

PH0508110

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **OCT 31 1977**

DATE ENTERED **FEB 17 1978**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Woolwich Town House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

N E of Bath

Corner, Old Stage Road & Dana Mills Road NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Woolwich Bath vic.

VICINITY OF

1st - Hon. David Emery

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maine

23

Sagadahoc

023

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Woolwich

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Woolwich

VICINITY OF

STATE
Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bath

STATE
Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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 Woolwich Town House, built in 1837 by William D. Leonard, is a rectangular frame building on a brick foundation, with gable roof (covered with asphalt shingles), clapboard siding, and granite foundation. A small brick chimney is present, located near the north end of the building on the east side of the roof ridge. The structure consists of one story, with loft overhead.

The main facade, in the gable end, faces south. Twin entrances are present, framed in Doric pilasters with simple entablatured lintel above. Each entrance contains a single doorway of seven panels with a transom light of four panes. Between the entrances are three windows, the central one of which is slightly higher than the other two. All windows in the building are six-over-six double-hung sash.

The east and west sides of the town house are three bays wide, in both cases featuring three 6/6 windows, even-spaced.

Above the central window on the main facade is a rectangular wooden sign carrying the message: "WOOLWICH TOWN HOUSE/1837".

Both internally and externally, the Woolwich Town House is a well-preserved rural example of a simple yet dignified public building type common on the early 19th-century landscape of Maine. As an unaltered survival, it is a fine representative of its class.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1837 BUILDER/ARCHITECT William D. Leonard

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Woolwich Town Hall, unaltered from its original spartan simplicity, survives as a classic example of rural public architecture of the first half of the 19th century in Maine. Built in 1837 by vote of the town, it replaced the local meeting house as the site of town meetings and other non-religious gatherings.

Of particular interest is the fact that the building was built with funds arising out of the distribution of the Federal surplus beginning in 1836.

By 1835 the national debt was finally liquidated for the first time, but additional funds still poured into the Federal Treasury. This revenue flowed principally from the customhouses which were benefiting from the high tariff duties and the heavy imports resulting from a boom in the economy. In 1836 Congress passed a bill authorizing the distribution of the surplus above \$5,000,000 among the states. President Jackson, who had pocket vetoed a similar bill in 1833, approved the bill which became effective on January 1, 1837.

The surplus was to be "deposited" with the States in proportion to the number of their representatives in both houses of Congress. The deposit was supposedly subject to recall at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Treasury. The real intention was to make a present to the States, but the law provided for a deposit to satisfy the scruples of some Senators and Representatives who denied the constitutional rights of Congress to give away the public money.

The Maine Legislature voted that the money thus received be divided among the towns and plantations, according to population. The towns and plantations were permitted to use the money for any purpose for which money raised by taxation might be used or to loan on ample security.

On September 11, 1837, the Town of Woolwich, in town meeting, voted: "That this town receive its proportion of the money which is or may be deposited with this state by the United States, in pursuance of an Act to regulate the deposit of public money apportioned to the State of Maine, on deposit, by the Government of the United States." and

"That 800 Dollars of the surplus money be appropriated for building a town house."

Thus the Woolwich Town House stands both as a pure example of its kind and as an evidence of one use to which the surplus public monies of the United States were put.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Woolwich Town Records

Louis C. Hatch, Maine, A History. Portland, 1919

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	4	3	8	2	3	0	4	8	6	8	5	6	0
ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING							

B

ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING							

C

ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING							

D

ZONE		EASTING					NORTHING							

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 Frank A. Beard, Historian
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE October, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street TELEPHONE 289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta STATE Maine

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 *Carroll S. Shelton, Jr.* DATE *October 27, 1977*

TITLE *SHPO*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Robert B. Rethig</i>	DATE <i>2/17/78</i>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <i>Charles Adams</i>	DATE <i>2/17/78</i>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	