

PH0025119

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-12-18-0016	DATE 12/3/69

1. NAME

COMMON:
(John) Hancock Warehouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Lindsay Road

CITY OR TOWN:
York

STATE Maine	CODE 18	COUNTY: York	CODE 031
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	currently being developed as a museum by Historic Landmarks which has extended lease
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Newcomen Society in North America

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 113

CITY OR TOWN:
Downingtown

STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 37
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

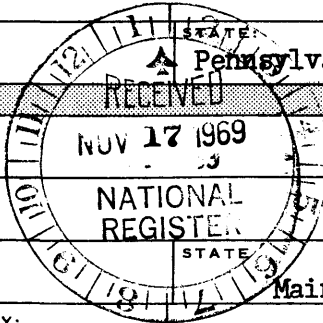
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
York County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Alfred

STATE: Maine	CODE 18
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: York

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ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The frame warehouse built in the mid-1700's was restored and is now maintained by a York organization, the Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks. It is the only Colonial commercial building still standing in York.

The building is 26' long, 24' wide and 40' high.

The interior has rough open construction, all beams mortised and tenoned, and all joints pegged.

It was restored in the 1950's. However, very minor changes were made. Outside shingles and interior cleaning were the major needs.

It has a second floor with access from an exterior ramp and an interior stairway. A wheel to elevate goods to the second floor is in working condition.

It is unlikely that Hancock ever visited the warehouse. There is evidence that he did visit Judge Johnathan Sayward, a Royalist, on June 24, 1791. As Sayward's home was also on the York River, it is possible that he inspected the warehouse at that time.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

John Hancock is better known for his political involvement than for his trading activities; nevertheless he was the holder of a vast fortune by the age of twenty-seven due to his being the heir to his merchant uncle's fortune. Hancock never showed any great talent for trade and at the encouragement of Samuel Adams was soon much more involved in politics than in commerce.

Since for all practical purposes, cash was non-existent in the New England area during the post Revolutionary era, bartering was commonplace. Items of merchandise were whalebone and oil, molasses, cured fish, tar, leather, bales of fur, salt, and coal were exchanged for the commodities of rich fabrics, buckles, fans and swords, hourglasses, rum wine, tea and ornate furniture. Among those products, not surprisingly, rum had the quickest turnover. John Hancock had warehouses and wharves along the entire coast, along with a number of ships to transport his goods. His investments in Maine, however, did not appear to be very lucrative - for instance, he inherited from his Uncle Thomas fifty thousand acres of vast timber tracts in Maine which failed to appreciate materially in John's lifetime.

He also owned a small business in the remote little town of York, Maine in the form of a wharf, store and storehouse, that were situated just south of Sewall's Bridge on the York River.

There seem to be dissenting opinions on Hancock's manner of acquisition of his York warehouse. Some researchers believe it was acquired in a simple sale from Daniel Bragdon, while others say that Hancock had taken it from Bragdon in a mortgage foreclosure. They do agree that he only owned one half of the warehouse, which he shared with Joseph Tucker. After Hancock's death, the heir, his brother Ebenezer sold his share of the warehouse to Tucker. Further confusion exists over the question of whether Hancock ever actually saw his property, or whether he carried through the deal by means of a local representative. Daniel Bragdon did make several trips to Massachusetts for political reasons, and the two may have met during the various conventions. One source states that it is "doubtful if John Hancock himself ever came to York," whereas another convincingly describes a specific visit of Hancock, accompanied by his wife and his official suite, to the home of Judge Johnathan Sayward on June 24, 1791. The Governor and the Judge were old friends in pre-Revolutionary times and in 1767, Sayward had launched a brig for the Governor. In the years following, their political paths had widely diverged, and the visit was a gracious gesture to Sayward, a Royalist, who was on the losing side in the Revolutionary War. A portion of the Judge's diary is cited as proof of this visit:

"Governor Hancock and Lady paid me an agreeable visit and dined with a large company with which he honoured me and in confidence regained my judgement of

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crawford, Mary Caroline, Old Boston Days and Ways, Little, Brown Co., Boston 1909
 Ernest, Wilhemina and George, Historic York, Maine, York Press, 1957
 Banks, C.E., History of York, Maine, Vol. 1, p. 275
 Gray, Jackie, John Hancock, His Wharf and Warehouse in York, Maine, York, Me. 1968
 Allan, H.S., John Hancock, Patriot in Purple, MacMillan Company, 1948
 Fiske, John, The American Revolution, Houghton Mifflin Company, New York 1897

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 08' 13"	70° 39' 28"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

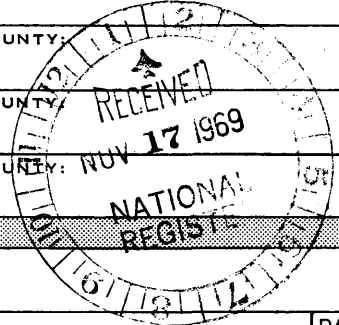
11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John W. Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **State Park and Recreation Commission** DATE: **November 14, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **18**



12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Lawrence Stuart
Lawrence Stuart
 Title Director

Date 11-14-69

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

Ernest Allen Cunnally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 2 1969

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. Imhof
 Keeper of The National Register

Date NOV 26 1969

19/36512014777100
 1-26-76
 UTM ref
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

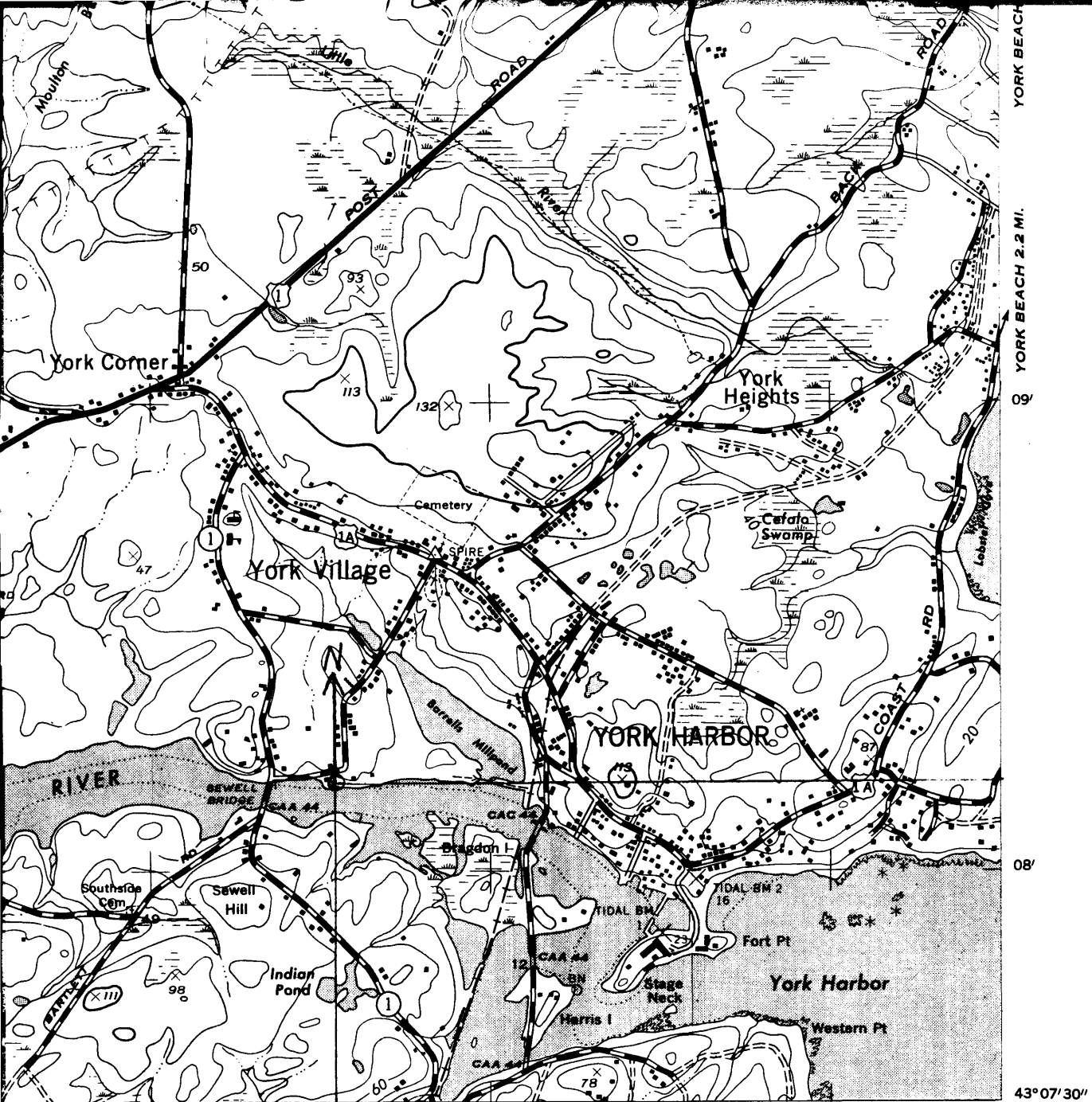
STATE Maine	
COUNTY York	
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69-12-18-0016	12/3/69

(Number all entries)

continuation of statement of significance:

men for the good of the country in which I hope I have done some service." The reasons for Hancock's obtaining the York Warehouse and wharf were many - in addition to being a secluded hide-away for his valuable private possessions during the hard times, it was a handy place to hide contraband goods from the suspicious, prowling tax collectors. After Ebenezer Hancock relinquished his inherited York property to Joseph Tucker, it was passed down through generations.

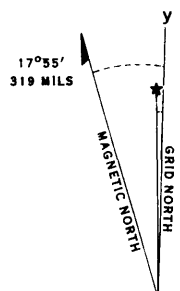
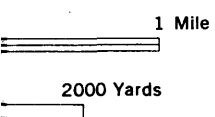




40' KITTERY POINT 39' 38' 70° 37' 30"

3.9 MI.
John Hancock Warehouse

43° 08' 13"
70° 39' 28"



APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION 1943
ANNUAL MAGNETIC CHANGE 1' INCREASE

WOODLAND CLASSIFICATION

- Dense woodland
- Scattered brush and trees
- Approximate low water line
- Dense brush
- Orchard

YORK HARBOR, ME.
N4307.5-W7037.5/7.5
EDITION OF 1944