

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Knox	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 25 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Farnsworth Homestead

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
21 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Rockland

STATE Maine	CODE 23	COUNTY: Knox	CODE 013
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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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
William A. Farnsworth Library and Art Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
19 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Rockland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Rockland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
HABS No. ME-77

DATE OF SURVEY: **August, 1960** Federal State County Local

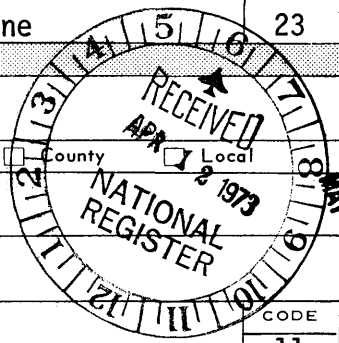
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maine**

COUNTY: **Knox**

ENTRY NUMBER: **25**

DATE: **MAY 25 1973**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Farnsworth Homestead is a fine mid-nineteenth century town house of Greek Revival design. This two story wood frame house is rectangular with a one story ell on the north side. Granite walls backed by brick and stone form the foundation of the house. Two brick chimneys with brick caps rise from the main portion of the house, the ell has one such chimney. This house has a gable roof, parallel to the road, with pediments at the gable (east and west) ends. Projecting eaves top a deep entablature with a plain cornice. On each corner of the main structure, there is a paneled wood pilaster. Centrally located in the south facade, the recessed paneled front door is flanked by sidelights and topped by a transom; a heavy flat entablature and plain pilasters frame this front entrance. The side entrance, located on the east wall of the ell, is comprised of a four paneled wood door flanked by sidelights. All of the windows in the house are double hung, six over six lights, with plain wood sashes and louvered wooden shutters. The south facade has five windows, the east and west ends have four each plus one in the gable pediment. The main portion of the house is covered with flush horizontal wood siding, the ell with lapped horizontal wood siding.

The square carriage barn to the east of the house is topped by an octagonal cupola with a pointed roof and louvered wood shutters on all sides. The front of this structure has three double hung windows of four over four lights (this is the south side). This barn has a boxed cornice with a dentiled freize.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

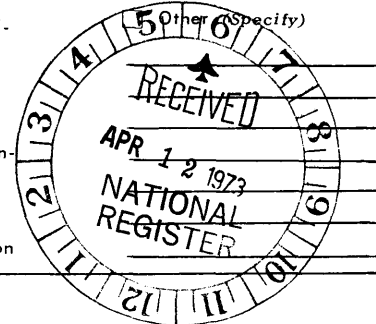
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <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) C. 1854

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 checked="" 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

There have been numerous William Farnsworths in central Maine; one went to Quebec in 1775 with Benedict Arnold, but the succeeding ones were patriots and sound Maine citizens. William A Farnsworth of Rockland was a prominent and prosperous businessman who gained his income from lime-rock property and the Rockland Water Company, which he founded and ran as President. William Farnsworth liked to spend his money and in approximately 1854 he had the large wood frame Greek Revival house on Elm Street built (probably by the W. H. Glover Lumber Co.) which today is known as the Farnsworth Homestead.

At this time (1850-1870), Rockland was the number four port in the United States. The city built ships and furnished lime-rock to the world; the great lime-rock quarries burned cordwood in their kilns. Due to these activities, Rockland Bay was crowded and the streets of the city were filled with shipwrights, sailors, quarrymen and New Brunswick woodsmen.

The Farnsworth family was well known in Rockland. William had six children, but two of the boys died very young, leaving James, Fanny, Josephine and Lucy. Fanny was a beauty and the favorite of her father; she died of consumption in 1877 (her father had died in 1876) at the age of 24. James married, built a home on Cedar Street in Rockland, and became a prosperous businessman. Upon his death in 1905, his estate went to his mother. Josephine married a man from Thomaston and moved to a beautiful house in Boston. Upon Josephine's death in 1907, her estate also went to the mother. All of this property plus the Farnsworth Homestead and estate was subsequently inherited by Lucy, the youngest daughter, when her mother died in 1910. For many years Lucy and her mother had lived in the homestead; with the death of Mrs. Farnsworth, Lucy pulled down all of the window shades and lived the life of a recluse. Then as the manager of a \$250,000 estate, she had extensive real estate holdings including several lime-rock quarries. Known as the "Hettie Green" of Rockland, Lucy Farnsworth was a cold woman who served as her own lawyer in court litigations and who was seen only occasionally walking through the city in old-fashioned black clothing. Yet, she was surprisingly generous when Rockland was in financial need prior to World War I. Ap-

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Courier-Gazette. Rockland, Maine
Maine Writers Research Club. Maine Past and Present. Boston: 1929.
The Saturday Evening Post. May 2, 1953.

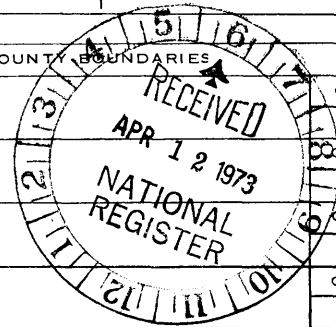
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 ° 06 ' 12 "	69 ° 06 ' 39 "	
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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Wendell Hadlock, Director

ORGANIZATION: **William A. Farnsworth Library and Art Museum** DATE: **1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
19 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Rockland** 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 Liaison Officer
 Date April 10, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/25/73

ATTEST:
Conrad Munday
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5 23 73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Knox	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 25 1973

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

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proached by a tax collector for a loan to the city, Miss Farnsworth simply wrote out a check for \$5,000.

In October of 1935, a milkman discovered Miss Farnsworth's death when seven full bottles accumulated upon her side doorstep. The house was a shambles literally stuffed with money and bonds; the ninety-six year old woman, serving as her own broker had accumulated an estate worth one million and a half dollars, and in her will, which was found in a cupboard, she had stipulated that all of her money was to go to the city of Rockland. An art museum dedicated to her father was sketched in the will. Feeling that the amount stated for this purpose was too scanty in proportion to the funds, the executors, through the courts, broke the will and increased the amount set aside to establish this museum. The William A. Farnsworth Library and Art Museum was opened in 1948, and also in accordance with Lucy's will, the Farnsworth Homestead was restored exactly as a middle class example of the Post Federal era and was opened to the public.

