

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 15 1985

date entered APR 11 1985

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

1. Name

historic Governor Samuel Cony House

and/or common William Payson Viles House

2. Location

street & number 71 Stone Street N/A not for publication

city, town Augusta, 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 William P. Viles

street & number 71 Stone Street

city, town Augusta, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04330

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 Viles House is a two-story brick structure located on a large lot in a residential neighborhood. The building is L-shaped with the narrow, pedimented gable end facing west. The windows consist of six-over-six and six-over-nine double-hung sash with stone lintels. A small one-story wing extends from the north side of the main section.

The house is ornamented with neo-classical details such as Doric pilasters, a lunette in the west pediment and an entrance vestibule with pediment, panelled piers and Ionic columns in antis. This doorway, which is located on the south side of the house facing the circular driveway, is flanked by fluted pilasters. Other important decorative features include a bowed window on the south side of the rear wing, and the fence which encloses the garden at the intersection of the ell. The latter is a classical design with urns on posts similar to the McLellan-Sweat Mansion in Portland (N. R., built 1800).

The interior contains original woodwork throughout the house. This includes door and window moldings, panelled walls and mantel-pieces. Most of the wood is stained a dark color, as was typical of the period.

Also included in the nomination is a large garage and utility building. This structure is wood construction with clapboard siding and a broad, sweeping gable roof. The eaves are supported on stylized brackets and the corner portico is supported on a single octagonal column.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1846, 1930 **Builder/Architects** A. J. Davis (1846), John P. Thomas (1930)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Greek Revival

Originally ~~Italianate~~ in design (1846) and later altered in the neo-classical tradition, this large impressive house is also distinguished as the home of two important figures in Maine politics. Both the original architect, Alexander Jackson Davis, and the designer of the 1930 alteration were highly respected in their profession.

This handsome old-time mansion was the home of Governor Samuel Cony, son of General Samuel Cony, first Adjutant General of Maine. Governor Cony was born in 1811. He was a member of the Legislature; of the Executive Council; Judge of Probate for Penobscot County; and Land Agent in 1847. He held this position until he was chosen State Treasurer and moved to Augusta in 1850. He was Treasurer for five years. In 1854 he was elected Mayor of Augusta; in 1863–4–5, the Civil War years he was Governor of the State. Governor Cony died in 1870. His home was then occupied by Joseph Homan Manley, who was the son of James Sullivan Manley and Caroline Sewall Manley, who was the granddaughter of General Henry Sewall of Revolutionary War fame. He was born in Bangor, where his parents were living for a short time. From 1869 to 1876 he was in employ of the Government as a Revenue Agent. In the spring of 1878 he purchased the Maine Farmer, a weekly publication which was started in Winthrop in 1833 under the name Kennebec Farmer and edited by Dr. Ezekiel Holmes. For sixteen years he was in the Legislature, succeeding J. G. Blaine as Speaker of the House.

The great romantic of American nineteenth century architecture, Alexander Jackson Davis (1803– 1892), was among the most original and influential architects of his period. John P. Thomas (1886–1944), was a highly respected Maine architect who designed among other distinguished buildings, the Canal National Bank and Deering High School in Portland.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Beck, Joseph T., Historical Notes on Augusta, Maine, Part Two. Farmington, Maine. 1963

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1
Quadrangle name Augusta

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>19</u>	<u>439050</u>	<u>4906590</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 42, Lot 172

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 January, 1985

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 *Evelyn S. Pettit*

title S.H.P.O. date 2/8/85

For NPS use only

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

John Adams Byers Entered for NPS National Register date 4/11/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date