



HISTORIC ELLSWORTH ARCHITECTURE

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THE GRANT HOUSE: AN HISTORIC LANDMARK

A “Monument” to “Good Taste” at “Grant’s Corner”

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The historic house located in Ellsworth at the corner of Rt. 3 and the Christian Ridge Road (now 143 Bucksport Road) was known in the 1930s as the Old Homestead Inn and more recently as the Old Homestead Motel. The origins of this historic property, however, are in the early 19th century, when James Grant, then a secretary to Colonel John Black, built a home that would remain in his distinguished family line until 1941.

In a 1919 photographic article published by *House Beautiful*, Cordelia Stanwood featured the Grant home among Ellsworth’s most important historic buildings, “which are remarkable for their beauty, and which stand as monuments to the good taste of” the City’s early settlers.¹ Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, the intersection and surrounding neighborhood were known as “Grant’s Corner.” When the last

member of the Grant family to own the house died, his obituary cited the house as “one of the landmarks of the city.”²

In 1827 Grant paid Colonel Black \$80 for six acres of property at the intersection of the Bucksport Road and what was then the Bangor Road (now Christian Ridge Road).³ Stanwood credits Seth Tisdale with having built the house, although we lack documentation for that claim.⁴ Tisdale was involved in building Colonel Black’s house, which was completed in 1826 and first occupied in 1827, but it is unlikely that as a young carpenter he was in charge of that building project. It is possible, however, that in the early stages of his distinguished career as a builder, Tisdale or another builder drew on features of John Black’s “Woodlawn” for inspiration when building Grant’s more modest home, especially with the rooftop balustrades



Grant House in January 2024.

and front door trim. Work on the Grant house must have progressed expeditiously, because Grant may have already been a part of the neighborhood when he signed a January 1, 1828 petition. His name appears immediately after that of Jesse Dutton (his next-door neighbor on the Bangor Road) and before the names of other residents further along the same road.⁵

Built in the federal style, the symmetrical, two-story home had a clapboard exterior with granite and stone foundation and basement. It featured a rooftop balustrade and cupola as well as chimneys at east and west ends. The windows were 12 over 8. Guests used a front drive-through from which they would ascend the slight rise to the central front door, flanked by sidelights. The entrance opened onto a central hallway layout that was two rooms deep. First floor rooms featured wainscoting and large fireplaces in the parlor and the dining room. A wide stairway led to four bedrooms on the second floor. A narrow stairway off the largest bedroom ascended to the hexagonal-shaped cupola.

Because James Grant died intestate in 1850, his executors had to take an inventory of everything he owned. The resulting list provides valuable insights into how well the house was furnished in his lifetime. Grant owned 7 beds with related linen and a wide array of other furniture, including several mahogany tables, 25 chairs, a sofa, and a writing desk. Additionally, the household property included 7 glass lamps or lanterns, a “time piece,” a coal stove (plus half a ton of coal), carpets, and 80 books. Over and above serviceable kitchenware, tableware included both dining and tea sets, silverware, and a 14-piece set of glassware.⁶

Attached to the home and extending to the west was a one-and-a-half story ell that contained a kitchen and pantry. The ell connected to a barn and led to other out buildings such as a carriage house and a six-sided well house. Somewhat genteel landscaping visible from the front included a flower garden

next to the house and a white picket fence, but the inventory also paints a picture of a working farm with livestock, equipment, harnesses for horses and oxen, and related gear that also supported Grant’s logging and sawmill business. Grant owned steers and a bull, a pig, cows, several horses and colts, a wagon, 10 oxen, two ox wagons, and two ox sleds.

The Old Homestead Inn and Motel

The homestead passed first to James’ second son, Joseph Tilden Grant. Census records and ongoing executor’s probate accounts prepared by Tilden Grant, as he was known, suggest that the homestead continued to function as a farm, with livestock and resident workers, into the 1880s. Before passing away in 1883, Tilden issued a series of deeds to the homestead: to his brother George, in 1880, shortly before George died; to George’s widow Martha (a life interest); and then to George’s adopted son, William Whitney Grant, as well as George and Mary Grant (grandchildren of James Grant’s first son Robert, who were living in George’s household at the time of the 1880 census).⁷ William managed the homestead with his wife, Annie McCartney Grant, from 1882 until his death in 1895.

William Grant was identified as a milkman on his death record. It is clear that the homestead



Grant House in 1919; photo by Cordelia Stanwood for *House Beautiful* magazine.

and the Grant's Corner neighborhood continued to have a rural, farming character well into the 20th century. William's father-in-law, Robert McCartney, who lived just down the road from Grant's Corner, was also a milkman until his death in 1899,⁹ and it is possible that his daughter Annie and her son George continued the milk delivery business for a time. At least we know that horses, if not other livestock, continued to be kept at the homestead and that neighboring properties (such as the Jesse Dutton farm) maintained dairy cattle and other livestock well into the 1920s.¹⁰


In the federal censuses of 1900 and 1910, as well as a locally conducted census in 1908, Annie is listed as "farmer" and head of the household at Grants Corner along with her two children, Martha and George. The 1900 census also identifies a resident farm laborer. By 1930, however, George, a shipping clerk, is head of the household, which includes his mother and his wife Myrtle. With the formal transfer of the property to George and Myrtle in 1937, just a year before Annie's death, the character of the property and outbuildings began to shift to embrace Maine's new image as encapsulated in the slogan "Vacationland," which first appeared on license plates in 1936.¹¹

Although rusticators and summer residents had been coming to the state since the mid-19th century, the mass production of automobiles and the increasing affordability made it possible for more people to visit Maine—especially as the Depression began to wane in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Beginning in 1916, the evolution of Acadia National Park made

Mount Desert Island a prime destination for such "vacationers," and the publication of the "Auto Maps of Maine," beginning in 1920, made it easy to get there. Road improvements such as the 1931 completion of the bridge connecting Waldo and Hancock counties made road travel even more attractive. Whereas previous rusticators and summer residents more often arrived by train, longer distance car travel generated a demand for roadside amenities such as Moody's Diner and Cabins (1927) and Howard Johnson (opened in Wells in 1938), both of which catered to this new class of visitor. The Grant homestead situated on Rt. 1 within striking distance of Mt. Desert Island was well positioned to provide such amenities.¹²

By July of 1937, Mrs. George Grant was reported in the Ellsworth American as working at "Grant's Corner tea room," and the next year newspaper ads begin to appear for the Old Homestead Inn.¹³

In George Grant's 1940 obituary, he is credited as having opened the homestead "in recent years ... as a tourists' home" and "greatly



On Route 1
(Atlantic Highway)

Ellsworth
Maine

1 Mile West of
Post Office

OLD HOMESTEAD
GUESTS, MOTEL AND COTTAGE
A PLACE OF QUIET CHARM

TELEPHONE NORMANDY 7-8198 D. PERCY GILMORE

\$10.- couple

Advertising card for Old Homestead Motel c. 1940.

improved the old Grant homestead, one of the landmarks of the city.”¹⁴ In the same year, the first cabin and two motel units were built on the property—probably by Myrtle, his widow. By 1970, at the height of its operation as the Old Homestead Motel, tourist accommodation on the property had increased to a total of seven cabins and seven motel units. Click [here](#) to view an assessor’s property card for the Grant House.¹⁵ Since 1941, a succession of eight owners have operated the motel business and mostly maintained the homestead itself as a private (sometimes seasonal) residence.¹⁶ Click [here](#) to see a summary of deeds for the property. In 2023 the motel did not open for the summer and in December of 2023 the property was sold to a national company, Wombat Holdings, LLC, which intends to renovate, refurbish, and rent the homestead and reopen the motel.

Over the course of the transition from family homestead and farm to Vacationland amenity, the Grant house and property have undergone substantial changes while remarkably retaining some important features. Pieces of the original six-acre farm have been gradually sold off, so that only approximately an acre remains. The front drive-through has been discontinued in favor of new paved access to motel units and the business office at the back of the house. The ell and barn were removed, and a stone chimney was added to the west side of the house. Of the original out buildings, only the carriage house and well house remain. Signage, a pergola with raised seating, and play areas have been introduced along with many trees, shrubs, and other landscaping elements.

Contemporary siding and storm windows have been installed on the house, the rooftop balustrade removed, and the chimneys capped. A porch was added to the front of the house, and an enclosed porch was added to the back of the house, possibly to accommodate the business side of the motel operation. Unfortunately no early photos of the back of the house have been found, so it is not certain when the back porch was added.

Significantly, though, the house still has many of its historical features, such as its cupola

and most of the original 12 over 8 windows with original wooden sashes and glazing.¹⁷ Some of the original doors, floors, wainscoting, and horse-hair plaster also survive. Although altered, the large parlor fireplace also survives.

James Grant: From Perthshire, to Tobago, to a Home in Ellsworth

The importance of the Grant House goes beyond its architecture and the story the shifting use of the property tells about the cultural and economic changes the region has experienced in the past 200 years. The house became a local landmark, and Grants Corner a distinct neighborhood, in part because of the man who built it. Historian Albert Davis lists James Grant among “the more prominent settlers, who came [to Ellsworth] between 1776 and 1850.”¹⁸

Grant was christened in Kirkmichael, Perthshire, Scotland on 18 July, 1779, the son of Robert Grant and Helen (McDonald) Grant.¹⁹ After Robert’s death, Helen Grant lived with her children in Edinburgh. When James was 15 or 16 years old, he was sent to live with a relative, Calhoun Urquhart, on the Island of Tobago. He remained there until he attained his majority in 1800 and then left the island, intending to pass through the United States on his way to Canada. There he planned to board a vessel for Scotland to claim his estate. Finding himself low on funds, he disembarked in Castine on July 4, 1800, and journeyed to Ellsworth, where he worked as a cobbler and began to take an interest in his new community.²⁰ In 1807 he signed a petition to Massachusetts requesting the annexation of parts of the towns of Trenton and Surry to Ellsworth.²¹

Grant never resumed his journey to Scotland. He married and lived the remainder of his life in Hancock County. His new bride, Dorcas Beal (12 February 1783 – 3 February 1856), was the daughter of Union River pioneers Edward Beal and Joanna Jordan Beal. In 1810 Grant went into debt to purchase two pieces of property in township 20 MD, which formed part of the new town of Mariaville, a debt he had paid off by

1818.²² In the 1810 census he is listed as living in Mariaville. An early Addison Dodge survey of town plots and their owners shows Grant owning one lot (#43) located next to the school allotment, which was possibly on Tannery Brook.²³ In 1811 “James Grant of Mariaville” is added to the roll of Deputy Sheriffs for Hancock County,²⁴ and in an 1813 deed James (“a yeoman”) and Dorcas are referred to as being “of Mariaville.”²⁵ According to historian Mark Honey, Grant not only purchased land at Mariaville Falls but also “built a home and operated a tannery, probably in conjunction with his responsibilities as a school teacher.”²⁶

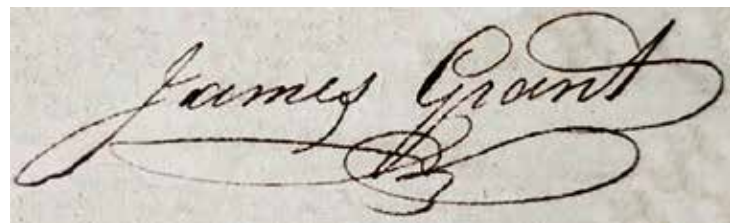
Eventually, Grant returned to Ellsworth. From the Black family records at Woodlawn, it is clear that Grant was acting as secretary to Colonel Black as early as April 1817,²⁷ and the 1908 Register of the City of Ellsworth with Surry and Blue Hill lists “the home of James Grant” among those houses near the Mill Boarding House in Ellsworth Falls by 1820.²⁸ Recognizing his knowledge of Mariaville and the surrounding area, John Black called on Grant in October 1820 and again in Sept/Oct 1821 to lead a team in “laying out, opening, and surveying the road leading from Mariaville towards Schoodic.”²⁹

However, in his work for Black, Grant assumed responsibilities that extended much further than road building in Downeast Maine. A letter from Black to Grant (Aug. 13, 1825) provides instructions for Grant’s impending trip to New York with a cargo of Black’s lumber and for oversight of Black’s son Henry, who was also traveling on the vessel. The letter is evidence of the breadth of service and the high level of trust that Black expected of Grant. Black not only entrusts him with selling the lumber for the best price possible but also directs him to please consider his son Henry “under your protection—what little spending money he may want, you will let him have.”³⁰

Another letter dated August 29, 1825 written by Grant to Black while on that same New York trip provides additional evidence of Grant’s broader level of service and engagement in community affairs. Click [here](#) to see a facsimile of the letter Grant wrote to Colonel Black. While in New York, Grant sees a man wanted for assaulting

the Hancock County High Sheriff, Leonard Jarvis, walking freely about the streets, and he takes steps to have him apprehended and extradited back to Hancock County.³¹ Grant may have been able to claim the \$50 reward being offered for the culprit’s apprehension by Charles Jarvis, Leonard Jarvis’ son and Black’s son-in-law.³² We know, however, that Grant served as a Justice of the Peace from time to time, so it is possible that he was not eligible to receive a reward if he was acting in an official capacity.³³

It was just two years after this trip (Nov. 22, 1827) that Grant purchased the homestead property from Black. At this time, the last of Grant’s eight children had just been born and his oldest child, Robert, had just turned 18, so it is possible the family needed a more substantial home. Click [here](#) to see an extensive list of James Grant’s descendants. Just four years later, an 1831 levy on heads of households and non-resident property owners based on the value of their Ellsworth property reveals that Grant owned real estate valued at \$263. Nineteen years after his death, Grant’s real estate holdings in Ellsworth had increased to \$4700, or 17 fold.³⁴ Clearly, the purchase of the homestead was just the beginning of a concerted effort to build a comfortable legacy for his children.



James Grant signature.

A Testimony to Hard Work, Wealth, and a Lasting Legacy

The Grant House stood as a testimony to the hard work of a settler who had intended to stay just temporarily in Hancock County until he had earned enough for his passage to Scotland. Instead, Grant stayed and contributed to the growing prosperity of Ellsworth and Hancock County, and over his lifetime, Grant involved himself in such a range of going concerns of the day that he also prospered and left a legacy that

his children would build on. Over and above his work as Black's secretary, at various times he worked as a cobbler and a school teacher, and he ran a tannery, a store, and a saw mill while acquiring wood lots and other property associated with his lumbering interests.³⁵

When Grant died unexpectedly of "a fever" in 1850, he was buried in an elegant three-tiered lot at Woodbine Cemetery where Dorcas and several of their children (Edward, Helen, Mary Ann, Tilden, Joseph, and some of Tilden's children) were also eventually interred.³⁶ Further examination of Grant's probate records reveal that his diverse endeavors enabled him to accrue not only the personal property associated with the homestead, but also considerable wealth in real estate holdings that warranted such an impressive burial plot.

At the time of his death he owned real estate valued at \$5110, including the land and buildings associated with the homestead, family pews (at both the Congregational and Baptist churches), more than 600 acres in woodlots, and a sawmill built in 1848 off Grant's Street. In May of 1849, less than a year before his death, Grant had entered into a bond with John Black to purchase 9000 acres at \$1/acre with water rights to run logs in township 21.³⁷ This property does not appear in the initial accounting of the real estate Grant owned at his death. However, in his son's second accounting of the estate there is a schedule of payments made to Black through 1853 amounting to \$11,800, presumably for full payment for this and possibly other properties. Ultimately, the value of real estate associated with James Grant's estate amounted to more than \$17,000.³⁸ With the \$5200 in personal property, Grant's total estate was worth over \$22,000 or nearly \$900,000 in 2024 dollars.

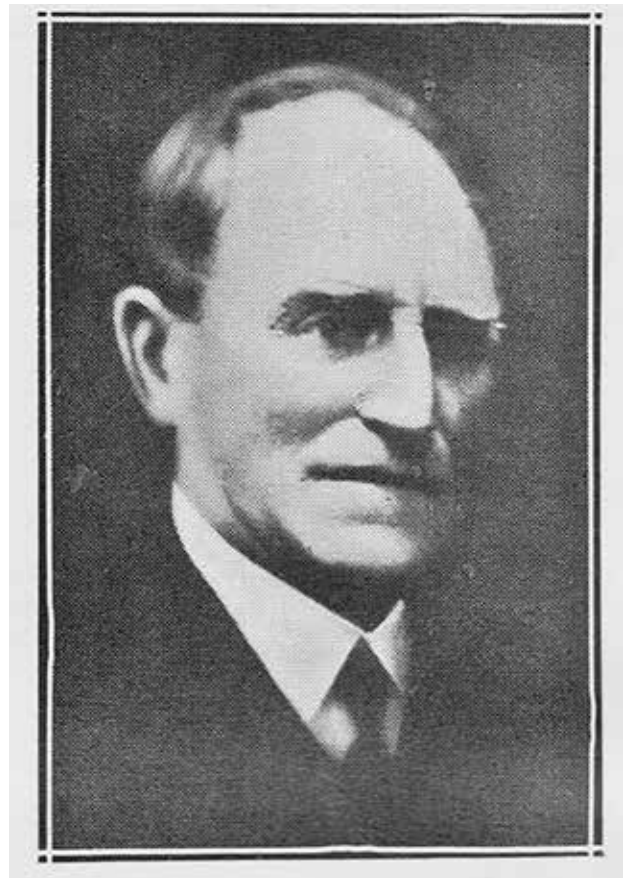
Beneficiaries of James Grant's Legacy: The Grants of Grant's Corner and Beyond

Historian Mark Honey credits the homestead as a testimony to "the memory of one of the great success stories of the 19th century: an immigrant who married well and achieved great

success, and with the success established one of Ellsworth's great families."³⁹ That family legacy began with James and Dorcas Beal Grant's eight children:

1. Robert: b. 19 Aug 1809/d. 13 Apr 1868
2. Helen: b. 5 Jun 1811/d. 5 Jan 1873
3. Edward Beal: b. 2 May 1813/d. 16 Jun 1849
4. Joseph Tilden: b. 3 Mar 1815/d. 27 Feb 1883
5. Mary Black: b. 29 May 1817/d. 15 Mar 1880
6. George Herbert: b. 14 Apr 1820/d. 19 Dec 1881
7. Frances Wood: b. 6 Mar 1824/d. 25 Jul 1909
8. Ann Carolyn: b. 14 May 1827/d. 5 Nov 1899

The primary and most immediate beneficiaries of James Grant's legacy were his two surviving sons living in Ellsworth: Joseph Tilden Grant and George Herbert Grant. The sawmill on Grant Street passed to these two brothers, and the probate records filed by Tilden Grant make it clear that the lumber business started by their father continued to thrive. Most likely in conjunction with this business, the brothers also partnered in developing shipping interests.⁴⁰ Both men were among



Joseph Tilden Grant.

the wealthiest and most prominent citizens in Ellsworth. Davis recounts that Tilden “was an influential citizen and did much good for the community. He was twice elected to the legislature, and twice Mayor of Ellsworth.” He moderated Ellsworth’s last town meeting in 1869, where it was determined that a charter would be developed and an application made to the state legislature for Ellsworth to become a city. He also served as one of the five aldermen first elected to the new City Council.⁴¹

Likewise, George came to be highly regarded in the community. George’s 1882 obituary noted “few men are better known or more respected in this county than was George H. Grant. He has ... won the respect and esteem of all with whom his business relations brought him in contact.”⁴²

With the benefits of their inheritance, however, there also came responsibilities. Tilden became head of the Grant homestead, which for the 1850 census included Dorcas, his wife Caroline, his four spinster sisters, his brother George (listed as a “farmer”), two male labourers (both born in Ireland), and a female servant. With just four bedrooms in the main homestead building, this would certainly have qualified as a “full house.” Not surprisingly, over the next 10 years both George and his sisters each set up their own separate households, so for the 1860 census Tilden’s household included just his wife and his two daughters, Sarah and Josephine.⁴³

However, with the addition of the two new households kept by George and his sisters, the two brothers definitely needed to increase the revenue from their father’s business interests. James Grant’s spinster daughters, locally known as “the Grant Girls” (Helen, Frances, Mary, and Ann), do not appear to have had much income of their own. As of the 1860 census, Helen had joined her brother George and his family in their new household while the other three “girls” moved to another home near Grant’s corner (now 60 Bucksport Road). By 1870, all four sisters had removed to a home on Laurel Street at the foot of the Black estate and near the school located next to the entrance to the estate. At that time, census records noted a new development and source of income. Both Helen

and a niece, Josie (daughter of Robert, James Grant’s eldest son, who was living with the sisters) are credited as being school teachers.⁴⁴

It is unclear how long Josie taught school in Ellsworth because she married and moved away in 1871, but these two school teachers highlight a different type of legacy that James Grant may have passed on to his children and descendants. It is clear from Grant’s work as secretary to John Black and his own role as a school teacher in Mariaville that he was more than commonly well educated. The fact that the inventory of his personal possessions at his death included 80 books, an uncommonly large number for the period and place, seems to attest to an ongoing intellectual curiosity and love of learning and reading that he may have passed on.

Apart from Helen, James Grant’s intellectual legacy may have particularly influenced James’ son Robert. It remains unclear why he left Ellsworth for Baltimore, Maryland, as a young man, but we know that he became an officer in the Mexican-American War (1846–1848) before attaining the rank of Colonel in the Civil War. Not unlike the more famous Civil War veteran Joshua Chamberlain, Robert appears to have combined military endeavors with intellectual pursuits. After military service, he had a career as an inventor, manufacturer of “calcium light,” and ultimately a professor in New York before he died in Williamsburg, Long Island.⁴⁵ This intellectual legacy continued not just through Robert’s daughter Josie, who became a school teacher in Ellsworth, but also through his grandson, George Grant II (b. 1866), who came to live in the home of his great uncle and namesake George H. Grant at the age of four.⁴⁶ Eventually, he moved to Bucksport, where he studied at the East Maine Conference Seminary and graduated in 1883, having studied Art, Instrumental Music, and Penmanship.⁴⁷ It was in Bucksport where he eventually took work and met with a gruesome railway accident in 1890. His funeral was held in Ellsworth at the home of his great uncle’s widow, Martha (who was most likely living at the homestead), and he is buried near the Woodbine burial plot for James Grant and Tilden Grant’s family and George H. Grant’s plot.

Young George II's fate is indicative of the difficulty that both Tilden and George H. Grant had in securing a family line that would or could sustain the family's business interests or, in several cases, even permit them to remain in the city. It is possible that the lumber business managed by the brothers had not fully recovered from a sawmill fire of 1877 (although the sawmill was rebuilt a year later and eventually passed into the hands of the Ellsworth Lumber Company), or it is possible that the lumber business had already begun to decline in the 1880s.⁴⁸ It is significant that in the census of 1880, Tilden Grant was identified as a grocer—not a lumberman as he and George had been identified in previous census records from 1850 onwards. Rather than servants and farm laborers, the census lists other residents as a clerk (who married Tilden Grant's daughter) and another border.

Whether for lack of interest or capacity, or because the family businesses had dwindled, James Grant's business legacy and public profile was not carried forward by his grandchildren. Three of Tilden's five heirs moved away from Ellsworth. His only son, James, became a paper hanger. He cared for the last of his spinster aunts, Frances, who was living with him in Lamoine at the time of her death in 1909.⁴⁹ Three of his five heirs moved away from Ellsworth. George's first son, James, died in infancy. His adopted son William, who took over managing the homestead, worked as a milkman and died young. George had also taken in Robert's two grandchildren (George H. II referenced above, and Mary) at very young ages. There may have been an understanding or a hope that they might succeed to the Grant legacy, as Tilden deeded the homestead to both of these children as well as William upon his brother's death. Unfortunately, that did not work out. As noted,

George H. II died young, and his sister with her then husband Colin Davis (a salesman for a milking machine manufacturer) moved to Newport and deeded her shares in the homestead to William Grant's widow, Annie, and her father Robert McCartney in 1896.⁵⁰

Although Annie was able to continue the tradition of farming at the Grant homestead through her lifetime, with her death her two children, Martha and George, do not appear to have extended it. Martha worked as a bookkeeper and her brother George worked variously as an American Express worker, a fire engine driver, and a warehouse worker. Without the income from the earlier Grant business interests, it must have been difficult for this George, the last Grant to own the homestead, to maintain it. However, he began to reinvent the legacy of the homestead as a tourist facility. This may not have been the legacy that James Grant intended to pass on, but his great grandson's capacity to recognize and follow through on a business opportunity while assuring a future for the homestead was certainly in line with the business sense and intentions of his earlier ancestors.

The importance of the Grant House derives in part from the historic character of the house and remaining out buildings and, in part, from the significance of the man who built it and the



Grant House, May 1935.

The Grant House: An Historical Landmark

legacy of his descendants. The house stands as an ongoing landmark for and witness to the broader evolving history and cultural heritage of Ellsworth and Hancock County—to which the Grant family contributed substantially. Built by a European settler who started with little and amassed considerable wealth and property, while initiating a line of wealthy businessmen and influential community leaders, the homestead played a part in the realization of a classic American dream, and it stands as a testimony to the hard work, resourcefulness, and ongoing adaptability needed to make such dreams come true. The history of the property, the building, and the family has mirrored the changing local economy and culture, which has shifted with the dynamics of the lumber and shipping industry, homesteading and farming, retail businesses, and, most recently, tourism. Although few of today's Ellsworth residents may know where Grant's Corner is or from



Grant House, 1948.

whom it takes its name, the James Grant house stands as a marker for the entrance to Ellsworth's historic urban core, and it is to be hoped that it will continue to bear witness to the city's historic character and ongoing business and cultural heritage for some time to come.

Notes

- ¹ Cordelia J. Stanwood, “The Story of Ellsworth, Maine,” *House Beautiful*, 46.6, December 1919, p. 373.
- ² *Ellsworth American*, March 6, 1940, p. 4.
- ³ Hancock County Registry of Deeds: Book 51, pp. 149-150; The sale was preceded in September of 1826 by Black acquiring a note from Ivory Joy in which he approves of the sale. Joy may have had an option on the property or he may have had abutting property. Woodlawn Archives, Black Family Papers, John Black’s Deeds, Box A-13, not microfilmed.
- ⁴ Stanwood, p. 375.
- ⁵ Woodlawn Archives, Black Family Papers, Bingham Land Records (Unbound): Townships and Towns, 12.2 #5, Ellsworth file, microfilm roll #77.
- ⁶ <https://www.maineprobate.net/search/> (James Grant, Hancock County, case # 2138.
- ⁷ Hancock County Registry of Deeds: October 20, 1880, Book 174, p. 511; December 16, 1882, Book 185, p. 503; December 16, 1882, Book 185, p. 527; 1880 census for George H. Grant household, Ellsworth.
- ⁸ Maine Vital Records, 1670-1921, database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9398-73S3-P3?cc=1803978&wc=71R8-FSQ%3A1029440301%2C1029461601 : 20 May 2014>), Vital records 1892-1907 > Gould, 1895-Grant, 1902 > image 3391 of 4147.
- ⁹ “Robert McCartney, an aged and esteemed citizen of Ellsworth, died Tuesday (January 31, 1899) of pneumonia, at his home at Grant’s corner, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. Mr. McCartney was known to a large number of the people of Ellsworth as an honest, industrious, kind-hearted man. For many years, he had been engaged in the milk business and his daily visiting and cheery greeting will be missed at many homes. Mr. McCartney leaves his daughter, Mrs. William W. Grant.” *Ellsworth American*, February 1, 1899, page 1.
- ¹⁰ Oral history provided by Hazel Colpitts Blackstone, who grew up on what had been the Jesse Dutton farm from 1907 to 1920.
- ¹¹ Hancock County Registry of Deeds, Book 655, pp. 463, 585; <https://www.maine.gov/sos/kids/government/license-plates#:~:text=Maine%20began%20issuing%20registration%20plates,be%20approved%20by%20the%20Legislature>.
- ¹² For further information about the evolution of Maine’s tourism industry, see Peter Dow Bachelder, *Vacationland: A History of the Maine Tourism Industry* (Ellsworth, Maine: The Breakwater Press, 2022).
- ¹³ *Ellsworth American*, July 07, 1937, p. 7; June 15, 1938, p. 8; June 22, 1938, p. 7.
- ¹⁴ *Ellsworth American*, March 6, 1940, p. 4.
- ¹⁵ Property cards held by the City of Ellsworth.
- ¹⁶ Hancock County Registry of Deeds, Book 682, p. 438.
- ¹⁷ While original glass and sashes may appear to be mundane features, they are rare and important contributors to the historic character of the home. As noted by James Garvin, “Any historic building with its original sashes and glazing ... retains a higher degree of architectural integrity than a comparable structure in which the sashes have been replaced. Where original sashes survive, their preservation should be a paramount concern of the building’s owner.” [*A Building History of Northern New England* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 2001), p. 146.]
- ¹⁸ Davis, pp. 23, 37.
- ¹⁹ Scotland Births and Baptisms 1564-1950.
- ²⁰ *Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania*, vol 4, pt. 1, Wilfred Jordan, ed. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1932), pp. 225-226; no documentary sources are cited for this information.
- ²¹ Davis, p. 67.
- ²² Woodlawn Archives, Black Family Papers, Individuals & Companies, “G”, 12.9 [no microfilm #].
- ²³ In the 1810 census there were five in his household including one child under 10 (who must have been his first child, Robert) and two other children under 16. Population Schedule of the Third Census of the United States, 1810, Roll 11 (Maine), vol. 1 (Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec), book p. 474; accessed at <https://archive.org/details/populationschedu0011unix/page/n3/mode/2up>, p. 466; Hancock County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 1, p. 31.
- ²⁴ Massachusetts Register, p. 220, file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/ocm08458220-1811%20(3).pdf.
- ²⁵ Dated August 28, 1813; recorded April 18, 1814; Hancock County Registry of Deeds, Book 34, p. 424.

- ²⁶ Mark E. Honey, *Mariaville: A History of Wm. Bingham's Settlement on the Union River, Townships 14 & 20, Hancock County, Maine; with a Geneology [sic] of Her Families, 1986?*, vol 1, p. 139.
- ²⁷ Woodlawn Archives, Black Family Papers, Individuals and Companies (G), 12.9.0, Grant, James file. John Martin (who was born around the time that Black finished building his new home) also identifies Grant as John Black's secretary and elaborates that Grant received \$500 annually for working "9 in the Morning to 5 in the afternoon;" <http://johnmartin.mainememory.net/1653.pdf>. We have not been able to corroborate the details regarding pay and hours, but the time that would have been required by Grant's substantial personal business interests later in life does not seem to square with the hours of work that Martin recalls from his boyhood.
- ²⁸ Lawton, p. 22; Davis, p. 81.
- ²⁹ Woodlawn Archives, Black Family Papers, Road Survey and Diary, 5.22, microfilm roll #46.
- ³⁰ Woodlawn Archives, Black Family Papers, Loose Business Papers by Subject, 12.4.4 #11, Schooners A-L, Hope file.
- ³¹ Document No. 4, Copy of proceedings, in part, before the recorder of the City of New York (1825) 1820-1829 2123; http://digitalmaine.com/arc_executive_council_1820s/2123
- ³² Eastern Argus, August 16, 1825, p. 1.
- ³³ Apart from serving as Justice of the Peace in 1811 in Mariaville, Grant was serving as Justice of the Peace for a deed of land and building from Frances and Sarah Wood to John Black, July 2, 1849; Woodlawn Archives, Black Family Papers, John Black's Deeds, Box A-13, not microfilmed.
- ³⁴ Woodlawn Archives, Black Family Papers, Bingham Land Records: Roads and Bridges, 12.3, microfilm roll #78. In the same collection a similar road tax levied in 1832 suggests that he owned property valued at \$272.
- ³⁵ Mark Honey, *Mariaville: A History of Wm. Bingham's Settlement on the Union River, Townships 14 & 20, Hancock County, Maine; with a Geneology [sic] of Her Families, 1986?*, vol. 1, p. 139.
- ³⁶ An obituary for James Grant does not appear to survive. Although there were earlier newspapers in Ellsworth, consistent and long-term news coverage in the city did not begin until 1851 with the publication of the *Ellsworth American*. For a listing of gravestones and inscriptions on James and Joseph Grant's lot see the Faylene Hutton Collection of gravestone inscriptions found at familysearch.org.
- ³⁷ Woodlawn Archives, Black Family Papers, Individuals & Companies, "G", 12.9 [no microfilm #].
- ³⁸ <https://www.maineprobate.net/search/> (James Grant, Hancock County, case # 2138).
- ³⁹ Mark E. Honey, "What's in a Name: Grant's Corner, Ellsworth," *Ellsworth American*, June 11, 2009, p. 17.
- ⁴⁰ The brothers owned a 4/16 interest in the schooner, Emily, which was built in Ellsworth in 1865. *Ship Registers and Enrollments of Providence, Rhode Island, 1773-1939, The Survey of Federal Archives, Division of Community Service Programs, Work Projects Administration* (Providence, RI: The National Archives Project, 1941), vol. 1, pp. 312-313.
- ⁴¹ Davis, pp. 103, 105, 161; see also Tilden's obituary in the *Ellsworth American*, March 1, 1883, p. 3.
- ⁴² *Ellsworth American*, December 22, 1881, p. 3. In this period there is much confusion regarding George H. Grants. In 1887 a George H. Grant and Fred Lynam were major investors involved in setting up the Bar Harbor Bank and Trust Company. [Bill Horner, "Luere Deasy-A Maine Man," *Chebacco*, 9 (2010), 11; Edward Lee Marmon, *Taking Care of Business Downeast: The History of the Bar Harbor Bank & Trust Company, 1887-1987*, (Boston: Graphic chronologies, 1987). This George Grant, unrelated to the James Grant family, came to Ellsworth from Bar Harbor around 1890 and took over the George Fisk Insurance company. Operating as the George H. Grant Insurance Company, the business grew to also manage investments and real estate. An ad for Grant's company appears in the prefatory material for Lawton's *City of Ellsworth ...Register for 1908* as does an ad for his competitor Miss M.E. Holmes, who had resigned in 1907 as the managing employee for the Grant company and who purchased the Grant company in 1908 and amalgamated the two businesses under her name (*Ellsworth American*, January 30, 1907, p. 1 and March 30, 1910, p. 5; Davis, p. 223). That insurance business continued to operate in Ellsworth until comparatively recently. However, George's financial and real estate interests expanded to incorporate the development of the summer colony on Hancock Point and a similar development as the Manager of the Sorrento Realty Company. In that context he paid \$250,000 in "one of the largest real estate deals in Maine" at the time to acquire development property for further expansion of summer cottages (*New York Times*, April 12, 1908, p. 7). For a promotional flyer for the Sorrento development see <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1295&context=mainehistory>. Ultimately,

he was also involved in a variety of infrastructure projects ranging from lobbying the state to build a free Hancock-Sullivan bridge to taking a lead role in the incorporation of the Hancock Water, Light and Power company in 1903 and in lobbying for the dam that was completed in 1907. In April of 1903 the George H. Grant Company published a sizable booster ad in the *Ellsworth American* in support of several local improvement efforts including the proposed dam, and on the same page of the paper Grant signed a public notice calling for a meeting to begin the incorporation of the Hancock Water, Light and Power company. Grant was the first of three men listed in the incorporation papers finalized in 1903. In 1907, less than a month after a contract had been signed for construction of the Ellsworth dam, George H. Grant was one of four businessmen selected to represent Ellsworth's Board of Trade at a state meeting of business leaders (*Ellsworth American*, April 8, 1903, p. 4; February 6, 1907, p. 1; March 6, 1907, p. 1; <https://lldc.mainelegislature.org/Open/LDs/71/071-HD-0238.pdf>).

⁴³ 1850 and 1860 census records for Joseph Tilden Grant. It is possible that George did not move far away. The 1881 *Colby Atlas of Hancock County* shows property owned by George Grant further down the Old Bangor Road, next to Robert McCartney, whose daughter Anne would marry George H. Grant's adopted son, William.

⁴⁴ 1860 and 1870 census records for the Mary Black Grant household and the George H. Grant household; *Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania*, pp. 226-227.

⁴⁵ 1850 and 1860 census records for Robert Grant in New York.

⁴⁶ George H. Grant II was the son of Robert's son John, who was born in Maine and is later described as having come "back to Ellsworth;" *Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania*, pp. 226-227; *Ellsworth American*, April 17, 1890, p. 3 and July 28, 1909, p. 4.

⁴⁷ *Annual Catalogue of the East Maine Conference Seminary*, Bucksport, Maine, 1883, p 9; accessed through Family Search.

⁴⁸ Davis, p. 145.

⁴⁹ *Ellsworth American*, July 28, 1909, p. 4.

⁵⁰ *Ellsworth American*, April 24, 1890, p. 4; April 3, 1918, p. 1; February 15, 1922, p. 8; March 1, 1883, p. 3.

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