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Registration Form	
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC ELAP	s
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking	n How to Complete the g"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 "no architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instru- entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or compute	ctions. Place additional
1. Name of Property	
historic name Scarborough High School	
other names/site numberElwood G. Bessey School	
2. Location	
street & number272 Route One	<u>N/A</u> not for publication
city or town Scarborough	<u>N/A</u> vicinity
state <u>Maine</u> code <u>ME</u> county <u>Cumberland</u> code <u>005</u>	_ zip code <u>04074</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
Image: State of the state	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	Date of Action
☑ entered in the National Register. □ See continuation sheet.	$6 \cdot 27 \cdot 07$
determined eligible for the National Register.	
See continuation sheet.     determined not eligible for the	
National Register.	
Register.	

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)       Category of Property (Check only one box)         Derivate       Private	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
□ private	Contributing Noncontributing		
	structure		
	objects		
	0Total		
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register		
N/A	None		
6. Function or Use	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
EDUCATION / School	COMMERCE / TRADE / Warehouse		
	WORK IN PROGRESS		
	·		
7. Description	·		
Architectural Classification Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)		
LATE 19TH/20TH C. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival	foundation <u>Concrete</u>		
	walls Brick		
	roof <u>Synthetic / Rubber</u>		
	other <u>Concrete (cast stone) ornaments on walls</u>		

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SCARBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
Section number \_7 Page \_2

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE

### DESCRIPTION

The Scarborough High School was built in 1926 and designed in a restrained but elegant Georgian Revival style. Facing north, the High School is a flat-roofed brick structure consisting of a three-story central section flanked by two smaller, symmetrical, two-story wings. Brick is laid in a stretcher bond alternating five courses of stretcher brick to a single row of alternating stretchers and headers. Contrasting with the brickwork is cast stone trim including the foundation/water table, cornice moldings, stringcourses, and decorative elements above the entrances and windows. The proud and stately structure sits on the brow of a hill set back approximately eighty feet from the south side of U.S. Rt. 1. The spacious front lawn adds to the majesty of the historic structure. As viewed today, the school building is hardly visible from Rt. 1 due to a row of mature spruce trees that screen it from the busy street. When approaching the building from the northeast the building can be seen through a break in the trees across the lawn on the top of the hill. When approaching from the west, its siting prevents the opportunity to see the building from a northwesterly approach while ascending the hill. In 1926 when the school was built on the six acre parcel of land, it was surrounded by large expanses of farmland. The building site was chosen because of its central location within the community, and is opposite the Town Hall. Today, the building is sandwiched between the Maine Veterans' Homes, a modern nursing home to the west, and a recently-vacated site on the east which formerly contained tourist cabins.

The building rests on a poured-in-place concrete foundation, about a foot of which is visible on the façade. The flat roof is covered with a rubber membrane roof. An interior brick chimney rises from the roof where the east wing intersects with the main building. The school retains many of its original wood windows although in various locations these have been modified to allow for mechanical penetrations. On the north (façade) and south elevations many windows were removed c.1980 and replaced by solid walls to provide better thermal protection. Many of the windows on the east and south sides are in poor condition. Those on the west side have been fitted with storm sash.

The north façade of the central portion of the high school is seven bays wide. There is no fenestration on either of the north elevations of the wings but centered on each is an arched niche constructed of header brick. Originally each niche showcased a cast stone urn but these have been removed. On either end of the main block is an identical projecting entrance portico consisting of rectangular columns supporting a full entablature. Behind the columns, pilasters frame the modern multi-light double doors which are capped by six transom lights. The porch frieze above the east (boys) entrance is inscribed "Scarborough" while at the other end of the façade the west (girls) entrance frieze reads "High School".

Above each entrance there is a circular window set into a square cast stone frame decorated by raised garlands of bellflowers. Projecting above the window is a cast stone panel with a torch in relief. A narrow, three-light vertical awning window is located adjacent to each entrance porch. Between the entrances are five, two-story arched recesses. Within each recess is a pair of double-

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SCARBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL Section number \_7 Page \_3

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE** 

hung six-over-six (2 x 3-panes per sash) windows set above a pair of four-over-four basement windows. A simple raised wooden panel separates the upper and lower windows. As seen today, the east half of each upper pair of windows and the upper sash of the basement windows have been removed or covered. The windows are topped by splayed brick lintels with key and end stones fashioned from cast stone. The spandrel areas between the arches are decorated by cast stone elements with braid and tassels. A stone stringcourse extends across the façade above the arched recesses. The foreshortened third story is punctuated by five horizontal openings which rest on the stringcourse and are vertically aligned with the lower bays. Although the smaller windows give the appearance of a half story, this is only an illusion and inside, the rooms are a full story in height. The three central windows contain  $4 \times 2$ -glass panes; the two outer openings have been covered. The main building is topped by a metal cornice. The two flanking wings have a thick stone belt course near the top of the wall and corners which are finished with brick quoins.

The east and west elevations are nearly identical with eight bays of window openings under a bold stone belt course. The lower level windows contain double-hung, eight-over-eight sash while the upper level openings display twelve-over-twelve. Wooden panels fill the area between the upper and lower windows. The flush panels have a frame applied directly to the flat panel. Owing to the sloping building site, more of the poured concrete foundation is exposed on the west side.

On the rear (south) elevation the main building displays a symmetrical arrangement of eight bays while the flanking wings are recessed slightly and are without fenestration. At the center of the elevation there are six arched, two-story openings. The first floor windows consist of rectangular, paired nine-over-nine windows topped by flush wooden panels with applied frames. On the second floor each pair of nine-over-nine windows is topped by a semi-circular fanlight. At the east and west end of the elevation there is a first floor entrance surmounted by an eight-over-twelve rectangular window. The entrances contain modern, multi-paned doors topped by four transom lights and sheltered by a flat door hood.

As originally constructed, the second floor housed most of the classroom and administrative functions. A central corridor, ten feet wide, runs east to west and divides the main building into two unequal masses. A wooden staircase is located at the east and west ends of the corridor, leading from the façade entrances. The smaller front rooms to the north of the second floor corridor, originally contained a recitation room at the center, flanked on the east by the teachers' room and on the west by the principal's office. A tiny water closet (toilet) was located in the teacher's room and in the principal's office. The second floor of the east wing was divided into (from north to south) a recitation room, a typewriting room and a classroom. The west wing contained two classrooms. To the south of the main corridor there was an auditorium with a platform stage at the west end. A higher ceiling and two-story, arched windows provided ample light. The east end of the auditorium housed the school library. The girls' coat room was located adjacent to the stage with the boys' coat room to the east of the auditorium. The former auditorium was divided into three classrooms in 1954 when a new high school was built for the town. At that time or some later time, the former coat

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### **CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE**

rooms were retrofitted for bathrooms.

The first floor has two north-south corridors leading from the two stairwells at the front of the building to the rear entrances. In the rear of the central section is the gymnasium. The floor of the gymnasium is positioned approximately six feet below grade. Concrete bleachers rise against the lower portion of the north wall of this room. The first floor windows, evident on the south elevation, light the upper section of the gymnasium, which has an extra high ceiling to accommodate sporting activities. To the north of the gymnasium was a manual training room. The first floor of the west wing had a domestic science kitchen at the north end, a supply room and the girls' dressing room at the south end. The east wing contained the boys' dressing room at the south end with the boiler room and coal bin to the north. As a result of the higher ceilings in the second floor auditorium, the usable third floor space is limited to the front (north) portion of the central section. The larger, eastern room was used as a laboratory while that to the west was a sewing room. The small windows on the north wall were supplemented by three skylights (two in the lab and one in the sewing room).

The interior finishes are simple and practical, as one would expect of a school building. The wood work is stained and the door and window openings are framed by square edge back band casings. Most of the doors display a single recessed panel; sets of double doors access the stairwells. At either end of the building there is a dog-legged, hollow newel type wooden staircase with closed stringer stringboards sheathed in vertical boards. The square newel posts have recessed panels. In the classrooms a low chair rail wraps around each room, interrupted by window and door openings and slate blackboards; the molding in the hallways is higher, approximately five feet from the floor. The walls are plaster with simple baseboards and in various locations metal wall registers pierce the lower wall. Some of the pine floors are left exposed; others are covered with linoleum or carpeting. In the hallways and in some of the classrooms the height of the ceiling has been dropped by the introduction of an acoustical tile system. In the former assembly hall, a dropped ceiling obscures the arched transoms. In 1939 a trophy cabinet was installed in the main hallway. On the upper level the light wells from the roof skylights have been covered over. In the former laboratory there are built-in bookcases along the wall and a laboratory table is located at the center of the room. In the attic there are charred members, evidence of a 1947 fire which started in the laboratory section. When the roof trusses and the roof were repaired, the three skylights were filled in.

The small gymnasium in the basement remains although the original floor has been replaced by linoleum tiles. There are still two basketball hoops with wooden backboards. The concrete bleachers are no longer evident because the area has been covered with flooring. The locker rooms have been stripped and are used as office space/storage. There is no significant wood work on the first floor. In later years, the school cafeteria was located at the west end of the first floor and later expanded to the area north of the gymnasium (the former manual training space).

Name of Property

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE **County and State** 

Areas of Significance

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

(Enter categories from instructions)

### 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.
- Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

## **Criteria Considerations**

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

### Property is:

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

### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

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

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  $\boxtimes$
- 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:

## **Period of Significance** 1926 - 1957

### **Significant Dates**

1926

1954

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

### **Cultural Affiliation**

Architect/Builder

Miller, Mayo and Beal, architects

John J. Maloney & Co., builders

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SCARBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
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**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE** 

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Scarborough High School, constructed in 1926, is significant under Criterion A, Education, as the town's first modern school building. The building represents an important step in the progress of education in Scarborough and has been an important contributing element to life in the town for over seventy years. This was the first high school in town to incorporate a gymnasium, a laboratory and facilities for vocational education, items which were to become standard in the years to come. Scarborough High School is also significant under Criterion C, Architecture, as a well-preserved example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century school design and embodies distinctive characteristics of its type and period. As was prevalent in school design of the period, the two-story structure displays a flat roof, large windows, fire-resistant building materials and the latest in health and sanitation. The structure is also notable as a good example of Georgian Revival design and as an example of the work of prominent Portland architects, Miller, Mayo and Beal. Visible evidence of the Colonial Revival influence include the use of quoining and fanlights, the entrance porticoes and classically-inspired moldings and bas relief including bell flowers, torch motifs, braids and tassels. The Scarborough High School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and satisfies Criteria A and C at the local level.

### <u>History</u>

Prior to the construction of the 1926 building, Scarborough's high school students utilized the three-room top floor of a two-story school building dating to 1905. Before the 1905 school was built, high school classes were held at the town hall. By 1918 there were sixty students taking high school classes and enrollments continued to grow. In 1925 Miss Ellen H. Libby of Portland gave the town of Scarborough a four-acre parcel of land to be used for a new high school, with the provision that the school building be built within five years. On June 30, 1925 a special town meeting was held and it was voted to invite eight Maine architects to submit proposals for a school building. Subsequently an additional two acres of land were obtained through purchase.

At the annual town meeting in March 1926 Scarborough citizens voted to build a new high school and authorized a bond of \$75,000. The plans of Miller and Mayo, architects of Portland, were selected. The general construction contract was awarded to John J. Maloney & Co. Construction began about June 1<sup>st</sup> and the building was accepted by the town on December 31, 1926.

The Superintendent of Schools' Report for 1927 gives a detailed description of the new structure:

The new Scarborough high school is a two-story brick structure, with stone trimmings in Georgian style, located well back from the street on the State Road at Oak Hill.

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**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE** 

It is planned to accommodate the many requirements of a modern high school and embodies all of the regulations of the state departments of education and health relating to proper day-lighting, ventilation, sanitation and safety. It is so planned that in the future additions can be made without disturbing the present building.

It is located on a lot of six and one-half acres with a frontage of 350 feet. Ample opportunity is provided for the establishment of an athletic field, for agricultural work, and for out-of-door physical training facilities. Set in correct proportions, with a background of pines, it is most pleasing and artistic in appearance. Across the front of the ground floor are a manual training room and a domestic science kitchen. Separate stairways serve these two departments, located on opposite sides of the building. Toilets for girls and boys, and the heating plant are also provided on this floor. The central-rear portion of the ground floor is the gymnasium. This is 35 feet by 60 feet, the standard minimum size for a basketball court. Bleachers are provided for the spectators.

On the main floor is the assembly room, located directly over the gymnasium and of the same size. One end is provided with a stage for auditorium work - an important factor in any modern school program - and the opposite end will be equipped for a library. This floor also has three class rooms seating 35 pupils each, a recitation room seating 25 pupils, a club room seating 20 pupils, and a typewriting room so connected with the class room as to be self-supervising. In the front on this floor are the principal's office and the room for the teachers. On this floor are also provided the wardrobes for the pupils.

On the upper floor, space is available in the front central area. This was made possible because the large size of the assembly room required a high ceiling for proper lighting. Across this front central upper floor are located a science room and a sewing room.

The building provides for an ultimate growth to 250 pupils. As this is larger than is necessary for present needs, this extra assures sufficient room for future development, and, perhaps more important, provides space for better educational organization in the immediate future (Town of Scarborough Annual Report, 1927, p 68-70).

In addition to providing much-needed additional classroom space, the building was the first school in Scarborough to contain a gymnasium. Physical training and health education for the girls was introduced. A course in biology was added to the curriculum and the building provided proper laboratory space for physics and chemistry. The new school also allowed the introduction of vocational preparation - manual training for the boys and household arts for the girls- into the high

National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

SCARBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL
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**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE** 

school curriculum to better meet the needs of the majority of students who did not go onto college. As an added benefit, the cooking class offered a hot noon lunch four days a week. The final cost of the high school building was \$74, 816. Various citizens and community groups made donations to the building. The Portland Y.M.C.A. contributed lockers for the physical training department; other gifts included funds for the library, a piano, and a clock for the assembly room. The building was dedicated on February 25, 1927 and faculty and students moved into the new building on March 1, 1927.

The new building operated as a high school until 1954 when the present high school facility opened. The former high school then served as a junior high school from 1954 until 1961 when a new junior high school was built. It was in 1954 that the auditorium was converted into classrooms. At that time the structure was also renamed Bessey School in honor of Elwood Bessey (1892-1971), long-time principal of the high school, who had retired six years previously. From 1961 until 2002 the building was used for elementary classes and special education purposes. The building continued to be used for special education purposes through 2006 when the newest addition to the high school was completed and special education programs were relocated to the high school. The building is currently being used for storage by the school department, as well as office, warehouse and retail space for Ruth's Recyclables, a non-profit organization that accepts donations of equipment, furniture, paper, and supplies. The collected materials are donated or resold at nominal prices to teachers all over the State of Maine.

The Scarborough High School represents one of the later works of the firm of Miller & Mayo (which became Miller, Mayo and Beal in 1926). The partnership of William R. Miller (1866-1929) and Raymond J. Mayo (1878-1966) was formed in early 1907. Both of the men attended the School of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Miller was in practice independently for ten years before the partnership and designed projects all over Maine, especially public buildings. Their work together included public buildings, as well as commercial buildings, large apartment complexes and residences. The firm was responsible for the design of school structures throughout the state including the High and Grammar School in Dixfield (1915, destroyed); Eastport High School (1916-1917, destroyed); Freeport High School (1917-1918, destroyed); Portland High School (1922-1923) and the Lincoln School in South Portland (1925-1926) Many of these structures, like Scarborough High School, were rectangular two-story buildings with flat roofs, symmetrical facades and fireproof construction. In particular the design for the Scarborough school displays marked similarities to the wood-frame Lincoln School which features entrance pavilions on the ends of the facade and Georgian Revival-style trim.

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**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE** 

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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"A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine: William R. Miller (1866-1929)", Volume V, Number 14. (Augusta, ME: Maine Historic Preservation Commission), 1988.

Annual Report of the Town Officers of the Town of Scarborough, Maine for the Year Ending March <u>15, 1927.</u> (Portland, ME: Marks Printing House), 1927.

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*The Four Corners* (Scarborough High School yearbook), various years, 1927-1954. Volumes cited available at the Scarborough Public Library, Scarborough, Maine.

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Laughton, Rodney. <u>Images of America: Scarborough in the Twentieth Century</u>. (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing), 2004.

Miller, Mayo & Beal. Drawings for High School Building for the Town of Scarborough, Maine, 14 sheets, dated 4/6/1926. Drawings on file at the Scarborough Town Offices, Scarborough, Maine.

SCARBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL Name of Property	CUMBERLAND COL County and State	JNTY, MAINE
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property Approx. 2 acres	·····	· · · ·
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)		
1       1       9       1       7       2       6       4       8       2       6       8       3       2         Zone       Easting       Northing         2       1       9       1	3 1 9 Zone I Zone I 4 1 9	
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 LISA MAUSOLF, and CHRISTI A. MITCHELL,	Maine Historic Preservatio	n Commission, Augusta, Maine
organization PRESERVATION CONSULTANT	date 9 March 20	07
street & number <u>6 Field Pond Drive</u> telep	hone <u>781 779-1574</u>	
city or town <u>Reading</u> state	Zip co	de <u>01867</u>
ubmit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Iaps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the pr A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having		us resources.
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Representative black and white photographs of the pr	operty.	
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Property Owner		
omplete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)		
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aperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected operties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and t benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amer stimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is esting structions, cathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the		
timated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estin tructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Ser anagement and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Was	vice, P.O. Box 37127, Washingt hington, DC 20503.	on, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of

# United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE** 

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of that portion of Tax Map U041, Lot 002 that contains the historic school building and its immediate surroundings. The boundaries of the nominated portion of that parcel are shown on Map 1, and contain approximately 2 acres. Additional site details are provided on Map 2.

## **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The overall tax parcel owned by the Town of Scarborough consists of 17.01 acres, the majority of which is characterized by wetlands and mixed woods. The boundary has been drawn to exclude that portion of the parcel which did not share the schools historic function and to focus on the immediate vicinity of the cultural resource.

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photograph 1 of 4 Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant, Reading, MA Maine Historic Preservation Commission 16 January 2007 North façade, facing southwest.

Photograph 2 of 4 Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant, Reading, MA Maine Historic Preservation Commission 16 January 2007 West and south elevation; facing northeast.

Photograph 3 of 4 Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant, Reading, MA Maine Historic Preservation Commission 16 January 2007 Detail of north façade – west entry; facing south.

Photograph 4 of 4 Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant, Reading, MA Maine Historic Preservation Commission 16 January 2007 Interior, northeast stairwell leading up to third floor; facing south.



# SCARBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL Cumberland County, Maine

