

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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## 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

Buxton Powder House

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

<sup>ME</sup>  
Route 22, Buxton Center

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Buxton Center

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st Hon. David Emery

STATE

Maine

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

23

COUNTY

York

CODE

031

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

PUBLIC

\_\_\_ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ PARK

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ BOTH

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ OBJECT

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ NO

MILITARY

\_\_\_ OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Buxton

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Buxton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

### 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

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In a field a quarter mile from the Town Hall at Buxton Center stands one of Maine's three municipal powder houses to survive from the war of 1812 period.

The Buxton Powder House is a small, one story square structure with a hipped roof. It has a granite foundation, brick walls, and a frame roof structure which is covered with asphalt shingles. The east wall contains a heavy wooden door at the southeast corner. This door is fastened to the building by two large T shaped iron hinges, the only ornamental feature now present. The other decorative element, a metal weathercock, was stolen recently from the wooden pole which projects from the roof.

The starkness of the outside is continued on the inside. The interior contains a brick floor, and wooden storage shelves.

The Buxton Powder House reflects the simplicity and strength of early nineteenth century military architecture. It remains as a rare example of a building type once prevalent on the Maine landscape.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GÓVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1812-13

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Theodore Elwell

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Buxton Powder House is one of only three War of 1812 town powder houses known to survive in Maine. The other two, located in Hallowell and Wiscasset, are situated within National Register Historic Districts (Hallowell, N/R 10/28/70 and Wiscasset, N/R 1/12/73).

Buxton's Powder House was erected as a result of a vote by the local citizens on March 2, 1812 for the storage of ammunition for the Town's defence in case of war. The Town delegated Nathan Elder, Ebenezer Wentworth and Benjamin Emery to serve as a committee "to consult on the expense of building a magazine, ten feet square on the outside, one foot and one inch thick, and shelves for putting the ammunition and camp kettles on. It must be arched over with bricks and have a well-boarded and shingled roof. The magazine must have two doors, with stout hinges and locks, and be built six feet high where the arch of the roof begins."

Although not all of the prescribed requirements were fulfilled in the final construction, the basic dimensions and construction were adhered to.

Theodore Elwell, the lowest bidder, took the contract at the munificent price of \$59. and completed the job in the fall of 1813. The following spring the Town's stock of powder, leaden balls, flints and camp kettles was moved from its former repository, in the home of Committeeman Wentworth, to this official arsenal which was ceremoniously dedicated and placed in the custody of Captain Samuel Duppell.

The Buxton powder house is clear evidence that military defense was still considered primarily a local responsibility during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Even though Buxton was no longer a frontier community, nor certainly a likely target in case of war with Great Britain, the tradition of community self-reliance remained strong.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buxton Town Report, 1938-39

Town Clerk's Records, March 2, 1812

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 9	3 7 5   2 7 5	4 8 3 3   7 6 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian  
Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: October 1975

STREET & NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE: 207-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta, STATE: Maine

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE H. Savon Mullett

TITLE: State Historic Preservation Officer DATE: 10/28/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Active

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE: 1/2/96

ATTEST: Ronald M. Bruning DATE: 12/31/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER