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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 12 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Free Meetinghouse of Georgetown
Other names/site number: Robinhood Free Meetinghouse (preferred),
Riggsville Free Meetinghouse
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 210 Robinhood Road
City or town: Georgetown State: Maine County: Sagadahoc
Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Kurt F. Mohnney, SHPO 8/8/2016
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Eoban H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

9.26.16
Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u> _____	<u>2</u> _____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u> _____	<u>2</u> _____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0 _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School

RELIGION: Church

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19th Century / Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: brick, Walls: Clapboard, Roof: Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Robinhood Free Meetinghouse in rural Georgetown, Sadagahoc County, Maine is a two-story gable front Greek Revival building facing Robinhood Road to the south with Webber Road running north along the west side of the building. The building sits on a forested rise of Georgetown Island approximately one half mile above the nearest cluster of buildings in Robinhood Cove or Riggsville as indicated on historic maps, the nearest town being Georgetown four miles south. The original three bay by three bay braced frame building constructed in 1856 has an exposed brick foundation, clapboard siding and an asphalt shingle roof. A low entry deck runs across the width of the south side of the building replacing an original deck. The south and east sides of the building have a dry laid stone retaining wall to accommodate the drop in elevation to the east. The first floor is entered through paired doors on the south façade. This space was created as vestry or school space with a winder stair in each of the two south corners. The second floor is an open worship space organized in a church plan. The original building is in good condition with minimal alterations to the exterior and second floor space. Much original fabric remains on the first floor, but recent alterations include additions of bathrooms, a bar, and restaurant grade kitchen space at the north end of the building and in two single story additions extending to the north. Two detached sheds sit near the northeast corner of the building with two gravel parking lots to the east and northeast.

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The property retains a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, association, and feeling, and a substantial degree of integrity of materials and workmanship.

Narrative Description**Meetinghouse - contributing**

The south facing gable-front façade of the Greek Revival meetinghouse faces Robinhood Road. The exposed brick foundation sits on a stone foundation below grade to support the braced frame construction. An entry deck extends across this façade from the west to just short of the east corner. Historic photos show a similar four step entry deck without roof or balustrade. The existing deck has an accessibility ramp at the west corner, a vinyl balustrade of simple squared balusters and replaced composite decking. All appear to be added during 2016 remodeling. The high grade level on the west side of the building reduces the added accessible ramp's visual impact. The moderate pitched roof over the pedimented gable has simplified raked and horizontal cornice. The tympanum has flush wood siding while the remainder of the building is clapboarded and has vernacular Doric corner pilasters. The three-bay first floor has a centered eight-over-eight double-hung wood window with a single pane wooden storm window. There are matching four-panel entry doors in the east and west bay each with a two-light transom. All windows and doors have the same flat casing with a simple cornice drip cap on the head casing. The second floor has a single center bay twelve-over-twelve double-hung wood window with a two pane wooden storm window. Currently the building has no shutters, but historic photos show exterior wood shutters. Some windows retain remnants of this hardware.

The east elevation has a dry laid stone retaining wall about six feet east of the exposed brick foundation. This elevation of the meetinghouse has three bays at the first and second floors with wood clapboarded walls, vernacular Doric corner pilasters and a simplified entablature at the narrow eaves. Aluminum gutters have been added on this and the west elevation at the asphalt shingle roofs edge. The first floor has three eight-over-eight double-hung wood windows with single pane wood storm windows. Three twelve-over-twelve double-hung wood windows with two-pane wooden storm windows are directly above the first floor windows. The window casing is flat stock with a drip cap supported by a quarter round at the top of the head casing creating a simple cornice.

Extending north from the end of the meetinghouse is a one-story shed roof addition added in 1995. Vertical wood boards cover the foundation and wood clapboards cover the entire wall. The trim is a simple wood corner board and a simple rake board with minimal overhang at the low pitched roof. To the north of the shed roof addition on the west half of the north wall is a rear ell with a low sloped gable roof to the north. The east elevation of this circa 2000 addition has vertical wood boards covering the foundation with a clapboarded wall interrupted by two one-over-one double-hung wood windows, the smaller window to the south edge of the wall and the medium sized window in the north half of the wall. The corner boards are simple flat wood with a simplified cornice at the eaves of the asphalt shingle roof.

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The north elevation at the first floor level shows the gable end of the longer rear ell to the west and the blank wall of the shed addition to the east. The foundation of both ells is covered by flat vertical boards. The east ell extends from the corner of the original meetinghouse to the midline of the building in this view and is a wood clapboard wall with simple corner boards and cornice trim at the eaves of the asphalt roof. The roof has a skylight at the east edge and a commercial kitchen vent to the west end. The longer ell to the west has a low sloping gable roof extending from the midline of the meetinghouse to the west corner. The two-bay wood clapboard end wall has flat corner boards and simple raking cornice. A modern door with storm is in the center of the wall with a one-over-one double-hung window to the east. An entry porch and loading platform extends to the north from the door and is reached by a wooden stair to the east of the door and parallel to the building wall. The second floor and gable wall of the meetinghouse are visible above the ells. The wall up to the raking cornice is wood clapboards with no openings at the second floor level and a single one-over-six double-hung wood window centered in the gable. This elevation has the same vernacular Doric pilasters and simplified raking cornice as the front façade with cornice returns.

The three bay west elevation has no visible foundation and the edge of Webber Road to the west is about four feet from the wood clapboard siding. This elevation of the original meetinghouse matches the east elevation in composition, ornamentation and materials. Extending north from the end of the meetinghouse is the one-story shed roof addition. The foundation of the ell is covered with vertical wood boards with a single six-over-six double-hung wood window in the center of the clapboarded wall. The trim is a simple wood corner board and a simple rake board with minimal overhang at the low pitched roof. A rear ell with a low sloped gable roof was added to the north of the shed roof ell. The west elevation of this addition has vertical wood boards covering the foundation with a clapboarded wall interrupted by a single one-over-one double-hung wood window located just south of the midline. The corner boards are simple flat wood with a simplified cornice at the eaves of the asphalt shingle roof. There is a skylight in the center of the roof and a metal kitchen vent pipe to the southwest of this window.

Interior

The first floor plan had three small rooms across the south with a larger room, that once served as a classroom, to the north. Renovation and additions have created a number of smaller rooms further to the north. Entry to the building is through matching doors in the east and west bays of the south facade. The small entry vestibule in each south corner has a winder stair to the second floor with a small under stair closet. A four panel, grain painted wood door on the north wall of each vestibule leads to the larger room. Between the two vestibules is a space used as a bar. This room is accessed through a door in the center of the west wall of the southeast vestibule. A modern wet bar has been added across three walls of this space. A three foot by six foot cased window opening in the north wall of this room provides pass through access to the large room. The large room originally occupied the remainder of the first floor to the north wall. The length of the existing room has been reduced about ten feet due to insertion of kitchen space to the northeast and restrooms to the northwest. The anteroom to the restrooms is in the northwest corner of the original building with access through a cased opening in the school room. There are two accessible bathrooms

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dividing the space to the east of the ante room. In the ante room and across the restroom walls are preserved blackboards that have been covered with glazing for protection. It appears that the blackboards along the north wall of these rooms, the original north wall of the school room are in their original location. The blackboards on the east wall of the restrooms appear to have been relocated from the eastern half of the north wall as part of the kitchen addition. The anteroom also has a wall mounted glass-front bookcase which appears to date to school use in the later 1800s.

The large room has a natural finished plank floor varying in board width from 3 1/2 " to 6" wide. A series of about 1" wide by 7" long Dutchmen are in eight columns from east to west and eight rows north to south. They appear to reveal where school desks or more likely long benches were installed facing north. The windows and doors are cased with 1" x 4" flat stock with an angled molding to support the window stool. All head casings are hidden by a boxed wood sprinkler chase that runs completely around the room at the wall to ceiling corner. Two ceiling fans have been added along with two sconce lights on each wall. The two center posts in the room appear to be a later addition to provide structural support. These cased supports interrupt the seating pattern suggested by the Dutchmen or scars in the floor.

The renovated space in the original meetinghouse northeast corner is accessed through a four-panel wood door that may be original to the building but has had two window panes inserted. The east half of the north wall of the original building was removed below the end girt connecting that space to the one room shed addition that extends across the width of the north wall of the meetinghouse. A door at the northwest corner of this addition opens to the rear ell at the northwest corner. That ell contains a small toilet room, open kitchen prep space, two walk in coolers and office space.

The open winder stairs with simple turned balusters provide access to the second floor worship space. The south end of the open room is separated by a half wall from the main worship space to the north and divided into thirds by a raised central platform. Half walls extend down the east and west edge of the platform stopping short of the south exterior wall. The entire second floor has painted, hand planed, random-plank flooring from six to ten inches in width. Access to the double aisle worship space is through openings in the half wall from each stair corner. The two aisles separate a row of eight pews against the east and west walls from five rows of longer center pews with a midline divider. The north facing pews are painted white with a brown stain finish on the scrolled armrest and across the cap molding of the seat back. Most pews retain a brass number plate attached to the outside of the pew end. Two long center pews were removed at the south end of the space based on ghost marks on the floor. An additional row of pews against the south half wall may have also existed.

The north wall has a one-step, center platform with a simple turned front balustrade matching the corner stairs. The northeast corner contains three original pews facing west. Based on three ghost marks on the north wall, three original east facing pews were removed at some point and the elevated platform extended to fill the northwest corner. An existing circa 1880 pedal organ in the northwest corner suggests use as organ or choir space. The center of the north wall has a trabeated frame with squared simple columns of a Doric pattern similar to the exterior corner pilasters. It is topped with a simple entablature. This wood work projects

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eight inches into the room and appears to be an addition or possible reworking of an original design to accommodate wiring. The existing mobile podium also appears to be a later addition to the space.

The seven windows are cased with painted flat stock with a simple cornice created by a cyma recta molding at the head casing. The top ten to twelve inches of each wall has a frieze of white stencil on a light blue-green ground. The repeating pattern is an alternating festoon and footed lyre with a cup design. This stencil is reported to be a restoration or recreation of an original design. The painted plaster walls are in good repair, but the ceiling is covered in drywall. Five plaster medallions are exposed through the drywall, one in the center with the other four centered in each quarter of the ceiling. The center medallion has a circa 1890 six-arm oil chandelier that was converted to electricity. Only the center medallion has a light-blue floral stencil pattern with a flower pointed in each cardinal direction. The other medallions have modern ceiling fans. There are four two-arm oil lamp sconces of the same time period as the chandelier but not an exact match in design. The sconces are fixed to the north window trim of the first and third windows. The building originally had two single-flue chimneys one at the south wall west of the center windows and the other at the north wall to the east of center; neither remains.

Shed 1 - noncontributing

To the north of the east addition is a detached storage shed separated from the north wall of the shed roof addition by three to four inches. The wood clapboard building sits on grade with simple flat wood corner boards and rake trim at the moderate pitched asphalt shingle roof. The shed was build circa 2000.

Shed 2 - noncontributing

At the northeast of the meetinghouse a separate ten by twelve foot platform framed storage shed sits at grade on a wood foundation. The simple gable front, vinyl sided, asphalt roofed shed has a single vertical board door in the north façade with simple corner, rake trim and eaves. The shed is also circa 2000.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1856

Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Riggs, Moses (1795-1886), architect, Georgetown, Maine
Gardner, Jesse (1819-1889), builder, Orland, Maine

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The Robinhood Free Meetinghouse in rural Georgetown, Sadagahoc County, Maine is a two-story gable front Greek Revival building facing Robinhood Road to the south with Webber Road running north along the building's west side. The building sits on a 0.57 acre lot on a forested rise of Georgetown Island approximately one half mile above the nearest cluster of buildings at Robinhood Cove, the nearest and only village on the island being Georgetown four miles south. The original three bay by three bay building was completed in 1856 with worship space on the second floor and vestry and school rooms on the first floor. Original construction with the second floor worship space is rare in 1856 Maine. Most meetinghouses or churches built in 1800s in Maine were constructed with the worship space on the first floor. Upon construction in 1856 the building was shared by both Methodists and Congregationalists. While second floor worship space is unusual, denominational sharing of space was not. It appears the original intent to include school space drove the building layout. It is also possible that designer, builder or a church member was familiar with this type of plan either as a rare original construction or as a renovation. This property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a regionally rare form of two-story religious building from the mid-1800s. This religious building derives its primary significance as a rare original two-story architectural design that was achieved in many other buildings by renovation. The period of significance is 1856 the building's construction date.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Preferred Name

Robinhood Free Meetinghouse is the preferred name based on its current and long-standing historic use. The earliest reference to the building is from the minutes of the meeting to build a meetinghouse and the deed where the Proprietors of the Free Meetinghouse of Georgetown took ownership. These two are the only references to the name Free Meetinghouse of Georgetown and both are included within the formal organizational title. The name Robinhood Free Meetinghouse is used in all other references and appears to be the common name. The cluster of buildings called Robinhood is one of seven smaller communities that make up Georgetown. To identify a church or meetinghouse on Georgetown Island, the name of the closest settlement has historically identified the building just as Five Islands Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Georgetown Center are identified geographically. The preferred name is therefore Robinhood Free Meetinghouse as that was the documented historic name in most documents and references.

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Criterion C: Architecture

Robinhood Cove at the north end of Georgetown Island takes its name from Robert "Robin" Hood, the English name given to the local Abenaki Chief Mowhatawoemit. Benjamin Riggs settled at Robinhood Cove in 1784 where he built a store and warehouses and prospered in shipping and trade. His son Moses Riggs worked in the family business and took control in 1846 upon Benjamin's death. The Riggs family was an important presence at the north end of Georgetown Island where the settlement at Robinhood Cove was sometimes called Riggsville or Riggs Cove. The first meetinghouse at the north end of the island was about a mile east of the current meetinghouse. As mentioned in *History of Methodism in Maine* regarding the growth of that denomination in this region. "In 1822 . . . the first house of worship, in which Methodist were interested, was built at North Georgetown. It was dedicated November 22d, 1822, as a free church, and was occupied by the Congregationalists and Methodists of both islands; but the Methodists became sole owners."¹ The islands referenced are Georgetown and Arrowsic. In 1716 both islands were incorporated as Georgetown-on-Arrowsic but were incorporated as separate towns in 1841. Eventually each island replaced this small shared meetinghouse with one of its own.

By 1855 population and religious interest across the north end of the Georgetown Island were sufficient to support its own meetinghouse. On September 6, 1855 a public meeting was held at the North Georgetown School, across Webber Road from the future meetinghouse site, for the business of erecting a new meetinghouse.

"A committee of three was chosen to contract for and transact all business in the erection and full completion of the meeting house; Moses Riggs, Jacob Power and William Crosby were elected. Voted that the corporate name to be assumed should be 'the Proprietors of the Free Meetinghouse in Georgetown' . . . Specification for the building had already been planned; it was to be as follows: The size upon the ground floor 36 feet wide by 46 feet long, with 23-foot posts, the basement to be occupied as a vestry or a school room."²

Moses Riggs is credited as designer of the Meetinghouse and his nearby c. 1850 Greek Revival home which had a similar appearance to the Meetinghouse.³ The land for the Meetinghouse was conveyed to the Proprietors of the Free Meetinghouse by Francis Low, Jr. and Herbert Low et al on January 15, 1856.⁴ The completed meetinghouse was accepted as complete by the builder on July 22, 1856.⁵ The design from the beginning was for a second floor worship space with a school room below. Based on the fact that no records indicate the meetinghouse did or was intended to replace the school across the street, it appears this school room was for religious instruction.

¹ Stephen Allen and W.H. Pilsbury. *History of Methodism in Maine*. (Press of Ohaelbs E. Nash, Augusta, ME 1887), 80.

² Agnes Powers, "History of the Free Meetinghouse at Robinhood is Given at Services Sunday," *Bath Independent*, 28 August 1961.

³ Winthrop Weston Riggs 2nd, "Our Family," September 1, 1953.

⁴ Warranty deed, Book 8, Page 122. Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds, January 15, 1856.

⁵ Powers, "History of the Free Meetinghouse at Robinhood is Given at Services Sunday."

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The Robinhood Free Meetinghouse is significant for its original design as a two-story meetinghouse or church. Most worship spaces built around 1856 had abandoned the older term "meetinghouse" in favor of "church," and used a basilica or church plan. While this building has a church plan, the meetinghouse name was retained. The continued use of the older term may result from the shared worship space and the first floor meeting room. Common practice throughout the 1800s was a one-story configuration with balcony seating incorporated if taller sidewall height allowed for two floors. In many cases, existing second floor sanctuary churches from this period are the result of later raising and insertion of a first floor. Even after 1856, construction of an original second-floor worship space was unusual. Based on the pattern of later renovations, these traditional designs for first floor worship space did not seem to correspond to emerging needs for a vestry, educational, meeting and storage rooms.

Asher Benjamin in his 1839 *Practice of Architecture* indicates that a one floor worship space is more correct but a gallery is usually preferred in practice.

"The interior of a church would have a more chaste and correct appearance, if without galleries. But to the omission of galleries there are objections. Where the society is large they cannot all be seated upon the floor of the building near enough to the speaker to hear his voice distinctly; and the increased expense of erecting a building of sufficient size without galleries, is considerable. It is but seldom, therefore, that we see a church of any magnitude free from this encumbrance. It is a practice with some to make only one tier of windows. This is a very becoming practice so far as the exertion of the building is concerned; but in the interior, where these windows cross the galleries, they present a very awkward appearance."⁶

No mention is made or plans provided for any configuration other than first floor worship space with or without gallery in this or his other pattern books.⁷ His *American Builder's Companion* of 1806 does show a plan for a courthouse with rooms on the first floor and a large open second floor space to accommodate the courtroom. The implication being that second floor worship space while possible to construct is not appropriate culturally. Edward Shaw in his 1854 pattern book *The Modern Architect* only provides one story churches with or without galleries as well.⁸ These and other pattern books advocate for a suggested type of church, but the historical record of churches built in Maine in the 1800s backs up the first floor worship space approach as standard.

Two known examples of second floor sanctuaries originally built as such in Maine are: the Abyssinian Meetinghouse, Portland, Maine, 1828-1831 and High Street Universalist Church, Portland, Maine, 1864-1865 (demolished). Other churches exist with the second floor sanctuary from the 1800s, but for each church, research shows a later renovation to raise the worship space and insert first floor rooms. For example, the Franklin Street United Methodist Church in Bucksport was built with a first floor sanctuary in 1839 and raised in 1864 to add a

⁶ Asher Benjamin. *The Practice of Architecture – The Builder's Guide*. (Boston: Benjamin B. Mussey, 1839; reprint, New York: Da Capo Press, 1994), 100 (page citations are to the reprint edition).

⁷ Benjamin. 100.

⁸ Edward Shaw, *The Modern Architect*. (Boston: Dayton & Wentworth, 1854; reprint, New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1995), 181 (page citations are to the reprint edition).

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vestry and additional rooms.⁹ Georgetown had First Baptist Church built around 1829 and raised in 1883 to insert a vestry.

The size and height of the Meetinghouse along with the stripped down Greek revival details inside and out are common in church buildings of its period. The design also has similarities to a first floor with gallery, where upper and lower window placement accommodates second floor framing where a single two-story window height would not. The use of common architectural standards of the day adapted to the second floor sanctuary format create a successful design and functional building which contribute to the Robinhood Free Meetinghouse's architectural significance .

Moses Riggs as the designer of the Meetinghouse may have had the most influence on the building's design. As a costal trader he would have had a wide business and social network giving him the opportunity to see and discuss church plans and construction details.¹⁰ It is unclear if or where he saw or heard about churches with a similar second floor plan. No similar building can be identified nearby or within his identifiable network. Another person who might have influenced the design is the builder Jesse Gardner of Orland, Maine. He seems an unexpected choice given Orland's distance from Georgetown, about 90 miles away. However, Gardner is listed as a house carpenter in the 1850 U.S. census, a house joiner in the 1860 U.S. census,¹¹ and as a ship joiner in Orland along with his brother Oakman in the 1855 Maine Register.¹² Jesse's construction of both ships and buildings is not unusual in Maine. The famous Maine builder Thomas Lord also constructed both. It is likely Gardner knew Moses Riggs through ship building or trade, but there are no documented ties. The fact that the builder came from such a distance indicates he also had a wide geographic exposure to various church building styles.

The initial specifications for a building to be shared by two congregations, Methodist and Congregationalist, and provide vestry and education space must have influenced the plan.¹³ The first floor as a smaller educational space is still a large room and appears to have had pews or benches installed based on Dutchmen or ghost marks on the floor. While it is possible that both congregations could have used the building simultaneously that seems unlikely. Most shared meetinghouses divided usage from week to week.

The second great awakening and its associated traveling evangelical preachers and Sunday school movement shaped mid-century religion in Maine. The general growth of Methodism relative to established Congregationalism from 1800 to 1850 as a result of the great awakening appears to hold true for the Georgetown Methodist congregation also. *The History of Methodism in Maine* states, "The church was small and weak till 1830, when Daniel Cox was appointed, remaining two years and having a gracious and very extensive revival."¹⁴

⁹ Alfred G. Hempstead, "Methodism in Bucksport," *150th Anniversary of Bucksport Maine* (Bucksport Free Press: Bucksport, 1942), 50.

¹⁰ Riggs Family Papers, 1817-1887. Maine Maritime Museum manuscript collection, Bath, Maine.

¹¹ U.S. Census, 1850, 1860.

¹² George Adams. *Maine Register and Business Directory for the year 1856*. (South Berwick, ME: E. C. Parks, 1856), 278.

¹³ Agnes Powers.

¹⁴ Allen, 80.

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While there was a Methodist congregation that shared a building with Congregationalists from 1822 to 1856, it appears the impact of the second great awakening increased Methodist numbers and created a need for a larger building. The increased numbers explain the new building but not the building design.

The Sunday school movement which grew out of English evangelicalism reached America in 1790 by way of Philadelphia. The original intent in England was to educate the poor and moral education as a component. The general protestant value placed on literacy as a tool for understanding religion through bible study predisposed these faiths to education. With the United States, particularly in New England, being more open to state sponsored education, Sunday schools shifted to a primarily religious focus.¹⁵ The spread of evangelical Methodist and Baptist teachings energized the religious community and Sunday school became another way to spread their message. The desire for educational space is certainly important to this building's design and since the school across the street continued in use, it appears education in the Meetinghouse was originally intended to be religious in nature. In *History of Methodism in Maine* published in 1887 religious education at the building is mentioned.¹⁶ However strong the impact of the Sunday school movement in Georgetown this building was designed with space for religious education as a priority.

The Congregationalist congregation ended use of the building in 1864. While the local population continued to decrease after the Civil War, the Methodist congregation continued in the building until 1964. The only documented non-religious educational use of the building was in the later 1870s and into the 1890s as a free public high school.¹⁷ The building had limited use after 1964 until sold to private owners in 1994 at which time most additions were added.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (If appropriate.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Adams, George. *Maine Register and Business Directory for the Year 1856*. South Berwick, ME: E. C. Parks, 1856.

¹⁵ Peter W. Williams. *America's Religions: From Their Origins to the Twenty-first Century*. (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2002), 202-204.

¹⁶ Allen, 81.

¹⁷ Virginia Hopcroft, unpublished research on history of public education in Mid-Coast Maine, March 2016.

ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE

Name of Property

SAGADAHOC COUNTY, MAINE

County and State

Allen, Stephen and W. H. Pilsbury. *History of Methodism in Maine*. Augusta, ME: Press of Ohaelbs E. Nash, 1887.

Benjamin, Asher. *The Practice of Architecture -- The Buidler's Guide*. Boston: Benjamin B. Mussey, 1839.

Downing, A. J. *Cottage Residences*. New York: Wiley & Putnam, 1844.

Hempstead, Alfred G. "Methodism in Bucksport." In *150th Anniversary of Bucksport Maine*. Bucksport: Bucksport Free Press, 1942.

Hopcroft, Virginia. *unpublished research on history of public education in Mid-Coast Maine*. 2016.

Powers, Agnes. "History of the Free Meetinghouse at Robinhood is Given at Services Sunday." *Bath Independent*, August 28, 1961.

"Riggs Family Papers, 1817-1887." Bath, Maine: Maine Maritime Museum manuscript collection, n.d.

Riggs, Winthrop Weston 2nd. "Our Family." September 1, 1953.

Shaw, Edward. *The Modern Architect*. Boston: Dayton & Wentworth, 1854.

"Warranty Deed, Book 8, Page 122." Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds, January 15, 1856.

Williams, Peter W. *America's Religions: From Their Origins to the Twenty-first Century*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2002.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency

ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE
Name of Property

SAGADAHOC COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 168-0005

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.57

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

- NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 440272 | Northing: 4855622 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE

Name of Property

SAGADAHOC COUNTY, MAINE

County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the nominated property include all of the land associated with the original deed to the Proprietors of the Free Meetinghouse in Georgetown. The boundaries are described in the Sagadahoc County Registry of Deeds in Book 8, Page 122 and shown on attached tax map R-2, Lot #43.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the entire property on which the Robinhood Free Meetinghouse was constructed.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Goebel-Bain, Architectural Historian
 organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission
 street & number: 55 Capitol Street
 city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04333-0065
 e-mail: michael.w.goebel-bain@maine.gov
 telephone: 207 287-5435
 date: 23 June 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE

Name of Property

SAGADAHOC COUNTY, MAINE

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Robinhood Free Meetinghouse

City or Vicinity: Georgetown

County: Sagadahoc State: Maine

Photographer: Michael Goebel-Bain

Date Photographed: 9 June 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 6 ME_SAGADAHOC COUNTY_ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE_0001.TIF
Façade and west elevation of Robinhood Free Meetinghouse; facing northeast.
- 2 of 6 ME_SAGADAHOC COUNTY_ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE_0002.TIF
North and east elevations; facing southwest.
- 3 of 6 ME_SAGADAHOC COUNTY_ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE_0003.TIF
Second floor sanctuary, interior; facing north.
- 4 of 6 ME_SAGADAHOC COUNTY_ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE_0004.TIF
Second floor sanctuary, interior; facing southwest.
- 5 of 6 ME_SAGADAHOC COUNTY_ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE_0005.TIF
First floor school room, interior; facing south.
- 6 of 6 ME_SAGADAHOC COUNTY_ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE_0006.TIF
First floor blackboard, interior; facing north.

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.460 et seq.).

ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE

SAGADAHOC COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State

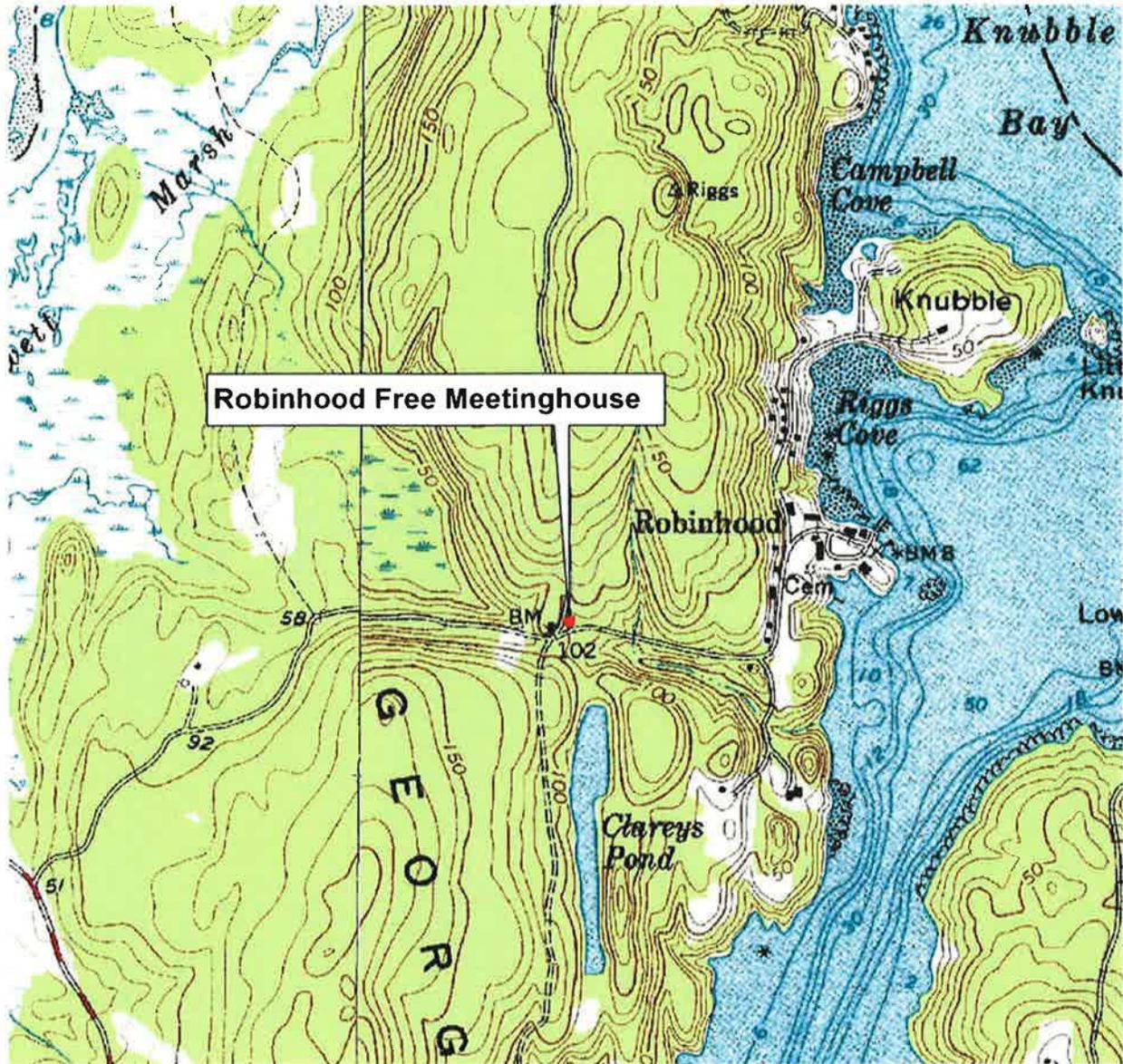
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE

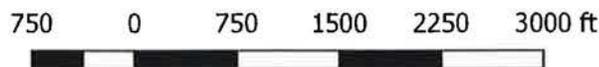
Name of Property

SAGADAHOC COUNTY, MAINE

County and State



Robinhood Free Meetinghouse
Sagadahoc County, Maine
UTM 19 / 440272 / 4855622
NAD 83
11 July 2016

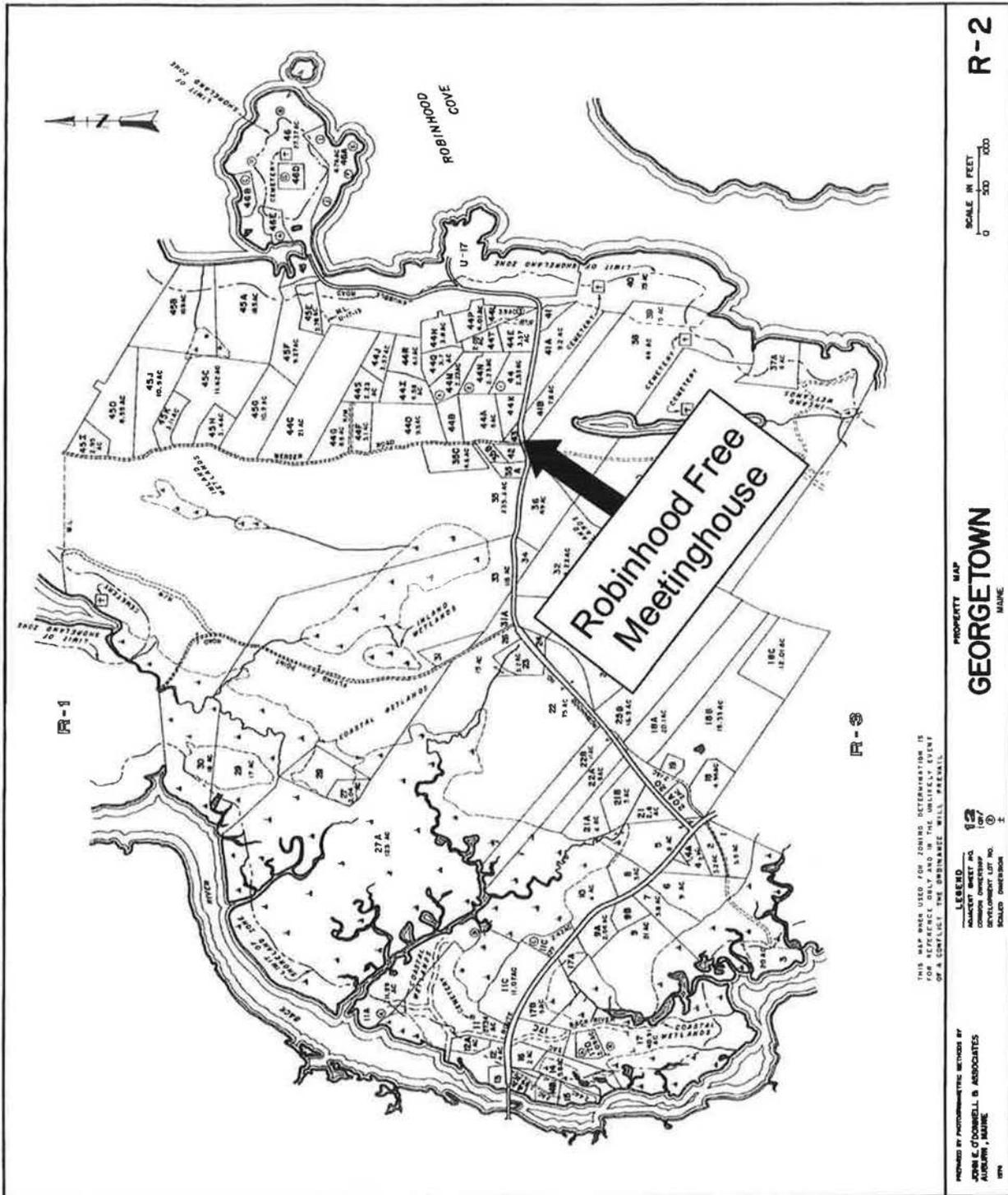


ROBINHOOD FREE MEETINGHOUSE

SAGADAHOC COUNTY, MAINE

Name of Property

County and State





ROBINSONS FREE
MEETING HOUSE
1840



RENTAL FOR
Meenhouse







The Free Meeting House, in Riggsville, now called
Robinhood, was built in 1856.
Funds to build the Meeting House were raised by families purchasing 40
shares or quots, each valued at \$60.00 the full share. The total amount
raised was \$2400.00. While it is not known exactly when The
Methodist Society occupied the Meeting House, records indicate that it
was prior to 1864. For many years the first floor vestry was used as the town high school,
serving about 40 students. The main room, over the dining room, was used as the assembly room. The current kitchen and
restrooms were originally used for recreation, as well as two floor classrooms. The original blackboards, with their final
lessons, are placed in the current restrooms. The Meeting House was retired
from active use in 1989 and purchased by local residents Elizabeth Spaulding and
Patrick Burns. Restoration to the original condition began at once. During the preser-
-vation process it was decided to add a revenue source associated with the Meeting House that would
ensure the maintenance of this historic Georgetown Community Center for generations to come. The project
was completed in 1995 by local Crafts and Trades people.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Robinhood Free Meetinghouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, Sagadahoc

DATE RECEIVED: 8/12/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/02/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/19/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/27/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000677

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9.26.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 12 2016 KIRK F. MOHNEY
DIRECTOR

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

8 August 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find three (3) new National Register nominations for properties in the State of Maine:

Waterville Main Street Historic District (Boundary Increase), Kennebec County
Fives Court, Oxford County
Robinhood Free Meetinghouse, Sagadahoc County

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-2132 x 8.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain
Architectural Historian

Enc.