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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harold Allan Schoolhouse
other names/site number Corner School; District No. 3 School

2. Location

street & number 15 Rebel Hill Road N/A not for publication
city or town Clifton N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Penobscot code 019 zip code 04428

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
 request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 6/3/08
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

[Signature] 7-16-08
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION / School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID - 19TH CENTURY

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD / Weatherboards
roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

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

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HAROLD ALLAN SCHOOLHOUSE

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

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DESCRIPTION

The Harold Allan School house is a one-story wood frame building consisting of the 1863 school and a small side addition dating from 1912 and modified in the mid-1980s. The building is oriented northeast and shares a lot with Cliffwood Hall (nomination pending), which is located immediately to the southeast of the school. (For ease of description, from this point forward the school will be described as facing north.) The school is surrounded by a lawn. A dirt parking area serving both the school and the Hall separates the building from Rebel Hill Road (Route 180). A few homes are clustered around the nearby intersection of Route 180 and Route 9 in the Penobscot County town of Clifton, and together with the school and Hall, comprise a section of the village known as Clifton Corners.

The original school is a rectangular gable-front structure with a hip-roof entry vestibule affixed to the north façade. The roughly square addition, which has a hip roof, is appended to the southeast corner of the school. As originally constructed the addition contained two outhouses and a wood shed. A shed-roof entry vestibule fronts the addition, and the two bay façade contains a modern glass-and-metal door and a one-over-one window. The front wall of the addition/entry is recessed approximately fifteen feet from the front wall of the school. The entire building is sided with clapboards, set on a parged fieldstone foundation, and covered with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney rises through the peak of the school's roof just inside the rear elevation. Two metal vent stacks are positioned on the southern flank of the addition's roof.

The façade of the school is one bay wide and contains a metal-and-glass door on the ground level and a two-over-two window in the attic level. The gable features a narrow, moulded rake trim which ends in narrow corner returns. Both the vestibule and the main building have narrow corner boards. Above the front door is a sign "Harold Allan School"; to the east of the door a plaque proclaims "Built in 1863"; and to the west another indicates "Clifton Historical Society". The front door is fronted by a set of wooden steps as well as a ramp leading down to the south.

The west elevation of the school has two six-over-six wood windows situated towards the south end of the wall and one six-over-six window in the vestibule. Another six-over-six window is positioned in the east end of the vestibule. The south elevation has a pair of six-over-six windows on either side of the chimney. The addition, which projects beyond the back wall of the school, has a wood-slatted ventilator bay on the west, a single-pane fixed window high on the east wall, and two one-over-one windows along with a high, three-light awning window on the rear. Positioned under the east and west window bays are top-hinged batten hatches which served to facilitate cleaning out the outhouses.

The interior of the school vestibule contains a dry sink affixed to the east wall of the main mass, and a built-in bookcase against the west wall. A line of coat hooks are mounted against the north wall to either side of the front door. The walls and ceiling are clad with horizontal beaded boards and the floor is laid with fir. The school room, which occupies the entirety of the main mass, also has fir

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floors and vertical bead board walls over wide horizontal wainscot. The ceiling was lowered approximately two feet and covered with acoustic tile in the early 1960s, but the original plaster ceiling remains above. Blackboards are mounted to either side of the vestibule door and along the front section of the east wall. A hot air furnace was also installed in the early 1960s and is located in front of the eastern rear windows and vented to the chimney stack. A door in the south half of the east wall leads to the addition. The school room is furnished with several generations and sizes of desks, bookshelves, wall maps, a teacher's desk, a recitation desk, books, teaching aids, as well as the original cast iron stove, now disconnected.

In the addition, a narrow corridor leads south to the remaining two-hole outhouse. The rest of the space was remodeled to serve as office space for the town circa 1985 and features a fir floor, sheetrock walls, and a batten-and-panel ceiling. The ceiling in the south third of the room, over what was the second outhouse, is about six inches lower than that in the former woodshed. An I-beam spans the room at the junction of these two levels and marks the location of the former outhouse partition wall. A plywood door in the north office wall leads to several wooden steps that descend to the vestibule, which has unpainted board walls and a cement slab floor. This space is used primarily for storage.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1863 - 1958

Significant Dates

1863

1912

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Name of repository:

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1863 as the District #3 school, the Harold Allan Schoolhouse is the last surviving one-room educational facility in the Penobscot County community of Clifton, Maine. In 1912, as the population of the town decreased and shifted, the school was moved about a mile to its current location, adjacent to Cliffwood Hall (Town Hall) at Clifton Corners. At that time a wood shed and outhouse were added to the side of the building and a new vestibule attached to its facade. The Harold Allan School continued to be utilized by the community through the end of the spring term in 1966. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A for its association with patterns of rural schooling in nineteenth -and twentieth-century Maine.

Portions of Clifton, Maine was cleared in 1812 and the first settled families appeared four years later. Originally known as Jarvis Gore, when it achieved incorporation in 1848 it did so under the name 'Maine'. According to *The History of Penobscot County*, the name was soon changed to Clifton, in reference to the hills and cliffs in the area "as a more musical and appropriate designation". The town is characterized by numerous lakes, hills, and rocky ground, but historically agricultural pursuits were gainful along the stagecoach route to Bangor, which ran southwest to northeast through town, and is now designated State Route 9. By 1884 this corridor had the thickest residential settlement, with homes stretching from the western boundary of the town to just beyond Clifton Corners. Another cluster of houses were located around Parks Pond, and a third settlement grew at the base of Little Peaked Mountain (or Chick's Hill). The main roads running south from Route 9 each had a scattering of homes, as did the southernmost portion of Rebel Hill Road (Route 180). Never a large town, Clifton's nineteenth century population peaked at 350 in 1880 and did not crest this threshold again until 1980. The population of 743 recorded in 2000 reflects the town's growth as a bedroom community for Bangor, ten miles to the east.

The one room school house was a familiar object in the rural landscape of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Maine. This was the result of a traditional educational system in which towns subdivided themselves into school districts, each of which contained a school house to serve its particular locale. According to *The Reflections of the Past*, published by the Clifton Historical Society, by 1863 the town of Clifton had designated four school districts, each with their own agent who was responsible for hiring teachers. Each district had its own school which served a distinct neighborhood. According to the 1875 Atlas of Southern Penobscot County, School No. 1 was located at the base of Little Peaked Mountain, and the No. 2 school, which was built in 1854 and known as the Parks School (later the Roosevelt School), was situated at the intersection of Mill Lane and Route 9 across from Parks Pond. The third district encompassed the western part of town and its school (which was un-numbered in the Atlas) was sited along the main road about one mile east of the Eddington town line, and the district No. 4 school (Davis School) served the families on Rebel Hill Road (Route 180) in the middle of town. In 1868 when a population cluster developed on the south boundary of the town a fifth district was created and another schoolhouse erected.

Through 1874 the town generally held a fall, winter, and spring term, although not all of the

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schools offered instruction during each term. The number of children per district fluctuated, as did the availability (and training) of the teachers. Between 1874 and 1913 no winter terms were held at all, and while state laws specified the number of weeks a year that children were expected to attend school, this goal was not always achieved in practice.

The affect of the district system was to produce a vast number and variety of school buildings; a figure which at the turn-of-the-century totaled more than 4,000. However, the district school system became a target for nineteenth century school reformers. In 1894 the State Superintendent of Schools abolished the district system on a state wide basis and towns were required to consolidate administration of the schools under a town-wide superintendent. The next year the state Superintendent inspected two hundred rural schools in eight counties. The investigation found that 41% of the schools were in poor or very poor condition, and that a majority of teachers had received no education beyond what was offered in a local district. As a result, over the next two decades the State issued new guidance regarding the certification of teachers, and standards for school buildings. There was also a push to grade the schools, close schools with few or sporadic students, and transport (or convey) students to schools beyond walking distance.

At the same time that educational reforms were occurring statewide, the town of Clifton began a steady decline in population. From a high of 350 residents in 1880, the population had decreased by almost a third to 217 in 1910, a number that bottomed out at 156 in 1930. As related in the town's Annual Reports, it was often a struggle to keep schools open: sickness, parent apathy, student misbehavior, or the inability to find or keep competent teachers were annual themes reported by the local Superintendent, who was also charged with distributing the limited school budget. By 1910, the first year for which Annual Reports for Clifton are available, the town seems to have phased out the District No. 1 school (there was some talk of sending the few students in the eastern part of town to class in neighboring Amherst). After 1915 the parents of the only two children in District No. 5 decided to teach their children at home, and that school was not opened again. There was also pressure to close the District No. 3 school, as reported by Superintendent Maria Penney, in the 1909/10 Annual Report:

I think it advisable to vote to have a school in Dist. No. 3, as most of the pupils are rather young to be transported, and it would be better for them to go home to their dinners. According to the laws of the State, we are entitled to but one school in town (Park's Dist.) as the average attendance of the others was under 8 [pupils per school last year]. If it were not that the children were so far apart, in two parts of the town they could go there, by the older ones walking, and the younger ones being conveyed. As it is you will have to take some action about it in town meeting." (Annual Report, 1910, p. 13.)

School was not held at the District No. 3 school between 1910 and 1912; instead plans were made to reorganize the town's educational facilities. In 1912 the No. 3 school building was moved to its present location next to Cliffwood Hall, and for the next few years was known as the 'Corner' school. At the same time districts number 3 and 4 were consolidated, and for the first time since 1874 a

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winter session was held. Beginning in 1915 the only active schools were the Corner and Park's schools: the building in District No. 4 was dismantled about 1918.

Another of the turn-of-the-century reforms was the formation of the School Improvement League of Maine. The State Superintendent believed "that the rural schools were unsuccessful partly because the community lacked pride; that too often parents took no interest in the schools and in consequence the children did little to co-operate with teachers or with each other even in maintaining mediocre standards - much less in improving them." (Hatch, p. 758). The goal of the League was to involve the parents and children with beautifying the schools and grounds, and obtaining proper supplies and equipment. Local leagues were formed for individual schools, and town leagues brought together representatives of all the schools. In the 1922 Annual Report the Superintendent mentioned for the first time the presence of these organizations in Clifton:

I feel that the schools have made definite progress along several lines this year. As a whole, the attendance has been better than ever better before (sic), there have been fewer unnecessary absences and both teachers and pupils have worked together with great interest in their work.

The leagues have been especially active this year; the Harold Allan League has earned money and bought a victrola, records, framed a picture, secured three useful exhibits for their schoolroom, dishes for noon lunch, etc...The Roosevelt League has framed a picture, purchased a book case, dishes for noon lunch and has money for curtains and other things. (Annual Report, 1921/22, p. 27).

In the following year's report the Corner school was referred to as the Harold Allan School, and the Parks School became the Roosevelt School. Harold Allan, of Augusta, had served as the Deputy State Superintendent of Schools from 1909 to 1915. In 1916 he was appointed to serve as one of the first two Rural School Agents, and assigned to visit the rural schools. He was to "furnish every assistance possible in securing for the schools better physical surroundings, more attractive and hygienic school rooms and better methods of instruction". (Hatch, p. 763). Although the specifics of Mr. Allan's interactions with the educational community of Clifton have been lost, they must have been significant for the school to have been renamed in his honor.

Both the Allan School and the Roosevelt School remained in operation until 1966. At some point in the 1930s the lower grades (1-3) were assigned to the Allan School and grades four and up were held at the Roosevelt School. (Secondary school students had been attending school in neighboring towns since the 1920s.) During this time the buildings were well maintained, but very little improved: not until the early 1960s was the wood stove at the Allan School replaced with a furnace (and the ceiling lowered to increase the heat). After the end of the term in 1966 Clifton joined the new School Administrative District #63, and all of the town's children were transported to new, modern facilities outside of town.

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Twentieth century school consolidation efforts have taken a dramatic toll on the number of one-room school buildings which survive. In 1960, for example, it was reported that only 226 schools in Maine were being held in one-room buildings, a figure which has since dropped to a mere handful (*Report of the State Board of Education*). In 1973 the Roosevelt School was sold to a private property owner who remodeled the structure as a residence. The Allan school was vacant until 1985, when the town needed to develop additional office space for its staff and elected officials. The space occupied by the former woodshed and one of the privies was converted to an office, and a small entry vestibule added to the front of that space. Fortunately, the town's library moved into the school room, which did not entail making any physical changes to the space. In 1999 the Town of Clifton sold the Harold Allan School to the Clifton Historical Society, which now runs the school as a museum.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the western half of the lot depicted on the town of Clifton tax map 17, lot 70.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

In 1912 the Harold Allan School was moved to the western half of the town-owned lot on which Cliffwood Hall (Town Hall) had been erected in 1892. The eastern boundary of this nomination is thus meant to run between the two buildings and embrace only the half of the lot occupied by the school house.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3

ME_PenobscotCounty_Allan School_001.tif

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 June 2007

North elevation; facing south.

Photograph 2 of 3

ME_PenobscotCounty_Allan School_002.tif

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Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 June 2007

Allan School on right, Cliffwood Hall on left; facing southeast.

Photograph 3 of 3

ME_PenobscotCounty_Allan School_003.tif

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

21 June 2007

Interior of classroom; facing northeast.