Form	10-300
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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7. DESCRIPTION								
CONDITION	(Check One)							
	☐ Excellent	X Good	☐ Fair	☐ Det	er i orated	Ruins	Unexposed	
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	☐ Alter	red	X Unaltered			☐ Moved	○ Original Site	

The Biddeford City Hall is a fine example of a late Nineteenth Century city hall. It was designed by John Calvin Stevens (1855-1940), a noted Maine architect from Portland.

The City Hall is a large three and a half story brick building with clock tower and belfry. The first floor of the building is faced with granite. One half of the first floor is presently occupied by the York County Savings Bank. The windows on this half are large glass while the windows on the other half of the first floor are smaller. The main entrance to the City Hall is topped by decorative carving depicting the date of the construction of the building.

The second floor windows are rectangular and over the main entrance, on the second floor, is a balcony. The third floor windows, however, are arched.

The tower is in three sections. The first section rises from ground level to approximately two stories above the roof of the building. This section is topped with a heavy dentile cornice which is in turn topped with a balustrade. The next section is the clock housing which has a heavy dentile cornice and balustrade. Above this is a belfry topped with

a dome.

IGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known) 1895		
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	X Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	Seat of City
Agriculture	Invention	Science	Government of
	Landscape	Sculpture	Biddeford
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	<u>00)</u>	4	

One aspect of the significance of the Biddeford City Hall is the fact that it was designed by John Calvin Stevens (1855-1940), a leading Maine architect. After graduation from Portland High School, he entered the office of Francis H. Fassett, a pioneer architect in Portland. He soon became Fassett's partner but in 1883 joined in a partnership with Albert W. Cobb. Among Stevens major works were the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital (1888), now Eastern Maine State Hospital, the Sweat Mansion in Portland (1909) and the City Hall in Portland.

Another aspect of the significance of this City Hall is its meaning to the citizens of Biddeford and its location in the town. It is the hub of all life within the city. Its tower along with the tower of the Biddeford Textile Mill form the skyline of the city. Without this building and its tower, late Nineteenth Century Biddeford would cease to exist.

For these reasons, it is important that a building such as this be given the recognition that it so rightly deserves.

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9.	. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES								
	Withey, Henry F. & Withey, Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of								
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