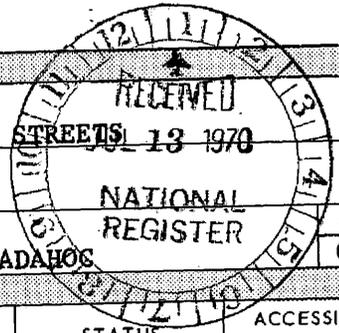


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: MAINE	
COUNTY: SAGADAHOC	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.18.0039	DATE 10/6/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE AND POST OFFICE

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
25 FRONT STREET, BETWEEN LAMBARD AND VINE STREETS 13 1970

CITY OR TOWN:
BATH 04350

STATE: **MAINE** CODE: **18** COUNTY: **SAGADAHOC** CODE: **023**

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" 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 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:
U.S. GOVERNMENT, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **WASHINGTON** STATE: **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** CODE: **08**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
SAGADAHOC COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **BATH** STATE: **MAINE** CODE: **18**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **WASHINGTON** STATE: **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **MAINE**

COUNTY: **SAGADAHOC**

ENTRY NUMBER: **70.10.18.0039**

DATE: **10/6/70**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

QUOTATION FROM H.A.B.S. INVENTORY DATE OF RECORD 06-17-69

"The United States Custom House and Post Office in Bath was designed by Ammi Burnham Young (1800-1874), who was Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department from 1852 to 1861. The building was completed and occupied in 1858. It is one of a series of buildings designed in fireproof construction by Young during an extremely active period of Federal construction. The structural method employed by Young consisted of solid masonry exterior walls enclosing spaces vaulted by parallel series of shallow brick arches supported by iron I-beams resting either on masonry interior partitions or, in open areas, on cast-iron columns. This system was the most technically advanced method of fireproof construction known at the time and was more economical than the stone masonry vaulting previously used for fireproof government buildings by Robert Mills.

"Stylistically, the Bath Custom House is a prime example of the Italianate Renaissance Revival mode which succeeded the Greek Revival manner of Mills, Young's predecessor in office. The design is restrained and suavely proportioned, handsome, elegant, and basically classical. The beautifully crafted granite ashlar and the superbly executed carved detailing make the exterior a notable example of its type. It is representative of Young's work at its best.

"In 1912 the structure was extended approximately two fifths of its original depth toward the rear (west). The splendidly executed granite ashlar of the newer portion perfectly matches that of the original section. The building now measures approximately 70' x 78'. Two stories in height with an exposed basement at the rear of the steeply sloping site, the Custom House has a five-bay front with a slightly projecting central pedimented pavilion. The corners are emphasized by quoins, the windows have full architraves, and the triple entrance has a console supported cornice. The relatively low hipped roof has a flat center deck which was originally railed by a balustrade, now missing. The main cornice projects moderately and is supported by modillions. Two pairs of granite chimneys above the north and south walls have been removed. A vestibule has been added near the southeast corner."

The physical description quoted above will hold true for this date, March 12, 1970.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858

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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Amni Burnham Young, now a forgotten architect, succeeded Robert Mills as architect to the Treasury Department in 1852, and from his drawing board came a number of post offices and custom houses, many of them to be found still throughout the country. Best remembered for his designs of the Vermont capitol at Montpelier and the Boston Custom House, Young's government buildings in Portland and Bath, Maine; Providence, Rhode Island; Galveston, Texas; and Galena, Illinois, command attention by their beautiful proportions and the classical restraint exercised by this most Roman of American architects.

The ground for this building was purchased February 7 and November 18, 1852, for the sum of \$15,000, and extended from Front Street on the west to the Kennebec River on the east, being bounded on the north by Lambard Street and on the south by Vine Street. Subsequently, Commercial Street was cut through along the river front parallel with Front Street, separating the present custom house lot from the wharf and dock which formed a part of the original purchase. In pursuance of an Act of Congress approved March 3, 1865, this wharf property was sold at public auction on March 12, 1866, for the sum of \$2,700, the bounding lines of the Government lot now being about 235 feet north on Lambard Street, 260 feet east on Commercial Street, 206 feet south on Vine Street, and 236 feet west on Front Street.

The building, which is of granite and fronts west, was completed and occupied in 1858, the actual cost of construction being \$84,830.23.

The duty collected on customs at this port during the years ended June 30, 1885 and 1899, were \$60,166 and \$13,424 respectively. The postal receipts during this latter year aggregated \$15,852.13. When the building was constructed the population of the city was about 7,000; in 1900 it was 10,477.

The first custom house in Bath owned by the United States was secured in 1834, it having been set off in partial settlement of a judgement against the Bath Bank. This property was sold December 11, 1858 for \$3,925, in pursuance of an Act of Congress approved March 11, 1858.

second custom house

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Public Buildings Under the Control of the Treasury Department....Washington, Government Printing Office, 1901, Pp. 224-225.

Owen, Henry W. History of Bath, Maine 1936.

Tunnard, Christopher and Reed, Henry Hope Skyline Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston 1955

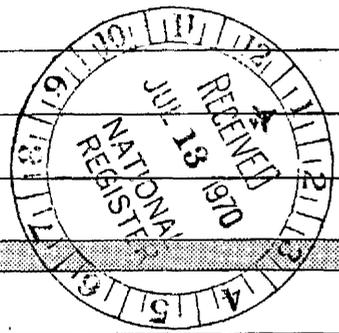
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		43° 54' 43"	69° 48' 56"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **JOHN W. BRIGGS, HISTORIAN**

ORGANIZATION: **STATE PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION** DATE: **March 12, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER: **STATE HOUSE**

CITY OR TOWN: **AUGUSTA** STATE: **MAINE** CODE: **18**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 7/9/70.

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

Ernest Allen Cunniff
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date OCT 6 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Muntz
Keeper of the National Register

Date AUG 19 1970

19/4345-75/4662850
1-26-76
W.M. 201

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
Sagadahoc	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

July 29, 1970

At the present time, the U. S. Custom House and Post Office Building on Front Street in Bath, Maine, is fulfilling its original function. This building is maintained and administrated as a unit of the General Services Administration. In all probability, the property ultimately will be made available for disposal, but at this time, the General Services Administration is unable to predict when new construction will allow the replacement of the existing building.

In the meantime, the Marine Research Society of Bath, a non profit organization, actively involved in the research of Maine's maritime history and the collection and display of marine memorabilia, has indicated a strong desire that the Directors would like to acquire or lease, if necessary, the U. S. Custom House and Post Office Building in Bath at that time when it was no longer an active unit of the G. S. A.

The Liaison Officer for Maine has made contact with the G. S. A. in this regard. The G. S. A. has stated the order of priorities for surplus Federal property starts with the State and next with the municipality in which it is located. If no interest is expressed by these top priority governments, the property is placed for sale to individuals by way of sealed bids.

The State of Maine would be very pleased if it could perform a middle-man's role in the transfer of this property to the Marine Research Society of Bath. If this should fail, the City of Bath may acquire the property and lease it to the Society. In any event, in the future, the U. S. Custom House would make an impressive and functional addition to the Societies Complex.

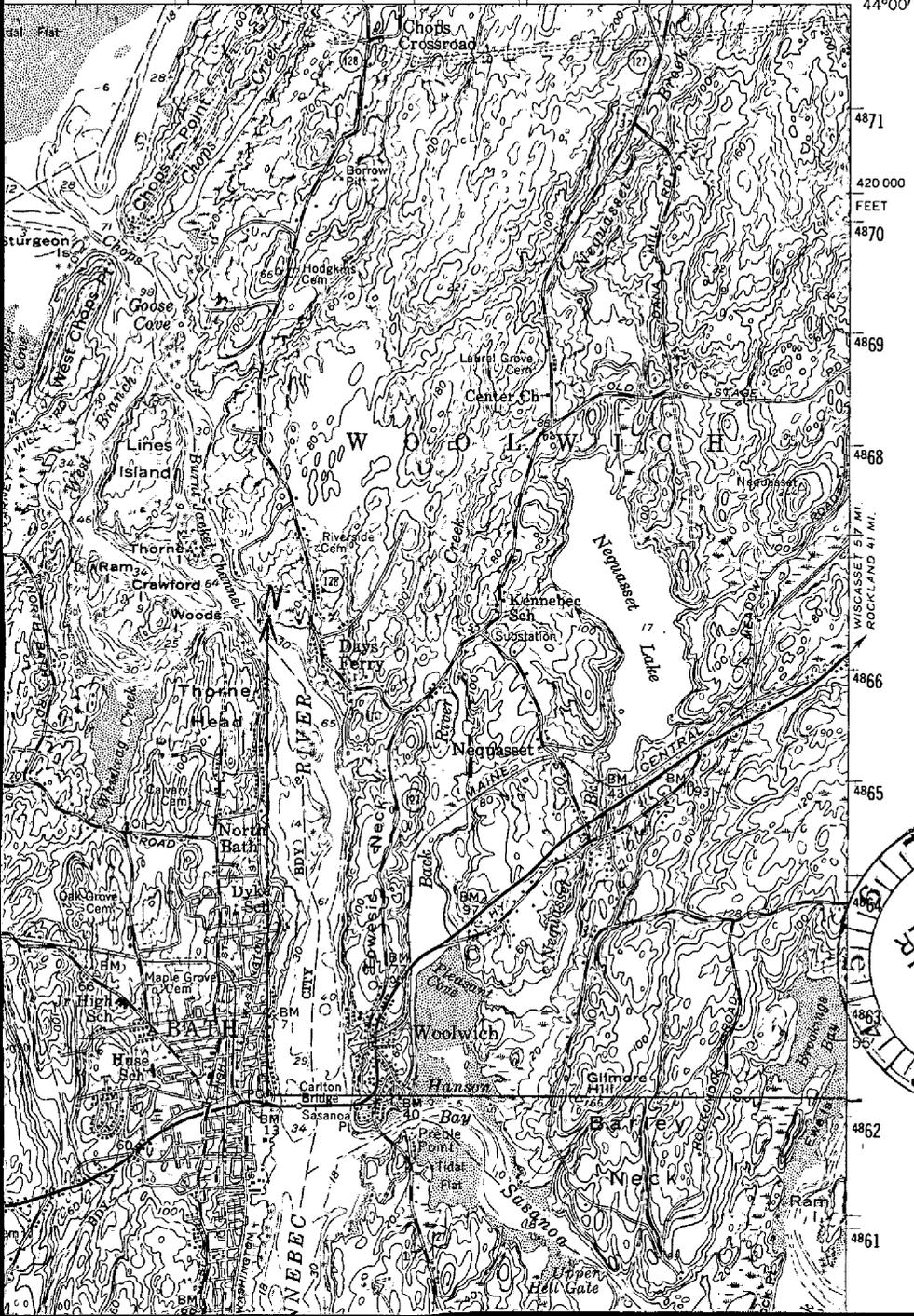
PH0004871

BATH QUADRANGLE
MAINE

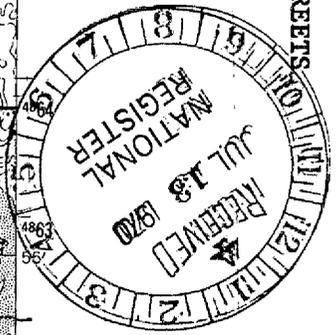
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7072 II
(WISCASSET)

50' WEST DRESDEN 6.9 MI. 600 000 FEET 439 69°45' 44°00'



U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE AND POST OFFICE
FRONT STREET, BETWEEN LAMBARD AND VINE STREETS
BATH, MAINE - One acre -
Latitude: 43° 54' 43"
Longitude: 69° 48' 56"



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
MAINE	
COUNTY	
SAGADAHOC	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.10.18.0039	10/6/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE AND POST OFFICE
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
FRONT STREET, BETWEEN LAMBARD AND VINE STREETS

CITY OR TOWN:
BATH

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
MAINE	18	SAGADAHOC	023

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle Bath
SCALE: 1:62,500
DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.

