

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hichborn, Nathan G., House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Church Street not for publication
city, town Stockton Springs, vicinity
state Maine code ME county Waldo code 027 zip code 04981

3. Classification

Ownership of Property		Category of Property		Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u>0</u> sites		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>0</u> structures		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>0</u> objects		
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total		

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Carol J. Pedersen S.H.P.O. 3/4/88
Signature of certifying official Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register 4-7-88
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Hotel**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/Weatherboardroof Asphaltother Wood Entrance Porch, Bracketed
Cornice, Cupola

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Standing in a short row of east facing buildings, the Nathan G. Hichborn House is a well preserved Italianate style frame dwelling that has a long ell connected to a barn. Sheathed in weatherboards and resting on a granite foundation, the two-and-a-half-story three-bay house features an entrance porch, paired brackets, dormers, and an octagonal cupola.

The facade is symmetrically fashioned with a centrally-located entrance and flanking six-over-six double-hung sash windows. An ornate porch shelters the two-leaf door and its long round arched windows. Four chamfered porch posts, two at each front corner, are linked by thin curvilinear sawn elements. They support a shallow bracketed hip roof surmounted by a balustrade. Immediately above the porch is a tripartite segmentally arched window composed of a large central unit flanked by narrow shorter ones. Unlike their counterparts on the first story the second story six-over-six windows do not employ shallow bracketed hoods. Four pairs of brackets support the broad eaves on the facade. Two pedimented dormers are positioned slightly off-center from the windows. Behind them brick chimneys frame the bracketed cupola that contains two-over-two windows in each of its eight sides.

Both the north and south gable ends feature a pair of widely spaced six-over-six sash on each story as well as a round arched window in the attic. The first story windows have shallow gabled hoods, unlike the flat hoods on the facade. The paired brackets continue along the eaves.

Attached to the southwest corner of the main block is the one-and-a-half-story ell. The south elevation contains a partially glazed porch and four small gabled dormers. Documentary photographs from the turn of the century show the existence of a porch here at that time, however, it was enlarged to its present configuration in 1956. At this time a second porch was added to the north side, but this has recently been removed exposing a number of window and door openings. Two dormers and a small hip roofed bathroom addition from the early twentieth century remain undisturbed.

The barn at the rear of the ell is positioned in a parallel manner to the main block. A number of window and door openings punctuate each of its three sides.

 See continuation sheet

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Like the exterior the interior of the Hichborn house remains largely intact. The central hall contains a wide open string stair that gently rises to the second floor. A handsome darkly stained newel post anchors the balustrade that is composed of turned balusters and a shaped handrail. A ceiling medallion is located near and above the entrance. Four equally sized rooms adjoin the hall. The more formal of them are located on the north side, and each one contains a typically Italianate marble mantelpiece with a round arched opening. The heavily molded window and door surrounds are also representative of the period. The two rooms on the south side of the hall contain less elaborate mantels. Expressing its utilitarian function, the ell has modest woodwork and a somewhat modified first floor plan as a result of the 1956 remodeling.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Industry

Period of Significance

c. 1850
c. 1850-1874

Significant Dates

c. 1850
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Hichborn, Nathan Griffin

Architect/Builder

Bither, Alfred S. (Attributed)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Hichborn house is significant not only for its architectural prominence in a community of relatively modest vernacular dwellings, but also for its association with the life and career of Nathan Hichborn, one of Stockton's leading citizens in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Most probably constructed in the 1850s, the house is the most significant known building that illustrates Hichborn's achievements. It is eligible for nomination under National Register criteria B and C.

Nathan Griffin Hichborn was born in Prospect, Maine, on May 29, 1818, the son of Henry and Desiah (Griffin) Hichborn. His business career began about 1844 when he established a general mercantile store on the Belfast to Bucksport Road./1 Three years later, Hichborn launched a ship building career whose success can be measured by its twenty-eight year duration. Between 1846 and 1874, Hichborn's ship yard completed forty-two vessels, making him the most prolific builder in Stockton./2 Beginning with the California in 1846, the N. G. Hichborn yard built thirteen brigs, thirteen schooners, thirteen barks, and three ships - one of which, the Jacob Badger - was the largest vessel constructed in the community./3 Hichborn's business, and that of his fellow Stockton ship builders, illustrates the important role which this industry played in the economic development of many Maine coastal towns in the mid-nineteenth century./4

Despite the constant attention that his business undoubtedly required, Hichborn also occupied a prominent role in community and governmental affairs. During the early 1850s he was the moving force behind the construction of the existing Stockton Springs Community Church (N.R. 6/20/85), and in 1855 he was appointed to the position of postmaster at South Prospect. In 1855 Hichborn was also elected to the Maine Senate where he became chairman of the Committee on the Division of Counties. The following year he spearheaded a movement to divide the Town of Prospect into two smaller civil units, and in 1857 Stockton was created from the lower half. Hichborn's Senate term was immediately followed by his election to the House of Representatives. In addition, between 1865 and 1868 he served as State Treasurer. His long held temperance

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hichborn, Faustina. Historical Sketch of Stockton Springs. Waterville, Maine: Central Maine Publishing Company, 1908.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

1	9
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5	1	1	2	8	0
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4	9	2	6	1	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the town of Stockton Springs Tax Map U-34, Lot 4121.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the buildings and lot historically associated with the resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1988
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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position was apparently a deciding factor in his nomination by the Maine Temperance Convention to run for Governor in 1869 (an election in which he placed a distant third). Hichborn appears to have remained actively engaged in his business up to the time of his death on November 30, 1874. The house was subsequently occupied by his widow and three maiden daughters, the last of whom died in 1939.

Tradition maintains that Hichborn built this house in 1849. However, the overall character of the exterior and interior finish suggests that an 1850s date of construction is more accurate. In any case the building continues to exemplify the prominence of its original owner. Compared to its modest mid nineteenth century neighbors, the Hichborn house bears a more refined sense of detailing and finish, if not overall proportions.

The architect/builder of Hichborn's house is believed to be Alfred S. Bither (1823-____), a theory that is supported by the recent discovery of a porch post base signed "Bither" in pencil. Circumstantial evidence also suggests that Bither was responsible for the design. In 1846 Bither acquired the empty lot adjoining this house to the south. The following year he sold it at a considerably greater price to Hichborn with "...all land and buildings."/5 Furthermore, in 1853 Bither was given the contract to design the nearby Stockton Universalist Church, a project in which, as noted above, Hichborn was actively involved. Unfortunately, little is known about Bither's career. A November 16, 1853, article in the Gospel Banner announcing the dedication of the church as well as the 1860 census indicates that Bither was a resident of Bangor. In 1862, however, he appears in the Boston city directory as a carpenter. From 1870 until 1881 his profession was given as that of an architect, but the nature of his work there has not been determined. During this period Bither undoubtedly maintained contact with his family in Maine. One known commission in the state at this time was an urban residence in Bangor for T. T. Cates built in 1874./6 Of his three known and one attributable Maine projects the Hichborn house is perhaps Bither's earliest statement of the Italianate style in a residential design.

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ENDNOTES

- /1. The location of this store was two lots south of the house. Both the store and Hichborn's original house are believed to have been destroyed by fire in the 1880s. He acquired the property in 1844. See Waldo County Deeds, Vol. 49, p. 557.
- /2. In 1871 Hichborn was one of eight ship builders in Stockton. Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual for the Year 1871 (Portland: Hoyt, Fogg and Breed, 1871), p. 314.
- /3. The list of Hichborn's ships was published by Hichborn's daughter Faustina Hichborn in her book Historical Sketch of Stockton Springs Waterville: Press of Central Maine Publishing Company, 1908), p. 20.
- /4. For a further discussion of the topic see William Hutchinson Rowe, The Maritime History of Maine: Three Centuries of Shipbuilding and Seafaring (Freeport, Maine: Bond Wheelwright Company, 1966).
- /5. Bither acquired the lot for \$25.00 from Simeon Lackey on August 27, 1846 (Waldo County Deeds, Vol. 56, p. 175). On May 13, 1847, he transferred it to Hichborn for \$400.00 (Waldo County Deeds, Vol. 58, p. 330). The 1850 census indicates that Bither was a joiner residing in Frankfort (now Winterport).
- /6. The July 28, 1874, edition of the Bangor Whig and Courier carried a brief description of the house noting that it was "one of the most compact, convenient and thoroughly finished houses for a small family that we have ever seen...." The relatively unaltered house survives and bears an unusual mansard roof.