

5-30-73

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Hon. Peter N. Kyros

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Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	York
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 24 1973

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Biddeford City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
205 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Biddeford

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maine	23	York	031

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" 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"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Biddeford

STREET AND NUMBER:  
205 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Biddeford

STATE:  
Maine

CODE:  
23

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Alfred

STATE:  
Maine

CODE:  
23

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

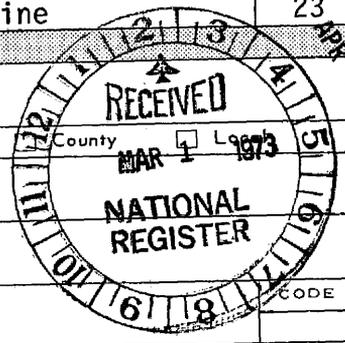
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	York
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**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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Biddeford City Hall is a fine example of a late Nineteenth Century city hall. It was designed by John Calvin Stevens (1855-1940), a noted Maine architect from Portland.

The City Hall is a large three and a half story brick building with clock tower and belfry. The first floor of the building is faced with granite. One half of the first floor is presently occupied by the York County Savings Bank. The windows on this half are large glass while the windows on the other half of the first floor are smaller. The main entrance to the City Hall is topped by decorative carving depicting the date of the construction of the building.

The second floor windows are rectangular and over the main entrance, on the second floor, is a balcony. The third floor windows, however, are arched.

The tower is in three sections. The first section rises from ground level to approximately two stories above the roof of the building. This section is topped with a heavy dentile cornice which is in turn topped with a balustrade. The next section is the clock housing which has a heavy dentile cornice and balustrade. Above this is a belfry topped with a dome.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**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) 1895

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | <u>Seat of City</u>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>Government of</u>                                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>Biddeford</u>                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

One aspect of the significance of the Biddeford City Hall is the fact that it was designed by John Calvin Stevens (1855-1940), a leading Maine architect. After graduation from Portland High School, he entered the office of Francis H. Fassett, a pioneer architect in Portland. He soon became Fassett's partner but in 1883 joined in a partnership with Albert W. Cobb. Among Stevens major works were the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital (1888), now Eastern Maine State Hospital, the Sweat Mansion in Portland (1909) and the City Hall in Portland.

Another aspect of the significance of this City Hall is its meaning to the citizens of Biddeford and its location in the town. It is the hub of all life within the city. Its tower along with the tower of the Biddeford Textile Mill form the skyline of the city. Without this building and its tower, late Nineteenth Century Biddeford would cease to exist.

For these reasons, it is important that a building such as this be given the recognition that it so rightly deserves.



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Withey, Henry F. & Withey, Elsie Rathburn. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

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	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 29' 06"	70° 27' 26"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1/2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OF MAINE COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Kelly, Jr., Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: February, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: James H. Mundy  
 Title: State Liaison Officer  
 Date: 2-26-73

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/24/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Date: 4/16/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

