

DEC 26 1989

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bridgewater Town Hall and Jail
other names/elts number _____

2. Location

street & number East Side of Route 1 not for publication
city, town Bridgewater vicinity
state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04735

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: *Sam T. Fitzsimmons* Date: 12/15/89
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. 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:) _____

Entered in the National Register 1/26/90

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting HallGovernment/City HallGovernment/Correctional Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting HallRecreation & Culture/Museum**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Wood/Weatherboardroof Asphaltother Jail Building hasConcrete Block Walls & Metal Roof

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bridgewater Town Hall and Jail is a two building complex located on the east side of U. S. Route 1 in the village center. The Town Hall is a large two-story three-bay rectangular structure of frame construction. It is sheathed in weatherboards and covered by a hip roof. The diminutive jail is constructed of ornamental cast concrete blocks and also has a hip roof.

The front (west) elevation of the Town Hall has a symmetrical fenestration pattern that is comprised of a central entrance flanked by two-over-two windows and a trio of similar openings on the second story. Wide hoods shelter the door and windows and a ten-pane transom surmounts the door (a portion of which has been enclosed so as to accommodate a single door as opposed to the original two-leaf arrangement). Paneled corner pilasters rise to an entablature that carries around the building below the broad eaves.

Both side elevations have symmetrically placed two-over-two windows on each story similar to those on the facade. This pattern is interrupted on the south side, however, by a second story door located at the southeast corner. It opens into an unusual free-standing staircase that is entirely enclosed and covered by shed and gable roofs. The ground level entrance lies below a pedimented gable. Viewed from the side, the enclosure has an expanse of wall sheathed in weatherboards, a window at the landing and another door at the base. An addition to the rear of this staircase contains the lavatory. A centrally placed brick flue stack rises through the slope of the hipped roof on this elevation.

The first floor interior is divided into three principal areas: a narrow vestibule flanked by a ticket booth and storage room; a large hall which has recently been separated into two unequal spaces with a temporary partition; and a stage at the east end. The walls and a portion of the ceiling on this level are covered with ornamental pressed metal. The second floor contains a kitchen, dining room, and storage areas off the lodge hall which is located at the front of the building. Plaster over lath finish is utilized on this upper floor.

Standing at the southeast corner of the lot is the small rectangular jail. Its west end has a single window whereas the north side has a door. The standing seam metal roof is punctuated on the south by the remains of a brick flue stack.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

1894-1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Collins, G.W., Contractor

Significant Dates

1894

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Bridgewater's Town Hall and Jail are a little altered pair of buildings prominently sited in the center of this rural village's small commercial district. Built in 1894 to house town meetings, community functions, and fraternal gatherings, the Town Hall is locally significant not only for its historical association with these community, governmental, and civic activities, but also for its architectural prominence. The jail, which appears to date from the 1910s, contributes to the significance of the property. For these reasons the complex is eligible for nomination to the Register under criteria A and C.

The Town of Bridgewater was incorporated on March 2, 1858, having been formed from the land grants issued in 1797 to the Bridgewater Academy in Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts and the Portland Academy in Portland. At the time there were less than 500 inhabitants in the town, a figure which grew steadily such that by 1890 there were 946 residents. By 1894 the village boasted four general stores and a dealer in watches, clocks and jewelry, as well as one in furniture. There was also a lumber and shingle mill, a flour and starch mill, a manufacturer of caskets, and two blacksmiths.

The construction of the existing town hall was precipitated by a fire which destroyed the meeting space at "The Corner". A two-story building was agreed upon in order to provide space for future town needs as well as a lodge room, ante-rooms, dining room, and a kitchen. Local businessman George W. Collins was awarded the contract to build the hall. After its completion, local members of the Odd Fellows Lodge in Blaine organized their own chapter in Bridgewater and purchased the second floor of the hall for \$1,200. It was also utilized by the Rebekah Lodge and the Grange until the latter organization was dissolved in 1942. The Rebekahs and the local historical society continue to utilize the first floor but the Odd Fellows have moved to other quarters and the town offices are in a new facility. Despite its diminished use in recent years, the Town Hall continues to be the most historically significant building in Bridgewater that is associated with the variety of governmental and civic organizations which it housed. In similar

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Rideout, Annie E. History of Bridgewater, Maine. Manchester, ME: Falmouth Publishing House, 1953.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

1	9	5	8	8	8	6	0	5	1	4	1	8	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Bridgewater tax map 14, lot 51.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the buildings and entire lot historically associated with this property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 10/89
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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fashion, the jail represents an important aspect of the town's early twentieth century role in which it, like its peers throughout the state, provided a facility for incarceration.

Architecturally, the Town Hall stands as one of Bridgewater's preeminent and least altered landmarks. Many of its residential and commercial neighbors are modest buildings dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries that have suffered from a variety of inappropriate alterations. Within this context, the integrity and architectural features of the Town Hall lend it considerable local significance.