

14014817

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 16 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
John Calvin Stevens House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
52 Bowdoin Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE Maine	CODE 23	COUNTY: Cumberland	CODE 005
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. & Mrs. William W. Alcorn

STREET AND NUMBER:
52 Bowdoin Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

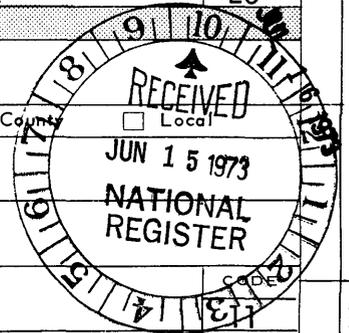
DATE OF SURVEY: **1965-67** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
1st Street and Independence Avenue, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Cumberland
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

John Calvin Stevens I, Portland architect, designed this residence for himself. He built it in 1884. It was one of the earliest Shingle Style residences constructed in Portland. Stevens lived in the house until 1919.

The Stevens House is on the southern side of Bowdoin Street, adjacent to Portland's Western Cemetery on the western end of the peninsula. The house stands back on an embankment, raised 5 feet above street level.

The first floor is built of red brick, set with a slightly textured surface to give a rustic effect. The second floor and attic are enclosed by an enormous gambrel roof with shingled ends which overhangs the brick wall.

In Stevens' original design, the house was 30 feet wide and 50 feet deep. One end of the house faced the street, making this northern elevation the principal public facade. It was two bays wide with two large windows on the second floor. On the third floor near the peak of the roof was a swirling terracotta ornament panel flanked on either side by a window of the same size. The first floor brick wall was open on the northeastern corner to an open porch which penetrated under the roof; on the northwestern corner were three windows, the center one set on an angle at the corner. These features emphasized the enclosing nature of the roof.

The two side elevations of the house were similar. Each had one large dormer window near each end of the roof on the second floor with the roof sweeping out between them. On the eastern side, there were three smaller windows in the wall plane between the dormers; on the western side there was an open loggia, created by a set back of the wall plane. The brick wall on the eastern side was open to the open porch on the right, forming the main entrance to the house, and had three narrow windows in the left. The brick wall on the western side had two small, high windows in the center and three windows at the right end. Two wide chimneys projected from the roof ridge.

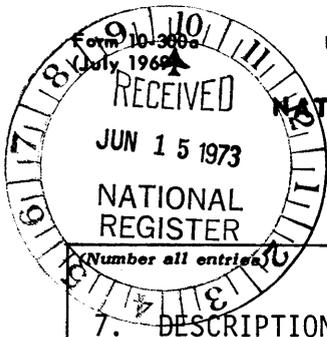
The southern end of the house had a short, one story extension on the southeastern side which contained the rear entry; it was shingled and had a balustrade. Extending from the rear of the house on the southwestern corner was an outdoor balcony at the first floor level.

The house was actually built with a different and more formal main entrance. A 15 foot wide, one story portico projected for 10 feet from the north end of the open porch; one entered the porch through the portico from the street end of the house. The portico was open above brick walls and had a balustrade like that of the rear entrance.

On the first floor of the house was a den next to the open porch; a living room on the northwestern corner; a dining room on the southwestern

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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7. DESCRIPTION

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corner opening to the outdoor balcony; and a kitchen and pantry on the south-eastern corner. Stairs at the center of the eastern side wall led to the second floor. There were four bedrooms, one at each corner of the house, the principal bedrooms being on the western side; and a bathroom next to the stairs. Stairs against the eastern wall led to the attic.

In 1905 an addition, also designed by John Calvin Stevens, was made to the rear of the house. The outdoor balcony was replaced by a library which extended 20 feet beyond the original end wall of the house. A pentagonal, one story roofed but open porch was built off the western library wall; the southern wall had a bay window. A new bedroom with southern oriel was added beyond the southwestern corner bedroom over the library. A new attic bedroom was added above it; the oriel continued to the attic. New east and west attic dormers were added. A chimney was built for the library and the new second floor bedroom. A roofed porch was built for the rear entrance; the southeastern corner bedroom was enlarged toward the south over the original entrance. Room use remained the same.

At an undetermined date after 1905, further changes were made to the John Calvin Stevens House. The entrance portico was enclosed; its balustrade was removed. The north and east walls of the den were removed; the new larger room became a dining room. A new entrance with a roofed, rectangular porch was then made on the western side of the house opening into what was the dining room which now became a den. A one story bay addition on the eastern wall of the kitchen became a pantry. The former vestibule and hall, by the original open porch entrance, became part of this pantry space. The pentagonal library porch was glassed in. On the second floor the location of the attic stairs, of several doors and of closets were changed. A second bathroom was added. A bathroom was added in the attic and another bedroom enclosed and closets built. This is the current appearance and room use of the house.

John Calvin Stevens' description of his house was published in Stevens and Cobb: Examples of American Domestic Architecture. The rooms each had a different treatment; the wood trim and paneling were painted or stained. Most first floor rooms had painted walls and ceilings painted different colors. The second floor rooms had papered walls and shellacked pine woodwork. Vines and hollyhocks were planted around the house.

Today the interior of the Stevens House retains most of its original features. The woodwork and wooden detail are intact. On the exterior, the red brick walls remain unaltered; but the shingled wall surfaces have been painted and the roof shingled in asphalt. The grounds around the house are lushly but informally landscaped.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1884

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Calvin Stevens (1855-1940) was an important architect in Portland, Maine. After graduation from Portland High School in 1873, he entered the office of Portland architect Francis H. Fassett. In 1881-82, he managed a branch of the firm in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1884, Stevens founded his own firm. With Albert Winslow Cobb, who was a partner from 1888 to 1891, Stevens published Examples of American Domestic Architecture in 1889. In 1898, Stevens' son, John Howard Stevens (1879-1958), joined the firm; and in 1934 his grandson, John Calvin Stevens II, joined the firm. Today John Calvin Stevens II and his son, Paul Stevens, continue the firm.

John Calvin Stevens designed and built many Portland buildings. Among them are the Oxford Building, 1886-87, a Romanesque Revival business block; the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary, 1891; the Harry Butler House, 1892-94, and the Richards-Ward House, 1893, both Romanesque Revival residences; the Parish House of the Williston Congregational Church, 1905; and the L. D. M. Sweat Memorial Art Museum, c. 1911. Stevens remodeled the facade of the State Street Church, 1892-93; and he designed the current entrance to the Hunnewell-Shepley House, 1920's.

John Calvin Stevens' most innovative work was done in the contemporary style of his day, what we now know as the Shingle Style. His own house was one of the earliest Shingle Style residences constructed in Portland. It received national (American Architect and Building News, 1884) and international (The British Architect, 1886) attention. The John Calvin Stevens House was and remains today an exceptionally handsome example of this style. The house is a sculptural entity, unified by the huge roof, which contains the movement of the various spaces within, and by the use of shingles.

Stevens designed several other buildings in the Shingle Style. The James Hopkins Smith House, 1885, Falmouth, and the C. A. Brown House, 1886-87, Cape Elizabeth, are large residences with sophisticated interweaving of indoor and outdoor space. The First Baptist Church, 1888-89, Yarmouth, is a small, tightly organized building. John Calvin Stevens' work influenced the development of the Shingle Style, playing a role in the movement of the style from rustic casualness toward discipline and order in design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architect and Building News, Vol. XVI, No. 469, December 20, 1884.
 Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc. Portland. Portland: 1972.
 Historic American Buildings Survey. HABS No. ME-137: "John Calvin Stevens House." 1965-67.
 Portland Daily Press. August 4, 1884 and December 24, 1884.
 Scully, Vincent J., Jr. The Shingle Style. New Haven: 1971.
 Stevens, John Calvin and Cobb, Albert Winslow. Examples of American Domestic Architecture. New York: 1889.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		43 0 38	70 0 16	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		48	34	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mary-Eliza Wengren

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: May 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James H. Mandy

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date June 11, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/16/73

ATTEST: W. J. Mandy
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 7 9 73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 16 1973

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Greater Portland Landmarks Survey
1969 Local
Greater Portland Landmarks, Inc.
Station A, Box 4197
Portland, Maine

