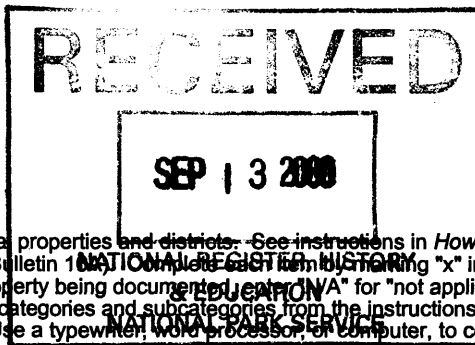


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 16) and enter "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 Columbia House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number North side of Main Street at Junction with Church Hill Circle N/A not for publication
city or town Columbia Falls N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Washington code 029 zip code 04623

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.)
Erin S. [Signature] 9/1/00
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): _____

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Date of Action 10/12/00

Columbia House
Name of Property

Washington, 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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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/Single Dwelling

Domestic/Hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Clapboard

Wood/Wood Shingle

roof Asphalt

other Attached Ell and Wing

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

COLUMBIA HOUSE

WASHINGTON, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Columbia House is a Federal style two-story, five-bay, double pile frame dwelling that has a short ell that is connected to a larger wing and carriage shed. The building, which is located in Columbia Falls village, is sheathed in wood shingles and clapboards. It stands on a granite block foundation.

Facing south, the symmetrically composed facade has a broad central doorway, four flanking six-over-six double hung sash windows on the first story, and five six-over-sixes on the second story. The entryway is composed of a six-panel door framed by leaded sidelights and an elliptical fan, the whole of which is bordered by paneled pilasters that rise to a wide fascia and overhanging cornice featuring console brackets decorated with guttae. Narrow corner boards frame the elevation which is capped by a thin cornice. A pair of brick interior end chimneys punctuate the building's gable roof forward of the ridge.

The east and west side elevations have identical fenestration patterns that are comprised of three symmetrically placed six-over-six double hung sash windows on the first story, four six-over-sixes on the second story, and two smaller six-over-sixes in the gable peak. Both end walls are sheathed in wood shingles. There are two windows on each of the main block's first and second stories, a small gabled dormer in the center of the roof, and an ell attached to and extending beyond the northeast corner. This modest structure, which was apparently built as a kitchen, is sheathed in wood shingles and has a door and two windows on its front (south) elevation, a single window on the east side, two windows on the north wall, and a door on the narrow west side. A tall brick flue rises through the west slope of its gable roof. Attached to the northwest corner of the ell is a two-story, wood shingled wing that has a pair of windows on its south side, one six-over-six in the east gable peak, and a six-pane window in its west gable end. Its west elevation is connected to a long carriage shed that is clad in wood shingles and has a window and two contemporary garage doors on its south side.

Inside, the house is organized around a hall and parlor plan typically associated with center chimney houses. The vestibule behind the front door contains an open string staircase that rises through two inter-story landings to the U-shaped second floor hall. At that point, a freestanding run of stairs extends to the attic level. The staircase is composed of delicately rendered Federal style newel posts, handrails and balusters. To the east of the vestibule is a parlor that is finished in symmetrically molded Greek Revival style trim with corner blocks, a design that is carried to the mantelpiece in this room. In contrast, the trim throughout the rest of the main block of the house is of the mitered three-part style typically found in Federal period houses in Maine. Likewise, the mantelpiece in the west parlor is of Federal style with paneled pilasters rising to a wide fascia that is framed by paneled corner blocks, a narrow cornice and a deep mantel shelf. Doors in these rooms have six-panel configurations and original hardware. To the rear of the front parlors is a large dining room featuring a folding wooden door at the west end, behind which is a small room. Another small room is located at the east end as well as a trio of doors, one of which leads to the back staircase, the middle one concealing a dish closet, and the third one leading to the kitchen ell. There are four bedrooms on the second floor, two of which contain modest Federal style mantelpieces, whereas the attic level has two bedrooms.

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1834

c. 1850-1882

Significant Dates

1834

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCOLUMBIA HOUSEWASHINGTON, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Believed to have been constructed in 1834, the Columbia House is a two-story Federal style frame house which has a rear ell connected to a two-story wing and carriage shed. According to local tradition, the house was built for Gowin Wilson, Jr., who used it for most of his residency as a hotel. The property is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion A for its association with the commercial history of Columbia Falls, and criterion C as a largely intact and locally important example of a late Federal period residence.

According to the Population Schedule of the 1860 Census, Gowen (which is also spelled Gowin in other sources) Wilson was born in 1808. On September 14, 1833 a marriage intention between Gowin Wilson, Jr. and Eliza Ann Wass was filed in the Town of Columbia, which at that time included the area subsequently set off to form Columbia Falls. Although the brief entry for the Columbia House that appears in *Sunrise County Architecture* (1979, revised 1996) states that it was built for Gowen Wilson, Jr. in the 1820s, a local historian has commented that he has seen a written statement by Wilson referring to the building's construction in 1834 (Drisko Interview). This latter date is consistent with Wilson's date of birth and marriage to Eliza Ann Wass, as well as the transitional Federal/Greek Revival style of the house. The 1979 source indicates that the dwelling began to be used as an inn in 1847. G. Wilson is listed as the proprietor of the Columbia House in the 1855 edition of the *Maine Business Directory*, as well as in subsequent listings until 1882. During this time, it appears to have been the only inn or hotel in Columbia Falls. The house descended to Wilson's daughter Lucy (Wilson) Crandon and her husband John H. Crandon, and then to their daughters Anna and Grace (their brother John Crandon occupied the house for a number of years as well).

Columbia Falls was initially settled by Euro-Americans shortly after the conclusion of the Revolution, but the town itself was not incorporated until 1863 after being set off from Columbia. In 1850, the combined population of the two towns was 1,140 persons. The site of Columbia Falls village developed at an early date due to the existence of an important water power that stimulated the construction of several mills, one of which was established in the 1780s by Joseph Wilson, a relative of Gowen Wilson. In addition to the various mills (including saw, grist, cloth, and carding mills) that existed in the village, shipbuilding was an important local industry as early as the late eighteenth century and well into the late nineteenth century). In this local context, Gowen Wilson's decision to establish an inn was a direct response to a need for public accommodation in a bustling community whose population reached 685 persons in 1880. The Columbia House remained the town's only inn through 1882 when it no longer appears in the business directories.

Viewed in the context of Columbia Falls' historic architecture, the Columbia House is one of the last of a long line of Federal style houses erected in the community. In fact, its Greek Revival trim in one room reflects the emerging fashion that would soon dominate the architectural scene in Maine. Several late eighteenth century houses that survive in Columbia Falls are characterized by their two-story, five-bay, double pile configurations, as well as central chimneys and transoms above the doorways (later alterations have been made in some cases to these latter features). Among them is the John Bucknam House (NR 4/28/75) of 1792. Columbia Falls is also the site of the 1820 Thomas Ruggles House (NR 1/26/70), a high style Federal period building with elaborately detailed facade and interiors. Another important house of this period is the five-bay, center chimney cape built for Samuel Bucknam (NR 10/19/78) in 1820-21. In many respects, the Columbia House is closely related to its earlier ancestors, particularly the center chimney examples with their hall and parlor plans. However, the freestanding staircase that rises between the second floor and attic is evidently a reference to the exquisite flying staircase in the Thomas Ruggles House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

COLUMBIA HOUSE

WASHINGTON, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Bibliography

Author's telephone interview with Laurence Drisko of Columbia Falls, June 30, 2000. Notes on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Eighth Census of the United States. 1860: Washington County, Maine. Population Schedule. Microfilm of National Archives manuscript copy. Maine State Archives. Augusta.

Greene, Nancy H., and Drisko, Clarence H. *A History of Columbia and Columbia Falls*. Cherryfield, ME: Narraguagus Printing Co. 1976.

Maine Business Directory. Boston: Briggs & Co., various years.

Maine Register or State Yearbook and Legislative Manual. Various years.

Sunrise County Architecture: Significant Buildings of Washington County, Maine. Second Revised and Enlarged Edition. Machias, ME: Sunrise Research Institute. 1996.

Columbia House
Name of Property

Washington, 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	1	9	6	0	0	8	2	1	0	4	9	4	5	0	9	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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, 2000

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

COLUMBIA HOUSE

WASHINGTON, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Columbia Falls tax map 11, lot 44.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property embraces the entire village lot that is historically associated with the Columbia House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

COLUMBIA HOUSE

WASHINGTON CO., ME

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

August 1, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from S

2 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

August 1, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from NE

3 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

August 1, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of first floor stairhall

4 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

August 1, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of first floor, SE room