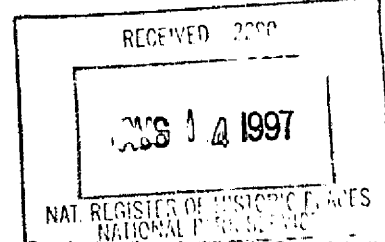


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in "How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form" (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Brown-Pilsbury Double House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 188-190 Franklin Street N/A not for publication

city or town Bucksport N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04416

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Evan S. Howard 8/6/97
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 9/11/97
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Brown-Pilsbury Double House

Name of Property

Hancock, Maine

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Hotel

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other One Story Rear Ell

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BROWN-PILSBURY DOUBLE HOUSE

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Brown-Pilsbury Double House is a two-story, double pile, Federal style frame building that is sheathed in clapboards and is covered by a gable roof. It stands on a granite block foundation at the southeast corner of Franklin and McDonald Street in Bucksport. The house features a one-story ell attached to the west side of the rear (south) elevation, and a barrel arched room in the attic level.

The five-bay north elevation of the house (which faces Franklin Street) has a symmetrical fenestration pattern that is comprised of a central doorway flanked by two six-over-six double hung sash windows with operable blinds. The north entrance, which was probably added to the house later in the nineteenth century, is detailed in the Federal period fashion, but it is entirely conjectural in its finish since prior alterations left no apparent trace of what originally existed. On the second story, the center bay has a false window (behind which are closets) and six-over-six windows that match those on the first story. A denticulated boxed cornice carries across the elevation and makes short returns on the gable ends. One of the two interior chimneys punctuates the north roof slope. Both are centrally located about midway down from the ridge.

The east elevation is comprised of a doorway located just north of center with a single six-over-six window to the north and a pair of six-over-sixes to the south. (A one-story nineteenth century ell was attached to the northeast corner of this elevation, but it was removed within the past decade.) The entryway features a six-panel door, a tall ten-light transom, and pilasters with pronounced caps, architrave, and frieze that support a broad cornice. Four six-over-six windows on the second story are located on axis with the openings on the first story, and two small nine-over-six windows occupy the gable peak. This fenestration is repeated on the west end elevation with the exception of the doorway which has Greek Revival style characteristics including sidelights, wide pilasters, and a full entablature. It is presumed that the original entrance on this side was similar in design to the one on the east end, although no documentation has been found to verify this conclusion. The fenestration pattern on the rear elevation is comprised of two six-over-six windows on the first story, and two similar windows on the second story. The ell (which is thought to have been added within three decades after the house was originally built) projects from the southwest corner. It has two windows and a door on the west side, modern French doors opening onto a deck on the south end, and a single window on the east side as well as French doors and a second deck. A brick flue stack punctuates the middle of the ell roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BROWN-PILSBURY DOUBLE HOUSE

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

Inside, the plan of and detailing of both units is nearly identical. In both, one enters from the side elevations into a small vestibule that contains a tightly wound spiral staircase whose balustrade borders the entire U-shaped landing thus making a complete 360 degree path. The staircase has a thin turned newel post and balusters. The wall below it is covered in tongue and groove sheathing, and a door provides access to the basement. Doors open from the vestibule into the original kitchen in the northeast room, and a parlor in the southeast room. The former kitchen retains its large hearth and beehive bake oven, and the parlor has a typical Federal period mantelpiece with reeded pilasters. Both rooms on the second floor have somewhat different mantelpieces. Woodwork in the west unit is similar to that found in the east end, with the exception of the newel post (which is shorter), and the Italianate style door and window surrounds in the northwest room. This particular room has also lost its original kitchen hearth. The basement is divided into two separate areas of equal size. Brick arches support the chimney stacks, and the west side has a large cistern built along its interior wall.

Of further interest on the interior is the finish of the attic space. Records indicate that when originally constructed, the house was furnished with a meeting space for the local Masonic chapter. Tradition holds that access was originally gained via a door in the ceiling off the landing (which has subsequently been modified by the addition of a stair and two bathrooms). The attic space was built with knee walls and a barrel vaulted ceiling. In the middle of the north wall, an elliptically arched niche framed with paneled pilasters was constructed, and below this niche and extending along the balance of the wall built in benches were provided. The south wall was provided with a small hearth that was connected to the adjoining chimney stack. This space has been altered by the addition of a center partition wall and the addition of the staircase.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from Instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1808

Significant Dates

c. 1808

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BROWN-PILSBURY DOUBLE HOUSE

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

Constructed about 1808, the Brown-Pilsbury Double House is a two-story Federal style frame dwelling with several noteworthy architectural features. It was built for local businessmen and fellow Masons Jonathan H. Brown and Moody Pilsbury by an as yet unidentified builder. One side of the double house became the parsonage for the Methodist Church in 1871. The house is one of several notable early nineteenth century dwellings in Bucksport, and it is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion C for its local architectural significance.

On December 29, 1800, John Hillyard Brown (a native of Weare, New Hampshire) acquired the first of his many properties in Bucksport including perhaps the lot on which he subsequently built this house. Four years later he sold the west side of the lot to his business partner Moody Pilsbury (1781-1850), who was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire. An 1808 newspaper discovered below the subfloor of a second story bedroom, as well as an 1808 description of Franklin Street which mentions the house document its existence by that date. Deeds also record the fact that Pilsbury sold his half interest in the house (as well as a store and wharf) to Brown in July of 1810, and Brown in turn sold the three properties in December of that year to Stephen Bean of Boston for \$5,000.

Research conducted by the present owner of the house reveals that both Brown and Pilsbury were active in Bucksport's commercial and civic affairs. Both were members of the local Masonic lodge, a fact that is underscored by the incorporation of a lodge room in the attic of their new double house. Brown was one of the sixteen incorporators of the Penobscot Bank (incorporated 1806), and served at various times on Buckstown's Fish Committee, as the Sealer of Weights, and as Constable. Pilsbury appears to have been among the founders in 1806 of the Buckstown Social Library, for several years he was the town clerk, and he served terms as selectman, assessor, and overseer of the poor. During the War of 1812, Pilsbury wrote both a letter of protest against the war and submitted a petition to the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding the Embargo Act (*Hempstead Papers*, p.24, and *Town Records, Vol I*, p.187). Details concerning their business partnership are elusive, although the 1810 deeds indicate that for a period of time they jointly owned a store and wharf. However, by 1812 both Brown and Pilsbury were in financial trouble, a fact that is documented by several court cases in which they were sued for amounts ranging from \$90.00 to \$2,575.50. The failure of the Penobscot Bank in 1810 and the effects of the War of 1812 may have accounted in large part for the financial hardship encountered by Brown and Pilsbury. Although public records reveal that Pilsbury remained active in Bucksport until about the time of his death in 1850, little more is known about Brown.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BROWN-PILSBURY DOUBLE HOUSE

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

Between 1810 when Jonathan Brown sold the double house to Stephen Bean and 1986 when the present owner acquired it, either one or both units changed ownership eleven times. During this period the longest single owner of first one side and then both was the Methodist Church which used it for a parsonage between the years 1871 and 1934.

From the exterior, the Brown-Pilsbury Double House is a relatively typical example of a mid Federal period village residence, particularly in its overall massing, roof form, and the detailing of its windows and one doorway (one was altered in the Greek Revival style). However, it is distinguished from many of its contemporaries by the fact that it is a double house whose configuration places the entrances in the gable ends rather than along the side elevation facing the street. This organization of the plan necessitated the use of back-to-back spiral stairways which are the most notable features of the interior. In addition to the staircases, the lodge room incorporated into the attic is an unusual aspect of this property, particularly given its original residential function. While attic or third story spaces not unlike this one are found in some buildings that functioned as taverns, their presence in this type of property is unusual. Although a number of architecturally distinguished Federal style houses exist in Bucksport, the Brown-Pilsbury Double House appears to be a unique representative of local building practices in the first decade of the nineteenth century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

BROWN-PILSBURY DOUBLE HOUSE

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Clough, Judith and Holmes, David. "188 and 190 Franklin Street." Typescript copy of a research paper on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta. 1997.

Hempstead, Rev. Alfred. "Hempstead Papers: A Historical Record Survey Set Up by the Federal Works Administration". Typescript copy on file at the Bucksport Historical Society, Bucksport. nd (1930s).

Brown-Pilsbury Double House

Name of Property

Hancock, Maine

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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

3															
	Zone	Easting			Northing										

2															
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4															
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1997

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BROWN-PILSBURY DOUBLE HOUSE

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Bucksport Tax Map 32, Lot 70.

Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses the entire village lot that is historically associated with the Brown-Pilsbury Double House.