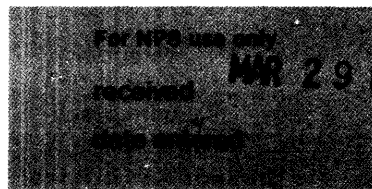


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Guy P. Gannett House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 184 State Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Augusta,

N/A vicinity of

~~congressional district~~

state Maine

code 23

county Kennebec

code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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 State of Maine; Bureau of Public Improvements

street & number State Office Building - Station #77

city, town Augusta,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04333

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 95 State Street

city, town Augusta,

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Me. Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta,

state Maine

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good- <i>S</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

The Guy P. Gannett House is a two-and-one-half story "Mediterranean Revival" residence. A cubic main portion is flanked north and south by one-story porches, one enclosed and one open. A two-story ell extends from the left side of the rear (west) wall, and a detached two-car garage completes the grouping.

The house's walls are of light brown stucco, and the hipped roofs of the main portion and ell are of red clay tiles. The roof overhangs the wall, exposing struts in bungalow fashion. The foundation is granite. All exterior ornament (except for wrought-iron grills) is of wood painted a yellow buff.

The facade is symmetrically composed, with the doorway centrally located. The door is a large glass pane framed in mahogany, covered with a Beaux-Arts wrought-iron grill, and flanked by sidelights. Enclosing the entrance is a wooden portico supported on each side by a square and round tuscan column, and crowned with a wrought-iron balcony. An identical arrangement of columns supports the north (open) porch, whose roof, like that of the main portion, displays its ribbing in the bungalow manner. The floor of the porch is red brick laid in a herringbone pattern, as is the walkway leading to the entrance. The south porch was originally open, and was annually enclosed during the winter months. At some point the enclosure became permanent.

The facade is divided into three window bays and a thin wooden course separates first and second floors. Three blockish dormers punctuate the roof, but not in correspondence to the three window bays. All facade windows are tripartite, but only in the window above the portico are the three sections of equal width.

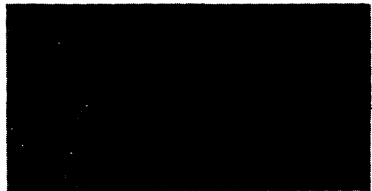
Most of the interior is well preserved, major remodelling having occurred in the basement, ell, and third story only. Behind the entrance, a narrow vestibule leads to the central hall. Vestibule and hall are separated by a fifteen-paned door with sidelights. A Colonial Revival staircase with mahogany bannister extends up the right-hand wall, turning just before the second floor at a walk-out window, which boasts a small ornamental balcony. Three large rooms adjoin the central hall, each fronted by ten-paned double-doors with unpainted mahogany muntins. The former library is to the right of the hall, the former dining room and morning room to the left. Each room retains its unique ornamental fireplace mantel and unpainted hardwood wainscotting, but all now serve as offices. A largely unaltered mosaic tiled bathroom sits under the staircase.

A narrow servant's staircase stands in the ell, which formally housed kitchen, pantry, and servant's dining room on its ground floor, and servant's quarters above. The ell now stands converted to office space, as do the second floor bedrooms.

The detached garage combines bungalow, stick, neo-classical, and Swiss chalet elements. A heavy neo-classical entrance frame, echoing the tuscan column arrangement of the portico and north porch, is the building's only

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GUY P. GANNETT HOUSE & GARAGE

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link with the "Mediterranean Revival". The columns support an overhang with 8/8 windows. The walls of the garage are of large beveled clapboards, and the roof is of the Swiss type with exposed struts. Two dormers punctuate the roof on both slopes. The three side bays are divided by four plain pilasters, and each holds a 12/12 window. The garage doors themselves hold windows with 24 glass panes.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1911 **Builder/Architect** James N. Thomas

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Guy Gannett House is the only significant "Mediterranean Revival" dwelling in Kennebec County. The house was Augusta's most progressive when constructed in 1911, a showcase not only of the latest architectural fashions, but of numerous mechanical conveniences. Owner Guy Gannett was perhaps the most significant publisher in the history of the Maine press.

Designed by Boston architect James N. Thomas, the house was a wedding gift from William Gannett to his son. The elder Gannett was one of the nation's most successful mail-order entrepreneurs. The house was among the earliest examples in the state of the fledgling "Mediterranean Revival" style, whose characteristic stucco walls and red-tiled roofs were never widespread in Maine, existing only in scattered examples in the larger cities and in coastal resorts such as Bar Harbor. The style hardly ever appears in pure form; the Gannett House is neo-Georgian in its symmetrically placed porches and hipped roof, and has the blocky dormers and exposed roof ribbing characteristic of the period. The iron balconies are Beaux-Arts in inspiration, while the enclosed breakfast-porch boasts Prairie-style windows. The eclectic garage makes only a single bow to the Mediterranean style in its classical door frame. The architecture of the Gannett House is as much an amalgam of styles and influences as any High Victorian work, yet the whole is remarkably unified, every feature adding to the overall balance.

The interior was originally equipped with some of Augusta's first examples of electrical home appliances. A "wood elevator", located under a wall-seat in the library, brought wood up from the basement for the library fireplace. Electric lightbulbs were fitted instead of gas lamps. The automatic gas hot water heater, gas range, and front hall lavatory were equally innovative. Of most interest to the Kennebec Journal correspondent who toured the house was the vacuum cleaner, described as follows:

The apparatus is connected with pipes upon each floor and provided with electric control at each outlet. The whole house is cleaned with this apparatus by simply attaching a hose to the several outlets. The apparatus can be worked from the floor where it is in use by means of a push button, the pressing of the button being all that is necessary to start or stop it.

The cleaner's collecting bin was apparently located in the basement.

Gannett's patronage extended to art as well as architecture and technology. His library (finished in mahogany and with walls of grass cloth)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Daily Kennebec Journal, Nov. 3, 1910, p. 10 (ground-breaking).
Daily Kennebec Journal, Jan. 3, 1912 (article on house).
 Dudley Zuver, The Lengthened Shadow of a Maine Man, Freeport: Bond,
 Wheelwright Company, 1956.
 Letter of Mr. John Gannett.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Augusta

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 33, Lot 112

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 Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date January, 1983

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 *Eric S. Patterson*

title S.H.P.O. date 3/22/83

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Delores Bryan</i></u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>4/28/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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was full of "rare pieces of statuary and paintings, some of them from Rome". The artworks and mechanical gadgets are now, needless to say, missing from the premises.

Guy P. Gannett (1881-1954) assisted his father in publishing the nationally-read Comfort magazine, after failing at Yale at the turn-of-the-century. While continuing to manage his father's interests, he became a vice president in the Central Maine Power Company, and gained interest in a number of banks. About ten years after building his State Street residence, Gannett bought the Portland Press Herald, and began a newspaper chain that included Augusta's Kennebec Journal and the Waterville Morning Sentinel. Gannett later controlled radio and T.V. stations, establishing a communications empire unique in Maine.

The Gannett House is in an excellent state of condition, and currently houses the State Planning Office.