

PH0011166

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

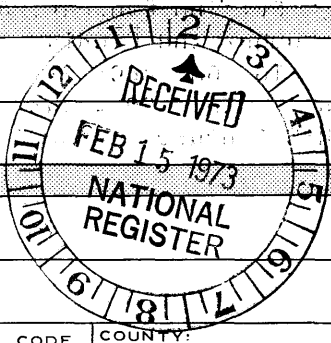
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 7 1973	DATE



1. NAME

COMMON:
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Thomas Skelton House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
124 U.S. Route One

CITY OR TOWN:
Falmouth

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Cumberland CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Henry N. Milburn

STREET AND NUMBER:
124 U.S. Route One

CITY OR TOWN:
Falmouth

STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc. Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
Station A, Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE: Maine CODE: 23

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Cumberland

ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 7 1973

DATE: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered
 Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved
 Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Thomas Skelton, Portland housewright, was probably the builder of this house. In 1798, he bought the Pleasant Street lot on which it stood. In 1804, he sold the lot to John Rackleff, Portland mariner. There is no mention of a building in the deed, but the lot sold for considerably more money, indicating that a house had been built on the property. In 1810, Benjamin Deake, a cordwainer, married Abigail Rackleff, the wife of John Rackleff, and the house came into his possession. In 1816, Deake bought the one and half story house to the immediate southwest, the John Masury House. Deake lived in the Skelton House and rented the Masury House. He passed both properties on to his children. Until recently the Thomas Skelton House was thought to be the Masury House, but it is indeed not. The Masury House has been demolished.

The Thomas Skelton House was originally one and a half stories high, as indicated by joints in the posts and a drip course on the original center chimney. A second story was added shortly after the house was built, probably around 1810, making the house two and a half stories high. The house faced northwest toward Pleasant Street. It was thirty feet wide and twenty feet deep, and had a brick and fieldstone foundation. An ell with basement was located at the rear of the house on the left (northeast) side. The ell was probably one and a half stories high originally, enlarged in the 1830's to two and a half stories. The windows of the house and ell had been replaced with four-"light" windows; the clapboards covered by asphalt shingles.

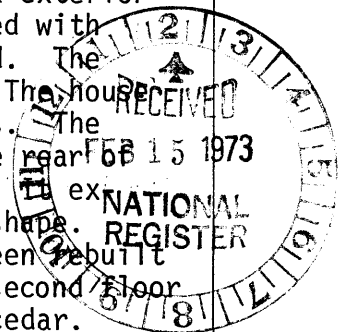
The ell had cellar, first, and second floor fireplaces. The main house had a large cellar kitchen fireplace with a crane and side bake over, probably used after the second story was added and the first floor bake oven made inoperable. The house had three first and two second floor fireplaces.

In 1971, the Thomas Skelton House was moved to Falmouth, Maine. It is now being meticulously restored. The house faces southeast toward Route One. It sits on a poured concrete foundation with a brick exterior facing at the front. The four-"light" windows have been replaced with modern nine over six windows. The asphalt shingles were removed. The original clapboarding was in poor shape and had to be removed. The house was insulated, resheathed, and covered with new cedar clapboards. The original ell was not moved. A lean-to has been added across the rear of the house to accommodate a new kitchen and modern conveniences. The lean-to tends the roofline of the original house, making it a salt-box shape. The base of the chimney is now and the top of the chimney has been rebuilt above the second floor fireplaces; the five original first and second floor fireplaces were moved intact. The roof has been reshingled in cedar.

The exterior of the Thomas Skelton House was originally very plain. The only elaboration was the center doorway: the door was framed by tall flat pilasters supporting an entablature. The doorway remains intact.

(See Continuation Sheet)

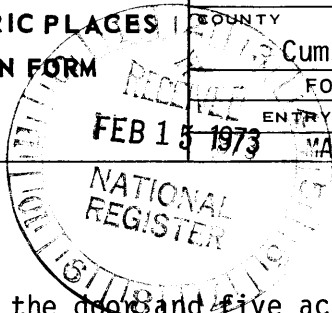
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE



(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

2

There are two windows to either side of the door and five across the second floor above. The cornice is a replacement of the original; it has a simple molding. The clapboarding has been lapped to look like the original clapboarding. The facade of the Thomas Skelton House looks today as it would have when Benjamin Deake lived in the house.

The original plaster and woodwork remained on the interior of the house hidden under layers of wallpaper and paint, which have now been removed. On the first floor there is a small front hall with a three-run stair going to the second floor in the front of the chimney. To the right is a sitting room with a large cooking fireplace. The fireplace has a rear brick baking oven which was docked to accomodate the front stair, constructed when the second story was added. This is an early unusual fireplace. The room has a wide cornice molding. To the left of the hall is another sitting room. The woodwork in this room is more elaborate. The wide cornice is broken out above the windows. At the rear of the house between these two rooms, is a narrow room with a small fireplace. It is unusual to find a fireplace in this room. There are cupboards above the fireplace. This room has been made part of the lean-to addition.

These three first floor rooms all have fully paneled fireplace walls. The paneling is quirked ovolo - it has Federal type molding with six raised panels - and was installed after the second story was added. The rooms have horizontal wainscotting on the other walls and molded architraves around the windows. The original plaster remains on the ceilings. The floor boards are original.

On the second floor are two bedrooms, one to either side of the hall. Both have fireplaces with wooden mantels above simple molded architraves. Both have horizontal wainscotting. The windows of the left bedroom have wide wooden panels to either side. A plank partition, which was added after the house was built to divide the left first floor room has been moved up to form the rear wall of this room.

The new lean-to addition contains a kitchen and study on the first floor, and a bedroom and bathroom on the second floor. Materials from the original house and ell have been employed wherever possible or other old materials found. The addition compliments the original house.

Only two original hinges remained in the house. HL hinges and door hardware of the period have been found and employed in the house, as have quirked ovolo paneled doors. The woodwork has been painted to match its original color, or painted with a color appropriate to the period. The second floor plaster has been patched, the new made to match the original as closely as possible. The restoration of the interior has been of an excellent quality, bringing the house back to its original condition.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1798

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Preservation</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Demonstration</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

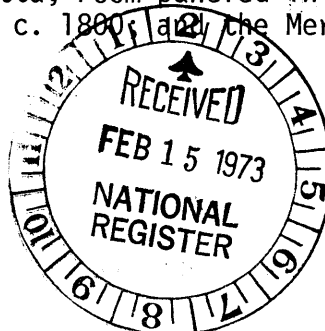
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Skelton House was to be torn down to enlarge a parking lot. Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc., a concerned preservation organization, found a buyer who moved the house to Falmouth. Thus, one of the oldest remaining houses in Portland, a valuable example of local construction and woodworking of the late Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Centuries, was saved. The house can be seen and studied today. Detailed records were made and photographs taken before the house was moved and at each stage of the restoration work. The resulting document is available at the Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc., office.

It is unfortunate that the Thomas Skelton House could not be preserved on its original site, but the present setting is appropriate. The house is surrounded by other old homes in a country-like section of Falmouth, similar in atmosphere to how Portland was when the house was built. The house looks as if it had always been there.

There restoration work done on the Thomas Skelton House has been carefully executed. The original appearance of the facade has been retained. The lean-to addition is a sympathetic way of incorporating extra space, permitting modernization without drastically altering the original house. There is a precedent for houses of this age in the Portland area to be built in this salt-box shape. The Thomas Skelton House stands as an impressive example of preservation put to use.

The quirked ovolo paneling of the Thomas Skelton House is important. This is a late use of a not very common style of paneling, covering the entire fireplace wall. The only other known local examples of this are the Nathaniel Hilton House, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 1790's; and in Maine the Chapman Hall House, Damariscotta, room paneled in the 1790's; the Walnut Hill Farm, North Yarmouth, c. 1800; and the Merrill Farm, Falmouth, c. 1800.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gould, Nathan. "Historical Sketch of Old Pleasant Street". Portland Sunday Telegram, April 21, 1901.
 O'Brien, Murrough H. "1795 Honeymoon House Will be Moved to Falmouth". Portland, Maine: Evening Express, July 21, 1971, p.1.
 O'Brien, Murrough H. "Group Working to Relocate 2 Historic Downtown Houses". Portland, Maine: Evening Express, April 8, 1971.
 Registry of Deeds, Cumberland County: Book 22, p.161; 23, 85; 28, 101; 30, 67; 42, 513; 42, 516; 60, 449; 76, 260; 546, 460; 563, 334.
 Shettleworth, Earle G., Jr. "Pleasant Street House Rare Vestige of Dwellings Built in 18th Century". Portland, Maine: Evening Express, July 12, 1967.

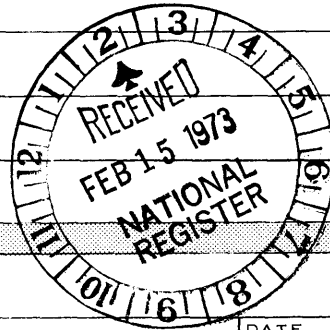
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		43° 42' 28"	70° 14' 14"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Mary-Eliza Wengren, Consultant

ORGANIZATION
 Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.

DATE
 September, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Station A, Box 4197

CITY OR TOWN:
 Portland

STATE
 Maine

CODE
 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Jamies H. Mundy

Title State Liaison Officer

Date February 1, 1973

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

Robert H. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/7/73

ATTEST:
W. D. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 29 73