

George F. Patten House
118 Front Street, east side between
Cedar and Pearl Streets
Bath
Sagadahoc County
Maine

HABS No. ME-141

HABS
ME
12-BATH
7-

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

GEORGE F. PATTEN HOUSE

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Location: 406 Front Street, west side of street, Bath,
Sagadahoc County, Maine

Present Owners: James O. Smith and Shirley J. Smith

Present Occupants: Dr. and Mrs. James O. Smith

Present Use: Private residence

Statement of Significance: This transitional Federal-Greek Revival residence with a colonnade along the facade and southern side was the home of George F. Patten, prominent Bath shipbuilder and businessman.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: c. 1830.
2. Architect: Unknown. This house is similar to the Henry Tallman House, c. 1840, and the Sewall Mansion of the Bath Marine Museum, 1844, both in Bath.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title. Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds.

1871 Deed. March 16, 1871, recorded April 7, 1871 in
Book 35 page 124
James T. Patten, George M. Patten, John G. Elliot,
Statira Elliot, Catherine T. Walker, Hannah T.
Slade, Paulina Tappin, Augusta Whittlesey, Jarvis
Slade, Eliphalet Whittlesey
to
Silas S. Shaw

1875 Deed. June 7, 1875, recorded June 11, 1875 in
Book 42 page 128
Silas S. Shaw
to
Albert Stover

- 1919 Deed. October 17, 1919, recorded November 21, 1919 in
Book 143 page 362
Julia M. Lombard, Jennie H. Stark, Lizzie M. Jackson
to
Florence A. Sherman
- 1934 Deed. October 11, 1934, recorded October 12, 1934 in
Book 187 page 423
Florence A. Sherman
to
John A. Loring
- 1939 Deed. June 3, 1939, recorded June 3, 1939 in
Book 209 page 375
John A. Loring
to
Norman J. Mackinnon and Edith Mackinnon
- 1941 Deed. June 9, 1941, recorded June 9, 1941 in
Book 221 page 301
Norman J. Mackinnon and Edith Mackinnon
to
L. Eugene Thebeau
- 1945 Deed. December 8, 1945, recorded December 14, 1945 in
Book 236 page 575
Vanona A. Thebeau and Dorothy Thebeau Starr
to
Earl L. Wade and Phyllis E. Wade
- 1954 Deed. September 24, 1954, recorded September 28, 1954 in
Book 283 page 446
Earl L. Wade and Phyllis H. Wade
to
Hedwidge Rheaume
- 1954 Deed. September 24, 1954, recorded September 28, 1954 in
Book 283 page 447
Hedwidge Rheaume
to
Phyllis H. Wade
- 1969 Deed. November 6, 1969, recorded November 6, 1969 in
Book 367 page 1075
Phyllis H. Wade
to
James O. Smith and Shirley J. Smith

HABS
ME
12-BATH
7-

4. Builder: Unknown. Built for George F. Patten.
5. Alterations and additions: Minor modern interior alterations. A garage was added at the rear of the ell, probably c. 1941.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Site:

Martin Cushing built forty houses on this site. They were shipped to the West Indies, where men were sent to put them up on contract.

C. Supplemental Material:

George F. Patten (1787-1869) was born in Topsham, Maine. He began building small boats there and moved to Bath in 1820, where he continued his ship building. The Patten fleet was one of the largest in the United States. John and James F. Patten, brothers, commanded several of the ships. George F. Patten served several times in the state legislature and in Bath government. He was active in the establishment of the Kennebec and Portland Railroad; he was a member of the Board of Overseers of Bowdoin College and a Vice President of the Maine Missionary Society.

D. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Line engraving on 1851 Bath 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:

Lemont, Levi P. Historical Dates of the Town and City of Bath and Town of Georgetown, From 1604 to 1874. Bath, 1874, p. 78.

Reed, Parker McCobb. History of Bath and Environs. Portland, 1894, pp. 340-342.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This two-and-a-half-story, rectangular, transitional Federal-Greek Revival wood and frame house has a one-story colonnade surmounted by a balustrade on the southern side and facade. A one-and-a-half-story ell extends from the rear of the house on the northern side. Attached at the rear of the ell is a modern garage.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The house is about 35 feet wide and 25 feet deep. The colonnade extends about five feet out from the house. The ell is set in about three feet from the north side of the house. It is about 12 feet wide and 15 feet long. The garage is about 20 feet square.
2. Foundations: Cut granite and stone.
3. Wall construction: Wood with wood trim. Painted.
4. Trim and finish: Wood, painted. The main facade of the Patten House is five bays wide. On the first floor an enclosed center entryway projects to the colonnade, with two windows to either side. The windows have wide, incised trim with circle motif corner blocks at the upper corners. The entryway has a tall window with the same trim on either side. There are five windows with molded trim on the second floor. There are corner pilasters with recessed vertical panels on the first and second floors.

The southern side of the house has a door between two windows on the first floor, two windows on the second floor, and two windows in the gable. The moldings of the first-floor windows match those of the first-floor facade windows; those of the second floor and gable match the second-floor facade windows. There is a corner pilaster with recessed vertical panels at the rear.

A one-story colonnade of fluted Doric columns forms a porch around the house on the facade and southern side. The columns stand on a wooden floor and support a wide entablature and flat cornice, surmounted by a balustrade of geometrical wooden lattice work between short square columns with recessed panels located over each column.

The first-floor wall surface behind the colonnade is finished with horizontal matched boards; the second floor and gable wall surfaces are clapboarded.

The northern side of the house has two windows and a modern bay window on the first floor, three windows on the second floor, and two windows in the gable. The windows are of the same size and have moldings identical to the second-floor facade windows; they are shuttered. The wall surface is clapboarded.

The rear of the house has a modern door and two modern windows on the first floor. It has three windows on the second floor with moldings similar to the facade second-floor windows and shutters. The wall surfaces are clapboarded.

The ell has a modern door on the northern side; a modern door and three windows on the southern side. Attached at the rear is a modern garage, detailed to match the house.

5. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys at the roof ridge of the main house, one set in from either side wall. They are painted. There is one brick chimney at the roof ridge of the ell, where it joins the garage.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The facade entrance door has full-length side lights and a stained glass transom light, framed by molded divisions. The single door is wooden with one molded panel. The southern side entrance door has molded trim. The single door is wooden with six molded panels. It has a transom light.
 - b. Windows: The house windows are double hung with six-light sashes. All have shutters. The entryway windows are triple hung with six-light sashes. There are two nine-over-six double-hung windows in the rear of the house. The three ell windows are nine-over-six, double hung.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The gable roofs of the house and ell are shingled in asphalt.
 - b. Cornice: A wide entablature rings the entire house above the corner pilasters and runs up the gable. It has a projecting molded band near the middle and steps

back at the bottom. It matches the entablature of the colonnade. Above the entablature is a molded cornice. With the entablature it defines a pediment on the gable ends of the house.

- c. Balustrade: The 1851 line engraving shows a balustrade identical to that of the colonnade mounted behind the edge of the roof on the facade. It is no longer there.
8. Fencing: The narrow front yard of the house is raised above street level and enclosed by a cut granite retaining wall topped by a cast-iron fence. Granite stairs bisect the yard, leading to the facade entrance.
- C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: There is a wide center hallway on the first floor of the house. Opening from it in the southeastern corner is a dining room; in the southwestern corner, a kitchen; in the northwestern corner, a study; and in the northeastern corner, a parlor. The ell contains a family room. On the second floor, four corner bedrooms open from a center hallway. On the third floor are three bedrooms opening from a center hall.

2. Stairways: A stairway rises from the southern wall of the first floor hallway in three runs. It has a round handrail carved in three segments, each with a gentle upward curve, stained dark. The corner balusters are round, tapering inward at their tops; they match the handrail. The other balusters are narrow cylinders. They are painted, as are the stairs and molded baseboard.

An enclosed stairway leads from the first floor to the second floor, to the rear of the main stairway; above it, an enclosed stairway leads from the second floor to the third floor.

3. Flooring: The first and second-floor floors are modern or carpeted. The third floor has wide, painted floorboards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. The ceilings are painted. Most of the walls are papered. The walls in the ell have modern rough sawn wood paneling. The study has wooden paneling with modern Colonial Revival detail.
5. Doors: The first and second-floor painted wooden doors have six molded panels. The third-floor painted wooden doors have four panels.

6. Trim: Wood, painted. On the first floor the rooms and hall have molded baseboards and molded ceiling cornices. The dining room and parlor have molded window and door trim. To either side of the fireplace in the parlor are arched recesses with corner pilasters, with projecting cornices supporting arches with molded trim. The kitchen and rear section of the hall have doors with narrow trim, some flat and some with beaded edges.

On the second floor there are also molded baseboards and ceiling cornices. The doors and windows have molded trim.

On the third floor there are molded baseboards. The window and door trim is narrow with beaded edges.

7. Fireplaces: The first-floor parlor has a marble fireplace mantel with a flat mantelpiece supported by tapered columns. The dining room has a dark marble fireplace mantel with a flat black marble mantelpiece, moldings, base, and hearth, and a triangular black marble lintel over the opening. The northeast and southwest corner bedrooms have painted wooden fireplace mantels of a Federal design. Corner pilasters support a projecting molded mantel. In the ell is a built-in cast-iron cook stove of a mid-nineteenth-century design, with the ovens above the cooktop supported in the center by a triangular column.

8. Lighting: Electric.

D. Site:

The garage replaces a separate barn shown on the 1851 line engraving.

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

HABS
ME
12-BATH
7-

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.