

924

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

6-1000000  
MAY 14 1990

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wales & Hamblen Store  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 134 Main Street  not for publication  
city, town Bridgton  vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04009

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 5/7/90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. 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): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 6/14/90  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/Specialty Store

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/Specialty Store

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

---

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/Weatherboard

---

roof Metal/Tinother Decorative trim around windows  
& eaves.

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

---

Standing over its smaller, considerably altered neighbors near the eastern end of Bridgton's commercial district, the Wales and Hamblen Store is a two-and-a-half-story frame building with a pent gable roof. its striking facade displays a variety of Italianate style details. The building is sheathed in weatherboards.

The front (south) elevation has a five-bay ground floor comprised of three large display windows flanking recessed two-leaf doors. These paneled and glazed doors are surmounted by wide two-pane transoms. Each of the divisions is framed by fluted pilasters and brackets located below the thin cornice. The three-bay second story features paired segmentally arched double-hung windows with pronounced molded surrounds. The windows themselves consist of etched center panes bordered by thin colored rectangular panes. The upper sash are about one-half the height of the lower ones. Paneled corner boards rise to a paneled and bracketed cornice below the pent gable. The tympanum has a large tripartite window composed of round arched double-hung sash in an elaborate surround of sawn and molded elements. Paired brackets decorate the raking cornice.

There are five asymmetrically placed openings on the first story of the west side, two of which are in the hipped roof ell. The upper story features four long windows in the main block and two in the addition; the former of which match in composition those on the facade--except for the segmental arches. A shed roofed wall dormer shelters a door near the southwest corner that leads to a fire escape from the third floor. The fenestration pattern is varied on the east side by the use of only three second story windows, the existence of an enclosed exterior stair that rises from the sidewalk to a door at the rear of the upper story, and the existence of two windows below the enclosed landing and a pair in the ell. There are six windows in the rear side of the addition, four of which are on the second story.

The interior consists of two principal first floor rooms with plaster over lath walls and board ceilings and an attic space with similar finishes. Between them is the I.O.O.F. meeting hall whose pressed metal ceiling and wide acanthus cornice covers what is believed to have originally been a decorative painting scheme. The status of this finish is unknown, although

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   2  

---

rectangular panels outlined by painted lines are visible under a later application of wallpaper. These wall and ceiling treatments are matched with molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks and a wide chair rail that carries around the room.

A comparison of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the period 1892-1945 shows that two major alterations took place between these dates. In 1892 a one-and-a-half-story tin shop was located along the northwest half of the rear elevation, and a "walk" extended across three quarters of the east side. By 1901 this "walk" was upgraded to an "entrance" along the full side with stairs clearly shown at the far end. Presumably, this indicates the presence of the existing covered passage with its Colonial Revival detailing. Between 1914 and 1924 the present two-story ell was built in place of the earlier tin shop.

### 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1882

Significant Dates

1882

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Erected in 1882 after the destruction by fire of an earlier building on this site, the Wales and Hamblen Store is the most architecturally significant frame commercial building in Bridgton. Its unusual degree of preservation is due in part to a recent restoration of the facade, principally the storefront, which was guided by documentary photographs. The building is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C.

Bridgton retains a number of nineteenth century frame commercial buildings throughout the length of its curvilinear Main Street. A small group at the west end are reasonably intact, and they represent a harmonious transition into the community's historically and architecturally significant residential neighborhood. In contrast, the Wales and Hamblen Store stands in an area that has been largely redeveloped or has lost through unsympathetic alterations many of its historic buildings. Within this context alone, the integrity of the store stands out, but when further considered in terms of its ornate architectural features the building acquires added importance. While a handful of other commercial buildings in Bridgton have significance, no other achieves the level of ornamentation found here. In fact, the store is quite unusual in the broader context of western Maine as a whole.

According to local historians, the existing building occupies the site of a hardware store established in 1872 by Samuel Cook. Cook operated his business until 1880 when he sold it to James O. Gibbs and John W. Fowler. The firm of Gibbs and Fowler became Fowler and Wales prior to the 1882 fire which destroyed the then ten year old building. After reconstruction of the store, Joseph Wales became a partner with Paul Chandler in the firm Wales and Chandler. Upon Chandler's retirement John Hamblen became the new partner in Wales and Hamblen. This business was continued by Hamblen's son Maurice Hamblen until his death. After housing a number of short-lived commercial enterprises in the first story, the building is now used as an antique shop. The second floor meeting hall remains vacant, much as it has since the Cumberland Lodge #30 I. O. O. F. for whom it was built in 1882, surrendered their charter in 1962.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Pelham, NY: Sanborn Map Company. Bridgton, Maine editions of 1892, 1897, 1901, 1907, 1914, 1924.

Shorey, Eula M., ed. History of Bridgton, Maine. Bridgton, ME: Bridgton Historical Society, 1968.

See continuation sheet

**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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreege of property Less than 1

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
---	---

3	6	3	5	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	8	7	9	0	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Bridgton tax map 23, lot 86.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the building and entire lot historically associated with this property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 3/90

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333