

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **OCT 30 1975**
DATE ENTERED **JAN 1 1976**

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wayne Town House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rte 133

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Wayne

VICINITY OF

1st. Hon. David Emery

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Kennebec

CODE

011

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Wayne

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Wayne

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

State Street

CITY, TOWN

Augusta,

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wayne's 1840 Town House is a representative example of a public building type popular in rural Maine during the first half of the nineteenth century. Although several communities have retained their town houses, few of these structures have survived in as original condition as Wayne's.

The Wayne Town House reflects Greek Revival architecture in its simplest form. The building is rectangular in shape with one of its gable ends serving as the facade. It is a one and a half story frame structure with a granite foundation and a clapboarded exterior.

The facade or south wall is symmetrically designed with a first story central doorway flanked on either side by a window. The door is enframed with broad, flat Greek Revival molding displaying the corner block motif at the top. Directly above the doorway hangs a sign which reads "Wayne Town House 1840." Over the sign is located a half story window. The three facade windows are composed of twelve-over-eight sash. With Greek Revival sash usually having six-over-six panes, these smaller paned sash represent a holdover feature from the previous Federal period.

The side or east and west walls each contain three symmetrically placed windows with twelve-over-eight sash. The rear or north wall has one twelve-over-eight window and a twentieth century door.

The interior of the Wayne Town House is comprised of an open meeting room. A large floor space in the center is flanked on the east and west walls by original plank benches which are placed in a graduated elevation from the floor like modern bleachers. While the bench arrangement has survived, practicality has dictated the replacement of oil lamps with electricity and a wood burning stove with an oil heater. In addition, the plaster walls and ceiling have been covered with wall board and matched boarding.

The simplicity of the Wayne Town House design has allowed the building to adapt to changing needs over the last one hundred and thirty-five years. In doing so, this initially utilitarian structure has become an object of historical interest and pride for its community.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Peter Fifield

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town house in Wayne, Maine is significant in two respects. Firstly, although several town houses of the period still exist, the one at Wayne is among the earliest. Secondly, it is the only one remaining in the State where not only are the benches for men and women (who originally could not vote) on opposite sides facing each other on sloping floor but where the segregation of sexes at town meeting time is still observed for tradition's sake.

For forty-two years prior to the erection of this building annual and other business meetings of the town of Wayne were held in private buildings, school houses or the Methodist Church. In 1839 the inhabitants of the town voted to build a town house and in 1840 specified that the foundations should be made three feet thick.

The year in which the town house was built, its cost and the name of the builder are indicated by the following simple receipt:

Wayne, Sept. 14, 1840

"Rec'd of the inhabitants of the town of Wayne, three hundred and fifty-eight dollars and twenty-five cents, in full for building the town house in said town the present season.

Peter Fifield"

