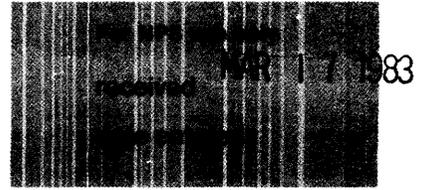


APR 27 1983

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Wilson Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Franklin Street N/A not for publication

city, town Bucksport, N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Hancock code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: None

4. Owner of Property

name Aaron Gleich

street & number 201 West 89th Street

city, town New York, N/A vicinity of state New York 10024

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hancock County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Ellsworth, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Me. Historic Resources Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1974  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta, state Maine

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

Wilson Hall in Bucksport (1850-51) is a rectangular, pitched-roofed structure bearing simple Greek Revival detail. The body of the building is of red brick, but with a wooden cornice, roof, and two-stage belfry. The belfry is sited at the center of the roof's ridge. The main doorway is located in the center of a long side, which faces the town of Bucksport from atop a bluff. The site is dramatic, relatively isolated, and highly visible.

The building's entryway was originally a simple arrangement of door, transom-light, and side-lights. The entry is presently enclosed behind a plywood vestibule, and its condition is unascertainable. All first floor windows are likewise covered with plywood. Four simple pilasters divide the facade into five bays, each pilaster joining a simple brick entablature. The gable ends are two-bayed. A twentieth-century porch consisting of thin, square, brick columns holding a shallow roof, extends across the facade, but does not mar the original composition. The second story and attic windows are 6/6 and probably original.

A third story wooden shed dormer has been added across the roof in the rear but this in no way affects the view of the main facade.

The belfry has two sections: a squarish wooden box astride the roof ridge, and a wooden "stool" consisting of four square plyons supporting a shallow, square pedestal. A narrow bit of decorative cornice that originally capped the structure is now missing, as is a facade-facing window.

To the west of the building is a severely altered Greek Revival dormitory dating from 1855. Both buildings are fronted by a broad sloping green that remains free of construction, and are bordered to the east by a cemetery.

## 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 checked="" 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** 1850-51 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wilson Hall was erected by the Eastern Maine Methodist Conference in 1850-51, and closed its doors in 1933. The sole Methodist Seminary in eastern Maine, and the only seminary in Hancock County, the building was constructed at a critical period in the church's expansion.

Methodism made great strides in eastern Maine in the late 1840's-1850's, and approval of plans for a seminary was the first act of the newly formed Eastern Maine Methodist Conference in 1848.

The building is unique in Bucksport and Hancock County, not only in its function, but also its plan and appearance. Bucksport has no other large, brick, Greek Revival structure, save for the now severely altered Seminary dormitory. The building has been a highly visible local landmark from its construction. Austere, yet beautiful in line and proportion, Wilson Hall is among the major institutional buildings of the period in eastern Maine.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Amanda M. Wilson, "History of the Conference Seminary" in Eastern Maine Methodist Conference Minutes, 1913 (date).  
 Allen Pillsbury, Methodism in Maine, 1793-1886. (photo)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property            $\frac{1}{2}$           

Quadrangle name Bucksport

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	1	9	5	1	6	0	1	7	0	4	1	9	3	1	5	5	1	6	1	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

Assessor's Map 53A, Lot 34

### 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 Gregory K. Clancey, Contract Assistant/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date January, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

## 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 *Carole S. Feltkowitz*

title S.H.P.O. date 3/14/83

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Bruce Van Doren</i></u>	date <u>4/27/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	