

PH 0663247

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED FEB 15 1978	DATA SHEET
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 1978

**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 Chester Greenwood House

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER ME Route 27

CITY, TOWN

Farmington

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2nd

STATE

Maine

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
23

COUNTY  
Franklin

CODE  
007

**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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Broadway Space, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Farmington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

**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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Chester Greenwood House in Farmington, quite apart from the historical significance of its original owner, is architecturally important as a fine example of the Queen Anne style in a rural setting. Built in 1896, the house is of clapboarded frame construction on a granite foundation. The 2½ stories are covered by a metal-sheathed roof consisting of several gables, in keeping with the complex plans of Queen Anne houses. Two internal brick chimneys are present.

The facade, which faces south-east is dominated by an off-center projecting 3-story tower, octagonal in plan with a bell-cast pyramidal roof crowned with a finial. Each exposed side of the tower's first and second stories contains a tall 1/1 window; the third story contains arched 1/1 windows. To the left of the tower the facade is one bay wide and rises 2½ stories. Here the half story window, in the pedimented gable-end, is an arched 1/1. The stories below each contain a single 2/1 window. To the right of the tower, and considerably recessed from the rest of the facade, is the double-doored main entrance; the doors are panelled and each contains a rectangular window in the upper half. Above the entrance, in the second story, is a single doorway providing access to the flat roof of a porch which covers the main entrance and wraps around the north-east side of the house. This porch, with ground-level balustraded siding, is supported by delicately-turned posts.

The north-east elevation is two stories high with 2 bays of 2/1 windows on its left side. To the right is a 2½ story gabled projection with a single 2/1 window in each story of its sides and an arched 1/1 window in the pedimented gable-end above two 2/1 windows in each of the lower stories.

The south-west elevation is dominated by a gabled projection of 2½ stories. Fenestration here is as on the north-east projection, except that the outer corners are cut off, allowing an additional 2/1 window on each corner of the first story. To the right of this projection is a single 2/1 window in each of the two stories, the fenestration here again being 2/1; there is a single-doored secondary entrance covered by a porch in this location.

The Chester Greenwood House features ornate exterior detailing. There is an ornately-carved frieze below the eaves which is carried up into the facade pediment. All of the first story windows are crowned with bracketed entablatured lintels, again richly carved.

The interior of the house is well preserved and characteristically ornate.

The Chester Greenwood house sits atop a steep rise overlooking the Town of Farmington. As a fine example of its period and style, it is a fitting memorial to its remarkable original owner.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1896

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beyond its architectural significance this house is more particularly distinguished as the home of Chester Greenwood inventor in 1872 of that important but humble adjunct to winter wear, the earmuff or ear protector as he named it. Inventor, handyman and businessman, Greenwood was the epitome of the multi-faceted late 19th century man, keenly interested in scientific development and a believer in the unlimited benefits of technology.

Born in 1858, Greenwood was a tall rangy human dynamo who eschewed both tobacco and alcohol and ran a mile a day until the age of 75 (long before the benefits of exercise were popularly advocated). He rose daily at 4 a.m. and without breakfast headed for his factory on Front Street to start the fires.

His invention at the age of 15 of the separate ear protector clipped to the head with spring steel occurred as a result of a propensity to frostbite while skating. Obtaining a patent for this homely device in 1877 he opened a factory and became almost instantly successful. In addition to the earmuff he also developed the spring steel grass rake and, in a totally different vein, invented a fluid shock absorber which could be adjusted to suit differing road conditions.

In addition to these activities he also operated a bicycle factory and a machine shop which gained a wide reputation for its versatility. As a "maker of gadgets" he also produced wheel grinders and self-priming spark plugs. His ear muff factory alone employed more than 50 workers as well as a small army of hand stitchers working at home.

During the early 1890's, Greenwood established with C.A. Allen the first telephone company in Franklin County and proceeded to manufacture all of the receivers and transmitters himself. Not satisfied with all of these ventures he also was a partner in the operation of an excursion steamboat for picnic parties on nearby Clearwater Lake. In the 1880's he went into the steam heating business which he ran successfully until it grew too large for him to handle.

In addition to his eleven room house, he also built the impressive Greenwood Block on Broadway in Farmington. The original earmuff factory, now a laundry, still stands on Front Street.

The following extract from a business directory of 1889 puts succinctly into perspective the impact of Chester Greenwood's greatest contribution to personal well being:

"No man who has once 'froze his ears', as the saying goes, is at all

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Francis Gould, A History of Farmington, Farmington 1885  
 Pritchett, Richard, How the Greenwood Earra of Earmuffs was started.  
 The Smithsonian, January, 1976  
Leading Businessmen of Farmington and Vicinity. B. Thurston & Co.,  
 Portland, 1888

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2  
 UTM REFERENCES

A | 19 | 409005 | 49451700 |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 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  
 Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE January, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street 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 *Care S. Fittsworth*  
 TITLE *S. H. P. O.* DATE *2/9/78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION <i>W. Smith</i>	DATE <i>7/12/78</i>
ATTEST: <i>W. Lawrence Cole</i>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE <i>6-29-78</i>
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 FEB 15 1978
DATE ENTERED JUL 12 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

anxious to repeat the experience, for even a slight frostbite on that tender portion of the body is attended with pain of no small intensity, not to mention the fact that one's personal appearance is not materially improved by having one or both ears swollen and black for a week or so. The only practical way to keep the ears from freezing when exposed to such weather as all the northern states are liable to at certain seasons, is to cover them up; but this is easier said than done, or at least it was until Greenwood's Champion Ear Protectors were invented, for the articles previously on the market intended for a similar use, were so objectionable and uncomfortable that most men preferred to wear a fur cap, or else trust to luck and friction. The beauty of the Greenwood device is that it may be carried in the pocket without the least inconvenience and when occasion requires it can be placed in position instantly, and stays where it is put, although there is no disfiguring elastic below the chin to make a man look like an overgrown school boy, and to interfere with the surface circulation so important in cold weather. That these advantages are appreciated, the remarkable demand for this invention proves, for the Farmington Manufacturing Company, which produces these Protectors, ships them all over the cold part of this country and throughout British America, and is obliged to employ fifty assistants in order to keep up with the rapidly growing demand."---Leading Business Men of Lewiston, Augusta and vicinity, Mercantile Publishing Company, 1889.

Greenwood died in 1937, a highly revered citizen of Farmington and active until the very last days of his life.