



**City of Biddeford**  
**Historic Preservation Commission**  
June 3, 2026 at 5:00 PM  
Second Floor Conference Room & Teams  
THIS MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

1. Declaration of Quorum
2. John Tarr House-29 Ferry Road (Tax Map 49, Lot 4)
  - 2.a Recap of May 13, 2026, Site Walk to Property
  - 2.b Review—NRHP Request for Removal
    - i. Reason for Original Listing-1980
    - ii. Reason for Recommendation for Removal
  - 2.c Discussion-Craft Response to MHPC Concerns from April 2
  - 2.d Further Action, if any
3. Adjourn



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
10 WATER STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
HALLOWELL, MAINE  
04347

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

May 21, 2026

Biddeford Historic Preservation Commission  
PO Box 586  
Biddeford, Maine 04005

RE: John Tarr House, parcel 49-4

Dear Commissioners:

The enclosed draft National Register removal request is being submitted for your Commission's review and report in accordance with requirements of the Certified Local Government Program. The report should, at minimum, address these areas of concern:

- 1) Applicability of National Register action.
- 2) How the removal of this property impacts local preservation efforts; i.e., educational programs, planning, economic development, protection, etc.
- 3) A summary of public comment.

Your report must be prepared in keeping with the following stipulations:

*When a relevant historic preservation discipline is not represented in the Commission membership, the Commission shall be required to seek expertise in this area when considering National Register nominations requiring the application of such expertise. Requisite expertise may be provided through consultation with the SHPO or with 36 CFR 61-qualified persons. For example, if the Commission must review the nomination of a prehistoric archaeological site, and no Commission member is a prehistoric archaeologist, the Commission is required to obtain the advice of a 36 CFR 61-qualified archaeologist for purposes of reviewing the nomination.*

Please submit your report to me in advance of the July 24, 2026 quarterly meeting at which the Maine Historic Preservation Commission will consider the nomination.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain,  
National Register Coordinator

Enc.  
Cc. B. Favreau



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
10 WATER STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
HALLOWELL, MAINE  
04347

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

May 21, 2026

Brad Favreau, Preservation Liaison  
Biddeford Historic Preservation Commission  
PO Box 586  
Biddeford, Maine 04005

RE: John Tarr House, parcel 49-4

Dear Mr. Favreau:

The enclosed draft National Register removal request is being submitted for your Commission's review and report in accordance with requirements of the Certified Local Government Program. The report should, at minimum, address these areas of concern:

- 1) Applicability of National Register action.
- 2) How the removal of this property impacts local preservation efforts; i.e., educational programs, planning, economic development, protection, etc.
- 3) A summary of public comment.

Your report must be prepared in keeping with the following stipulations:

*When a relevant historic preservation discipline is not represented in the Commission membership, the Commission shall be required to seek expertise in this area when considering National Register nominations requiring the application of such expertise. Requisite expertise may be provided through consultation with the SHPO or with 36 CFR 61-qualified persons. For example, if the Commission must review the nomination of a prehistoric archaeological site, and no Commission member is a prehistoric archaeologist, the Commission is required to obtain the advice of a 36 CFR 61-qualified archaeologist for purposes of reviewing the nomination.*

Please submit your report to me in advance of the July 24, 2026 quarterly meeting at which the Maine Historic Preservation Commission will consider the nomination.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain,  
National Register Coordinator

Enc.  
Cc. Biddeford HPC



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
10 WATER STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
HALLOWELL, MAINE  
04347

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

May 21, 2026

Brad Favreau, Preservation Liaison  
Biddeford Historic Preservation Commission  
PO Box 586  
Biddeford, Maine 04005

RE: John Tarr House, parcel 49-4

Dear Mr. Favreau:

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission has concluded that the John Tarr House has lost the integrity which qualified it for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, it is our responsibility to notify the National Park Service of this matter and request its removal from the National Register of Historic Places.

Federal regulations that guide the National Register program, 36 CFR 60.15 (d), dictate that the chief elected local official and the owner of the property be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed action. If you choose to comment, please send your comments to the S.H.P.O. before the Maine Historic Preservation Commission considers this action at its meeting to be held on July 24, 2026. You are cordially invited to attend this meeting, which will be held at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission office at 10 Water Street, Hallowell, Maine 04347, beginning at 10:30 a.m. If you cannot attend the meeting in-person and would like to attend remotely, please email [lauren.swain@maine.gov](mailto:lauren.swain@maine.gov) or call (207) 287-2132 x0 to receive video or phone access links.

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohney  
State Historic Preservation Officer



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
10 WATER STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
HALLOWELL, MAINE  
04347

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

May 21, 2026

Biddeford Historic Preservation Commission  
PO Box 586  
Biddeford, Maine 04005

RE: John Tarr House, parcel 49-4

Dear Commissioners:

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission has concluded that the John Tarr House has lost the integrity which qualified it for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, it is our responsibility to notify the National Park Service of this matter and request its removal from the National Register of Historic Places.

Federal regulations that guide the National Register program, 36 CFR 60.15 (d), dictate that the chief elected local official and the owner of the property be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed action. If you choose to comment, please send your comments to the S.H.P.O. before the Maine Historic Preservation Commission considers this action at its meeting to be held on July 24, 2026. You are cordially invited to attend this meeting, which will be held at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission office at 10 Water Street, Hallowell, Maine 04347, beginning at 10:30 a.m. If you cannot attend the meeting in-person and would like to attend remotely, please email [lauren.swain@maine.gov](mailto:lauren.swain@maine.gov) or call (207) 287-2132 x0 to receive video or phone access links.

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohney  
State Historic Preservation Officer

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

<b>Tarr, John, House</b>
Name of Property
<b>York County, Maine</b>
County and State
<b>80000263</b>
NR Reference Number

**State Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ additional documentation X additional documentation: name  
change \_\_\_ move X removal \_\_\_ other  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ additional documentation \_\_\_ additional documentation: name change  
\_\_\_ move \_\_\_ removal \_\_\_ other  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ additional documentation accepted  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**United States Department of the Interior**  
 National Park Service

<b>Tarr, John, House</b>
Name of Property
<b>York County, Maine</b>
County and State
<b>80000263</b>
NR Reference Number

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Request for Removal from the National Register of Historic Places**

**Name of Property:** Tarr, John, House (NR 80000263)

**Legal Description:** Biddeford tax map 049, lot 4. UTM's NAD27 Zone 19 easting 386899 northing 4813634.

**Address:** 29 Ferry Lane, Biddeford, York County, Maine

**Reason for Removal:** The property was moved and altered. The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing because the qualities which caused it to be listed have been lost or destroyed (36 CFR 60.15 (a)).

**Dates and Nature of Change:** The building was dismantled and removed from its original location between May 2016 and May 2018. Between May 2018 and October 2021 the exterior of the building was reassembled on a new foundation on the same location. The interior paneling, one of the most prominent character defining features noted in the original nomination documents, has not been reinstalled. The interior is exposed framing with no interior partitions or finishes. The central chimney was demolished during demolition. A new larger central chimney has been rebuilt. A door on the south elevation that was present in 1980 has been replaced with a window, and a window on the west elevation has been replaced by a door. The six-over-six and two-over-two windows present in 1980 have been replaced with nine-over-six windows. The basis for these alterations is unknown.

**Comments:** The property was listed on April 23, 1980, under Criterion C for Architecture with a period of significance of ca. 1730, the approximate construction date. The property was moved from its original location through disassembly. A building moved without prior approval from the Keeper must be removed from the National Register per 36 CFR 60.14(b). After the move, the building was partially reassembled on the original location; however, the historic interior was not reconstructed. In the National Register documentation for the property, the interior wall and ceiling paneling is repeatedly stressed as the most important feature of the house. The house no longer retains the seven aspects of integrity (location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association). As a result of the disassembly of the house, the removal of the paneling and all interior finishes, and other alterations, the property no longer has integrity or the qualities that caused it to be listed originally and should be removed from the National Register.

**References:**

Frank A. Beard and Robert L. Bradley. "Tarr, John, House," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1980. Maine Historic Preservation Commission. NR 80000263

Google Earth aerial photos, May 2016, May 2018, October 2021.

Photographs of the building taken on November 13, 2025.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

<b>Tarr, John, House</b>
Name of Property
<b>York County, Maine</b>
County and State
<b>80000263</b>
NR Reference Number



Figure 1 John Tarr House in a May 2016 aerial photograph.



Figure 2 Location of the John Tarr House in a May 2018 aerial photograph with the ell present but the house moved.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

<b>Tarr, John, House</b>
Name of Property
<b>York County, Maine</b>
County and State
<b>80000263</b>
NR Reference Number



Figure 3 John Tarr House in a October 2021 aerial photograph.



Figure 4 Biddeford tax photo ca. 2018 showing the house moved from the lot.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Tarr, John, House**

Name of Property

**York County, Maine**

County and State

**80000263**

NR Reference Number



Figure 5 John Tarr House November 13, 2025 with door on the gable side replaced with a window.



Figure 6 John Tarr House November 13, 2025, with ell no longer attached and altered door/window.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Tarr, John, House**

Name of Property

**York County, Maine**

County and State

**80000263**

NR Reference Number



Figure 7 Interior of John Tarr House November 13, 2025, no interior finishes or partitions



Figure 8 Interior of John Tarr House November 13, 2025

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Tarr, John, House**

Name of Property

**York County, Maine**

County and State

**80000263**

NR Reference Number



Figure 9 New central chimney John Tarr House November 13, 2025



Figure 10 Attic of John Tarr House November 13, 2025



JANET MILLS  
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
10 WATER STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
HALLOWELL, MAINE  
04347

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

### NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that reflect in an outstanding manner the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years shall not be considered for the National Register. Such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- C. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- D. a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- G. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.



JANET MILLS  
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
10 WATER STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
HALLOWELL, MAINE  
04347

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

## FACT SHEET

Listing of historic properties in the National Register results in the following:

1. Official recognition of the historic and cultural importance of a property as part of the Nation's heritage which ought to be preserved.
2. Control and authority over the use and disposition of a property listed in the National Register or deemed eligible for such listing remain solely with the owner unless he or she has applied for and received a matching grant or other Federal funding, or is participating in a rehabilitation tax credit project. Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the property by the Federal government. Public visitation rights are not required by the owner.
3. Consideration in planning for Federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties listed in the National Register. For further information please refer to 36 CFR 800.
4. Eligibility for Federal tax provisions. If a property is individually listed or contributes to the historic significance of a listed National Register district, certain Federal tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 provides a 20% investment tax credit for certified rehabilitations of historic commercial, industrial and rental residential buildings. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. Whether such provisions are advantageous to a property owner is dependent upon the particular circumstances of the property and the owner. Because tax aspects outlined above are complex, individuals should consult legal counsel or the appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office for assistance in determining the tax consequences of the above provisions. For further information please refer to 36 CFR 67.
5. Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available. Presently funding is unavailable. Contact (S.H.P.O.) to determine the present status of such grants.

The John Tarr House, 29 Ferry Lane, Biddeford, Maine  
Submitted by Jeremie Berube, Restorationist, Answering Questions for the MSHC

1. The John Tarr House, located at 29 Ferry Lane, Biddeford, Maine, was at the time of dismantling in 2017, in dire condition. The building had not been lived in for a decade or more, leaving racoons to take over the second floor and the basement and leaving abundant scat housewide.

The exterior skin had been completely altered meaning windows, clapboards, and roofing, including the large center chimney which displayed its original dimensions but had been dismantled and replaced with a small chimney which ran up to the roof. All of the outer sills and some of the roundy floor joists were rotten.

As for the interior, when first entering the first floor was filled with old furniture, appliances, waste, and the like. Sheet rock had been applied along with window trim, electrical switches and outlets. All of the original fire places were missing including the main one used for cooking. In its place was a cheap insert. A small bathroom, on the first floor contained rotted floor boards. The tavern room boarded floor, where once stood a fire box large enough to enter, was covered with layers of plywood and linoleum. Some of the windows in the house were 2/2 and others 6/6 and not all were period. Some of the rooms had vinyl windows. The front exterior center door was not original. Several rooms had old pine floors. Pickwick pine boards were layered over the walls and mantles in the tavern room hiding the original panels. The second floor was mostly unfinished. However, it has wide pine boards and one finished off bedroom.

The stone foundation was in fairly bad condition and it was obvious that it needed to be restored.

I believe that dismantling the John Tarr house was the most important step in returning it to survival. It now has a real shot at lasting for many decades. By dismantling it we were able to wash and remove centuries of dirt, grime and stench from every beam, stud and board and allowed the building to breath once again. Once dismantled each individual piece was examined, more easily and thoroughly repaired, if necessary, and returned in good order and free from rot to its original place.

To have had the house in place while restoring the foundation would have been nearly impossible as much of that foundation is a crawl space. Were it in place, the outer rotten sill beams would have been a challenge to replace properly.

2. The existing interior, at the time of dismanteling, was fairly close to the original. The swinging wall and adjacent hallway wall off the tavern room were removed. The tavern room was opened up to the new ell. The original stairway to the 2nd floor was removed. The new floor plan (which included the back door moved to its original location) the two missing walls returned and all other original features returned, and original stairway to the second floor. The return of all other original framing materials, wall paneling, ceiling panels, floor boards, etc., were part of the final plan to be returned to their original location in the house.

3. Hundreds were photos of the building taken during the pre-dismanteling phase, during the dismantling phase, during the washing and restoring phase, during the window restoration phase, during the reboarding phase, during the center chimney reconstruction phase, during the shingling roof phase, and during the clapboarding phase. Hours and hours were spent

measuring, researching, documenting, mapping, locating, making notations, observing, collaborating, and planning.

4. The complete original, stone foundation was repaired with its original stones. Many were put back in place and all re-jointed with masonry cement.

5. Working with the original chimney base and its original measurements I put the stones back in place and was repointed and re-jointed. The fireplace sizes and locations were determined from all three original mantles were in place and the brick floor base was still intact showing the fireplace's configurations and sizes.

6. The first evidence observed the the side door was not original was the sawn lathe and round nails constructed around it. All other rooms has split wide boardplaster base. The National Register of Historic Places nomination form for 29 Ferry Lane, January 1980, states that **"another entrance of later indeterminate date faces south, (the side door) most likely added around 1890"**.

7. A list of 10 reasons why the back door was original to the location in which it was moved during restoration.

1. Newer sawn lathe around side door
2. Mortise pockets at side door originally narrower in width. Same width as windows everywhere else.
3. Original, missing walls from tavern room to hallway, the swinging wall and door
4. Ceiling boards in the hallway are shorter in length, not matching longer tavern ceiling boards
5. Small mortise in upper plate beam cut for ceiling plank (photo) which anchors the wall to the hallway across from the swinging wall
7. Shadow, gray lines on exterior wall boards showing long marks
8. A granite step was found 8 inches under the soil (under door)
9. September 24, 1931 - A William Barry ( 1846-1932 important architect and historian) drawing in tavern room, showing outer back door, end of hallway and just outside swinging wall, "The Smoking Gun".
10. The rear door matches the original floor plan perfectly.

8. All of the exterior windows had been altered from the original construction. The 2/2 windows were from the early 1900's. The original window frames and outer trim were nailed directly to the studs (not the outer boards). The altered (replaced ) windows outer trim casing were nailed over the outer boards, giving a larger appearance. Also, the inner sliding shutters and the original window impressions matched the 7" x 9" window pane size and 9 panes over 6 pane height size. The National Register of Historic Places nomination form for 29 Ferry Lane, January 1980, states that regarding the 2/2 window configuration **"originally this would have been 9/6"**.

9. The small gable windows were not for ventilation, but as part of the original construction they were built as fixed and were to send shafts of light into the 2nd floor which was mostly for storage. In the early 1900's the small windows were removed, boarded, and clapboarded over. However, one of those original small gable windows was put into the far gable end on the new ell and resides there now.

10. None of the original or even the old front door, casing and trim existed at the time of restoration. No photos or documentation was found. When asked, Mary said she wanted it

“simple, but elegant”. Its style is similar in construction to other original colonial entry doors designs in York County, Maine.

Fortunately, the house has the outer shape and size belonging to this period building and features that remain notable, the interior panels, boarded ceiling, old doors, cupboards, sliding shutters, the foot prints for fire places, rooms, windows, doors. The building is a treasure waiting to be completed.

## John Tarr House

The **John Tarr House** was an historic house at 29 Ferry Lane in Biddeford, Maine. Built about 1730, it is one of the oldest houses in the state of Maine, with a well-preserved interior that has unusual features. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.<sup>[1]</sup>

### Description and history

The John Tarr House stands facing east toward the Saco River at the end of Ferry Lane, roughly midway between downtown Biddeford and the Biddeford Pool area at the river mouth. It is a 1½-story Cape style timber-frame structure, five bays wide, with a side gable roof, large central chimney, and clapboard siding. The original front entrance is in the center of the east facade, with a secondary entrance (probably a 19th or 20th-century addition) on the south side. The rear facade, facing the street, has five windows. A 1½-story ell extends to the north.<sup>[2]</sup>

The house is estimated to have been built about 1730, making it one of Maine's oldest surviving structures. In addition to its great age, its significance lies in the original condition of its interior. This includes complete original wall paneling in the parlor spaces, and an unusually finished kitchen space in the rear. The kitchen features completely wainscoted walls and ceiling, something that is only known from two other chambers from New England (one is now in a museum in Concord, Massachusetts, and the other is at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City). The wainscoting panels are hand-planed.<sup>[2]</sup>

# John Tarr House, circa 1730

Listed on the  
National Register of Historic  
Places

April 23, 1980

**John Tarr House,  
2014**

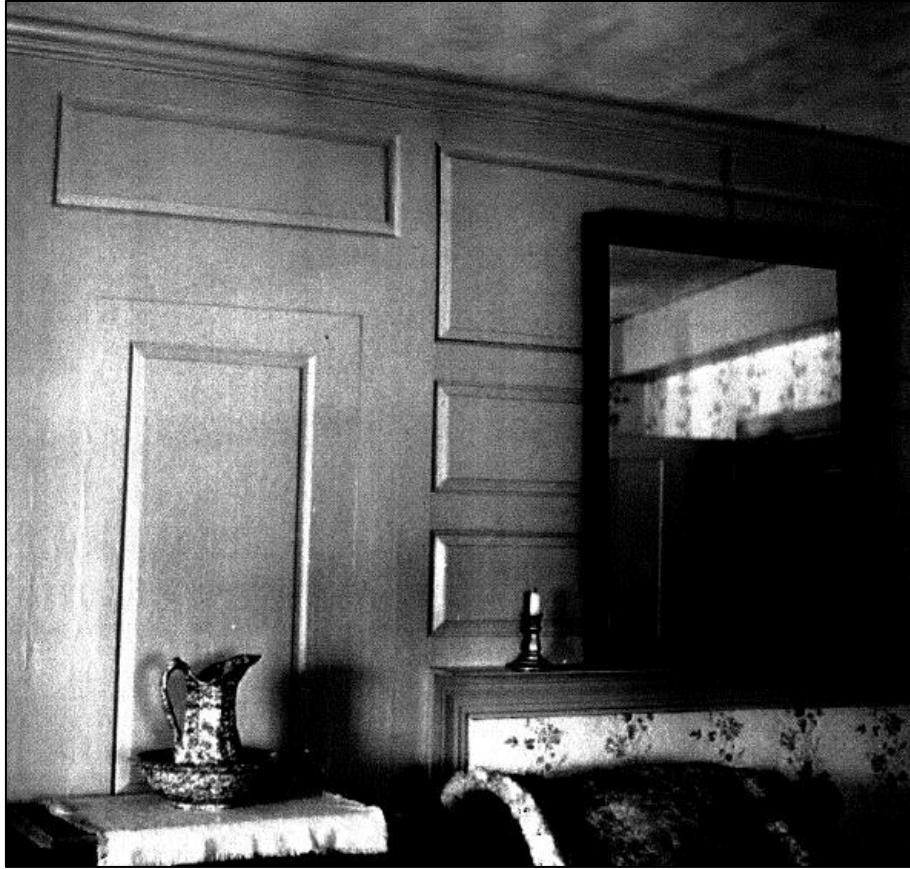


**John Tarr House,  
Circa 2018**



**John Tarr House,  
2025**





Original Interior Wood Paneling



Wood Paneling Removed from Interior

# John Tarr House - 29 Ferry Lane

## Things to Consider:

### 1. Applicability

Does the property meet the legal, technical, and procedural grounds to justify removal from the National Register?

### 2. Impacts to:

- a. Local preservation
- b. Educational programs
- c. Planning (Zone SR-1)
- d. Economic development

### 3. Public Comment



JANET MILLS  
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
10 WATER STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
HALLOWELL, MAINE  
04347

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

### NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that reflect in an outstanding manner the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the last 50 years shall not be considered for the National Register. Such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- C. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- D. a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- G. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.



JANET MILLS  
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
10 WATER STREET  
65 STATE HOUSE STATION  
HALLOWELL, MAINE  
04347

KIRK F. MOHNEY  
DIRECTOR

## FACT SHEET

Listing of historic properties in the National Register results in the following:

1. Official recognition of the historic and cultural importance of a property as part of the Nation's heritage which ought to be preserved.
2. Control and authority over the use and disposition of a property listed in the National Register or deemed eligible for such listing remain solely with the owner unless he or she has applied for and received a matching grant or other Federal funding, or is participating in a rehabilitation tax credit project. Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the property by the Federal government. Public visitation rights are not required by the owner.
3. Consideration in planning for Federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties listed in the National Register. For further information please refer to 36 CFR 800.
4. Eligibility for Federal tax provisions. If a property is individually listed or contributes to the historic significance of a listed National Register district, certain Federal tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1986 provides a 20% investment tax credit for certified rehabilitations of historic commercial, industrial and rental residential buildings. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. Whether such provisions are advantageous to a property owner is dependent upon the particular circumstances of the property and the owner. Because tax aspects outlined above are complex, individuals should consult legal counsel or the appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office for assistance in determining the tax consequences of the above provisions. For further information please refer to 36 CFR 67.
5. Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available. Presently funding is unavailable. Contact (S.H.P.O.) to determine the present status of such grants.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

<b>Tarr, John, House</b>
Name of Property
<b>York County, Maine</b>
County and State
<b>80000263</b>
NR Reference Number

**State Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ additional documentation X additional documentation: name  
change \_\_\_ move X removal \_\_\_ other  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date of Action

**Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ additional documentation \_\_\_ additional documentation: name change  
\_\_\_ move \_\_\_ removal \_\_\_ other  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date of Action

**National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ additional documentation accepted  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Tarr, John, House

Name of Property

York County, Maine

County and State

80000263

NR Reference Number

### Request for Removal from the National Register of Historic Places

**Name of Property:** Tarr, John, House (NR 80000263)

**Legal Description:** Biddeford tax map 049, lot 4. UTM's NAD27 Zone 19 easting 386899 northing 4813634.

**Address:** 29 Ferry Lane, Biddeford, York County, Maine

**Reason for Removal:** The property was moved and altered. The property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing because the qualities which caused it to be listed have been lost or destroyed (36 CFR 60.15 (a)).

**Dates and Nature of Change:** The building was dismantled and removed from its original location between May 2016 and May 2018. Between May 2018 and October 2021 the exterior of the building was reassembled on a new foundation on the same location. The interior paneling, one of the most prominent character defining features noted in the original nomination documents, has not been reinstalled. The interior is exposed framing with no interior partitions or finishes. The central chimney was demolished during demolition. A new larger central chimney has been rebuilt. A door on the south elevation that was present in 1980 has been replaced with a window, and a window on the west elevation has been replaced by a door. The six-over-six and two-over-two windows present in 1980 have been replaced with nine-over-six windows. The basis for these alterations is unknown.

**Comments:** The property was listed on April 23, 1980, under Criterion C for Architecture with a period of significance of ca. 1730, the approximate construction date. The property was moved from its original location through disassembly. A building moved without prior approval from the Keeper must be removed from the National Register per 36 CFR 60.14(b). After the move, the building was partially reassembled on the original location; however, the historic interior was not reconstructed. In the National Register documentation for the property, the interior wall and ceiling paneling is repeatedly stressed as the most important feature of the house. The house no longer retains the seven aspects of integrity (location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association). As a result of the disassembly of the house, the removal of the paneling and all interior finishes, and other alterations, the property no longer has integrity or the qualities that caused it to be listed originally and should be removed from the National Register.

#### References:

Frank A. Beard and Robert L. Bradley. "Tarr, John, House," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1980. Maine Historic Preservation Commission. NR 80000263

Google Earth aerial photos, May 2016, May 2018, October 2021.

Photographs of the building taken on November 13, 2025.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

<b>Tarr, John, House</b>
Name of Property
<b>York County, Maine</b>
County and State
<b>80000263</b>
NR Reference Number



Figure 1 John Tarr House in a May 2016 aerial photograph.



Figure 2 Location of the John Tarr House in a May 2018 aerial photograph with the ell present but the house moved.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

<b>Tarr, John, House</b>
Name of Property
<b>York County, Maine</b>
County and State
<b>80000263</b>
NR Reference Number



Figure 3 John Tarr House in a October 2021 aerial photograph.



Figure 4 Biddeford tax photo ca. 2018 showing the house moved from the lot.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Tarr, John, House**

Name of Property

**York County, Maine**

County and State

**80000263**

NR Reference Number



Figure 5 John Tarr House November 13, 2025 with door on the gable side replaced with a window.



Figure 6 John Tarr House November 13, 2025, with ell no longer attached and altered door/window.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Tarr, John, House**

Name of Property

**York County, Maine**

County and State

**80000263**

NR Reference Number



Figure 7 Interior of John Tarr House November 13, 2025, no interior finishes or partitions



Figure 8 Interior of John Tarr House November 13, 2025

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

**Tarr, John, House**

Name of Property

**York County, Maine**

County and State

**80000263**

NR Reference Number



Figure 9 New central chimney John Tarr House November 13, 2025



Figure 10 Attic of John Tarr House November 13, 2025