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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED NOV 23 1977

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 Liberty Hall

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Route 92

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

STATE Machiasport
Maine

VICINITY OF
CODE 23

2nd Hon. David Emery
COUNTY Washington

CODE
029

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Machiasport

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Machiasport

VICINITY OF

STATE
Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Washington County Registry of Deeds, Machiasport

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1873 by Andrew R. Gilson of Machias as a town Hall for Machiasport, Liberty Hall is an excellent example of Italianate style public architecture in wood. This large two-story rectangular building derives its external form from rural church architecture of the 19th century, measuring 65 X 40 feet on the ground

Liberty hall is a clapboarded frame structure with a gable roof, supported by a foundation of granite blocks. A tower, 13 feet square, rises centrally above the main facade. This tower has a low-pitched hip roof with a denticulated cornice supported by ornate paired brackets. On each of the four sides of the tower can be seen a pair of tall, narrow round-headed apertures with a circular opening above each part. These features are enclosed in an arched recess. The corners of the tower carry quoins in wood.

The principal facade of the hall faces east. On the first story is a central entrance, consisting of double doors surmounted by a lintel with bracketed molding. To either side of the entrance are paired elongated four-over-four windows crowned with lintels identical to that over the entrance. The corners of the building at the first story are decorated with wooden quoins, while at the second story there is a channelled pilaster at each corner. The second story of the main facade features three paired windows, each six-over-six. The first story lintels are repeated in the second story. The central paired windows are taller than those to either side and are round-headed, as opposed to the rectangular windows to each side.

The external sides of Liberty Hall each feature three regularly-spaced pairs of windows on each of the two stories. These windows are identical with the corresponding windows on the main facade.

At the rear of the building (the west end) there is a single brick chimney.

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 checked="" 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

1873

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Andrew R. Gilson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the latter half of the 19th century, the neighboring towns of Machias and East Machias had large public buildings which served as centers for governmental, educational and social functions. The town of Machiasport lacked such a building. At that time, it was a prosperous village and carried on an extensive trade in the shipping of lumber. It was the terminus for the Whitneyville and Machiasport Railroad and for the Portland, Bangor and Machias Steamboat Company. A large hotel had been built to cater to the steamer traffic.

At the annual town meeting held March 3, 1873, the town voted to raise \$1,000 toward building a new town hall and authorized the selectmen to borrow the remainder needed.

By July, 1873, the contract had been awarded to Andrew R. Gilson of Machias, who began the foundation work. Liberty Hall was the most important project of Gilson's up to that time (1873-1874). Family sources indicate that he did contracting in the Jonesport area as well as around Machias. He is believed to have been the contractor in building the Porter Memorial Library, Machias. He was a selectman in Machias for many years and served several years in the Maine House of Representatives.

Unlike the town halls at Machias and East Machias, the Machiasport Town Hall did not serve as a school. It did serve as the primary social center for the town. It was used frequently for concerts, public suppers, dances, plays, and performances by travelling lecturers and entertainers. It was the meeting place for the Grange, and for the Pocahontas and Redmen organizations. Older residents of Machiasport recall that almost every night there was some activity in the building.

This important local landmark carried out in an impressive Italianate style has long been a source of pride to the community.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Machias Union, Jan. 13, 1874.

Drisko, G.W., History of Machias. Machias, 1904

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	6 2 7 2 0 5	4 9 5 0 3 8 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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian
Robert L. Bradley Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN Augusta

DATE April 21 1977
TELEPHONE 289-2133
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 Earle S. Shettleworth, Jr.

TITLE S.H.P.O. DATE 5/5/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Robert B. Rettig</u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	<u>Robert B. Rettig</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE <u>11/23/77</u>	DATE <u>11-12-77</u>
ATTEST: <u>Charles [Signature]</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	