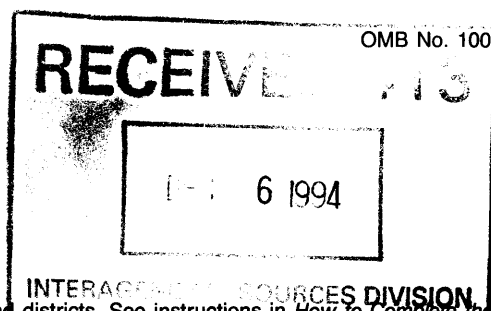


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Sedgwick Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Junction of Rt. 172 and Old County Road N/A not for publication

city or town Sedgwick vicinity

state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04676

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.)

Ernest S. Fitzgerald 11/30/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

B. A. Savage 1/20/95
Signature of the Keeper 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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
2		sites
3		structures
		objects
7	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Government/Other/Pound

Funerary/Cemetery

Landscape/Plaza

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/Museum

Government/City Hall

Funerary/Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A, B, C, D, E, F, G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture, Community Planning and Development, Politics/Government, Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1793-1944

Significant Dates

- c. 1793, 1821, 1849

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Sedgwick Historic District
Name of Property

Hancock, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 30

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 19 | 530720 | 4907190 |
Zone Easting Northing
2 | 19 | 5311590 | 4906720 |

3 | 19 | 531390 | 4906480 |
Zone Easting Northing
4 | 19 | 530640 | 4907000 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1994

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

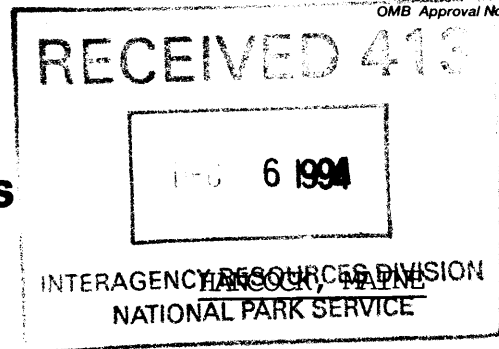
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

SEDGWICK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Section number 7 Page 2



The Sedgwick Historic District is a rectangular area of about thirty acres located at a rural crossroads in this mid-coastal community. It is comprised of two late eighteenth century buildings and a public landscape, a stone cattle pound erected in the early nineteenth century and the Town's largest cemetery. Two additional buildings, including an 1873-74 one-room schoolhouse also occupy the district, although they were added in the last several decades. There are two (2) contributing buildings, three (3) contributing structures, two (2) contributing sites, and two (2) non-contributing buildings.

The district's topography ranges in elevation from about fifty meters above sea level at its western-most edge to sea level at the eastern boundary formed by Meadow Brook. As much as two-thirds of the area is wooded with the largest open spaces being the Rural Cemetery and the yard around the Merrill house. This pattern probably varies from its historic one in that for some period during the early nineteenth century the two acre Common around the meetinghouse was probably more open than it is today. Furthermore, a stone boundary wall along the Old County Road leading to the cemetery suggests that the intervening space was once cleared and used for agriculture.

Architecturally, the district's two contributing buildings exhibit characteristics of the Greek Revival style in their overall detailing. However, both were originally constructed in the mid-1790s, and their general proportions as well as a few surviving features reflect their earlier origin. The remodelings that introduced a more fashionable architectural aspect to them were carried out by 1850. In addition to these two buildings, the district contains three structures: a stone wall forming the boundary of the Merrill House lot and another extending between the Common and the cemetery, and a square cattle pound at the northwest corner of the junction of Route 172 and the Old County Road. Both of these structures are representative features of much of Maine's vernacular landscape, although the pound is a much rarer survivor.

In the following Inventory List the numbers at the far left of each entry correspond to the property location on the accompanying map. The letters **C** and **NC** denote contributing or non-contributing resources respectively.

Inventory List

1. Rev. Daniel Merrill House, c. 1795, c. 1850 - C

The Merrill house is a two-story, five-bay frame dwelling which is sheathed in wood shingles and covered by a gable roof. Its front (east) elevation has a centrally-located Greek Revival style entrance with

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full-length sidelights, paneled pilasters, and a denticulated entablature. It is flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows. Three similar units are symmetrically located on the second story whereas a twelve-over-eight window occupies the gable peak. There are four six-over-six windows on the south side, two twelve-over-eights and a door on the north side, and an asymmetrical pattern of four twelve-over-eights and two six-over-sixes on the west side. Bordering the house lot on four sides is a stone wall whose construction probably commenced when the house was first occupied. This is a contributing structure. Standing to the north of the house is a small gable roofed outbuilding which houses portions of the historical society's collection. It was constructed after 1965.

In 1793 the Town of Sedgwick settled the Rev. Daniel Merrill (1765-1833) as its first minister, providing him with a dwelling and twenty-three acres of land. Merrill had served in the Continental Army from 1781-83 and then entered Dartmouth College where he received first honors in August, 1789 and his second degree three years later. Beginning with twenty-two original members, Merrill oversaw the rapid growth of his Church of Christ in Sedgwick (Congregational) until 1805 when he and nearly half of his congregation became Baptists. He continued to occupy the house until his death, after which it descended to his son Daniel Merrill, Jr.

Town records indicate that the house which voters approved for Merrill was to have been "36 feet long by 30 feet wide with a 8½ foot stud; that it have a gambrel roof with a 7 foot stud; one half of the house to be finished comparable with the common western houses, with the cellar and arch under the chimney, and the house to be handsomely underpinned to the height of 12 inches." Judging from the framing which is visible in the attic it appears that the gable roof form may have been originally substituted for the specified gambrel, a change which would have been in keeping with local building patterns. Tradition also holds that the house was indeed larger than the existing 28 foot by 30 foot structure, although no archaeological investigation has been conducted to verify this. The Greek Revival features of the exterior (doorway, six-over-six windows, cornice) reflect a mid-nineteenth century alteration which was probably carried out after Merrill's death.

2. District #5 Schoolhouse, 1873-74, Moved 1987 - NC

This former one-room school building, also known as the Joe Gray's Corner School, is a one-story gable roofed frame structure that is sheathed in weatherboards. It has a two-bay facade featuring a central door and flanking six-over-six window. A second smaller unit is located

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Continuation Sheet

SEDGWICK HISTORIC DISTRICT

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 4

in the gable peak. There are two six-over-six windows on both side walls.

At the time of its construction in 1873-74, this was one of ten schoolhouses in Sedgwick. It housed grades one through eight until 1946 when it was converted to a bus garage and later a salt storage shed. In 1987, after the land which it occupied had reverted to descendants of the original owner, the building was dismantled by the historical society and rebuilt and restored on its present site.

3. Town Pound, 1821 - C

The Town Pound is a rubble stone structure which is thirty-five feet square. Town records show that the original specifications called for it to be six feet in height with walls tapering from five feet at the base to two feet at the top. In addition, it was to have been capped with cedar timbers nine inches square on top and have a four foot wide gate on the north side. Although its walls have tumbled somewhat during the past century-and-a-half, the pound retains its overall size and location.

4. Sedgwick Town House and Common, 1793, 1849 - C

The Sedgwick Town House is a one-story three-bay gabled frame building sheathed in weatherboards. Its front (west) elevation has a central entry flanked by long sixteen-over-one windows. A fan-shaped panel below the gable peak contains the building's original date of construction. Both side elevations contain two symmetrically placed sixteen-over-sixteen windows, and a single twelve-over-twelve is located high on the wood shingled rear elevation. Projecting from the southeast corner of this wall is a 10 foot by 12 foot concrete block vault added about 1963.

The town house was originally constructed as the meetinghouse for the Congregational Church on a two-acre parcel of land given by Benjamin Friend. Although no visual record is known to exist of this meetinghouse, town records again provide important information about its construction. In the May 27, 1793 town meeting it was voted to erect a 50 foot by 40 foot clapboarded building that was to be shingled and the lower floor finished in two years. A notation in 1806 stated that the town's stock of ammunition was stored in the meetinghouse under the western porch stairs. These two references strongly suggest that the original interior had galleries typical of eighteenth century meetinghouses. By 1849 the meetinghouse appears to have become unnecessary for religious services since three other church buildings

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SEDGWICK HISTORIC DISTRICT

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 5

had been erected. Thus, in September of that year the residents voted "to make a Town House of the old Meetinghouse and that it be located on the Common where said old House now stands." It is generally assumed that the overall frame of the meetinghouse was remodeled to accommodate the new function. Among the alterations was the removal of the galleries and the apparent shortening of the building by ten feet. The building continues its service as the town hall, although the surrounding Common is now overgrown.

5. Rural Cemetery, by 1798 - C

Originally known as the Old Burying Ground, the Rural Cemetery now comprises twenty-three acres located behind (east) of the Town House. It is the town's oldest community cemetery and contains the graves of many of the earliest settlers including that of Rev. Merrill. The oldest headstone bears the date October 26, 1798. Initially the burying ground was three-quarters of an acre in size, but it was subsequently enlarged under the direction of a local cemetery organization that was formed in 1826 to maintain and control its use. The developed portion of the cemetery occupies the eastern half of the Town owned lot that extends to Route 172. Its uneven, sloping terrain is punctuated by several obelisks and family plots bordered with granite. A receiving tomb near the north-eastern corner was built in 1910.

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The Sedgwick Historic District embraces a collection of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century buildings, structures, and sites which constitute this coastal community's original religious and governmental center. Comprised of the Town's first meetinghouse and common, the first minister's residence, an early cemetery, and a cattle pound, this assemblage represents an unusual concentration of these important early features of Maine settlements. The district is eligible for nomination under criterion A for its association with community planning and development as well as government, and criterion C for architecture and landscape architecture. Criteria consideration A, B, and D also apply by virtue of the original meetinghouse function, the presence of a moved building, and the cemetery.

Permanent settlement of the lands within the original boundary of Sedgwick are thought to have commenced in 1762 or 1763 although squatters were found to have taken up some property already. The Town of Sedgwick was incorporated on January 13, 1789, its name being chosen to honor Robert Sedgewick, the English Major General who had ousted the French from Pentagoet (Castine) in 1654.

Two years after its incorporation the residents voted at town meeting to raise two hundred pounds to erect a meetinghouse and settle a minister. Later that year an additional fifty pounds was voted to build six schoolhouses and to clear school and ministerial lots. Town records show that at a meeting held on May 27, 1793, the townsmen approved the construction of a meetinghouse 50 feet long and 40 feet wide with the lower floor to be completed within two years. Its location at the geographical center of the Town (which at that time included Brooklin and part of Brooksville) had been decided upon at a meeting held on November 14, 1791. The two acre parcel of land on which the building stands was given to the Town by one of the Proprietors, Benjamin Friend. This property, as well as the twenty-three acre parcel granted to the first settled minister, were bordered on the south by the existing County Road.

Significantly, Friend's gift to the Town included sufficient space around the meetinghouse itself to create a Common whose characteristics were typical of those in many eighteenth and early nineteenth century Maine communities. Recent investigations of the State's historic landscapes have revealed that the Common represents the first type of designed public open space that occurs in Maine. These spaces had several distinguishing characteristics: 1) they were associated with the Congregational meetinghouse and owned by its members; 2) they were relatively small, but centrally located; and 3) they may have been leveled for the purposes of public gatherings, but were not otherwise improved until the late nineteenth century - if at all. In 1849 when the Town residents voted to convert the meetinghouse, which had ceased to function in a religious capacity, into a

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town house, specific instructions were given "...that it be located on the Common where said old house now stands."

At the same time that the meetinghouse was under construction, efforts were being made to erect a dwelling for the minister. In 1791 the Town residents had voted to furnish a gambrel roofed house with the dimensions of 36 feet by 30 feet. Modifications were apparently made during its actual construction and a gable roofed building possibly smaller than planned resulted. This became known as the Rev. Daniel Merrill House after its first occupant. As the first minister, Merrill had been granted twenty-three acres of land including a five acre parcel bordering the Common to the east. On a portion of this separate lot a burying ground was established as early as 1798.

Several events occurred in the first half of the nineteenth century that significantly changed the future use and appearance of the present district. The first of these came in 1805 when Rev. Merrill and nearly one-half of his congregation abandoned the Congregational Church and joined the Baptist Church which had recently formed in the area. This defection seriously weakened the community's original religious institution ultimately leading to its abandonment of the meetinghouse. In the 1858 History and Description of New England, the authors noted that "The Congregationalists have a society, but no meeting-house; at present they worship at a place called Dodge's Hall" (p. 303). The second event took place in 1817 when about one-fifth of the Town was taken to form the Town of Brooksville to the west. Nearly one-half of the remainder was separated in 1849 to form the Town of Brooklin, leaving the Town of Sedgwick with a population in 1850 of 1,235 persons. These boundary alterations must have further reduced the desirability of maintaining the religious function of the meetinghouse at what had originally been a centralized location to the widely scattered inhabitants.

In 1821 the State Legislature passed a law which stated, in part, "...that each Town shall keep and maintain a sufficient pound or pounds, in such place or places therein as the Town shall direct..." (Laws, Vol. II, Chapter CXXIX, page 573). Although pounds had been previously erected in Maine communities as early as the 1790s, the mandatory language of the 1821 Act underscored the problem which stray animals continued to pose in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. It is unclear whether Sedgwick had previously erected a pound, but in 1821, perhaps in response to the recently enacted law, a substantial stone pound, 35 feet square was erected at one corner of the Common.

Five years after the construction of the Town Pound, a cemetery association was formed to purchase and oversee the future development of the Old Burying Ground on Rev. Merrill's parcel of land bordering the Common.

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During the balance of the nineteenth century this organization acquired additional land for expansion and at some point renamed it the Rural Cemetery. This cemetery is one of the two oldest burying grounds in the Town and contains the graves of many of the first settlers including that of Rev. Merrill.

One of the most significant alterations to the early physical characteristics of the district probably occurred between the construction of the pound in 1821 and the remodeling of the meetinghouse in 1849. Sometime in this period the present North Sedgwick Road (Route 172) was laid out across the western edge of the Common, thereby separating the pound and a strip of land from the former meetinghouse. While this was not an unusual alteration to commons (later roadways changed the original dimensions of the commons in Wiscasset and probably York), its effect here was to obfuscate the original relationship of the pound to it. It is easy to assume now that the pound is related to the Merrill house and the stone wall that marks the eastern boundary of his house lot, rather than to recognize the earlier pattern. The construction of the road may also have affected the course of the 1849 meetinghouse remodeling in that the orientation of the entrance probably shifted away from the east/west County Road to the south to the new north/south road. This conclusion is speculative, however, since the original orientation of the meetinghouse entry is unknown. Nonetheless, it seems plausible that the principal elevation of the building would always have been oriented toward the primary road whether it was to the south in 1793 or to the west by 1849.

Early on, Sedgwick's several village clusters developed at coastal or riverine locations. In contrast, as mentioned above, the meetinghouse was geographically centered somewhat inland from the village of Sedgwick. As a result, the Meetinghouse and Common never served as a focal point around which a village grew. This pattern may explain in part why the Common was not improved in the late nineteenth century as a municipal open space. In fact, it appears to have been virtually forgotten with the result that it is now largely overgrown.

Several changes have occurred in the district during the second half of the twentieth century. The first of these was the acquisition in 1965 of the Merrill House by the local historical society. This important building was rescued by the society and converted into a museum. An outbuilding was subsequently constructed to house a pair of horse-drawn hearses, and in 1987 a former one-room schoolhouse was reassembled on the property. More recently, the Town has reaffirmed its desire to continue using the Town House for governmental purposes. Plans are also being considered to remove several interior alterations that were made in the mid-twentieth century.

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SEDGWICK HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Gray, Glenith, ed. Sedgwick, Maine: 1789-1989. Sedgwick: Bicentennial Committee. 1989.

Laws of the State of Maine. Brunswick, Maine: Printed by J. Griffin for the State. 1821.

Locke, William N. "The Rise and Demise of the Cattle Pound." 1993. Manuscript copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

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Continuation Sheet**

SEDGWICK HISTORIC DISTRICT

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Sedgwick Historic District occupies the Town of Sedgwick Tax Map 5, Lots 44 and 94. See map.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary is drawn to include the two-acre parcel of land which was historically associated with the Rev. Merrill House and now owned by the historical society, in addition to the Town owned property occupied by the Town House, Common, and the Rural Cemetery. This boundary embraces the significant historic resources associated with the community's early religious/governmental center.

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CEMETERY

ROAD

NORTH

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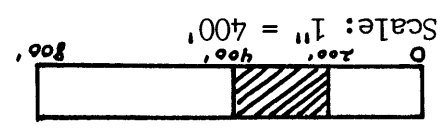
1032
1699

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SEDGWICK HISTORIC DISTRICT
Sedgwick, Vic., Maine

SEDGW

