

5-29-73

HB E 437600  
2-19 N 4906050

J. 11-49-1

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

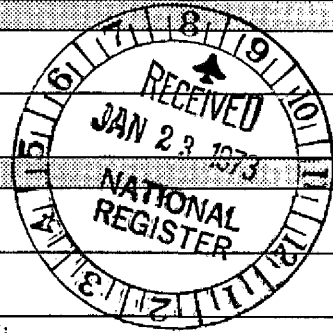
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| STATE:<br><b>Maine</b>     |                    |
| COUNTY:<br><b>Kennebec</b> |                    |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY           |                    |
| ENTRY NUMBER               | DATE               |
|                            | <b>APR 24 1973</b> |



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Maine State House**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Capitol Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Augusta**

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Kennebec** CODE: **011**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both  | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered  |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)   |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress                            | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments<br><b>Seat of government</b>  |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**State of Maine**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Kennebec County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**State Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Augusta** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**H.A.B.S. Survey, Maine**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1965**  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**801 19th Street N.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **11**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Maine**

COUNTY: **Kennebec**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER & DATE

**APR 24 1973**

DATE

**7. DESCRIPTION**

|           |   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input 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

The Maine State House at Augusta, constructed during the years 1829-1832, sets on a beautiful site overlooking the Kennebec River. This site was known as Weston Hill and was offered to the State of Maine by the citizens of Augusta for the site of the new Capitol in 1823. The offer was accepted in 1827.

Little visible evidence of the original structure remains to even suggest what it must have looked like at its completion in 1832. One must refer to earlier views and plans to actually see the original structure. Parts of the original building are still there to be seen but it has been altered and realtered many times over the years.

The Maine State House was designed by Charles Bulfinch (1763-1844), first native born American architect. The construction of the Capitol Building was carried out under the direction of William King, Maine's first governor, acting at the time as Commissioner of State Buildings.

The original structure was 146' long by 50' wide with an 80' by 15' portico. The doric colonade of the portico was recalled in the rear facade by pilasters of the same order. A dome and lantern cupola surmounted the central section of the structure. The four story building was constructed of grey Hallowell granite and the inside of the building was of wooded construction.

The alterations to the Capitol Building began in 1852 when several rooms were finished in the north and south wings of the basement. In 1860, six committee rooms were added. Exterior alterations were not begun until 1891 and commenced with the addition of a three story wing on the west. During the years 1901 and 1910 the State House was rebuilt

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE            | Maine       |
| COUNTY           | Kennebec    |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |
|                  | APR 24 1973 |

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

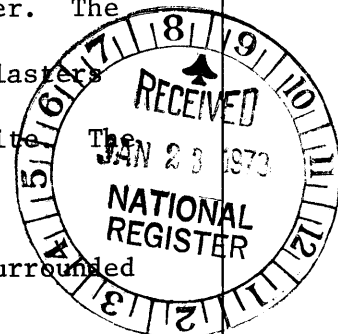
to the point of retaining only Bullfinch's front and back facade and the rotunda. The length of the building was increased to 300' and a 185' dome was added. G. Henri Desmond of Boston drafted the plan for the rebuilding and work was done under the supervision of Charles S. Hickborn of Augusta. The George A. Fuller Co. of Boston was given the contract for the entire project. A 12' copper gilt statue of Augusta was added to the top of the new dome.

Today's State House, in its remodeled condition, is a typical example of late 19th and early 20th century American Legislative Buildings. The building is a large four story, rectangular structure with wings to the north and south. A wing projecting to the west terminates with a round bay. The main entrance is through a porch at the east elevation, on the second floor level. This leads to a veranda on the third floor level which is also a main entrance to the third floor.

The windows at all levels are rectangular except for the third floor where arched openings occur.

The roof is flat, and gable on the wings, with membrane coverings. There are three domes on the structure, one over the center and one over the House and Senate wings. The center dome is sheathed in copper. The lower drum is decorated with columns and the second drum with pilasters and balustrade, which are painted and textured to represent granite. The two side domes are flattened over monitor lights.

The State House is set amid beautiful landscaping and is surrounded by a masonry and stone fence.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

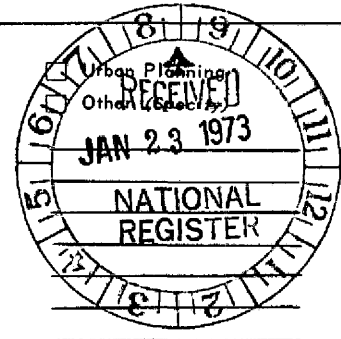
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1829-1832

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |  |   |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historical significance of Maine's State Capitol Building cannot be overemphasized, for it is at the State Capitol in Augusta that all the major decisions relating to and affecting the History of Maine have, and will be made. To write the historical significance of Maine's State Capitol would be to write a History of the State of Maine.

What is significant about the State House at Augusta, other than its history as the seat of Maine government, is its architecture. The fact that Maine's Capitol Building was designed by Charles Bullfinch, one of America's greatest architects, is one of its most significant attributes.

The Maine State House is also the only recorded work of Charles Bullfinch after his return to northern New England in 1830. The Maine State House was the climax of an architectural career that spanned half a century. This building was one of Bullfinch's greatest achievements and remains so even in its altered condition. Of even greater significance, architecturally, is the fact that of all the buildings designed by Charles Bullfinch, the Maine State House is the only one to have had a complete set of the architect's plans survive to this day. These plans were found inside the wood lining of one of the brick safes in 1941 and are now housed in the State Archives at Augusta.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

H.A.B.S. Survey (Maine).

Kirker, Harold. The Architecture of Charles Bullfinch. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1969.

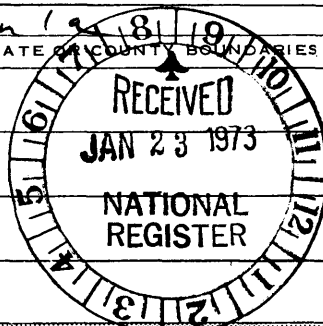
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        | 44° 18' 27" N   | 69° 46' 56" W           |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1/2

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Kelly, Jr.

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: Oct. 17, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**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 James H. Mundy

Title State Liaison Officer

Date January 15, 1973

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