United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms* Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic	James Montgomery/Flag	gg House	. A .: U A (12010.		
and/or commo	on					
2. Loc	cation					
street & num	ber St. Martin's I	ane		not for publication		
city, town	Biddeford	vicinity of	congressional district	Second		
state	Maine co	de 23 county	York	code 031		
3. Cla	ssification			-		
Category district _X building(structure site object		Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial ring military rest	museum park X. private residence religious scientific transportation		
4. Ow	ner of Prope		'r om			
	fr. and Mrs. William			a		
street & number 7 Melville Lane						
city, town	Cincinnati,	vicinity of	state	Ohio 45208		
<u>5. Loo</u>	cation of Leg	al Descripti	on			
courthouse, re	egistry of deeds, etc. Yor	k County Registry of	Deeds			
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city, town	Alf	red.	state	Maine		
6. Re	presentation		Surveys			
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date			federal stat	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
depository for	r survey records	~~~~~				
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city, town			state			

7. Description

Condition		Check one
<u>X</u> excellent	deteriorated	X_unaltered
good	ruins	altered
fair	unexposed	

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Check one _X_ original site _ moved date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The James Montgomery Flagg House of Biddeford, built in 1910, is a well-constructed dwelling in the bungalow style. It is in excellent condition and completely unaltered. The house is of frame construction, with l_2^1 stories, gabled roof, two brick chimneys, stucco finish, and field-stone foundation. Fenestration throughout is 6/6.

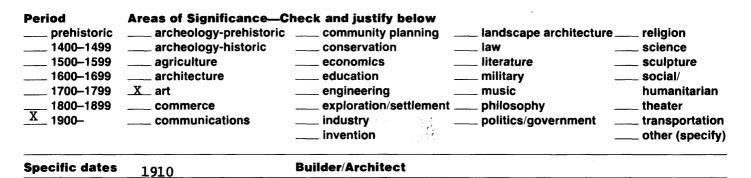
The principal facade faces south, away from the ocean, and is seven bays long with a central entrance. The entrance is covered by a gabled rise in the roof. In the facade half-story are two shed-roofed dormers, each of which contains four 6/6 windows. The east and west ends of the building are two bays wide.

The secondary facade faces north to the sea. Here again is a central entrance. In the half-story is one long shed-roofed (or "dust-pan") dormer containing ten 6/6 windows.

The east and west ends of the house are fitted with one-story wings. Each wing is enclosed on its end facing south, and is open as a porch facing north.

Of special note is the fact that the interior walls of the first floor occasional rooms are decorated with land and seascape murals painted by Flagg.

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built at his direction in 1910, this superbly sited cottage on the north shore of Biddeford Pool, was the summer retreat for thirty years of the colorful and prolific illustrator, James Montgomery Flagg (1877-1960). Though sold by him in 1940, it retains his presence through the extensive first floor murals done by him of the local landscape and the sea views.

Flagg was a friendly and popular man much in demand as a public speaker because of his forthright views on a number of subjects. He lived with gusto and seemed to epitomize the handsome bohemian artist, surrounded by beautiful models, dashing off pictures with sheer exuberance of talent. The image was very nearly true in Flagg's case. He worked rapidly and easily in all media and with any subject matter. Humor and satire were his special forte. His quick portrait studies and incisive characatures were prized by many prominent sitters. His illustrations appeared with regularity for a period of over thirty years in such magazines as Judge, Life and Saint Nicholas. Flagg was also a respected printer of serious portraits whose work was shown at the Paris salon of 1900, the National Academy of Design and the New York Water Color Club.

Probably his best known illustration was the famous "I Want You" Uncle Sam recruiting poster, over four million copies of which were printed and distributed throughout the country. Using himself as a model, Flagg created a new image for this national symbol, changing him from a gangling, humorous, star-spangled figure into a forceful, rather handsome, dignified man with only four stars on his hat.

His summer house at Biddeford Pool provided Flagg with an **ann**ual escape from the hurly-burly of his New York life, yet his irrepressable social energy kept it filled with guests and constant entertainment.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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