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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 District #5 School
other names/site number Alfred Gore School

2. Location

street & number 781 Gore Road N/A not for publication
city or town Alfred N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04002

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.)

Euse J. Thompson 12/22/08
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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature] 2/4/09

- 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): _____

DISTRICT # 5 SCHOOL
Name of Property

YORK COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

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	
		2 buildings
		_____ sites
		_____ structures
		_____ objects
		2 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)

LATE VICTORIAN
LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE / Granite
CONCRETE
walls WOOD / Weatherboard
WOOD / Shingle
roof METAL / Steel
ASPHALT
other METAL / Iron (Bell)

Narrative Description

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

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

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1872 - 1921

Significant Dates

C. 1900

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:

DISTRICT # 5 SCHOOL
Name of Property

YORK COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1/4 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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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, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 10 October 2008
street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132
city or town AUGUSTA state ME 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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

DISTRICT # 5 SCHOOL

YORK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The District #5 School in Alfred, Maine is a one story, gable front wood frame building with a belfry, kitchen addition and freestanding woodshed/outhouse. The property is located on the east side of Gore Road, just north of the rural village of North Alfred. It is located towards the back of the level grassy lot of one-quarter acre the edges of which are lined with stone walls on the north, east and south. The school faces west and the woodshed is located directly behind the school to the east. A short gravel driveway leads onto the lawn from the road, but does not continue to the front of the building.

School house, c. 1872, 1900, c. 1965

The primary facade of the school faces west and is three bays wide. The outer two bays contain a pair of four panel doors set in tall frames trimmed with flat stock and topped with a three-light transom. A wooden six-over-six sash window is located between the two doors. Each door is reached by a small set of wooden stairs with composite treads set on cobblestone foundations. The building itself rests on a granite foundation, has a corrugated steel roof and red clapboard siding. A brick chimney sits on the ridge near the east end of the building. The corners of the building are marked by wide corner boards, and the eaves and moulded rake are underscored by a moderately wide frieze that terminates with a narrow cornice return. All of the trim is painted white. Centered under the peak of the gable is a wooden lunette-shaped sign stating "District No. 5 1872." An open belfry with a flared pyramidal asphalt roof straddles the peak of the roof above the west gable. All four sides of the base of the belfry have clapboard siding. A narrow railing with turned banisters connect the four corner posts that support the roof structure. Scroll-cut wooden brackets stretch from the top of the corner posts to the frieze below the roof's moulded cornice. The peak of the belfry roof is topped with a copper weathervane. A cradle-mounted cast-iron bell is positioned in the belfry.

Both the north and south elevations of the school proper contain three equally spaced bays defined by wooden six-over-six sash windows surrounded by flat trim boards. Two additional bays on the south elevation and one additional bay on the north elevation are located under a shed roof addition, constructed circa 1965. The foundation of the addition is comprised of wooden posts resting on concrete pads, and the crawlspace under the addition is covered with vertical siding boards. On the south is a metal door and square, single pane fixed window. A wood ramp with composite flooring leads west from this door along the south elevation of the building, and an adjoining set of stairs descends to the south. On the north side the kitchen bay is marked by a six-over-one wooden window. The east elevation of the shed addition contains two window bays, with a single pane sash to the south and a fixed, six light sash to the north. Above the shed addition the wall is clapboarded and the rake trim matches that on the front of the building.

Each of the front doors lead to corner vestibules finished with horizontal bead board over a vertical bead board capped with chair rail. Rows of coat hooks line the walls of the vestibule. A four panel door topped with a three light transom leads from each vestibule to the classroom. This large room, which

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occupies all the remaining interior space of the original schoolhouse, has random width painted pine floors. The walls are covered with horizontal and vertical bead board, and additional painted bead board covers the high ceiling. At the east end of the room is a painted concrete block chimney stack and a wood burning box stove. Two small blackboards are mounted on the south wall and two more on the north wall. The room is furnished with desks and chairs in a variety of sizes, six of which were originally used in this school. Old wall maps and framed images of the school and its pupils also adorn the walls. Four hanging globes and a centrally placed chandelier provide light. A storage cupboard is positioned in the southeast corner of the room, and a bookshelf is attached to the east wall.

The kitchen is accessed through another four panel door on the east wall. The kitchen has gypsum board walls and ceiling and pine floors. A counter is located along the south half of the east wall; other counters on the west wall have been removed, as have the kitchen appliances. Two rectangular patches in the west wall of the kitchen show the location of former openings that were used for passing food from the kitchen to the classroom when this facility was previously used for community dinners. Although a drilled well is located off the northeast corner of the building, the kitchen does not have any plumbing at present.

Alterations

After the building ceased to be used as a school several alterations were made to the building: the original vestibules were removed sometime after 1937; a new chimney was constructed (1960s), and the kitchen was added in 1965. In 2003, under the auspices of the local historical society, the vestibules were rebuilt (their location was confirmed by scars on the floors and walls). The interior door and transom for the southern vestibule are original (they had been retained within the building), but the transom for the northern vestibule is a reproduction and the door is a period replacement. Interestingly, the door currently positioned between the classroom and kitchen is the second, original vestibule door. The clapboards on the facade of the building are replacements, and recently the asphalt shingles formerly cladding the addition have been replaced with clapboards.

Woodshed/privy, date unknown. Contributing building.

Located immediately east of the schoolhouse is a rectangular, wood framed structure that contains two outhouses/privies and a woodshed. Oriented with the ridge of the corrugated metal clad roof running north to south, this building has a low, piled stone foundation; clapboard siding on the north, south and west elevations; and wood shingle siding on the east elevation. Simple wooden corner boards, rake trim, and a wooden gutter are all painted white to contrast with the red wall color. The west wall is three bays wide and contains, from north to south, a new wood batten door to the girl's privy, and original batten door to the woodshed; and a new batten door to the boy's privy. Both privies have painted board walls and are lit by a single window in the east wall. Originally equipped with multiple seats (3 or 4), each privy now contains one seat cut into a wooden box. The woodshed also has horizontal boarding on the walls and a wood floor. There is no ceiling in this room; the common rafters

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are visible in the roof structure, and the space over the two privies provides additional storage space.

Alterations

Presently, each privy leads to 55 gallon barrels under the seats, but the old clean-out access doors in the east wall are still extant. The clapboards on the north side of this building are original; the siding on the other three walls has been replaced.

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DISTRICT # 5 SCHOOL

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed by 1872 the District #5 School is the best example of the remaining one-room educational facilities in the York County community of Alfred, Maine. Located in the settlement of North Alfred, the schoolhouse and woodshed/outhouse is situated on a grassy lot surrounded on three sides by stone walls at the northern edge of the rural village. Last used as a school in 1921, the District #5 School has also functioned as a domestic residence, club house and community hall through the 1990s. Recent restoration projects have focused on removing interior elements associated with these later uses and restoring the school to its historic configuration and function. The District #5 School is eligible for nomination to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with patterns of rural schooling in nineteenth -and twentieth-century Maine and under Criterion C as a good example of a type of educational facility that was once common throughout the state. The period of significance commences in 1872, the traditional date given for the construction of the building, and ends in 1921, when the last classes were held in the school.

The town of Alfred, Maine is located in southwestern York County. Originally incorporated as a parish of Sanford in 1794, Alfred was designated as a half-shire town for York County in 1802 and County seat in 1806. A courthouse was erected in 1807 and the following year the parish was incorporated as a town. Alfred is approximately twelve miles long and four miles wide near its center; it tapers to points at both the north and south ends. During the nineteenth century there were four main settlements in the town: Alfred Village at the center, Littlefields Mills just to the south, the Alfred Shaker Village in the northeast, and North Alfred in the northwest. The population of the town rose from 900 inhabitants in 1800 to 1453 inhabitants forty years later, and then slowly but steadily dropped to a low of 738 residents in 1920. Today, the 2500 residents are generally clustered around Alfred village or Alfred Mills (Littlefields Mills), or dispersed along the town's many rural roads.

School district # 5, as depicted on the 1872 atlas map of York County, included the northwestern third of Alfred. After the Civil War North Alfred was a substantial village and contained a church, post office, store, blacksmith shop, sawmill, and later a Grange hall. In 1872 Jonathan Bean deeded a plot of land at the north end of the village to the district. This action provides the traditional date for the erection of the current District #5 School house, but it is important to note that the 1856 wall map of York County shows a schoolhouse in the same location. It has not been possible to ascertain what happened to this earlier building, or whether the current building is older than believed. The current structure was built with two entrance vestibules and a large classroom that served students through the eighth grade. A wood stove provided heat and water was brought in from a spring just north of the school lot in the summer and from a local farm in the winter. Wood was supplied by district residents and stored in the detached woodshed, which also sheltered two outhouses. The school year was divided into three terms; spring, fall, and winter, and teachers were hired by the term. In 1900 three students, Edith May Harold, Maude Roberts and Carrie Gile staged a play at the Grange to raise money to purchase a school bell. The successful event brought in enough money to purchase a \$12.00 schoolhouse bell from Sears-Roebuck company. After the bell arrived Albert Stevens, a neighborhood

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carpenter, erected the belfry.¹

The one room schoolhouse 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 district had their own agent and overseers who were responsible for hiring teachers and erecting and maintaining its own school which served a particular locale. According to the Alfred Town Records in 1790 two school districts were established in Sanford. Eight years later seven districts were established in Alfred, including a district (#6) which served "the gore," a wedged shaped section of town that stretched north between the towns of Waterboro on the east and Shapleigh on the west, and was situated above the bulk of Alfred's land area. According to The History of York County, Maine published in 1880, a brick schoolhouse was erected in 1803 near Alfred village, and classes were held in the shoemakers shop at the Shaker Village starting by 1813. In general, the date of construction for the town's other dedicated school buildings are elusive but it is known that the Shaker school was built 1861, and the Alfred Academy "was built by private subscription in th year 1828" (Woodford, p. 265). In 1857 the boundaries of ten school districts were defined in the Alfred Town records. District #5 included the village of North Alfred and was situated in the southern half of the gore. Interestingly, District #7, which occupied the northern half of the gore was also defined in this document, but a note in this description indicates how malleable the districts were. "This district was formerly numbered 11 - The district formerly numbered 7 is necessarily discontinued, being annexed to district No. 10". By the time the 1872 Atlas of York County was published, District #7 had combined with District # 5, and another district (# 8) had been eliminated. As many as 11 districts may have been designated historically and the boundaries altered as population clusters shifted.

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 statewide. However, the district school system became a target for nineteenth century school reformers. By 1884 a town-wide school committee was established in Alfred; from this point forward the structure of the district system increasingly diminished. In 1894 the State Superintendent of Schools abolished the district system on a statewide basis and towns were required to consolidate administration of the schools under a townwide 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.

In the 1921/22 Annual Report for the Town of Alfred, the town's superintendent of schools, Maynard

¹In 1982 Alfred resident Virginia Gilkey conducted an oral interview with Edith May Hall (Harold) about her early life. A transcription of the part of the interview in which Hall tells the story of raising money for the bell hangs in the school.

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E. Wright, described yet a new state requirement and the impact it would have on two of the town's schools:

...if the rural school buildings are used in the future repairs for the improvement of physical conditions will be necessary. Recent legislation provides that "On and after the first day of September, nineteen hundred and twenty-four, all school buildings or buildings used for school purposes shall be provided with toilet facilities that shall be installed in such manner and location as to insure privacy, cleanliness and supervision by teachers." None of our rural schools conform to the requirements of the State in this matter. Heating and ventilating conditions are not in conformity with present day standards. Both the Gile and the Gore schools are in a poor state of repair. The matter of remodeling the out-buildings, according to State plans, would cost about three hundred dollars per school. This would not include other repairs on the buildings. These facts should be borne in mind in considering the reopening of these schools. (Town of Alfred, 1921/2, page 37).

At the same time that educational reforms were occurring statewide, the town of Alfred was still declining in population. As related in the 1921/22 town Annual Report, it was often a struggle to find qualified teachers and justify keeping sparsely attended schools open:

Last summer, by a vote of the committee, the school in the Giles district, so called, was suspended for one year. At the opening of the fall term no suitable teacher was available for the Gore school and the committee took the same action to meet this situation. Arrangements were made for the transportation of the pupils of these two districts to the village. This arrangement has been very satisfactory both to school officials and the majority of the parents who are concerned in the matter. The children are receiving better instruction, are housed in a more modern building and have the advantages of better equipment under the present scheme of management. The problem of securing satisfactory teachers for small rural schools is very difficult of solution. With very few exceptions the trained and experienced teacher will not accept a position in a rural community. There are sufficient opportunities in the larger communities to justify her in maintaining this attitude. Therefore follows that the best instruction is available at the larger centers of population To meet this situation the only satisfactory remedy is that of consolidation.

It will be necessary, under the law, for the voters to decide whether or not the two schools mentioned shall be reopened next year. If the citizens of the Town desire to secure the best possible results for the amount of money expended these schools will remain closed... (Town of Alfred, 1921/2, page 35-36).

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 addition to the District # 5 School, three other former

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schools are still extant. The Shaker school (1861) was moved to the junction of Gore Road and Route 202 and remodeled for use as an American Legion Hall. The District # 2 school (Gile School) on Federal Street was remodeled into a residence. The District # 3 school, in the southern part of town was moved to a farm about a mile up the road, has been used as a blacksmith shop, sap house, chicken coop and now serves as a yarn shop. While this building retains its original windows and simple but small (14 x 16 feet) rectangular gable roof form, its entrance has been altered, and its integrity of location, a key characteristic of district schools, has been lost. Interestingly, however, graffiti, including words, and drawings (and one signed drawing of a clipper ship under sail) is still extant on the interior walls.

After the 1921 school year the District # 5 school was closed. The residents of the district then leased the property for use as a residence (two families lived in the building at separate times during the 1920s and 1930s). As related in recent newspaper articles by local resident Betty Morrison, after the families left, the building took on social functions for the neighborhood: "In 1937 the North Alfred Community Club was formed and took over care of the building. The group organized for the 'betterment of the community' and as a place to gather for good times. Song festivals, plays, Halloween and Christmas parties, suppers, wedding and baby showers all were held in the building. During World War II the school bell served as an air raid alarm." (Morrison, 2003.) The building also served as the meeting site for, and was maintained by, the Ladies Aid of the former North Alfred Baptist Church. A kitchen was added to the building in 1965 and a well drilled a year later. In the 1990s the Shaker Valley Sno-Travelers met in the building, and repaired the foundation and installed the new chimney and hearth. In 2003 the inhabitants of District # 5 formally deeded the school and land to the town of Alfred.² Since then the town's Historical Committee has been carefully restoring the school to its c. 1921 appearance.

²Throughout the 20th century the ownership of the school and lot was unclear, and thus in 1995 a new deed to the land and school was generated, from the Town of Alfred to the Inhabitants of District #5, which was described as a 'quasi-municipal corporation'. (Book 7597/238). It was transferred back to the town in 2003. Book 13485, page 171. Both volumes are at York County Registry of Deeds in Alfred, Maine.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are described on the Town of Alfred tax map number 9, lot 22.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above described boundaries represent the entire lot currently associated with the subject property.

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National Park Service**

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PHOTOGRAPHS

ME_YorkCounty_District#5_001.tif

Photograph 1 of 4

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

2 September 2008

West facade and south elevation; facing northeast.

ME_YorkCounty_District#5_002.tif

Photograph 2 of 4

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

2 September 2008

Woodshed/outhouse and rear addition to school; facing north-northeast.

ME_YorkCounty_District#5_003.tif

Photograph 3 of 4

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

2 September 2008

Interior classroom; facing southeast.

ME_YorkCounty_District#5_004.tif

Photograph 4 of 4

Christi A. Mitchell

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

2 September 2008

Interior classroom and south entry vestibule; facing southwest.