

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received **NOV 27 1987**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Buck Memorial Library

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number Maine St. N/A not for publication

city, town Bucksport N/A vicinity of

state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Library</u>

**4. Owner of Property**

name Trustees of the Buck Memorial Library

c/o Benjamin B. Blodget, Chairman

street & number 7 School St.

city, town Bucksport N/A vicinity of state Maine 04416

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hancock Co. Courthouse

street & number

city, town Ellsworth state Maine 04605

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Buck Memorial Library is a 1½-story building of High Victorian Gothic design. The building forms an "L" in plan, with the door and entrance porch at the angle. A hall and desk area just inside the front door separate the "library room" to the left from the "reading room" to the right. A small librarian's office behind the desk area completes the programme.

The building's walls are of rough-cut granite ashlar from the nearby Blue Hill quarries. The water table, a string-course, and other ornamental details are of the same granite, but dressed. Granite chimney stacks servicing fireplaces in the library and reading rooms extend above the west and north walls respectively. A flight of granite steps connects the entrance porch with a sidewalk below. The entrance porch and front slopes of the roof drain into a granite gutter.

The library roof is a steeply-pitched gable covered with Maine slate. All vertical and ridge flashings are of copper. The eaves are flashed with another sheet metal.

The window sash of the library room are arched 1/1's. The sash of the reading room are squared 1/1's with multipaned borders. The two sash on the east gable end have multipaned transoms.

The original interior finish is entirely intact. All woodwork is of milled hard pine varnished with linseed oil. Most interior doors have five rectangular transoms, and are topped by multipaned transoms. The door between the desk area and the librarian's office has a multipaned light and matching surround. All walls are of plaster above beaded tongue and groove wainscotting. The wooden mantel in the reading room is neo-colonial in design. The reading room has an arched brick fireplace and exposed chimney throat.

## 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** 1887 **Builder/Architect** George A. Clough

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Buck Memorial Library is one of four fine public libraries designed for Maine coastal towns by George Clough of Boston and Blue Hill, Maine. Together with the Porter Public Library in Machias (NR)(1891-93), the Vinalhaven Public Library (1906) and the Rockland Public Library, the Buck Memorial Library is one of the most architecturally sophisticated small library buildings in the state. The building is also one of the more important smaller commissions of prolific architect George Clough. Following a successful Boston practice, Clough retired permanently to his native town of Blue Hill, Maine in the 1890's, having been a summer resident there for over a decade. The Buck Library is one of Clough's earlier Maine commissions, completed only a year after his huge Suffolk County Courthouse in Boston.

The building is also among the most notable small examples of Romanesque Revival architecture in Maine. The articulation of the library room windows and use of rough ashlar are very much in the manner of H.H. Richardson, whose series of important library buildings in Massachusetts were doubtlessly familiar to Clough.

The library building was a gift to the town of Bucksport by the widow and daughter of R.P. Buck, Esq., a member of a prominent local family, who became a successful merchant in New York City. The building is one of a series of late nineteenth century public buildings in small Maine towns funded entirely by local sons, who had made fortunes in other states. At least two other Clough-designed buildings, the school in Dresden, Maine and the Porter Memorial Library in Machias, are in the same roster.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Manuscript file on Buck Memorial Library, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Gibbs & Pulsifer Architect File, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Bucksport, Maine

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	9	5	1	6	4	9	0	4	9	3	5	1	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Bucksport, Tax Map 32, Lot 169.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Consultant

organization Adams & Roy Consultants, Inc. date October 15, 1987

street & number 62 Marcy St. telephone (603) 436-6427

city or town Portsmouth state New Hampshire

## 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 *E. S. [Signature]*

title J. H. P. O.

date 11/24/87

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12-30-87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration