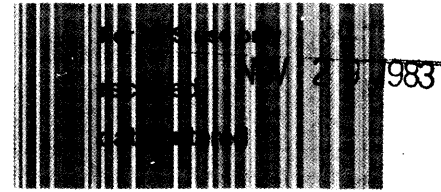


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Capt. William McGilvery House
and/or common

2. Location

street & number East Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Searsport, N/A vicinity of congressional district
state Maine code 23 county Waldo code 027

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Susan Omness and Steven Stier
street & number Box 588
city, town Searsport, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04974

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waldo County Courthouse
street & number
city, town Belfast, 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 McGilvery House is a 2½-story wooden mansard-roofed structure of cubic dimensions. The upper slope of the roof is hipped and roughly half the height of the lower, which is steeply concave. The two slopes are separated by a deck cornice, from which thin decorative cornerboards project downward along each corner of the lower. Two short chimneys break the upper portion of the roof on the east and west sides. The roof's overhanging eaves are supported by a dentiled course and brackets - four pair at each corner and one oversized bracket on either side of a central gable.

The three-bayed facade is dominated by a huge gambrel gable, fully one bay wide, which pierces both roof slopes to peak at a point half-way up the top slope. The gable's peak is extended by a wooden finial, and two smaller finials accent the gambrel's two corners. The roof's deck cornice and slate shingling extend on to the side of the gable. The gable continues the overhang of the roof, and encloses an arched window with a small circular window above it, the two joined by decorative molding. There is a partially-recessed dormer to either side of the gable. Each dormer contains an arched window identical to that within the gable, and is capped with a segmental pediment. On the second story of the facade are three windows with drip moldings, the center one segmentally arched, and the other two rectangular. The doorway in the center of the facade's first story is also segmentally arched, and is flanked by two rectangular windows which extend to the floor of the porch.

The one-story porch extends across all three bays of the facade, and is supported by eight square posts and two post-pilasters. Four of the posts, grouped in two pairs, extend forward with the porch's central bay. A dentiled course and brackets run under the porch's eaves.

Both sides of the house are also three-bayed. The east side is punctuated in its central bay by a rectangular doorway with transom, surrounded by a one-story portico whose details are identical with those of the front porch. The portico is supported by two posts and two post-pilasters. A small square window stands off-center above the portico. The right and left bays on the first and second stories are occupied by four rectangular windows. The second-floor windows are topped by triangular pediments. Two dormers identical with those of the facade occupy the right and left bays of the roof.

The west side of the house is identical with the east side excepting that an oriel window has replaced the portico.

The walls of the house are of wood, but rusticated to resemble ashlar masonry. Presently, the walls and trim are painted white. Early twentieth-century photographs reveal that the trim was once painted a dark color, and the scored "blocks" of the walls were painted in varying light shades, to further the illusion of ashlar.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1873-74 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Capt. William McGilvery House is one of the best examples of mansard domestic architecture in central or north-coastal Maine. In size, expense, and quality of design there is no comparable mansard house in the town of Searsport, Waldo County, or on the Penobscot River or Bay outside of Bangor.

Stylistically, the house is one of a substantial group of 2½-story mansards with center gambrel (or sometimes round) gable, which constituted the most fashionable houses of the Penobscot Valley in the 1860's and 1870's. At least twelve houses of similar design exist in Bangor, two of which are currently listed on the National Register. Taking account of its size, detail, siting, distinctiveness, early date, and present condition, the McGilvery House is among the best of the group, comparable with or superior to Bangor's most important mansards. The size of the gambrel gable and the window arrangement therein are the house's most unusual features. The house is extremely sophisticated, and was likely designed by a Boston or Bangor architect.

The house is also important as the home of entrepreneur William McGilvery (1814-1876), one of the leading shipbuilders and owners on the Penobscot River, whose holdings extended upriver as far as a major shipyard in Brewer, opposite Bangor. Of twelve shipyards in Searsport, the McGilvery Works was the longest-lived and produced many of the finest ships. McGilvery shot himself in the house on March 9, 1876, reportedly after losing his business and fortune.

The original porch on the house's ell was extended, c. 1936, when McGilvery's granddaughter opened the house as a hotel. Otherwise the house is unaltered, is in excellent condition, and retains virtually all of its original acreage.

It is also interesting to note that, in the great tradition of Searsport, Mc Gilvery was a sea captain as a young man. He came, in fact, from a family of five sons, all of whom were captains!

9. Major Bibliographical References

Buxton, Henry. Article in Bangor Daily News. 1936.
 Dow, Sally. Profiles of Some Searsport Master Builders. At Penobscot Marine Museum, Searsport, Maine.
 Casper, Janice. Oral interview.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Searsport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	5	0	16	8	7	15	4	19	2	12	6	15	15
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 10, Lot 27

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 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 *Carl S. Fitzsimons*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/18/83

For NPS use only

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

Albion Byer Entered in the date 12/29/83
 Keeper of the National Register National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration