

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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DATE ENTERED
JAN 30 1976
MAY 17 1976

**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
 AND/OR COMMON
Peter Grant House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 10 Grant Street
CITY, TOWN: Farmingdale
STATE: Maine
VICINITY OF: 1st Hon. David Emery
COUNTY: Kennebec
CODE: 023
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 011
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Joseph and Ellen Skehan

STREET & NUMBER: 10 Grant Street
CITY, TOWN: Farmingdale, STATE: Maine
VICINITY OF: _____

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER: State Street
CITY, TOWN: Augusta, STATE: Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: _____
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 Peter Grant House of 1830 in Farmingdale ranks as one of the first Greek Revival temple style residences in Maine. Situated on a rise overlooking the Kennebec River, the house reflects a dignity befitting the commercial success of its original owner.

The Grant House stands two and a half stories high, has a granite foundation, and is of frame construction with clapboard sheathing and wooden trim. The shape of the house is a simple cubical volume with a gable roof running perpendicular to the facade, or east wall. The roof extends at this point beyond the body of the house, to form a two story portico with the gable end creating a pediment which is supported by four square piers. The gable end displays a symmetrically placed window, and the piers contain a full-length recessed panel on each side.

The main entrance to the Grant House is located at the center of the facade under the portico and is flanked on either side by a floor to ceiling window the same height as the door. At the second story level are three symmetrically placed windows. At the corners of the facade and rear walls are pilasters with recessed panels like those on the piers. The porch area itself consists of a low platform which runs the full width of the facade.

The north and south walls of the house each display two equally spaced openings at each level. On the north wall are two windows on each story, while the south wall contains a window and a door on the first story and two windows on the second. Because of the placement of a two story ell, the west or rear wall has no windows on the first story, only one on the second story, and two on the half story.

The trim of the Peter Grant House strongly reflects its Greek Revival design, especially in its wide architrave over the piers and in its angled entablatures on the gable end. Each of the windows is flanked by a pair of shutters. The handsome architectural character of the Grant House is complemented by distinctive 20th century foundation plantings.

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 checked="" 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 1830

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Peter Grant House in Farmingdale is of interest in two areas. It's construction date of 1830, ascertained from an examination of the tax records of Hallowell, of which the present town of Farmingdale was then a part, places it among Maine's earliest examples of Greek Revival temple style architecture as applied to a private dwelling. Of added significance is the rise to prominence and financial success of its builder.

Peter Grant was born in 1770 in Berwick, Maine. He was a fourth generation descendent of an earlier Peter Grant, born in Scotland in 1631. One of 3000 Scots taken prisoner by Cromwell's army at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650, he was sent as a convict laborer to the iron works in Lynn, Massachusetts, for a term of seven years. His wife having been left in Scotland, he remarried after his term of servitude ended and became the progenitor of a numerous family of Grants in Maine and New Hampshire.

A number of the family settled in Berwick and from there, Peter, builder of the house here nominated, and his father, Capt. Samuel Grant, a man of modest means, moved to Gardiner in 1790.

Peter Grant soon involved himself successfully in land speculation and shipping in the area. In 1796 he and a group of associates purchased a large tract of land along the west shore of the Kennebec River in Hallowell (later Farmingdale) known as the Bowman Tract. Grant became sole owner of better than 200 acres of this land in 1800 and built a substantial house thereon shortly afterward.

During the next 30 years Grant established a remarkable record of success, acquiring large landholdings and developing a shipyard and shipping business on his property at Bowman's Point. His rise to prominence was further marked by the fact that his son Samuel married the daughter of Dr. Benjamin Vaughn, a man of considerable notoriety in several fields and the patriarch of Hallowell. Another son, Peter, became an alderman in the City of Gardiner in 1850.

The original house was destroyed by fire and was replaced by Grant with the present house in 1830 six years before his death in 1836. His estate, consisting of extensive real estate holdings, ownership of several vessels, securities and notes, amounted to well over \$100,000, an extremely large sum for the 1830's.

(see continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bushman, Leola G., Peter Grant, Scottish Exile, privately printed, 1971
Town of Hallowell Tax Records
Kennebec County Probate Records

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>19</u>	<u>438160</u>	<u>4898760</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist Mark Wilcox, Student Assistant	DATE	December, 1975
ORGANIZATION	Maine Historic Preservation Commission	TELEPHONE	207-289-2133
STREET & NUMBER	31 Western Avenue	CITY OR TOWN	Augusta, Maine

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 *H. Edwin Gullett*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 1/26/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Atting</i>	DATE 4/7/96
AC DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 5.14.76
ATTEST: <i>Charles A. [Signature]</i>	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CONTINUATION SHEET Peter Grant House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The homestead remained in the Grant family until 1865 and has since passed through eight separate ownerships. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Skehan whose family have held the property since 1935.

The Peter Grant House, in addition to its architectural importance as a forerunner of a widely employed style, stands as a symbol of unusual entrepreneurial achievement in early 19th century Maine.