

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Hancock
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	AUG 13 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
 (Ellsworth Public Library)
 AND/OR HISTORIC:
 Col. Meltiah Jordan House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
 State Street
 CITY OR TOWN:
 Ellsworth, Maine
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
 2nd: Hon. William Cohen
 STATE: _____ CODE: 23 COUNTY: Hancock CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify): _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
 City of Ellsworth
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN:
 Ellsworth
 STATE:
 Maine
 CODE:
 23

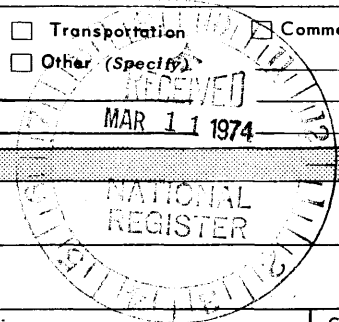
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
 Hancock County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 State Street
 CITY OR TOWN:
 Ellsworth
 STATE:
 Maine
 CODE:
 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 HABS - ME - 24
 DATE OF SURVEY: September, 1937
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 Library of Congress
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN:
 Washington
 STATE:
 D. C.
 CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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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 Ellsworth Public Library, built in 1817 by Col. Meltiah Jordan as a home for his son Benjamin, is a two story clapboarded frame building of the Federal style. It has a low hip roof with an octagonal shuttered cupola, and one chimney, midway between the cupola and the left or west wall. There is a balustrade around the roof, consisting of sets of four balusters, each of which is directly above a window. These sets are separated by rectangular solid panels, filling the spaces between the windows on the balustrade.

The first story of the facade, or south wall, consists of the doorway, flanked by two windows on each side, six lights over six. The second story is similar, except for the middle bay. This contains a Palladian-type window, but without the surmounting arch. The eight identical windows are all shuttered.

The doorway is covered by a portico, which is believed to have been added later. It consists of four Greek doric columns which are fluted. There is a small dentil molding at the base of the frieze. The cornice is surmounted by a solid balustrade which sloped up to the center, where there is a rectangular panel. This motif is repeated atop the cupola. These features taken together reflect a Greek Revival influence. The front door is six panels, with side lights and a semielliptical fanlight.

The right, or east wall contains two windows on the first floor, identical to those of the facade, with two more directly above. There is a large Palladian window filling the central bay. The first story of the rear wall consists of a plain central doorway flanked by two windows identical to those in the facade. Just to the right of the doorway is a small window, unshuttered. The second story has two more windows of the dominant type, directly above those of the first story, with a large eight over eight window in the central bay. This window is topped by a semi-circular fanlight. There are pilasters at each corner of the building. Alterations were made in 1897 when the house was converted to its present function as a library.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



B. SIGNIFICANCE

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 and Known)

Built 1817; altered 1897

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input 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>adaptive use</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>as library</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

This building was erected by Col. Meltiah Jordan, who was born in Biddeford, Maine on December 2, 1753, the great great grandson of Reverend Robert Jordan. The Reverend was a minister in the Church of England, graduate of Balliol College at Oxford, and was the first clergyman to make a distinct career in Maine.

The Colonel came to Ellsworth in 1775 in behalf of Dr. Ivory Hovey's business, who was a merchant as well as a land and mill owner of Berwick, Maine. Jordan later bought out the doctor's estate, and engaged in trade and the lumber business until 1789, when he was appointed Collector of Frenchman's Bay. He continued in this position the rest of his life. In 1776 he married Elizabeth Jellison, sister of Major John Jellison. After raising thirteen children, Jordan died on December 22, 1818, and his wife followed him in two months.

In 1817, shortly before his death, Jordan built the house which is now the library for his third child and eldest son, Benjamin, who was born August 5, 1781 at Ellsworth. Benjamin later sold the house to Seth Tisdale, native of Taunton, Massachusetts, born November 11, 1803. Tisdale came to Ellsworth in 1823 as a housejoiner, and stayed to become one of the town's leading citizens. Many standing buildings reflect his workmanship and taste. He was also a contractor and shipbuilder, among his accomplishments the 1,800 ton HORIZON, largest ship built at Ellsworth. He lived in the Jordan House until his death on March 15, 1875.

In the fall of 1897, George Nixon Black, a native of Ellsworth but resident of Boston, purchased the house and contracted with P.H. Stratton to remodel it to serve as a library. Following completion in January of 1898, it was presented to the town.

The library which moved in at that time had been established in Miss Kate Dyer's millinery store with Adelaide Joy serving as librarian. It later moved to the second floor of the Tisdale Building, where Adelaide True was librarian. In 1870 it was once again moved, to the recently completed Hancock Hall. At the time of the next move, to the Jordan House in 1898, Miss True was still librarian. The library has been endowed by John DeLaittre, an Ellsworth native and resident of Minneapolis; Zachariah Jellison of Ellsworth and New York; Chief Justice L. A. Emery of Ellsworth;

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Albert H., History of Ellsworth, Maine, Lewiston, Maine, Lewiston Journal Printing, 1927.

HABS - ME - 24

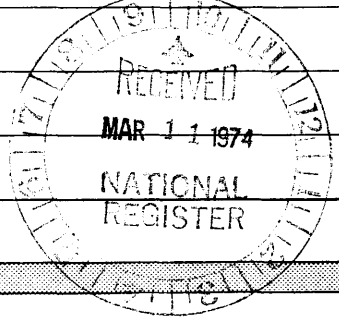
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	° ' "	° ' "		44 ° 32' 32 "	68 ° 25' 34 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **Two acres**

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: **Charles H. Ashton**

ORGANIZATION: **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** DATE: **January 15, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **31 Western Avenue**

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 March 4, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AR. W. Martensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/13/74

ATTEST:
W. S. Mundy
Keeper of The National Register

Date 8.1.74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Hancock	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

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and Miss Elizabeth True, also of Ellsworth.

The present library, besides being a fine example of a Federal style house, is notable in that it has been adapted to a public function as a library, thus hopefully ensuring its survival. It is an excellent case of a residence which has been converted to a practical use for public enlightenment as well as esthetic enjoyment.

