Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Maine	
COUNTY:	
Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	/
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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1.	NAME					· ·		1											
COMMON:																			
	The Octagon or "Collar Box" House.																		
	The Captain George Scott House.																		
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STREET AND NUMBER:  Federal Street   Ist District Hon. Peter N. Kyros  CITY OR TOWN:  Wiscasset																			
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

LOCATION, SETTING, AND GROUNDS. The Capt. George Scott House sits on a hedge-and tree-bordered lot of approximately three acres on the west bank of the Sheepscot River. In a strictly residential area, the site is only one third of a mile from the town center, where the Atlantic Highway crosses the Sheepscot.

Built for Capt. Scott in 1855 of red brick BASIC STRUCTURE AND MATERIALS. with sandstone and granite lintels and sills, it is a two-and-one-half story bracketed octagon following plans in Orson Squire Fowler's "A House for All," etc., 2nd edition, 1854. Its walls are 16 feet,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, of cavity wall construction (II inches thick,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch bricks, 4 inch cavity), with brick courses laid at intervals in Flemish bond. Each of four walls have bne window on each story, first and second floor windows being double-hung six-light sash 3½ feet wide. The attic windows are of the porthole type, rectangular with rounded corners. The main entrance, facing Federal Street bn the northwest, has a doorway with louvered shutters and an open porch of withe period, its post and other trim in a sand-mixed paint of off-white color. A second entrance, with a small, uncovered porch, is on the northeast. A sunporch, II feet,  $l\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 6 feet, 8 inches, is located on the south wall, facing down the river. Windows as described above are used on the second and attic floors of the entrance and sunporch walls, but on the eigth wall section, that to the southwest, the second floor window is trimmed, shuttered and bricked in, apparently at time of construction.

The Capt. Scott octagon has two brick chimneys serving eight "Stoveplaces" and one fire place, the former with marble mantels and, in four rooms, marble surrounds, apparently original. The working fireplace is in the cellar and was a part of a cooking arrangement including a beehive oven.

The house, which has a standard low-pitched roof of octagonal and open eaves with exposed outriggers, has an eight-sided cupola with eight six-over-six windows. It is reached by a combination of closed and open stairway from the second floor hall.

Except for an open attic, each floor of the Capt. Scott house, including the cellar, has four main rooms, approximately 14 by 16 feet in size, and four triangular rooms, about 14 by 10 by 10 feet. The latter are used on the first and second floors for entrance halls, a winding backstairs, bathrooms, closets a butler's pantry and an open alcove connecting the dining rooms and parlor. In the cellar, which has both inside and outside entrances, the triangular rooms were storage rooms for food, ice and cooking utensils, and one was a distern supplied with water from the gutter system.

One of the four rectangular rooms in the cellar was used for cooking, containing the fireplace unit with oven and ashpit. A faucet permitted the drawing of water directly from the cistern in an adjacent triangular room, which has provision for draining into a system under the cellar floors connecting with a dry well, 100 feet from the house. The cellar kitchen still contains part of a dumb waiter used to move food to the kitchen above.

There were two conventional entrances to the cellar, a brick, wood and granite bulkhead from the outside, and a stairway from the first floor's central hall.

The main staircase of the house winds up in a centered hall open to the floors and cupola above. The second floor plan differs from the plans of the other floors in that it adds a passageway connecting the center hall and backstairs, and from which a closed stairway rises to the attic.

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	X 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicate	le and Known) Built	355	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch.	eck One or More as Appropris	ite)	
Abor iginal	Education	□ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
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ACKGROUND FOR WISCA County's shire town, maintains its Ninete attitude and effort	SSET: (Alt. 50', long known as one enth century sere of its citizens.	e of the most bea nity and charm ch Its many fine ho	autiful on the coast niefly through the omes built during th

While its early prosperity ended when the 1807 Embargo Act closed the port, Wiscasset ( Ind. place where three waters meet) retained its stability and has seen industrial revival in the second half of the Twentieth century.

The English began settling in 1645 and fled during King Philip's War. After 1730, the seaport grew and prospered.

In 1791 there were 35 square riggers owned here and often a man could walk across the harbor on decks of ships lying at anchor. A handsome town was built during this era; some of the houses of those days are still in use. Wiscasset, soon after the Revolution, was the busiest port east of Boston.

Forest and river carried Wiscasset through the days of sail despite the disastrous effects of the Embargo Act, the War of 1812 and a spotted fever (spinal meningitis) epidemic. Thousand-ton clippers were launched here shortly before the Civil War. The advancing machine age ended the opplent shipbuilding era and fires in 1866 and 1870 destroyed wharves and homes along the waterfront. The population shrank and Wiscasset became a very quiet town.

THE ROLE OF CAPTAIN SCOTT AND HIS HOME IN THE HISTORY OF WISCASSETT.

The Capt. George Scott House derives significance as a specimen of an octagonal house, following closely, plans developed by Orson Squire Fowler (1 (1809-1887) and published in the second edition of "A Home for All," 1854. It appears to be a nearly perfect brick example built at the time of the types first nationwide popularity in an area which resisted the trend.

Capt. Scott, 35 years old at the time of the house's building, was already a famous ship's master. He had married in 1849 and taken his bride to Madeira on a honeymoon on his command, the ship Smyrna. Before the year was out, the Scotts continued their voyage to California. Other ships he sailed included the Glengarry, J. S. Parsons, Adrian and, during the Civil Ware, the gunboat Estrella. Capt. Scott made two voyages around the Horn. His last command was the Emily McNear, wrecked in the Straits of Sunda in 1871. A letter exists detailing his days on a traditional canibal isle and a timely escape.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGR	APHICAL REFE	RENCES									
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11. FORM PREPARE	D BY										
NAME AND TITLE:											
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ORGANIZATION								DATE			
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1 "	89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion			hattonal Register.							
in the National R	_										
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Maine	
COUNTY	Lincoln	
	FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENT	RY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

#### CONTINUATION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Capt. Scott H ouse is in its original design and condition but a one-story wooden ell, not original, runs from the kitchen on the east, or river side, connecting with a two-story barn, which is believed to have been built by Capt. Scott as five-eights of an octagon. Research remains to be done as to the time of an alteration which added a second carriage door and required the rebuilding of one wall of the original design, which was of board and batten construction.

POTENTIAL THREAT. The Maine State Highway Commission has asked the Planning Board and Selectmen of the Town of Wiscasset to consider three alternate "by-pass" plans for the Atlantic Highway, about which the town center has grown. One route proposed would cut through the residential section and cross the Sheepscot River on a bridge to be constructed with its western approach just south of the Capt. George Scott House property. The other outes proposed are true by-passes of the town. Although the land take would not include this house the asthetics of this residential section could be impaired.

#### CONTINUATION OF BACKGROUND

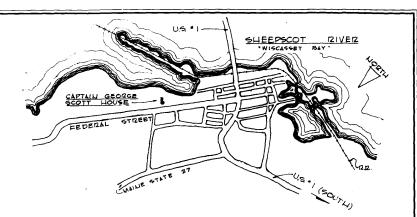
Edith Augusta Sawyer, the author of several children's books, a novel and non-fiction on Japan, was the daughter of the second owner of the Scott House, George B. Sawyer, a leading Wiscasset business man at the turn of the century. Miss Sawyer, educated at Wiscasset and Wellesley College, where she became a member of the faculty, write <a href="https://doi.org/10.1001/jhe-10.

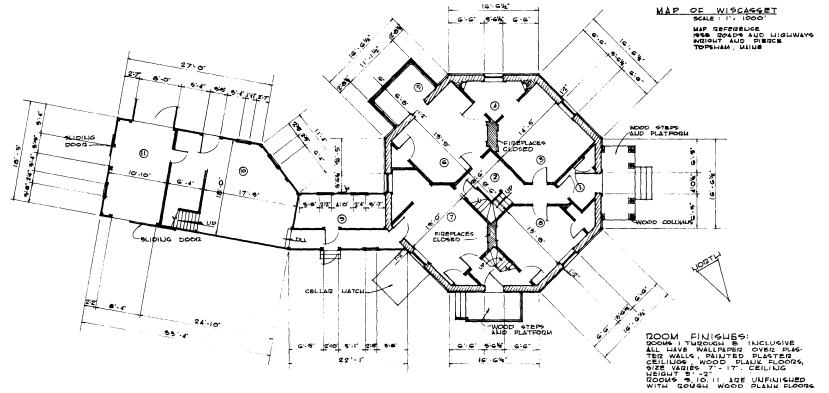


### CAPTAIN GEORGE SCOTT HOUSE

THIS PECULIAR STRUCTURE, LOCALLY REFERRED TO AS THE "COLLAR BOX" HOUSE, WAS BUILT BY CAPTAIN GEORGE SCOTT IN 1855. IT IS TYPICAL OF THE OCTAGONAL TYPE OF HOUSE BUILT IN NEW ENGLAND AT THIS TIME.

THIS PROJECT WAS FINANCED BY FUNDS OF THE "MISSION GO" PROGRAM OF THE UNITIONAL PARK SERVICE, MEASURED AND DRAWN AUGUST 1960 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF CLARILES, PATTERSON, SUPERVISING ARCHITECT, HISTORIC STRUCTURES; PROFESSOR F. SLAIR REEVES, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA; AND STUDENT ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS RUSSELL V. KEUNE, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS; JAMES M. REPLOSED, ONIO STATE UNIVERSITY; ROBERT M. SWILLEY, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA.





FIRST FLOOR PLAN

DEL POST. H. SWILLEY

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CAPTAIN
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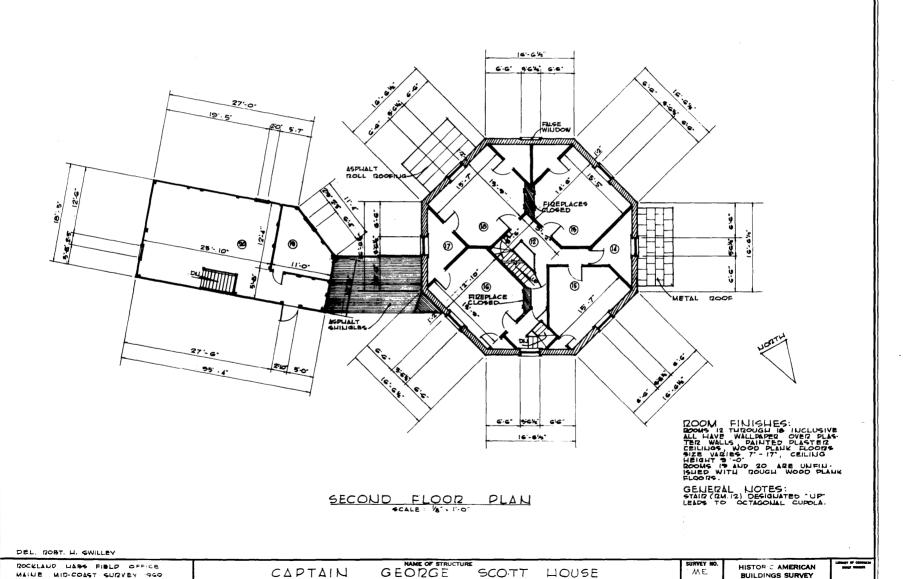
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SCOTT HOUSE

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BUILDINGS SURVEY

SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS

MAINE MID-COAST SURVEY 1960

DER DIRECTION OF UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL FARK SERVICE, BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

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