(Oct. 1990)				0000
United States Department National Park Service	of the Interior		MAR 29 2	- 710
National Register	of Historic Pl	aces	WAR 202	
Registration Form			NAT. REGISTER OF HIST NATIONAL PARK S	ORIC PLACES SERVICE
This form is for use in nominating National Register of Historic Place by entering the information reques architectural classification, materia entries and narrative items on con	es Registration Form (Na ited. If an item does no als, and areas of significa	ational Register Bulletin 16A). Co t apply to the property being doc ance, enter only categories and	omplete each item by ma sumented, enter "N/A" for subcategories from the ir	arking "x" in the appropriate box or "not applicable." For functions, nstructions. Place additional
1. Name of Property				
historic name	Machias Valley	Grange, # 360 (Former)		
other names/site number				
2. Location				
street & number	3 Elm Street			N/A not for publication
city or town	Machias			<u>N/A</u> vicinity
state Maine		county <u>Washington</u>	code <u>029</u>	_ zip code_04654_
3. State/Federal Agency		·····	<u></u>	
☐ nationally ☐ statewide Signature of certifying offic <u>Maine Historic Pre</u> State or Federal agency ar	Incally. (□ See cont ial/Title Secretation Commine ind bureau □ meets □ does not ial/Title	iteria. I recommend that this pro- tinuation sheet for additional com 323 0 Date ission ot meet the National Register crit Date	ments.) 	
4. National Park Service	Certification	10m		A
hereby certify that this property is:		Signature of the Kee	per no ///	Date of Action
 entered in the National Reg See continuation sl determined eligible for the National Register. 		Usen 14	Beall	_ 5.8.07
See continuation sl				
National Register.			·	
Register.		·		
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5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box) □ public-local □ district □ public-State □ site □ public-Federal □ structure □ object	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) Contributing Noncontributing 1 buildings sites sites objects buildings		
	Total		
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register		
<u>N/A</u>	None		
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
SOCIAL / Meeting Hall	SOCIAL / Meeting Hall		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)		
LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne	foundation <u>CONCRETE</u>		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	STONE (Fieldstone)		
	walls WOOD / Weatherboard		
·	roofMETAL/Steel		
·	otherBRICK (chimney)		

Narrative Description

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MACHIAS VALLEY GRANGE, NO. 360 (FORMER) Section number ____ Page ____ WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

DESCRIPTION

The former Machias Valley Grange, # 360 is a large, two and one-half story wood framed social and fraternal hall with an unusual second story overhang supported on oversize brackets. The building is located on the corner of Elm and Bridge Streets in a small residential neighborhood along the south side of the Machias River characterized by modest nineteenth-century homes. Across Bridge Street is a parking area that serves both a small riverside park and a pedestrian footbridge over the river at the site of the former Machias Electric Company's hydro-electric facility. The bulk of the town of Machias lays across the river to the northwest, and further south down Bridge Street is the Campus of the University of Maine at Machias. The Grange is located on a small, flat lot which measures 69 feet along Bridge Street and 134 feet on Elm Street. A very narrow grassy strip separates the building from each of the two roads. South of the building is a slightly wider lawn, while the area to the north is occupied by a dirt driveway and a small garden area. There is no formal landscaping or foundation planting.

The Grange hall measures 36 by 50 feet and is set at the northwest corner of the lot.¹ The entire building is clad in wood clapboards and trimmed with narrow corner boards and flat wooden stock around the windows. The building is set on a poured concrete foundation (both granite piers and stacked fieldstone help to support the building below grade) and topped with a low-profile steel roof. An external brick chimney climbs the east gable wall and protrudes through the eaves at roof level. Another flue is provided by a small diameter metal stack on the north plane of the roof.

The primary entrance is located on the north elevation of the building, facing Elm Street. This elevation contains three bays on each floor, and with the exception of the easternmost bay on the first floor, the bays are filled with two-over-one wooden double hung windows. An almost square, hipped, asphalt roof porch encompasses the easternmost bay and frames the two-leaf glass and panel doors and overhead transom light. The porch rests on slender square supports. At present a simple post rail and post balustrade mark the edges of the porch on either side of the four wooden stairs that lead to the street.

While the former Machias Valley Grange is essentially a vernacular building with a few Queen Anne stylistic elements, the structure's most interesting feature is the cantilevered second story. On the west gable end the second floor and attic level project four feet beyond the plane of the first floor wall. The overhang is supported by thick, arched wooden brackets featuring drop pendants at the upper ends. This elevation contains two widely spaced paired two-over-one double hung windows on each floor and a matching, but single, two-over-one sash positioned directly under a triangular wooden vent in the gable peak. The slightly overhanging roof is lined with wide rake trim, but rather than terminating in a cornce return the corners are marked by smaller scroll-work wood

¹The building faces west northwest but for ease of reference in this document it will be described as facing west.

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MACHIAS VALLEY GRANGE, NO. 360 (FORMER) Section number __7__ Page __3__

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

brackets set between the eaves and the corner boards.

The south elevation is also three bays wide, and it has a wooden fire escape that leads east from the westernmost second floor bay. The window sash (two-over-one configuration) is missing from the middle bay on the upper level, although the frame and trim remains. The east elevation contains two window bays on each floor (again, the sash is missing in the southeast corner) and a smaller window centered under the peak vent. A wooden door with three horizontal glass panes is located in the southern corner of the wall.

On each level the interior of the Grange is divided between large, open gathering spaces and narrower utility areas. The main entrance opens onto a ten foot wide foyer. A two-leaf, five-panel varnished door on the west side of the foyer leads to the dining room, while the straight run staircase rises against the east exterior wall. At the back of the foyer is a well lit kitchen. The kitchen features a long shallow iron sink positioned under the windows along the south wall, and a series of painted bead board cupboards on the west wall open both in the kitchen and dining room. Of note, although not original to the building, is the enamel Home Comfort "Grange Model" wood stove on the north wall. Plaster ceilings and walls above tongue and groove wainscot, wood floors and heavily moulded door and window trim complete the finishes in this room. On the second floor the staircase opens onto a narrower hall leading to an anteroom in the northeast corner and another small room and winding balcony stair in the southeast corner. Attached to the plaster walls of both the hall and the anteroom are long narrow wooden strips which previously held pegs onto which coats and other garments were hung. As with the rooms below, the hall and anterooms contain bead board wainscot, moulded chair rail, complex mouldings around the doors and windows, and narrow hardwood floors.

The dining room measures approximately 38 by 34 feet and spans the western three-quarters of the building. Partition walls in the northwest corner enclose a handicap accessible bathroom, and a tall free standing closet in the southwest corner is used to store dry foods. Located against the eastern wall between the doors to the foyer and kitchen is a large wood boiler manufactured by the Portland Stove Company. It replaced a smaller, older wood stove. The walls of this room feature bead board wainscot below molded chair rails. A second molding positioned just above the height of the windows rings the room and further divides the wall into two uneven planes. The hard wood floors are laid in a broad parquet pattern. Just below the plaster ceiling are two massive wooden beams running eat to west which are supported by laterally oriented metal rods. These rods pass into the ceiling just shy of the exterior walls. The rods are kept off the beams by thick blocking, the ends of which are carved in a decorative cyma recta profile. This system precludes the need for any vertical posts in the dining room.

As with the dining room, the meeting hall upstairs does not contain any vertical posts, although in this room the structural system is hidden above a patterned tin ceiling. The ceiling height extends above the level of the plates: both the undersides of the roof and the ceiling are covered in tin. In addition to the maple parquet floors and the tripartite walls, the hall has two other significant features: a stage and a balcony. The stage is a simple platform, approximately 10 feet wide, extending across

National Park Service

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the western end of the room. Unlike those found in many other grange halls throughout the state there is no indication that this platform ever had wing walls, a proscenium arch or 'back stage areas'. The balcony is located at the opposite end of the room over the hallway and anterooms. In order to accommodate this upper level the easternmost third of the ceiling slopes steeply upward before flattening out over the balcony. The balcony has a low wood railing decorated with moldings an a continuous panel. The raked floor of the balcony is covered with narrow pine boards.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property County and State 8. Statement of Significance **Applicable National Register Criteria** Areas of Significance (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property (Enter categories from instructions) for National Register listing.) SOCIAL HISTORY ⊠ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION our history. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. 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. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. **Period of Significance** 1907 - 1957 Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) **Significant Dates** Property is: owned by a religious institution or used for 1907 religious purposes. removed from its original location. Significant Person a birthplace or a grave. a cemetery. **Cultural Affiliation** a reconstructed building, object, or structure. a commemorative property.

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.)

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
 - $\overline{\Box}$
 - 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:

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Architect/Builder

Unknown

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MACHIAS VALLEY GRANGE, NO. 360 (FORMER) Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>2</u>

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The former Machias Valley Grange, #360 is a building which has served the community of Machias for 100 years. Built by members of the Grange in 1907 to serve as their meeting hall, the vernacular building with Queen Anne details and a projecting second story is outfitted with a beautiful second story 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 greater Machias region. The former Machias Valley Grange is nominated to the National Regsiter of Historic Places under criterion A, at the local level of significance, for its current and past role in the social and entertainment history of the Machias area.

According to existing record books the Machias Valley Grange was organized by 1903. The fraternal association met in the third story hall at the Pennell Block, a mansard roof structure that housed the E.I. White Store on the ground level. On November 15th 1904 the Pennell Block burned to the ground, destroying all of the Grange property.² The members immediately regrouped, and over the next two years held their meetings in local venues, including the Knights of Pythius Hall, Harman Hall (home of the Ben Hur Lodge) and Walling Hall (home of the Village improvement Society). Shortly after the fire the Grange received its charter as Patrons of Husbandry Grange # 360. (January 5, 1905). As the members discussed obtaining their own building they officially incorporated, which allowed them to fund construction through the sale of stock and donations. In September of 1905 they purchased the lot on which the Pennell Block had stood. According to current Grange members, and supported by evidence in the cellar walls, the Grange utilized the foundations and the footprint of the earlier structure. By November of 1905 construction of their new building was underway.

The Grange records offer a few clues to the building process (voted that "the hall be built with a pitch roof"), but little in terms of details. A building committee oversaw the process, but unfortunately the Grange records for 1906 through January 1907 have not been found. The building was completed by the end of February, 1907, at which time the organization voted to hold "the dedication of our Hall next Tuesday, March 5th [and] also moved and voted that the Grange invite the architect of our Hall and musicians and any others necessary to the service of dedication." (Grange Record Book, February 26, 1907). Sadly, the identity of the architect was not revealed in the brief article in the local paper that covered the dedication the next month, nor is it recorded in the extant Grange records.

The records of the Machias Valley 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

²The Machias Union, November 15, 1904, p. 1; The Machias Republican, November 19, 1904, p. 3. It is likely that the 1903/04 Grange Record book was not destroyed because it was in the possession of the recording secretary rather than stored at the Grange.

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MACHIAS VALLEY GRANGE, NO. 360 (FORMER) Section number _8___ Page _3___

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

(although most 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.

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 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).

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. As explained by Charles M. Gardner in <u>The Grange-Friend</u> of the Farmer, the Grange is

...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 requirs".

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

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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.)

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, again described by 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.)

During the era that the Machias Valley Grange was formed both the Town of Machias and the statewide Patrons of Husbandry organization were steadily growing. Machias had been founded in 1763 and by the beginning of the Revolutionary War it was a busy settlement. In 1789 it was designated as the shire town of Washington County. When the Washington County Railway was laid through the community in 1899 its role as a service community for the greater down east region was assured. The Machias River extends 70 miles into the hinterland and passes through 15 communities and the town is located on a series of impressive water powers that form the head of the tide. As such, lumbering, shipping and shipbuilding were all important industries by the second half of the 19th century. At the turn of the twentieth-century two articles in the *Industrial Journal* characterize the city as 'progressive' and undergoing an economic boom. While the soil in the immediate vicinity was fertile, it was also stony, and with the exception of blueberry cultivation, the agricultural economy was secondary. Clarence Day, in Farming in Maine, 1860 - 1940 describes the state of the farm economy in Machias as follows:

Agriculture had not developed there beyond the homemaker stage except in a few areas. Most farmers earned much of their living away from the farm, in the woods, at the shipyards, from the sea. As these sources of income shrank, they welcomed the income that blueberries brought to their doors. The migration was well advanced by 1900. Its progress is shown by the fact that soon there were canneries away from the barrens area at Jonesboro, Machias, East Machias, Ayers, and even at Vanceboro on the Canadian border....The extent of the migration is further revealed by the organization in the early twenties of four blueberry canning cooperatives. They were the Machias Valley Canning Company, at Machias; Chandler's River, at Jonesboro; Pleasant River, at Columbia Falls; and Riverside, at Harrington. (Day,p. 160).

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MACHIAS VALLEY GRANGE, NO. 360 (FORMER) Section number <u>8</u> Page <u>5</u>

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

While most of the charter members of the Machias Valley Grange were farmers, within fifteen years the membership also included mill workers, carpenters, plumbers, clerks, ministers, teachers, maids, salesman and woodsmen. In the growing town of Machias all were welcome at the Grange.

In addition, the presence of the stage at the Machias Valley Grange, as well as the large 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 and civic gathering place for the wider community. Even while the Grange was meeting in the Pennell Block records indicate that groups such as the local band sought to practice at the Grange hall. After the new hall was erected, and continuing for the next nine decades, the building was utilized by a constant and diverse series of organizations. Among the groups meeting in the hall were the Lions Club, 4-H Club, the Blueberry Growers Association and the County Extension service. Regular Tuesday night dances were held in the 1920s and 'Cowboy Shows' made their appearance in the 1950s. During World Wars I and II benefit dances were held for the Red Cross and the Grange became a site for the collection of scarp metal in the 1940s. Card parties raised money for the Grange, and for years the VFW and American Legion offered weekly Beano games. The facility was rented for special events such as the Rural Mail Carriers dinner and was utilized periodically for Pentecostal or gospel services. After Machias' only movie theater closed the Grange started screening motion pictures, projected from the balcony, on a regular basis. In the 1980s and 1990s the hall was the home of the Down River Theater Company.

As with many of the state's remaining Granges, membership in the Machias Valley Grange dwindled during the last decades of the twentieth century. In 2001 the former Grange building was purchased by an artists' cooperative. While this group worked to restore the building they also cultivated a relationship with the remaining Grange members. Realizing that they shared similar ideals led to many of the artists joining and reinvigorating the Grange. The Grange Hall continues to be used for Grange meetings as well as a venue for dances, open microphone performances, movies and community gatherings.

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WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

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Records of the Machias Valley Grange, #360, Patron's of Husbandry, 1903-2006. Located at the Machias Valley Grange, Machias, Maine.

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

MACHIAS VALLEY GRANGE, # 360 (FORMER) Name of Property	WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE County and State
10. Geographical Data	·
Acreage of Property Less than 1/4 acre	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 9 6 2 2 1 8 4 9 5 2 0 2 5 2 1 9 Easting Northing 2 1 9 1	3 1 9
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title <u>CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL H</u> organization <u>MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMI</u> street & number <u>55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65</u> city or town <u>AUGUSTA</u> state <u>Additional Documentation</u> Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the p A Sketch map for historic districts and properties havin Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the p	SSION_date15 January 2007 telephone(207) 287-2132 ezip code04333 -0065 mezip code04333 -0065 roperty's location. ng large acreage or numerous resources.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	noperty.
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)	
namestreet & number	telephone
city or town	
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as ame Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is est instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Se Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Was	I for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain inded (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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MACHIAS VALLEY GRANGE, NO. 360 (FORMER) Page 2 Section number 10

WASHINGTON COUNTY, MAINE

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property correspond to those depicted on the Town of Machias tax map number 11, lot 167.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above described boundaries reflect the entire parcel of land that has been associated with the Machias Valley Grange # 360 since they purchased the lot in 1905 and subsequently erected the Grange hall in 1907.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1of 4 Christi A. Mitchell Maine Historic Preservation Commission 6 December 2006 West and north elevations; facing southeast.

Photograph 2 of 4 Christi A. Mitchell Maine Historic Preservation Commission 6 December 2006 Interior, second floor meeting hall and stage; facing west.

Photograph 3 of 4 Christi A. Mitchell Maine Historic Preservation Commission 6 December 2006 Interior, first floor dining hall; facing southeast.

Photograph 4 of 4 Christi A. Mitchell Maine Historic Preservation Commission 6 December 2006 Interior, kitchen; facing south.