

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 11 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 5 1975

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 Ingalls House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

off U.S. 2

CITY, TOWN

Mercer

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd Hon. William Cohen

STATE

Maine

__ VICINITY OF

CORF 023

COUNTY

Somerset

CODE

025

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John and Dorothy Beeuwkes

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Mercer

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Somerset County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Skowhegan,

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Ingalls House in Mercer is a substantial Greek Revival farm house, the design of which reflects the continuing tradition of the 18th century two and a half story gable roof form into the 19th century. Erected in the mid-1830's, this handsome dwelling is situated on a rise overlooking a small rural community in the central part of Maine.

The Ingalls House stands two and a half stories high and has a gable roof. The foundation is granite, while the main structure is frame with a clapboard exterior.

The facade or north wall of the house exhibits the traditional division of five symmetrically placed bays on each of the two stories. The central bay of the first story is devoted to the main doorway. This doorway is flanked by sidelights and is enframed by simple Greek Revival trim with cornerblocks. A pair of windows is located at either side of the doorway.

The first story facade is fronted by an impressive Greek Revival porch. The base of the porch is composed of a frame platform with a latticework front and a step at either side. A series of four fluted Ionic columns support a sloping roof which has a modified Ionic entablature on the front and sides. In addition to two sides of the roof are strongly outlined in cornice molding, to give the appearance of half triangular pediments. Above the porch is a series of five symmetrically placed second story windows.

The east and west walls of the Ingalls House have two windows in each of the first and second stories and one window in the half story. A one story ell projects from the southeast half of the south or rear wall. The wall itself has two windows on the first story and a series of five symmetrically placed ones on the second.

With the exception of the front porch, the exterior architectural trim of the Ingalls House reflects a restrained Greek Revival manner. A simplified pilaster appears at each corner in the form of a vertical board. Likewise, a modified entablature surrounds the house above the second story windows and on the two triangular gable ends of the half story. All windows are shuttered. The only major exterior change has been the alteration of most of the original six over six sash to two over one.

The interior of the Ingalls House follows a traditional New England plan. On the first floor, a central staircase is flanked on either side by a large front room, one of which was probably a parlor and the other a dining room. Running the full length of the house behind these three sections is a kitchen. The second floor has a central stair hall flanked on either side by two bedrooms. As with the exterior, the style of the interior woodwork is extremely restrained.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Description

ITEM NUMBER

7

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Evidence of one significant technological feature survives on the interior. The two front rooms of the first story and the bedrooms of the second each contain a narrow projecting chimney with a small Greek Revival mantel enframement and a hearth in front of it. The design of this feature clearly indicates that it was for a stove installation instead of a fireplace. The early 19th century was a transitional period in heating practices from the fireplace to the stove. It is interesting to find that this Central Maine farm house of the 1830's was apparently planned for stoves. Regretably, none of the stoves survived the conversion to a 20th century heating system. The chimney structure of the west wall has been disassembled to below the roofline, and only the narrow chimney of the east wall survives in its original form.

The Ingalls House is an imposing rural dwelling which looks backward in its 18th century form, was contemporary in its Greek Revival trim, and reflected 19th century technological advances in its heating system.

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1835-37

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ingalls House was built between 1835 and 1837 by Ebenezer Thatcher whose wife, Julia, was a daughter of Gen. Henry Knox, hero of the Revolution and first Secretary of War of the United States. During the 1870's it was the residence of Hannibal Ingalls, a prominent Mercer businessman.

This pleasing Greek Revival structure with columned porch and traditional New England interior is a charming and quietly impressive piece of rural architecture. Of particular interest for its time and place is the unusually early accommodation to stove heating rather than the traditional reliance on fireplaces. While many houses of the period were later adapted to this more modern heating device it is clear that the Ingalls House was from the first so designed. This departure from the traditional conservatism of Central Maine is noteworthy and an indication that by the 1830's modernity was no longer a stranger to what had very lately been a frontier.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information supplied by David Solmitz based on research in Somerset County Registry of Deeds

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2

UTM REFERENCES

UTM OK
HL

A | 19 | 425629 | 49147340 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | |

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 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian
 Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE April 4, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue

TELEPHONE 207-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta

STATE Maine

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

James H. Mundy

TITLE *State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE *April 7, 1975*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <i>6/5/75</i>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE JUN 4 1975
ATTEST:	
<i>[Signature]</i>	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	