

PH# 354481

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

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

**

McCobb - Hill - Minott House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Parker Head Road

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Phippsburg

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maine

VICINITY OF
CODE

1st Hon. David Emery

COUNTY

Sagadahoc

CODE

023

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Frederick M. Haggett

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Phippsburg Center

VICINITY OF

Maine

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sagadahoc Cty. Reg. of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bath

STATE
Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey - ME 117

DATE

1962

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington,

STATE
D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McCobb-Hill-Minott House, dating from 1774, is a foursquare, frame, hip-roofed, Georgian style house with two internal chimneys, clapboard siding and a square cupola which possibly dates slightly later than the rest of the structure.

The cupola, capped by a low-pitched hip roof, has windows on three sides and a door on the north-west side. This door provides access to the roof and chimneys. The cupola has fine detail, including a denticulated cornice and quoins.

The south-east and north-west facades of this two-story house are each five bays wide. Both feature doorways reflecting the center-hall plan. Both doorways are flanked by Doric pilasters and surmounted by triangular pediments. The cornice of the south-east pediment is denticulated. All of the windows in both stories are six-over-six with simple wedge-shaped lintels. The south-west and north-east elevation each contained four windows in each story, in pairs. However, the first story of the north-east side has been altered on the northern end by the creation of a simple door as well as a window wider than the rest. The four corners of the house are ornamented with quoins. The foundation is mortared field-stone.

Running from the north corner of the house in a north-easterly direction are an attached ell and barn, built in 1870. These are stylistically Greek Revival though very restrained. They are compatible with the house, in design, materials, and color.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Settlement
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1774

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Isaac Packard

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McCobb-Hill-Minott House of 1774, built in the grand and solid Georgian style is a classic example of those early coastal residences in southwestern Maine which represented the wealth and stability achieved by a few in the second half of the 18th century. Moreover, this residence continued to be intimately connected with the industrial, commercial and political history of Phippsburg for almost 150 years.

First settled in 1659 by John Parker II, who purchased the greater part of the town from the Indians, Phippsburg, which had been the site of the abortive Popham Colony in 1608, was depopulated by the end of the century as a result of the early colonial wars. With the arrival of James McCobb^{of} Londonderry, Ireland, in 1731, that part now known as Phippsburg Center came again to life. Prospering during his lifetime in both lumber and commerce. McCobb acquired vast tracts of land in the region including his "Homestead Farm" of more than a 1000 Acres. It was here that he built the fine foursquare home for the second of his three wives. In addition to his business concerns, he played a major role in town affairs and headed the local Committee of Safety during the Revolution. He died in 1788 at the age of 78.

McCobb's third wife, twice widowed Mary (Langdon) Storer Hill of Biddeford, whom he married at the age of 72 when she was 48, brought to Phippsburg with her a son, Mark Langdon Hill, who continued to live in the home of his stepfather for the rest of his life and, in fact, married one of his twin stepsisters. It was this marriage and Hill's inheritance of the house which prompted Thomas McCobb, a son by the second wife, who expected to be heir to the property, to build the so-called "Spite" House (since moved to Rockport - N.R. 8/13/74). This was an even grander structure designed to overshadow the house of his brother-in-law.

Mark Hill became one of the early major shipbuilders in a community noted for this industry. He entered into a partnership with Thomas McCobb in 1796 and the firm of Hill-McCobb launched eight major vessels all of which engaged in the West Indies trade. Hill, however, achieved greater distinction through his career of public service. Appointed the first local postmaster in 1801, he later became Judge of Common Pleas in 1810 and Chief Justice, Court of Sessions, in 1811. He was nominated for Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts but declined. In 1818 he served on a Commission to settle land disputes with the Penobscot Indians. Between 1819 and 1823 Hill was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, being one of Maine's first Congressman when statehood was achieved in 1820. Oddly enough, his support of the Missouri Compromise, which brought statehood about,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maine Catalogue, HABS, Maine State Museum, 1974

Phippsburg - Fair to the Wind, Phippsburg Historical Society, Lewiston, 1965

National Register Nomination, "The Spite House", 8/13/74

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	434710	4851910	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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	DATE	April, 1977
ORGANIZATION	Maine Historic Preservation Commission	TELEPHONE	289-2133
STREET & NUMBER	31 Western Avenue	STATE	Maine
CITY OR TOWN	Augusta		

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE Earle S. Shettleworth, Jr.
 TITLE S.H.P.O. DATE 5/5/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Robert B. Rettig</u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	<u>John</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST: <u>Charles Adams</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>11/23/77</u> DATE <u>11-18-77</u>

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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was unpopular in his own district and resulted in the abrupt decline of his political fortunes. He died in 1842.

Charles V. Minott, who purchased the house in 1853, was born in Bowdoinham, Maine in 1826. In 1845 he began as a ship's carpenter in the Levi Houghton yard in Bath and four years later became a master builder at the Gen. Joseph Berry shipyard in Georgetown. Founding his own yard in Phippsburg Center in 1853, he became one of the most successful builders in the region, launching 34 major vessels between that time and his death in 1903. Many of these ships were retained in his ownership and, although building ceased after 1904, the yard was kept in operation by Charles V. Minott, Jr. to service the fleet until the last vessel was sold in 1917.

The James McCobb House, so richly steeped in the heritage of Phippsburg, is still owned by the granddaughter of Charles V. Minott, Sr.