

PH 6354619

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

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RECEIVED FEB 16 1977

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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



Machias Post Office and Custom House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner Main and Center Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Machias

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd Hon. William Cohen

STATE

Maine

VICINITY OF

CODE

23

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Community Services Administration

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Machias

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Machias

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

1 Elevation
This building of Italianate design is charmingly simple. Typical of its style are the arched doorways and windows, each with a distinctive keystone.

The east facade is composed of a central double-leaf entry door on the first level. This is surrounded by two bays of windows on each of its sides, and a second tier of five segmental windows above. The west facade is identical except that the door is replaced by a fifth window. The south side also has a central double-leaf door which, like the entire central bay of this side, projects outward slightly from the rest of the building. This is capped by a triangular pediment above the roof line. In this bay on the second tier is a single arched window. This two tier central bay is surrounded on both sides by two tiers of single windows. The remaining north side has a less elaborate doorway in the rightmost bay, of its first tier, with two windows on its left. Above this first tier is a second tier of three windows. The foundation is punctured by windows which light a below ground level.

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 | 1872 | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | Alfred B. Mullett |
|----------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Post Office and Custom House in Machias, Maine, was built between 1871 and 1872 to satisfy the then increasing need for a permanent and convenient federal building in that town. Prior to its completion the postmasters and custom collectors were responsible for obtaining their own offices. This had proven unsatisfactory as the location of the offices were frequently changed, and often the space obtained was not suitable for the work. In 1867 Congress authorized the construction of this building and the land where it is now situated was acquired in 1870. Alfred B. Mullett, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department, executed the building design.

Bids for construction were received in May, 1871, but when the bids were opened, they were all found to exceed the congressional appropriation for the building. In order to decrease construction costs, Charles G. Lynch a supervising architect for the Treasury Department, traveled to Machias and arranged to obtain as much building material as he could from local sources. The foundation granite and the brick (except face brick) were to come from nearby Marshfield, Maine. The high-quality dressed granite for other parts of the building was to come from Bluehill, Maine. The labor on the building was to be done on a day by day basis. Lynch, assisted by Horatio L. Hill, a local builder and architect, was in direct charge. Construction began in July, 1871.

It is not known whether or not Lynch made any changes to Mullett's original plans. In his annual report for 1871 - 1872, Mullett stated that a tin roof had to be installed on the new building for economy reasons. This was incorrect as the original specifications for a slate roof were carried out.

The Machias Post Office and Custom House survives today as exemplary municipal architecture. As such it serves the State of Maine as an important link in the evolutionary development of today's federally supported public architecture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Drisko, G.W., Narrative of the Town of Machias, Machias, 1904

Holmes, Lyman, Machias Post Office and Custom House, typewritten manuscript on file

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| 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 |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian
Stephen Kaplen, Graduate Assistant

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE October, 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 B. Shettleworth*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE January 17, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Rettig DATE 11/23/77
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Charles* DATE 11-11-77
 CLERK OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER