

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name (Former) Eaton School
other names/site number Somerset Grange #18

2. Location

street & number Junction of Main Street and Mercer Road N/A not for publication
city, town Norridgewock N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Somerset code 025 zip code 04957

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Eileen S. [Signature], S.N.P.O. 5/16/88
Signature of certifying official 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.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. *Nelson Byrum* Entered in the National Register 6-23-88
 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] Signature of the Keeper
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/SchoolSocial/Meeting Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Second Empire

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The former Eaton School is a two-and-a-half story three-bay frame building that is sheathed in weatherboards and covered by a bellcast mansard roof. It occupies a wedge-shaped lot that is located in a residential neighborhood.

Facing northeast, the school's symmetrically arranged front elevation contains a centrally located two-leaf door framed by a round arch on the first floor below coupled two-over-one round arched windows on the second floor. Two-over-one windows are located on either side of the door and false openings covered by louvered blinds flank the upper windows. Wide paneled corner boards frame the facade, and they rise to a broad denticulated cornice that carries around the building. This cornice breaks above the arched windows where it is surmounted by a bell-shaped gable ornamented with a false bullseye window. Small gabled dormers that contain six-over-six segmentally arched windows are located on either side of this gable.

Both the north and south side elevations are equally divided into four bays. Those on the north side contain two-over-one windows. This pattern was formerly repeated on the south side, but subsequent alterations and the addition of an iron fire escape resulted in the closing of a first story window and the replacement of a second story window with a door. In addition, there were originally four gabled dormers along the south side, only one of which survives as an emergency exit. There are four windows in the rear wall. Two interior chimneys, one of which is very tall, rise through the roof. A granite block foundation supports the building.

Inside, the existing floor plan and modest finish continue to illustrate the building's original use and arrangement. The front door opens into a vestibule. A long central hall (whose vestibule end has been partitioned) bisects two small narrow former classrooms and leads to a much larger room at the west end. The enclosed stairs are located at the right side of the vestibule. The landing at the second story is similar to the vestibule in that a trio of doors open into two small rooms and a much larger one containing a stage at the west end. The third floor was built to house Masonic functions. Two storage rooms accompany a meeting space that features raised platforms along two sides and the west end as well as ornamental plaster work on the ceiling. The remainder of the walls are of plaster over lath construction, except in the first floor hall where narrow boards sheath three-quarters of the walls. In addition, turn-of-the-century pressed metal has been applied to the second floor ceilings.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Education

Period of Significance

1866-67
1866-c. 1892, 1895-1916

Significant Dates

1866-67

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Douglas, Charles F.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The former Eaton School in Norridgewock is significant not only for its association with local educational efforts, but also as one of the first known designs by Charles F. Douglas, a Maine born architect whose career bears considerable distinction. Erected in 1866-67 the building, which also contained a meeting hall for the Masonic lodge, functioned as a school (with only one brief interruption) until 1916. The former Eaton School meets National Register criteria A and C.

During the mid-nineteenth century Norridgewock was a prosperous rural community whose chief distinction was its position as the Somerset County seat./1 In 1849 it could boast of having a variety of small scale mills, a Female Academy, a multi-denominational meeting house and some twenty mercantile establishments who served the neighboring agricultural areas./2 The academy had been founded in 1837 and a temple front one-story brick building constructed to house its activities. It was in this building that Hamilton Fairfield Eaton (1838-1927) opened a private academy in 1865.

A graduate of the Wesleyan seminary at Kent's Hill (N.R. 4/26/79), Eaton came to Norridgewock at the close of the Civil War. Encouraged by the community's leading citizens, he opened a school that offered instruction in foreign languages, mathematics, grammar, and rhetoric as well as music, art and business./3 A burgeoning enrollment forced Eaton to seek new quarters, and in the summer 1866, therefore, he solicited funds to build a larger school. Among the contributors was Lebanon Lodge No. 116 F. and A. Masons whose plan was to utilize the third story of the building for a meeting hall. Local architect Charles F. Douglas obtained the commission to design the school a brief description of which appeared in the October 26, 1867, edition of the Republican Clarion.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allen, William. The History of Norridgewock. Norridgewock, Maine: Edward J. Peet, 1849.

Douglas, Charles F., Architect file, Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual. Portland: various publishers and dates.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

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4	9	5	1	2	1	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Norridgewock tax map 28, lot 11.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the city lot historically associated with the Eaton School.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1988
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

Eaton continued to operate the academy until 1883 when ill health forced him to relinquish his duties. Nevertheless, the school continued to function variously as the Norridgewock English and Classical Institute (1883-84, 1889-91) and the Norridgewock High School (1885-88).⁴ Use of the building for a school appears to have lapsed from about 1892 to 1895, but it was then reopened and served in this capacity until 1916 when it was acquired by its current occupant the Somerset Grange. The building's long history as the focus of Norridgewock's educational activities is of particular associative significance. Built from local donations, the former school house embodies the spirit of this community's nineteenth century interest in providing a place for the instruction of its youth.

Architect Charles Francis Douglas (1833-c.1904) was born in Brunswick, Maine, but removed with his parents to Dover at age two.⁵ He subsequently attended Foxcroft Academy and sometime thereafter was apprenticed in the building trades. It was from this base that Douglas went on to develop his architectural practice. Beginning in the Norridgewock-Skowhegan area of central Maine, Douglas moved to Lewiston about 1870 and finally to Philadelphia in 1873. His commissions in Maine, the majority of which are in Lewiston and Auburn, exhibit a broad range of design capabilities from modest frame buildings such as the Eaton School to the expansive brick 1873 Barker Mill (N.R. 5/8/79) in Auburn. Between these two extremes lie a variety of commercial, educational, religious, and residential buildings many of which survive in various states of preservation. Included among these is Douglas' own very handsome Italianate style villa (N.R. 12/18/78) in Norridgewock built in 1868. Given the period of his activity in Maine it is not surprising that many of these buildings exhibit Italianate details and mansard roofs, although Douglas was especially proficient in their use. Within the context of his brief career in this state, therefore, the Eaton School occupies an important place. Not only is it a building type for which Douglas produced few designs, but it is also his earliest known extant commission. Furthermore, its stylistic attributes clearly foreshadow much of the architect's later work.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Endnotes

- /1. The Somerset County seat was transferred to Skowhegan in 1872, and Douglas was awarded the commission to design the present building. National Register nomination for the Somerset County Courthouse, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.
- /2. William Allen, The History of Norridgewock (Norridgewock: Edward J. Peet, 1849), pp. 140-41.
- /3. Tradition holds that Eaton first established a school in Kent's Hill in 1856. His entries in the annual Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual during the 1870s state that the Eaton School was indeed founded in 1856.
- /4. The changing designation of the school was gleaned from a comparison of the yearly editions of the Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual.
- /5. Further information about Douglas's career may be found in the C. F. Douglas Architect File, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.