United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

Abbott Graves House 2 5 historic 1. 1. C \mathbf{O} and/or common Location 2. Ocean Avenue not for publication street & number Kennebunkport congressional district First vicinity of city, town Maine 23 code York state county code 031 Classification 3. Status **Present Use Ownership** Category X occupied _ district _ public __ agriculture museum X private X_ building(s) _ unoccupied commercial park X private residence _ structure both work in progress educational **Public Acquisition** Accessible entertainment ... religious _ site ___ object __ in process _ yes: restricted government _ scientific _ being considered _X_ yes: unrestricted __ industrial <u>transportation</u> _ no military ___ other: **Owner of Property** 4. name Ann Fales (Mrs.) street & number Ocean Avenue vicinity of city, town Kennebunkport, state Maine 04046

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, re	egistry of deeds, etc.	York	County	Registry	of	Deeds

street & number

city, town

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Alfred,

title	has this property been determined elegible? yes no					
date	federal state county local					
depository for survey records						
city, town	state					

7. Description

Condition
X excellent
good
fair

Check one _ deteriorated ____ unaltered _ ruins __X altered _ unexposed Check one <u>X</u> original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Abbott Graves House of Kennebunkport, designed by Graves himself and built in 1905, is an early example of the Prairie Style, extremely rare in Maine. The two-story building is of frame construction with a low-hipped metal roof (originally red tile) and three internal brick chimneys. The exterior is covered with a simulated stucco finish.

Facing west (the house was named "Westlook" by Graves), the facade is divided into three parts, a central section with entrance covered by a one-story porch, flanked by projecting sections. Fenestration is varied. The north section of the facade contains just two diamond-paned windows, both in the second story, while the southern section features two windows in the first story and three in the second; these windows are double-hung, the upper sash containing diamond-panes, the lower containing a single pane. This is equivalent to the windows elsewhere in the building.

One story wings project from the north and south ends of the building. These contain three windows in each of their three exposed walls.

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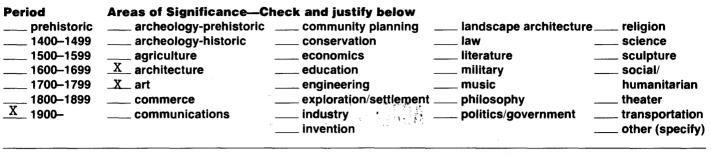
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8. Significance



Specific dates 190

1905

Builder/Architect Abbott Graves

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

An extreme architectural rarity for Maine, the Abbott Graves House is one of only two known examples of the Prairie Style existing in The state. The other is the Ward Hinckley House (N.R. 12/16/74) in Blue Hill. It is also a very early transplant of Wright's idea, having been built in 1905 only five years after the first Prairie houses in Kankakee, Illinois. Another remarkable fact is that it was designed by its first owner, Abbott Graves, a widely recognized and respected artist who had received a partial training in architecture.

Born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, in 1859, Graves began architectural studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1867 but was forced by financial problems to leave before completing the program. For a few years he supported himself by working in a florist's establishment where he earned a reputation as an arranger of flowers for interior decoration. An amateur painter since early youth, he began in earnest to develop this talent, concentrating on floral still life. He was eventually able to support himself in a small Boston studio and in 1884 and 1887 studied in Paris under George Jeannin, Cormon and Gervais. He exhibited in the Paris Salon in 1887 and received the first of five medals he was to be awarded by that illustrious institution. Returning to Boston in 1889 he opened his own school and established himself as a distinguished painter of floral scenes and genre works. He brought his family and some students to Kennebunkport for the first time in the summer of 1891 staying at one of the first hotels in that newly emerging resort.

Graves fell in love with the community spending more and more time there each year until eventually he became a year round resident. Over the years he owned and refurbished several houses in the town and also participated actively in local affairs. In 1905 he designed "Westlook", as he named it, the white Prairie Style stucco finished house where he remained until his death in 1936.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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