

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 George Thorndike House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ME Route 73 N/A not for publication

city, town South Thomaston, N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Knox code 013

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Robert Sampson

street & number 2331 Graham Street

city, town Bayside, N/A vicinity of state California 95524

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Knox County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Rockland, 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		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 George Thorndike House (1855) is a wooden, two-storied Italianate residence, 3X2 bayed, with shallow hipped roof and commodious belvidere. The house is of large proportions and austere demeanor, and dominates a stretch of smaller Victorian houses along Route 73 in South Thomaston.

The entrance portico, in the facade's central bay, has a shallow roof supported on each side by two square wooden columns, rusticated to look like stone blocks. The cavities between each column are arched, the arches climaxed by wooden "keystones". There are short balustrades on each of the portico's sides. An arched transom light stands over the door, and arched sidelights flank it. The glass in each light is dark on each of the portico's sides. An arched transom light stands over the door, and arched sidelights flank it. The glass in each light is dark red with cut floral decorations. The steps and foundation are of grey granite.

A rectangular, one-story bay window, enclosing doubled arched windows, occupies the left-hand bay of the south wall.

All first-story windows are segmental with segmental cornices, and with recessed balustrades below the sills. All second-story windows are rectangular with simple moldings. All windows are 6/6 with the original glass.

A simple entablature fills the space between the second-story windows on the facade and rear, and two smaller square windows on the sides. The larger windows are twelve-paned, the smaller, nine. The belvidere also has a shallow hipped roof supported by small brackets.

A three-bayed, two and one-half story, pitched-roofed ell extends from the rear of the main portion. Both ell and rear wall are clapboarded. A doorway opens in the ell's north side. A large, pitched-roofed, clap-boarded carriage-house connects with the ell perpendicularly. The eaves of the carriage house are badly in need of repair, the house's only structural defect.

The entire house, save for the ell and rear wall, is sheathed in rustication, and each corner is quoined. The house was originally painted a dark red, sand being added to the paint to further the illusion of masonry.

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 type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1855 **Bullder/Architect** Attributed to Benjamin S. Deane

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Thorndike House is one of the most important Italianate houses in the Knox-Waldo County area. It was probably the first, and doubtlessly the most urbane hipped-roofed Italianate house in central Maine (outside of Bangor). The house is one of the few in the region with direct connections to Bangor's domestic architecture.

The house's probable architect is Benjamin S. Deane of Bangor.* Two Bangor houses of the period, the Jonathan C. Eddy House (1855, mansard roof later added), and the John Fuller House (c. 1862, burned in 1911), are extremely similar in design and decoration to the Thorndike House, and were almost certainly the work of the same architect. Benjamin S. Deane, Bangor's principle architect of the period and responsible for a number of the city's finest houses, was born and raised in Thomaston and doubtless maintained connections there. The existance of the Eddy and Pitman houses make it probable that a Bangor architect was retained for the Thorndike House, and it's very likely that a South Thomaston patron seeking a large and sophisticated dwelling would have gone to Deane.

The house's austerity, angularity, and lack of superfluous decoration are as reflective of the Greek Revival heritage as the Italianate. Only two hipped-roofed Italianate houses - the Paulk-Jewett-Stetson House (1853) and the Joseph C. Steyens House (c. 1851-53)** - were constructed in Bangor before 1855, making the Thorndike House among the first of the type in central Maine, every bit as advanced as Bangor's Eddy House of the same year. The Eddy and Thorndike Houses were probably the first in central Maine to use the block-like rustication that became standard on all larger Bangor houses through to the 1870s. Only two other central Maine houses (outside of Bangor) are similarly rusticated.

George Thorndike (born 1814) was a major Knox County shipbuilder in the 1840s, completing nineteen vessels before his retirement from the trade in 1848. In 1850-55 he served in the Maine State Senate, and in 1861 was Maine's first volunteer to Union Army service. Thorndike fought in Cassius M. Clay's battalion during the defense of Washington. His brother, Capt. Eben A. Thorndike, occupied the house from the end of the Civil War onward, while George spent the remainder of his life as a ship's captain.

* Documentation for this claim is lacking.

** The Steyens House is also markedly similar to the Thorndike House, and might also have been designed by Deane.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Eaton, Cyrus. History of Thomaston, Rockland, and South Thomaston, Maine,
Vols. I & II. Hallowell, Maine: Masters, Smith, & Company, 1865.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name Thomaston

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	4	8	9	6	6	0	4	8	7	7	4	7	1	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 #15, Lot 18

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 1982

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 Evelyn S. Patterson

title S.H.P.O. date 11/29/82

For NPS use only

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

J. Nelson Byrum
Keeper of the National Register

Evelyn S. Patterson
National Register

date

1/1/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration