

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 25 1986
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Bridge Academy

and or common

2. Location

street & number Routes 197/127

not for publication

city, town Dresden, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Lincoln code 015

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Trustees of Bridge Academy

street & number Routes 197/127

city, town Dresden, vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Wiscasset, state Maine

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

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Bridge Academy is located in the small village of Dresden Mills, which consists of a scattered group of 19th and 20th century residences and stores, plus a fraternal hall and two churches. The area does not possess the potential for an historic district.

The Academy building is one-story of post and beam construction with a lofty gambrel roof and deep basement. Its roof and the tall pointed ventilator tower which surmounts it, are "Shingle style" devices, although the walls of the building, save for small areas in the gables, are entirely clapboarded.

The exterior is almost entirely covered with 4-foot sawn clapboards, fastened with wire-cut nails. All four of the original outside doors (two front and two back) have been replaced: one rear door opening has been entirely removed; in the other door openings new wooden six-paneled doors have been fitted in place of original three- and four-paneled doors. All transoms have been retained. The original wooden roofing shingles have been replaced by black asphalt. The large windows are either fixed or double-hung sash with multi-pane lights. Smaller entrance vestibule windows are double hung with two-over-two lights.

The building's floor plan and interior finish survive largely intact. The plan consists of a large central classroom running from the front to the back walls, with both entry/stair halls and two anterooms to either side. The classroom is lit at either end by tall, multi-paned tripartite windows, with two operating lower and a fixed upper sash. The classroom's ceiling conforms to the height and shape of the roof. Tongue and groove wood wainscoting runs along the base of the walls, surmounted in places by blackboards, and otherwise by pressed sheet metal in a variety of patterns which covers the upper walls and continues uninterrupted onto the ceiling. Both wainscot and pressed metal are painted. A round metal ventilator grill occupies the center of the ceiling beneath the wooden ventilator tower. The floor here and throughout the building has been covered with wall-to-wall carpeting. Now missing are both the small shallow stage that once held the teacher's desk, and the original rows of scholar's desks. The ceiling area is bisected by a modern, hanging, sheetrock partition, below which, at floor level, are a series of inter-hinged wooden doors, which are usually kept folded against the walls.

The larger of the two anterooms to the right of the classroom formally housed the library, and retains a tall, ornamented, built-in bookcase. The smaller anteroom in the right rear corner, formally a "recreation" room, now holds a modern bathroom. The larger anteroom to the left of the classroom was formally a recitation room, and the smaller a laboratory. Both of the rooms to the left retain their wooden finish, but their walls have been covered with modern panelling.

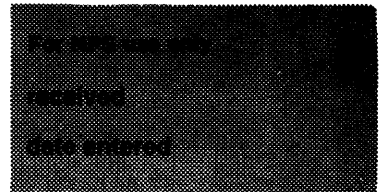
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All of the building's interior doors and door mouldings, and windows and window mouldings, survive unaltered, except that the glass of the door transoms has been replaced by an opaque material.

The two stairhalls connect the classroom with the basement, which originally housed exercise rooms and lavatories. No trace of these remain, although a modern sheetrocked classroom exists in the center of the space. Two doors, one at either end of the rear brick wall of the basement, originally connected the building with a double outhouse via a double wooden ell. The outhouse was a frame structure which roughly mimicked the character of the main building. This has been removed and the openings in the back foundation wall bricked up.

The building's foundation is of granite blocks capped by brick. The frame is of transitional post and beam construction, in that the members are large--the sill 6X8, plates 4X4, corner posts 4X4, etc.--but are not braced. It was not possible to determine whether they were mortice and tennon. The gambrel roof and ventilator are also heavily framed, the former having 6X8 purlins at the joint of the two slopes.

The building had a basement furnace from the beginning, and in 1901 it was piped for water from a nearby spring.

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 1890 **Builder/Architect** George A. Clough, Arch./Roscoe Beedle, Carpen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Bridge Academy is one of the most architecturally ambitious of the state's smaller late 19th-century academy buildings, and one of few to survive with its interior largely unaltered. It is one of the major architectural landmarks in the town of Dresden, and is a major Maine work by the prominent Boston architect George A. Clough.

The Academy owes its existence, and stands as a tribute to, Samuel J. Bridge (1809–93) of Dresden. Bridge was born in Maine, but, like many in the states history, went to Boston to make his fortune. Although extremely successful as a merchant, his career extending from Boston to San Francisco, he always regretted that, at an early age, he had been forced to withdraw from Harvard due to financial problems. Returning to Dresden late in life as a very wealthy bachelor, Bridge occupied his last years with educationally-related philanthropies. These ranged from the now-famous statue of John Harvard next to Harvard's Monument Hall, which he commissioned of Daniel Chester French, to Bridge Academy, a gift to his native town.

Bridge used the opportunity of a large bequest left to the town of Dresden by another wealthy expatriate, Llewellyn Lithgow of Augusta, to excite the town to the prospect of an academy. Promising to add a substantial amount of his own money to the Lithgow bequest if the town would donate it to the construction of an academy, Bridge defeated a faction who wished the money to be spent on a bridge spanning the Kennebec. Although 87 years old, Bridge superintended the construction himself, and established both a Board of Trustees and a generous trust fund. Bridge's wealth and personal influence are doubtless the reason the building is more creatively designed and better apportioned than were most rural academies. As he stated in the opening address: "Having contributed the funds for its construction, I am at perfect liberty to make an elegant ediface."

The Academy was originally staffed by a male principal and two female teachers, and educated Dresden children of both sexes between the ages of 10 and 21, tuition-free. Tuition-paying scholars were accepted from other communities, and were boarded in village houses.

George A. Clough (1843–1910) was, like Bridge, a native of Maine who sought and made his fortune in Boston. Clough was born the son of a shipwright in Blue Hill, but was early apprenticed to a Boston architect. As the City Architect of Boston in 1873–84, he came to specialize in planning schoolhouses, and eventually counted 85 of them among his designs, both in and outside of Boston. After leaving city government and establishing his own practice, he summered in

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Interview with owner.
2. Kennebec Journal (Augusta, Me.), 4/30/83.
3. History of Dresden, Maine, Charles E. Allen, Privately Printed 1931, pp. 799-811.
4. Biographical History of Massachusetts, Vol. III, S. A. Eliot, Boston, Mass., Biographical Society, 1911 (for bio. of G. A. Clough).
5. George A. Clough file, Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Wiscasset

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	4	4	1	8	7	0	4	8	3	5	3	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 U-1, lot 6

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, Edited by Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 1986

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 *Eric A. Peterson*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/17/86

For NPS use only

hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Andrews date 1/9/87

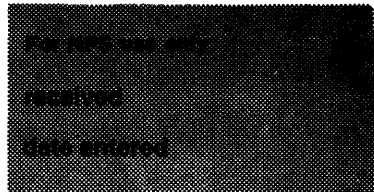
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Beth L. Swage date 1-8-87

Chief of Registration

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Blue Hill and designed over a dozen buildings around his native state, primarily small public and institutional buildings, including five libraries and at least two other academies. Bridge Academy is unique among those he created in Maine, and is perhaps the only academy building in the state which is predominantly in the Shingle style. Original architectural drawings for the academy are in the George Clough Collection at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities in Boston.