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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hall, Enoch House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number W Side of Bean Rd., .5 Mi. SE of Junc. w/Rt. 117  N/A not for publication

city or town Buckfield,  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04220

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*James S. Peterson* 11/8/93  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain.) \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register Date of Action

for Signature of the Keeper 12/23/93  
*Guys M. Lapsley*

HALL, ENOCH HOUSE  
Name of Property

OXFORD, MAINE  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

\_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

\_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_ Domestic/Single Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_ Domestic/Single Dwelling \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_ Stone/Granite \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_ Wood/Weatherboard \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_ Asphalt \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_ One-Story Ell and Attached Shed \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Art

**Period of Significance**

c. 1800

c. 1830

**Significant Dates**

c. 1800

c. 1830

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

HALL, ENOCH, HOUSE  
Name of Property

OXFORD, MAINE  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 34

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 19 | 3926810 | 49043010 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 | 19 | 3930410 | 490391210 |

3 | 19 | 3929510 | 49036210 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 | 19 | 3924510 | 490381010 |

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1993

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

ENOCH HALL HOUSE

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Enoch Hall House is a one-and-a-half-story, five-bay frame cape which is sheathed primarily in weatherboards and covered by a gable roof. It stands on a granite slab foundation and has a central chimney. A short one-story ell projects to the rear where it meets a small gabled shop.

Facing northeast, the symmetrically composed front elevation features an unusually detailed entry containing molded pilasters with lancet arched capitals framing sidelights and a six-panel door. This doorway is surmounted by a rectangular louvered transom with raised panel pilasters. The panels of the door as well as those beneath the sidelights are framed with molded surrounds and corner blocks. Paired replacement double-hung sash flank the entry. Two basement windows punctuate the foundation and a boxed cornice carries across the low posted facade.

The west end contains a pair of widely spaced windows on the first story and one in the gable peak. In contrast, there are three windows and a door on the first story of the east end as well as two windows below the gable peak. There are two windows (including a three unit casement) on the rear of the main block; an elevation that is also covered with replacement vertical siding. This siding material is also used on the west and south sides of the ell, its shed addition on the rear, and the large shed roofed addition on the back of the shop. The east side of the shop is sheathed in wood shingles whereas its north side and the east wall of the ell are clad in weatherboards. A track mounted door and one square window occupy the north side of the shop, and a door and one double-hung window are located in the ell.

In plan, the house utilizes both typical and atypical configurations. The front door opens into a narrow vestibule with doors leading into what was probably the parlor (northwest) and the secondary public room (northeast). This distinction is evident in the detailing of the respective mantels, the one in the northwest room being somewhat more elaborate. Both mantels appear to be based on Plate 28 in Asher Benjamin's American Builder's Companion (1806). Doors in each room open into the kitchen which occupies most of the rear half of the first floor. At the west end of this room is a small pantry and lavatory whereas the east end contains a vertical board partition which encloses the steep narrow stairs. The position of the only access to the second floor bedrooms and the utilization of a relatively long hall behind one room to provide access to the other is notable. The unusual organization of the second floor is enhanced by the decorative finish of the three spaces - all of which feature mural painting; the west bedroom of which is applied over a barrel-arched ceiling.

In many respects, the decorative motifs found in this house have elements which are typical of the "Porter School" mural painters. This

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## **Continuation Sheet**

ENOCH HALL HOUSE

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includes the abundant use of large leaf-bearing trees, a variety of landscape features such as hills and ponds, buildings, and stencilled animal figures such as birds and horses. However, these particular murals are distinguished from others of the type in their inclusion of large marine animals in the water bodies, two styles of horses, and the single occurrence of a striped cat playing with a mouse.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENOCH HALL HOUSE

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The Enoch Hall House in rural Buckfield is a low posted one-and-a-half story Federal period cape which tradition maintains was built in the early 1790s. Although the dwelling exhibits several important architectural features, its primary significance rests on the extensive nineteenth century landscape mural scenes which decorate the upper chambers. The house is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for both its architectural and artistic significance.

According to local historians, Enoch Hall (1763-1835) settled the property on which this house stands in 1783, having removed from Windham. Nine years later he is said to have moved from the original log house on the property into the existing frame building (a depression to the northwest of the house is thought to be the cellar hole from the early settlement). While occupying this house, Hall distinguished himself in politics by representing the Town of Buckfield at the Massachusetts General court; as a member of the 1819 convention which framed the Maine Constitution; and as the Town's representative to the Legislature in 1820-21. Sometime after Hall's death and prior to 1858 the property was acquired by William F. Robinson, a farmer who subsequently served as a First Lieutenant in the Buckfield militia company during the Civil War. It changed hands twice during the early twentieth century and in 1930 it was acquired by Ernest Bean, Sr., the grandfather of the present owners.

Judging from the overall form of the Enoch Hall House, particularly its low posting and center chimney, it is entirely possible that a 1792-93 date of construction is accurate. However, the similarity of the two mantelpieces on the first story to a pattern book design published in Asher Benjamin's The American Builder's Companion (1806) indicates that the interior finish may not have been completed at the earlier date. These two architectural features are directly based on Plate 28, the one in the west room being a relatively faithful reproduction with its oval panel in the capitol of the pilaster as well as in the fluting of the pilaster. The third feature of note is the treatment of the front entry. A close inspection of this doorway reveals that at least two of the individual components resemble details of plates in William Pain's The Builder's Companion (1762, reprinted in Boston in 1796). These include the lancet arches in the pilaster capitals and the raised panels framing the rectangular louvered transom.

Apart from its architectural features, the Hall house is notable for the extensive decorative painting on the second floor. These images, which appear in the narrow hall as well as on the walls and ceilings of the two large bedrooms, belong to the so-called "Porter School" of landscape mural painting. Probably executed during the mid to late 1820s or early 1830s, this form of interior decoration was quite popular in rural Maine. Several properties have already been listed in the Register for the integrity of

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENOCH HALL HOUSE

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their murals, whereas in at least one which was listed for another area of significance murals have been discovered during rehabilitation work.

The "Porter School" is named for Rufus Porter (1792-1884), a West Boxford, Massachusetts native and son of a prosperous farmer. Unlike his father, however, Porter would lead a life that carried him throughout New England, the mid-Atlantic states, and overseas, and expose his numerous talents as an artist, inventor and author. Working as an itinerant portrait painter from 1815-1824, Porter then published an instructional book called Curious Arts in 1825 and devoted the next two decades to landscape murals. About 1823 Porter is believed to have been joined in his traveling portrait studio by his nephew Jonathan D. Poor (1807-1845). Among the Porter School muralists, Poor was the most prolific, especially in the years 1830-40. A large number of Maine murals are attributed to Poor, but they are also virtually undistinguishable from Porter's work, a fact that underscores Poor's strict attention to his mentor's guidelines.

Although Porter and Poor were undoubtedly responsible for many of the wall murals in Maine, it is also certain that other local artists were capable of producing similar treatments. One of these artists, Orison Wood (whom tradition states painted the murals in the Cushman Tavern, N.R. 10/9/79), has been suggested as the creator of the murals in the Hall house. However, neither a close comparison of stylistic elements or documentary sources confirm this attribution. What does distinguish these murals from others identified to date are the range of figures employed, particularly the horses, cat, mouse, and marine animals. The variation from the standard motifs of leaf-bearing trees, birds, and buildings set in a rolling landscape provides a clear indication as to the variety which this manner of early nineteenth century interior finish could assume.

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HALL, ENOCH, HOUSE

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Bennett, Randall H. Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture. Bethel, Maine: Oxford County Historic Resource Inventory. 1984.

Cole, Alfred and Whitman, Charles F. A History of Buckfield. Buckfield, Maine: Privately Published. 1915.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

HALL, ENOCH, HOUSE

OXFORD, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the Town of Buckfield tax map 12, lot 6, parcel 7.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the remaining 34 acre parcel of land on which the Enoch Hall House stands, and which has been historically associated with it.