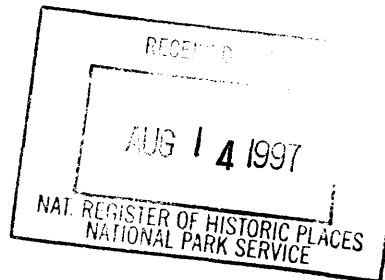


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1122

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 Coplin Plantation Schoolhouse

other names/site number _____

2. Location

North Side of Route 16, 4.45 Miles Southwest of Junction

street & number with Route 27 N/A not for publication

city or town Stratton vicinity

state Maine code ME county Franklin code 007 zip code 04982

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] 8/6/97
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]
Signature of the Keeper

9/11/97
Date of Action

Coplin Plantation Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Franklin, 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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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)
Recreation and Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Mid-Nineteenth-Century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Stone
walls Wood/Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other Ell Containing Woodshed

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

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

COPLIN PLANTATION SCHOOLHOUSE

FRANKLIN, MAINE

Section Number 7 Page 2

The Coplin Plantation Schoolhouse is a one-story, gable roofed frame building that is sheathed in clapboards and rests on a fieldstone foundation. It has a gable roofed vestibule/woodshed attached to the east side and a long, narrow, shed roofed outhouse projecting from the rear. The schoolhouse occupies a small rural lot adjacent to Route 16.

Oriented with its roof ridge parallel to the road, the south elevation features a pair of two-over-two double hung windows in the main section, and two doors in the addition (which is attached to the school at the northeast corner). These windows and doors are sheltered by relatively broad overhanging eaves. A row of six two-over-twos occupies the west gable end along with a six-over-six in the gable peak. There are no openings on the north side of the entire building, or on the east end of the ell. A brick flue stack punctuates the northwest side of the roof just below the ridge. The much later shed additions attached to the northwest side of the ell house the toilets. There are two windows on the east and west sides of these sheds.

The interior finish of the school room is comprised of horizontal board wainscot, metal sheathing on the walls, and a decorative metal ceiling and cornice molding with an egg and dart pattern. It also features hardwood flooring and early twentieth century furnishings including desks and chairs. The ell vestibule is covered in narrow varnished tongue and groove sheathing, whereas the woodshed is unfinished. The outhouse walls are covered in a combination of tongue and groove sheathing as well as wide boards.

An early twentieth century photograph of the schoolhouse reveals that at that time its windows had a six-over-six sash pattern, and that there was a window in the east wall of the main block and near the entrance. In addition, a window in the north wall of the school room has been removed. These changes were made between the time of the photograph and 1943 when the building's function as a schoolhouse ended. No subsequent alteration of the building has occurred, although the foundation was rebuilt in 1996.

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)

Architecture

Education

Period of Significance

c. 1866-1943

Significant Dates

c. 1866

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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

COPLIN PLANTATION SCHOOLHOUSE

FRANKLIN, MAINE

Section Number 8 Page 2

The Coplin Plantation Schoolhouse is a modest one-room wooden frame building that appears to be the only educational facility built in Coplin Plantation since its organization in 1866. In fact, its date of construction is believed to predate 1866 by as much as forty years. Although its complete history may not be uncovered, the building is unquestionably a local landmark and is significant for its association with the Plantation's history of education. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion A, as well as Criterion C for its architectural significance as a representative example of a rural nineteenth century school building.

Coplin Plantation's early history and settlement are not well documented. Historical sketches of the area indicate that it was originally part of Bloomfield Plantation which had been organized in 1841 and was subsequently renamed Jackson Plantation. The description of Coplin Plantation that appeared in George J. Varney's *Gazetteer of the State of Maine* (1881) stated that in 1880 there was one sawmill in operation, one public schoolhouse, and a population of 91 persons. The number of inhabitants in the plantation remained relatively constant in the next three census enumerations, but it doubled between 1910 and 1920 when the figure reached 177 persons (although the number of polls only rose by six). This dramatic change is apparently explained by the increased lumbering activity in the area. Within the next decade, however, the population had declined to its lowest recorded level in sixty years. Throughout this period, the community's schooling needs were accommodated in the Coplin Plantation Schoolhouse, and this would remain the case until 1943 when it was permanently closed.

In the historical sketch on Coplin Plantation that appears in the *Inventory of Town and City Archives of Maine* (1939), the following statement relating to the history of the schoolhouse appear:

The curious fact revealed in these proceedings [relating to the first plantation meeting] was the existence of a plantation schoolhouse before the township was organized for governmental purposes. The explanation of this seems to lie in the fact that in 1841 Coplin was one of two townships organized under the name of Bloomfield Plantation, a township to which later in 1845, two more townships were added, the name of the organization changing to Jackson Plantation. The schoolhouse, then, which in Coplin served as a place of meeting in 1866, must have been voted by the inhabitants under one of these earlier forms of government.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

COPLIN PLANTATION SCHOOLHOUSE

FRANKLIN, MAINE

Section Number 8 Page 3

The schoolhouse mentioned above, already in existence in Coplin in 1866, was in all probability repaired in 1869 at a cost of \$315.00 [*Seventeenth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools*, 1870, pp. 13, 17]. In the annual reports of the state superintendent of schools no more than one schoolhouse has ever been listed as existing in the plantation from that time to the present. Either this was so, or the old schoolhouse was abandoned entirely and a new one built.

A profile of the plantation prepared in the late 1970s indicated that the schoolhouse was built about 1825. Although the source of this date is not indicated, the stylistic characteristics of the building, particularly its roof shape and overall size, suggest that it is not of that vintage. It is plausible, however, that the frame of the building is original and that a substantial remodeling later in the nineteenth century (perhaps in 1869 when, judging from the amount expended, significant repairs were made) gave the school its present configuration. Further modifications were made in the twentieth century (prior to 1943) when the window sash were changed and the row of windows on the west side were installed. In 1985 the Coplin Plantation Schoolhouse Historical Society was formed for the express purpose of preserving the building, and it has since been granted title to the building by the Plantation.

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 of which contained a schoolhouse to serve its particular locale. Although the district school system became a target for nineteenth century school reformers, its effect was to produce a vast number and variety of buildings; a figure which at the turn-of-the-century totaled more than 4,000. Twentieth century school consolidation efforts have taken a dramatic toll on the number of these 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*).

Typically constructed of wood with gable roofs, Maine's one-room school buildings were usually given only modest architectural adornments with the result that the schoolhouse of 1900 may have looked very much like one that is several decades older. There appears to have been a common formula for the design of these buildings which embodied widely disseminated ideas about minimum space requirements, proper ventilation and heating, site orientation, and window placement. As early as the mid nineteenth century reformers were suggesting that two entrances were desirable as a way to prevent "much confusion and rudeness" and to promote "orderly habits" (1847 *Board of Education Report*). This feature was not, however, universally used on Maine schools, as is evident in the Coplin Plantation Schoolhouse. The provision of proper lighting was also central to the issues of schoolhouse design, and by the early twentieth century a common solution to this problem was to incorporate a bank of windows along one side elevation, an alteration that was made to the schoolhouse in Coplin Plantation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

COPLIN PLANTATION SCHOOLHOUSE

FRANKLIN, MAINE

Section Number 9 Page 2

Historical Records Survey, Division of Professional and Service Projects, Works Progress Administration.
Inventory of Town and City Archives of Maine. No. 4, Franklin County Vols. V & VI, Coplin and
Dallas. Portland, ME: The Historical Records Survey. 1939.

Varney, George J. *A Gazetteer of the State of Maine*. Boston: B.B. Russell. 1881.

Coplin Plantation Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Franklin, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>382080</u>	<u>49940810</u>																	
	Zone	Easting	Northing		3															
2					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 July, 1997
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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

COPLIN PLANTATION SCHOOLHOUSE

FRANKLIN, MAINE

Section Number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Coplin Plantation Tax Map R-1, Lot 30.

Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses the entire rural lot that is historically associated with the Coplin Plantation Schoolhouse.