

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Penobscot
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 2 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Morse & Co. Office Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harlow Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Bangor

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Penobscot CODE: 019

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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" 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"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	<u>Vacant</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. David Rapaport

STREET AND NUMBER:
5 Elm Street

CITY OR TOWN: Bangor STATE: Maine CODE: 23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Penobscot County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN: Bangor STATE: Maine CODE: 23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Penobscot

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

PH0084679

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Morse & Co. office building was constructed in 1895. It was obviously intended to be an example of the company's widely acclaimed high quality work. It originally served two functions. It was both an administrative center and show place for representative lines of Morse & Co. goods.

The building is two stories high with large areas of plate glass on the ground floor. The combined floor area of the building (including basement) was estimated at 10,000 square feet. The basement was used for stock storage and shipment. The ground floor is divided into two large rooms. One was used for storage and the other as a display and sales room.



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6. SIGNIFICANCE

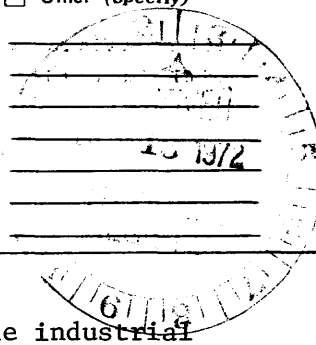
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1895

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/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> losophy | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> itarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Morse & Co. was Bangor's outstanding example of the industrial commercial conglomerate typical of the late nineteenth century. "The great aim of the present day in business is concentration, you know", said Walter L. Morse in 1896. When the firm was liquidated in 1948, Bangor's Daily Commercial declared that "another era in the history of Bangor is ended. Once the greatest lumber port in the world, now the Queen City is a port without even a mill, let alone lumber".

In 1851, Llewellyn J. Morse and Hiram P. Oliver leased the Drummond saw mill on Kenduskeag Stream which dated from 1814. Eight years later they purchased the mill from the Drummond heirs and Frank Hight joined the partnership. In 1858, the old grist mill was demolished, redesigned, and rebuilt for steam power. The partners purchased the McQuestion mill on the same stream in 1860. The firm was incorporated under their old name in 1889.

The company engaged in many diverse business activities. For many years it was the largest salt grinder in New England until their product was forced from the market by western salt. In 1885, their saw mill capacity was estimated to be 5-6,000,000 feet. In 1901, they produced between 40-50,000 daily. The firm handled 150,000 bushels of corn and 80,000 pounds of wool a year. They harvested ice until they met the competition of a larger ice conglomerate. Above all, Morse & Co. were known for their fine interior and exterior finishes. Their carefully crafted materials were used in Beacon Street town houses in Boston and summer residences in Bar Harbor. Locally, the company provided the materials for rebuilding large areas in Bangor after the disastrous \$3,000,000. fire of 1911.

For nearly one hundred years Morse & Co. was Bangor's largest firm and maintained her lumbering tradition. The company was a focus for local community pride. At the present, the city planners are considering the commemoration of Morse & Co.'s contribution to the city's history by the establishment of a 440 acre park along Kenduskeag Stream. "In time", the Bangor Daily News recently noted, "the planners envision the addition of an historical museum complex, including possibly acquiring and preserving one or two of the historic buildings of Morse's mill".

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edward Mithcell Blanding. The City of Bangor. Bangor, 1899.
Leading Business Men of Bangor, Rockland and Vicinity. Boston, 1888.
Industries and Wealth of the Principal Points in Maine. New York, 1893.
 Various Articles: Bangor Daily News; Bangor Daily Commercial;
Industrial Journal.

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	0 ' "	0 ' "		44 0 48 26 "	68 0 46 43 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Kenneth M. Morrison

ORGANIZATION: Department of History DATE: August 3, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 University of Maine, Stevens Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Orono 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 Liaison Officer
 Date: 10-9-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert A. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/2/73

ATTEST:
Wm. J. Mumford
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 3.26.73

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