

PH0365408

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 27 1976

DATE ENTERED

APR 18 1977

**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

* ↓ Knox County Court House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

62 Union Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Rockland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd. Hon. William Cohen

STATE

Maine

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

23

COUNTY

Knox

CODE

013

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Knox County - County Commissioners

STREET & NUMBER

62 Union Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockland

__ VICINITY OF

Maine

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Knox County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockland

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This impressive Italianate structure is raised above a half story of granite, making it necessary to climb a flight of stone stairs to gain access to the building. In order to give daylight to the basement level, the granite foundation has several small windows, four on the front and back walls, and nine on the two side walls.

The structure's entrance is located in a slightly protruding extension from the main building. The main entryway on the east facade is covered by an elegant portico. This is supported by two pairs of stone Doric columns. Above the wide portico cover, a decorative granite balustrade is ornamented by four granite urns. A window looks out onto this balcony and above that is a modified Palladian window with a segmental arch. Above this window and over the roof entablature is a large triangular pediment having a semi-circular window at its center.

To either side of the entry extension are two arched windows on the first level, two segmental windows on the second, and two rectangular windows on the third. A similar arrangement on the north and south side frames a third window arrangement. This different arrangement occurs on the side where the wall projects slightly from the rest of the structure, thereby accommodating the building's four chimneys. The window arrangement differs in that instead of a second and third tier, these have been combined into three two-story high arched windows. Above these windows, on both sides, is a roof dormer. All windows are surrounded by granite trim, with the ground level having the most granite, and the level closest to the roof having the least.

The Courthouse's west wall is similar to the front facade, but without the portico. The building has a wide roof entablature with a decorative box design. At one time an iron balustrade ran along the perimeter of the truncated hip roof. A wooden balustrade along the roof ridge surrounds a tall cupola.

The square cupola is identical on its four sides. Divided into stages, the tower is first punctured by an arched, louvered opening. Above this is a small entrance pediment, reminiscent of the roof dormers and the larger entrance pediments. Above each pediment is a semi-circular window. The entire wooden structure is vaulted by a lantern which gracefully gives way to a pointed weathervane.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

One Hundredth Anniversary, The Knox County Court House, Rockland Courier-Gazette, 1975

Fillmore, Robert B., Chronicles of Knox County, 1921

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	491035	4883200	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		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	DATE	
ORGANIZATION	Stephen Kaplen, Graduate Assistant	DATE	October 1976
STREET & NUMBER	Maine Historic Preservation Commission	TELEPHONE	207-289-2133
CITY OR TOWN	31 Western Avenue	STATE	
	Augusta, 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 Carol D. Shettleworth, Jr.
 TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE October 22, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
CHIEF	DATE 4/18/77
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE 3.18.77
ATTEST: <u>Charles A. [Signature]</u>	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

concerned one major change in original plans, elimination of a gallery in the courtroom for spectators: "The original plan provided for a gallery in front over the entrance for the convenience of spectators, but the plan was changed, the gallery omitted and two rooms finished in place of it." These rooms are the second floor jury and conference rooms still in use at the east end of the building.

The basement level was described as being subdivided by a center corridor from front to rear, "flanked by apartments for cellar and fuel (coal) purposes, as well as boiler room, lockups and lobby for prisoners waiting trial from day-to-day only, including also rooms devoted to water-closets and urinals."

The first, or main, floor on the north side contained the probate offices, with a fireproof vault room attached, and the grand jury room and witness area adjoining. On the south side was located the offices of the Clerk of Courts and the Register of Deeds, both with fireproof vaults.

In addition to the courtroom, and jury and conference rooms on the second floor, there were two "apartments" intended for use as a law library and additional consultation space, as well as judge's chambers.

Above these rooms on the third or mezzanine floor were two other "apartments", for which no particular use was specified.

This massive structure characterized the gravity and authority which is associated with government affairs. Municipal architecture which captures this spirit and translates it into a building form is rare. As an early and well designed example of this tradition, the Knox County Courthouse holds an important place in Maine architecture.