

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| STATE: | Maine |
| COUNTY: | Penobscot |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY DATE | MAY 2 1974 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Adams-Pickering Block

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Corner Main and Middle Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Bangor

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2nd: Hon, William Cohen

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Penobscot** CODE: **019**

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"/> Public <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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) _____ _____ |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Mitchell J. Sleeper

STREET AND NUMBER:
300 West Broadway

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Penobscot County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hammond Street

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

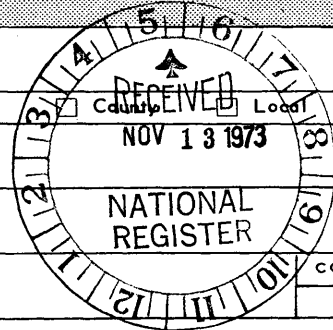
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: **MAY 2 1974**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 Adams-Pickering Block is a four story double block with each side of similar size and design. The building has a granite foundation, is of brick construction, and possesses a granite facade, Both units originally had first story cast iron and glass facades. These have been altered in recent years to a modern glass front. However, at least one cast iron pilaster has survived on the Pickering Block at the corner of Main and Middle Streets.

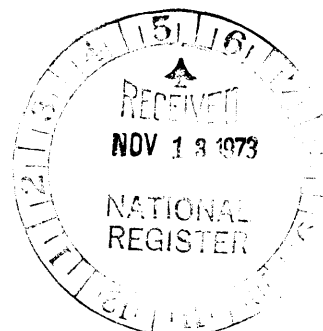
The second and third story facades of the Adams-Pickering Block are faced with Hallowell, Maine, granite in the Italianate style. The Pickering Block at the left has six bays on the second and third stories. There is a pilaster of quoins in the center and at either side. All of the windows have two-over-two panes and arches with keystones in them. In the center between the second and third stories is a rectangular granite plaque with the inscription, "Pickering Block 1871".

The second and third story facade of the Adams Block varies slightly in composition, for it is comprised of seven bays rather than six. A rusticated pilaster appears on either side of the central bay as well as at either side of the block. Each of the windows has a two-over-two pane arrangement and an arch with a keystone in it. Between the second and third story windows of the central bay in raised granite are the words, "Adams Block 1871".

A wooden dentil molding and bracketed cornice run across the facade above the third story. The fourth story facade has two identical mansard roofs. Each of these is slanted slightly inward and has two projecting dormers. Each dormer has double windows and ornamental wooden trim. The mansard roofs are covered with slate which has a decorative pattern. On the front of the top of the building is a wooden balustrade with horizontal rectangular pattern across it. The left, right, and rear walls are brick.

The Adams-Pickering Block is a substantial commercial block of the post-Civil War period. Its handsome granite facade and its fine wooden and slate details make it an impressive element of downtown Bangor.

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) **1871**

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <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 checked="" 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 major significance of the Adams-Pickering Block is found in its architecture and its architect. Erected in 1871, the building was one of several grand mansard roofed commercial structures which the local architect George W. Orff designed for Bangor's business district in the 1870's. With its first story cast iron front and its Hallowell, Maine granite facade, the Adams-Pickering Block and its similar contemporaries were the most sophisticated Victorian commercial buildings in Eastern Maine. The Bangor Fire of 1911 and subsequent urban change, especially urban renewal in 1968, destroyed most of the city's nineteenth century business district. The Adams-Pickering Block is a rare survivor of downtown Victorian Bangor as well as Orff's most distinguished remaining commercial work in the city and the state.

In addition to the importance of the Adams-Pickering Block to Bangor and Maine architecture, its architect, George W. Orff, is a figure of interest. Orff was born in Bangor in 1836 and learned the trade of carpenter locally. From about 1866 to 1869, Orff studied architecture in Boston, probably under Calvin Ryder (1810-1890), a native of Orrington, Maine, who had worked as an architect and builder in the Bangor region during the 1830's and 40's.

Orff returned to Bangor about 1870 and established an active practice there. During his eight year career in the city, he designed both commercial and residential structures. His commercial commissions included the Hatch Block (1875). The Emerson Block (1875), and the Batchelder-Mitchell Block (1876).

In 1878 George W. Orff left Bangor for Minneapolis, Minnesota. He began work there in the spring of 1879 and enjoyed a successful practice there during the 1880's and 90's. He had two different partnerships, one with his brother F. D. Orff and another with an architect named Joraleomon. Both firms seem to have used primarily the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Examples of their works were published in such prestigious journals as the American Architect and Building News and the Inland Architect during the 1880's and 90's. The May 18, 1889, issue of the American Architect

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, April 21, 1871.
Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, November 21, 1871.
Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, November 22, 1871.
Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, January 23, 1872.
 History of Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, 1881,
 p. 608.

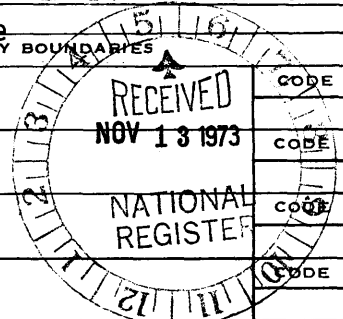
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 |
| NW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | 44° | 48' | 01" |
| NE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | 68° | 46' | 23" |
| SE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | |
| SW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Kelly & Earle G. Shettleworth

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: November, 1973

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. Munday
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date: November 6, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AR. Ruortausen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/2/74

ATTEST: Wm. Munday
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.2.74

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

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| STATE | |
| Maine | |
| COUNTY | |
| Penobscot | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | MAY 2 1974 |

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

illustrates one of the most ambitious works of George W. Orff's career, the J. Frank Collom Mansion in Minneapolis, which was done in conjunction with his brother.

George W. Orff retired to Maine at the turn of the century and died in 1908. He is buried in his native city. The Adams-Pickering Block is his most visible legacy in Bangor as well as in Maine. The building remains today as it was described in the Bangor Daily Whig and Courier of November 22, 1871: "an ornament to the street and a credit to its owner, designer and builders."

