

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Klir Beck House "The Gnomes" Additional Documentation - Removal

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

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

2. Location

Street & number: Klir Beck Road

City or town: Vienna

State: Maine

County: Kennebec

Not For Publication: n/a

Vicinity: Mount Vernon

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

_____ national

_____ statewide

_____ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_____ A

_____ B

_____ C

_____ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

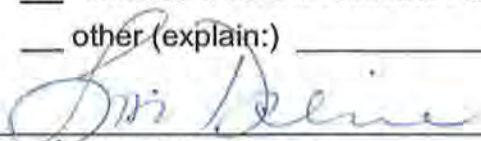
KLIR BECK HOUSE "THE GNOMES"
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION – REMOVAL
Name of Property

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☒ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

4/26/17
Date of Action

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 ☐

KLIR BECK HOUSE "THE GNOMES"
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION – REMOVAL
Name of Property

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

This documentation is presented to remove the Klir Beck House "The Gnomes" in Vienna, Maine from the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Klir Beck House, also known as "The Gnomes" (NR: 77000067) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 23, 1977 in recognition of its architectural significance. Set in rural Kennebec County in an area of woodland and lakes, "The Gnomes" was a unique example of early 20th century eclectic architecture. The house was designed by Klir Beck, a man of broad artistic talent who was skilled in a variety of crafts, and who is perhaps best known for the dioramas in the Maine State Museum that depict Maine's flora and fauna. The eclectic house was essentially Tudor Revival in design but also drew from a multitude of European revival styles. On January 27, 2000 a fast moving fire destroyed the house, which was subsequently demolished. A portion of the attached garage was saved and remains on the lot (Town of Vienna tax map 11, lot 52). The garage is not significant.

This additional documentation is submitted in order to remove the Klir Beck House "The Gnomes" from the National Register as per 36 CFR 60.15 (a)(1) because "the property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed...". A copy of a newspaper article recording the fire is enclosed.

8. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

McGillvray, Dan. "Klir Beck home burns in Vienna." *Kennebec Journal*, January 28, 2000, section B1.

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 # _____

KLIR BECK HOUSE "THE GNOMES"
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION – REMOVAL

KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 448-0004

10. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Goebel-Bain / Architectural Historian
organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission
street & number: 55 Capitol Street
city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04333-0065
e-mail: michael.w.goebel-bain@maine.gov
telephone: (207) 287-5435
date: 29 March 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

frontations expected when hearings begin on Saturday • B3

Local

KENNEBEC JOURNAL.

Friday, January 28, 2000

SECTION
B
1



An excavator tears down a section of the former Klir Beck house as several fire departments mop up after a fire damaged the home.

Staff photo / JOE PHELAN



Photo courtesy Maine Historic Preservation Commission

The Klir Beck house is shown in this file picture before the Thursday fire.

Klir Beck home burns in Vienna

Owners were in process of extensive renovations

By DAN MCGILLVRAY
Special to the Kennebec Journal

VIENNA — No one was injured Thursday morning when a fast-moving fire destroyed the former Klir

wild animals.

When the fire started around sunrise, Cynthia and her grown daughter, Janna, were in their upstairs bedrooms. Cynthia's son, Harlan, was in a ground-level connecting



Owners were in process of extensive renovations

By DAN MCGILLVRAY
Special to the Kennebec Journal

VIENNA — No one was injured Thursday morning when a fast-moving fire destroyed the former Klir Beck house, a local showpiece of various architectural styles.

The home's three occupants escaped shortly after smoke started to billow through the historic home around 7 a.m. Four cats perished in the blaze, but four dogs, including two adopted greyhounds, escaped from the burning house near Flying Pond.

"When we arrived, there was smoke showing only. The fire started in the cellar," said Jon Ljunggren, Vienna's fire chief.

The smoke quickly turned to flames, which shot through the roof just as the sun started climbing over nearby trees and temperatures

hovered in the teens. Firefighters from all local mutual-aid towns were on the scene with crews from Belgrade, Chesterville and Farmington.

Robert and Cynthia Knudson bought the one-of-a-kind home in the fall of 1996 and started restoring the interior, exterior and grounds. Unoccupied for several years before their purchase, the home — which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places — had fallen into disrepair.

Beck, a well-known artist, bought the 19th-century farmhouse in the 1920s and transformed its classic New England look into a home with Old World flair. He died in 1966.

Beck's name surfaced in statewide news stories last year when legislators decided to move his State House dioramas, a series of artistic backdrops and mounted

wild animals.

When the fire started around sunrise, Cynthia and her grown daughter, Janna, were in their upstairs bedrooms. Cynthia's son, Harlan, was in a ground-level connecting wing of the home, which was saved.

Robert Knudson, a microscope instrument maker at the Marine Biological Laboratories in Woods Hole, Mass., was at work. He spends most weekends in Vienna.

Janna, a California resident, had been visiting for the past two weeks. She said the smoke was so thick she had to feel along the walls to find the outside door.

Ljunggren said four firefighters entered the cellar of the home to fight the flames. But they left the enclosed area because of safety concerns after a loud warning horn was sounded.

"It's a terrible time to fight a fire. Most of the men are at work," said

Ljunggren. At least 50 volunteer firefighters appeared to be on the scene and fire trucks and other equipment lined Klir Beck Road, which intersects Tower Road about one mile north of Mount Vernon village.

The chief called for an excavator to punch a hole in the cellar wall so water could be sprayed on stubborn flames.

John Jones, a neighbor of the Knudsons, said the family had been determined to restore the home to its original grandeur.

"They had dumped a lot of money into the house. It was well on its way to being restored," said Jones. The Knudsons went to his home, a short distance away on Klir Beck Road, after they fled the burning dwelling.

"They had dumped a lot of money into the house. It was well on its way to being restored."

Neighbor John Jones

Please see FIRE, B2



Staff photo / JOE PHELAN

Seen through a broken window, firefighters continue mopping up Thursday afternoon after the morning blaze destroyed most of the Beck house.

• Fire

Continued from B1

After Beck bought the house, he built balconies, canopies and arched doorways. The artist, who was born in California in 1892, also installed French doors and intricate woodwork, and enlarged the home's overall living space.

The house — which over the years grew into an eclectic mix of Swiss chalet, German cottage and Elizabethan country manor — stood out in this small rural town of traditional homes and barns. After Beck died in March 1966, many of his personal belongings and furnishings were sold during an on-site auction held four months later.

Beck maintained a petting zoo of orphaned and injured deer on the grounds. Before he was named the first curator of the Maine State Museum, Beck had worked for many years for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game and the Maine Development Commission.

His artwork, which depicted wild animals and outdoor scenes, appeared on state promotional publications, and on covers of the Saturday Evening Post and Collier's magazines.

Ljunggren said the fire that reduced Beck's former home to charred timbers will be remembered in town.

"It's an historic event in Vienna," said the longtime chief. He compared Thursday's blaze to the loss, more than 15 years ago, of the historic Trask home in the village.

Pat Onion, one of the Knudson's neighbors, said the family and town have lost something that is impossible to replace.

"It's not only the loss of an historic local landmark, but we lost a perfect restoration in progress," she said. Onion added that the Knudsons' were sticklers for detail, and their work revealed that trait.

PH0365319

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 27 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME



HISTORIC

Klir Beck House "The Gnomes"

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Vienna

Mt. Vernon

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st Hon. David Emery

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Kennebec

CODE

011

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES, RESTRICTED

YES, UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Arthur Frederick

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Mt. Vernon

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 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

☒ 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

Built in 1927 by the remarkable artist, Klir Beck, "The Gnomes" enjoys a rural setting of woods, fields, and lakes. The one and a half story house was intended to be the artist's summer residence and, being owner-designed and built, is utterly unique.

The house obviously draws inspiration from the eclecticism of the early 20th century. The roof-line is complex; eaves project greatly with prominent bracket support; two of the gables end with projecting bracketed canopies which provide cover for very ornate balconies. Structurally, the house is supported by an exposed irregular stone foundation; the first story's walls are half timbered brick and the second story's walls are half timbered stucco. Part of the roof is covered with wooden shingles, part with asphalt shingles. There are four interior chimneys.

Except for the use of asphalt shingles on part of the house's roof, the exterior of "The Gnomes" is untouched. Whether of Swiss chalet, German, or English Elizabethan half-timbered inspiration, the facade is extraordinarily busy with detail. The diagonal, curving, horizontal, and vertical surface timbers break the walls into many rectangular, triangular and irregular panels. The larger panels contain additional decoration, including several remarkable lotus motifs in brick with stucco background. The windows are six over six (again, a striving for detail). There are double-doors at the entrance and to either side of it. The entrance is flanked to each side by three irregular stuccoed panels, one containing field-stone, one brick, and the third small windows framed and arched in brick; below the left window decorative brick is laid in a herring-bone pattern. Some second story panels contain small brick rosettes. The balconies feature elaborately cut wooden balustrades.

The interior of the Klir Beck House is equally detailed, not to say eccentric. For example, the living room floor is of flagstone with an inlaid compass near the hearth. The walls are decorated with handcarved black walnut panelling a 300-pound door is of the same material.

This structure is a monument to personal design and construction. Blending charming details and structural form, "The Gnomes" is a classic example of the eclectic style of architecture which culminated in the late 1920's.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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	1927	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Klir A. Beck
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As one might guess by the house itself, the designer and owner was an ingenious and multi-talented individual. Klir A. Beck, who was referred to during his lifetime as a modern Leonardo, possessed the gifts of an artist and the skills of a craftsman. Though little known by the public largely because of his retiring nature, he was widely admired within his professional circle.

Born in California of artistically inclined parents, he won, at an early age, a scholarship at the Art Student's League in New York and while there won another which took him to Paris. He was marked for greatness by his teachers but he refused to live in New York, or any other large city where greater opportunities for notoriety might have come his way. Instead, after much searching, he and his wife settled near the tiny town of Mt. Vernon in central Maine where he designed and built his most unusual home and where he remained the rest of his life.

An artist and sculptor of considerable merit, he was also an expert worker in iron, silver and gold, and became a skilled taxidermist. He was, as well, a self-trained naturalist and maintained yards and pens where he kept sick animals which he treated until recovery.

Putting all of these talents together he was retained by the State of Maine as a designer of exhibits for sportsmen's shows. In this capacity he developed an art form combining natural phenomena and creative art in such a manner that it was almost impossible to tell where one began and the other left off. He was honored at the Eastern States Exhibition for these remarkable displays and received several important offers to do promotional exhibits for governmental and private organizations. These, however, he refused, not wishing to be long away from his adopted state.

His most noted work is generally conceded to be the remarkable dioramas in the old State Museum in the Capitol in Augusta, Maine. These depict with great realism scenes in Maine drawn from nature and including both flora and fauna of the state.

Mr. Beck died in 1966 leaving for posterity the remarkable house which bespeaks so eloquently his originality and unique craftsmanship.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lewiston Journal, November 9, 1929

Kennebec Journal, September 22, 1959

Portland Press Herald, March 14, 1966

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 420400 4928480
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
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, Historian
Earle G. Shettleworth, Director

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE October 1976

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE 207-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta, STATE 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 Earle G. Shettleworth
TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE October 22, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rethig DATE 11/23/77
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: Charles A. Hurling John KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE 11-17-77
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Klir Beck House - "The Gnomes"
Vienna, Maine

Frank A. Beard

DOE
NOV 23 1977

8/76 *KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE*
Me. Historic Preservation Comm.

Main house from the southwest

(1) *43*

OCT 27 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Klir Beck House - "The Gnomes"
Vienna, Maine

Frank A. Beard

D.O.E.
NOV 23 1977

8/76 *KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE*
Me. Historic Preservation Comm.

Main house from the southeast

(2) *42*

OCT 27 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Klir Beck House - "The Gnomes"
Vienna, Maine

Frank A. Beard

NOV 23 1977

8/76 *Kennebec County, Maine*

Me. Historic Preservation Comm.

E11 from the southeast

(3) *of 3*

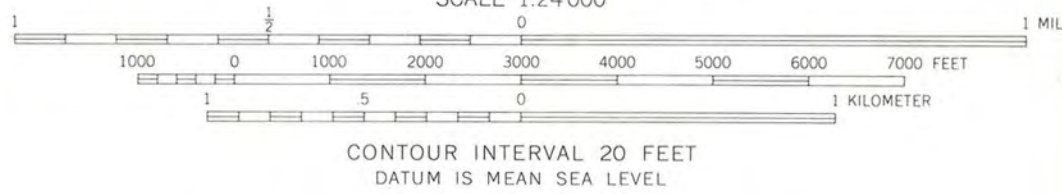
OCT 27 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Klir Beck House
UTM Reference:
19/420400/4928480
OCT 27 1976

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1965. Field checked 1968
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maine coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19,
shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route
State Route

FARMINGTON FALLS, MAINE
SE/4 FARMINGTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N4430-W7000/7.5

1968
AMS 6973 II SE-SERIES V811



Klir Beck House

Property Klir Beck House "The Gnomes"

Kennebec

State Maine Working Number 10.27.76.4398

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

CONTROL

KP

OK 10.27.76

HISTORIAN

accept

B. Gravina

11/10/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept

M. H. H. H.

11-30-76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept for Cole
Janel
6/8/77

BRANCH CHIEF

H. H. H.
11.17.77

KEEPER

Petting for Murtagh
11/23/77

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered NOV 23 1977

Federal Register Entry 2-7-78

Re-submit

INT:2108-74

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MAINE

Date Entered NOV 23 1977

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Memorial Hall	Oakland Kennebec County
Bock, Klir, House	Mt. Vernon vicinity Kennebec County
China Village Historic District	China Kennebec County
McCobb-Hill-Minott House	Phippsburg Sagadahoc County
Burnt Island Light Station	Boothbay Harbor vicinity Lincoln County

Also Notified

Hon. William D. Hathaway
Hon. Edmund S. Muskie
Hon. David F. Emary
Mr. Robert F. Crecco, DOT
Mr. Bill Salomona, U.S. Coast Guard
Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
Director, Maine Historic Preservation
Commission
31 Western Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04330

12/2/77

Mott/js

880

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 11/10/76
 Reviewer INITIALS: BG
 (SR) DOE NOV 23 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Beck, Klir, House

OTHER NAMES: The Gnomes

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER W of Mt. Vernon off ME 41

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Mt. Vernon

STATE Maine 23

COUNTY code
 Kennebec - 011

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL AGENCY NAME:

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
☒ Substantially intact-1 ☒ Substantially intact-2 ☒ Substantially intact-3
☒ unknown - 4 ☐ unknown - 5 ☐ unknown - 6
☐ not applicable - 7 ☐ not applicable - 8 ☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - ☒ EXCELLENT ☐ DETERIORATED ☒ UNALTERED ☐ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD ☐ RUINS ☐ ALTERED ☐ MOVED
☐ FAIR ☐ UNEXPOSED ☐ Reconstructed ☐ Unknown
☐ Unexcavated ☐ Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted ☒ No access Unknown

historic district? YES ☒ NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES ☒ NO
 IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES ☒ NO
 IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES ☒ NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- house

now- house

SIGNIFICANCE:

<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW/Gov't/politics	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> health
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement
<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	<input type="checkbox"/> socio/cultural
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY		<input type="checkbox"/> urban & commun
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT		<input type="checkbox"/> planning

Claims

"first" YES NO

"oldest" YES NO

"only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

designer:
architect/m.buider: *Ken A. Beck*
landscape/garden designer:
interior decorator:

engincer:
artist/artisan:
builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role

6

appropriate date)

personal *Kir A. Beck - artist, gold and silversmith, skilled taxidermist
needed for the dioramas in the old State Museum
in the Maine capital*

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1927*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

/

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Stone foundation, half-timbered construction with 1st-story brick infill and 2nd-story
stucco infill; 1 1/2 stories, L-shape, gabled roof sections, some with
hipped hood extensions, numerous 1st-floor entrances and 2nd-story
balconies, decorative 1st-story stuccoed panels; interior handcarved black
walnut paneling. Eclectic.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

*Designed by owner, Ken A. Beck, a skilled craftsman and artist, most
well-known for his work in Maine which included exhibit designs, dioramas in
the Old State Museum in Augusta, and this house.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/12/2017 Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: 6/26/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

☒ Accept ☐ Return ☐ Reject 6/26/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 6/24/17

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333



KIRK F. MOHNEY
DIRECTOR

9 May 2017

Edson Beall
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228,
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Beall:

Enclosed please find five (5) National Register nominations for properties in the State of Maine. Of the five, three (3) are new nominations and two (2) are additional documentation: one removal and one request for approval to move. No comment or objection letters were received regarding these properties.

Brick School, Oxford County
Keen Hall, Waldo County
Whittier Field Athletic Complex, Cumberland County
Klir Beck House "The Gnomes" Additional Documentation – Removal, Kennebec County
Starling Grange #156 (Former) Additional Documentation, Kennebec County

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-2132 x 8.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain
Architectural Historian

Enc.