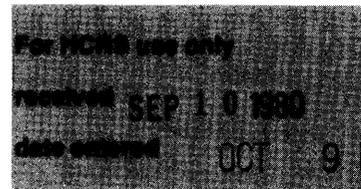


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Founders Hall

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South Main Street

___ not for publication

city, town Pittsfield

___ vicinity of

congressional district 2nd

state Maine

code 23

county Somerset

code 025

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- ___ public
 - private
 - ___ both
- Public Acquisition**
- ___ in process
 - ___ being considered

Status

- occupied
 - ___ unoccupied
 - ___ work in progress
- Accessible**
- ___ yes: restricted
 - yes: unrestricted
 - ___ no

Present Use

- ___ agriculture
 - ___ commercial
 - educational
 - ___ entertainment
 - ___ government
 - ___ industrial
 - ___ military
- ___ museum
 - ___ park
 - ___ private residence
 - ___ religious
 - ___ scientific
 - ___ transportation
 - ___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Maine Central Institute

street & number South Main Street

city, town Pittsfield

___ vicinity of

state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Register of Deeds

street & number

city, town Skowhegan

state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date _____ ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

An impressive piece of academic architecture, Founder's Hall (1868) on the campus of the Maine Central Institute is one of the most beautiful structures in Pittsfield, Maine and a fine example of institutional use of the Italianate style.

The three story brick structure has a granite foundation and ornamental wood trim. This detailed trim can be seen in the denticulated cornice which underlies the hipped roof. The 9-bay-wide main facade faces east and has a protruding 3-bay section which extends beyond the plane of the facade. On either side of this projection are the main entrances to the building which have had simple porticos added to them to protect from ice falls from the roof. Located on the roof is an octagonal bell tower with a bell-cast roof. Each of the eight sides of the bell tower are open with wooden details mimicing tracery. The sides of the building are four-bays in width.

Fenestration is 2/2 throughout the building except for tall composite windows located in the facade projection and which are flanked by brick quoins. The 3rd story windows are capped by semi-circular brick arches and the remaining two floors have segmental arches.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1868 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Founders Hall, located on the campus of the Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield, is significant both in its architecture and importance as an educational institution.

The school was chartered as a private academy on February 1, 1866 and opened to students August 30, 1866. The cornerstone of Founder's Hall was laid in 1868 and by 1870 the lower floor had been completed. Donations finished the structure and in 1877 the final touch was added--a bell from the town. For the last 110 years this structure has remained the focal point of the campus.

Architecturally, this building is an excellent example of mid-19th century Maine academic architecture and it is rare that an educational structure of this type is found on such a grand scale. The building still dominates the campus despite the addition of numerous more modern buildings.

Maine Central Institute has long provided high quality secondary education for this large inland rural area at very modest cost.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cook, Sanger M., Pittsfield on the Sebesticook. Bangor, 1966. Available at Pittsfield library.
 Pottle, Kemp M., "The History of Maine Central Institute" a dissertation done at University of Maine at Orono 1961

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 1/2

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Pittsfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 19 4693710 4951831010
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

039, 13, 101

Tax map 25 lot #3

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/James Schimmer, Intern

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1980

street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta state Maine

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Earl S. Fetherly

title S.H.P.O. date 8/29/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Bruce Van Duzend</u>	date <u>10/9/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Patrick Andrews</u>	date <u>10/8/80</u>
Chief of Registration	