

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 11 1984  
date entered DEC 6 1984

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

1. Name

historic John Williams House

and or common

2. Location

street & number Church Street (Route 41)

N/A not for publication

city, town Mt. Vernon,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine

code 23

county Kennebec

code 011

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Peter Lee

street & number P.O. Box 12

city, town Mt. Vernon,

vicinity of

state Maine 04352

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Augusta,

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**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The John Williams House is a timber frame structure with clapboard siding. The one-and-one-half story building has a gable roof and is divided into six bays on the principal (west) facade. The windows are a mixture of four-over-four and six-over-six double-hung sash. A one-story utility wing with a gable roof extends from the south end of the kitchen wing. The house is in the Federal style and the main entrance features a ten panel door enframed by molded archtrave trim supporting a louvered fan. Next to this entrance is a large bay window, added in the mid-nineteenth century.

The interior of the house contains original Federal style woodwork. Particularly outstanding is the mantelpiece with pilasters carved in a pineapple motif. Original period wall stencils appear throughout the house, apparently by Moses Eaton.

## 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 checked="" 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**      1827      **Builder/Architect**      John Williams

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Apart from its interest as a well-designed, though altered, Federal Cape, the John Williams House derives importance from its stencilled interior and the remarkably well preserved woodwork which culminates in the beautiful fireplace surround with its most unusual pineapple motif. Of added importance is its builder, John Williams, cabinet maker of considerable repute in central Maine, house wright, carriage maker, and a man of considerable local importance and influence in his community.

Born in Chesterville in Franklin County, Maine, Williams, having married the granddaughter of the founder of Mt. Vernon, moved there in 1827 and in the same year built his house with a cabinet shop next door. He soon gained a reputation as a furniture maker and developed a style which became widely admired. Several pieces of his, in fact, were recently exhibited at a special show of Maine furniture at the Maine State Museum. This furniture oriented technique is reflected in the unusual pilasters of the fireplace mentioned above. As a housewright he designed and built at least six houses in the area. He and his sons also opened the first wagon and carriage shop in the region. Williams continued his furniture manufacturing until within two years of his death in 1888 at the age of 87.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Kingsbury & Deyo, Illustrated History of Kennebec County, 2 Volumes, New York, 1892.  
 Wright, William R., A Sociological and Economic History of Mt. Vernon, Maine. 1943.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{4}$   
 Quadrangle name Belgrade Lakes Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 1 9	4 2 1 1 4 0 5	4 1 9 2 1 7 8 1 7 1 0	B					
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
C				D					
E				F					
G				H					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map #7, Lot 24

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian  
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1984  
 street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 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 *Earle S. Felt* date 10/1/84  
 title S. A. P. O.

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
*Melrose Byers* date 12-6-84  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration