

PH035 4627

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED AUG 2 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

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 ****** Washington County Courthouse
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Court Street
CITY, TOWN: Machias VICINITY OF: _____
STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Washington CODE: 029
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd: Hon. William D. Cohen
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input checked="" 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: Washington County
STREET & NUMBER: Court Street
CITY, TOWN: Machias VICINITY OF: _____
STATE: Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER: Court Street
CITY, TOWN: Machias STATE: Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: _____
DATE: _____
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____
CITY, TOWN: _____ STATE: _____
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Washington County Courthouse is a two and a half story brick building resting on its original granite foundation. The structure is in the shape of a rectangle, fifty by seventy-six feet. It is in the Italianate style and was designed by Benjamin S. Deane of Bangor in 1853.

The facade or south wall is divided into three bays and is symmetrically designed. A granite string course runs around the entire structure at the water table and second floor levels. A set of double doors with a segmental window are set into a shallow segmental arched recession of brick. On either side of the entrance is a single window of small six over six panes. The windows are also arched and set into similar segmental arched brick recessions. On the second floor level, brick pilasters separate the bays. An elongated window similar to those on the first floor occupies each bay. The arch of the window extends into the brick architrave. Surmounting the architrave is a gabled brick pediment with an emphatic wooden cornice ornamented with dentils. The eaves are decorated in a manner similar to the cornice. The triangle formed by the cornice and roof is reinforced by a shallow recession of the pediment bricks. An arched window is placed in the center.

The side walls, **facing** east and west, are divided into five bays. The first floor level is a continuation of the facade. Five single windows set into segmental arched recessions are equally spaced along the length of the building. The second story repeats the pilaster dividers of the facade. Five windows are placed directly over those on the first floor. The window at the south end is the same as the second story windows on the facade. The other four windows form semi-circular arches at the top and do not extend into the brick architrave, but end about a foot below. The cornice of the facade is also continued under the overhang of the roof.

A square wooden cupola is located on top of the gable at the south end. The base is constructed of painted boards. A protruding cornice creates a platform for the smaller square belfry. Each wall of the belfry is pierced by an arched opening. The openings are decorated by simple molding and a wooden keystone. A horizontal strip of molding marks the beginning of the curve in the arch on both sides. Pilasters strengthen the articulation of the corners. A final cornice with dentil decoration supports the cupola roof. A pair of brass Scales of Justice crown the top. It is not known whether the cupola was in Deane's original plans for the courthouse. However, no reference to its later addition can be found. It was definitely in place before 1861 for it appears in a drawing done in that year.

(See continuation sheet)

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An addition was built onto the west end of the building in the mid 20th century. Because it was placed at the rear of the structure, it did not seriously affect the original exterior.

The Courthouse is entered through the door on the facade or south wall. A lobby extends the length of the building and connects to the addition. Originally a staircase and two restrooms were at the end of the hall. Off each side of the lobby are the county offices. These have accordion type cast iron fire doors. Similar fireproof shutters are also found on the inside of the windows. There are four fireplaces on the first floor, three of which are still useable. The remaining one in the Grand Jury room has been closed. The fireplaces are made of oversized reddish-dark brown brick carved with a flower design.

The two sets of metal stairs leading to the second floor frame the main entrance. These curve around to reach the second floor landing outside the courtroom. The courtroom takes up most of the second floor. Two small rooms on either side of the landing occupy the remaining space. The courtroom has seating on three sides with the judges bench at the end opposite the main door. The courtroom was rebuilt after the building was damaged by a storm in 1869. It is not known whether this reconstruction was performed according to the original plans.

A half-story attic is accessible through the stairs in the consultation room. The basement has recently been turned into offices where some fine brick arches remain.

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 checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1853-54 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Benjamin S. Deane

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Washington County Courthouse was designed in 1853 by Col. Benjamin S. Deane. In the same year he also served as architect of the Waldo County Courthouse in Belfast. The two buildings are very similar in design and both still exist today. They reflect the transition of Greek Revival and Italianate styles in Maine architecture during the 1850's, as interpreted by Col. Deane, a pioneer designer in Eastern Maine.

A native of the State, Benjamin Deane was born in Thomaston in 1790. There is no record of his training as an architect or builder but, undoubtedly, the town of Thomaston during the bustling Federal Period supplied opportunities to learn about designing and building which were not missed by an ambitious young man.

During the 1820's Deane's career included service with the Thomaston militia. Starting as a lieutenant in 1821 he rose in rank, eventually receiving a colonel's commission.

His first known architectural work was the planning and direction of the construction of the Thomaston Congregational Church in 1827. The success of this building gained him the commission for the North Church in Belfast in 1831.

Col. Deane moved to the lumber-boom frontier town of Bangor by 1832. At the end of that year he was accepted as a member of the Bangor Mechanic Association. His reputation as an architect and master builder spread, and he was hired to build many Bangor buildings and homes, as well as churches in various counties. Most of his designs from the 1830's through the 1850's were in the Greek Revival style. Examples of these are the Bucksport Congregational Church of 1836, the Sedgewick Baptist Church of 1837 (NR 4/24/73), the Blue Hill Congregational Church of 1842, the North Sedgewick Baptist Church of 1845, and the Somesville Congregational Church of 1852. The Sedgewick Baptist Church was based on drawings from Asher Benjamin's handbook, Practice of Architecture, published in 1833.

The 1850's saw the adoption by Deane of the romantic European styles of France and Italy in his architectural designs. Examples of this period are the Italianate house designed for Hayward Pierce in 1851 (NR 5/7/73) and the Mansard roofed Wheelwright Block of 1859 (NR 7/18/74), both in Bangor.

(See continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Shettleworth, Earle G., Jr., Bangor Daily News, September 15, 1975
 Williamson, Joseph, History of the City of Belfast, 1875
 Original research provided by Lyman Holmes of Machias, Maine

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 | 1621985 | 4952340
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian
Steven Kaplan, Graduate Assistant
Patricia Brown, Student Assistant

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE January, 1976
 STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE 207-289-2133
 CITY OR TOWN Augusta STATE Maine

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 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE July 26, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/9/96

DATE 11/2/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Deane became the leading architect in Eastern Maine during the mid 19th century. His career was ended by his death in 1867.

The Washington County Courthouse was the first brick structure built in Machias and probably the only brick building in the area for miles around. The Courthouse replaced a smaller building on the same site which had previously housed the county offices and jailer's residence. The court sessions had been held in privately owned buildings which were rented by the county. The new building was to have been completed for the October court session of 1854, but the opening was delayed until the following January.

In 1864 the Courthouse was the setting for the trial of three Confederates charged with the attempted robbery of the Calais Bank. The three were found guilty and sentenced as common criminals which caused considerable surprise since it was generally believed they would be treated as prisoners of war.

Mrs. Clara H. Nash of Columbia Falls was the first woman admitted to the bar in New England. She began her law practice in the Washington County Courthouse on October 26, 1872.

The Courthouse is still a public building which serves the entire county. It is an important example of Maine architecture from the 1850's in an area where few public monuments from this period exist.