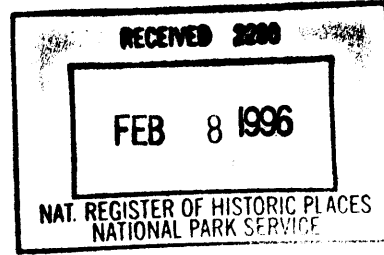


244



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 Norridgewock Female Academy

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number North Side of Route 2, .05 Miles West of Junction with Route 8 N/A not for publication

city or town Norridgewock, N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Somerset code 025 zip code 04957

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.)

[Signature] 2/2/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State of 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 the 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]
Signature of the Keeper

3/7/96
Date of Action

Norridgewock Female Academy
Name of Property

Somerset, Maine
County and State

0052 031339

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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Brick

Wood/Weatherboard

roof Metal/Tin

other Portico and Attached

Carriage Barn

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 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

1837-1867

c. 1880

Significant Dates

1837

c. 1880

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

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:

Norridgewock Female Academy
Name of Property

Somerset, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 9	4 3 6 7 1 0	4 9 5 1 1 9 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date January, 1996

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

NORRIDGEWOCK FEMALE ACADEMY

SOMERSET, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Norridgewock Female Academy is comprised of a one-and-a-half story, three-bay temple fronted brick building that has a recessed one-story frame wing extending to a carriage barn. The ell is joined to the main block at the northwest corner and along one-half of the rear elevation. A granite block foundation supports the entire building including the barn. Weatherboards cover the frame components, and the entire roof is sheathed in standing seam metal. The building is located in the village of Norridgewock, and is adjacent to the former Eaton School (NR 6/23/88).

Facing southeast, the symmetrically composed front elevation of the main block features a pedimented portico supported by four Tuscan columns. The pediment has a full entablature and a flush sheathed tympanum that is punctuated in the center by a pair of six-over-six windows. An applied wave molding decorates the architrave of the entablature. The pediment shelters a wooden porch, a central doorway with a transom, and a pair of six-over-six windows. Both the sills and lintels of these openings are made of granite, as are all of those in the brick section of the building. The facade of the ell contains a single door and paired six-over-six windows located beneath an engaged porch. The barn's facade has two windows, a second level hay loading door, and a large two-leaf sliding door on the first story.

The east side elevation is symmetrically divided into three bays, the southernmost of which has a rectangular bay window that is a late nineteenth century addition. Six-over-six windows occupy the other bays. Shed roofed bay windows sheathed in woodshingles are located above the outer bays, and both feature a single six-over-six window. A door and one nine-over-six window punctuate the east wall of the wing, whereas a shed addition carries across the barn. Two windows (one each on the first story and in the gable peak) are located on the rear wall of the brick block, and a cellar bulkhead occupies the northeast corner. Above the gable window, two flue stacks joined by a brick parapet punctuate the roof. There are two windows on the north wall of the wing; two windows on the west side of the barn; and a trio of equally spaced six-over-sixes on the west side of the main block. Dormers similar to those on the east side are positioned above the center and north windows on the west side.

The interior plan of the main building appears to reflect its residential conversion in the late nineteenth century, and little can at present be determined of the original configuration. The first floor is divided into four rooms of unequal size with a transverse stair hall located between the middle windows of the side elevations. An L-shaped stair at the west end of the hallway leads to the second floor where there are four bedrooms and a bathroom. The trim throughout the interior consists of flat board door and window surrounds, and a wide baseboard. On the first floor the tall coved ceiling is probably a remnant of the original interior. The wing is unfinished with the exception of one small room located behind the paired windows and one of the doors. This may have been an office during the residency of Dr. Brown, a dentist.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORRIDGEWOCK FEMALE ACADEMY

SOMERSET, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

Founded in 1837, the Norridgewock Female Academy was housed in a one-story brick, temple fronted building that was constructed for the purpose at a cost of \$1,000.00. This Greek Revival style building was subsequently adapted for use as a dwelling (at which time a frame wing and carriage barn were erected), but the original block retains the important character defining features that are associated with its educational use. The property is eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A by virtue of its association with the Norridgewock Female Academy, and Criterion C for its architectural significance.

In his 1849 history of Norridgewock, William Allen reported the following information about the Academy's founding, its building, and its prospects:

The Female Academy on this side of the river, was erected in 1837, by the voluntary contribution of individuals. The edifice is of brick, and cost one thousand dollars, and is in an eligible situation, near the junction of five county roads. The land was given to the institution by Dr. Amos Townsend, who also contributed one hundred dollars towards the erection of the building. It is finished in a convenient manner, with moveable desks and chairs to accommodate forty pupils. There are recitation rooms and some apparatus. The institution is at present in successful operation, with twenty pupils under the tuition of Miss Mary Crosswell. No more eligible situation can be found in New England, and the academy should receive a more liberal patronage (Peet, p. 140).

Local historians have noted that Dr. Townsend's wife, Tryphena (Ellis) Townsend, was a native of New York State and a "very liberal civic-minded woman." It is thought that she probably had much to do with encouraging her husband's support of the Academy in order to provide further schooling for the couple's daughters (although all five would have been at least twenty years of age in 1837). One of their daughters, Sophia Tryphena Townsend, became a pioneer in the women's movement and was apparently a well known lecturer on classical Greek art. Later in her life she was instrumental in founding the Norridgewock Ladies Village Improvement Society. Another noted pupil of the Academy was Rebecca S. Clark, the author of over forty volumes of children's books under the pen name Sophie May.

The Norridgewock Female Academy remained in operation until about 1860, after which the building was used for a brief time to house the Eaton School. After the Eaton School (NR 6/23/88) relocated to a new facility that was erected on an adjacent lot in 1866-67, the former academy was used for faculty housing and classes. It became a private residence in the early 1880s after the proprietor of the school relocated to the West. In 1994 the building was acquired by the Norridgewock Historical Society which plans to convert it into a museum.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

NORRIDGEWOCK FEMALE ACADEMY

SOMERSET, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

During the mid nineteenth century Norridgewock was a prosperous rural community whose chief distinction was its position as the Somerset County seat (moved to Skowhegan in 1872). In 1849 its commercial and manufacturing base consisted of some twenty mercantile establishments and a variety of small scale mills serving the neighboring agricultural areas. With the establishment of the female academy in 1837, Norridgewock became the fourth community in the county to establish such an institution of higher education. However, it appears to have been the first viable academy among the four founded specifically for the education of women, and one of only a handful in the state at mid century (*Maine Register*, 1855). The academy's existence demonstrated the interest of at least some of the community's residents in providing an educational alternative to the public schools. This tradition continued with the establishment of the Eaton School, which remained in operation under various names and with little interruption until 1916.

From an architectural standpoint, the Norridgewock Female Academy is noteworthy for its temple front Greek Revival style design, a building form that was particularly appropriate for an educational institution in this period. Within the context of other private academy buildings that still survive from the period of roughly a decade before and after its construction, the Norridgewock Female Academy is the only one that utilizes a portico. Earlier examples of such institutions employ features of the Federal style (Washington Academy, 1823), whereas later ones have unmistakable Greek Revival style facades that are conveyed through broad pilasters and pediments (Bloomfield Academy, 1840; Hampden Academy, 1842-43; Somerset Academy, 1846). The Female Academy also appears to have served as an architectural model in Norridgewock, in that its construction was followed by the erection of two other brick buildings with porticos: the law office of attorney John S. Abbott in 1841 (NR 2/4/82), and the residence of the Cullen Sawtelle family in 1845 (NR 10/8/76).

In addition to its significant Greek Revival stylistic form, the building is representative of late nineteenth century residential complexes in its use of a distinct ell that connects the principal living quarters to the carriage barn. This pattern of building composition parallels the widespread practice in Maine of joining house and barn in an agricultural complex; a practice which first appears in the second quarter of the nineteenth century and continues into the early twentieth century. Although the reasons for developing these forms may have varied (for instance, organizing home manufactures in an efficient manner was a key reason for establishing connected agricultural complexes), the outward appearance could be very similar. The popularity of this building practice establishes it as a characteristic feature of Maine architecture in village and rural areas alike. Conversion of the former Female Academy into a residence also had the practical result of saving the building with a great degree of its exterior integrity; an outcome that may have changed had it been adapted to some other use.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORRIDGEWOCK FEMALE ACADEMY

SOMERSET, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

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

Mohney, Kirk F. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the (Former) Eaton School, Norridgewock, Somerset County, Maine. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta. 1988.

Wood, Henrietta Danforth Wood. *Early Days of Norridgewock*. Skowhegan, Maine: Skowhegan Press. 1933, 1941.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORRIDGEWOCK FEMALE ACADEMY

SOMERSET, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property occupies the Town of Norridgewock tax map 28, lot 10.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses the entire village lot historically associated with the Norridgewock Female Academy.