

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Kennebec
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUL 25 1974

HB
2nd
N 4905000
435000

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Kennebec County Courthouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
95 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
1st: Hon. Peter Kyros

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Kennebec CODE: 011

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input 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:
County of Kennebec

STREET AND NUMBER:
95 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta

STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kennebec County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
95 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta

STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

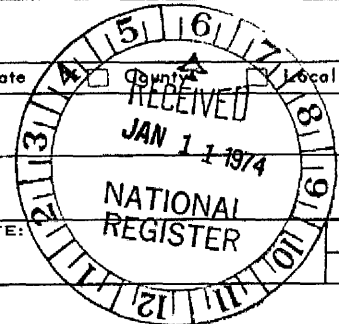
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE:



STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 25

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE: _____

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" 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

The Kennebec County Court House in Augusta was designed in 1828 by James Cochran and was erected the following year from his plans. The building is Greek Revival in style and has one of the first temple fronts to appear in the State of Maine.

The court house is constructed almost completely of granite which has a rough texture with the exception of finished details. In addition there is a wooden roof construction as well as cast iron and wooden trim. The facade is divided into three major parts, the temple fronted central section and two flanking wings. The central section stands two and a half stories high. It is approached by a short flight of granite steps. The first two stories are divided into five bays. The first level is composed of seven square piers of finished granite. These support a horizontal porch of finished granite. The second level has a colonnade of finished granite columns with Doric capitals. At either side of the colonnade is a pilaster of finished granite topped by a Doric molding. Both the first and second stories of the front of the central section are recessed. Behind the granite piers on the first story is a central entrance, a window at either side of it, and an entrance to each of the flanking wings. The second story has a delicate cast iron railing between the columns. Beyond this there are three windows.

The Doric colonnade of the second story supports a plain intabulation of finished granite decorated only by a narrow projecting horizontal line which divides it in the center. The triangular pediment of the gable roof is outlined with a wooden cornice molding. A later double window has been cut into the center of the pediment.

Surmounting the front of the gable roof is a square wooden belfrey. This feature is not original to the court house, but was probably added within a few years of its construction. The base of the belfrey is match boarded and has quoins at the corners. The open section is composed of four groups of three Doric columns, each placed at a corner. These support a flat roof which was originally surrounded by a crenellated balustrade in the Gothic Revival manner. A flag pole now stands at the center of the roof.

The flanking wings of the court house are square, stand two stories high and have hipped roofs. These roofs were once decorated with a crenellated balustrade like the one formerly on the tower. Each of the three exposed walls has two windows on each story. Quoins of finished granite appear at the corners of the outside walls.

The interior of the Kennebec County Court House has experienced several alterations in its almost a century and a half history. The building has also had two major additions, an extension of the rear in 1851 and a separate probate wing in 1907. Both these enlargements were done with granite in sympathy with style, scale, and texture of the original structure. The Kennebec County Court House continues today as a

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

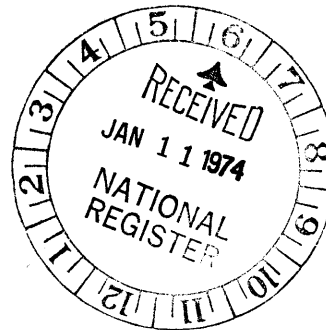
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Kennebec	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 25 1974

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

handsome example of the earliest phase of the Greek Revival in Maine. Although it has sustained some changes, the forceful simplicity of its original granite facade remains untouched.



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) **1829**

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

The Kennebec County Court House in Augusta is significant especially for its architecture. The building is among the first Greek Revival structures to appear in the State of Maine.

In December of 1827, the Court of Sessions of Kennebec County decided to erect a new court house and appointed a building committee to obtain a plan with an estimate of expense. The committee reported in February of 1828 that the county commissioners should erect a court house of "split stone". The report and its attached plans by James Cochran were accepted. The present site was purchased in January of 1829, and the corner stone was laid on May 29 of that year. James Cochran and Robert C. Vose oversaw the construction of the building. It was completed in the spring of 1830 and was occupied for the first time on June 1, of that year.

The Greek Revival style arrived in Maine in the 1820's. Its first recorded appearance in the state is on a drawing of a proposed Grecian portico for Portland's First Parish Church of 1825 (National Register, January 12, 1973). The plan was not adopted for this predominantly Federal Style church, and the Greek Revival did not manifest itself again until the construction of Mariner's Church in Portland in 1828 (National Register, April 23, 1973). Mariner's Church carried the general outline of the Greek Temple front on its facade, especially on the triangular pediment. However, there was no attempt at a portico or columnade effect.

In 1828 both the Portland Custom House on Fore Street, now destroyed, and the Kennebec County Court House were designed. Both were erected in 1829 and introduced the full Grecian temple front to Maine. While the Custom House had a projecting free standing portico, the court house possessed a columnade of square piers on the first story and Doric columns on the second.

One authority, Samuel M. Green, suggested in the catalogue of Colby College's 1945 Exhibition of Maine Architecture that the design of the Kennebec County Court House was based upon the Maine State House by Charles Bulfinch. Actually, the Court House was designed a year before the State House and was completed two years before it. Thus, the Kennebec County Court House can be considered one of the earliest examples of the Greek Revival style in Maine as well as the oldest structure in the state with the full expression of a temple front.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Beck, Joseph T. Historical Notes on Augusta, Maine, Farmington, Maine
Knowlton & McLeary Comapny, 1962

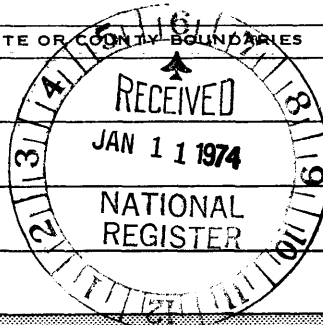
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		44° 18' 53"	69° 46' 40"	
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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: December, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta, STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 James H. Mundy
Title State Historic Preservation Officer
Date January 7, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. Ruortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/25/74

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
Keeper of The National Register
Date 7/22/74