This secondary ell, added by 1907, was originally twice its present length, and probably contained rental rooms while the house served as a guest home. Behind this ell is a large carriage barn dating from the same period. Both house and barn are entirely clapboarded. The eaves of the main portion and ell were slightly extended sometime in the period 1850-1890 and affixed with small doubled brackets. In the 1880's-90's, a Queen Anne portico was added to the facade, but had been removed by 1930.

The entryway consists of a christian-cross door topped by a simple fanlight and narrow triangular pediment. All first-story windows (in the main portion) are 2/2. All second-story and attic windows are the original 6/6.

The entrance hall extends all the way through the main portion and adjoins a large room on the first floor of the ell. The staircase, extending up the right-hand wall, is of simple construction with a round, curvilinear bannister and chair rail. A second-floor hallway similarly divides that floor. One room is located to either side of the first and second story hallways. Each room has a simple but elegant Federal fireplace mantel in wood, and one upstairs bedroom has a pressed tin ceiling. The interior otherwise lacks adornment, except for simple door and window moldings and christian-cross doors. All floors are pine boarded.

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/ humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates c. 1797 **Builder/Architect** attributed to Stephen Little

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kinsley House is not only one of Hampden's earliest surviving residences, but a monument to Martin Kinsley, the first representative to the U. S. Congress from the (then) District of Maine. His house is also linked to a notable piece of folklore involving the War of 1812.

Martin Kinsley (1754-1835) came to Hampden from Hardwick, Massachusetts in 1797, reportedly after embarrassment following unsuccessful land speculation in Georgia. He was a Harvard graduate, and studied law, and had served as a major in the Massachusetts militia, 1780-86. Sympathy with Shay's Rebellion cost Kinsley his commission, but the rebel party rewarded him with town and state offices. He served in the Massachusetts Assembly which adopted the Commonwealth Constitution.

Kinsley's credentials--particularly his education and political experience--were virtually unique among Penobscot Valley settlers of the 1790's-1800's, and he successively occupied the area's major political offices. He served as Justice of the Peace from 1802, Representative from Hampden to the General Court (1801-06, except 1805), Member of the Executive Council (1810-11), State Senator from Hancock County (1814), and in 1819-21 served as the first Representative from the District of Maine to the U. S. Congress. He also held a number of judicial posts, including Justice of the Court of Sessions, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the Eastern Circuit, and Judge of Probate.

Kinsley's house was constructed c. 1797, probably by a New Hampshire carpenter-builder named Stephen Little, who is recorded as having "worked" on the house "about 1800". The house is fairly simple for a man of Kinsley's station, displaying only minimal ornament and having only four rooms in the main portion.

Legend has it that during the Battle of Hampden (1814) between British regulars and local militia, the British attempted to use Kinsley's house as a headquarters. Mrs. Kinsley barricaded the doors, however, and emptied the contents of a chamberpot upon British officers standing before the entrance. Her defense was reportedly successful. Kinsley himself was briefly held hostage on a British warship during the same battle.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Thomas Bellows Peck, The Bellows Genealogy, Keen, N. H.: Sentinel Printing Co., 1898 (bio. of Kinsley).
History of Hardwick, Mass., Boston: Houghton & Mifflin, 1883 (bio. of Kinsley)
Bangor Historical Magazine, Vol. VI, 1890-91, p. 276 (bio. of Kinsley)
Hampden Historical Society Information Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name Bucksport

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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B

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | |

C

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | |

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| Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | |

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| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 41, Lot 19

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 Me. Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 *Carol S. Feltkewitz*

title S.H.P.O. date 3/14/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 4/14/83

John Bellows Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration