

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received FEB 21 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Vickery Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 261 Water Street N/A not for publication

city, town Augusta, N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Kennebec code 011

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Chapman & Drake Insurance Company

street & number 261 Water Street

city, town Augusta, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04330

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Augusta, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Down Street '82 has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no

date 1979 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta, state Maine

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 Vickery Building is part of a row of commercial structures constructed of brick. This building, however, has a facade fashioned entirely of granite. Designed in an Italian Renaissance mode, the principal elevation displays a variety of carved stone details.

The facade is three bays wide and four stories high. The storefront is delineated by Ionic columns flanking the center entrance and piers at either end. Enframing the second and third story windows are paired Corinthian pilasters supporting a rounded arcade. Above the apired fourth story windows is a frieze with carved floral designs and cornice with dentils and modillions. Directly above is a paneled parapet with four carved palmettes. The building faces west.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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 1895 **Builder/Architect** John C. Spofford

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Vickery Building by the noted Boston architect, John C. Spofford is the most finely crafted and architecturally significant commercial building in downtown Augusta. The handsome facade was constructed of white Hallowell granite provided by Nathaniel Noyes & Son Granite Company. Of further importance is the fact that it marks the pinnacle of the career of Peleg O. Vickery, leading publisher in Augusta at a time when Augusta was the "publishing capitol" of Maine.

Vickery, born in 1837, came to Augusta as a very young man and was apprenticed in a printing office. After learning the trade he opened a small print shop in the city which prospered significantly. Realizing the need for light fiction of a healthy nature he began in 1874 the publication of Vickery's Fireside Visitor, a monthly magazine which became instantly popular across the country. From this time until his death in 1909 his success was continuous and included the construction in 1879 of a large publishing office which made possible the printing of a hundred-thousand papers like Frank Leslie's every day. Vickery became a community leader, being elected three times mayor of Augusta, the third time without opposition. The Vickery Building, constructed as an investment, marked, in its quality and distinction, the nature of the man.

John C. Spofford executed a number of important commissions in Maine including the Lewiston City Hall and the west wing of Maine State House.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McIntyre, Philip W. and Blanding, William F., eds., Men of Progress in the State Of Maine. Boston, 1897.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name Augusta

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	4	3	8	2	4	0	4	9	0	6	6	9	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

Assessor's Map 43, Lot 41

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/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1984

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Eric S. Fritzenworth*

title S.H.P.O. date 2/10/84

For NPS use only

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

date 3/22/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration