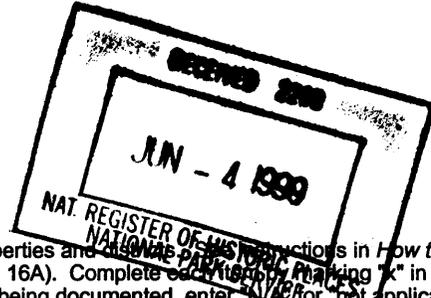
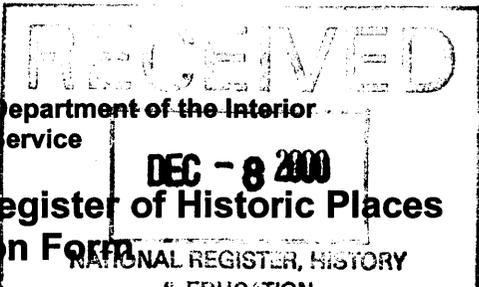


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



769

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See the instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Libby's Colonial Tea Room

other names/site number Johnson's American Museum

2. Location

street & number East Side of Route 1 at Junction with Harrisecket Road N/A not for publication

city or town Wells vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04090

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James S. Freedman 5/21/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper John Sage Date of Action 1/19/07

Libby's Colonial Tea Room
Name of Property

York, Maine
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)
 private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)
 building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Commerce/Trade/Restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Recreation & Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Concrete
walls Wood/Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other Porte-Cochere on Tea Room Building

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LIBBY'S COLONIAL TEA ROOM

YORK, MAINE

Section Number 7 Page 2

Libby's Colonial Tea Room is an expansive one-story, pent gabled frame bungalow that is distinguished by its engaged wraparound porch and porte-cochere. The building is sheathed in German siding, and it stands on a concrete foundation. An elliptical driveway provides access to the tea room from Route 1.

Facing west, the symmetrically composed five-bay front elevation is dominated by the broad low pent gable roof that frames the pent gabled porte-cochere. Sixteen Tuscan columns support the porte-cochere and wraparound porch which extends across the front and along one-half of the long side elevations. On the facade, the porch shelters a Colonial Revival style entrance whose door is framed by columns and a fanlight below a bracketed cornice. Two one-over-one double hung windows flank the entry.

Both side elevations feature a broad pent gable with a Palladian window in the tympanum, and a group of nine double hung windows along the rear half that marks the location of the dining room. Six windows and a door are located on the two walls behind the porch. A narrow one-story ell extends to the rear of the building. Inside, the tea room has a waiting area in the front off of which are bathroom facilities and an office, as well as a large dining room to the rear. Both rooms have boxed beam ceilings and a fireplace with Colonial Revival style mantelpieces.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1923-c. 1942

Significant Dates

1923

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetLIBBY'S COLONIAL TEA ROOMYORK, MAINESection Number 8 Page 2

Libby's Colonial Tea Room is a bungalow style frame building that was built for and operated as a road side restaurant along Route 1 in Wells between 1923 and about 1942. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A for its association with the development of road side tourist services in the early to mid twentieth century, and criterion C for its architectural significance as a large and virtually unaltered example of the bungalow form adapted for use as a restaurant.

Although it is not entirely certain when Elsie (Klingman) Libby (1882-1973) first opened her dining room along Route 1, a brief history of the establishment that she subsequently published indicates that she was in business at this site prior to 1922. On October 5 of that year a fire which started in the stable of the Kentucky Riding Club (which had been founded by her daughter in 1922) led to the destruction of the adjacent late eighteenth or early nineteenth century dwelling that housed the restaurant. The following spring, a new bungalow style dining room was erected on the site of the earlier building. This new facility was advertised as Libby's Colonial Tea Room, and it remained in operation until the effect of decreased tourist traffic during World War II forced its closure. Among the names that appear in the guest book (which still survives) is that of then New York Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt who signed it on October 31, 1932, during the campaign that resulted in his election to the first of his four terms as President.

The history of the development of the tourist industry in Maine in general and in the towns along Route 1 in particular is yet to be written. However, it is evident from a perusal of primary source documentation and field surveys that the cause and effect of a rapid rise in automobile traffic along this particular corridor had a profound impact on the nature of the local economies as well as the built environment that arose to service this new trade. While hotel accommodations at seaside and lakeside destinations with convenient access to railroad connections were well established in Maine during the nineteenth century, the development of road side facilities for auto tourists witnessed explosive growth in the early twentieth century, particularly after World War I. The state's principal highway corridor during this period was Route 1, the coastal route that extended eastward from Maine's border with New Hampshire. Automobile guide books, promotional materials, and the annual editions of the *Maine Register* reveal the steady rise in the number of road side service stations, motor courts, inns, and restaurants that sprang up along Route 1 and elsewhere. Evidence of this pattern of development is especially visible in extant historic motor courts, of which some 100 were identified in a recent field survey conducted by MHPC staff. The practice of converting eighteenth and early nineteenth century residential buildings (which had already begun in the 1800s with such buildings as Staples Inn [NR 6/26/87] in Old Orchard Beach) into inns and restaurants to accommodate motorists also appears to have been widespread in Maine, as witnessed by the fact that Libby's dining room itself was initially operated out of such a house. Both the need for such facilities and the popularity of specific establishments (such as Libby's) provided an economic justification for Elsie Libby to immediately rebuild her dining room after its destruction by fire in 1922. The popularity of Colonial Revival themes in this period, particularly in a community which was settled in the early seventeenth century, undoubtedly inspired the name of the establishment: Libby's Colonial Tea Room..

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LIBBY'S COLONIAL TEA ROOM

YORK, MAINE

Section Number 9 Page 2

Bibliography

“Libby’s.” Brief summary history printed about 1930. Copy on file at Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Libby's Colonial Tea Room
Name of Property

York, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 9 | | 3 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | | 4 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 0 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1999

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LIBBY'S COLONIAL TEA ROOM

YORK, MAINE

Section Number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies a portion of the Town of Wells tax map 80, lot 1A. See map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to encompass only the building that housed Libby's Colonial Tea Room. It does not include the other historic buildings located on this property, most of which have been moved here in the recent past.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LIBBY'S COLONIAL TEA ROOM

YORK CO., ME

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 3

Kirk F. Mohny

8/19/1998

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from SW

2 of 3

Kirk F. Mohny

8/19/1998

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of front elevation

3 of 3

Kirk F. Mohny

8/19/1998

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of dining room looking W

Libby's Colonial Tea Room
Wells, York Co., Maine

(Building not to scale)

