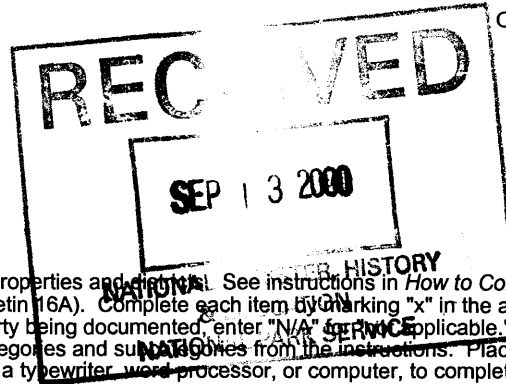


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1206

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" if 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 (Former) Upton Grange No. 404

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Northwest corner of Junction of Route 26 and Mill Road N/A not for publication

city or town Upton N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04261

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.)

Eileen S. Anderson 9/11/00
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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): _____

Edson H. Beall 10/12/00
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

(Former) Upton Grange No. 404
Name of Property

Oxford, 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 _____ 0 _____ 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)

Social/Meeting Hall
Industry/Processing/Extraction/Manufacturing
Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood Posts
walls Wood/Clapboard
Wood/Wood Shingle
roof Asphalt
other _____

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

(FORMER) UPTON GRANGE NO. 404

OXFORD, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The (Former) Upton Grange No. 404 is a two-story, five-bay frame building with full height shed roofed additions at either end. It is sheathed in clapboards and wood shingles, and is supported by wooden posts and a dry laid and concrete foundation along its front elevation. The grange hall is located alongside Rt. 26 in the small village of Upton, not far from the Maine/New Hampshire border.

Facing south, the front elevation features a central entrance that is flanked by two-over-two double hung sash windows on the first story, and five two-over-twos on the second story. The addition to the west has a single two-over-two in the first story, whereas the addition to the east has a door and one window on the lower level, and one window above. The entire facade is sheathed in clapboards. A long rectangular sign over the door reads: UPTON no. 404 GRANGE.

There are three windows on the wood shingled east end elevation, and two on the similarly sheathed west end. The rear (north) elevation of the main block features a symmetrical fenestration pattern comprised of five two-over-two double hung windows on each story, whereas the shingled additions have two windows on the second level of the east end and a single first story window at the northwest corner.

Inside, there is a large open space on the first story with an elevated platform at the west end flanked by small closets. A door at the east end leads to an additional storage area and the staircase to the upper level. The second floor is similar to the first except that there is no platform at the west end and the storage rooms are larger at that end. The finish is comprised of tongue and groove wainscot, symmetrically molded window and door frames with corner blocks, and plaster over lath walls and ceiling on the second floor. In contrast, the walls and ceilings on the first floor are an early twentieth century homasote material with wooden strips at the joints.

An historic photograph of the grange hall shows that prior to the construction of the additions, the second floor was reached through an exterior stair located on the east end (in a similar position to the existing interior stair).

(Former) Upton Grange No. 404
Name of Property

Oxford, Maine
County and State

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 a 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)

Industry

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1899-1950

Significant Dates

1899

c. 1911

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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet(FORMER) UPTON GRANGE NO. 404OXFORD, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Erected in 1899 for use as a spruce gum refinery, the (Former) Upton Grange No. 404 is a vernacular two-story building that has also served as a community hall and a place for town meetings. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A for its association with local manufacturing, social history, and town government.

The July 7, 1899 edition of the *Berlin Reporter* carried, under its "Maine News" section, the following account of the construction of this building:

Frank W. Bragg, of Upton, is building a large two-story building to be used as a gum refinery. Mr. Bragg buys gum in the lump, melting and refining the same. He manufactures some five or six tons of the raw gum in the course of a year. His entire product which is made into small sticks, each being rolled in oiled paper, goes to Boston parties.

According to an account of the gum industry in Maine that appeared in the 1892 *Report of the Commissioner of Industrial and Labor Statistics*, the commercial manufacturing of stick spruce gum was begun by John B. Curtis in 1848 (the initial firm was actually a partnership between him and his father). The *Report* noted that "Canada supplies some of the spruce which is manufactured in the United States but Maine is the centre of the spruce gum industry... [and that] The picking of gum is common in many parts of Maine; lumber men pick, at spare moments; country stores, in some districts, accept gum in payment for goods, or pay for it in cash."

As described in the 1892 *Report*, spruce gum was manufactured by collecting and grading the hardened resin from scars or breaks in the bark of Black Spruce trees, heating and straining the raw gum to remove impurities, mixing "suitable material," and packaging. It is uncertain how many small processing facilities such as the one built by Frank Bragg were in operation in Maine, since the annual business directories do not appear to consistently list these small scale -- and perhaps short-lived -- enterprises. For example, in the annual editions of the *Maine Register* between 1899 and 1905, there is no listing of a spruce gum manufactory in Upton. Furthermore, the 1898 edition of the *Maine Business Directory* lists only two gum manufacturers in the state, one of which was Curtis & Son in Portland (the Curtis family had relocated their operation from Bangor in the early 1850s). In any event, the spruce gum industry had disappeared by the early twentieth century as new types of chewing gum were developed.

In 1911, after the demise of the spruce gum business, Frank Bragg sold his former refinery to the Upton Grange No. 404. The Grange, which first appears in the 1903 edition of the *Maine Register*, subsequently added the shed roofed additions to the building and converted the lower floor into a social hall that was used for a variety of community functions including dances and town meetings. This pattern of use continued until the Grange was dissolved in the mid 1970s. Community activities and town meetings were held thereafter in the nearby former school house. The building was subsequently sold and used as a private summer residence.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) UPTON GRANGE NO. 404

OXFORD, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Bibliography

Bennett, Randall H. *Oxford County, Maine: A Guide to Its Historic Architecture*. Bethel, ME: Oxford County Historic Resource Survey. 1984.

Maine Business Directory. Boston: Briggs & Co., various years.

Maine Register or State Yearbook and Legislative Manual. Various years.

Sixth Annual Report of the Bureau of Industrial and Labor Statistics for the State of Maine, 1892. Augusta, Maine: Kennebec Journal Print. 1892.

(Former) Upton Grange No. 404
Name of Property

Oxford, 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	1	9	3	4	0	5	8	0	4	9	5	0	7	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

3

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

2

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

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 July, 2000

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) UPTON GRANGE NO. 404

OXFORD, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Upton tax map 2, lot 93.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire village lot that is historically associated with the (Former) Upton Grange No. 404.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) UPTON GRANGE No. 404

OXFORD CO., ME

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 3

Kirk F. Mohney

July 3, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from SE

2 of 3

Kirk F. Mohney

July 3, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from NE

3 of 3

Kirk F. Mohney

July 3, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of first floor looking from E to W