

Captain John G. Richardson House
964 Washington Street
Bath
Sagadahoc County
Maine

HABS No. ME-140

HABS
ME.
12 BATH
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

CAPTAIN JOHN G. RICHARDSON HOUSE

Location: 964 Washington Street, west side of street, Bath,
Sagadahoc County, Maine

Present Owners
and Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. John Goodfellow, Bath, Maine

Present Use: Private residence

Statement of
Significance: This wooden Gothic house was built c. 1850 for
John G. Richardson, Bath ship chandler.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1849 and/or 1850.
2. Architect: Unknown. This house is contemporary with and somewhat similar to the Body House, Brunswick, Maine, designed by architect Gervase Wheeler.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title. Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds.

1849 Deed. February 9, 1849, recorded February 21, 1849.
Book 29, Page 124.
George Mitchell
to
John G. Richardson

1851 Deed. January 6, 1851, recorded January 9, 1851.
Book 33, Page 353.
John G. Richardson
to
Mary E. Richardson

1858 Deed. December 4, 1858, recorded September 14, 1864.
Book 25, Page 193.
Mary E. Richardson
to
Henry L. Richardson

1864 Deed. September 9, 1864, recorded October 27, 1864.
Book 25, Page 267
Henry L. Richardson
to
David Owen

HABS
ME
12. BATH
2.

- 1890 Deed. June 11, 1890, recorded June 25, 1890.
Book 75, Page 423.
George H. Owen, Frank A. Owen, and Jessie Owen, heirs-
at-law of David Owen, and Elizabeth Owen, widow of
David Owen
to
Alfred D. Stetson
- 1925 Deed. August 6, 1925, recorded August 12, 1925.
Book 159, Page 224.
Arthur H. Stetson (heir of Alfred D. Stetson)
to
Henry E. Stetson
- 1930 Deed. August 22, 1930, recorded September 5, 1930.
Book 175, Page 23.
Harry E. Stetson
to
Ralph G. Stetson
- 1956 Deed. January 31, 1956, recorded March 29, 1956.
Book 293, Page 203.
Ralph G. Stetson, Jr. (heir of Ralph G. Stetson)
to
Dorothy D. Stetson
- 1956 Deed. September 11, 1956, recorded September 12, 1956.
Book 291, Page 466.
Dorothy D. Stetson
to
Claus F. Hinck and Priscilla B. Hinck
- 1963 Deed. July 30, 1963, recorded August 1, 1963.
Book 331, Page 474.
Claus F. Hinck and Priscilla B. Hinck
to
Robert A. Baxter and N. Virginia Baxter
- 1965 Deed. November 8, 1965, recorded December 10, 1965.
Book 348, Page 245.
Robert A. Baxter and N. Virginia Baxter
to
John and Margaret Ann Goodfellow

4. Builder: Unknown
5. Alterations and additions: A few minor interior alterations.

- B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:
- John Green Richardson was a Bath ship chandler. He was the Mayor of Bath in 1878-79.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Line engraving on 1858 Sagadahoc County map, in the collection of the Bath Marine Museum, Bath, Maine.
2. Bibliography:
 - a. Primary and unpublished sources: Deeds. Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds, 752 High Street, Bath, Maine, 04530.
 - b. Secondary and published sources: Turner, Walter Frye, Illustrated Historical Souvenir of the City of Bath, Maine (pamphlet). Bath: March 1899.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This two-and-a-half story wooden residence is built in the Gothic Revival style, with steeply pitched gable roofs, carved barge boards, hooded windows, and board and batten wall surfaces. One gable faces the street; there is a subsidiary cross gable. A one-and-a-half story ell projects from the rear.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The main gabled end of the house which projects toward the street is about 25 feet wide. The cross gable is about 15 feet back; it is about 25 feet deep and extends for about ten feet to either side of the main gable. An ell about 18 feet wide and 12 feet deep projects from the north side of the rear wall of the house.
2. Foundations: The painted brick foundations form the basement walls of the house. The ground level drops steeply from the street. The basement is open to ground level on the southern, western, and northern sides of the house.

3. Wall construction: Wood with wooden trim.
4. Trim and finish: Wood, painted. The one bay end of the main gable wing which projects on the facade has a deep bay window on the first floor, a double window on the second, and a single window in the gable with a trefoil window above it. The southern side of this wing has double windows on the first and second floors. The northern side is solid. The facade face of the cross gable has a double entrance door on the first floor of the left side, with an open porch extending to the main gable facade. The wooden columns which support the porch roof consist of clusters of four round pilasters. On the right side the cross gable facade has a window on the first floor. The southern side end of the cross gable has a bay window and a single window on the first floor, a double window and a single window on the second floor, and a double window in the gable with a trefoil window over it. The northern side end of the cross gable has two windows on the first floor, three on the second floor, and a double window with a trefoil window over it in the gable. The rear wall of the house has a single window on the first floor, and two single windows on the second. There is a single dormer window in the center of the roof. The ell has several single windows.

The house has square corner pilasters which rest on a wide, molded horizontal band which forms a base, continuing around the house. The carved bargeboards on all three gables of the house have trefoil projections and pendant open circles at the lower ends.

All the wall surfaces are board and batten.

5. Chimneys: Two rectangular brick chimneys project from the cross gable roof at the rear of the ridge, to either side of the dormer roof.
6. Openings:
- a. Doorways and doors: The entrance door has wide molded trim. Each half of the double door has a tall vertical glass panel. There is a four paneled wooden basement door with a projecting gable roof canopy in the southern wall of the ell.
- b. Windows: All the windows of the house are slightly recessed in beveled openings. On the single and double windows the flat trim is broken out at the top, giving the appearance of a hood, with a slightly projecting molding above. The single windows are

double hung with six-light sashes except for the three second floor windows on the north side cross gable end, which are nine-over-six. Each window of the double windows is double hung with four-light sashes. The pentagonal bays have windows with flat trim in each face. The windows are double hung. Most are narrow with two-light sashes; the side bay has windows with six-light sashes in the outside face. The trefoil windows have flat trim and are fixed. The basement windows vary in size. The larger ones are rectangular, double hung with six-light sashes. They have wooden lintels and granite sills where they occur in brick walls. None of the ell windows are recessed, nor is the dormer window. The ell windows have flat trim.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roofs are shingled in asphalt.
- b. Cornice: The roof has a narrow molded wooden cornice along all edges. The entrance porch and bay windows have similar cornices.

8. Stairs: The entrance porch is approached directly from the sidewalk in front of the house by a flight of granite stairs. Cast-iron fencing runs up the granite stringers and along the outside of the porch. Originally matching fencing between granite posts lined the edge of the property at the sidewalk. Today only the granite base for the fence remains.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: On the first floor a large entrance hall runs the length of the facade side of the cross gable section. To the front of the house, contained in the projecting gable section, is the main parlor. To the rear on the southern side is a smaller parlor; on the northern side is a dining room. To the rear of the dining room, in the ell, is the kitchen.

On the second floor there is one large bedroom over the main parlor, a bathroom, and two rear bedrooms with fireplaces. They open onto a hall above the first floor hall.

2. Stairways: The double-run stairs to the second floor are located on the eastern wall of the entrance hall. The four bottom stairs extend from the wall in a gradually widening semi-circle. The carved handrail, which ends in

a graceful inward spiral, is stained dark. The circular balusters and stairs are painted.

3. Flooring: Hardwood floors on the first floor. Wide pine floors on the second floor, painted.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. The ceilings are painted. The walls are painted or papered.
5. Doors: The wooden doors have four panels in beveled recesses.
6. Trim: Wood, mainly painted. The front first floor parlor has a wainscot, above a continuous baseboard, with vertical recessed panels and a molded chair rail. The bay window has a molded cornice. The door has wide flat trim with a raised perimeter band on either side and a projecting molded cornice. All are stained dark. A molded cornice at the ceiling is painted.

The door architraves on the rest of the first floor, identical to those in the parlor, and the flat baseboards are painted.

In the dining room is a painted wooden china cupboard. The double lower doors each have panels with recessed trefoil arches. The double upper doors have tracery trefoil arches, with glazed openings.

All the windows have interior shutters.

7. Fireplaces: One second-floor fireplace has an interior cast-iron frame with Gothic detail and grate intact. It has a flat marble surround and mantel and a painted brick hearth.
8. Notable hardware: Most of the original ceramic door knobs are intact.
9. Lighting: Electric. The plaster ceiling center ornaments for the original gas fixtures are intact. They have a design of curling leaves radiating from a disk of grape leaves and grapes.

D. Site:

There is a separate barn to the rear of the house. It is detailed to match the house.

CAPTAIN JOHN G. 12 BATH
RICHARDSON HOUSE 2-
HABS No. ME-140 (Page 7)

Prepared by Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
and
Mary-Eliza Wengren
September 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during 1971 and 1972 in the course of a photo-data project in the cities of Bath, Hallowell, Monmouth, and Richmond in the State of Maine. The project was arranged in response to the initiative of Mrs. Linda B. Clark of Row House, Inc., in Hallowell, Dr. Charles E. Burden of the Bath Marine Museum, Mrs. Paul L. Roberts of the Richmond Historical and Cultural Society, and Mr. H. Earle Flanders of Monmouth. All of these preservationists actively solicited or contributed funds and effectively fostered increased interest in the architectural heritage of their respective communities. The project was under the general direction of James C. Massey, at that time Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey; was supervised in the field by Denys Peter Myers, then Principal Architectural Historian of HABS; was carried on by Student Architectural Historian Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Boston University; and was continued by Alan Mast, Maine Arts and Humanities Commission, and Mary-Eliza Wengren (Mrs. Richard E., Jr.), Maine Historic Preservation Commission, under the field supervision of Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Photographers were Mark C. Bisgrove, Sylvester Cobbs, Stanley Schwartz, Leon P. Shepard, and Richard Dwight Sturgis.