

PH0365351

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 10 1977

DATE ENTERED

NOV 21 1977

**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

Gov. John F. Hill Mansion

AND/OR COMMON

Oblate Fathers Retreat House

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

136 State Street

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Augusta

\_\_ VICINITY OF

1st Hon. David Emery

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Franco-American Oblate Fathers, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

216 Nesmith Street

CITY, TOWN

Lowell

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kennebec County Reg. of Deeds,

STREET & NUMBER

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed by John Calvin Stevens I of Portland, Maine's foremost late 19th-early 20th century architect, Augusta's Governor John F. Hill Mansion of 1901 is a monumental Colonial Revival style mansion of three stories with a hipped roof and five internal chimneys. The fabric of the building is St. Louis brick with granite detailing and foundation. The roof is shingled and features a greatly overhanging bracketed cornice.

The east elevation, the main facade of the house, is dominated by a central two-story semi-circular columned portico in the Ionic order, surmounted by a flat roof with an ornate granite and iron balustrade. This portico is supported by four columns and two pilasters. The east facade is five bays wide. All windows are evenly-spaced and are six-over-six double hung, except where noted otherwise. In the center of the third story, overlooking the roof of the portico, is a three part window, the parts separated by simple granite piers of Doric influence. In the center of the second story, flanked by pairs of windows are two decorative oval windows framed in granite. Between these is an inset balustraded balcony with Palladian window which overlooks the entrance. The first floor contains a wide central doorway framed by granite molding.

The north elevation is six bays wide and is dominated by a massive temple-style two-story porte cochere with gable roof and triangular pediment in the Ionic order. This carriage-way is not centrally positioned, but occupies the second bay position from the north-east corner of the mansion. The third story of the north elevation contains one window to the east of the porte cochere roof and four to the west, two of these being double windows. The second story is the same as the third, except that an oval window is centered in the portecochere, two double windows comparable to those in the third story are not placed in the same position as the ones above, and one of the single windows is surmounted by a triangular granite pediment. The first story contains a large double doorway in the porte cochere and a Palladian window to the west of the porte cochere. One of the other bays in this story is triple.

The west elevation contains a double dormer with flat roof above the three stories. This facade is two bays wide with two windows in each of the third and second stories. On the first story is a porch supported by three Doric columns and a pilaster.

The south facade contains four windows in the third story and three on the second. The first story features an arched doorway, drawing its inspiration from the Romanesque Revival, flanked by a window to each side. This doorway leads to a granite-walled terrace. A second-story porch supported by Doric columns extends from the west end of the south elevation, above a modern one-story addition.

The elegant interior of the Governor Hill Mansion is exceptionally well preserved and well maintained. The first floor features a large T-shaped hall which is entered from both the main entrance and the porte cochere. Off this hall are a parlor, a dining room, and a large living room and library. The second floor consists of bedrooms, while the third floor contains servants' quarters.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Calvin Stevens

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This magnificent Colonial Revival mansion which dominates the central section of State Street in Augusta epitomizes the career of its first owner, a highly successful turn-of-the-century entrepreneur and politician. Designed in majestic grandeur by Maine's most noted architect it is a symbol of stability and achievement.

John Fremont Hill was born in 1855 in Eliot, Maine and descended from prominent founders of the community. After attending various private academies he attended Bowdoin College and received an M.D. degree from the Maine Medical School in Brunswick. After practicing medicine for a short time in Boothbay Harbor he found himself increasingly drawn to the world of business and in 1879 joined Peleg O. Vickery in the publishing house of Vickery and Hill in Augusta. The firm, which specialized in the publication of periodicals, achieved remarkable success with branch offices in Boston, New York and Chicago. In 1880 Hill married Lizzie G. Vickery, daughter of his senior partner. He rose rapidly to a position of importance in the business community becoming President of the Somerset (electric) Railroad and serving as director or officer of several banks in the Augusta area.

In the 80s and 90's he also became politically active and served several terms as State Representative and State Senator as well as a term on the Governor's Executive Council. In 1900 he became the Republican candidate for Governor of Maine and was elected by a large majority. His administration, efficient and successful, was marked by the liquidation of a very substantial debt incurred as a result of the Spanish-American War. He was re-elected in 1902 by a significant margin. During his tenure in the governorship, there being then no executive mansion, he decided to erect a suitably impressive home and chose the most prominent architect in the state to conceive the design.

John Calvin Stevens, the first Maine architect to be elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, was born in Portland in 1855. His professional work commenced in the office of Portland architect Francis H. Fasset after graduation from Portland High School in 1873. From that date his amazingly long and active career extended until his death in 1940. His work spanned the entire range of the architectural field, domestic and public, although he is perhaps best known for his innovative interpretation of the Shingle Style. This organic approach to design was later developed by Frank Lloyd Wright and other pioneers of contemporary architecture.

However, for Stevens, the allurements of the Colonial Revival Style of architec-

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beck, Joseph T., Historical Notes on Augusta, Maine, Farmington, 1962.  
The Industrial Journal, Bangor, Aug., 1901; Sept., 1901; Feb., 1902;  
 June, 1902.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	9	4	3	7	875	4	9	0	6	873
ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING					

B 

ZONE		EASTING			NORTHING				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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  
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Maine Historic Preservation Commission</u>	<u>April, 1977</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>31 Western Avenue</u>	<u>289-2133</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Augusta</u>	<u>Maine</u>

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Carles S. Feltthworth, Jr.*

TITLE

*S. H. P. O.*

DATE

*5/5/77*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: <i>Robert B. Rettig</i> DATE <i>11/24/77</i>	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE <i>11/18/77</i>
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

ture turned him more and more away from his Shingle work of the 1880's. His role shifted from national importance to becoming the leading architect in Maine as he developed a statewide practice. While he continued to employ the Shingle Style well into the 20th century, his prevalent use of the Colonial Revival is apparent in his many dignified houses in this style in Portland's Western Promenade area and in other parts of Maine. The Governor Hill Mansion is one of the most notable of Steven's works of this period. His tremendous talent and his more than 65 years in his profession rightfully earned him the title of "Dean of Maine Architects."