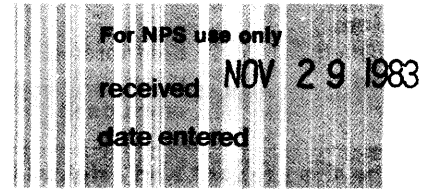


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Walker Memorial Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Lower Ridge Road, (Bridgton Highlands) N/A not for publication

city, town Bridgton vic X vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Maine code 23 county Cumberland code 005

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 checked="" 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 Residents of Old School District #18, c/o Dorothy Hale Davis

street & number Lower Ridge Road

city, town Bridgton, N/A vicinity of state Maine 041009

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number 142 Federal Street

city, town Portland, state Maine 04100

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Designed in the eclectic tradition of late nineteenth century architecture, the Walker Memorial Building exhibits a variety of ornamentation that is characteristic of the period. The wood frame structure is two stories high and has a hipped roof broken by two gabled dormers and a corner tower. Although assymetrical, the composition of the principal (west) facade is carefully balanced between the two dormers and the tower. The exterior of the building manifests an assortment of textures through the combinations of clapboard, shingle and false "timber frame" sheathing. The windows consist of Queen Anne sash of different sizes organized singly or in groups of twos and threes. Queen Anne sash is also used in the panelled doors located on the north and west sides.

The tower is the main decorative feature of the building. On the west side is a small portico over the entrance to the stair tower which is modestly fashioned with wood posts resting on a shingled railing. Directly above are narrow stair windows with small scroll-shaped cresting. The belfry of the tower calls to mind rustic Stick Style design with its peaked gablets containing braced frame woodwork.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1892 **Builder/Architect** Frederick Tompson

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

This excellent and rare example of a Queen Anne public building was designed by noted Portland architect, Frederick A. Tompson. Apart from its architectural significance, it is a survivor of the period when communities were much more closely knit than today and participated in group activities much more frequently. It also reflects an era when self-improvement through intellectual pursuits was a community affair.

The building was erected in the summer of 1892 and first used in January, 1893 by the Ridge Literary Aid Society. Joseph Walker, a wealthy summer resident left in his will \$5,000 used for the construction accompanied by the following stipulation:

"I have no objection to said sum being used and expended in whole or in part, for the erection of a building within the limits of said district (School District 18), said building to be used for the purpose of a library, or for lectures, or the promotion of agriculture, or expended in such manner as shall accomplish the greatest good to the largest number of residents of said district."

For many years Walker Memorial Hall served the Ridge people well. Sunday services were held in the summertime, Christmas parties, community suppers, dances, and amateur theatricals were included among the activities in the building. The only heat was provided by wood burning stoves which today add much to the turn-of-the-century charm of the interior.

Gradually times changed and the hall fell into disuse. Today, however, an active group of residents is concerned with preserving the structure and putting it back to useful purposes.

Frederick A. Tompson (1857-1919), the architect, experienced a prolific career spanning four decades. Among his works are the Masonic Temple and the Adam P. Leighton House in Portland, and the Walker Memorial Library in Westbrook, all of which are listed on the National Register. Tompson was trained initially in the office of Francis H. Fassett, Maine's most noted mid-19th century architect.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Davis, Blynn Edwin, History of the Ridge. Typed ms. in the Bridgton Public Library.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Norway

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	1	9
3	6	1
8	5	0

4	8	8	2	0	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 14, Lot 20

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

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street 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 *Evan S. Fullenbrook*

title S.H.P.O. date 11/18/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 12/29/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration