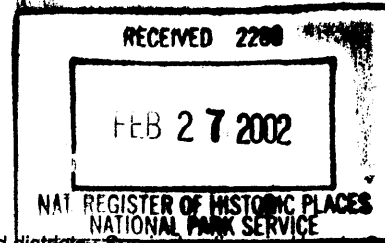


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



350

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 Tranquility Grange, #344

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Route 52, 1 mile north of Route 173 in Lincolnville Center N/A not for publication

city or town Lincolnville Center N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Waldo code 027 zip code 04849

### 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.)

Charles J. [Signature] 2/25/02  
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] 4.11.02  
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

1    0                      buildings

\_\_\_\_\_ sites

\_\_\_\_\_ structures

\_\_\_\_\_ objects

1    0                      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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social / meeting hall

Government / town hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social / meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow / Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood: Shake

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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

TRANQUILITY GRANGE, #344

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

**DESCRIPTION**

The Tranquility Grange # 344, is a low, rectangular, hipped-roof, Craftsman/bungalow style meeting hall, located one mile north of Lincolnville Center, Maine. Facing the road to the west and clad in weathered wood shingles, the three bay facade with recessed center door appears diminutive from the front. However, the north and south elevations reveal that the structure is built into the side of an embankment, allowing a full basement story under all but the western most end of the structure. The Tranquility Grange #344, Patrons of Husbandry, was established in 1898, and the building was completed in 1908. This is the third structure to be built by its members, and the second to be located at this site. A parking lot, formerly the location of an attached stable, is adjacent to the structure on the south, while the north edge of the property is bordered by a broad sloping field that opens to a distant view of the Megunticook Mountain Range.

The front facade is symmetrical and all the trim is plain and restrained. The four panel, glass-topped double doors, and the one-over-one paired casement windows, are surmounted by a simple, broad entablature, which like the wide fascia and corner boards, are painted white. The asphalt-shingled hipped roof overhangs the walls by at least 12 inches, which serves to reinforce the low profile of the structure. The only dormer is centered over the front door. It also features a hipped roof, with simple trim filling the spaces between the three one-light windows. A slightly off-center chimney rises between the back of the dormer and the northwest roof ridge.

The south and north facades are very similar; each contains four paired one-over-one windows on the main floor, flanked on the east and west ends by a single one-over-one. At the basement level, the fieldstone foundation proceeds down the embankment in four graduated steps. On the north side, four modern one-over-one double-hungs are evenly spaced towards the east end of the building, with a single eight-light sash hung horizontally, allowing light into the western most part of the basement (an unfinished boiler room). The south elevation is similar except for the presence of two doors and an additional modern window at the far eastern edge. The rear, or east, elevation contains one modern window in the basement level, and is sided with rough-sawn planks applied over the wooden shingles. A small bump-out on the northeast corner contains two privies, accessed from the basement.

The interior of the Grange reflects the current functions and activities of the Grange membership. Three doorways open off the small entry way. To the right is a small, modern kitchen, which was previously used as a ticket office and contained a staircase to a balcony above. To the left is a storage and cloak room. Each of these rooms have doors that open into the meeting hall, which is primarily accessed by proceeding straight ahead through the entryway. A stage is located at the eastern end of the hall and is flanked by two doors, one to the lower level staircase, the other to a bathroom. With the exception of the five-panel door between the entryway and the hall, all the portals have four-panel doors with flat trim. The open room features hardwood floors, and tongue and groove

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TRANQUILITY GRANGE, #344

WALDO CO., MAINE

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wainscoting surrounds the room to the level of the window sills. Windsor benches line the walls when not in use, and special furniture for the use of Grange officers is positioned in particular spots in the room. The remainder of the walls and ceiling are covered in pressed tin. Through the use of molded tin cornices, the two layer, white painted, ceiling appears to arch down to the walls. A wide cove-shaped tin cornice marks the transition from the yellow painted walls to the first layer of the ceiling; a second band of tin cove molding completes the step to the full ceiling height. This treatment is interrupted only on the west end of the room where a series of bead board panels, the same width of the cornice, are situated. The panels swing outward into the room to expose the small balcony over the entry, kitchen and cloak room.

Projecting only slightly forward of the wall, the stage at the east end of the room, is framed by a simple proscenium arch supported on single Doric pilasters. An elaborate hand-painted theater curtain, which dates to at least the 1940s, depicts a lake and mountain landscape, set in an elaborate gold frame, over which a partially lowered, tromp l'oeil theater curtain is draped.

The lower level of the Tranquility Grange contains a seasonal bathroom, paired double privies, a large dining room, and a kitchen. Four posts support two sleepers that run the width of the dining room ceiling and carry the weight of the meeting hall floor above. The dining room is finished in wood and fiberboard paneling, with hardwood floors. A built-in pie rack, containing numerous small shelves, is attached to the east wall adjacent to a serving window. All but one of the windows in this lower level have been recently replaced, and two doors lead directly from the dining room to the south side of the building. The kitchen appliances were upgraded in the 1980s, with the exception of an early cast-iron stove and the original slate sink. At the far western end of the dining room a door leads to the unfinished furnace room. Originally the structure was heated by parlor stoves attached to chimneys at the east and west end of the structure. The chimneys remain in place but a hot air system has now been installed.

**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)

Social History \_\_\_\_\_

Politics/Government \_\_\_\_\_

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1908 - 1951 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1908 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

None \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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):**

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

TRANQUILITY GRANGE, #344

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the Grange movement in early twentieth century Maine, and Criterion C for its local architectural significance as a fairly unique example of an Craftsman style grange hall.

The Tranquility Grange #344 was established in April of 1898 to serve the agricultural community of Lincolnville, Maine. Located a mile north of the Lincolnville Center settlement, the grange is perched on the edge of a slope, surrounded by fields and fronting a magnificent view of Colman Pond and the Meganticook Range. The first structure, known as "Farmer's Pride," was constructed off of upper Route 52, on Cillely Road. Although the building burned in 1901 the area is still designated as Grange Corner on state maps. In April of 1903 about an acre of land closer to town was purchased from a local woman, Eva J. Dean, for \$50, and another Grange Hall constructed. Once again, in 1907, the building burned extensively, but was raised a third time by 1908. The 1903 and 1908 buildings were similar in form: appearing to be only one and a half stories tall from the street, each was built into the side the bank, providing for large function rooms on both the street level and in the basement. The earlier structure was topped by a gambrel roof that flared slightly at the eaves, while the current building maintains a much lower profile under a hipped roof with a hipped front and center dormer.

The history of the Grange has its basis in post-Civil War agricultural crises. The following two paragraphs are from a brochure announcing the photographic exhibit titled: "Ritual and Community: The Maine Grange."

*The Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry, is an agriculturally-based secret society founded in 1867. The Order, open to both men and women, was designed to meet the economic, social, and educational needs of a class of Americans - the small farmer - whose day to day lives were being irrevocably transformed in the post-Civil War period. The proliferation of the railroad, the mass production of farm machinery, and the increasing control of a new class of business men known as "speculators" or "middle-men" over the sale and distribution of farm products were a few of the many influences which led to widespread enthusiasm for the Grange in the 1870s. National membership in the Grange grew to over 1 million members in the wake of the 1873 depression, when farmers joined the organization as a means of buying and selling farm goods at wholesale prices. In the mid-1870s, membership plummeted as most Grange cooperative ventures failed to meet members' expectations.*

*By the 1880s, however, Grange membership in Maine was on the increase, part of what has been dubbed "the second Grange movement" centered in the Northeast; by 1887, Maine had the largest Grange membership in the nation. The focus of the second movement was an emphasis on the Grange's educational and social benefits. (Brown, 1922)*

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TRANQUILITY GRANGE, #344

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

The local or subordinate hall was the focus for most of the activities of the Grange. Each of these structures featured large gathering rooms where the rituals and meetings were held, and many also contained a stage and / or a dining room.

*"Each one is a symbol of the progress rural families have made in the past eighty years as the result of "meeting together, talking together, working together, buying together, selling together, and in general acting together" for their "mutual protection and advancement, as occasion my requires."*

*In Grange halls farm families share their social activities, discuss their mutual problems, plan programs and fearlessly face conditions which call for skillful leadership, and out of which many a betterment project is evolved.*

*Here in these meeting halls, rural people through their Granges have formulated and carried out projects of far-reaching effect to themselves and to their city neighbors. Starting in Grange meetings, often in good-natured discussion, have been such great undertakings as delivery of mail to farm homes, rural electrification, improved highways, better schools and countless other worthy achievements, which perhaps never would have been attempted but for the nucleus of promotion created in alert Subordinate Granges." (Gardner, pp. 366-367.)*

Indeed, among the most successful programs supported by the Tranquility Grange on behalf its agricultural neighborhood was that of Rural Free Delivery. At the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the national Grange lobbied Congress and the US Postal Service to provide free mail, and low price parcel delivery to rural citizens. While the service was not provided directly by the Grange, it was nonetheless seen as an extension of Grange activities, and the Grange Post Office, as it was known, was eventually located just north of the Tranquility Grange.

Still an active grange, the building was also the location of Lincolnville Town Meetings until the early 1950s. Older members of the community remember that during the Town Meetings the swinging balcony panels would be fastened to the ceiling, providing a gallery where many of the more vocal town members would locate themselves. Since it's inception, the Grange has also functioned as a community gathering place, sponsoring dances, bands, receptions, Boy and Girl Scout Troops and agricultural fairs. A ticket window, cut into a door that now leads into the kitchen, testifies to the popularity of dramas and vaudeville shows that played on the Grange's stage, as does a playbill mounted on the wall for "The Iron Hand", performed by the Tranquility Grange Dramatic Club. The basement room is set up to host the frequent Grange Dinners, sometimes exceeding 150 people per serving time; pie shelves are built onto the walls both to feature the traditional pie contributions and to facilitate their consumption. To ensure the continuation of the organization a Junior Grange, #66, was established in 1938; it met in the dining hall while the Regular Grange met up stairs. Numbering just over 40 members currently, the Tranquility Grange continues to play a central role in the community life of Lincolnville.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

TRANQUILITY GRANGE, #344

WALDO CO., MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

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## Bibliography

Brown, Elspeth. "About the Grange." *Ritual and Community: The Maine Grange*. A brochure announcing an exhibition of photographs by Rose Marasco. Gorham, ME: University of Southern Maine, 1992.

Howe, Stanley Russell. "A Fair Field and No Favor": *A Concise History of the Maine State Grange*. (Augusta: The Maine State Grange), 1994.

Gardner, Charles M. *The Grange - Friend of the Farmer*. (Washington, D.C.: The National Grange), 1949



TRANQUILITY GRANGE, #344  
Name of Property

WALDO, MAINE  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.81 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 492205 4905635  
Zone Easting Northing

3 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 19 \_\_\_\_\_

4 19 \_\_\_\_\_

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 Christi A. Mitchell

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 11 January 2002

street & number 55 Capitol Street, State House 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

TRANQUILITY GRANGE, #344

WALDO CO., MAINE

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## Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described by the Town of Lincolnville Tax map 35, lot 70.

## Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all the land that is historically associated with the Tranquility Grange.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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TRANQUILITY GRANGE, #344

WALDO CO., MAINE

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photograph 1 of 4  
Christi A. Mitchell  
November, 2001  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Exterior, west facade; looking NE.

Photograph 2 of 4  
Christi A. Mitchell  
November, 2001  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Exterior; looking SE.

Photograph 3 of 4  
Christi A. Mitchell  
November, 2001  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Interior, meeting hall; looking east.

Photograph 4 of 4  
Christi A. Mitchell  
November, 2001  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Interior detail; tin ceiling and swinging balcony panels.