

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECORDED
MAY 14 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Grant Family House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 72 Grant Road not for publication
city, town Saco vicinity
state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04072

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

John S. Fritzgermany
Signature of certifying official
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

5/7/90
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Both L Sarge 6-21-90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/WeatherboardWood/Shingleroof Asphaltother Recessed two story ell & sheds

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Grant Family House is a two-story, five-bay, double-pile frame dwelling featuring a telescoping ell that extends to a low barn. It is sheathed in weatherboards and wood shingles and covered by a gable roof. The building's modest exterior appearance belies the existence of remarkably intact stencilled walls on two interior rooms.

The front (south) elevation is symmetrically divided into five bays with a central doorway on the first story flanked by two-over-two windows. A shallow bracketed hood shelters the two-leaf door, both of which are later nineteenth alterations. Five windows occupy the second story below the wide eaves and narrow cornice. This roof detail as well as the doorway appear to be part of a remodelling program carried out in the late nineteenth century, probably at the same time as the entrance alteration. A small chimney rises through the center of the roof in replacement of the original, much larger one.

There are five windows in the east gable end including two each on the first and second stories and one in the gable peak. The deeply recessed two-story ell is attached to the west-northwest corner behind a pair of openings on the west end of the main block. Short cornice returns decorate the gable ends. There are six asymmetrically placed windows on the rear elevation.

The ell, which appears to have been built in two stages, has a cornice configuration similar to that of its counterpart. There are a number of window and door openings on the three elevations. Beyond the principal ell is a lower woodshed/carriage ell which is punctuated by large modern garage doors on the first story of the front side and small rectangular openings above. A shed dormer is located at the junction of the two ells. The woodshed/carriage ell is offset from the rear elevation of the main block and is sheathed in wood shingles on the back side. Projecting from about the northwest corner in a perpendicular fashion is a shingled structure whose original use is as yet undetermined, although it was utilized in the early twentieth century as a milk house. There are two small sheds attached to this wing at the junction with the carriage ell.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

Unlike the exterior, the interior received only minor alterations from the late nineteenth century remodeling program. What survives, therefore, is an intact early Federal period interior. In plan, the building is typical of other Maine houses of the period. The small stair hall is located in front of the massive chimney system with the principal public rooms located on either side. The open string stair itself is of very modest design employing thin turned newel posts and slat balusters. Sheathed wainscot capped by a chair-rail carries around the rooms. Fireplaces and mantels are located near the partition walls. This partition wall in the east room has paired six-panel doors, one of which leads to the original kitchen and the other to a closet. There are also two doors in the west room with similar functions although they are more widely separated. All of the window and door surrounds in these rooms were altered in the later nineteenth century by the addition of corner blocks over the mitered moldings.

The rear half of the house is primarily devoted to the kitchen space which includes a wide hearth/bake oven framed by a rather elaborate mantel. At the east end is a door leading to a small bedroom with a closet, whereas the back stair is confined to the west end adjacent to another closet. Below the stair is a door to the basement and another which leads to the ell. (Judging by an exposed section of lath and moldings in this ell, the first level must be an early nineteenth century addition, whereas the upper floor is probably of more recent origin.) The second floor plan of the main block originally repeated the first story, but some modifications have been made. Nonetheless, a large part of the original finish survives including grained six-panel doors and a Norfolk latch.

Of utmost significance, however, is the stencilled decoration in the hall and parlor (east room). In the former, the vertical panels alternately contain pineapples separated by oak leaf clusters and a repeat of the oak leaves between circular stencils bisected by foliage. A leaf frieze and vine lower border frame this composition. The parlor design utilizes the same frieze technique, but the panels feature a different group of stencils. Typically, this pattern consists of sunflowers (or sunbursts) separated by a maple leaf encircled by a vine alternating with poppies and a four point vine cluster. Above the mantel are four flower baskets on the middle two of which are perched two peacocks in red and black. The narrow bottom border has stylized ovals and groups of short brush strokes. Predominating colors are green, red, black, and a dark brown all set on a grey background.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Art

Period of Significance

c. 1825

Significant Dates

c. 1800
c. 1825
c. 1870

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Grant Family House, which was constructed about 1800, is a Federal style dwelling which was given a variety of Italianate details during a late nineteenth century remodeling. However, its modest exterior appearance masks the existence on the interior of remarkably well preserved stencilled wall decorations in the entry hall and the parlor. Said to have been executed during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, in what has been termed the "Eaton Style", this decorative finish is an important example in the continuing study of Maine's historic interior wall treatments. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its artistic significance.

The "Eaton Style" of wall decoration is named for its relationship to the work of Moses Eaton, an artisan from Hancock and Dublin, New Hampshire. Eaton has been identified as one of the early nineteenth century practitioners of this art, and in fact his entire stencil kit was discovered in the attic of his Dublin farmhouse (it now resides at SPNEA). However, there were other painters using what were often similar motifs and compositions, and their work has been found throughout New England. Unfortunately, their names are obscure since documentation is practically non-existent. In Maine, some ninety examples have been documented in varying states of preservation by research staff at the Maine State Museum. Those at the Grant house were known at an early date, and their existence widely broadcast when they appeared in Janet Waring's pioneering work on the subject entitled Early American Stencils (1937). Waring had been particularly interested in discovering for the first time what she termed the completed pineapple motif in the hall. Although a more thorough comparative history of this decorative technique has yet to be written about Maine's examples, there can be little doubt that those found in the Grant house are certainly representative and in an excellent state of preservation.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

First Book of Records of the Town of Pepperellborough, Now the City of Saco.
Portland: The Thurston Print, 1896.

Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: York County, Maine. Population and Agricultural Schedules. Microfilm of National Archives Manuscript Copy. Maine State Archives, Augusta.

Waring, Janet. Early American Stencils on Walls and Furniture. Reprint of the 1937 edition. New York: Dover Publications. 1968.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property 1 Acre

UTM References

A

1	9	3	7	8	5	5	5	4	8	2	6	0	8	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See map

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the house and a one acre parcel immediately surrounding it. The entire lot of 51.21 acres is mostly wooded, portions of which were open space during the nineteenth century. Since the primary significance of the property rests with its interior features and not with its depiction of a Maine farm, this additional area was not included in the boundary.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 3/90

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

Although family tradition holds that this house was built in the mid-eighteenth century, stylistic characteristics clearly place its date of construction around 1800. It was apparently built for Benjamin Grant (1775-____) after his marriage to Sarah Kimball on or about November 25, 1800. They were still residing here in 1850 when the census recorded the value of their real estate at \$7,000 including a \$6,000 cash value applied to the farm. Grant's farm was a fairly large one by comparison to his neighbors. He owned 100 acres of improved land and 220 acres of unimproved land. Among his livestock were 12 milk cows and 25 sheep. The farm passed to Grant's youngest son Benjamin Grant, Jr. (1815-1900), and he was probably responsible for the remodeling at some point late in the century. After his death the property passed to his son Richard L. K. Grant (1843-1931) and subsequently to his son Albert P. Grant. The current owner is the widow of Albert's son Guy R. Grant.