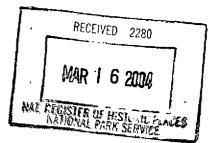
NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

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. Nan | of Property |
|------------|--|
| historic r | meAnson Grange #88 |
| other na | es/site number |
| 2. Loc | ion |
| street & | mber10 Elm StreetN/A_ not for publication |
| city or to | North Anson N/A_vicinity |
| state | laine code ME county Somerset code 025 zip code 04958 |
| 3. Stat | Federal Agency Certification |
| | s the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this is nomination of request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of istoric 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 antionally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) See continuation Sheet for additional comments.) |
| | ignature of certifying official/Title Date |
| | tate or Federal agency and bureau |
| L | ate of receral agency and bureau |
| 4. Nati | al Park Service Certification |
| hereby ce | y that this property is: Date of Action Go in the National Register. See continuation sheet. In see continuati |

| Name of Froperty | | County and State | |
|--|--|---|------------|
| 5. Classification | | | |
| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) private public-local | Category of Property (Check only one box) ⊠ building(s) □ district | Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) Contributing Noncontributing | |
| □ public-State □ public-Federal | □ site □ structure □ object | 1buil- | _ |
| | | | ctures |
| | | obje | cts |
| | | 1 | ı i |
| Name of related multiple prop (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a | perty listing a multiple property listing.) | Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register | |
| N/A | | None | |
| 6. Function or Use | | | |
| Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) | | Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) | |
| SOCIAL / meeting hall | | SOCIAL / meeting hall | |
| COMMERCE / TRADE: depart | tment store | | |
| DOMESTIC / single dwelling | | | |
| | | · | |
| | | ······ | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| 7. Description | | | |
| Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) | | Materials (Enter categories from instructions) | |
| MID-19TH CENTURY / Greek | revival | foundation Granite | |
| | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | walls Brick | |
| | | roof <u>Metal / Tin</u> | |
| | | other Granite lintels | |

SOMERSET CO., MAINE

Narrative Description

ANSON GRANGE

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

| ANSON GRANGE Section number 7 Page 2 | SOMERSET CO., MAINE |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Materials, continued | |
| foundation Stone | |
| walls Wood / Shingle | |
| Other / Tar paper | |

DESCRIPTION

The Anson Grange is a two-and-one-half story gable-fronted Greek Revival structure located immediately adjacent to the southern edge of Elm Street in the business center of North Anson Village, one of two villages in the Town of Anson. Immediately behind the building to the south, the Carrabasset River cuts close to the granite foundation of the structure; to the west an old garage is perched on the river bank. To the east the grade slopes more gradually from the street and supports a frame dwelling and several business. The north facing building is three bays wide on the facade. Two oversized two-over-two windows set under granite lintels flank a wooden door set in a granite frame. On the second floor are three evenly spaced two-over-two windows, and in the attic are two six-over-six windows, all capped with granite lintels. The building is roofed in steel, and the wooden eves and rake trim terminate in cornice returns set on the brick facade. A painted horizontal sign "Anson Grange #88" is positioned over the front door, and at the attic level several bricks have been removed indicating the position of an earlier store sign.

The Anson Grange was constructed in two stages: this is seen clearly on the west and east elevations. The front half of the building, designated on the west by the first three bays and built between 1849 and 1858, is of brick construction and contains three two-over- two windows on each floor, all capped by granite lintels. The southern-most two bays define the 1905 frame addition: here the two-over-two windows are set in wooden frames. A similar fenestration appears on the eastern elevation, however there are only two windows on the first floor. The structure is built against a slope, and granite capstones are laid atop a fieldstone foundation along the slope before changing to granite slabs on the level ground. The foundation of the addition is fieldstone. A full basement is evident under the southern three-quarters of the structure, and on the east elevation two stable door provide access to livery quarters in both the older and newer sections of the building. In the rear, the structure rises to a full three stories in height, and contains five two-over-two window as well as a two story outhouse supported on wooden posts and affixed to the back of the building. The rear wall of the addition is clad with wooden shingles, and the sides are covered with a patterned tar paper that mimics brick. A single chimney, rebuilt after a recent storm, rises through the roof on the eastern edge of the building, between the first and second brick bays.

On the interior the Anson Grange hall reflects the 1905 conversion of the building's use from commercial to social functions. The brick section has been divided into three components: an entry hall with stairs to the second floor, a long and narrow kitchen along the eastern side of the building, and a coat room in the southwestern corner. This last space is lined with coat hooks, and also contains the staircase

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|---------------------|---|------|---|--|
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SOMERSET CO., MAINE

to the cellar. In the basement of the Anson Grange are two stables in the original brick structure, and four more under the addition. Names, designating specifically reserved stalls are painted on the floor beams and indicate that there were probably twelve or more stalls when this section built in 1905. Upstairs, long wooden counters and a steel sink line the sides of the kitchen: some of these counters may have been used when the building functioned as a store. A large, cast iron cook stove dominates the northern end of the room, while a door along the back wall of the kitchen gives access to the dinging room. All of the exterior walls and the ceilings are finished in plaster, however the interior partitions are a mixture of wood and plasterboard above bead board wainscoting. Two, four and five panel doors are present on the first floor, although not necessarily in their original positions. The diningroom, built in 1905, occupies the entirety of the new addition on the first floor. Here the walls are finished with painted horizontal bead board, but as with the rest of the first floor, the windows and doorways are trimmed with plain boards. A giant furnace labeled "1905 Hot Blast Wood Furnace # 36 Wood and Bishop Co Bangor" is located in the dining room. This furnace provides the central heat for the structure and is vented through a hanging chimney in the kitchen.

The front lobby contains a small ticket window that opens into the kitchen, as well as doors into the coat room and kitchen The partially enclosed staircase in the lobby commences with a turned Victorian newel post before climbing through a bead-board lined, two-stage channel to the second floor. In the upper lobby an open staircase hugs the northern wall and provides access to a partially finished projector room in the attic. In the northeast corner of the building is the Grange ante-room. Used both for ceremonial purposes, small meetings, and coat storage, this room, which has not been altered much, has a five-panel door to the lobby, plaster walls and ceilings, and a linoleum floor. Double doors open from the ante-room and the upper lobby into the large grange meeting hall. Occupying three quarters of the second story, the hall was installed after the addition was built, and other than a break in the cornice line any evidence of the two building phases have been eliminated.

As with most Grange Halls, the meeting room is the most important and mostly highly decorated space in the structure. The Anson Grange is no exception. Four windows on each side wall are deeply set into walls covered with varnished horizontal bead board installed above a chair rail capping vertical bead board wainscoting. The floors are hardwood, while the ceiling is made of painted tin. The ceiling reaches above the structural plates and thus a beveled transition plane is formed between the side wall and the ceiling proper. Dominating the southern end of the hall is a stage set between two varnished four-panel doors that lead back stage. The stage is not defined by a proscenium arch but is simply a recess with a slightly projecting apron. Wooden, scroll work spandrals decorate the corners of the stage opening and frame a painted theater curtain, which itself depicts a framed scene of "Pomona" enveloped in painted curtains. This is one of six painted picturesque curtains which hang above the stage, all but one of which date to the early years of this Grange Hall.

With the exception of the two horse stalls in the basement, and some of the doors and flooring, and possibly the staircases and upstairs coat room, there is very little evidence for the building's use as a commercial, residential, and industrial structure prior to 1901. The earliest depiction of the building is a 1884 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, which shows a one story ell attached to the southern elevation of the

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brick structure. This ell was raised another half story in 1892 before being removed by the Grange in 1905. The Sanborn maps indicate that the building housed a 'harness' operation in 1884, (possibly explaining the presence of horse stalls in the basement), and a coat store and manufacturing operation in 1892. Earlier records detail a dry goods store in the building prior to 1875. While each of these activities were accommodated within the brick shell of the building, the internal spatial requirements may have changed with each new enterprise. Throughout the nineteenth century the upper floors were identified as containing either an office or dwelling and it is possible that the location of the ante room pre-dates the Grange. With the exception of a modern bathroom installed in the corner of the first floor coat room, in interior design, materials and function the building fully reflects its continued use as a Grange since 1905. However, on the exterior, this building represents the earliest commercial structure remaining in North Anson.

| ANSON Name of | GRANGE Property | SOMERSET CO., MAINE County and State |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 8. Sta | tement of Significance | |
| (Mark "x" | ble National Register Criteria in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property nal Register listing.) | Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) SOCIAL HISTORY |
| ⊠ A □ B | Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Property is associated with the lives of persons | COMMERCE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT |
| □ C | significant in our past. 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. | Period of Significance C. 1849 - 1954 |
| | Considerations in all the boxes that apply.) | |
| Property | vis: | Significant Dates |
| □ A | owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. | C. 1849-1954 |
| □В | removed from its original location. | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| □ C | a birthplace or a grave. | Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) |
| □ D | a cemetery. | Cultural Affiliation |
| | 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. | Architect/Builder |
| Narrativ (Explain th | e Statement of Significance ne significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) |) |
| 9. Maj | or Bibliographical References | · |
| Bibliogr (Cite the b | aphy books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on on | e or more continuation sheets.) |
| Previou: | 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 # | Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office ○ Other State agency ○ Federal agency ○ Local government ○ University ○ Other Name of repository: |

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The structure that houses the Anson Grange is a significant survivor of North Anson's mid-nineteenth century architectural fabric. Two fires, in 1863 and 1913, destroyed most of the villages commercial development, and much of its early residential housing as well. The North Anson Grange was spared in both blazes. The two and a half story, gable-fronted Greek Revival style brick building is perched on the north bank of the Carrabasett River on the western edge of the town's business district. The Grange Hall, as it has been known since 1901, was built between 1849 and 1858 as a commercial building, and until its purchase by the Anson Grange #88, housed a variety of commercial and manufacturing enterprises. In 1905 a one-and one-half story wooden ell on the south end of the structure was removed and a new, full height addition expanded the size of the building. At the same time the interior of the building was redesigned and a large meeting hall was built on the second floor (which spans both the brick and frame structures), to serve as the primary meeting space for Grange activities. As with many communities, the Grange functions both to serve the educational and social needs of its members, and as a resource for the community. The Anson Grange #88 is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as both an important example of the 19th century community development and commerce in North Anson, and, after 1901, as the location of one of the communities important social institutions.

Community Development

In 1863 the Grange building was owned by Joseph Merry of New Vinyard, who had constructed the building sometime after purchasing the land in 1849. Several ledgers and account books still survive in the building and indicate that starting by1858 Merry rented the building to Marcellus Steward, a lumberman who ran a dry goods store on the premises. According to both local tradition and the 1883 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, the second floor of the building contained an apartment that alternated between office and residential space. The 1863 fire came within a block of Steward's store and consumed most of the buildings on the east side of Main Street from the bridge to Center Street. The year before there were 29 merchants, small mill or factories in the town of Anson (both Anson and North Anson), and while it is now difficult to determine which businesses were specifically affected by this fire, ten years later only 13 merchants and 6 manufacturing enterprises were located in the north village. However, over the last three decades of the 19th century North Anson became a commercial center for the surrounding communities in Somerset County. There were as many as 20 merchants, and 24 manufacturing enterprises in North Ansor as listed in the Maine Register in any given year between 1880 and 1910, as well as a wide variety of professionals including physicians, insurance agents barbers, photographers and telegraph operators. The town supported two hotels, several lumber yards, and was a center for the trade and processing of wool from the regional sheep farms. Although the threat of fire was ever present, the majority of the business were located in 2 ½ story frame structures clustered around 'the square', while four larger brick blocks lined the lower end of Main Street.

NPS FORM 10-900-a (8-86)

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As a commercial property, the Anson Grange housed several different ventures between 1858 and 1901, when it was sold to the Grange. Although Merry finally sold the building to M. Steward in 1883, the Sanborn Fire Insurance map for the next year indicated that the building then housed a "harness" operation on the first floor, and an office on the second.¹ In 1888 the building was sold to Gustavus A. Steward, who installed an upright boiler in the back shed by 1892 and manufactured coats in the building until 1894.

Interestingly, in the three decades after the 1863 fire the population of Anson (which included the villages of Anson and N. Anson) decreased from 2001 in 1860 to 1444 in 1890; at the same time however commercial establishments were relocating from Anson to to the northern village and there the business district prospered. By 1909 the population had rebounded to over 2200, and N. Anson was heralded as a flourishing town by the *Industrial Journal* in a promotional article: "[North Anson] has substantial business blocks and here are to be found some of the largest and best equipped stores in northwestern Maine, this being an important trade centre for an expansive territory". Its location on the Somerset Railroad and the Carrabasset River facilitated the shipping of both lumber and manufactured goods, and the river was also tapped to power local mills. Electric lights were installed by 1909, and the town boasted of its fire protection system, which included hydrants, 1000 feet of hose and 'chemical apparatus'. And symbolizing the livibility of the town, the Anson Grange was extolled among the social and fraternal institutions,

On August 19th, 1913 fire once again decimated the village of N. Anson. The headlines in the *Waterville Morning Sentinel* proclaimed "Acres of Ruins in North Anson." The fire leveled 28 commercial structures which housed 36 businesses, churches, meeting hall, offices or hotels, and 8 dwellings. It stretched along Main Street from the bridge to the Methodist Church, and ran up Elm Street stopping just shy of the Grange Hall. Photographs depict lone brick walls and isolated chimneys standing amidst extensive rubble. Located at the western edge of the fire, the Grange Hall is the only commercial or public building to survive both fires, and is the sole remnant of the 19th century non-residential development in the village center. Indeed, while several establishments have been built or re-built since that fire, the downtown was redeveloped erratically and has not recovered the architectural or commercial prominence it had in the 19th century as a large and important regional trading center.

Anson Grange #88

The function of Steward's commercial building changed a decade before the 1913 fire. The fraternal and social organization known as the Patrons of Husbandry Anson Grange #88 was incorporated August 19, 1899; however the group had met informally under the name of Anson Grange #88 since March of

Both H.T. Jones and F.R. Williams manufactured and sold harnesses, trunks and robes in the village although which occupied the structure on Elm Street is not readily apparent. Steward, who continues to be listed as a lumber man, likely leased out the first floor of the building.

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1897.² Until April of 1901 the Grange members met in a rented a local 'music hall' and 'ante room' in one of the brick blocks downtown. G.A. Steward's building was purchased by the group in 1901, and in November of that year nails and lumber were acquired, presumably to transform the first floor from its commercial/manufacturing use to an appropriate meeting space complete with a kitchen and cloak room. In May of 1905 the Grange temporarily relocated their meetings to other facilities in town as they started major renovations on the building. Over the next eight months the old ell was moved and sold, and a new two story frame addition with a basement was erected in its place. The Grange account books record the expenses associated with this effort, and include the amounts spent for labor, lumber, painting, shingles and the installation of wall paper, a steel ceiling and furnace. Most of these materials were obtained from local merchants, and the effort was financed with private loans. Although the 1911 and 1916 Sanborn Fire insurance maps continue to indicate that a 'D[welling]' occupied the second floor of the Grange Hall, this was unlikely. The only room with a steel ceiling, which was purchased and installed in 1905, is the large meeting hall on the second floor.³ In April of 1906 the stables were built in the basement of the addition and the Grange Hall was complete.

The history of the Grange has its basis in post-Civil War agricultural crises. The following two paragraphs are from a brochure announcing the photographic exhibit titled: "Ritual and Community: The Maine Grange."

"The Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry, is an agriculturally-based secret society founded in 1867. The Order, open to both men and women, was designed to meet the economic, social, and educational needs of a class of Americans - the small farmer - whose day to day lives were being irrevocably transformed in the post-Civil War period. The proliferation of the railroad, the mass production of farm machinery, and the increasing control of a new class of business men known as "speculators" or "middle-men" over the sale and distribution of farm products were a few of the many influences which led to widespread enthusiasm for the Grange in the 1870s. National membership in the Grange grew to over 1 million members in the wake of the 1873 depression, when farmers joined the organization as a means of buying and selling farm goods at wholesale prices. In the mid-1870s, membership plummeted as most Grange cooperative ventures failed to meet members' expectations.

By the 1880s, however, Grange membership in Maine was on the increase, part of what has been dubbed "the second Grange movement" centered in the Northeast; by 1887, Maine had the

² An earlier incarnation of this same Grange existed between 1875-1878 before becoming inactive.

³Examination of the Grange accounts between 1906 and 1916 fail to identify any transactions that would reflect the rental of the second floor as a dwelling space.

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largest Grange membership in the nation. The focus of the second movement was an emphasis on the Grange's educational and social benefits." (Brown, 1992)

While the Grange served a social function in rural communities, there basic goal was to support farmers through difficult times by creating a forum for the discussion of agricultural issues.

"In Grange halls farm families share their social activities, discuss their mutual problems, plan programs and fearlessly face conditions which call for skillful leadership, and out of which many a betterment project has evolved.

Here in these meeting halls, rural people through their Granges have formulated and carried out projects of far-reaching effect to themselves and to their city neighbors. Starting in Grange meetings, often in good-natured discussion, have been such great undertakings as delivery of mail to farm homes, rural electrification, improved highways, better schools and countless other worthy achievements, which perhaps never would have been attempted but for the nucleus of promotion created in alert Subordinate Granges." (Gardner, pp. 366-367.)

The local or subordinate hall was the focus for most of the activities of the Grange. As with many Grange buildings, the Anson Grange featured a large gathering room where the rituals and meetings, and 'ante room' off the hall, a cloak room and kitchen. On the first floor in the new addition a smaller meeting room was built that functioned primarily as a dining room, or as a winter meeting room. By the turn of the century Granges were frequently constructed new by their members, but in Anson the fledgling society chose to modify an existing building. Among the amenities that were provided for in the renovated building was the bead boarded second floor hall with its decorative steel ceiling, and the stage at the south end of the building. Although stages are utilized within Grange ritual, they were often also used to host community events. In North Anson, the hall hosted dances, card parties, family functions, and showed movies projected from a small room in the attic. The Grange Hall supported Youth Grange, Junior Grange, Boy Scout and 4H groups and for while in 1917 was the local home of the Anson Chapter of the Modern Woodsmen League. As an important and enduring cultural institution, the Anson Grange #88 continues its 107 year tradition of providing community service to the village of North Anson from their location in the town's most significant example of mid-nineteenth century commercial architecture.

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Maps

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company. "North Anson [Maine]." September 1903. On file at the Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company. "North Anson [Maine]." October 1911. On file at the Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine.

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company. "North Anson [Maine]." December 1916 with updates and corrections, 1933, 1945. On file at the Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine.

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| UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) | |
|--|---|
| | |
| 1 19 4 2 8 9 9 8 4 9 6 6 9 4 9 3 1 9 | |
| 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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 10 January 2004 | - |
| street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132 | |
| city or town AUGUSTA state ME 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 | |

SOMERSET CO., MAINE

County and State

ANSON GRANGE

10. Geographical Data

Name of Property

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.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is fully described by the Town of Anson tax map number 6, lot 38.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property contains all the land and buildings historically associated with the Anson Grange as conveyed to them by Gustavus A. Steward in 1905.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3 Christi A. Mitchell Maine Historic Preservation Commission 9 January 2003 North elevation; facing southeast.

Photograph 2 of 3 Christi A. Mitchell Maine Historic Preservation Commission 9 January 2003 Interior, dining room; facing southeast.

Photograph 3 of 3 Christi A. Mitchell Maine Historic Preservation Commission 9 January 2003 Interior, hall; facing south.