

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 97000309 Date Listed: 04/15/97

District No. 2 School Penobscot ME  
Property Name County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

 4/15/97  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

**8. Statement of Significance: Criteria Considerations**

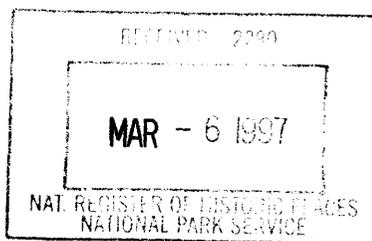
Criteria exception A applies because of the property's historic, albeit brief, religious function.

This information was confirmed with Kirk Mohny, National Register Coordinator, MESHPO, by telephone.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)

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 16A). Complete each item by marking "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 District #2 School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Southeast Corner of Junction of Pleasant Street and Caribou Road N/A not for publication

city or town Passadumkeag, N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Penobscot code 019 zip code 04475

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.)

Carol Peterson SHPO 3/1/97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State of 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 the 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  
John Savage

Date of Action

4-15-97

District #2 School  
Name of Property

Penobscot, 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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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)

Government/City Hall

Education/School

Education/Library

Religion/Religious Facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Two-Stage Bell Tower and Front Porch

**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

DISTRICT #2 SCHOOL

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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The District #2 School is a rectangular, gable front wooden frame building that is sheathed in weatherboards. Its original form has been modified by the addition of a hip roofed front porch. It is uncertain if the tower is an original feature. The former school is located in the village center of Passadumkeag. The building is supported by a rubble stone foundation.

Facing south, the front elevation has three distinct components: the porch, the main wall surface, and the tower. The porch, which was added in 1915, is located in the middle half of the facade where it shelters a central door and a pair of six-pane fixed sash windows. Its roof is supported at the front by trios of posts and at the rear by single posts, all of which stand on fieldstone piers. A two-tier slat balustrade extends between the front piers and the rear piers. There is a single nine-over-six double hung sash in the gable peak. Narrow corner boards rise to short gable end returns. The tower is composed of a short square base that supports a belfry stage featuring louvered openings on three sides. A balustrade with corner posts and spirelets surmounts the second stage of the tower and encloses the spire.

The west side elevation contains a trio of symmetrically placed two-over-two windows. Two similar windows and a door added in 1947 are located on the east side. A short gable roofed outhouse extends to the rear of the building. It has a square six-pane window on the east side and two narrow rectangular vents at the rear that correspond to the location of the toilets. A brick flue rises through the roof ridge at a point about one-third of the way from the back endwall to the facade. An historic postcard view of the building reveals that prior to the addition of the porch the flue was located on the inside of the rear elevation. Its relocation probably corresponds with the 1915 alterations that included the subdivision of the interior into two rooms and the installation of steel ceilings and wall sheathing.

At present, the interior of the building contains two rooms in addition to the outhouse. The main room occupies about two-thirds of the overall space with a partition wall (less than the full ceiling height) separating it from a smaller back room. The interior finish is comprised of painted tongue and groove wainscot with decorative steel sheathing on the walls, ceiling, and flue. A false stone fireplace is attached to the partition wall and facing the main room. The outhouse is unfinished.

Originally, the plan probably included vestibules (served by a pair of doors) in the front of the building and a single large room for the school. The one known historic photograph shows the two doors and their transoms on the facade as well as the lone nine-over-six gable end window.

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National Register of Historic Places  
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DISTRICT #2 SCHOOL

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

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Constructed sometime between 1843 and 1849, the District #2 School is a one-story frame building that has been used historically as a church, town hall, and library, in addition to a schoolhouse. This unusual pattern of use is reflected in the building's features including the church-like bell tower and spire, and the front porch and interior finish that dates to the period of library use. The former school building is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion A for its important historic association with local government and education.

Incorporated in 1833, the Town of Passadumkeag was described in the *History and Description of New England* (1859) as having "...fertile soil, promising bountiful harvests to the industrious farmer."(p.249). The authors also noted that "The lumber business engrosses the principal attention of the inhabitants. The town contains some excellent mill privileges; has four school districts, with the same number of schools; and one post-office." Its population fluctuated throughout the nineteenth century from a figure of 205 persons in 1850 to 360 in 1860 and back to 243 in 1870. By 1900 the population had risen to 409.

The first known reference to the school in District #2 is a warrant that was presented at the March 31, 1843 town meeting. Warrant 25 asked the residents assembled "To see what method the Town will take to have a School House built in District No.2." No further reference is made to the school in the town records until September of 1849 when a town meeting was adjourned "...to the New School House." Thus, sometime between 1843 and 1849 a school was built in District No. 2, which embraces the village of Passadumkeag. In view of the architectural characteristics of the present building, and the fact that there is no conflicting information relating to its history, there can be little doubt that it is the structure mentioned in the town records in the 1840s.

The one-room schoolhouse was a familiar object in the rural landscape of nineteenth and early twentieth century Maine. This was the result of a traditional educational system in which towns subdivided themselves into school districts, each of which contained a schoolhouse to serve its particular locale. Although the district school system became a target for nineteenth century school reformers, its affect was to produce a vast number and variety of buildings; a figure which at the turn-of-the-century totaled more than 4,000. Twentieth century school consolidation efforts have taken a dramatic toll on the number of these buildings which survive. In 1960, for example, it was reported that only 226 schools in Maine were being held in one-room buildings, a figure which has since dropped to a mere handful (*Report of the State Board of Education*).

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DISTRICT #2 SCHOOL

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

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In addition to its original use as a school, the building served as the meeting place for the local Congregational Church and later the Baptist Church until 1905 when a new Baptist church building was erected in town. The question of when the religious function started is important because it most certainly relates to the date of construction of the tower. In scale, the tower is out of proportion to the typically sized schoolhouse. Nonetheless, its design and detailing -- and in particular the Gothic Revival style spirelets -- suggest that it dates to the 1840s or 1850s.

The school's educational use appears to have been uninterrupted from its date of construction until 1902 when a new facility was built in the village. In addition, until a new town hall was erected in 1889, the schoolhouse served as the town meeting place. In 1915 it was converted into a town library by the Passadumkeag Improvement Club, at which time several changes were made including the addition of the front porch and the application of decorative steel sheathing to the interior walls and ceiling. From 1946 until 1968 it was once again used as a school, initially for grades K-3 and later K-2 and then K-1. In 1971 it was sold and converted to a residence. The town reacquired the building in 1986 and then gave it to the Passadumkeag Historical Society which has converted it into a museum.

Passadumkeag's District #2 School has an unusually long and varied history of use, making it truly worthy of the term "multi-purpose building." These associative relationships with local education, town government, religion, and early twentieth century village improvement efforts clearly establish the building's local significance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DISTRICT #2 SCHOOL

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

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Coolidge, A.J., and Mansfield, J.B. *A History and Description of New England*. Vol. I.  
Boston: Austin J. Coolidge. 1859.

Town records for the period 1843-1992.

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

DISTRICT #2 SCHOOL

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Passadumkeag tax map 9, lot 29.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The boundary embraces the entire village lot that is historically associated with the District #2 School.

**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 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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

c. 1843-1947

**Significant Dates**

c. 1843

1915

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

District #2 School  
Name of Property

Penobscot, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less Than 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>530310</u>	<u>5003390</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1997

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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.