

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUN 19 1984  
date entered JUL 19 1984

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

1. Name

historic Somerset Academy

and/or common Athens Academy

2. Location

street & number Academy Street N/A not for publication

city, town Athens, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Somerset code 025

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Somerset Academy Board of Trustees, Winifred Crocker, President

street & number 61 Pleasant Street

city, town Dexter, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04930

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Skowhegan, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maine 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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**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 main section of this building is two-and-one-half stories high and constructed of brick with a gable roof. Designed in a Greek Revival style temple plan, the structure has its main entrance on the narrow gable end which contains a full pediment with a lunette. Directly above is a belfry with classical pilasters and round arched apertures.

Additional Greek Revival style ornamentation includes the pilasters and entablature which enframe the main (south) entrance and the second story porch. The other windows in the building consist of two-over-two double-hung sash.

Attached to the north end of the building is a modern one-story wing of no architectural significance.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1846 **Builder/Architect** Joseph Bigelow

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Somerset Academy has distinction as a fine example of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Greek Revival academic architecture designed by a noted architect of the period. It also reflects the strong emphasis placed on high quality education even in rural Maine during this period. Athens is really a very small town in a fairly remote region and the size and distinction of this structure come as a surprise to the visitor.

The Academy was built in 1846, the money for it being raised by subscription. The largest subscriber was John Ware who gave \$200.00 and a half acre of land for the building site.

The architect was Joseph Bigelow of nearby Skowhegan who designed the handsome Coburn Mansion (N.R.) in Skowhegan. This handsome impressive Greek Revival house is considered among the finest of its type in Maine.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

A Historical Sketch of Athens, Maine, published by the Athens Victory Club.  
Skowhegan, 1954.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property  $\frac{1}{2}$   
Quadrangle name Skowhegan

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	9	5	5	6	6	5	0	4	9	7	4	8	0	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 2, Lot 30

### 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 Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date May, 1984

street & number 55 Capitol Street, STation #65 telephone 207/289-2132

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 *Eileen S. Fitzpatrick*

title S.H.P.O. date 6/8/84

### For NPS use only

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

*for Allene Byer* Entered in the National Register date 7/19/84  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration \_\_\_\_\_