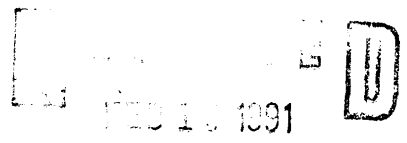


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Sangerville Town Hall

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Main Street

not for publication

city, town Sangerville

vicinity

state Maine

code

ME

county Piscataquis

code

021

zip code 04479

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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

Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

for

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/Theatre

Government/City Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/Library

Government/City Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Stone/Slate

other Entrance Porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Sangerville Town Hall is a large two-and-a-half-story rectangular frame building which is covered by a hip roof of slate. Stylistically, it exhibits Colonial Revival massing and overall detailing, although it also employs Queen Anne features. The town hall faces east onto Main Street (Route 23) in the middle of Sangerville village. It is sheathed in weatherboards and stands on a granite foundation.

The front elevation is symmetrically divided into three bays with the entrance centrally located. Contained within a broad round arch, the entry consists of a two-leaf paneled door framed by panels and arched Queen Anne windows featuring multi-colored panes of glass. A pedimented porch shelters this entrance. Its roof is supported by two thin square posts that rise to an elaborately detailed entablature featuring dentils and scroll modillions. (Documentary photographs of this building show that it originally had a flat roofed porch crowned by a balustrade, as well as a balustrade between the posts and wall. It is not clear when the alteration was made.) Above the porch is a tripartite grouping of double-hung windows, the upper sash of which feature central diamond-shaped panes. A paneled belt course separates this group of windows from the Palladian upper window that has a louvered fan in the round arch. This tall cluster of windows illuminates the expansive hall that occupies the second floor. Single two-over-two windows flank the entrance on the first story, whereas the upper floor has paired windows similar to those in the center bay separated by the paneled course. These windows are capped by bracketed hoods. A broad cornice whose details match those of the porch carries across the elevation where it meets fluted corner pilasters. The roof is punctuated by a single hip roofed dormer with a pair of Queen Anne windows and a repeat of the elaborate cornice.

There are numerous openings on the building's long south side elevation. The first story contains two widely spaced doorways flanked by two-over-two windows in single and paired combinations. Two smaller units are positioned near the southwest corner. The second floor contains five groups of windows similar to those on the outer bays of the facade. The cornice extends along the side (as it does around the whole building) and a dormer identical to the

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Continuation Sheet**

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one on the front is located mid-way on the roof. In addition, a chimney rises through the roof to the west of the dormer. There are fewer openings on the first story of the north side. They include one two-over-two window as well as five of the smaller units. A window located mid-floor at the rear serves the stair (a similar one is located on the south side) and the five tall windows penetrate the second floor. Both the dormer and chimney are repeated here. At the rear are three first floor openings, one of which was originally much larger, as well as two doors opening onto fire escapes and three windows.

A description of the building was printed in the local newspaper, the Piscataquis Observer on June 5, 1902. The following are excerpts pertaining to the interior:

The public entrance is on Main Street and facing this is the ticket office. On either side are the stairs leading to the auditorium on the second floor. Galleries eight and one-half feet wide are on each side of the hall and at the front extending back over the entrance, the gallery is thirteen feet in width. Below this gallery, off the main floor is a ladies dressing room.

The stage is 24X47 feet and well equipped with scenery. Stairs lead down from either side to dressing rooms which may be reached from a rear entrance. Provision was made for hoisting the trunks of traveling companies to the dressing room floors.

On the second [first] floor is the Selectmen's office, a commodious room off which is a large fireproof vault for the storage of Town Records. This room may be approached from the main vestibule or by a private entrance from the south side of the building.

The rear of the building is really three stories, the ground floor, used for the housing of the hearse and the fire apparatus and the stage entrance. Above this area the Stage dressing rooms to which reference has been made, and above these, the stage.

The finish of the interior of the hall is of natural wood; the doors of cypress and finest of North Carolina pine, all finely selected stock. The floor is of birch. The ceiling is steel which, together with the walls, is delicately tinted and touched with gold. There is an unoccupied space in the center of the ground floor, but we entertain no fear but that a use for it will develop in the future.

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This interior is largely intact, the most significant alteration being the installation of a suspended ceiling on the upper floor. Close inspection of this change reveals, however, that it is an easily reversible one. Sometime after 1923 a library was created in the southwest part of the first floor behind the Selectman's Office. This was enlarged in the early 1980s into the area originally designed to house the hearse and fire apparatus.

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

Period of Significance

1902-1941

Significant Dates

1902

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Smith, C. L., Architect & Builder

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

Sangerville's Town Hall is among the most impressive of such buildings to be found in Maine's small communities. Constructed in 1901-02 by local architect/contractor C. L. Smith, the handsome two-story frame building exhibits a variety of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival style details. The town hall is eligible for nomination to the Register under criteria A and C, respectively, for its association with town government and its architectural distinction.

The town of Sangerville was incorporated on June 13, 1814, having been initially settled some eight years earlier. At the time of incorporation there are believed to have been about forty families in the settlement. By mid-century this figure had grown to 1,267 persons. The local industries included four tanneries, four shingle mills, three sawmills, and two gristmills. Judging by contemporary business directory listings, however, most livelihoods appear to have been made through agricultural pursuits. This pattern apparently persisted into the 1880s; a point that is illustrated by the steady population decline typical of such communities in the post-Civil War period in Maine. However, between 1880 and 1890 Sangerville's economic fortunes changed dramatically due to the establishment of two woolen manufactories. During the decade the town's population rebounded from a low of 1,047 in 1880 to 1,236 in 1890. Equally startling is the change in valuation between these two dates: from just under \$300,000 to nearly \$450,000.

The new-found prosperity in town enabled the residents of Sangerville to erect a seat of town government complete with a commodious auditorium that surpassed those of most of its peers. Previously, town meetings were probably held in whatever space could be obtained. Likewise, town records were likely to have been stored at private residences, a practice which continues today in some Maine towns. At the town meeting held in March 1901, \$7,500 was authorized to acquire a building lot and erect the existing structure. Town records show that a building committee was appointed consisting of F. S. Carr, A. M. Garland, and C. L. Smith. Construction

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Industrial Journal (Bangor). Maine Building Edition. May, 1902.

175th Anniversary Sangerville Centiseptquinary 1814-1989. Sangerville, ME 1989.

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
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4	7	1	8	4	0
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5	0	0	1	2	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Sangerville tax map 23, lot 32.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire village lot historically associated with this building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 1/1991
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132
city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333

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commenced in July, C. L. Smith having been awarded the contract to design and build the hall. By October the project was advanced to the point that the Brownville slaters Harris and Hoskins were engaged to cover the roof. An additional sum of \$4,000 was appropriated at a special town meeting held in January 1902, to complete and furnish the building. It was apparently finished soon thereafter, and the June 5th edition of the Piscataquis Observer noted that three performing companies had already been engaged to provide live entertainment.

Upon its completion, Sangerville possessed a building of considerable architectural prominence. A brief comparison to related buildings in towns of comparable size at the turn of the century underscores this point. In its basic form the 1894 Bridgewater Town Hall (N.R. 1/26/90) is not unlike the one in Sangerville. However, its detailing is far more traditional in character. Likewise, a pair of town houses in Oxford County (Peru, 1896; Otisfield, 1905) are equally modest in their detailing. The Sangerville Town Hall actually bears a considerable resemblance to a building erected for a similar purpose in Hartland in 1897-98. Unfortunately, the architect/builder of this earlier structure has not been identified.

The town hall is one of a number of architecturally significant late nineteenth century buildings in Sangerville. Among these are a trio of Queen Anne houses featuring highly ornamented porches, and an elaborate Queen Anne church. Like the town hall, these buildings reflect the prosperity of the late nineteenth century. However, the overall Colonial Revival aspect of the town hall represents a decided shift in architectural taste. Little is as yet known about the architect/contractor C. L. Smith. However, more is likely to be learned, when a study of Sangerville's architecture is undertaken in the future.