

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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



983

1. Name

historic Captain John McGilvery House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East Main Street ~~N/A~~ not for publication

city, town Searsport, ~~N/A~~ vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Waldo code 027

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 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 John & Louise Fernandez

street & number P. O. Box 238

city, town Searsport, ~~N/A~~ vicinity of Maine state 04974

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Belfast, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? 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

This Second Empire style residence is a three-story structure with a concave mansard roof. It is constructed of wood with clapboard siding and has corbelled brick chimneys. The main section of the house is L-shaped with a veranda extending across the northeast side of the ell. A one-story wing on the northeast end joins the house to a two-story carriage house which also has a mansard roof.

In addition to the mansard roof, both the house and the carriage barn are ornamented with pedimented dormers and a denticulated cornice with paired brackets. The windows and doors have molded architrave trim, except for the main entrance which is enframed by pilasters supporting an entablature. Flanking the entrance on the southeast facade is a two-story bay window with panelled woodwork and a denticulated cornice. The veranda on the ell features chamfered posts supported on panelled pedestals.

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 type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1874 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As a fine example of high style Second Empire architecture this house is outstanding for mid-coastal Maine in addition to which its builder was a notable representative of Searsport's most famous product, the sea captain.

In the mid-19th century, one of every ten captains in the American merchant marine came from this little community, a concentration not equalled elsewhere before or since. It is not clear how this tradition of maritime service began but it survived well into the 20th century long after the age of a sail.

Very much in this tradition, Capt. John Willard McGilvery was one of five sons of Robert and Elizabeth McGilvery, all of whom became sea captains. Born in 1829, he went to sea, typically, as a boy and held his first command at the age of 22. From 1855 to 1860 he temporarily left the sea for a short, but evidently very successful, business career in Portland, Maine. Returning to Searsport with a wife he went back to what was obviously his first love, the sea. His success at this vocation is attested to by this great house that he built in 1874.

From then until only four years before his death in 1904, he held a series of important commands including the famous "Oneida". He never lost a ship and in a time when the treatment of crews was generally not of the best, McGilvery was said to have always a superfluity of hands wanting to sign on with him. His popularity in Searsport was no less and a large public funeral was held at his death.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Penobscot Marine Museum, Sea Captains of Searsport. Belfast, 1963.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Searsport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	5	0	16	6	3	5	4	2	2	6	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing								

B

Zone	Easting				Northing								

C

Zone	Easting				Northing								

D

Zone	Easting				Northing								

E

Zone	Easting				Northing								

F

Zone	Easting				Northing								

G

Zone	Easting				Northing								

H

Zone	Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 11, Lot 54

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/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date October, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street 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 *Carol S. Fullerton*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/18/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 12/29/83

J. A. P. O.
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration