



1447

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 Enterprise Grange, No. 173
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 446 Dow Road N/A not for publication
city or town Orrington N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Penobscot code 019 zip code 04474

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.)

Kirk F. Mohney, DSHPO 12/12/07
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 1-24-08
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENTERPRISE GRANGE, # 173

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The Enterprise Grange, # 173, Patrons of Husbandry, is a modest size wood-frame structure located in the section of the Penobscot County Town of Orrington known as Orrington Center. The gable roof building is located on the east side of Dow Road at the intersection with Center Street, and is situated in a small neighborhood of nineteenth- and twentieth-century homes and farms. The one and one-half acre lot is roughly wedge shaped (the roads intersect at an acute angle), and includes a field to the south of the Grange Hall. A row of maple trees define the northeast boundary line along Center Street, and another row separates the building lot from the field. The building lot is relatively level with a well tended lawn and a broad gravel drive and parking area on the south side of the building.

The west facing Grange Hall is "L" shaped and contains a high-posted, one-story front section, a lower-posted rear ell (both under front-gable asphalt roofs), and a side-gable narrow wing extending to the south. The building, which was erected in 1884 and is Italianate in style, sits on cement piers, covered with horizontal board skirting and rolled asphalt siding. (The piers replaced the original wooden posts.) A tall brick chimney rises through the middle of the rear ell ridge. The entire building is clad with painted clapboards.

The facade is composed of three symmetrical bays. The front entry contains a two-leaf door, each half with four elongated panels with applied molding. A flat roofed porch covers the door and is supported on scroll-cut brackets braced to the architrave. To either side of the door are large six-over-six double-hung sash topped with small bracketed hoods. Wooden flower boxes are positioned at sill height. Narrow corner boards lead to cornice returns, and in the gable the overhanging rake is trimmed with two layers of frieze boards. A third, slightly smaller window and hood is centered under the peak at attic level. The name of the building "Enterprise Grange No. 173" is displayed on a long wooden sign centered above the entryway. Three wood steps with simple hand rails lead from the lawn to the door.

The north elevation of the Grange is divided between a symmetrically composed, three bay western, or front, section and the two bay eastern ell. The windows in the west section match those on the facade (sans window boxes). Wide frieze boards and narrow corner boards trim the eaves and corners. The two bay rear section is much lower posted, and the six-over-six windows are smaller. While the windows on this section (and on the south wing) are set in plainer casings, the frieze and corner board ornamentation continue. The east elevation encompasses both the back of the ell and the side walls of the wing. Two six-over-six windows are positioned towards the north end of the wall and one plywood covered window (of the same size) and one modern awning window are located towards the south. The south gable wall of the wing has no fenestration, while the west side of the wing contains a glass inset wooden door and a six-over-six window. The south side of the front section of the building matches the north side, but on this elevation the ell addition contains a modern metal door and one six-over-six window. A wooden ramp leads to the kitchen door in the wing, and an old hand-operated water pump is located nearby in the door yard.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENTERPRISE GRANGE, # 173

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

In plan the three sections of the building represent the auditorium (or hall), with entry rooms and stage, the dining room in the addition, and kitchen and bathroom in the wing. The front doors open into a small vestibule finished with plaster ceilings, maple floors, and papered walls above painted vertical bead board wainscot. Two large, four-panel doors with ornate Victorian-era knobs, escutcheons, and hinges lead into the hall. To the south, a four-panel door set in thick molded trim leads to an ante room, and another door in the north corner accesses a storage room that also contains an enclosed staircase to the balcony. Each of these side rooms have the same finishes and trim as the vestibule; they also contain rows of coat hooks on the walls, and doors that lead directly into the hall. The balcony has random-width pine floors and plaster walls. The front of the balcony is marked by a low, solid wall interspersed with chamfered posts that rise to the ceiling. Press-board inserts have been placed above the balcony wall, temporarily enclosing the room which is presently used for storage.

The high-ceilinged auditorium occupies the remainder of the front section of the Grange. As with the front rooms, the floors are of maple and the ceilings are of plaster. A picture rail, positioned level with the tops of the windows, and vertical bead board wainscot divide the otherwise plain plaster walls into three sections. At the east end of the hall is a stage flanked by two doors that access short hallways leading to the dining room. The stage has a semi-circular apron faced with painted bead board and the proscenium arch is constructed of the same trim found around the doors and windows. A backdrop depicting a living room scene, complete with a working 'exterior' door and window, has been installed on the stage. Two sets of moveable steps are positioned in front of the apron. Floral curtains hang at the sides, and a rigid swag painted with "P of H" spans the lower edge of the proscenium arch.

The front of the stage is positioned in line with the back wall of the original section of the building. The bulk of this feature "extends" into the dining room, which itself was a later addition to the building. The back walls of the stage are clad with horizontal boarding broken by three sets of doors. A five-panel door opens into the dining room, while two sets of fiberboard batten doors open from the backstage area into the north and south hallways. The dining room occupies the remainder of the addition. Long wooden tables and spindle back chairs are arranged on the painted pine floors, and horizontal boarding covers the walls. A large hot air furnace is positioned against the back of the stage, and a wide serving window is cut into the partition wall between the dining room and kitchen. The kitchen contains a mix of old and new features, including linoleum rugs over painted pine floors, wood and linoleum counters, an old Garland gas range, and a new kitchen sink under the awning window. A four-panel door in the south kitchen wall leads to a storage closet and bathroom.

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)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

Period of Significance

1884 - 1957

Significant Dates

1884

c. 1900

c. 1928

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENTERPRISE GRANGE, # 173

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Enterprise Grange, # 173 is a building which has served the community of Orrington, Maine for 123 years. Built by members of the Grange in 1884 as their meeting hall, the Italianate building is outfitted with an attractive hall, complete with balcony and stage, and a spacious dining room and convenient kitchen. Its design not only offered the members of the Grange with facilities in which to conduct their meetings and rituals, but made the property valuable as a social and cultural facility for the residents of the town as a whole. The Enterprise Grange # 173 is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, at the local level of significance, for its role in the social and fraternal history of Orrington.

The town of Orrington is the southernmost town in Penobscot County. It was settled in 1770 and incorporated in 1788. The municipality is located on the eastern bank of the Penobscot River and contains several village clusters in North Orrington, Orrington Corner, East Orrington, Orrington Center and Brewer Lake. The population of Orrington grew steadily in the period before the Civil War reaching a peak of 1,950 inhabitants in 1860. From then until 1940 the population declined by as much as a third, but after World War II rose sharply. Historically the economy of the town focused on maritime trade and shipbuilding, milling, lumber harvesting and agriculture; today it increasingly serves as a residential community for people who work in the Bangor/Brewer area to the north, or Bucksport to the south. Nonetheless, while residential development has continued to grow, a majority of the land outside the village clusters is still dedicated to farming or forestry, and the rural feel of the town still predominates.

The history of the Grange has its basis in post-Civil War agricultural crises. The following two paragraphs are from a brochure announcing the photographic exhibit titled: "Ritual and Community: The Maine Grange."

The Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry, is an agriculturally-based secret society founded in 1867. The Order, open to both men and women, was designed to meet the economic, social, and educational needs of a class of Americans - the small farmer - whose day to day lives were being irrevocably transformed in the post-Civil War period. The proliferation of the railroad, the mass production of farm machinery, and the increasing control of a new class of business men known as "speculators" or "middle-men" over the sale and distribution of farm products were a few of the many influences which led to widespread enthusiasm for the Grange in the 1870s. National membership in the Grange grew to over 1 million members in the wake of the 1873 depression, when farmers joined the organization as a means of buying and selling farm goods at wholesale prices. In the mid-1870s, membership plummeted as most Grange cooperative ventures failed to meet members' expectations.

By the 1880s, however, Grange membership in Maine was on the increase, part of what has been dubbed "the second Grange movement" centered in the Northeast; by 1887, Maine had

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENTERPRISE GRANGE, # 173

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

the largest Grange membership in the nation. The focus of the second movement was an emphasis on the Grange's educational and social benefits. (Brown, 1922).

Indeed, after the Civil War, the industrial revolution altered the face of the entire state's economy and in order to compete with more productive lands in the western states the practice of agriculture increasingly looked towards science and experimentation to increase yields of crops and products. One of the allures of the Patron's of Husbandry was their progressive educational focus which encouraged farmers to share knowledge or work together co-operatively. At the end of the nineteenth-century the Grange experienced a period of extraordinary growth, as described by the historian Clarence Day: "The Grange in Maine reached full maturity while Obadiah Gardner was State Master. (1897 - 1907). Flourishing Granges were found in nearly every large agricultural community and in most of the smaller ones. Often they were social centers for the communities that they served. The Lecturers' programs featured both education and recreation. They proved excellent training ground for the development of local talent and leadership." (Day, p. 193). During the ten years that Gardner was at the helm "the number of subordinate Granges increased from 243 to 419 and the number of members from 21,515 to 55,212. Since that time the Grange never has greatly increased its membership and has never greatly varied its activities from those that were then customary." (Ibid, p. 189.)

The local or subordinate hall was the focus for most of the activities of the Grange. Each of these structures featured large gathering rooms where the rituals and meetings were held, and many also contained a stage and/or a dining room. The records of the Enterprise Grange do not reflect the discussions of the Building Committee, but the organization of the building's spaces incorporate the basic design philosophy for Grange Halls as published in Grange handbooks. While the presence of a stage was not required (although most halls eventually featured a stage or raised dais), the inclusion of an anteroom through which members entered the meeting hall was a key ritualistic component of the buildings. As explained by Charles M. Gardner in *The Grange-Friend of the Farmer*, the Grange halls are

...a symbol of the progress rural families have made in the past eighty years as the result of "meeting together, talking together, working together, buying together, selling together, and in general acting together" for their "mutual protection and advancement, as occasion may require".

In Grange halls farm families share their social activities, discuss their mutual problems, plan programs and fearlessly face conditions which call for skillful leadership, and out of which many a betterment project is evolved.

Here in these meeting halls, rural people through their Granges have formulated and carried out projects of far-reaching effect to themselves and to their city neighbors. Starting in Grange meetings, often in good-natured discussion, have been such great undertakings as delivery of mail to farm homes, rural electrification, improved highways, better schools and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENTERPRISE GRANGE, # 173

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

countless other worthy achievements, which perhaps never would have been attempted but for the nucleus of promotion created in alert Subordinate Granges. (Gardner, pp. 366-367.)

When the Enterprise Grange was established in 1875 a high percentage of the town's residence were engaged in agriculture.¹ According to a short "History of Enterprise Grange # 173," prepared by Grange members Alice Gray and Mary Currier in the early 1970s, the organization met for the first nine years at the Center School House while the organization grew and they raised funds for their own facility. In 1877 they financed the purchase of a lot for \$50, located at Orrington Center, a location - not surprisingly - near the geographical center of town. In 1882 discussion commenced regarding building a hall, when one of the members was asked to "ascertain what stumpage can be bought for to build a Hall." (Grange Records, November 15, 1882). Over the next two years logs were locally milled into the necessary building materials, a plan was adopted to "build Hall one story length of Posts to be from 13 to 16 feet [and] voted that the length of the building be left to the Trustees," and later to use excess lumber to build a kitchen. (Grange Records, March 3, 1884 and April 30, 1884). The building was completed and formally dedicated on October 30, 1884.

The following account of the early struggles of the Enterprise Grange was given by grange member Sidney L. Rogers on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Grange in 1905.

After we got the hall we found that it was not so easy a task to pay for it. Here again trouble came. We had quite a debt hanging over us; our members began to lose their interest; night after night there wouldn't be enough get together for a quorum. The grange saw that something had to be done. So they voted to leave it in the hands of the trustees to devise some means to raise funds to pay on the debt. They got together, talked the matter over and decided to try a course of assemblies, if they could be conducted in the way we thought they should be and we do not hesitate to say that they were. We paid the debt. We have had our ups and downs, as I suppose every Grange has. We have been rich and have been poor - so rich that we had a few hundred dollars in the bank; so poor that we couldn't pay for a cord of wood, pay the tax on the hall or pay our state dues for more than a year at a time. We have had love feasts and we have had wars to the bitter end. Since the debt was paid off on this hall harmony has reigned supreme in our order and hope nothing will come up again to bring discord." (*Bangor Daily Commercial*, June 3, 1905.)

While the Enterprise Grange struggled over their first few decades, by the early twentieth century the group was thriving. In 1900 they built a stable with thirty stalls, and shortly thereafter they built the dining room and kitchen addition, leading Rogers to proclaim that "today we have as fine a set of grange buildings as there is for miles around, with a paying membership of 160 and grange property

¹The 1880 Non-population Agricultural Census for Maine listed 169 farms in Orrington. The Federal Population census for that year identified 374 households in the town. Thus 45 percent of the households were engaged in agriculture.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENTERPRISE GRANGE, # 173

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 5

to the value of \$2000". Further improvements were subsequently made to the building. In 1908 they purchased the adjacent lot to the south of the hall, and in 1913 they drilled an artesian well and installed a hand pump. According to Gray and Currier in 1924 they installed the sign on the front of the hall "with letters large enough so they could be seen from Hampden," the community across the river that was home to the first Grange in the state. Later improvements included electricity in 1934, a heating system in 1951, and the remodeling of the kitchen in 1961.

The presence of the stage at the Enterprise Grange, as well as the auditorium, spacious dining room and convenient kitchen, elevated the function of the building from simply the meeting hall of a fraternal organization to a social center of the town. Throughout its history, the Grange Hall in Orrington served the greater Orrington community as well as its members. In order to accommodate the Grange's rituals, as well as the growing demand from the greater community for a facility in which to present plays and other performances, the stage was relocated in the late 1920s. The original configuration of the stage is not known, but at this time the stage was "set back into the dining room" allowing for a larger stage with better back stage access. Over the years the hall has been rented for weddings and receptions, used for funerals, church services, quilt shows, and suppers, and hosted the local Boy Scout troop. The local middle school utilized the stage until the new school was constructed in the late 1990s. This year the Grange will host a series of Blue Grass band performances. Gray and Currier also reported that "during the years past a special meeting has been called the Saturday before Town Meeting, with the Town Official invited in to explain and talk over the articles in the Town Warrant. These meetings were a great help, because those that attended went to Town Meeting well informed on the Articles to be voted on."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENTERPRISE GRANGE, # 173

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, Elspeth. "About the Grange." *Ritual and Community: The Maine Grange*. A brochure announcing an exhibition of photographs by Rose Marasco. (Gorham, ME: University of Southern Maine), 1992.

Day, Clarence A. Farming in Maine, 1860 - 1940. University of Maine Studies, Second Series, No. 78. (Orono, Maine: University of Maine Press), 1963.

Deeds, various years. Penobscot County Registry of Deeds, Penobscot County Courthouse, Bangor, Maine.

Federal Nonpopulation Censuses--Maine, 1880 (Agricultural, Industrial and Social Statistics). Available on microfilm at the Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.

Gray, Alice and Mary Currier. "History of Enterprise Grange # 173". Manuscript, c. 1970, in possession of the Enterprise Grange, Orrington, Maine. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

Gardner, Charles M. *The Grange - Friend of the Farmer*. (Washington, D.C.: The National Grange), 1949.

Howe, Stanley Russell. "*A Fair Field and No Favor*": *A Concise History of the Maine State Grange*. (Augusta: The Maine State Grange), 1994.

Records of the Enterprise Grange, #173, Patron's of Husbandry, 1882-2007. Located at the Enterprise Grange, Orrington, Maine.

"Thirtieth Anniversary of Enterprise Grange, Orrington: Its History and Record of Anniversary Celebration," in *Bangor Daily Commercial*. (Bangor, Maine), June 3, 1905. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine

Varney, George. J. A Gazetteer of the State of Maine. (Boston: B.B. Russell), 1882.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENTERPRISE GRANGE, # 173

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property correspond to those depicted on the Town of Orrington Tax Map # 6, lot 17, and contain 1.5 acres.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated property reflect the limits of all the property currently owned by the Enterprise Grange, # 173. This includes the field to the south of the building, which helps contribute to the rural setting of the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ENTERPRISE GRANGE, # 173

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 4

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 June 2007

West facade and south elevation; facing northeast.

Photograph 2 of 4

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 June 2007

Interior of hall; facing stage at east end of room.

Photograph 3 of 4

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 June 2007

Interior of dining room; facing southeast

Photograph 4 of 4

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 June 2007

Interior of kitchen; facing southwest.