

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Thomas Brackett Reed House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Thomas Brackett Reed House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
30-32 Deering Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
1

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Cumberland** CODE: **005**

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"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Physicians' offices

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Frank C. Rodway

STREET AND NUMBER:
168 York Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Cumberland County Courthouse, 142 Federal Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
National Register of Historic Places

DATE OF SURVEY: **1972** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Register of Historic Places

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fashionable residences of the same period surround the High Victorian Thomas Brackett Reed House, which is trimmed with Eastlake-style decoration. From 1888 to 1902, Reed owned the 32 Deering Street side of the brick double house, and William L. Putnam, former mayor of Portland and later a U.S. Circuit Court judge, resided in the other. Designed by F. H. Fassett & Son and built by Simon H. Libby in 1876, the dwelling consisted of a three-story main section, measuring about 52 X 38 feet, and a two-story extension, measuring about 40 X 36 feet. After Reed's death, slate dormers were added to the original hipped roof of the main section. Short, unobtrusive additions were made to parts of the rear, also, and apparently the fire escapes were added at about the same time.

The four-bay-wide front of the house contains a pair of handsome double doors. To either side of them is a triple window, consisting of a high and wide center window and two narrower flanking ones. On the second and third floors are similar triple windows and single windows. Windows on the first and second stories have elaborately carved sandstone capitals inlaid with colorful patterned tiles. Third-floor windows have simpler carving and no tiles. The single windows on either side of the main section repeat the pattern, too, except that one wooden first-story bay window extends from either side. The windows of the rear section have plain sandstone lintels.

Elaborate stringcourses delineate each floor of the main section. Between the high cellar and the first story are two blue-painted red brick bands. The stringcourse between the first and second floors consists of patterned tiles between double rows of blue-painted brick bands. On the next level, the stringcourse comprises a band of diagonally set red bricks bordered by single rows of red brick between single rows of blue-painted brick. The brackets of the roof cornice are painted blue, also. Emphasized by three bands of blue-painted brick at their base, panels of red brick fill the spaces between brackets. Six interior chimneys--four on the main and two on the rear section--pierce the roof. A double flight of cut granite stairs leads to the one-story entrance porch, which has elaborately carved columns and pilasters and a built-in bench on either side.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1888-1902**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginol | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Industry | losaphy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Lonscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sociol/Humon- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literoture | itarion | _____ |
| <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

Since a January day in 1890, shortly after Thomas Brackett Reed assumed the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives, that body's rules have reflected his iron will. On an otherwise unimportant rollcall vote, Reed challenged the minority party tactic of silent or disappearing quorum by counting all those present and refusing to vote. Later Theodore Roosevelt would write that in defeating the silent filibuster Reed's action had "far greater permanent importance"¹ than any legislation of the time.

Within the next month, February 1890, Reed pushed through the House a revised body of procedures known as the Reed Rules. The new rules met the challenge of the larger and busier than ever House of Representatives. At the same time, the rules gave the Speaker unprecedented control over legislation. Coupled with the usual obedience of the Republican Members to their Speaker, the Reed Rules inspired his sobriquet "Czar Reed." Standing about 6 feet, 3 inches tall and weighing nearly 300 pounds, "Czar Reed" overshadowed his colleagues literally. A good debater with a sharp, sarcastic wit, he coined many well-known phrases, including the classic definition of a statesman as a "successful politician who is dead."²

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¹ Quoted in Barbara W. Tuchman, "Czar of the House," American Heritage, XIV (December 1962), 97.

² Quoted in William A. Robinson, Thomas B. Reed, Parliamentarian (New York, 1930), 147.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mooney, Booth, Mr. Speaker: Four Men Who Shaped the United States House of Representatives (Chicago, 1964).

Robinson, William A., Thomas B. Reed, Parliamentarian (New York, 1930).

Tuchman, Barbara W., "Czar of the House," American Heritage, XIV (December 1962), 32-35, 92-102.

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			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	43 °	39 '	14 "
NE	°	'	"	70 °	16 '	2 "
SE	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 1 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Cathy Alexander, Assistant Editor

ORGANIZATION

American Association for State and Local History

DATE

Sept. 1, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

1315 Eighth Avenue South

CITY OR TOWN:

Nashville

STATE

Tennessee

CODE

47

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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Thomas Brackett Reed House (Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description (cont'd.)

Though numerous original features remain, the interior has been partitioned to create apartments and physicians' offices. Originally each half of the double house mirrored the other. Today, each retains its side-hall plan, with the halls in the center of the whole.

Each house contained 12 rooms originally. The two dining rooms retain their finely carved walnut wainscoting and matching door trim. Each has a fireplace decorated with an inlay of colorful patterned tiles. Throughout the building, though some fireplaces have been covered, others can be seen. In some rooms and in the foyer of 32 Deering Street, embossed wallpapers decorate. An ornate brass-and-colored-glass gas ceiling fixture, now electrified, hangs in the front hall of 32 Deering Street, as does a framed picture of Thomas Brackett Reed.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

From 1888 until 1902, Reed made his Portland home in the 32 Deering Street side of a brick, High Victorian double house. Colored tiles and painted brick create its distinctive exterior trim, while inside, such decorations as colored tiles, carved walnut wainscoting, and embossed wallpapers remain. The house has undergone some alterations but is in good condition. It was Reed's Maine home during the time of his greatest influence in Washington.

Biography

When Thomas Brackett Reed was born in Portland in 1839, his forebearers, including the founder and first mayor of Portland, had resided in Maine for about 200 years. Thomas Brackett Reed, Sr., earned a modest wage, though, as a sailor and waterfront watchman. Thus, despite distinguished ancestry, young Tom learned thrift and self-denial early in life. After attending Portland public schools, he entered Bowdoin College to study for the ministry. In 1860 Reed was graduated, ranking high in his class. He had abandoned the ministry, however. Instead he taught for a year while beginning to study law. During 1861 Reed went to California, where he continued studying law and teaching school. Apparently dissatisfied with the West, he returned to Maine about 1864, secured a commission, and entered the Union Navy as a paymaster. When he came back to Portland a year later, he began practicing law.

In 1867 the voters elected Reed to the State legislature. In 1869 he advanced to the State senate, and the next year became attorney general of Maine. After much intraparty squabbling, the Maine Republican caucus nominated Reed for the U.S. Congress in 1876, and he won the seat that he occupied for 21 years. Reed never ran for the Senate, which he described as "a place where good Representatives went when they died."³

Reed's congressional career began uneventfully. As a junior Member, he spoke infrequently but began building a reputation as a tough debater. From the first, too, he displayed an interest in the rules and procedures of the

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³ Quoted in ibid., p. 77.

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

House. In 1882 he was appointed to the small, extremely powerful Committee on Rules, consisting of the Speaker, two additional majority Members, and two minority Representatives. Although the Republicans were in the minority in 1885, they nominated Reed for Speaker. He lost, of course, but until his retirement from Congress 14 years later, he remained leader of the House Republicans. In December 1889, when they had a narrow majority, Reed became Speaker.

The 51st Congress convened amid rumors that Reed would end the disappearing quorum. For more than 50 years, this practice had allowed Members present and not voting to be excluded from a quorum count. Thus, it served as an effective means of minority delay. On a partisan issue, if minority Members chose not to answer a rollcall vote, and if the majority membership alone did not make a quorum, action halted. The narrow Republican majority and Reed's known views on procedural reform suggested strongly that he would challenge the disappearing quorum.

Prepared to resign if the House failed to sustain him, Reed acted on January 29, 1890. In a contested election case, the Democrats did not vote. At the end of the rollcall, they claimed "no quorum." Calmly Reed began counting those present, while on the floor below pandemonium broke out. Republicans applauded wildly; Democrats shouted in outrage. For several days, the Democratic Members declined to vote, and consistently Reed counted them. He refused to entertain motions that he considered dilatory, too.

The Democrats could not upset the placid Speaker, and order returned at last. Reed's next goal was passage of a revised procedural code. In less than a month, the House accepted the Reed Rules. They stated that all Members present shall be counted and that no dilatory motion shall be entertained by the Speaker. The Speaker would judge what was dilatory. Another set of changes added flexibility to the order of House business. Along with a provision stating that 100 Members would constitute a quorum of the Committee of the Whole, the rules met the problem of dealing efficiently with the increased legislation of the growing Nation.

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Thomas Brackett Reed House (Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

In 1892, bringing with him large Democratic House and Senate majorities, Grover Cleveland reentered the White House. While the new Speaker reverted essentially to the rules of the 50th Congress, the Supreme Court upheld Reed's method of quorum counting in United States v. Ballin (1892). Two years later, with the Democratic majority narrowed and Reed's Republicans refusing purposefully to vote, the opposition was forced to embrace Reed's rule. It has remained standard House procedure ever since.

The Grand Old Party won the next House of Representatives by a wide margin. Frequently mentioned as a potential Presidential candidate, Reed returned to the Speaker's chair. Though he wanted the nomination, Reed refused steadfastly to promise favors or offices to would-be contributors and supporters. Meanwhile Mark Hanna's businesslike political machine tallied up the convention votes for William McKinley. Lack of a national organization and following contributed, also, to Reed's defeat at the Republican Convention. Though disappointed, Reed campaigned for the party's candidate, and McKinley's victory helped assure Reed's continuance as Speaker.

Bolstered by large Republican majorities, Reed's last speakerships marked the peak of his power. The well-disciplined Republican troops obeyed the wishes of the "Czar" and generally accepted the tight control of his Committee on Rules. Gradually, though, Reed grew troubled by the President and the Congress' increasing interest in foreign expansion. In 1898, as his party's House leader, he had to support the declaration of war against Spain, with which he disagreed sincerely. Subsequently, he opposed the annexation of Hawaii and the Phillipines. Always a loyal Republican, Reed would not lead an antiadministration revolt. Instead, in 1899 he resigned from Congress.

Accepting a position with a New York City law firm in 1899, Reed stated that he intended to provide for his family's future. He had married Mrs. Susan P. Jones in 1870, and they had one daughter. After his retirement from Congress, Reed accumulated a comfortable estate for them. In 1902, while visiting old friends in Washington, he collapsed suddenly and soon died from appendicitis and chronic Bright's disease. Although reforms instituted in 1910 altered Reed's system, greatly lessening the power of the Speaker, the spirit and much of the substance of the Reed Rules live on in today's House of Representatives.

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