

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 J. G. Deering House
and/or common Dyer Library

2. Location

street & number 371 Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Saco, N/A vicinity of congressional district First
state Maine code 023 county York code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dyer Library Association
street & number 371 Main Street
city, town Saco, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04072

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Registry of Deeds

street & number _____
city, town Alfred, state Maine 04002

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no ___
date N/A N/A federal ___ state ___ county ___ local ___
depository for survey records N/A
city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The J. G. Deering House of Saco, Maine, built in 1870, is a very fine example of the Italianate style in a residential context.

The 2½-story building, constructed of brick with wood and limestone trim, has a gable roof, one internal brick chimney (at the end of the ell), denticulated and bracketed cornice, and granite foundation.

The 3-bayed facade, which faces northwest, features a central entrance covered by an ornate portico, supported by square columns with a balustrade above. Flanking the entrance are three-sided bay windows containing 1/1 sash. The second story contains a central pair of arched 1/1 windows flanked by rectangular 1/1 windows. The facade's half-story contains a central gable with a lunette.

The northeast and southwest sides of the house are three bays wide. The latter side features an enclosed, balustraded porch as a central bay.

Extending from the rear of the house is a two-story ell, on the southwest side of which is another enclosed porch, though lacking a balustrade above.

Connecting the rear end of the ell and the carriage-house is a one-story brick extension which was added in 1955 to accommodate the library. The 1½-story carriage-house itself is of brick construction with a louvered cupola. It was remodelled in 1970.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Original owner and builder: Mr. Joseph Godfrey Deering, 1816-1892, was born in Waterboro, Maine. He ran a grocery store in Pepperrell Square. In 1866 he bought a sawmill on Spring's Island and switched from the grocery business to the lumber business in which he became enormously successful. Deering Lumber Company is today one of the state's largest producers of building supplies.

In 1869 he bought a brickyard and had plans made for this building using Indiana limestone for the outside trim and black walnut for the moldings and stair work. The house was completed in the fall of the same year.

There was no public water in Saco at that time and a large tank was placed on the third floor and pumped full from a well in the yard. The house also claims to be the first to have running water and a toilet in York County.

Frank Cutter Deering, 1866-1939, son of Joseph Godfrey Deering, inherited the house in 1892. He remodeled the original house and added to the rear of the building as the traffic increased on Main Street. The remodelling and additions were done by:

- John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens 1915
- Joseph Stickney 1920
- Bineford & Wardsworth 1929-1930

Mr. Joseph Godfrey Deering, 1894- and Miss Annie Kathering Deering, 1892-, children of Frank Cutter Deering, inherited the house in 1939. In 1955 they remodelled the house for library use and gave it to the Dyer Library Association. It has been used as a library ever since.

The house is the finest of its style in the city and outstanding in the context of the entire state.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biddeford Union & Journal, April 24, 1868; November 19, 1869.
 Fairfield, Roy P., Sands, Spindles, and Steeples. Portland, 1956
 Boston Post, April 28, 1947.

UMT NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UMT NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Old Orchard Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 19 383320 4817380
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H 1512169

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 32, Lot 129

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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, 1981

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earl S. Feltreneworth*

title S.H.P.O. date 12/18/91

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Thomas M. Dwyer</i></u>	date <u>2/17/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	