

RECEIVED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 10 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Washington County Jail

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Court Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Machias,

N/A vicinity

state Maine

code ME

county Washington

code _____

zip code 04654

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility 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. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

3/4/88

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Alonzo Byers

Entered in the
National Register

4-7-88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Correctional Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Correctional Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Brick

roof Asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Washington County Jail is a three-story three-bay brick building that rests on a granite foundation and is capped by a hip roof. Its front block and narrow gabled entrance pavilion is narrower than the cell block at the rear.

Facing southeast, the symmetrically composed principal elevation features a centrally located pavilion whose second story entrance is reached by a long flight of granite steps. The recessed round arched door is framed by an arched surround whose impostes meet a narrow string course confined to the pavilion. A second string course separates the second and third story. An arched replacement six-over-six double-hung sash window with a granite sill occupies the third story where it rests within a paneled round arch. The corbelled cornice, which carries around the building, was concealed in 1974 by aluminum. Flanking the pavilion are two identically arranged bays that feature paired segmentally arched basement/first story windows; paired round arched second story windows located within a segmental arch; and third story windows identical to their counterpart in the center bay. The first and second stories are separated by a wide granite water table.

Both the east and west side elevations are identical in their composition. The fenestration pattern consists of a recessed two-bay wall that marks the termination of the front jailor's block and a long three-bay division that houses the cell block. The window and wall treatment in the recessed section is identical to that on the facade. The middle bay features coupled segmentally arched basement windows united under a broader arch; a two-sided bay window cantilevered over the basement; and a large third story window whose arched lintel embraces two long round arched units. On the rear most bays the similarly composed third story unit surmounts a pair of segmentally arched second story windows. The granite water table separates these long compositions from the paired basement windows. There are no windows in the rear elevation.

Inside, the space is divided into two discrete areas as suggested on the exterior. The second or main floor of the front block contains three rooms and a stair, and originally served as the entertaining rooms for the jailor's family. The basement housed the kitchen and the third floor the sleeping quarters. The cell block was arranged with a cluster of six centrally located

 See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

cells on the first and second story and nine on the third. A wide guard room and flanking galleys framed three sides of the cells whereas a brick wall formed the rear. This plan has been largely lost as a result of subsequent remodelings that were made to accomodate changing theories of jail design.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1858

Significant Dates

1858

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bryant, Gridley, J. F.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed in 1858 from plans drawn by Gridley J. F. Bryant, the Washington County Jail is one of the most significant county governmental facilities in eastern Maine. Its significance under National Register criterion C derives from the fact that at the time of construction it embraced the most advanced theories of jail design as developed by one of New England's leading mid-nineteenth century architects.

In its January 12, 1858, edition The Machias Union reported that:

By call of the Commissioners, quite a large number of gentlemen, including some of the largest tax-payers in the County, assembled at the court room in this place, on Wednesday evening last to consider the propriety of erecting a new jail building.

The Chairman of the Board, John Kilby, Esq., made some statements relative to recent examinations made by the Commissioners of the jails at Bangor, Belfast, Auburn, and one in process of building at Augusta, and submitted two plans drawn by Mr. Bryant, the well-known, Boston architect, and specifications of each, with an estimate of the probable cost. These plans embraced all the modern improvements, combining safety, durability, convenience, light, ventilation, and not overlooking the external architectural feature, which everyone must admire in comparison with the dreary, desolate looking heap of stone and wood, now used for the confinement of criminals.

The whole matter of expense and ability to meet it was discussed, and after due consideration it was agreed that humanity required of the County a better building; that the County was able and ought to build it, and a vote was passed, unanimously we believe, instructing the Commissioners to proceed as fast as practicable with its erection, at an expense, not exceeding \$25,000.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

MacKay, Robert B. "Gridley J. F. Bryant", A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine. Augusta: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1986.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

1	9
---	---

6	2	2	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	9	5	2	3	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Machias Tax Map 14, Lot 105.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire site historically associated with this building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1988
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

Bryant's design utilized a plan that he had developed previously for use at the Kennebec County Jail (1857-58) in Augusta, one that was heralded in an 1867 study on reformatories and prisons as "the best yet submitted to the inspection of the public." /1 This called for a tri-partite division of the interior into jailor's quarters in the front, a guard room with projecting bays in the middle and the cell block at the rear. Additional new innovations included the use of speaking tubes, a bell system, self-locking doors, and an improved ventilation system. The general plan was repeated again in 1869 for the Penobscot County Jail in Bangor. Unfortunately, most of the state of the art systems that Bryant included in his designs do not survive in these facilities, having been replaced by newer technologies.

Gridley J. F. Bryant (1816-1899), the son of the renowned civil engineer Gridley Bryant, began his architectural career auspiciously in the office of Alexander Parris and Loammi Baldwin. By 1837 he had established his own practice in Boston. In 1850 Bryant received his first known Maine commission for the United States Custom House in Eastport. This was followed by a string of at least twenty projects including the 1850-52 Maine State Reform School (N.R. 4/11/85) and a variety of governmental facilities throughout the state. As demonstrated by the Washington County Jail, Bryant's often novel innovations were expressed through forceful exterior compositions heightened by his almost universal use of the Italianate style. Despite the loss, therefore, of many of the interior features, the jail continues to express the unique functional arrangement that its architect originally achieved.

/1. Theodore W. Dwight and E. C. Wines, Report on the Prisons and Reformatories of the United States and Canada made to the Legislature of New York, Albany, 1867, pp. 108-109.