

PH 00251962

STATE: **Maine**
 COUNTY: **York**
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: **JAN 18 1974**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: **The (Louis T. Graves Memorial Public Library)** *use both names*
 AND/OR HISTORIC: **U. S. Custom House**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: **Main Street**
 CITY OR TOWN: **Kennebunkport** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **1st: Hon. Peter N. Kyros**
 STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **York** CODE: **037**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Library	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

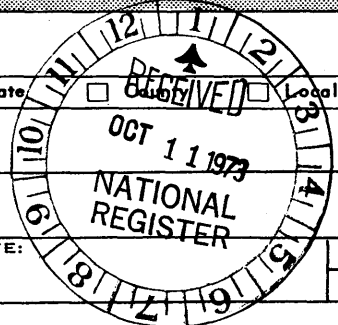
OWNER'S NAME: **Kennebunkport Library Association**
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: **Kennebunkport** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: **York County Court House**
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: **Alfred** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: **None**
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: _____
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7. DESCRIPTION

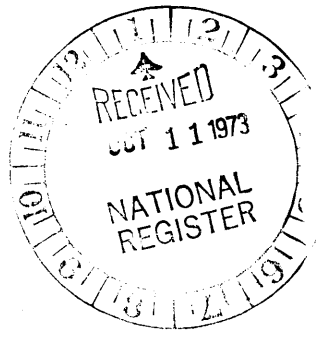
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Graves Memorial Library, formerly a bank and a custom house, is situated on Main Street, Kennebunkport, in the midst of a fine nineteenth century neighborhood. Erected in 1813, the library is a handsome example of Federal style commercial architecture. The building is rectangular, has a granite foundation, two stories of brick, and a hipped roof. The facade has four windows and a doorway on the first floor. The doorway is placed asymmetrically in the second bay from the left. A flight of granite stairs lead to the door. The doorway enframingent and six-panel door are wood, while the arched fanlight above the door is glass with delicate mullions. The one window to the left of the doorway and the three to its right each have six-over-six sash, arched brickwork above them and wooden shutters to either side. A row of five identical windows with the same treatment appear across the second story facade.

The left wall of the Graves Memorial Library has no windows on the first story and only two on the second, one on either side of the location of a chimney which projects above the roofline. The right wall possesses two windows on each story. Like the left wall, these are spaced on either side of a brick chimney which stands above the roof. The side windows are identical in treatment to those on the facade. At the rear of the building are located two compatible one story brick additions dating from 1921 and 1956.

The Graves Memorial Library is in an excellent state of preservation on both the exterior and the interior. The latter displays simple Federal style woodwork. Throughout its long history as a bank, a custom house, and a library, the building has retained its early nineteenth century integrity, while adopting to the needs of its community.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1813-15

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Former U.S.</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Custom House</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, formerly a U.S. Custom House, is both architecturally and historically significant to the town of Kennebunkport and to the State of Maine.

Built between 1813 and 1815 by the Kennebunk Bank of Arundel, this lovely Federal style structure has been a familiar landmark in Kennebunkport since its construction. It was built by the bank and the first floor was used as a bank until 1831 when the charter of the bank was revoked. On November 23, 1832 the building was purchased by the government for permanent use as a U.S. Custom House. The Customs service had been using the building since 1815 with their offices located on the second floor.

By an Act of May 10, 1800, Kennebunkport became headquarters port for the District of Kennebunk, which included the ports of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells. From 1800 to 1815, the U.S. Customs office was located in Kennebunk but with the completion of the new building they moved to Kennebunkport.

In 1812, the amount of tonnage in the District of Kennebunk was 8,552 tons and the amount of customs collected was \$119,850. By 1850, shipping was heavier and in that year the amount of customs collected was over one million dollars on West Indian imports alone. The collector of customs received no regular salary. He did receive 2½% of his collections along with fees for entering and clearing vessels.

In 1913, the District of Kennebunk was abolished and merged with twelve other districts into the District of Portland.

In 1916, the Kennebunkport Library Association was formed and the building was rented from the government. In 1920, when sale of the property was authorized, it was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Abbot Graves who built an addition to the building. On November 14, 1921, the property was deeded to the Library Association provided the library be named for Louis T. Graves, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Abbot Graves. In 1956,

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Three Centuries of Custom Houses, National Society of the Colonial Dames of America.

Pamphlet Concerning the Louis T. Graves Memorial Library, Kennebunkport Library Association

United States Treasury Department History of public buildings under the control of the Treasury Department. Washington, D.C. Government Printing Office, 1901.

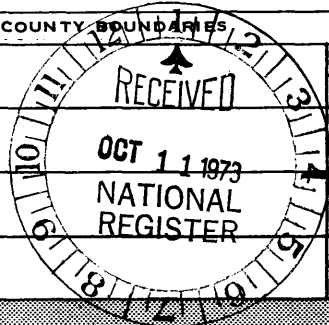
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 21' 42"	70° 28' 32"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Patricia A. Potvin, Secretary**

ORGANIZATION: **U. S. Customs Service** DATE: **August 9, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **312 Fore Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Portland** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: James H. Mundy

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: October 9, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. B. Brewster
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/18/74

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Greenberg
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 1/17/74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 18 1974

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

another addition to the building was added through the generosity of the Rev. Dean Emerson. This new wing houses the Rev. Emerson's 1000 volume collection.

This building has been and remains an important part of the lives of the residents of Kennebunkport. First as a Custom House, it was the hub of all the commercial life in the District of Kennebunk, and now as a library, it is the focal point for educational, cultural, and recreational activities in Kennebunkport.

This small but handsome building, which has played such a great part in the history of the State of Maine, certainly deserves recognition.

