

CMV NO. 1024-2019
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For NPS use only
received **SEP** 8 1983
date entered

1. Name

historic Connors House

and/or common Former Home for Aged Women

2. Location

street & number 277 State Street N/A not for publication

city, town Bangor, 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 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Medical Properties consortium, c/o Dr. John McGill

street & number 417 State Street

city, town Bangor, vicinity of _____ state Maine 04401

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number _____

city, town Bangor, 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 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 Connors House is a large mansard-style building of a characteristic Bangor type. Later additions have virtually doubled the house's size, yet respect and accentuate the massing and decoration of the original sections.

The original main portion is 3X2 bays in dimension, 3 stories tall and has a symmetrical facade with central entrance hall. The major facade element is a bell-shaped gable reflecting the concave slope of the mansard. All wall surfaces are rusticated with blockwork. The other decorative features are restrained, classical, and typical of Bangor mansards of the later 1860s. The only original elements that have been lost with time are a cast-iron and granite fence and three of the four chimnies. The building retains all of its original 2/2 windows.

The original 2-3 bayed, 3-storied ell, also with Mansard roof and blockwork, survives to the rear of the main section but was extended in the 1890s (see below). The extension exactly replicates the original section, but replaces a small clapboarded shed that originally served as a connector to the barn.

The original pitched-roofed barn was also demolished in the 1890s, and replaced with a square, 3-story, mansard-roofed section that mimics the main section in size, shape, materials, and character. This and the ell extension were added during the building's use as a home For Aged Women. Also added, either at the same time or slightly later, were a tall elevator shaft and multi-bayed glass sunporch on the south side of the ell. The sunporch is faintly Colonial Revival in character.

In the past ten years, a deck has been added to the north side of the ell, connecting the two three-story sections. Its design is in harmony with the building.

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	1866–67	Builder/Architect	Benjamin S. Deane
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Edward Connors House is one of dozens of large mansard-roofed mansions erected in Bangor in the years 1866–75, a boom period for the lumber economy. The house is notable for two reasons: it is one of the few Bangor mansions of its type and period whose architect is documented, and it was the home of Edward Connors, a pivotal figure in the economic and social history of the era.

The house is one of eight mansions erected (or remodeled from existing houses) within two building seasons (1866–67), on two streets (Broadway and State), and which were virtually identical in configuration/decoration, differing only in minor design elements. As a group, they were the most elegant houses on the two most elegant avenues in town, and were of so common a character as to inspire over a dozen simpler Bangor mansions by 1870, and over a dozen mansions for the elite of surrounding towns in the same period. This strain of mansard-roofed mansion might be referred to as "The Bangor Style", for it was as character-defining in post-Civil War Bangor as was the 3½-story brick Italianate in Portland during the same years, or the Greek Revival temple-house of the Kennebec Valley in an earlier period.

The post-war Bangor mansions were characterized by squareness, symmetry, a distinctive portico with doubled windows above it, blockwork walls, a concave roof, and, on the grander examples, including seven out of the eight mansions of 1866–67, a bell-shaped facade gable reflecting the curve of the mansard. Nearly all of these features, including the gable, were inspired by a series of fashionable houses erected in Cambridge and other Boston suburbs from the mid-1850s through the 1860s, many the work of Orrington-born architect Calvin Ryder. Ryder had designed at least one grand example of this genre for a Bangor patron in 1858 (William Blake House, on Court Street), which doubtlessly served to inspire local architects and builders in the post-war period.

The Connors House is one of only two "Bangor Style" houses in either Bangor or surrounding towns whose architect is documented. The house is the last known work of Benjamin S. Deane, veteran Bangor architect who was probably responsible for other works of the same design. Deane was the only Maine architect practicing outside of Portland in the period of the 1850s–60s, and lent his conservative but elegant interpretation to styles ranging from Federal to Mansard. The Connors House, while not the best of his designs, is certainly in his tradition.

Bangor's mansion-builders of the post-War period were nearly all connected to lumber or a dependent industry, and most were characterized by youthfulness. Few had been active participants in the life of antebellum Bangor, either because of their youth, the fact that they were recent immigrants from Massachusetts, or in the present case, their racial character. Edward Connors is well-known as the sole operator of the Bangor Boom but, more importantly, he was perhaps the wealthiest Irishman in Bangor in the late 1860s.

Certain Irishmen had prominent roles in the local economy in the antebellum period as sweatshop operators employing as many as 100 women. But Bangor's Irish-run sweatshop industry was in no way integrated with the major business of the Penobscot Valley, which

9. Major Bibliographical References

Newspaper research carried out by James Vickery of Bangor.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property $\frac{1}{4}$

Quadrangle name Bangor

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	5	1	9	0	4	0	4	9	6	1	2	0	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 23, Lot 44

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, Architectural Hsitorian/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date July, 1983

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 *Euse S. Feltrewood*

title S.H.P.O. date 9/6/83

For NPS use only

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

date 10/6/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

EXP. 12/31/84

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CONNORS HOUSE

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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was lumber. It was the lumbermen who set the social and political tone of Bangor and who formed a club of wealth which excluded the Irish and other minorities. Connors was the first Irishman known to have played a leadership role in the lumber business, and was the only Irishman in Bangor with a mansion on exclusive State Street. Much of Connor's building funds, however, probably derived from his wife's inheritance after her brother, Timothy Field, struck gold in a California mine but died shortly after returning to Bangor. Connors retained the house only until 1873, but remained boom-operator long enough to pass the position on to his son.