

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

For NPS use only
received SEP 28 1982
date entered

1. Name

historic

"Greenacre"

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 17 Court Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Farmington,

N/A vicinity of

~~congressional district~~

state

Maine

code

23

county

Franklin

code

007

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- public
 - private
 - both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
 - being considered

V/4

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: Medical

4. Owner of Property

name

Dr. Jan Roberts

street & number

17 Court Street

city, town

Farmington,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04938

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town

Farmington,

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

"Greenacre", a large and ornate Italianate-style dwelling in Farmington, Maine, is a prominent local landmark, built in 1880 and added to in 1894.

The two-story building is of frame construction with brick chimneys, hipped roof, bracketed cornices, clapboard siding, and granite foundation. Fenestration is predominantly 2/2.

The facade, which faces south, is dominated by a three-story projecting tower, square in plan, positioned just to the right of center. In the first and second stories of this tower are bay windows, while in the third are paired 1/1 windows in each of the four exposed sides. To the right of the tower are two bays, including the main entrance, while to the left are three bays including a secondary entrance. The windows are capped by carved and entablatured lintels. First-story porches cover all bays to either side of the tower.

The east and west ends of the house are two bays wide; the former was originally fitted with a first-story bay window which was recently eliminated when an external brick chimney was erected.

To the rear of the house is a two-story carriage-house with detail equivalent to, though slightly less ornate than that on the house. This carriage-house is linked to the house by a one-story ell.

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 checked="" 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 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 1880 **Builder/Architect** Alvin Neal & Theodore Stewart

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Greenacre" is the largest and most ornate dwelling of any style in Farmington or in Franklin County of which the former is the shire town. Though twice altered by successive owners in 1894 and 1930, it still retains its impressive and sophisticated qualities. It was also the home during most of his career of Harold A. Titcomb, internationally recognized mining engineer and consultant.

At the time Joseph P. Thwing moved to Farmington from New Sharon in 1872, he was running a successful tannery in the latter town. However, he and his wife decided that a better education could be provided for their children if they moved to Farmington, so he bought land in the town where he built the first steam-powered tannery in the area. For \$1,500 Thwing also purchased a one-acre lot from Isaac Cutler on which the homestead was erected. The Thwing home was built on a slightly eminence by master builders, Alvin Neal and Theodore "Theodore" Stewart in 1880.

In 1894, Deacon Thwing, as he was familiarly known because of his almost sixty years of serving the Congregational Church in New Sharon and later the Old South Church in Farmington in that capacity, sold his home to Franklin J. Clark of East Wilton for \$6,000. Mr. Clark proceeded to add to the wings on either side of the original building, giving it a most impressive appearance.

In 1919, the Boston Safe Deposit and Trust Company, as trustee under the will of Franklin J. Clark, sold the homestead to Harold A. Titcomb for \$5,500. Mr. Titcomb, a world travelled mining engineer and international archery enthusiast, who had wed Ethel Brignall, an Englishwoman, divided his time between England and Farmington. He maintained headquarters in London for many years, and he and his family usually spent only their summers in the homestead, and the Titcombs spent more time at "Greenacre", the name they had given their residence.

The homestead was a showplace in the town. It housed valuable family antiques and other interesting articles acquired by the Titcombs in their extensive travels throughout the world. The Titcombs entertained most graciously, and many local people enjoyed the teas and dinners for which "Greenacre" was noted.

Mr. Titcomb examined or supervised mines from Wyoming and all the states of the American west to those of Siberia, Russia, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile, Bohemia, Lower California, Australia, Burma, Hungary, France, Africa and Yugoslavia, to mention only major locations.

Just before the outbreak of World War I, he explored and appraised numerous mines in Siberia, when the Czar of Russia opened up the area and called on American assistance in mineral development.

For fifteen years, Titcomb was the consulting engineer for the Trepca Mines, Ltd. in Siberia, and in 1927 he reopened a lead-silver-zinc mine which had not been worked since the 15th century. For that achievement he was honored by then King Alexander of Yugoslavia with the Order of St. Sava.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Butler, Benjamin & Natalie, "Greenacre". Typed manuscript at M. H. P. C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Farmington

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	4	0	9	0	0	0	4	0	4	7	0	8	1	5
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 U16, Lot 52

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1982

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 Eileen S. Felt-Neworth

title S.H.P.O. date 7/23/82

For NPS use only

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

Alonzo Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/29/82

Attest:
Chief of Registration

date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

"GREENACRES"

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Mr. Titcomb also excelled in his avocation. He was elected president of the Royal Toxophilite (Archer) Society of London in 1943, the first American to be so honored, and he held the office at his death in 1953. He also was a member of the United Bowmen of Philadelphia, This country's oldest archery organization.