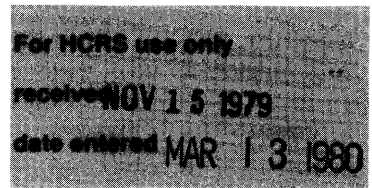


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Knigh-Corey House ✓

and/or common Boothbay Theatre Museum

**2. Location**

street & number Corey Lane \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Boothbay \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district First

state Maine code 23 \_\_\_\_\_ county Lincoln code 015

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Franklyn Lenthall and James Wilmot ✓

street & number Corey Lane

city, town Boothbay, \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Maine 04537

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln County Registry of Deeds

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Wiscasset, \_\_\_\_\_ state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title \_\_\_\_\_ has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

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 Knight-Corey House of Boothbay, Maine, built in 1784, is a finely restored and preserved example of post-Colonial domestic architecture. The 2½-story house is of frame construction (post-and-beam) with gable roof, large central brick chimney, clapboard siding, and field-stone foundation.

The facade, which faces south, is five bays wide with a central entrance. The entrance consists of a single doorway with sidelights crowned by a wooden fan. First-story fenestration is 12/12 while in the second story it is 8/12. The sides of the house, in the gable-ends, are two bays wide with equivalent fenestration.

Attached to the west side of the house is a 1½-story ell with central brick chimney. Two simple doorways face south flanked by 12/12 windows adding up to five bays. In the half-story are two gable-roofed dormers containing 8/12 sash.

Attached to the west end of the ell is a large frame barn lacking decorative detail. Here as well the entrance faces south.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**                      1787                      **Builder/Architect**                      Nicholas Knight

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Knight-Corey was built by Nicholas Knight in 1784 on the site of an inn built by John Murray, a very prominent early resident of the region. This lovely example of an 18<sup>th</sup> century house is in an excellent state of preservation and features among other things gunstock posts, five working fireplaces (including the original kitchen fireplace with its twelve foot hearth) and a unique and beautiful enclosed circular stairway. This early Federal house is an outstanding feature of the Bristol peninsula on the central Maine coast.

The entire house, ell and large attached barn are occupied by the Boothbay Theatre Museum, which as far as can be determined, is (1979) the only museum in the country devoted solely to the exhibition and preservation of theatrical memorabilia. Its holdings from the late Middle Ages to the present include stage jewelry, costumes, portraits, photographs, sculpture, playbills, figurines, holograph material, set models and toy theatres. The extent and importance of the museum holdings are nationally recognized.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Greene, F. B., History of Boothbay, Southport and Boothbay Harbor. Portland, 1906.  
 Hartman, Ruth Bains, "Boothbay's Remarkable Theater Museum", Americana, July/August, 1978.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Westport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	9	4	4	8	9	2	0	4	8	5	8	1	3	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Property Map R4, Parcel 2B

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

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 October, 1979

street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta state Maine 04333

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Carle S. Stewart

title S.H.P.O.

date 11/9/79

For HCERS use only

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

W. Ray Jones date 3/15/80  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature] date 3/11/80  
 Chief of Registration