



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 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 Division #9 School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number South Side of Route 9, .15 Miles East of Junction with Bragdon Road N/A not for publication

city or town North Berwick vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04090

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.)
[Signature] 11/6/95
Signature of certifying official/Title SHPO 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 Edson H. Beall Date of Action 12-14-95

Division #9 School
Name of Property

York, 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)

Education/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/One Room Maine School

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite
walls Wood/Weatherboard
roof Wood/Shingle
other

Narrative Description

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

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)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

1900-1945

Significant Dates

1900

1917-18

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Littlefield, Leander J., Builder

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:

Division #9 School
Name of Property

York, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

3

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

2

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

4

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| Zone | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

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 September, 1995

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 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 Town of Wells

street & number P. O. Box 398 telephone 207/646-5113

city or town Wells, state Maine zip code 04090-0398

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.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

DIVISION #9 SCHOOL

YORK, MAINESection number 7 Page 2

The Division #9 School is a one-story, three-bay frame building which is covered by a wood shingled gable roof. It is sheathed in weatherboards and rests on a granite block foundation. A short brick flue rises through the roof ridge at the back of the school, and a one-story ell added about 1918 and containing toilets and the woodshed extends from the rear elevation. The school is located in a rural section of Wells on a 0.4 acre lot surrounded by woods.

Facing north, the school's symmetrically composed front elevation contains two entrances separated by paired four-over-four windows. A second pair of one-over-one windows framed by a drip molding and a broad keystone are located in the gable peak behind the flag pole. The five-panel doors are surmounted by transoms and framed by drip moldings. The center window is trimmed in the same manner. Corner boards of medium width rise to the short gable end returns that in turn meet the overhanging cornice. A wooden plaque positioned above the lower windows bears the name: Wells -- Div. 9.

Two windows with paired two-over-two sash are asymmetrically located on the east side elevation, whereas the west side features a cluster of windows comprised of two sets of three two-over-twos separated by a single six-over-six. The six-over-six appears to have been added after the original date of construction. There is a single six-over-six on the southwest wall surface of the main block immediately adjacent to the point at which the gable roofed ell is attached. The ell's rear wall features a central door that is surmounted by a six-over-six window in the gable peak and flanked by vents for the toilets. A small four-pane window and a louvered vent are located on the east wall.

Inside, the building retains a high degree of integrity in both its architectural finish and furnishings. The front doors lead into small vestibules containing tall wainscot, and five-panel doors open into the single classroom. Narrow, vertically placed tongue-and-groove wainscot with a varnished finish extends around the room and up to the window sills. The walls and ceiling retain their plaster over lath materials. Blackboards are located on the east and south walls. Furnishings include more than a dozen desks, as well as a piano, organ, teacher's desk, and a wood stove whose pipe enters the plastered brick flue that projects from the rear wall. The teacher's desk is located in a recess between the two vestibules.

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DIVISION #9 SCHOOL

YORK, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Constructed in 1900 by the local contractor Leander J. Littlefield, the Division #9 School is a remarkably intact one-room schoolhouse that is maintained as a museum by the Town of Wells. It is the least altered of the several former school buildings in the town, the others having been converted to other uses. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A for its association with local patterns of education in the early twentieth century, and criterion C as an excellent example of a turn-of-the-century rural Maine school building.

According to the Wells Town Report for the years 1900-1901, George Brown and Woodbury Hilton were paid, respectively, ten dollars and six dollars to develop the plans for the school. No information has been discovered about George Brown, but Woodbury Hilton is listed in the 1900-01 edition of the *Maine Register* as a carpenter and undertaker. The building contract was awarded to Leander J. Littlefield in the amount of \$664.00, and the entire cost of the new school including the lot, building, and furnishings totaled \$873.72. In 1917-18 a sum of \$300.00 was voted at town meeting for the addition of an outbuilding (the existing ell) to contain toilets and a woodshed, with the cost amounting to \$287.15.

At the time of its construction, the Division #9 School served one of the seventeen rural school districts into which the town had been divided since at least the third quarter of the nineteenth century. This division of the town was maintained despite the dramatic decline of the population by one-third since 1850. The 1872 *Atlas of York County, Maine* indicates that the school in District #9 (District and Division are used interchangeably) at that time was located on the opposite side of the road from where it now stands. However, there is no indication in the town records as to why a new site was chosen when the existing school was built in 1900. The Division #9 School remained in use through the 1947-48 school year. In 1992 the former school house was designated as a local landmark, thereby extending to it the provisions of the Wells Preservation Ordinance.

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. As noted above, a town like Wells with a population of nearly 2,800 persons in 1870 might have seventeen districts, whereas another town with an equivalent population and geographic area could have more or fewer. 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*). In Wells, there are nine surviving buildings (including the Division #9

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DIVISION #9 SCHOOL

YORK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

School) which were originally one-room schools. Of these nine, four have been converted into residences; one each is a cub scout meeting place, a Lion's Club meeting place, and a fire station; and the eighth is used for storage.

Typically constructed of wood with gable roofs, Maine's one-room school buildings were given only modest architectural adornments with the result that the schoolhouse of 1900 may have looked very much like one that is several decades older. There certainly appears to have been a common formula for the design of these buildings which embodied widely disseminated ideas about minimum space requirements, proper ventilation and heating, site orientation, and window placement. As early as the mid nineteenth century reformers were suggesting that two entrances were desirable as a way to prevent "much confusion and rudeness" and to promote "orderly habits" (1847 *Board of Education Report*). While this feature did not become a universal characteristic on Maine schools, it was often adopted as in the Division #9 School. The provision of proper lighting was central to the issues of schoolhouse design, and by the early twentieth century a common solution to this problem was to incorporate a bank of windows along one side elevation. The Town of Wells also incorporated this feature into their new school.

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DIVISION #9 SCHOOL

YORK, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Annual Report of the Town of Wells. 1900-1918.

Maine Register. 1900-01.

The Old Maps of York County, Maine in 1872. A facsimile copy of the original published by Sanford, Everts & Company, Philadelphia. Fryeburg, Maine: Saco Valley Printing. 1983.

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DIVISION #9 SCHOOL

YORK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Division #9 School occupies the Town of Wells Tax Map 22, Lot 15-EXE.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot historically associated with the Division #9 School.