

PH 0663221

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 15 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAY 23 1978

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

Lower Sunday River School

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Sunday River Road

SW of highway on

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newry

VICINITY OF

2nd

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Oxford

CODE

017

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of Newry

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Newry

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Oxford County Registry of Deeds,

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

South Paris,

STATE
Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lower Sunday River Schoolhouse, a one-and-a-half story frame structure with a clapboarded exterior, stands on a foundation of native granite at its original location, a few yards east of the Sunday River Road in Newry, Maine. Known also as the District No. 1 Schoolhouse, the building remains essentially unaltered from its appearance as constructed in 1895 by the Town of Newry.

The exterior, painted a coat of white some two years ago (this appears to be the original color), is in excellent condition. The roof was also reshingled at this time and the single chimney, located a few feet back from the facade, has been kept in good repair. Like other schoolhouses of its period, the Sunday River School has a window arrangement designed to make best use of daylight during school hours; for this reason there are no windows on the east or south walls to receive direct light. Instead, the north wall of the classroom has four large windows with six-over-six panes. The main facade has a central doorway flanked by two windows with four-over-four panes. A third window of the same dimensions is located over the door and provides light to an unfinished attic. All windows have wire-mesh screening applied from the outside.

Extending back from the northeast corner of the main structure is an ell of some fifteen feet containing a divided corridor and two privies. This section is entered by means of a pair of doors in the northeast corner of the classroom. A concrete foundation supports this later addition. There are two small single-paned windows at the top of both the north and south walls in this ell.

The school itself consists of three rooms: an entry hall extending two-thirds of the way across the west facade, a small storage room in the remaining space at the northwest corner, and the classroom itself.

The entryway is sheathed in matched boards and a box-like support projecting from the east wall serves to support the chimney. To the right of this support is a doorway leading into the classroom.

The storage area, like the entry, has only one window. Along its walls are shelves for text books and other school equipment, as well as metal coat hooks spaced every few inches.

The classroom takes up the remaining space in the building. Matched boards are applied to the walls from the floor to about the four-foot level, the remainder being of plaster. The room has nearly a thirteen-foot ceiling. This ceiling is also plastered and like the walls, is in good condition.

A large slate blackboard framed in a simple wooden moulding, runs nearly the entire length of the south wall. A sheet of fiber-board or like material covers the original surface and has been painted black. An unpainted section of wall-board covers an equal portion of the east wall; a length of blackboard matching this in size may be found in the storage building. This was removed to make way for this later attempt at a "bulletin" board.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This modest schoolhouse within the sound of Dug Hill Brook at Sunday River is significant as a remarkable survival of a late 19th century rural school. Though closed over thirty years ago when Newry became part of a larger school administrative district, it has been kept in excellent repair, the result of later occupancy as a Sunday School and community center. Despite this varied pattern of use, the school retains its turn-of-the-century atmosphere through the survival of much of its original equipment. Many "school museums" strive for years to achieve the appearance of authenticity; through some stroke of luck the Sunday River School, District No. 1 survived to the present looking very much as it did some seventy years ago.

In the classroom are wood and cast iron desks of graduated sizes on wooden runners. All have glass ink wells and most carry the patent date of 1872. At the front of the room is a teacher's desk and chair. Also near the front is a tall "Mason & Hamlin" organ, dated "Boston, 1895", in excellent condition.

In other corners of the room are a wooden table, a large bench said to be from the Newry Corner Church (now razed), two bookcases containing a large part of the Grafton town library (Grafton returned to plantation status after surrendering its charter years ago), and a box stove. Though the building was converted to electricity by 1930, kerosene lamps with reflectors are still very much in evidence around the walls. A Regulator Clock and several copies of famous portraits of Washington, Lincoln, Longfellow and Coolidge also adorn the walls. In addition, two maps of Maine dated in the 1860's hang in the room.

Both the desks and the corner storage room contain many of the books used while the school was active. A large collection of student workpapers, notebooks, etc., as well as daily teacher lesson plans, do much in documenting the history of the building. The presence of a wooden globe, a hand bell, map box, abacus, and several wooden "games" of local origin, add to the authentic atmosphere.

The Lower School at Sunday River, one of the last one-room school buildings in northern Oxford County to remain intact, goes beyond this simple but important qualification in representing a now-faded era in rural education. Rather, its unaltered interior provides a startling view of a functioning Maine school as it looked three-quarters of a century ago.

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Both doors in the west wall of the classroom have hinged transoms to allow the free flow of air. Between these doorways, some ten feet from the floor, is the chimney opening for a stovepipe which travels across the ceiling to a box stove near the south wall. In the southwest corner is a small door leading into another closet. This also provides access to the attic, reached by a somewhat primitive system of wooden planks on the closet's back wall. In addition, the front of the room features a small platform some eight inches off the floor with room enough for a small desk and chair.