

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

Samuel Bucknam House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

~~Route~~ U.S. 1

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Columbia Falls

VICINITY OF

2nd-Hon. William Cohen

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maine

23

Washington

029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ronald R. Coles

STREET & NUMBER

20 Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Machias

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Machias

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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 Samuel Bucknam House of Columbia Falls was built in 1820-1 and is one of the finest Federal period Cape style houses in the State of Maine.

The clapboarded house, which faces north-west, is of frame construction on a granite foundation and consists of a gabled roof over 1½ stories. A 1-story kitchen ell is attached to the north-east side of the house. The roofs of both house and ell are covered with asphalt shingles and each features a central chimney, capped with an arched brick cover.

The house facade is five bays wide with central doorway. This entrance contains a single door with wooden fan above and a louvered shutter to each side. There is a pair of Doric pilasters on either side of the door, and above the outer pilasters are carved wooden urns, in relief. The four facade windows are 9/6 and simply framed.

The south-west end of the house is 3 bays wide (9/6 windows) on the first story and contains 2 windows (6/6) in the half story. Here as elsewhere, the windows are flanked by exterior louvered wooden shutters.

The ell facade contains a simple doorway just left of center and two 9/6 windows to the right.

Like the exterior, the interior of the Bucknam House is exceptionally well preserved. Original wallpaper survives in the parlor, and delicate beaded moldings highlight friezes, mantelpieces, and door frames.

The Samuel Bucknam House, today as remote as when it was built, is in remarkably fine condition.

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/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/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1820-21 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Probably Aaron Sherman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by Samuel Bucknam in 1820-21, this Federal Cape is one of the most ornately finished houses of its kind in Maine. The delicate wood carving on the interior and around the front door was the work of Alyvah Peterson who came to Columbia Falls from Duxbury, Massachusetts in 1820 with Aaron Sherman, the master carpenter. Sherman designed and Peterson did the carving for the magnificent Ruggles House (N.R. 1/27/70) nearly across the street. It is presumed that Sherman also constructed the Bucknam House.

Samuel Bucknam (1788-1867) was the grandson of John Bucknam, one of the earliest settlers in the region who arrived from North Yarmouth, Maine in 1773. He acquired, along with Capt. Joseph Wilson, the first mill privilege in Columbia (as the community was then called) and established a thriving lumber business. He proceeded to marry Mary Wilson, daughter of Joseph, and thus consolidated the holdings of the two families. By the 1780's, he had also established a shipyard on the Pleasant River.

John's eldest son, William inherited the businesses and was a prominent figure in the community, serving a number of years as town clerk. His father had died in 1792 leaving a widow who survived him by more than thirty years. William's son, Samuel, carried on the family enterprises and, if we are to judge by the quality of his house, with continuing success.

This finely detailed Federal Cape with its ties to the earliest origins of Columbia Falls is an important local landmark as well as an outstanding decorative achievement.

