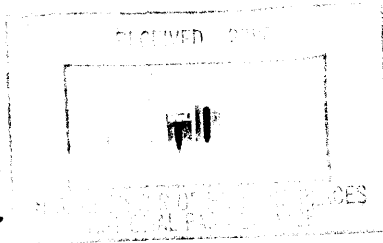


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



292

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Capt. Nathaniel Stone House

other names/site number The Ring House

2. Location

street & number 268 Maine Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Farmingdale N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Kennebec code 011 zip code 04344

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Charles F. [Signature] 3/10/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

[Signature] Date of Action
Edson R. Beal 4.22.03

STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE
Name of Property

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN / Second Empire
LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite, brick
walls weatherboard

roof slate, copper
other wood

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Continuation Sheet

STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The Captain Nathaniel Stone House is a west facing, two story, L-shaped frame structure located on a hill overlooking the Kennebec River in Farmingdale, Maine. As the only example of Second Empire architecture in Farmingdale, the high basement, slate covered mansard roof, and ornate cupola combine to form a distinctive and eye catching structure. Constructed in 1872, many of the house's decorative features are stylistically Italianate, including the bracketed porch and roof line, the bay windows and the dormer hoods over the second floor windows.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Captain Nathaniel Stone House is essentially a rectangular mass with forward facing wing on the north side which creates the L shaped projection. In the rear of the structure is an integral ell on the north side which contains a kitchen and service rooms. The facade of the building is three bays wide: at the center are the paired front doors with etched glass, to the south of this is a single, large (88" high) two-over-two double-hung window. A projecting three-bay window on the wing completes the first floor fenestration. The front door and south window are sheltered by a low-pitched, bracketed and colonnaded porch, which in turn is fronted by a wide staircase leading to grade level. Additional granite steps with decorative pillars provide access to the street. The south elevation contains another bay window with three sashes in the eastern bay, and a single two-over-two in the western bay. The northern elevation of the main mass contains two windows in the east and a third bay window in the west, followed by two additional windows in the ell. The rear entrance to the house is nestled under a small entrance porch at the south junction of the ell and the house next to a single two-over-two window on the west wall of the house. The foundation of the building is granite topped with painted brick, into which are positioned fixed sash cellar windows below each of the first floor windows. Two chimneys, decorated in relief with chevrons and rows of corbeling, rise through the roof on either side of the cupola. A third, plainer chimney, is positioned in the ell. The roof is covered with hexagonal slate tiles over the entire structure, and the body of the house is covered with clapboards.

The second story of the structure features dormers set into the flared Mansard roof. The dormer above the front bay window has a broken segmental arch top over a two-over-two sash. On the south and north sides, paired one-over-one arched windows are set in an oversized broken pediment dormer over the first floor bay windows. The remaining dormers contain smaller, two-over-two sash framed with broken pediments tops. There is a decorative pattern cut into the frieze under the broken pediments. The dormers are bracketed slightly under the hoods and the trim flares to follow the line of the lower roof. The roof line flares outward at the base of its lower pitch; this flare is accentuated at its base by a series of paired decorative brackets under the eaves. This cornice treatment is repeated at the roof line of each of the bay windows as well as at the front porch and rear entry. The vertical edges of the lower pitch are further decorated by a rope molding that follows the corner of the roof.

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STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

At the peak of the roof is a large, square, wooden cupola punctuated on each side with a set of triple, arched windows. As with remainder of the house, the overhanging eaves are bracketed, however these brackets continue to the base of the cupola, flaring slightly under the windows to create a fluid, buttressed effect. The roof of the cupola is similarly flared toward its eaves. Four small, ornamental, triangular pediments are placed near the top of the roof. Raising from the center of these pediments is a flame spire set above yet another decorative cornice.

INTERIOR

The interior of the Captain Nathaniel Stone House contains a pair of rooms on either side of a central hallway on the first and second floors and bathrooms, kitchen, two small bedrooms and a back stair in the ell. At the western end of the hallway is a broad, triple-run Victorian staircase with turned banisters and large, ornate newel posts at each turn. The chimney stacks separate the front living room and parlor from the trophy room and diningroom. With the exception of the trophy room, each of these rooms contain elaborate fireplace surrounds. The dining room surround is of veined black marble, while the front rooms are of white marble, and are surmounted by decorative entablatures. In the living room keyhole arched china cupboards have been built into the wall next to the fireplace. The ceilings of the downstairs are ten feet high and nine foot tall double-doors with glass upper panels and glass knobs give access from the hallway to the dining room, parlor and living room. All of the floors are of hard wood with marble thresholds under each set of doors. In each room, ornate, cast-iron radiators, c. 1887, are set on marble bases which are grooved at the edges to capture and drain off moisture. With the exception of the china cupboards, all woodwork is varnished oak. The bay windows in the dining room have oak pocket shutters, while above the bay windows in the living room is a plaster ball and dart cornice and remnants of stenciling on the plaster ceiling above the bay niche. Early twentieth-century light fixtures are found in the trophy room, the front hall and the parlor.

The layout of the second floor is very similar to that of the first floor, with the addition of a bathroom at the eastern end of the hall next, to a narrow staircase that leads to the cupola. The lack of hearths or fireplaces on the chimney stacks indicate that the rooms on this level were originally heated with wood stoves rather than open fireplaces. A large linen room with built in cupboards and drawers is located over the trophy room. The ceiling over the stair case was originally gently arched with a stain glass window placed at its peak, however, the window has been blocked by a dropped ceiling. In the ell is a modern bathroom, two bedrooms and the backstairs. There is evidence in this bathroom that the location of the back stairs have been changed.

The basement contains four large, partitioned rooms featuring different levels of finish from tongue-and-groove boarding to plasterboard. Cement floors are present throughout the cellar and a large brick

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STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE

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stucco cistern is located under the living room. Under the kitchen is a wood storage shed, which is accessible through a bulkhead on the southern side of the ell as well as through an interior stair case.

INTERIOR FINISHES

The Stone house was severely damaged by fire in October, 1912. Reports stated that the flames burned out through the second floor windows, and that the interior was heavily damaged. Evidence of the fire can still be seen in the attic crawl space: the vertical posts which support the cupola, are badly charred and the roof sheathing is a mixture of tongue-and-groove boarding and regular sheathing. Neither the rafters nor the sheathing show signs of smoke damage or charring, suggesting much of the roof structure was rebuilt. In the cupola, the window frames and sashes are charred and burned and discoloration from smoke is evident on the ceiling. However, by comparing the existing structure with a nineteenth-century etching of the house, as well as by looking at the Stone house's twin in Dexter Maine, it is obvious that, with the exception of a small iron balcony on top of the front bay window that was not replaced, the exterior of the building was reconstructed to match the original in every detail. On the first floor, much of the interior finishes date not to the original construction of the house in 1872, but to the overhaul it was given after the fire. The marble features, stenciling, ball and dart moulding, and cast iron radiators predate the fire, but most of the doors, trim and other wooden elements reflect an early twentieth aesthetic. It is quite likely that the china cabinets and decorative entablature over the mantles were also added then, and the staircase in the ell repositioned at this time.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1872 - 1913

Significant Dates

1872

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

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STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain Nathaniel Stone House in Farmingdale Maine was constructed in 1872 on a small plot of land overlooking the Kennebec River. Nestled among some of the more fashionable and upscale houses in the area, the Second Empire roof line, undulating front elevation and Italianate details combined to create a structure of significant presence and artistry. Maine Avenue runs along the western shore of the Kennebec River and connects Gardiner, Maine to the south with Hallowell and Augusta to the north. As an early suburb of Gardiner, many of the houses along this road were built in the second half of the nineteenth century by the businessmen and merchants of the neighboring towns who prospered through river-based trade and industry. Such was Nathaniel Stone. As a retired chandler, Stone had amassed a sizeable fortune from businesses in Gardiner and Boston and from investments in banking, real estate and the Kennebec Steamship Company. When Stone retired in the late 1860s, he returned to his native Maine from Boston, purchased a plot of land on Maine Avenue, cleared it of existing buildings and with his son, Uriah T. Stone, built the Italianate house for their families.

The history of Kennebec County describes the families' new neighborhood.

"The southeasterly part of the town [Farmingdale] is most thickly settled, being a suburb of the city of Gardiner, and the street extending from Gardiner along the bank of the picturesque Kennebec is lined with fine residences, and is claimed to be one of the most beautiful streets in Maine. Many of the residents here are engaged in business in Gardiner, and are an important factor in the progress and enterprise of that busy and growing city." (History of Kennebec County. p. 530.)

According to newspaper accounts, the Stone House (known later as the Ring House after a subsequent occupant) was "one of the best known places in Farmingdale."

"The Ring house was one of the best known places in Farmingdale, it was built 42 years ago by Nathaniel Stone. He died shortly after and Uriah Stone came into possess of the property. It is said that it cost about \$35,000 to build the house and barn. A contractor came to Gardiner to take charge of the work. It was the best that could be built at that time. Hardwood finish was used throughout, some of the rooms being finished out in mahogany and others in black walnut. The walls of the front hall had oil paintings on them and when first built every window pane was of plate glass." (Daily Kennebec Journal, October 10, 1912.)

Although on an urban lot, the Stone house also featured a large and similarly decorated carriage house located to the west of the main structure. A newspaper description of the carriage house reads in part: "which by the way is finished up about as fine as many of the parlors of some of the best residences in this city" (Kennebec Reporter, 4/15/1882). While the carriage house was removed in 1950, a twin to the Stone house and carriage house is extant in Dexter Maine and shows that the structure was an one-and-a-half

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STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

story Mansard roof structure with ocular dormers, a hipped roof topped by a cupola, and a highly ornamental barn door entrance. The Dexter home, known as the Morrison House, is almost identical to the Stone House in every detail and was constructed in 1870. Although the architect is not known in either case, there is little doubt that either the same person designed both, or the plans had been featured in a plan book of the era.

In 1886 Uriah T. Stone sold the house he and his father had built to William H. Ring, a local entrepreneur. (Newspaper accounts claim that Stone had seen ghosts in the building and would not reside there). Ring was a business man and trader, who also owned several commercial buildings in Gardiner. Between 1886 and 1912 he and his family resided at the Stone House, but by the turn of the Twentieth-century he grew increasingly in debt: on several occasions he borrowed against his property to meet his obligations. In November of 1911, fearing all out insolvency, Ring appointed Will C. Atkins of Gardiner as the trustee of his estate. In April of 1912, advertisements in the local paper offered "Fine Property for Sale", payable in cash by May first. There were no takers and the advertisements with the May first deadline continued to run through June. At last, one of the "most desirable estates located in Farmingdale on high elevation and facing the Kennebec River" was to be offered at auction on October 7th, but three days earlier the house caught fire and W.H. Ring perished in the blaze. Newspaper accounts suggest the fire was severe.

"At the start the fire was in the front end of the house and worked rapidly up through to the roof of slate known as a "French roof." This kept the flames inside so they spread through the interior and soon were breaking out through the sides. Its interior finish was almost entirely of hard wood and burned fiercely. Although several streams of water were pouring into the building for over an hour it was after 7:00 o'clock before the flames were under control. The house was almost entirely destroyed, the ell being the only (sic) part not burned and that was thoroughly water soaked. The barn was not connected with the house and was saved." (Daily Kennebec Journal October 10, 1912.)

Acting in his capacity as Trustee, Atkins sold the what was described as the 'homestead lot' of Ring to Wellington H. Wart the following January for \$7000. Less than fourth months later Wart sold the property to Georgie Burnham Decker for \$1.00 and the payment of back taxes; Decker and her family owned the house for the next thirty-one years. It appears that either Wart, or more likely Decker, rebuilt the structure following the design and detailing of the exterior of the original house, while replacing some of earlier interior features with quarter sawn oak and hardwood floors. Nonetheless, the Stone House is an elegant and prominent structure on the Farmingdale landscape that brings to the region an excellent example of the Second Empire form as well as encapsulating the slightly more restrained aesthetic of the second decade of the twentieth century. For this reason it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for its architectural significance.

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STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE

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Section number 9 Page 2

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"William H. Ring of Farmingdale Loses His Life." *Daily Kennebec Journal*, October 5, 1912. (Augusta, Maine).

"W.H. Ring Suffocates." *Daily Reporter Journal*, October 5, 1912. (Gardiner, Maine: Gardiner Publishing Co.).

STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE
Name of Property

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .72 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 9 4 3 8 3 5 0 4 8 9 8 5 0 5
 Zone Easting Northing

3 1 9
 Zone Easting Northing

2 1 9

4 1 9

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 20 January 2003

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333 -0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated parcel is fully described by the Town of Farmingdale property tax map number 24, lot 36B.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated parcel contains all the property historically associated with Captain Nathaniel Stone.

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Continuation Sheet

STONE, CAPT. NATHANIEL, HOUSE

KENNEBEC CO., MAINE

Section number Page

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
17 December 2002
East elevation; facing west.

Photograph 2 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
17 December 2002
Interior, dining room; facing northeast.

Photograph 3 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
17 December 2002
Interior, front hall; facing west.

Photograph 4 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
17 December 2002
East elevation; facing west.
Interior, parlor; facing southwest.