

**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

historic Abbott Graves House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Ocean Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Kennebunkport _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county York code 031

3. 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ann Fales (Mrs.)

street & number Ocean Avenue

city, town Kennebunkport, _____ vicinity of _____ state Maine 04046

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Alfred, _____ state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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 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.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 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

Buñier, Joyce, "Abbott Graves - Artist and Citizen of Kennebunkport", Down East, January, 1975.
 Robinson, Frank T., Living New England Artists. Boston, 1888.

10. Geographical Data UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 1/2 **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Kennebunkport Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>19</u>	<u>380640</u>	<u>4800965</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessors Map 8, Block 2, Lot 3

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

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 January, 1979
 street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133
 city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earle S. [Signature]* date 2/15/80

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register <u><i>For Bruce New Dunge</i></u> Keeper of the National Register Attest: <u><i>Fatrick Andrews</i></u> Chief of Registration	date <u>4/23/80</u> date <u>4/21/80</u>
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