

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 Reed School
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number East side of Route 1, 0.1 miles south of Junction with Lycette Road N/A not for publication
city or town North Amity N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04471

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.)

Evel S. Pedersen 10/10/01
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): _____

[Signature] _____
Signature of the Keeper
W. A. Beall 11/29/01
Date of Action

Reed School
Name of Property

Aroostook, 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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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)

Late Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood/Clapboard

roof Asphalt

other Front and Side Vestibules

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

REED SCHOOL

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Reed School is a one-story, gable roofed frame building that has a telescoping rear ell, as well as a pair of entrance vestibules. It is sheathed in clapboards, and it stands on a rubble stone foundation. The school is located along U.S. Route 1 in the small dispersed village of North Amity.

Facing west, the front elevation contains a shed roofed entrance vestibule at the northwest corner, a single one-over-one window in the gable peak and a wooden flagpole projecting through the broad roof overhang. The north side elevation of the main block has a pair of symmetrically located six-over-six double hung sash windows, whereas the south side features a hip roofed entrance porch at the southwest corner and a group of five six-over-six windows. A two-room outhouse attached to the northeast corner links the school room to a wood shed. There are three six-over-sixes on the east elevation of the school, a small three-pane window and a slat vent on the north side of the outhouse, as well as a door and horizontally placed window in the shed. An interior brick flue rises through the east gable end.

Inside, the school room features plaster over lath ceiling and walls, the latter located above painted wainscot that extends about four feet up from the floor. In contrast, the outhouse is finished in horizontally laid boards. Flat board surrounds frame the doors and windows.

Historic photographs of the Reed School show that originally, its front elevation contained a six-over-six window where the door is now located and a door near the southwest corner. There were two windows on the south elevation, and a bell surmounted the roof. Sometime between 1916 and 1931 the entrance was moved to the south side and the porch and group of five windows were added, as well as the three on the east end. It is likely that the interior finishes were changed at this time as well.

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

c. 1870-1931

Significant Dates

c. 1870

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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
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Probably constructed or extensively remodeled in the 1870s, the Reed School is the last surviving one-room educational facility in this southern Aroostook County community. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A for its association with patterns of rural schooling in nineteenth and early twentieth century Maine.

[The following history of the school is repeated verbatim from an unpublished document titled "Informational Data on The Reed School House, North Amity, Maine," which was prepared c. 2000 by the Reed School House Committee.]

The name of "Amity" came from a treaty in 1794 called the John Jay Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation between England and the United States. The treaty included the whole eastern Maine boundary between the U.S. and Canada, and it was then called the "Amity Strip" in official papers. The town was not incorporated until 1836, and until that time it was known as No. 10, although people referred to it as "Amity," long before its incorporation.

The town was begun about 1825 when Mr. Jonathan Clifford built a farm just north of what eventually became the town, and west of the Calais Road. Mr. Edmund Cone and Mr. Seth Farrar came in 1826 and settled in this area also. In 1827 Columbus Dunn, son of Jonah Dunn, Esq., came and settled on one of four blocks of land (100 acres each) acquired by his father from the state. Not too long after that, Columbus' brother, Charles, came and settled on another of his father's lots.

Columbus Dunn married Rebecca Snow of Winn, Maine in 1830. As soon as she arrived in Amity, she set up a school in her kitchen. "Later, a building on the north corner of the Calais and Mill roads housed the school until it was moved to the east side of the Calais road, nearly opposite the Reed house, marked on an 1877 map as the Reed school house." In 1837, Mr. Daniel Harmon came from Calais to Amity to teach in the town school. He bought a piece of land from Columbus Dunn and lived in the town for six years before moving to Portland.

John Reed, his wife, Bridget Carey, and a group of Irish immigrants, left Houlton in the spring of 1827 bound for Amity. Mr. Reed settled slightly north of the present school location. Later he kept a store and tavern on the land across from where the school now stands. This land belonged to a Mr. James Lander and his partner, Mr. Vandine, who acquired it from Jonah Dunn, Esq. After the Civil War, John Reed's son, John II, purchased what had become the Vandine farm. The 1877 map in the "Historical Pictures and Documents" section of this book may have been made after 1865, since the land across from the Reed School is designated as J Reed. Hubert Reed, John Reed's son, is listed as owner of the same property on the map by Ruth Lepper, c. 1900.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

REED SCHOOL

AROOSTOOK CO., ME

Section number 8 Page 3

District "No. One" purchased the half acre lot where the school is presently standing from a Mr. Robert I. Ryan for twenty-two dollars on July 16, 1858. The school was probably moved to that lot later than 1858 but before 1877. The Reed School was in operation from about 1837 until 1971. At some point in that time it became part of the Hodgdon School System. SAD #70 deeded the school back to the town of Amity in 1971. According to historical data, the school was kept as many weeks of the year as the town could afford. "All ages from the primer class to young men and women were housed in the one-room wooden building, often painted red, but sometimes white." The interior of the classroom had the teacher's platform at the front with her desk and the chalkboard behind it. There was a big wooden chest in the corner that held textbooks. The original stove was iron and had a stovepipe that ran the length of the ceiling to the chimney in the back of the classroom. The children sat on crude benches and desks. There was a chart, a big dictionary, and a tin water pail and one dipper.

The school was one of the centers of community life, the other being the church. They even had a paper, *The Amity Times*. They had evening singing school and a Lyceum for debates and short plays. There were spelling bees and a Farmers' Club. All of these events were held at the school.

The Reed School served its community well. "...The children learned the three 'R's' so thoroughly that later they could successfully carry on the business of their own lives and manage that of town and state in their time". Some Reed School graduates still live in the Town of Amity, though many have moved to Houlton and the surrounding areas, as well as to other parts of Maine, and elsewhere in the country. John Pullen, noted Maine author (*The Twentieth Maine, The Transcendental Boiled Dinner, Joshua Chamberlain*, among others), lived about a mile from the Reed School and attended there in his childhood.

Presently the school is used for town meetings and as a voting place. It is also housing a temporary town office until a new one can be built in the fall of 2000.

Although local tradition as described above ascribes the date of the Reed School's construction to 1837, the modest stylistic evidence suggests that it is more likely to have been built in the third or fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. However, it is also possible that the original building was moved to this site when the property was acquired in 1858 and substantially remodeled thereafter. In addition, the *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools* between 1856 and 1870 notes the existence of two school houses in Amity, neither of which was built during this period.

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Continuation Sheet

REED SCHOOL

AROOSTOOK CO., ME

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The one room school house 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 school house 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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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

REED SCHOOL

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools in the State of Maine. Augusta, Maine: Stevens & Sayward, various years.

“Informational Data on the Reed School House, North Amity, Maine: Submitted to the Maine Historic Preservation Commission to review and consider for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.” Reed School House Committee, c.2000. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Less Than 1 _____**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	590670	5087880
Zone	Easting		Northing

											3
Zone	Easting										Northing

2									
Zone	Easting								Northing

4									
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 Byname/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historianorganization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 2001street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132city 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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

REED SCHOOL

AROOSTOOK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Amity Tax Map #10, Lot # 35, but does not include the 16' x 24' office building on the southeast corner of the lot.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces all the property that is historically associated with the Reed School.