

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 17 1975  
DATE ENTERED SEP 11 1975

**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

Hampden Academy

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

alt. us 1

CITY, TOWN

Hampden

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Penobscot

CODE

019

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

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Town of Hampden

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hampden,

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Penobscot County Registry of Deeds,

STREET & NUMBER

73 Hammond Street

CITY, TOWN

Bangor,

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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

Hampden Academy is representative of Greek Revival educational buildings which were erected in small Maine communities before the Civil War. Constructed in 1842-43, this Academy is similar in style to two other surviving examples in the region, Bloomfield Academy of 1840 in Skowhegan and Athens Academy of 1846.

Hampden Academy is rectangular in shape, stands two stories high, and has a gable roof with a belfry at the west end. The foundation is constructed of granite, while the remainder is brick with wood, granite, and concrete trim.

In the Greek Revival manner, one of the Academy's gable ends, the west wall, serves as the facade. The facade is composed of three bays. On the first story, the central bay is the location of the main entrance to the building. Originally, this entrance consisted of a double door with an overlight and a granite lintel above it. In the early twentieth century, the present enclosed portico was added in a Greek Revival style compatible with the overall character of the structure. The portico has a concrete base and steps, paneled wooden front doors and side walls, and four brick piers which support a wooden roof and balustrade. The portico is flanked on either side by a window with a granite sill and lintel. Like all the windows in the building, their sash has been altered from six over six panes to two over two.

The second story of the Academy facade displays a series of three symmetrically placed windows with a granite sill and lintel. The facade is enframed on either side by a projecting brick corner pilaster with a wooden capital. The capital design is based upon that of the Choragic Monument of Thrasylus in Athens. Likewise, the facade entablature which extends to the two side walls is a modified version of the Thrasylus entablature executed in both brick and wood.

Above the entablature, the facade gable end is of brick which is outlined in projecting wooden cornice molding to give the appearance of a Grecian pediment. At the center of the pediment is a wooden fan, a lingering detail from the earlier Federal Period. The design of the facade is completed by a handsome two stage Greek Revival belfry. Each wall of the second stage bears the design of a louvered arch flanked by pilasters which support a classical entablature.

The north and south or side walls of Hampden Academy were originally identical in design. Four windows were symmetrically placed at the basement, first and second story levels. While the granite foundation served as the sill for the basement windows, the first and second story windows had granite sills and lintels. This arrangement has survived on the north wall, but was altered on the south wall, perhaps at the same time as the addition of the early twentieth century portico. While the four window arrangement was retained on the south wall at the basement and first story levels, it was changed to eight closely aligned windows on the second. The windows of the east or rear wall were bricked in when a mid-twentieth century addition was made to the Academy.

Hampden Academy's interior retains much of its 1840's arrangement. A foyer and staircase are located at the west end of the building. The remainder of each (See continuation sheet)

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floor was originally devoted to one large room. While this feature has survived on the first story, the second story is now divided into several small rooms. Simple Greek Revival woodwork is found throughout the structure. The building is now the headquarters of the school's music department.

Hampden's Academy of 1842=43 has successfully survived more than a century and a quarter as a functioning part of a secondary school. Although now incorporated into a large complex, it retains its identity and serves as a visible symbol of its community's educational heritage.

# 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 checked="" 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      1842-43      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Stuart (James H.) and Wallace

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As Maine's interior became settled after the American Revolution, newly established communities founded academies for the education of their children. Representative of this trend was Hampden, in Penobscot County, which became incorporated as a town in 1794 and received authorization for its academy from the Massachusetts Legislature in 1803. Maine was then a province of Massachusetts.

In order to initiate Hampden Academy, the legislature granted the school's board of trustees 11,040 acres of northern Maine land in what is now Weston, Aroostook County. This land was sold by the board in five hundred acre lots and raised approximately three thousand dollars. With these funds in hand, the trustees ordered the construction of a two story frame building in 1806 which measured forty-four by thirty feet. By the following year, the school was completed; and the preceptor, Phineas Johnson, was hired. The first term in 1807 was attended by between forty-five and fifty students.

Hampden Academy's frame structure of 1806 served the school until its destruction by fire on February 24, 1842. The board acted quickly to replace it with the current building. On July 7, 1842, the trustees contracted with a Mr. Stuart and a Mr. Wallace to erect a brick school house for \$1,025. No record has been located as to the identity of Stuart and Wallace, although a James H. Stewart was listed as a carpenter in Hampden in the 1855 Maine Register and Business Directory. Nor is it known whether either man contributed to the Academy's Greek Revival design, which is similar to at least two other academies in the region, Bloomfield of 1840 in Skowhegan and Athens of 1846.

Forty years after receiving its charter, Hampden Academy opened its present brick building in 1843. In 1850 the Maine Legislature granted the school two hundred dollars with which to buy chemicals and laboratory equipment. The gift proved to be a mixed blessing, for a misguided chemistry experiment has been attributed as the cause of a fire in 1854. Fortunately, the damage was limited to the first floor and was quickly repaired.

Three times during the mid-nineteenth century, the Academy tried to expand its curriculum to the college level. In 1856, it graduated four women who had taken a course of study almost identical to Bowdoin College's in Brunswick, then restricted to men. Between 1860 and 1862, the school (See continuation sheet)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mitchell and Johnson, The Hampden Register, Kent's Hill, 1904, pp.33-38

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REF ok w/m  
10-6-75

UTM REFERENCES

A | 19 | 512825 | 4953850 |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
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.

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

May 1975

STREET & NUMBER

31 Western Avenue

TELEPHONE

207-289-2133

CITY OR TOWN

Augusta, Maine 04333

STATE

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*James H. Mundy*

TITLE

*State Historic Preservation Officer*

DATE

*July 15, 1975*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*W. A. Mortenson*

DATE

*9/11/75*

ATTEST:

DATE

SEP 8 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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offered a normal school course to prepare students for grammar and secondary level teaching. The next year the Maine Legislature passed an act creating two state normal schools. An attempt was made to locate one at Hampden in connection with the Academy, but Castine and Farmington secured the schools. After these experiences, the trustees turned their efforts soldy to grammar and secondary education, a direction which has continued to the present.

Today Hampden Academy is a flourishing public school which has expanded beyond its 1842 facilities. Yet it has been mindful of its early roots by continuing to preserve and use its handsome Greek Revival brick building. The Academy's history and its school house provide valuable insights into the trends of Maine education and educational architecture during the nineteenth century.