PH6004165

Form 10-300 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Maine	
COUNTY:	
Sagadahoc	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)	A LIBIN	EED 2 2 107
. NAME		TEB 6 8 197
COMMON:		· 1
Southard Block		100
AND/OR HISTORIC:		
2. LOCATION		. : ]
STREET AND NUMBER:		<u></u>
25 Front Street		<u> </u>
Richmond 04357 (1st District Hon. Pe	eter N. Kyros)	
CODE		CODE
	adahoc	023
3. CLASSIFICATION		
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE
(Check One)		TO THE PUBLIC
□ District 🗗 Building □ Public Public Acquisition:	▼ Occupied	Yes:
☐ Site ☐ Structure 🔀 Private ☐ In Process	Unoccupied	☐ Restricted
☐ Object ☐ Both ☐ Being Considered	Preservation work	☑ Unrestricted
	in progress	□ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		
☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park	☐ Transportation	Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence		
	Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious	Uther (Specify)	
	Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational     ☐ Military     ☐ Religious       ☐ Entertainment     ☐ Museum     ☐ Scientific	Other (Specify)	
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				(Check One)		
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	🔀 Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check Or	ne)		(Che	eck One)
	☐ Alter	ed	XX Unaltered		Moved	Original Site

## LOCATION AND SETTING:

This building is located on the corner of White Street as it intersects with the west side of Water Street in the Town of Richmond. Water Street runs parallel with the Kennebec River, removed 300' from the river, and it is an improved section of Maine Rt. #24. Immediately south of the Southard Block there is old wooden Row House in poor condition and next to it is a two story gable roof brick building. The area directly across Water Street has been cleared to make way for a boat launching facility and a parking area which serves a brick factory building built in 1881. The factory is still in use. This river front section of Richmond has been improved in late years. Many irretrievable buildings have been removed to provide open spaces. The buildings which remain are complimented by the open spaces. One of these buildings is the Southard Block which has been purchased by people who desire to restore it and in doing so inspire the restoration of other buildings still remaining in this area.

## THE SOUTHARD BLOCK:

1. The following information is drawn from the Richmond Bees, a newspaper for the years 1880 through 1883.

"The lot between White Street and Church Street on Front Street where the Thomas Jefferson Southard Bank and Counting House is to be located has been bought for \$1,000. The gravel for the cement in the cellar has been lightered from Swan Island."

"In answerto many inquiries concerning the solid block masonry in the cellar of the Southard Block, we will say that it is intended for the foundation of a bank vault."

"Honorable T. J. Southard has built a whole dock of tenement houses near the factory (Southard Mill) reaching the whole distance between two streets. At each corner is a large brick house (apartments on the left and bank on the right) with 2 story dwellings the whole distance between."

"The building (counting house) is three stories high, 52' by 55' and has an iron from (arrived Aug. 11, 1882 on steamer Star). The cellar is 6½' deep, well cemented and contains two large cisterns. Except for two tenements in the rear, the entire first floor is reserved for banking. This area is divided into two rooms, each 22' by 20'by 12' high. The flooring is brick. Wainscoting is ash and black walnut. The doors are also black walnut. The ceiling is decorated.

The director's rooms in the rear are 17' by 13'. In the south room the directors quarters are separated from the main room by columns instead of partitions. The bank vault is set upon a solid stone foundation 16' by 12'. The floors are brick and 12" thick. The walls are also 2' thick with an air space. The compartments are 7' high and covered with a layer of railroad iron upon which is laid two solid feet of bricks. A brick partition 8" thick separates the two vaults. A hard pine stairway 6' wide leads to the second floor which is divided into two rooms. Wm. S. Hagar uses one room while T. J. Southard & Sons Co. uses the other. Each room is 20' by 22' and II' high. A stairway leading to the third floor is also hard pine, but is a mere four feet wide. On the third floor is a hall complete with antercoms and closets.

	IGNIFICANCE		
	PERIOD (Check One or More as A	ppropriate)	
	Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
	15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☐ 19th Century
	SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	and Known)   882	
	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Chec.	k One or More as Appropriate	
i.	Abor i ginal	☐ Education	☐ Political ☑ Urban Planning
-N - N - 20	Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi- (Specify)
	☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy AND MILES OF THE
	☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science 111 6
		Landscape	Sculpture
ωŹ	☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-
j		Literature	itarian RECO
,	Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater
	☐ Conservation	Music	☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural: The Southard Block equates a functional adaptation of a building built in "the Second Empire Style."

BACKGROUND: Richmond, the most northerly town of Sagadahoc County is situated on the west bank of the Kennebec River, between Gardiner and Bowdoinham. The Maine Central Railroad passes through the town near the river. It derives its name from Fort Richmond built in 1719-1720 to facilitate trade with the Indians and provide protection settlers. In 1762 on the incorporation of the Town of Bowdoinham, the territory now comprising Richmond, was placed under Bowdoinham's protection. In 1779 the Richmond territory was annexed into Bowdoinham and it was not until 1823 that Richmond set up housekeeping for itself. This section of Maine, about the lower Kennebec River, was the scene of early settlement, farming, lumbering, shipbuilding and small industry. The history of one town was often the history of its neighbor until the 19th Century. The locality now known as Richmond Village was named White's Landing in honor of Brazille White, a lumberman and storekeeper. In time the village grew into a shipping port, with local industries of shipbuilding and manufacturing. An early and long lasting influence was exercised by a certain Thomas Jefferson Southard.

## THOMAS JEFFERSON SOUTHARD

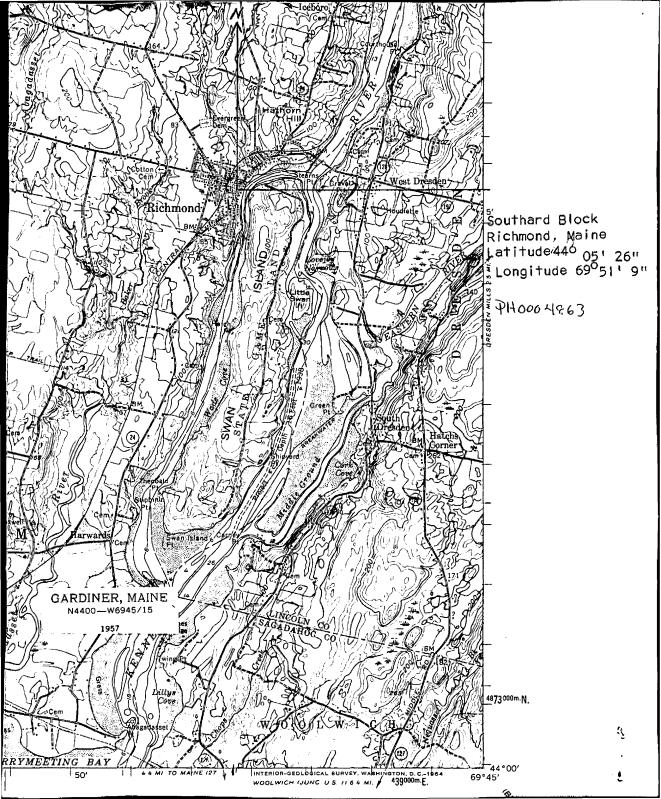
The sudden leap of Richmond into a leading place second only to Bath was in large measure due to one man whose energy and business acumen were extraordinary. This was Thomas J. Southard. Born in Boothbay, he had come to Richmond as a young man. While he worked at the trade of shipsmith, he studied drafting and construction to such good purpose that when only twenty—eight he launched his first schooner, the "Texas". This he followed with a group of small coasters evidently designed for the southern trade. They bore the names of cities of that section—"Savannah", "Richmond", "Wilmington", and others. Gradually he expanded, buildings brigs, barks, and finally large ships which had an enviable reputation for a reliability of construction and trimness of line.

His industry was produgious. Besides supervising the work in his yards he ran a dry and West Indies goods store which did a business of \$50,000 a year, was the village postmaster, managed a drugstore, operated a planning mill and a grist mill, became the leading promoter of the Southard Cotton Mill andbuild several business blocks in his town. He also served as an active director of various railroads, telegraph companies, towage corporations, and banks. His eight-eight years were full indeed. His fleet bore at the masthead the Southard House flag displaying an anvil as its device.

		ICAL R	

- 1. Adams, Silas, the History of the Town of Bowdoinham 1762-1912, Fairfield, Maine 1912.
- 2. Newspaper article; Richmond Bee 1880-1893
- 3. Rowe, William Hutchinson, The Maritime History of Maine, Freeport.

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Form 10-301 (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	OR STATE Maine
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PL	COUNTY
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF MISTORIC I E.	Sagadahoc
	PROPERTY MAP FORM	FOR NPS USE ONLY
	(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with	map) ENTRY NUMBER DATE
1. NAME		FEB 23 1
соммои:	Southard Block	A offulty
AND/OR I	HISTORIC:	100/ MINE 1971 (3)
2. LOCATIO	N	i to to
STREET	AND NUM BER:	1-1 30
	23 Front St.	NATIONAL (0) REGISTER (0)
CITY OR	TOWN:	REU.
L	Richmond 04357 (1st District )	Hon. Peter (N) Kyros)
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY: CODE
	Maine 23	02.3
3. MAP REF	ERENCE	
SOURCE:		
	U.S.G.S. Gardiner Quadrangle	
SCALE:	1:62500	
DATE:	1957	
4. REQUIRE	MENTS	
TO BE IN	CLUDED ON ALL MAPS	
1. P	roperty broundaries where required.	
2. N	orth arrow.	
3. 1	atitude and longitude reference.	