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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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I	NVENTORY	NOMINATION I	FORM DA	APR 1	8 1977
•	SEEI	NSTRUCTIONS IN HOW T TYPE ALL ENTRIES ('S
1	NAME	THEALERING	SOM ELICAL PERO	ABEL OLOTTONO	
*	AND/OR COMMON	Knox County Court Ho	use		
	LOCATION	I			
	STREET & NUMBER	62 Union Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
	CITY, TOWN	Rockland	VICINITY OF	congressional dist 2nd. Hon. Wi	пст illiam Cohen
	STATE	Maine 2	CODE 3	COUNTY	013
	CLASSIFIC	ATION			
	CATEGORY DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT	OWNERSHIP XPUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED	STATUS X_OCCUPIEDUNOCCUPIEDWORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLEYES: RESTRICTED X_YES: UNRESTRICTEDNO	PRES AGRICULTURECOMMERCIALEDUCATIONALENTERTAINMENTXGOVERNMENTINDUSTRIALMILITARY	SENT USE MUSEUMPARKPRIVATE RESIDENC TRELIGIOUSSCIENTIFICTRANSPORTATIONOTHER:
	OWNER OF	an an	County Commission	Barra da haran	
	STREET & NUMBER	62 Union Street		9 . 22 3 78 8°	?
	CITY, TOWN	Rockland —	VICINITY OF	STATE Maine	
1		OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION	<u> </u>	
	COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, E STREET & NUMBER	ETC. Knox County Reg	gistry of Deeds		
	CITY, TOWN			STATE	-
	Inconcer	Representation in Existing Surveys		Mai	ne
6	TITLE	IAHON IN EXIST	ING SUKVE 15		
	DATE	·	FEDERAL	_STATE _COUNTY _LOCA	L
	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
	CITY, TOWN			STATE	

__FAIR

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

X_EXCELLENT __GOOD

RUINS

X_UNALTERED ...ALTERED

X ORIGINAL SITE

__MOVED

DATE_

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 structures 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 simlar arrangment on the north and south side frames a third window This different arrangement occurs on the side where the wall projects slightly from the rest of the structure, therely accomodating 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 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 pucntured by an arched, louvred opening. Above this is a small entrance pediment, reminissent of the roof dorners 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.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1874	BUILDER/ARCHITECT Gridley F. Bryant Lewis P. Rogers			
		INVENTION	•		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
x_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
1 60 0-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1 5 00-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
PERIOD		REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH			

Before 1860, the greater part of the territory now included in Knox County, Maine, was a part of nearby Lincoln County. As people in these towns found it inconvenient to go several miles west to the Lincoln County seat at Wiscasset, an arrangement was made whereby one term of the Supreme Court for Lincoln County would be held at Rockland, in what today is known as Knox County. This, however, did not prove a notable improvement. It was at this time that a proposal was made to establish a new county, to be named for General Henry In 1860, the formation of the County of Knox took place and Rockland became the county seat. As there was no one structure able to accomodate all the county officials, rooms in various buildings were utilized. Eventually Knox County offices were brought together in what was termed the Pillsbury Block, County business was transacted here until 1874, when, after considerable study, a decision was made to secure a loan of \$50,000 and proceed with construction of a court house. However, by the time the building opened, the cost of construction had reached \$83,000. A second loan was made to meet the additional expense.

Gridley F. Bryant, Boston architect and designer of many famous municipal buildings, was assisted by Lewis P. Rogers in formulating the plans for the Italianate Knox County Courthouse at Rockland. The structure was to be 85 feet in length, 55 feet wide, three stories in height above the basement and have a thrity-foot cupola. The first floor would accomodate all the county offices, with fireproof storage areas for records. The second floor would be taken up by the courtroom, "anoble hall", occupying the full width and length of the building with height between floor and ceiling of 24 feet. At either end on two stories would be rooms for judges, jury and counsel, with entrances to the floor and gallery.

A good description of the various interiors of the courthouse was reported in the Rockland Gazette of the time:

"The Court Room is a noble hall, 44 by 52 feet, and 24 feet in height. It has six ample windows, five feet wide and sixteen feet high..." The arched ceiling was reported to be handsomely ornamented with cornice and center piece in stucco work. The judge's platform was raised three steps, and furnished with a large black walnut desk. The clerk's platform was raised a single step, and displayed an elegant roll-top black walnut desk. The bar enclosure featured three handsome tables of corresponding style.

Only one dim view was taken editorially of the overall project. This (See continuation sheet)

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 _ **UTM REFERENCES** VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION عفرا والحافي المرازعين LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE COUNTY CODE CODE STATE CODE COUNTY FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian Stephen Kaplen, Graduate Assistant DATE **ORGANIZATION** Maine Historic Preservation Commission October 1976 TELEPHONE STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue 207-289-2133 CITY OR TOWN Augusta, Maine STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: STATE V LOCAL_ NATIONAL _ 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 FOR NPS USE ONLY INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER CHEF

 Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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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.