

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON: **The Spite House**  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: **The Thomas McCobb House**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: **Deadman's Point**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Rockport** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: **1st: Hon. Peter Kyros**  
 STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Knox** CODE: **013**

**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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: **Mr. Donald Dodge**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: **Deadman's Point**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Rockport,** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

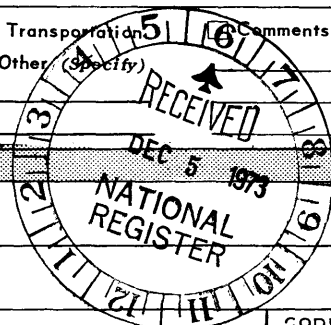
**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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-ME-75**  
 DATE OF SURVEY: **January, 1961**  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**

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 COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Spite House, built in 1806 at Phippsburg, is a fine example of architecture in the Federal style. The main house is almost square, its dimensions being 44' 7" by 39' 6". It is a wood frame house of two stories resting upon its original granite sills. The sills are resting upon a concrete foundation of 1925, the year that the house was moved.

There are four tall chimneys on the main house. An octagon cupola dominates the low hipped roof. The cupola and the roof are surmounted with a balustrade. The roof is a standing seam metal roof put on the house in 1925. The original roof was of wooden shingles.

The windows of the house are all six over six lights. This means the original house only, some of the windows on the 1925 wings are of a different size and with more lights. There are four windows on the first floor facade; two on each side of the single door which is the main entrance. The door is a simple six panel door with a leaded glass fanlight above. The door and light are flanked by pilasters. Above the first floor windows are four wood panels decorated with swags. These swags are original but four more were added to the west side or rear of the house. There are five windows on the second floor facade. Above these windows at the cornice is a band of dentil molding.

Originally there were six windows on the sides of the house as well as a side entrance on the right side. This side entrance was a duplicate of the main entrance. When the house was moved in 1925, some of these windows were taken out to make entrance ways to the wings that were added.

The wings added to the house in 1925-26 are very sympathetic to the original house. The landscaping at the Spite House was well executed and the gardens are beautiful.



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**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) **1806**

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 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 story of the Spite House began with the several marriages of James McCobb who came from Londonderry, Ireland in 1731 and settled in Phippsburg. His first wife was Beatrice Rogers, also from Ireland. She bore him 12 children and lived 35 years in their log cabin. In 1774, James McCobb married Hannah Nichols Miller and built a lovely mansion for her across the road from the log cabin he had built for his first wife. Hannah bore him twin daughters and one son Thomas McCobb.

James McCobb, in 1782 married Mary Langdon Storer Hill who had also survived two other marriages. Her son, Mark Langdon Hill, was to become Maine's first congressman. Mark and the McCobb children grew up in the mansion which was well staffed with slaves.

Thomas McCobb went to sea not long after his father's death. Upon returning from a long voyage he found Mark Langdon Hill to be his brother-in-law. During Thomas' absence his father's will had been broken and the family homestead for all time belonged to Mark Langdon Hill and his heirs.

At this point Thomas McCobb vowed to build the most beautiful house in Maine and one that would dwarf the one he had been deprived of. The house was promptly dubbed "The Spite House". He flaunted the elegance of this house literally in the face of the McCobb Hill House. Once Thomas' stepmother was dead it was evident that his antipathy did not extend to his brother-in-law, Mark Langdon Hill, for they became partners in the shipbuilding firm of Hill and McCobb.

Thomas McCobb died suddenly in 1815 in Boston, while serving in the Massachusetts Legislature as a representative from the District of Maine.

The Spite House was left to the McCobb family in 1883 and in 1915 was purchased by Dr. Adelbert Williams. The house had fallen into sad disrepair and was purchased in 1925 by Donald Dodge of Philadelphia, the present owner.

The house was moved by water 85 miles from Phippsburg to Rockport. Also on the barge that carried the house was the dismantled 1796 Stover House from South Harpswell. This house was to be used in the construction of the wings that were added to the Spite House on its present site.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cramer, Mary Meeker & Currier, Isabel, Spite House, Down East Magazine, September, 1960

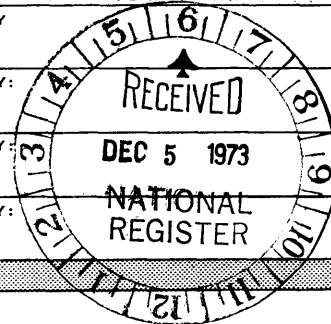
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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° 10' 30"	69° 3' 17"	
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



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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Richard D. Kelly**

ORGANIZATION: **Maine Historic Preservation Commission** DATE: **October, 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. Mundy  
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
 Date: November 30, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

A. Ruess  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/13/74

ATTEST:  
W. S. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 8.8.74

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

*(Continuation Sheet)*

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Knox	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
AUG 13	1974

*(Number all entries)*

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The Dresser Company of Portland moved the House.

This famous and beautiful house was saved by its being moved. It probably would have continued to sink into disrepair and gone the way of so many Maine houses that were built in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Spite House is still a fine example of Federal Architecture and the main house has not been altered to any great degree. This house, due to its beauty and its rich family history, certainly deserves to be recognized.

