



1464

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cover Farm

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Off West Side of Route 3, .3 Miles northwest of N/A not for publication
Junction with Crooked Road

city or town Hulls Cove N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04644

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 11/6/95
Signature of certifying official/Title SHPO Date

MAINE Historic Preservation Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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.) _____

[Signature] 12-14-95
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Entered in the National Register

Cover Farm

Name of Property

Hancock, Maine

County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Shingle

roof Wood/Shingle

other Adjoining Walled Garden

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
XX C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1810
c. 1840
1917

Significant Dates

c. 1810
c. 1840
1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Cover Farm
Name of Property

Hancock, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 26.15

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	558990	4918620
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	19	559680	4918360

3	19	559690	4918080
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	19	558890	4918340

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 1995

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

COVER FARM

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

Cover Farm is a twenty-six acre property bordering ME Rt. 3 on Mount Desert Island. The centerpiece of the farm is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay frame cape flanked on one side by a gambrel roofed, Colonial Revival style wing, and on the other side by a formal walled garden. An ell extends to the rear of the cape. The house is reached by a long driveway located along one side of a meadow beyond which is Frenchman's Bay.

Facing east, the front elevation of the cape, which is sheathed in wood shingles and rests on a granite foundation, features a symmetrical fenestration pattern that is comprised of a central six-panel door set in a Greek Revival doorway, and four nine-over-six double hung sash windows. A narrow overhanging cornice carries across the facade and makes a short return at the gable ends. The roof is punctuated by a pair of shingled shed roof dormers located over the first story windows and containing two small six light sash. A central chimney rises through the ridge of the wood shingled roof.

The cape's south gable end contains a pair of nine-over-six windows and a smaller six-over-six on the first story, and two six-over-sixes in the gable peak. One window of each size exists on the north end to the east of where the wing is joined to the cape. The rear ell, which is probably a nineteenth century addition, projects from the west-southwest corner of the cape. Its south and north walls are covered in board-and-batten siding, whereas its west end (which features an exterior brick chimney) is shingled. On the south side there is a single six-over-six window and a large screened opening that may be closed by a track mounted door. Four windows are located on the ell's north side. At the rear of the cape, between the junction of the ell and the wing, are a trio of nine-over-six windows and a shed dormer with three nine-light sash.

The interior of the cape and its ell reflect two significant periods in the house's history after its original date of construction. The first of these is a very obvious Greek Revival period remodeling which resulted in the present front entrance, a rebuilt stairway to the upper floor, new doors and hardware, and reconfiguration of the northeast parlor that included a new fireplace and trim. The stairway in particular is noteworthy because it consists of a free-standing central run with double balustrades that rises to a landing from which two short runs lead to the second floor rooms. It appears that the only surviving Federal style trim are the door and window surrounds in the southeast front room, and possibly the mantelpiece and paneled chimney breast that surrounds the large kitchen hearth. In addition to the extensive Greek Revival changes that were made, Colonial Revival period alterations were carried out about 1917 that included the addition of paneling in the parlor, a brick floor in the entire back half of the cape's first story, and the plastering of the interior wall surfaces in the ell that left the structural members visible.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

COVER FARM

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

In 1917, the wing was added to the north side of the original cape. Its east front elevation contains five asymmetrically placed nine-over-six windows on the first story and five symmetrically located shed dormers. A chimney rises through the center of the wood shingled roof. There are four windows on the north end, three on the south end, and four on the rear wall in addition to a small L-shaped vestibule addition at the west-southwest corner. An additional five dormers are located on the rear elevation. A hallway extends along the front side of the wing providing access to two large first story bedrooms and containing a narrow stairway that leads to the second floor and additional rooms.

To the south of the house is the Colonial Revival style walled garden which is bordered on the west and south sides by an arbor vitae hedge, on the east by a stucco over wood frame wall, and on the west by the cape and ell. The garden contains a formal element nearest the house which is comprised of two concentric rose beds ringed by brick paths and divided into quadrants with a bird bath in the center. Its north/south axis (a narrow brick path) extends beyond the formal garden to an old apple tree that is surrounded by a bench. To the south of this path is a large Purple Martin bird house located atop a cedar pole. The east/west axis path extends to a picket gate and arch in the east wall, and an opening in the west hedge. Beyond the hedge this path extends in a serpentine manner to a farm road. In addition to the roses, plant material includes a variety of ornamental shrubs. The east wall has a wooden frame over which is an exterior finish of stucco. It has a wood shingled cap and a lattice screen over three-quarters of its length.

To the rear of the house and garden is a small gable roofed well house that is covered in wood shingles; an apple orchard which is believed to have been planted about 1917; and a three-bay, gable roofed building (constructed about 1917) that is said to have originally been the chauffeur's residence and later became a playhouse.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**COVER FARMHANCOCK, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Cover Farm is comprised of an early nineteenth century cape with significant Greek Revival and Colonial Revival period alterations, and an adjoining walled garden. The house overlooks Frenchman's Bay across an expansive meadow. Probably constructed during the second decade of the nineteenth century, the cape received notable additions about 1840, and again in 1917 when a gambrel roofed wing and the walled garden were constructed. The property is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for the architectural significance of the Greek Revival and Colonial Revival alterations, as well as for the important example of a designed walled garden that has survived virtually unchanged.

The history of this house probably begins about 1810 when a member of the Cutler family acquired the property from a Mr. Thomas. Although family tradition of the present owners holds that the house was in fact constructed in 1792 by Barthelmey and Marie Therese de Gregoire, historic documentation about this interesting family does not support this position. In fact, it seems likely that Cover Farm was part of the de Gregoire farm which was in the possession of Royal Gurley from 1806-08 and Thomas from 1808-10. Neither period of ownership suggests a tenure on the land that would result in the present house.

Madam de Gregoire was the granddaughter of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac to whom in 1688 King Louis the Fourteenth of France had granted all of Mt. Desert Island. In 1786 she and her family emigrated to Boston and made claim to the property, obtaining a grant from the General Court of Massachusetts of the eastern half of the island the following year. Historians who have studied the subsequent path of this family have shown that, having failed to sell their land on Mt. Desert, they moved to Hull's Cove and attempted to support themselves by farming and selling off one-hundred acre lots of land. However, their financial position rapidly declined such that in 1805 they were taxed on property that was valued at a mere \$301 (Street, p. 135). Thus, in 1806 they turned over the balance of their property to Royal Gurley in exchange for an agreement to support them for the duration of their lives. Barthelmey de Gregoire died in 1810 and Marie Therese passed away the next year. A small granite marker was erected over their gravesite sometime in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. This marker is on property which adjoins Cover Farm to the south.

In view of the relative poverty in which the de Gregoire's found themselves by the time they arrived on Mt. Desert Island, it seems unlikely that they had the resources to erect a house of even modest scale such as this one. Furthermore, for over one-hundred years beginning no later than with an account of the de Gregoires that appeared in *Chisholm's Mount Desert Guide* (1888), published histories about the island and the family make no connection between this house and them. In fact, this account specifically makes reference to the existence of the cellar of the de Gregoire's house. Thus, it seems apparent that the original occupant of Cover Farm was someone else.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**COVER FARMHANCOCK, MAINESection number 8 Page 3

From their purchase of it in 1810, the Cutler family probably occupied the property that constitutes Cover Farm until they sold it in 1834. In all likelihood, the cape was built during this period. Judging from the stylistic characteristics of the Greek Revival remodeling, the house appears to have been updated after the property was acquired by the Peach family in 1834. They owned it until 1861 when it was transferred to the Carpenter family who remained here until 1917. At that time it was purchased by Mrs. Olive Tilton (1886-____), an artist from New York who made it her summer residence. She is responsible for the Colonial Revival alterations and additions to the house and grounds in addition to naming the property "Cover Farm". In 1922 Mrs. Tilton sold Cover Farm to John B. Thayer, a Philadelphian, and his children still own it.

The architectural significance of the existing house derives from three distinct episodes in its history: 1) the initial Federal period of construction; 2) the Greek Revival period in which substantial alterations were made, particularly in the stair hall and one front room; and 3) the Colonial Revival remodeling and expansion that took place in 1917. In its overall form including the exterior detail, symmetrical fenestration pattern, center chimney, and plan, the cape is a good example of a type of house built throughout the settled areas of Maine in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Both the center chimney and low posting of the house relate it directly to pre Revolutionary capes, and illustrates the persistence of traditional styles of building in the closing years of the eighteenth and early years of the nineteenth century. On the other hand, the symmetry of the fenestration pattern and the size of the window openings reveal the extent to which these concepts had been adopted by builders in the post Revolutionary War period; features that would characterize Federal style dwellings of virtually any scale. Likewise, the Greek Revival modifications to the front entrance and the new mantelpiece are highly representative of their period. The stair, however, is another matter. Incorporating a stair design of this type in a cape built around a central chimney is a striking reflection of the owner's interest and ability to substantially update this house. Additionally, the design is very similar to those which exist in a pair of houses in the Alewife area of the southern Maine town of Kennebunk (see Lower Alewife Historic District, NR 3/24/94). In these examples, one such stairway was originally incorporated into a two-story house erected in 1840, whereas the other was integrated into an existing eighteenth century, center chimney cape.

The final significant architectural change that has been made to the house is the series of alterations and additions made in 1917. This remodeling and building campaign included the addition of the gambrel roofed wing to the north side and dormers to the cape, as well as changes to the back half of the cape, the front room previously remodeled in the Greek Revival style, and the ell. All of these modifications illustrate an important, relatively common occurrence in Maine during this period; namely the conversion of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century "Colonial" farmhouses into summer

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

COVER FARM

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

residences, frequently with alterations that were meant to reinforce the antiquity of these buildings.

In addition to the architectural significance of its principal building, Cover Farm is noteworthy for its walled garden, a landscape feature which, like the Colonial Revival changes to the house itself, is an important aspect of design in this period. A recent survey of Maine's designed residential landscapes has identified the walled garden as a distinct property type (see the draft Multiple Property Documentation Form titled: *Designed Private Residential Landscapes of Maine, c.1855-c.1956*). In the description of the property type, the following quote by the garden writer Alice Morse Earle states the purpose of the walled garden, a purpose plainly evident at Cover Farm:

A garden enclosed!...an ideal flower garden must be an enclosed garden... I look with regret upon all beautiful flower beds that are not enclosed, not shut in a frame of green hedges, or high walls, or vine-covered fences and dividing trees. It may be selfish to hide so much beauty from general view; but until our dwelling-houses are made with uncurtained glass walls, that all the world may see everything, let those who have ample grounds enclose at least a portion for the sight of friends only (*Old Time Gardens*, 1901)

In outlining the significance of walled gardens, the MPDF states that they were a specific type of small garden popular in the early 1900s, and that they were intended to be formal outdoor extensions of the often architect designed dwellings which they might accompany. This latter aspect is evident at Cover Farm where the long addition to the cape's north side is balanced by the walled garden on the south side. Finally, walled gardens "...represent a type of landscape design that derives structure from its architectural qualities rather than from more transient plant materials" (MPDF, p.59). The concentric brick paths around the rose beds, and the walls defining the edge of the garden at Cover Farm are striking examples of this quality.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

COVER FARM

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Falk, Peter Hastings, ed. *Who was Who in American Art*. Sound View Press. 1985.

Mattor, Theresa. National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form (Draft) titled: "Designed Private Residential Landscapes of Maine, c. 1855-c.1956." Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta. 1994.

O'Neill, Gladys. "The DeGregoire Family of Hulls Cove." *The Rusticator's Journal*. Bar Harbor, Maine: Friends of Acadia. 1993.

Reed, Roger G. National Register Nomination for the Lower Alewife Historic District. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta. 1993.

Street, George E. *Mount Desert: A History*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1926.

Sweetser, M. F. *Chisholm's Mount Desert Guide*. Portland, Maine: Chisholm Brothers. 1888.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

COVER FARM

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Cover Farm occupies the Town of Bar Harbor Tax Map 12, Lots 47 and 117.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot historically and presently associated with Cover Farm.