

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 27 1985
date entered JAN 10 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ellsworth City Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number City Hall Plaza N/A not for publication

city, town Ellsworth, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Hancock code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name City of Ellsworth

street & number City Hall Plaza

city, town Ellsworth, N/A vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Hancock County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Ellsworth, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ellsworth Historic Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta state Maine

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Ellsworth City Hall occupies a commanding site on a hill above the central business district. Extending out in front of the building and leading to the commercial district is a large parkinglot. To the rear (north) is the Greek Revival style Congregational Church (Nat'l. Register), while to the west is the Jordan Library (National Register) and the County Courthouse and jail.

The City Hall is constructed of brick and stands two stories high. It has a standing seam metal roof and windows with small paned lights. These windows are a combination of segmental arched (basement and dormers), square headed (first and second floors) and round arched (cupola and north elevation of meeting hall).

The principal (south) elevation is one to two stories with a basement level exposed above grade. it has a rectangular center section with a pedimented gable end containing an elaborately carved multi-colored wood town seal. Two flat roofed perpendicular wings extend from either side to link this section with hipped roof flankers. The main entrance to the building is located in the center of this facade.

The opposite side facing north contains the town hall in a two story section with a center pavilion. On either end of this section are narrow hipped roof wings. In the center of the gable roof is a metal round roof cupola resting on an octagonal platform and surmounted by a balustrade.

The interior of the building was designed with fire-proof considerations paramount and is entirely lacking in ornamental features.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1934–35 **Builder/Architect** Edmund Gilchrist, Philadelphia

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ellsworth City Hall is architecturally significant as a variation of Georgian Revival design uncommon to Maine. Designed by Philadelphia architect Edmund Gilchrist, the building's exterior reflects more of the designer's native region than any New England prototypes. This distinctive landmark maintains a commanding location in Ellsworth's downtown and symbolizes the city's reconstruction after a devastating 1933 fire.

On May 7, 1933, a fire destroyed half of the Ellsworth commercial district. Also lost in the conflagration was the City Hall. Edmund Gilchrist, the architect ultimately chosen for the new municipal building, was familiar with the area through his summer visits to nearby Mt. Desert. The architect also proposed designs for the entire rebuilt area. Although not carried out, this large scale scheme probably influenced the design and siting of the City Hall, which is located at the head of Franklin Street overlooking the new commercial district.

Gilchrist's specialty was residential design, including large suburban estates. This work demonstrates his affinity for eighteenth century American architecture. Especially outstanding is the delicately-scaled cupola, which ties together the two disparate elevations and provides a unified design. The building was begun in September, 1934 and completed in April, 1935.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Ellsworth American, April 4, 1985.
Biographical Dictionary of Philadelphia Architects: 1700-1930, Sandra L. Tatman and Roger Moss, Philadelphia, 1985, "Edmund Gilchrist", pp. 304-305.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____ 1 _____

Quadrangle name Ellsworth

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	5	4	15	6	19	15	4	9	3	2	0	7	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 34, Lot 70

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 Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1985

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 *Eric S. Peterson*
title S. H. P. O. date 11/22/85

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Patricia Andrews date 1/10/86
Keeper of the National Register
Attest: *Betty J. Seavage* date 1-8-86
Chief of Registration