

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 29 1988

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 Cony High School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Cony Circle at Cony and Stone Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Augusta

N/A vicinity

state Maine

code

ME

county Kennebec

code

011

zip code 04330

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> 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.

Signature of certifying official

Carol S. Feltgen, J.H.P.O.
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Date

8/27/88

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. 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:)

Allan Byers

Entered in the
National Register

9/29/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Brick

roof Asphaltother Curved entrance facade with
columns

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Cony High School is a three-story wedge shaped building with Colonial Revival style detailing. Built between 1926 and 1932 the structure features a curved entrance facade whose upper levels contain trios of double hung windows separated by a wide, ornate stringcourse and framed by Tuscan columns. The entire building rests on a granite foundation and has rusticated brickwork on the first story. An elevated, enclosed walkway on the east side connects the historic building to a 1963 classroom addition that is not included in this nomination.

Facing northwest, the principal elevation is a curved three bays in width with deeply recessed entrances located in each bay and separated by the tall brick plinths that rise to the columns. Wide molded granite surrounds frame the entrance. The upper levels contain nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows in groups of three. The stringcourse that separates them is decorated with carved swags and an open book bearing the date 1926. The granite columns rise to an entablature that carries around the building and is surmounted by a parapet wall.

The identical west and north walls contain fourteen nine-over-nine windows on each of the three stories. Those on the upper levels are set into recessed walls of four, five and five bays wide each group of which is separated by coupled pilasters. A decorative stringcourse containing vents and diamond shaped granite inserts extends between the second and third story. The existing fenestration pattern is a sympathetic alteration (1984) of the original in which each story had 26 windows on the southwest side and 27 on the north.

The rear of the building is composed of two walls that meet at an obtuse angle. The southeastern section has two blocks of unequal height and an asymmetrical fenestration pattern consisting of two garage doors, a window and a round arched entryway on the first floor as well as stairwell windows above the entrance that are separated by a decorative swag on the upper levels. The taller of the two blocks is located in the center of the rear side. The expanse of its brick wall is detailed with a false triple arcade that extends through the second and third stories. A similar pattern is repeated on the east side except that there are two arches, a flue stack and a series of small projecting.

Inside, the school exhibits the rather modest utilitarian interior treatments that characterize much of the period design of this type of facility in Maine. The principal stairs have wide flights that meet at inter-story landings and have shaped handrails and metal balustrades. Similarly, the wooden door and window surrounds are of modest detailing. The most highly detailed space is the third floor auditorium,

See continuation sheet

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which is currently not utilized. The stage is situated at the narrow end of the building and the belcony at the rear. Typical Colonial Revival style details with classical moldings and pilasters are the most significant features in the scheme.

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

1926-1932
1926-1938

Significant Dates

1926-1932

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bunker and Savage, Architects

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

Built between 1926 and 1932, Cony High School is an unusually shaped Colonial Revival style brick building situated in a mixed residential/commercial neighborhood. Designed by the local firm of Bunker and Savage, the building is significant not only for its unusual architectural statement, but also as the most important physical symbol of Augusta's history of public education; a history in which the traditions of both public and private institutions merged to form a single educational system. The school meets criteria A and C.

The history of schools in Augusta can be traced to 1787 when the town was set off from Hallowell, and eight school districts were established. By the 1830s a number of the town's influential citizens were lobbying for a means of higher education not provided by the district schools, and on February 19, 1835, the Augusta High School became an incorporated entity. The original organization failed in the early 1840s. However, the building was acquired in 1848 by the village school district and subsequently revived as a high school. The continued commitment to this school was underscored in 1869 when the town built a new high school on the original site (a brick building designed by Francis H. Fassett, the state's leading mid nineteenth century architect).

Parallel with the development of the public school system were the private academies that enjoyed their greatest measure of success in Augusta during the first half of the century. Among these was the Cony Female Academy, founded in 1816 on property given by Daniel Cony. By 1844 the academy had outgrown its facilities and in order to accommodate more students it acquired the former Bethlehem Church which stood on the site of the present high school building. In 1857, however, the academy closed its doors.

In 1880 the need for a larger high school building merged with the transfer to the town of a trust fund established for the female academy to enable the construction in 1881 of the Cony Free High School. This new facility was erected on the site of the Bethlehem Church in which the academy had previously been housed.

The addition of substantial wings to the Cony Free High School in 1909 alleviated a pressing need for more space, but by the 1920's the school could no longer accommodate its enrollment and plans for erecting the present school were implemented in 1926.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

North, James W. The History of Augusta, Maine. Somersworth, NH: New England History Press. 1981.

Kennebec Journal(Augusta). November 13, 1930.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.53 _____

UTM References

A

1	9
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4	3	8	8	0	0
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4	9	0	7	0	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of 1.5 acres occupies the western one-fourth of the Augusta city lot shown on map 38, lot 117

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of Cony High School as indicated above embraces the lot historically associated with the building and excludes the large 1963 addition which is joined to the original building by an elevated, enclosed walkway.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historical Preservation Commission date July, 1988

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132

city or town Augusta state Maine zip code 04333

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It was dedicated on November 12, 1930, but the third story was not finished until 1932.

The architectural firm of Bunker and Savage was formed in 1919 with the partners William G. Bunker and Arthur R. Savage, both of whom had practiced individually in Augusta some years before. Although little research has been conducted on the firm's early projects their successors appear to have specialized in large institutional buildings. The Cony High School undoubtedly ranks as one of their major commissions, and occupies a significant place not only in this context, but as an unusual form statewide.