

PH 02-270

Peter N. Kyros

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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: Oxford |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE DEC 31 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
John Watson House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Intervale Farm

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 117 1 mile NW of Hiram off ME 117

CITY OR TOWN:
Hiram Me.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
1st

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Oxford CODE: 017

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 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:
Francis M. O'Brien

STREET AND NUMBER:
34 & 36 High St.

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Oxford County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
South Paris,

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Oxford

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: DEC 31 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

When John Watson arrived in Hiram, Maine, in 1778, fresh from service in the American Revolution, he constructed a crude house on the banks of the Saco River. Seven years later this dwelling was swept away in the Freshet of 1785. Watson then moved eastward to a safer location and erected a more substantial home. The handsome late-eighteenth-century house which he built has survived intact to become the oldest structure in the Hiram region.

Situated on a gentle rise, the Watson House has a granite foundation, is rectangular in shape, and stands two stories high with a hipped roof which meets at a large brick central chimney. A hipped roof house with a central chimney arrangement is rare in Maine. What few eighteenth century hipped roof homes there are in Maine usually have a double chimney arrangement which allows for a central hallway.

With the exception of the foundation, the Watson House is of frame construction and is sheathed in clapboards. The facade or south wall displays the classic five bay symmetry so often found on eighteenth century houses. On the first story the central bay contains a Federal style doorway, which is probably an early nineteenth century replacement of the original. The door is flanked by sidelights with a recessed rectangular panel below them. A broad louvered fan extends over both the door and its adjoining sidelights. On either side of the doorway is a pair of windows with twelve-over-twelve sash. The second story facade contains a series of five symmetrically placed windows, each also having twelve-over-twelve sash. One window appears above the doorway, while the two flanking pairs are placed over their first story counterparts.

The side or east and west walls of the Watson House have been altered slightly in recent years to accommodate the addition of Colonial Revival wings. Originally, the first story of the east wall contained a window and a door. While the window remains near the southeast corner of the wall, the door has become the passageway into the east wing. Adjacent to this wing is a one and a half story shed which originally stood unconnected to the house. The west walls originally had two first story windows, the rear one of which was altered to become the doorway for the west wing. Both the east and west walls have two second story windows. The rear or north wall has five windows on the first story and three on the second. Like the facade, the side and rear windows have twelve-over-twelve sash.

The interior of the Watson House is organized around the massive central chimney. Behind the front door is a small hallway and staircase which winds its way up to the second floor in front of the chimney. On either side of the hallway is a large front room with a fireplace on the inside wall. Behind these rooms is a long kitchen with its large open fireplace. The second story contains four major bedrooms, two at the front of the house and two at the back. All of these rooms retain

(See Continuation Sheet)

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

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

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE | |
| Maine | |
| COUNTY | |
| Oxford | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | DEC 31 1974 |

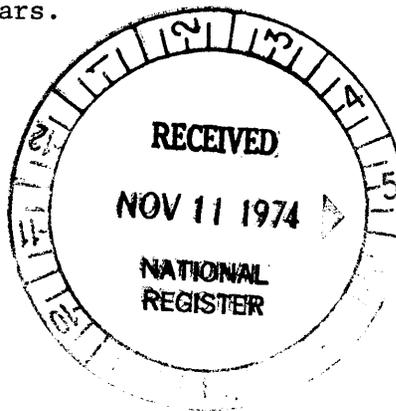
(Number all entries)

7. Description

1.

their fireplaces. Simple but handsome eighteenth century and early Federal style woodwork is present throught the house.

The John Watson House is the embodiment of eighteenth century Georgian architectural ideals expressed in the forthright terms of rural New England. The artful simplicity of its rational design continues to please the eye after the passage of nearly two hundred years.



4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1785

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) <u>Local Pioneering</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <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 oldest dwelling in Hiram and a fine example of Georgian architecture, the John Watson takes on added significance as the abode of one of the local pioneers who, in the years after the Revolution greatly expanded settlements in southern Maine.

John Watson was born in 1750 and apparently came with his family as a child from England to America where they settled in the Town of Arundel (now Kennebunkport). Watson served in the Continental Army in the early years of the War of Independence. His wife Mary gave birth to a son in Arundel on Sept. 6, 1778 shortly after which the family moved to a part of Brownfield now in the Town of Hiram.

Watson built a rude home on the banks of the Saco River where he lived until 1785 when an unusually high spring flood swept away his home. Undaunted, he selected a new sight on higher ground east of the river and built the finely proportioned structure standing today.

Little is known about John Watson's later years except that one may deduce that he became an ardent Federalist as indicated by an inscription on a small pine box now in the possession of his descendants:

John Watson is my name,
New England is my nation
Brownfield is my dwelling place,
And Christ is my salvation.

The Watson House stands as a monument to a simple, sturdy pioneer who created beauty in the wilderness on the heels of disaster.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maine Historical & Genealogical Register, Random Notes for Watson Genealogy.

G.T. Ridlon, Saco Valley Settlements, Portland, 1895

William Teg, Hiram, Cornish, 1941

HM
19
354260
486188

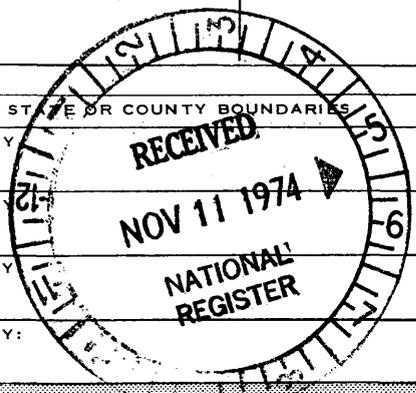
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | 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 ^o 53 . 51 . | 70 ^o 48 . 52 . | |
| NE | 0 . " | 0 . " | | | | |
| SE | 0 . " | 0 . " | | | | |
| SW | 0 . " | 0 . " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 Acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian
Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: 10-24-74

STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta 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: James H. Mundy

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: November 16, 1974

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

A. R. Quisenberry
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: DEC 31 1974

ATTEST: Wm. Mundy
Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 31 1974