

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maine
COUNTY:	Franklin
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 23 1974

Zn19 HB
E 401840
N 493390

1. NAME

COMMON: North Jay Grange Store

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ME
State Route 17

CITY OR TOWN: North Jay

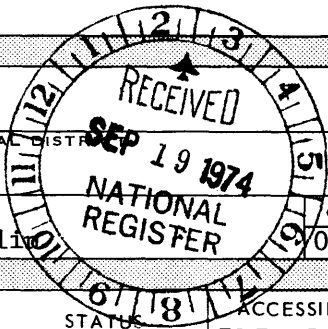
STATE: Maine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd

COUNTY: Franklin

CODE: 23

CODE: 007



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> No					

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: North Jay Grange # 10

STREET AND NUMBER: State Route 17

CITY OR TOWN: North Jay

STATE: Maine

CODE: 23

STATE: Maine

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Registry of Deeds, Franklin County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Farmington

STATE: Maine

CODE: 23

COUNTY: Franklin

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 23 1974
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

America's last Grange Store is located in the North Jay Grange Hall, a large stark wooden building erected in 1895. The building was originally constructed solely as a grange hall. However, within two decades, its first floor was remodelled to accommodate the grange store which had been established about 1882.

The Grange Hall is a two and a half story rectangular wooden building. It has a brick foundation and is of frame construction with a gable roof. The facade or east wall faces directly on the road. The first story of the front is composed of two sections. The left half contains the store entrance, flanked by a large plate glass window on either side. The right half has a doorway with double doors which gives access to the second floor stairway. The first story facade is shaded by a hipped roof porch which is supported by iron poles and extends across the front of the building. At the center of the porch appears a sign which reads, "North Jay Grange Store, Last Grange Store."

The second story facade contains three identical windows which are spaced at an equal distance from each other. Likewise, the half story has two identical windows which are placed symmetrically below the gable. Immediately under these windows is another sign identifying the building as the "North Jay Grange Hall." The gable roof has a slight overhang, at either side of which appears a small decorative bracket.

The south wall of the Grange Hall has a series of four identical windows on the first floor and a series of five on the second. The north wall contains a large diamond shaped window on each story near the northeast corner of the building. Four identical windows are placed at equal intervals on the remainder of the first and second stories. The west or rear wall is largely covered by a two and one half story, gable roofed warehouse which was probably added to the Hall when the first floor was converted into a store. As on the facade the rear of the gable roof has a slight overhang, at either side of which is placed a small decorative bracket.

The 120 members of the North Jay Grange continue to use all three stories of their Hall. The first floor contains the store. With its stage and turn of the century furniture, the second floor is an open hall used as a meeting place for the grange. The third floor contains a kitchen where grange suppers are prepared.

Affectionately described as "some giant clapboard ark sailed out from the days of Benjamin Harrison," The North Jay Grange Hall is a building at once both typical and unique on the rural Maine landscape. It is characteristic of the many forthrightly designed and constructed Maine grange buildings which belong in the realm of 19th century American vernacular architecture. At the same time the North Jay Grange Hall has the distinction of containing the nation's last operating grange store. When questioned recently about this claim, the proprietor replied, "If it wasn't true we wouldn't have it on the sign."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1895

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The search for economic justice for farmers has been a difficult one and the road toward that goal is historically marked with signposts of failure. The Farmers Alliance, The Agricultural Wheel, The Brothers of Freedom and the Farmer's Union- all represent brave but failing efforts to secure economic and social growth for rural people.

Alone in its success and still flourishing is the Grange or, to use its formal title, the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry. Originating in the mind of Oliver H. Kelley of Boston and later Minnesota, The National Grange was organized in December, 1873. It grew by leaps and bounds, not only in the middle west where it began as an organization to combat the railroad monopolies, but also in the east where its social aspects were as appealing as its agricultural side.

The grange in North Jay was only the 10th to be founded in Maine which now has over 400 such groups. It was organized March 27, 1874 and J.O. Keyes was chosen first master. The first grange hall was erected in 1889 by a stock company which had been formed, but the building thus erected was destroyed by fire in February 1895. The enterprising members however, quickly replaced it with the present structure the following summer. The building was later remodelled to accomodate the store which had been in existence since about 1882, probably in a separate location.

When the Grange movement came into existence an incredible number of cooperative or pseudo-cooperative enterprises were established. These included cooperative stores. Most were short lived and many brought disaster to those financially involved. As late as 1928 some sixty were still operating, the most successful in Maine being those in Houlton, Portland and Turner Center.

Of all the cooperative grange stores in Maine, and probably nationally, only the one at North Jay remains and continues to operate as it did in the 19th century with a molasses barrel, wheel of cheese and a virtually unlimited supply of agricultural goods. Its life, however, may shortly be terminated as it bows to the challenge of the supermarket and other chain competition.

The North Jay Grange Hall and store stands as a symbol of an earlier day, still preserved in the rapidly disappearing rural landscape.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry E. Dunnack, Rural Life In Maine, Augusta, 1928.

Maine Sunday Telegram, Portland, June 16, 1974.

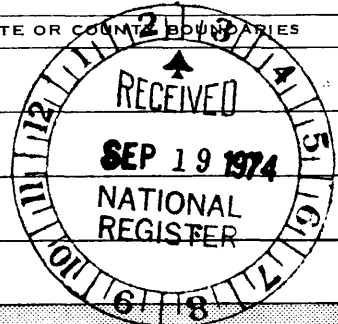
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44	32	49
NE	° ' "	° ' "		70	14	19
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
E.G. Shettleworth & F.A. Beard

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: 8-29-74

STREET AND NUMBER:
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: James H. Mundy
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: September 16, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. R. Mauter
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/23/74

ATTEST:
Wm. Munday
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-21-74