

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 25 1986

date entered DEC 20 1986

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

1. Name

historic Frank Hutchins House

and or common Kingfield Historical House

2. Location

street & number High Street _____ not for publication

city, town Kingfield, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Franklin code 007

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"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Kingfield Historical Society, c/o Mr. & Mrs. Winfred Tufts

street & number

city, town Kingfield, _____ vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Farmington, _____ 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 Hutchins House is a 2½-story frame structure with an ell, attached carriage barn, and other later appendages to the rear. The main section is a 3X2 bayed rectangle with gambrel roof. Extending from the centrally-located door to the left corner of the facade is a large porch, erected recently to replace the original, which had long since been removed. The original porch was slightly larger in dimension and had slightly different decorative fretwork. Extending from the original porch, over the door, was an open balcony surmounted by a miniature mansard roof with dormers. This was also removed at an unspecified date, leaving only an entry door into the second floor hall. The historical society hopes to restore this feature as well, using a good early photograph as a guide.

The gambrel roof of the main section is punctuated on the facade by two gambrel roof dormers, and by one large gambrel dormer three bays wide on the rear. The upper slope of the roof and dormers is covered with standing-seam sheet steel, as are the roofs of the ell, ell dormers, and carriage barn. The lower slope of the roof and dormers, as well as the face of the dormers, are covered with cut wooden shingles in a banded pattern. These bands were originally heightened by polychromatic painting.

The floorplan of the main section is identical on both stories--a large single room on either side of a central hallway with straight-run stair. Double doors with brightly-colored stained glass lights open from the vestibule into the hallway. The staircase has a square newel and balusters of a unique, Eastlake-inspired design. The hall and parlors to either side contain faded period wallpaper and lavish, painted metal ceilings with carved borders. All rooms are fitted with early electric light fixtures of various designs, the left parlor containing a large early electric chandelier. The mouldings here and throughout the house are various stock pieces, mostly painted white. Both parlors have bay windows of 1/1 sash, and the left parlor has an additional fixed window of one large pane with leaded glass transom. Most windows elsewhere in the house contain 2/2 sash.

The two bedrooms of the upper story have early wallpaper and simple pressed metal ceilings. The hall door which formally led to the facade balcony on the second story holds a single large pane of orange-red glass, bathing the hall in a reddish glow.

A 1½-story gable-roof ell with two gable dormers extends from the right wall of the main section. A porch, similar in design to that of the main section, extends across the facade of the ell, its ceiling covered with decorative pressed metal. Two doors open from the ell to the porch. The ell encloses the dining room, kitchen and pantry on its first story, and a long, simply-finished room on its second. The dining room, like the parlors, has an ornate pressed-metal ceiling and original wallpaper, here bordered by primitive panelled wainscott. The kitchen and pantry are filled with built-in shelving,

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drawers, cupboards, and other storage places. An early 20th-century cast iron stove made by the Portland Stove Foundry, with a hot water storage tank behind, stands prominently in the kitchen. There is a small pass-through between the built-in sink and pantry, facilitating the easy stacking of dishes.

Connected to the end of the ell is a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -story carriage barn, square in dimension and with a low hipped roof. The large opening for carriages on the facade had been made into two regular sized doors in the 1960s, but the opening was subsequently restored and a new wooden sliding door crafted by the Society. A ramp connecting the door with ground level is also contemplated. The structure has its own basement, separate from that of the main section and ell.

Most of the interior walls of the carriage barn have been covered with vertical boarding by the Society so as to better display museum objects. The remaining exposed framing members show the structure to be post and beam. All members are circular sawn.

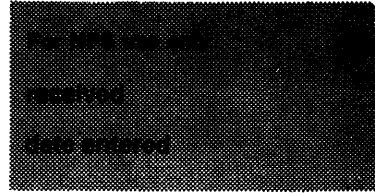
Behind the main section of the house is a slightly later two-story addition with shed roof, one bay deep, which connects with the basement and first story. The frame rests on a shallow rubble foundation, its bottom formed at a steep angle to conform to the slope of a hill. The first story houses the vestibule for a basement mortuary space. Italianate double doors (which face the neighboring church) lead into the vestibule space, while a second set of double doors opens into the former mortuary, a large spare room with hardwood floor in the basement of the main section. The second story of the addition houses a small office and bathroom. The bathroom is filled with early fixtures, including a clawfoot tub, sink, toilet, shelves, and mirrors. The walls are wainscotted, the floor covered with early linoleum.

Behind the ell and one parlor of the main section is a long glassed-in porch, also added soon after the house was built. The porch extends only along the first story, being supported below by long wooden posts. The outer wall of the porch is largely made up of 2/1 windows and half Tuscon columns. The ceiling of the porch is of tongue and grooved hardwood.

The basement of the main portion, besides holding the mortuary, contains the original brick furnace with cast-iron doors marked "Sconnell & Wholey, Lowell, Mass.". Beside the furnace is a small sheet metal kerosene stove with a long stovepipe connecting to a nearby flue. The basement of the ell was originally a large woodshed. The foundations of all three main sections are brick over rubble.

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The basement furnace originally serviced the first floor only through a series of floor registers. There is a fireplace in the right (main) parlor, and the right upstairs bedroom had a woodstove connected to the flue. There are some decorative radiators on the first story from a later heating system.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1890

Builder/Architect Lavella Norton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Hutchins House contains one of the best preserved, most varied, and most idiosyncratic turn-of-the-century interiors of any house-museum in the state. The house was left to the Kingfield Historical Society in 1968, its interior having been virutally untouched since the first decades of the 20th century. It is a rare and excellent document of middle-class taste of that period.

Much of the significance of the house's interior is found in the surviving small elements that usually disappear in the course of normally sensitive maintainence or restoration: a tiny electric intercom connecting the sunporch with the mortuary, still hooked to deteriorating battery cells in the basement; a piece of sheet metal pressed and painted to resemble the brick foundation, wrapped around the frame base of a bay window; cheap bathroom mirrors with fancy white frames; a brick basement furnace (an extremely rare survival) and sheet metal kerosene stove; numerous dabs of paint of various colors on a wall in the basement room which Hutchins used to do his mixing; and the linoleum of the bathroom in the tin ceiling of the kitchen porch. Add to these the more striking finishings, such as the almost baroque sheet metal ceilings, unusual stair newel and balusters, and bright stained glass, and the singularity of the building becomes apparent.

Also adding to the house's effect are the idiosyncrasies of its carpentry. Mouldings, both inside and out, and sometimes in single rooms and elevations, are oftentimes close but not identical in design, as though the house was finished using whatever was immediately at hand. The house is full of surprising built-in storage spaces, such as two bookshelves placed almost as an afterthought above the cellar stair, and a woodbox among the built-in shelves of the kitchen. There are also strangely-placed windows, such as the small one at the end of the bathtub that must have originally looked over the brickyard, but now looks down the glassed-in porch.

The house's architect/builder, Lavella Norton (1860-1942) of Kingfield, designed and constructed many of the town's major buildings of all types. Most of his residences bear the same penchant for the unique and decorative, although none of his interiors survive as completely as that of the Hutchins House.

Frank Hutchins was a furniture dealer when the house was constructed. He was also at various times a mortician and a painter.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Unpublished research on Lovella A. Norton by Lillian D. Winter.
 Farmington Chronicle, May 14, 1968 (Farmington, Maine).
 1895 Bird's-Eye View of Kingfield.
 Interview with owners.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Kingfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

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4	0	8	1	1	0
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4	9	7	8	0	0	7
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 15, Lot 64

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/Edited By Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 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 *Eileen S. Peterson*

title S.H.P.O.

date 11/17/86

For NPS use only

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

Noted in file

date 12/29/86

for Allous Byers
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration