

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
MAY 20 1979
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

W. D. Crooker House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

71 South Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bath,

__ VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Sagadahoc

CODE

023

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. Francis B. Hill

STREET & NUMBER

71 South Street

CITY, TOWN

Bath,

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bath,

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The William D. Crooker House of Bath, Maine designed and built by Isaac D. Cole c. 1850, is a dignified and unusual example of the Greek Revival style in a residential context.

Whereas most "Temple" style dwellings in Maine feature a colonnaded portico across the gable-end, the portico on the Crooker House runs parallel to the roof ridge. Furthermore, the Corinthian order is used, as opposed to the far commoner Doric and Ionic, a detail found at the end of Maine's Greek Revival period. Another distinctive feature of the house is an ornate cast-iron balcony in the central bay of the facade's second story.

The house is of 2½ stories with four internal end chimneys of brick, a gable roof, frame construction, and clapboard siding (save for the facade, which is match-boarded). Fenestration throughout is 6/6, except for the half-story and a facade dormer, each of which contain a three-part window consisting of a 2/2 flanked by 1/1. The facade, which faces east, is 5 bays wide with a central side-lighted doorway. The bay serviced by the balcony is a three-part window. The typical corner pilasters are present, while on the facade additional pilasters flank the central bay.

A two story ell with trim identical to that on the main part of the house is attached to the north end of the building.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES c.1850 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Isaac D. Cole

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built c.1850 by the noted housewright and master carpenter, Isaac D. Cole for merchant-shipbuilder William Donnell Crooker, this handsome residence is significant as an unusual variation within the Greek Revival context in Maine and also because it reflects the thriving middle years of 19th century Bath, a city emerging as a major seaport.

As explained in Item 7 (Description) the Corinthian portico running parallel to the roof ridge as well as the use of that order are both rare architectural features for Maine. The exceptionally well conceived proportion and scale of the house are not surprising considering the extremely high reputation of Isaac Cole, its builder and designer. Interestingly, Francis H. Fassett, Maine's leading mid-19th century architect was for four years apprenticed to Cole just before going into business for himself.

According to the Maine Law Record of 1858, Charles and William Crooker were engaged in "buying and selling of merchandise, the building and sailing of ships, the cutting and marketing of lumber and other business". Perhaps no more typical contemporary description of Bath entrepreneurs of the period exists. Certainly it speaks eloquently of the vitality of this burgeoning mid-coastal community.

William D. Crooker and his brother Charles were grandsons of Isaiah Crooker, a pioneer in the region who came to Bath in 1748. The two brothers first joined business forces in the ownership of the brig "Lucy" built for them at Bath by David Standish. By 1831 the Crookers had opened their own shipyard in Bath just south of Federal Street in an area now occupied by the Bath Iron Works. The ship "Platina" was launched in 1832, followed by three other large vessels, the last in 1837. In subsequent years Johnson Rideout, operating the same yard built eight more ships for the firm which also owned several vessels built elsewhere.

By 1858, the brothers, by now extremely successful, became estranged, dissolved their partnership, and operated independently thenceforth. At the time of William's death in 1871, his estate was valued at more than \$700,000.00, a very considerable amount for the period, and included significant holdings in real estate in the city.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baker, William Avery, A Maritime History of Bath, Maine. Bath, 1973.

American Historical Society, Memorials of Maine, "Francis Henry Fassett". p. 206.
New York, 1916.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Assessors Tax Map 31, Lot 239

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

April, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

TELEPHONE

207/289-2133

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta

STATE

Maine

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Earle S. Feltstewart Jr.

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

5/18/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles Adams

DATE

7-10-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

[Signature] **DATE** *7/6/79*

ATTEST:

Anna Lee Brown

DATE

7/6/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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|------------------|-------------|
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| RECEIVED | MAY 29 1979 |
| DATE ENTERED | JUL 10 1979 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Crooker House, in its elegance and size clearly bespeaks its first owner's prosperity and station in the community, both of which derived from the dramatic economic growth based on maritime enterprise which Bath experienced in these years.