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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 13 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Samuel Kidder Whiting House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 214 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Ellsworth, N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Hancock code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 J. J. Rosborough Insurance Agency

street & number 214 Main Street

city, town Ellsworth N/A vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hancock County Courthouse

street & number State Street

city, town Ellsworth, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The S. K. Whiting house is a three-story mansard-roofed mansion. The main portion is square in plan, with a one-and-one-half story ell projecting from its rear wall. The central bay of the facade (facing the street) is a very shallow pavilion which terminates in a mansard observatory at roof level. The main entrance is at the pavilion's base, and is enclosed by a large portico. The portico has doubled outer posts standing on short pedestals, which are connected with the house by decorative wooden railings.

The windows on all elevations are 2/2 and arranged regularly, two flanking the central pavilion on both stories of the facade, and two on each story of the side walls. An exception is at the bottom of the left bay of the east wall, which holds a shallow bay window. Doubled 1/1 windows stand above the portico. Each roof bay holds a round-headed dormer window with a small finial attached to each hood. The main windows are enclosed in the thin decorative frames.

Iron cresting caps the pavilion, and simple modillions support the eaves. All walls are clapboarded and framed by beveled cornerboards with decorative rosettes. The roof is similarly framed.

The ell is clapboarded and roofed in the ~~same~~ manner as the house.

The interior is arranged symmetrically around a central hall, with double parlor to the right, sitting room and dining room to the left. The present owners have restored the interior to approximate the original. Notable features are the original hanging gas lamps in each downstairs room, all slightly oriental in design; crystal doorknobs on all doors and shutters (interior shutters exclusively); and black walnut woodwork throughout. Bedrooms occupy the second floor, and the third (mansard) story contains a ballroom.

The interior of the ell has been remodeled, but originally held a kitchen, pantry, refrigerator room, woodshed, and privy. The second story was the maid's quarters and a storage chamber.

A clapboarded, mansard-roofed barn stands detached and to one side of the house. A carriage-house once stood behind this, but has since been demolished.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1871 **Builder/Architect** Attributed to George Orff of Bangor

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Samuel Kidder Whiting House in Ellsworth is probably the finest Second Empire style building in Hancock County, and one of the major Second Empire houses in the Penobscot Region outside of Bangor. The house is unusually well-preserved, the interior being among the best-restored of any accessible to the public in eastern Maine.

Samuel Kidder Whiting (1853–1917), an Ellsworth dry-goods merchant, commissioned the house at the age of 18 (1871), and lived there until his death. The second owner was Benjamin B. Whitcomb, a lumber operator and the town's largest employer during and after World War I.

The house is sophisticated and probably architect-designed, for a virtually identical but slightly more expensive house stands on West Broadway in Bangor (Charles P. Brown House, c. 1871–72). The only architect practicing in Bangor at the time was George Orff, and the restrained but elegant character of the plan is wholly in keeping with his style. Orff was a major Maine architect, and this is the largest commission attributable to him outside of Bangor.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Ellsworth, Albert H. Davis, Lewiston: Lewiston Journal, 1927.

10. Geographical Data

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

Quadrangle name Ellsworth

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	5	4	5	9	5	10	4	19	3	12	2	10	10
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 35, Lot 87

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, Architectural Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date April, 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

Carol S. Stettin

title S.H.P.O.

date 5/27/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/14/83

J. Allene Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration