

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000397 Date Listed: 4/20/88

Libby-MacArthur House York ME  
Property Name County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

4/20/88  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3: Classification

The 2 detached barns mentioned in the descriptive text (section #7) should be entered as 2 noncontributing buildings.

This information was confirmed with Kirk Mohny, National Register Coordinator, MESHPO, by telephone on the date of listing.

DISTRIBUTION:  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MAR 10 1988

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Libby-MacArthur House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Maine Route 11

N/A not for publication

city, town Limington,

N/A vicinity

state Maine

code

ME

county

York

code

031

zip code 04049

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing  |
|--------------|------------------|
| <u>1</u>     | _____ buildings  |
| _____        | _____ sites      |
| _____        | _____ structures |
| _____        | _____ objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u> Total   |

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet

Signature of certifying official

Maime Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

3/4/88

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

Patricia Anders

4/20/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Wood/Shingle

other Brick Center Chimney

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Facing south from the north side of Route 11 in Limington village, the Libby-MacArthur House is a two-story with attic, five-bay gambrel roofed frame house sheathed in weatherboards. This substantial L-shaped dwelling retains portions of its Federal period interior finish along with Greek Revival and Italianate style alterations. Its timber frame contains brick nogging between the exterior wall studs.

The Libby-MacArthur House has a symmetrically composed facade that features a centrally located gabled entrance vestibule flanked by pairs of six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The flush sheathed vestibule is a Greek Revival addition that shelters a heavily molded six-panel door framed by wide sidelights and a transom. There are two shed roofed dormers on the lower pitch of the wood shingled roof. They are located above and between the first story windows.

The east elevation is comprised of a three sided rectangular bay window on the first story that abuts a side entryway. This is a mid-nineteenth century alteration whose recessed door is framed by sidelights and a transom and located behind a shallow hood. There are two six-over-six windows in the second story and a smaller pair in the attic.

Like its counterpart, the west gambrel end contains two windows in the second story and two in the attic level. A pair of two-leaf doors were added to the first story as part of the mid-nineteenth century remodeling. These doors were formerly sheltered by a porch that has since been removed.

Extending northward from the rear elevation is a long two-story ell. It spans the western half of the front block and projects beyond the south end where there is an entryway. A mid-nineteenth century partially enclosed porch carries across the east side of the ell. Numerous window openings with six-over-six or nine-over-six sash punctuate the side walls. The appearance of the ell with respect to the main block suggests that it is a later addition, perhaps made during the early nineteenth century. The surviving Federal period woodwork on the interior includes mantels, chair rail, six-panel doors and mitered three-part surrounds.

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Attached to the rear of the ell is a broad frame barn sheathed in wood shingles. This barn contains a number of windows that employ either six-over-six or nine-over-six sash. Although its date of construction is not positively known, it was standing here in 1872 when it appeared on a map of the village. There are also two detached barns on the property, both of which are in an advanced state of deterioration. They appear to date to the late nineteenth century.

The interior of the house shows that major remodeling of the front block was undertaken in the mid-nineteenth century. Italianate style mantelpieces were installed on the first floor, four-panel doors with heavily molded surrounds were hung and the east side entrance hall was outfitted with paneled wainscot. The decorative treatment of this hall and the similar detailing of the adjoining interior room to the west, suggest that a total reorientation of the interior space had been effected. De-emphasis of the original front entrance, despite the earlier addition of the vestibule, was completed by the very modest treatment of the central hall and stair. The wide hall separates the two chimneys that meet in the attic and rise through the roof in a single stack, thereby creating the sense of a central chimney. Massive brick bases in the full basement support the chimneys.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1790

Significant Dates

c. 1790

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Apparently constructed during the 1790s, the Libby-MacArthur House is architecturally significant under National Register criterion C as one of only a handful of early historic gambrel roofed buildings in Maine. The use of this roof form on a building of the mid-Federal period is particularly unusual, and it illustrates the persistence of tradition in both the mind of the client and the builder.

The Libby-MacArthur House occupies a part of the 100 acre proprietary lot 9, range E drawn by Samuel Small in 1774. Small, who lived in Scarborough and may never have seen this property, transferred it by deed to his daughter Martha and her husband Philemon Libby (1749-1811) on December 19, 1777./1 The Libby's had already made their residence here, although this first dwelling was undeniably a small structure, perhaps of log construction as was typical of eighteenth century frontier settlements in Maine. Little is known about Libby's occupation although one Limington historian has indicated that he was an innkeeper./2 The same historian states that the present house was constructed in 1794, although the source of this information is not indicated. In any case Philemon Libby occupied the house until his death. His widow Martha (Small) Libby (1753-1837) and their youngest son Abner, to whom the farm descended, are thought to have remained here until about 1828 when they removed to the neighboring town of Limerick.

On March 12, 1836, Abner Libby transferred his Limington property to Arthur MacArthur (1790-1874)./3 MacArthur was the ninth of eleven children born to John and Mary (Miller) MacArthur, both of whom were among the earliest settlers of Limington. A graduate of Bowdoin College (1810), MacArthur undertook the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1815./4 He began his practice in Sanford but returned to Limington in 1818 where he remained for the duration of his life. On September 1, 1829, he married Sarah Prince Miltmore of Falmouth, and nearly seven years later they moved into the Libby house. sometime thereafter MacArthur built a small law office at one corner of his front yard, the existence of which is documented in historic

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Taylor, Robert L. History of Limington, Maine: 1668-1900. Norway, Maine: Oxford Hills Press, 1975.

See continuation sheet

**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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 5 acres

**UTM References**

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Zone      Easting                      Northing

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property of five acres occupies the town of Limington, tax map U-9, Lot 14.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the buildings and immediate physical setting historically and presently associated with this site. This survives in an unchanged state from the period of significance.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian/Katheryn Miller, Research Assistant  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1988  
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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photographs. During his residency MacArthur was responsible both for the Greek Revival period alterations as well as for those made during the 1850s.

Upon the death of Arthur MacArthur, the estate passed to his wife who, in exchange for \$5,000, transferred it in 1876 to her bachelor son William Miltmore MacArthur.<sup>5</sup> Like his father and older brother Arthur, William MacArthur (1832-1917) was a graduate of Bowdoin College (1853). During the Civil War he served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Maine Volunteers where he was brevetted brigadier general in 1864.<sup>6</sup> MacArthur was a member of the legislature from 1867-69 and the Maine Senate from 1869-71. At home he supervised the care of a farm that included a commercial orchard, the reminders of which are visible in the large barns and MacArthur farm apple boxes in the attic of the house. The property passed to MacArthur's niece who subsequently left it to the present owners; they plan to restore the house.

Maine's Federal style architecture is, in its general characteristics, similar to period buildings found throughout New England. Typically, residential construction utilizes gabled or hipped roof configurations whether it is employed on architecturally prominent buildings such as the Nickels-Sortwell house (N.H.L. 12/30/70), or more modest and numerous capes and farmhouses. In addition, houses with center chimneys persist well into the early nineteenth century. But the use of a gambrel roof during the Federal period has been previously documented only once before among surviving Maine houses.<sup>7</sup> There are, on the other hand, a few examples that date to the Colonial period, among the most notable of which are the Old York Gaol (N.H.L. 11/24/68) in York and the Tate house (N.H.L. 1/13/70) in Portland. Preliminary surveys of coastal York County also indicate that remnants of gambrel roofed houses survive amidst later additions and modern alterations. Undoubtedly many others have been lost. It may be that Philemon Libby, presumably well acquainted with the Colonial period gambrel roofed houses of the coastal settlements, aspired to this model and carried his idea to fruition when circumstances made it possible. In any case, the Libby-MacArthur House stands as a significant reminder of an architectural tradition that had by the 1780s and in most of Maine's communities, been abandoned by its local carpenter/builders.

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Endnotes

- /1. York County Deeds, Book 63, page 163. This deed was not recorded until June 26, 1799.
- /2. Robert L. Taylor, History of Limington, Maine, 1668-1900 (Norway, Maine: Oxford Hills Press, 1975), p. 35, hereinafter cited as Taylor, History of Limington.
- /3. York County Deeds, Book 155, page 271.
- /4. W. W. Clayton, comp. History of York County, Maine (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1880), pp. 401-02.
- /5. York County Deeds, Book 397, p. 337.
- /6. Taylor, History of Limington, p. 194. MacArthur's brother Arthur died in 1862, apparently during his service in the 6th Louisiana Infantry. This episode in the MacArthur family history illustrates the oft repeated story of families taking opposing positions during the Civil War.
- /7. This is the Peter Powers House located on Deer Isle. It was built in 1785 and listed in the National Register on April 23, 1980. National Register nomination for the Peter Powers House, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.