

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 23 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 10 1979

**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

William Minott House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

45 Park Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maine

VICINITY OF
CODE

23

COUNTY

Cumberland

CODE

005

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Thomas Woodward Thomsen

STREET & NUMBER

188 Danforth Street

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Maine

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

142 Federal Street

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Portland Historic Resources Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Augusta,

STATE

Maine

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 William Minott House of Portland, built in 1805 with a rear addition of 1807, is a distinctive, if not high style, Federal residence.

The 3-story building is of frame construction with low-pitched hip roof, four internal end chimneys of brick, denticulated cornice, clapboard siding, and granite foundation and front steps. Third-floor fenestration is 6/3, while elsewhere it is 6/6.

The ends of the house are four bays wide. The facade, which faces southwest, is five bays wide with a central entrance. This arrangement reflects the center-hall plan typical of the Federal Period. The entrance consists of a single 6-panel door with sidelights. An ornate fanlight within a low arch surmounts the entrance. Above the entrance, in the second story, is a 3-part window within a rectangular frame. This bay contains a 6/6 window flanked by narrow 2/2 apertures. This bay mimics the Palladian form in use in more elegant mansions of the time.

The rear addition of 1807 is two stories high and is wider than the main part of the house by one bay on each side. These bays consist of secondary entrances which are single doors with sidelights and wooden fans overhead. (see significance)

The William Minott House, although not a mansion in the Federal sense, is a remarkable survival in an urban context. That it is now being carefully restored is good, in that it represents a style rare in a city which was devastated by fire in 1866.

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/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 1805, 1807

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William Minott

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A twentieth century visitor to Portland sees little of what transpired here more than 100 years ago. Attacked and destroyed by hostile indians, bombarded and burned by the hostile British and finally razed by a "hurricane of fire" in 1866, the aspects of early Falmouth (called Portland after 1876) are largely gone. Today there are fewer than a dozen Federal residences remaining on the peninsula. Many of these are in declining repair, despite increased awareness of their rarity.

The William Minott House at 45 Park Street remains a fine example of Federal architecture in Portland. Up until its purchase in 1976, this property had suffered drastically from neglect and misuse as a multiple family dwelling. By 1976 it was ready for condemnation and closing. Efforts over the past two years have changed that and the house is about 75-80% completed and occupied.

Originally constructed in 1805 as a home for himself, William Minott, a housewright, made a substantial addition to the structure in 1807, basically converting it into a three family home for himself and his two sons. The novelty and originality of his approach are noteworthy. To the original 3-story square structure was added in the rear a 20 foot X 56 foot, 2-story rectangular addition with a hip roof. The addition exceeds the width of the original house by eight feet on either side. Both of these extensions contain equal, smaller scaled entries with wood fans and leaded side lights.

The William Minott house at 45 Park Street is a uniquely arranged three family Federal residence. It remains as a living reminder and example of a style and culture that once flourished in this community.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Thomsen, T. W., The William Minott House (typewritten ms. at Maine Historic Preservation Commission). 1978

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2
 UTM REFERENCES

A 19 | 398345 | 4833660
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C [] | [] | []

B [] | [] | []
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D [] | [] | []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Map 44, Block A, Lot 19

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/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

April, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

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 S. Feltsteworth Jr.

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

5/18/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Alderman

DATE

7-10-79

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

REGISTERED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Anna Marie Boye

DATE

7/6/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER