

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Amos Gerald House

and/or common "The Castle"

2. Location

street & number 107 Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Fairfield, ___ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Maine code 23 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lawry Brothers Company

street & number 107 Main Street

city, town Fairfield ___ vicinity of state Maine 04937

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 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Amos F. Gerald House of Fairfield, Maine is a unique structure which draws its inspiration from the castle and thus could be stylistically termed "Medieval Revival".

The house, dating from 1909-13, is of cementblock construction and consists of two stories with a three-story central tower, all covered by flat roofs. Fenestration is generally 1/1, the windows being rectangular with slightly projecting lintels save for the third floor of the tower where they are arched.

The cornice of the tower is a machicolated parapet with crenellation above. Originally the cornice of the house itself was crenellated, but this has been removed. There is a central entrance in the tower, covered by a semi-circular portico with crenellated cornice, supported by large columns. A semi-circular veranda flanks the portico; this once had a balustraded railing which is now a solid-brick wall.

The ends of the house are 2 bays wide and each has a one-story projecting bay of semi-circular form. Here too crenellation has been lost, replaced by solid brick.

Attached to the rear of the house is a 1½-story frame ell with gambrel roof and clapboard siding.

The cement block medium is well executed in this building to mimic granite, with rusticated quoins. The blocks were made under the personal supervision of Mr. Gerald.

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				
Specific dates	c.1910–13	Builder/Architect		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Amos Gerald House in Fairfield is significant in at least three respects: 1. It was built by the first and foremost pioneer in the development of the once vast trolley car system in Maine. 2. It is designed in a rare vernacular architectural style drawn from the medieval castle. 3. It is very possibly the first residence ever constructed of cement blocks in Maine and perhaps New England.

Born in Benton in 1841, Amos Gerald, after spending three years in his early twenties as a miner and lumberman in California, returned to Maine taking up residence in Fairfield. His business career began in 1868 with the manufacture of a curtain fixture of his own invention. He also invented a successful drop head sewing machine.

After a brief sojourn in New York City in the early 1880's he returned imbued with ideas of establishing a Waterville–Fairfield street railway. At first horse drawn, it was electrified in 1890, and was the first of a dozen trolley systems built by Gerald, many much longer. He also was involved in the successful consolidation of several groups of local lines into larger, more efficient systems.

In 1886 he founded in Fairfield the first electric light company in Maine.

In order to popularize trolley use and also to provide public recreation, Gerald developed a number of amusement parks, skating rinks, band stands and the like along various routes in scenic locations. He also built the famed Casco Castle, a medieval style summer hotel in South Freeport and the Hotel Gerald in Fairfield topped with three golden domes and known for its luxurious interior and fixtures. Always public spirited, he is quoted as stating, "I had rather see the people riding on railroads I have helped build and enjoying them than to lay up money in the bank".

On the day of his funeral in September, 1913, every trolley car throughout the limits of the state stood still for three minutes.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Waterville Morning Sentinel, July 11, 1964

Bangor Industrial Journal, May, 1909; June, 1913; September, 1913

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{4}$

Quadrangle name Waterville

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A	1 9	4 5 2 5 0 0	4 9 3 6 7 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
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D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map #53, Block 4, Lot 85

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 Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1980

street & number 242 State 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earle S. Feltkewort*
title S.H.P.O. date 5/9/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>Thomas Mac Dougal</i> Keeper of the National Register	date 6/24/80
Attest: <i>Patrick Andrews</i> Chief of Registration	date 6/18/80