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NATIONAL REGISTER

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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 (Former) Fryeburg Town House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number E Side of Route 5; .1 Mile N of Junc w/Woodlawn Ave N/A not for publication

city or town Fryeburg Center N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Oxford code 017 zip code 04037

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]* SHA 8/27/92  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper entered in the National Register Date of Action  
*[Signature]* 10/2/92

(Former) Fryeburg Town House  
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)

Government: Town Hall

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Government: Other

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Wood: Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

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)

Government

**Period of Significance**

1847-1942

**Significant Dates**

1847

1909

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Former) Fryeburg Town House  
Name of Property

Oxford, Maine  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less Than 1

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 9	3 4 4 2 1 0	4 8 8 1 3 3 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
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 Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1992

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

(FORMER) FRYEBURG TOWN HOUSE

OXFORD, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Fryeburg Town House is situated on the principal north-south road running through the Town of Fryeburg. It is located in a rural area of town with scattered residential buildings in the vicinity.

The Town House is a one-story timber-frame structure with a granite foundation. The rectangular structure has a gable roof with a small hipped roof ventilator and a corbelled brick chimney at its peak. The faade, which faces the road, is on the narrow gable end and features a central entrance flanked by one window on each side. Above is a pediment formed by the raking cornices and a small pent roof. In the tympanum is a small octagonal window and a date sign, "1847".

The building is sheathed with clapboard siding. The windows are double-hung, six-over-six sash with louvered blinds. The roof cornices are ornamented with small modillion blocks. There is presently an asphalt shingle roof. On the south side, at the rear entrance, is a wooden ramp providing handicapped access. A small projection on the rear (east) houses the public rest rooms.

The interior has an open plan, however the ceiling slopes to form side aisles where octagonal wood posts support the roof. Both the posts and the slope of the ceiling reflect the configuration of the braced roof frame system above. Although covered with tile panels, the original lath and plaster survives.

The floor and wainscot consists of wide plank flooring, as does the speaking platform and restroom door enclosures on either side. There is simple molded trim around the windows and entries, and the exterior doors are paneled without moldings and have thumb-nail latches. There are a few wood benches which date from the building's early history as well as two cast iron stoves.

The only major remodeling, which occurred in 1909, included replacement of the sash and blinds, a new roof, and the addition of the ventilator. The speakers platform and attached privies are also early additions. More recently, the handicapped stairway was also added.

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Continuation Sheet

(FORMER) FRYEBURG TOWN HOUSE

OXFORD, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

The Fryeburg Town House served as the location of town meetings from 1848 until 1983. Centrally located in the township it is still in use as the only polling station in Fryeburg. The Town House is an historically important landmark which is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion A.

During the seventy-five years following incorporation in 1775, Fryeburg had no major village which constituted the town center. As late as 1864 it was commented that, "Our town has no natural centre, a large village at the heart, to which the whole town resorts, and whose advancement is the common interest and common pride of all." As a result, the location of the first two meeting houses, built in 1767 and 1778, and the Town House erected in 1847, were in the geographical center of the town. Known as Fryeburg Center, this small hamlet never exceeded its peak of development in the 1830s when there were but three stores. By mid-nineteenth century, the trend in growth, both in commercial activity and tourism, centered in the village of Fryeburg in the southern part of the town. This has left the Town House in a relatively isolated location in relation to the changing population center.

By 1845 there were discussions at town meetings regarding the feasibility of repairing the 1787 meeting house for use as a town hall. This idea was rejected and on April 5, 1847, it was voted to raise \$700.00 for the construction of a new building on land purchased from James Charles for \$50.00. By December the new structure was completed except for interior painting.

No record has survived regarding who contracted to do the work, but internal evidence suggests a very traditional design. The framing plan is particularly unusual for a building of this type as it resembles what was more commonly found in a barn. Instead of traditional roof trusses there is a system of long stringers extending from each plate, supported on the under-side by braces. On the top side of these stringers are braced posts, joined to purlins, mid-way under the sloping roof. The effect of this system is to provide a large spacious opening under the peak of the roof, which apparently was of little use in this building but in a barn would have enabled easy access to mows for hay storage. The braces on the under-side of the stringers are reflected in the sloping ceilings of the meeting hall, thereby diminishing the head clearance in the room. The lath for the ceiling is split, an inexpensive but somewhat old-fashioned technique by 1847.

It is likely that the exterior was originally quite plain and lacking ornamentation. A rectangular structure with a Greek Revival style pediment was very typical for rural townhouses in Maine during the 1840s. (Compare with Emden Town House, Somerset County, NR 7/21/89.) In 1909 the town authorized repairs to the building which included new sash, blinds, and the

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(FORMER) FRYEBURG TOWN HOUSE

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ventilator on the peak of the roof. It is likely that at the same time the small modillion blocks and pent roof were added. A total of \$400.00 was spent on these repairs. These changes gave the building a somewhat Colonial Revival style character.

The building is still in use as the only polling station in town. No other uses have been planned at this time.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

(FORMER) FRYEBURG TOWN HOUSE

OXFORD, MAINE

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Annual Report for the Town of Fryeburg, 1845-1847; 1909-10.

The Centennial Celebration of the Settlement of Fryeburg, Maine. 1864.



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(FORMER) FRYEBURG TOWN HOUSE

OXFORD, MAINE

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the Town of Fryeburg tax map 18, lot 26.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot historically associated with the town house.