

PH005088

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-118-0005	DATE 1/26/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Ruggles House

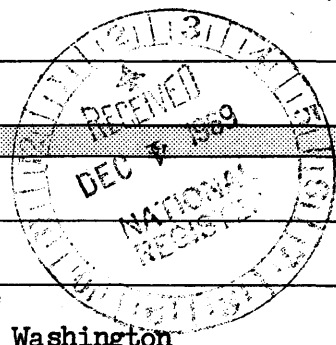
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbia Falls

STATE Maine	CODE 18	COUNTY: Washington	CODE 029
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Ruggles House Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Bar Harbor

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Machias

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1933-1965** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maine**

COUNTY: **Washington**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restored	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ruggles House is unlike other four square houses in that it is only one room deep. The two story building is not extremely large, but has some truly outstanding architectural features.

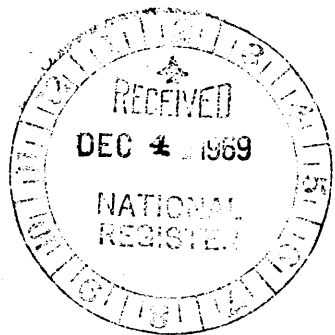
The most distinctive feature of the house is the "Flying" staircase which rises from the front hall, then divides into two reverse stairs without lateral support. Mantles and other interior wood finish were carved. Much of the fine work was completed with a pen knife, including the rope beading on the cornices of the fireplace and a swastika design below the mantle in the dining room.

The elaborate carvings are over ornate, but this was typical of the architecture of the time of the Ruggles House construction. The doorway that opens into the front hall is an example of the change that was in progress when builders were going from the Georgian to the neo-classic style of architecture.

The home has lovely fluting on the window sills, and delicately carved cornices around the eaves. This is all fine handwork, not jig saw gingerbreading.

Before restoration work commenced in 1968, the house was badly in need of repair. Due to restoration projects, the Ruggles House is at present considered to be in excellent condition.

Originally an ell containing a kitchen, dining room and three bedrooms was connected to the home. When restoration work was initiated Society members decided that the ell would not be reconstructed due to its poor condition.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1920

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ruggles House, known as the "House with the Wonderful Carvings" was built by Aaron Sherman of Duxbury Falls, Massachusetts. He constructed a number of homes in the Columbia Falls area, but the Ruggles House is considered to be his finest effort.

The owner of the house was Thomas Ruggles, who came to Columbia Falls in 1770 from Rochester, Massachusetts. Over the course of years he became the area's largest owner of timberland. He was owner of a sawmill, postmaster, merchant, captain of the militia, shipbuilder and owner of a fleet of lumber carrying vessels. He was also justice of the court in Machias.

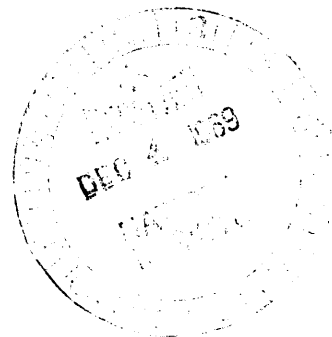
Ruggles died soon after the house was completed in 1820. His last survivor died in the 1920's. The house was left unattended until 1938 when Miss Mary Chandler, a descendent of the builder rallied support for its preservation.

When Sherman had completed his tasks, Judge Ruggles imported one of the finest wood carvers in England to decorate the interior of the house. This man, whose name is unknown, spent over three years at his painstaking labors. For his efforts he received over \$3,000.00 for the parlor carving alone.

The "Flying" staircase is held in such high regard that the Metropolitan Museum once offered Miss Chandler \$1000.00 for it. The late Harrison Williams, a noted architect, said that it is the only flying staircase of its period anywhere that never has needed repairs or reinforcement, and that the Ruggles House is one of the amplest and most spaciouly planned small houses in the world.

In 1949 the Ruggles House Society was formed to restore the house and open it to public display. The group is currently in charge of the house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Seligmann, H. J., First Flower of the Wilderness, The Ruggles House, Down East Magazine, June 1960, pp. 47-50
 Crane, Jonas, Newspaper article in the Ellsworth American, August 28, 1968
 Pratt, Richard, Second Treasury of Early American Homes, Curtis Pub. Co., 1954
 Porter, Frederick, article in the Architectural Review of 1921
 The Golden Treasury of Early American Homes, Hawthorne Publishing Company, 1967

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 39' 7"	67° 0' 49"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 ACRE

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John W. Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **State Park & Recreation Commission** DATE: **November 21, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **18**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Lawrence Stuart
Lawrence Stuart
 Title Director

Date 12-1-69

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JAN 26 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of The National Register

JAN 14 1970

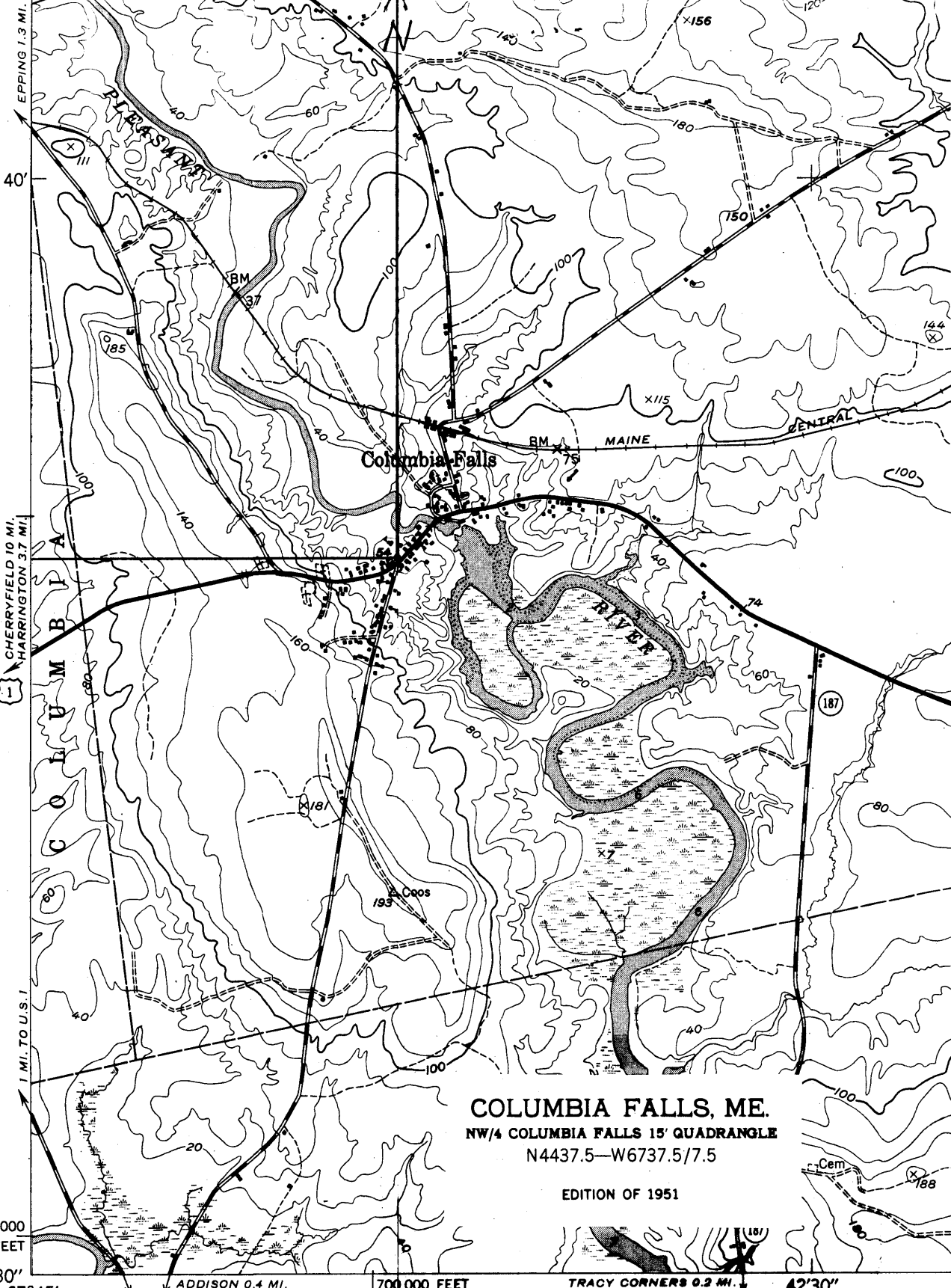
Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 0884444/107009/61
 19/600670/4444880
 JWF
 7-26-76
 W

44° 39' 7"
67° 43' 49"

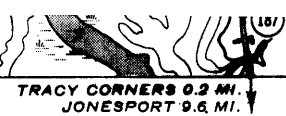
Ruggles House

(HARRINGTON)



COLUMBIA FALLS, ME.
 NW/4 COLUMBIA FALLS 15' QUADRANGLE
 N4437.5-W6737.5/7.5

EDITION OF 1951



290 000
FEET
44°37'30"
67°45'

700 000 FEET

42°30'

Mapped by U. S. Coast & Geodetic Survey
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS and USGS

Topography from aerial photographs by multilux methods

19 1/2°

