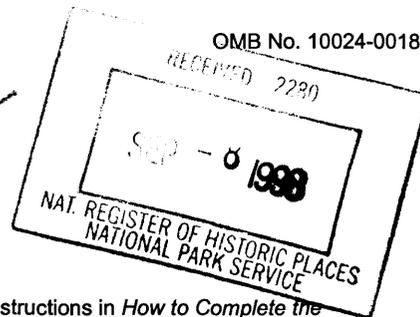


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gushee Family House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 2868 Sennebec Road N/A not for publication

city or town Appleton N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Knox code 013 zip code 04862

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 8/20/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 10/8/98  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Gushee Family House  
Name of Property

Knox, Maine  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)  
 private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)  
 building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)  
Contributing                      Noncontributing  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ buildings  
\_\_\_\_\_ sites  
\_\_\_\_\_ structures  
\_\_\_\_\_ objects  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1                      0                      Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Domestic/Dingle Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Agriculture/Subsistence/Agricultural Outbuilding \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Domestic/Single Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Federal \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Greek Revival \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
  
foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Stone/Granite \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_ Wood/Weatherboard \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Wood/Wood Shingle \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_ Asphalt \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_ Ell Connected to Large Barn \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GUSHEE FAMILY HOUSE

KNOX, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Gushee Family House is a one-and-a-half story, five bay frame cape that is sheathed in clapboards and wood shingles. It is linked to a large gable front barn by way of a series of two short wings and an ell, each of which is perpendicular to the other. A granite block foundation (which is said to have been raised in 1891) supports the house and ells, whereas the barn rests on a recently installed concrete foundation. The property is located at the edge of the small village of Appleton.

Facing northeast (for the ease of description the facade will be referred to as the east side), the symmetrically composed front elevation is comprised of a Federal style entrance flanked by two-over-two double hung sash windows. The doorway, which is both more elaborate and over scaled than those typically found on capes, features a six-panel door that is framed by half sidelights, an elliptical louvered fan, and a surround composed of pilasters set on paneled plinths that rise to a broad entablature. A narrow boxed cornice carries across the elevation and is terminated by short gable end returns on the side elevations. The existing sash were probably installed about the time that the foundation was raised. There are two basement windows on the facade, granite entrance steps, and a central rectangular brick flue that replaces the original center chimney.

The north side elevation has a pair of two-over-two windows on the first story, and a single two-over-two in the gable peak. This latter window is flanked by two small square windows. There are two basement windows. A single two-over-two window is located on the first story of the south gable end, and a six-over-six is positioned off center in the gable end. The rear elevation features a door, two windows, and a gabled dormer. Wood shingles cover the north, south, and west elevations.

A pair of two-over-two windows and a door occupy the clapboarded east elevation of the primary wing, which is recessed from the main block of the house. It has a single brick flue. There is a two-over-two window on the first story and a six-over-six window in the gable peak of the wing's south elevation, and a single window on the rear side. The ell, which is clad entirely in wood shingles, projects to the rear of the primary wing and has a door and two nine-over-six double hung sash on both its north and west elevations. A door is located on the south side. The short wing that extends to the barn has a six-over-six window on the east side which, like the facades of the main block, primary wing, and barn, is covered with clapboards.

The barn, which is believed to have been enlarged in 1891, has a symmetrical fenestration pattern on its facade comprised of a large two-leaf center door whose track is protected by a pent roof, flanking six-over-six windows, and paired four-over-fours in the wood shingled gable peak. There are three ribbon windows and a door on the south elevation and only a small rectangular window on the north side. The rear elevation has a large door and flanking six-over-six windows in the basement level, a ribbon window and a pair of six-over-sixes in the main level, and a six-over-six in the gable peak.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

**GUSHEE FAMILY HOUSE**

**KNOX, MAINE**

**Section number   7   Page   3**

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In plan, the main block of the house has a central vestibule/stair hall with the parlor located to the north and the dining room to the south. It appears that originally there were three small rooms across the rear, one of which is now part of the parlor its dividing partition having been removed. The existing staircase, which rises in a single flight to the upper floor, replaces the original one which was located forward of the central chimney. Evidence of its original configuration is still extant. This alteration is presumed to have been made at the time that the foundation was raised and the barn enlarged. The finish of the rooms varies from Greek Revival style symmetrically molded surrounds with corner blocks in the hall and parlor to Federal style trim in the dining room (including wainscot) and second floor bedrooms. The trim in the ells is of a modest Federal period form. Of additional note in the interior is the height and finish of the basement which includes flagstone flooring and plaster over lath on the ceiling.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1833

1891

Significant Dates

1833

1891

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetGUSHEE FAMILY HOUSEKNOX, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Believed to have been constructed in 1833 and remodeled in 1891, the Gushee Family House is a one-and-a-half story frame cape that is connected through a sequence of short wings and an ell to a large barn. The house is a reasonably intact, representative example of a common type of dwelling found in rural and village areas of eighteenth and nineteenth century Maine. It is distinguished, however, by the scale and detailing of the doorway which reflects a local building pattern evident on several other dwellings in this area of Knox County. The property is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its local architectural significance.

According to family tradition, the main block of the house was built in 1833 for Almond J. Gushee, Jr. (1804-1846) and his wife Elvira (Drake) Gushee (1812-1899) in the year of their marriage. Almond Gushee owned a one-quarter interest in a local sawmill and also operated a store. The Gushees had five children, two of whom died when they were children. In 1852 Elvira Gushee married Henry Meservy, who was also a widower, and they both continued to occupy this house until their deaths in 1899 and 1865, respectively.

Elvira (Gushee) Meservy's youngest son, Franklin "Frank" Gushee (1842-1893), was a veteran of the Civil War who had been wounded at the Battle of Bisland near Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He moved to Colorado for a brief time after the war, but then returned to the homestead where he lived with his wife Francis (Bickford) Gushee and their four children, one of whom died in 1881. Family tradition holds that he attended a medical college in Cleveland, Ohio and later a homeopathic school in Philadelphia. He first appears as a homeopathic physician in Appleton in the 1881 edition of the *Maine Register*. Ten years later he undertook the remodeling of the family home that included raising the foundation, removing the center chimney and reconstructing the stairs, and enlarging the barn. Frank and Francis Gushee's third child, Frances "Fannie" Maria Gushee (1870-1962) was the last member of the family to occupy the house.

The Gushee Family House derives its architectural significance in part from the design of the doorway whose composition is a striking local building pattern. A reconnaissance level survey of Knox County that was conducted from 1981-84 identified a total of three capes (including the subject house) in Appleton that have a virtually identical doorway, as well as a fourth example on a two-story dwelling located diagonally across the street from the Gushee house that substitutes a transom for the louvered fanlight. The similarity of the composition and molding profiles of these latter two has been confirmed by the present owner of the Gushee house. In addition to the examples in Appleton, two houses (a cape and a two-story dwelling) on Route 235 in the neighboring town of Union also share a similar doorway, and others may exist in the adjoining Waldo County towns which have not been surveyed. The same overall composition was also employed on the c. 1825 Knott Crockett House in Rockland (N.R. 10/14/93, demolished 1997), a two-story dwelling with a shallow hipped roof and a well detailed interior. Its doorway appears to have been loosely patterned after Plate 27 in Asher Benjamin's *The Rudiments of Architecture* (1814), and although the design employed on the Gushee house and those of its neighbors is even further removed from the Benjamin plate, there is certainly a general relationship between them. Unfortunately, the builder or builders responsible for the design and construction of these house remain anonymous.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

GUSHEE FAMILY HOUSE

KNOX, MAINE

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### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Knox County Architectural Survey, 1981-84. Survey forms on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Miller, Royce W., comp. "The Gushee Family of Appleton, Maine." Gloucester, MA: Privately printed. 1996.

Mohney, Kirk F. National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Knott Crockett House, Rockland, Knox County, Maine. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta. July, 1993.

Gushee Family House  
Name of Property

Knox, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 8

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9	4	8	0	1	8	0	4	9	0	3	5	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

3 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

2 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1998

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

GUSHEE FAMILY HOUSE

KNOX, MAINE

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## **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property of approximately 8 acres occupies the Town of Appleton tax map 18, lot20.

## **Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire village lot that is historically associated with the Gushee Family House.