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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 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 Governor Brann School

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

2. Location

street & number E. Side of Rt. 1, 1.25 Mi. S. of Junc. w/Madore Rd.  N/A not for publication

city or town Van Buren  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Arroostook code 003 zip code 04785

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.)

*Evan S. Stewart* 11/8/93  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Greg M. Sapsley* 12/23/93  
Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register 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		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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Government/City Hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood/Wood Shingle

roof Asphalt

other Front Entry Porch and Side

Woodshed/Toilet

**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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

**Period of Significance**

1934-1943

**Significant Dates**

1934

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

GOVERNOR BRANN SCHOOL  
Name of Property

AROOSTOOK, MAINE  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less Than 1

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,9	5,7,8,6,4,5	5,2,1,8,6,7,0
	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. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1993

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GOVERNOR BRANN SCHOOL

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Gov. Brann School is a one-story, rectangular frame building which is sheathed in wood shingles and covered by a hip roof. It features an entry porch and the original shed roofed projection along one side wall.

Facing west, the school's three-bay front elevation contains a centrally located entry flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows (covered by plywood when the building is not in use). The original Craftsman style door (also covered) is sheltered by a narrow porch whose gable roof is supported by large truss-shaped brackets and two posts. Although the posts are recent additions, the balustrade extending out from the wall is an original feature. This decorative porch is further elaborated by the exposed rafter ends; a construction technique which is also used on the main roof.

The school's south side elevation is occupied by a group of five large nine-over-nine windows which are the source of natural lighting for the interior. On the north side, the projecting shed is recessed from both the front and rear walls. This section of the school contains the original open pit toilets as well as a wood storage room where the brick stove flue projects through the roof. There are three rectangular vents on the west side of this shed and two on the north side as well as a large door into the wood shed. There are two vents on the rear elevation of the shed.

Inside, the single classroom is covered in narrow tongue-and-groove sheathing with an applied chairrail over it. A door on either side of the central entry marks the location of closets whose position are externally noted by the windows.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GOVERNOR BRANN SCHOOL

Section number 8 Page 2

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Erected in 1934, the Gov. Brann School is a former one-room rural educational facility which now serves as the Cyr Plantation town hall. It is one of several which were built throughout the community at that time, but is the only one which retains its original form and detailing. In addition to its significant association with the local education system, the building is architecturally important as an intact representative of a model school plan developed by the State and erected across a wide geographic region. The school is eligible for nomination to the Register under criteria A and C.

Cyr Plantation was organized in 1870 with a population of 356 persons, a figure more than double that of today's inhabitants. According to plantation records, the first schoolhouse was built in 1887 in District 2 (six school districts had apparently been established by this date). The first school in District 3, wherein the Gov. Brann School was located, was erected in 1896 at a cost of \$300.00. This building was replaced in 1910; the present schoolhouse thereby representing the third one in the district. A history of Cyr Plantation published in the centennial of its organization, states that in 1934 "new schools were built in the plantation, naming one after the governor of that year, Gov. Brann School" (p. 59). By 1943 the enrollment in the plantation's six schools had declined to the point that three of them were permanently closed. Seven years later, the remaining one room schools were abolished with the community's educational needs thereafter consolidated with the Van Buren school system. This pattern was typical in Maine's rural communities in this period with the resultant loss through abandonment or conversion of a great number of rural school buildings.

In its architectural form the Gov. Brann School represents an important program which was initiated by the State of Maine for the purpose of developing model school building plans for the use of any town. Although the State Superintendent of Public Schools had long been an advocate for the improvement of the State's large number of rural schools, it appears that a program to develop standardized plans and specifications did not exist until 1909, when the State Legislature made it the duty of the Superintendent "... to procure architects' plans and specifications for not to exceed four room school buildings... said plans and specifications to be loaned to any superintending school committee..." (Public Laws, 1909). This law also made it mandatory that, where model plans were not used by a school committee, alternative plans had to be submitted for approval in order to assure that adequate provision was made for heating, lighting, ventilation, and sanitation. Maine was not alone in its efforts to improve rural schools. As Andrew Gulliford points out in his book entitled America's Country Schools, the institution of a "Model School" building program was a common feature of early twentieth century school reform efforts nationwide.

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GOVERNOR BRANN SCHOOL

Section number 8 Page 3

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The records of the Executive Council in 1909 show that authorization was given to the Superintendent of Schools to reimburse the Portland architectural firm of Miller & Mayo in the amount of \$200 for "plans and specifications of school buildings" (p. 472). Unfortunately, nothing more has been discovered about the number of designs prepared by the firm under this contract. The next piece of information which has come to light about the model school program is the fact that the designs were labeled according to an alphabetical lettering system; the first known reference of which is the Model "J" one-room school erected in Fort Fairfield in 1916. Documentary sources reveal that additional models labeled "J1", "K", "L", "M", "N", "P", "Q", "R", "X", and "Y" had also been developed over a period of several decades and presumably by several architects. Plan "Q", for example, appears to have been designed in 1941 by the Augusta architectural firm of Bunker & Savage; the firm also responsible for plans "N" and "X". Further research may yet reveal the sequence and date of plans before Model "J".

When Cyr Plantation set out to rebuild its schools in 1934, it turned to the Model School program for the design of the Governor Brann School (if not for all of its buildings). This is evident in the fact that the design employed in this building was utilized across a wide geographic region of the State including Glenburn (Penobscot County) and in several of the unorganized townships such as Indian Township (Washington County) and T. 15 R. 6 W.E.L.S. (Aroostook County). Unfortunately, the specific letter designation for this plan has not been revealed.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GOVERNOR BRANN SCHOOL

Section number 9 Page 2

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Cyr Plantation Centennial 1870-1970.

Journal Register of the Executive Council. 1909. Maine State Archives,  
Augusta.

Photographic Collection from the Unorganized Territories Office, Department  
of Education. Photos on file at the Maine Historic Preservation  
Commission, Augusta.

Record of Approval of Plans For School Buildings. State Superintendent  
of Public Schools, State of Maine. Index card file at the Department  
of Education Building, Augusta.



United States Department of the Interior  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GOVERNOR BRANN SCHOOL

Section number 10 Page 2

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies Cyr Plantation tax map 4, lot 93A.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot historically associated with the Governor Brann School.