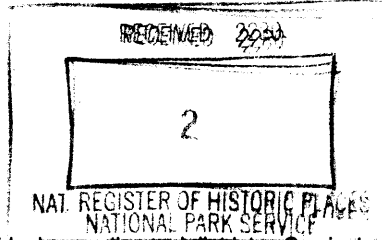


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



14

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 Whitefield Union Hall
other names/site number Kings Mills Union Hall, Union Hall

2. Location

street & number 901 Townhouse Road N/A not for publication
city or town Whitefield N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Lincoln code 015 zip code 04353

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.)

Earle S. Anderson 12/22/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
SHPO
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): _____

Earle S. Anderson Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Beall Date of Action
2-7-07

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	
_____	_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____	_____ sites
_____	_____	_____ structures
_____	_____	_____ objects
_____	_____	_____ 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

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL / Meeting Hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL / Meeting Hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE / Auditorium

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN / Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE (Piers)

walls WOOD / Weatherboard

WOOD / Shingle

roof METAL / Steel

other BRICK (chimneys)

Narrative Description

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

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WHITEFIELD UNION HALL

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The Whitefield Union Hall in Whitefield, Lincoln County, Maine is located on the south end of Townhouse Road, one of the main north - south roads on either side of the Sheepscot River. It is located in the village of Kings Mills, the most southerly of this town's three villages. Immediately south of Union Hall is the Union Church (c. 1870); south of that is the former Bell Schoolhouse (1859); and across the street is the Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Department building (1947). A hayfield to the west separates Union Hall from the village homes that stretch west down the nearby cross road, and to the north a tree line separates the property from the neighboring hayfield. Kings Mills is a compact village of less than 25 residences, and is situated at the junction of four cross roads and a former water power on the river. Union Hall faces east and is set back about fifteen feet from the edge of Townhouse Road.

Built in 1900, Union Hall is a two story, gable front building measuring 32 by 57 feet, with a two story ell affixed to the north elevation and set back from the front wall about six feet. Essentially a vernacular structure, it has Queen Anne stylistic elements, most notably patterned (fish scale) shingles on the second and attic levels, and a prominent wooden cornice line or belt course that separates the first and second floors on all sides of the building. In contrast, the first floor is clad in short lengths of clapboards. Both the front facade and the north facing gable end of the ell feature continuous cornice returns, which, along with the projecting roof overhang and prominent rake trim, form conspicuous pedimental forms. This feature is further echoed in the front gable by a decorative pediment containing a starburst pattern executed in wooden boarding positioned over the attic window. A wooden sign proclaiming "Kings Mills Union Hall" is centered on the second floor facade.

On the facade the building is divided into three bays on the first floor, with a metal fire door set in plain trim under a narrow projecting lintel, located between two windows. A wooden staircase and side-oriented handicapped ramp is set in front of the door. Two additional windows are found on the second floor; each of these are large six-over-six sash with similar lintels. In the attic story the window bay contains a pair of two-over-two sash united in a single frame. The ell is two bays wide. The first floor contains a four light window (clapboard in-fill indicates this was originally a window), and a four panel door, battened closed, to the north. On the second floor are two more six-over-six sash, neither of which are located directly over the lower bays. The north gable end contains a centered window on the upper floor, and what appears to be a hinged and shuttered door (but in size and proportion it matches the windows) on the first floor. An additional small window with its sash removed is positioned just east of this door. The north side of the main building contains three equally spaced bays on each floor, the center of which contains another fire door and small access deck. The southern elevation contains four equally spaced bays on each floor. The most westerly bay contains a metal fire door with deck on the first floor, and a five-panel door, sans fire escape, above. The western elevation is completely shingled and contains two window bays on each floor. This elevation does not feature continuous cornice returns. Unless otherwise noted, all the windows contain six-over-six double hung wooden sash measuring approximately 33 by 65 inches.

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WHITEFIELD UNION HALL

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

The interior of the Whitefield Union Hall features public gathering spaces on each floor of the main building and ancillary spaces in the ell. The lower level of the main building contains a small foyer, dining area and kitchen. The dining room is floored with random width unpainted pine boards. The side walls are covered with horizontally laid bead board over vertical bead board wainscot. Two parallel lines of posts support the upper floors. A large hot air furnace is situated in the northwest corner of the room and duct work trails across the edges of the bead board ceiling. In the western two-thirds of the building is the kitchen. Two serving windows provide access between the two rooms. The walls and ceiling of the kitchen are clad with painted bead board, which was also used to construct simple cupboards and cabinets. A steel sink with a hand pump is positioned under the window and an industrial gas stove and refrigerator fill the remaining spaces. On this level the ell contains a two-seat privy (defunct) and an unfinished storage room, each accessed from the west end of the foyer. The foyer, which originally stretched across the entire eastern end of the first floor has been shortened and renovated with fire-rated sheet rock walls installed in the 1980s at the direction of the State Fire Marshall's office. The wide wooden stair to the upper floor is located immediately to the north of the front door. The two run stair climbs the eastern and northern exterior walls and empties directly into the auditorium above. It is enclosed on the west by a painted board wall and finished on the exterior walls with stained bead board.

The second floor is dominated by the large auditorium and stage. The entire hall is finished with stained pine bead board siding on the walls and high ceilings, and stained flat trim around the windows. The floor is comprised of strips of a hardwood species that cannot be precisely identified due to wear. Wooden benches are built against the exterior walls, and moveable wooden benches with long board backs are scattered throughout the room. The brick chimney rises through the center of the western end of the room. Electric lights are mounted on the side walls. The stage is located at the eastern end of the room and extends the width of the building. The stage opening is framed by a simple bead board partition wall. (The stairs to the first floor pass through this partition at its north end.) Access to the stage is gained via two short sets of steps in the auditorium, and another staircase leads back stage from the southern wall of the annex. The front apron of the stage features moulded, unpainted pine panels. A stage curtain on a wire covers the windows on the east exterior wall. The original front curtain, which features panels of local advertising, is in fragile condition and is stored on one of the side wall benches. The annex is also clad with stained horizontal boarding and floored with narrow strips of pine. In the northwest corner of this room is a small wooden cubicle that functioned as a changing room. Several free standing closets are positioned against the walls, one labeled with the initials of the Whitefield Fish and Game Club.

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)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

Period of Significance

1900 - 1956

Significant Dates

1900

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

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: _____

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WHITEFIELD UNION HALL

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In his introduction to the history, *Kings Mills Whitefield, Me. 1772-1982*, Henry C. Waters states "it is often said nowadays – one more generation and no one will know where Kings Mills is." (P. ii). Kings Mills is one of the three villages that comprise the Lincoln County town of Whitefield Maine. Although predominately an agricultural settlement, Kings Mills, along with North Whitefield, and Coopers Mills developed around three waterpowers on the Sheepscot River. Formed into the Town of Whitefield in 1809, each of the villages retained its separate identity, and functioned essentially as self-sufficient entities well into the 20th century. The Whitefield Union Hall, constructed in 1900, is a key element in the social history of Kings Mills. The Queen Anne Style building was erected through the combined forces of the Whitefield Grange, # 101 and the Whitefield Fish and Game Club, and served as the meeting place of each of these civic minded fraternal organizations. As the only stage and hall in the southern portion of Whitefield prior to 1919, Union Hall was also the location of public dances, dinners and other events. As the present residents identify less and less with the village than with the entire town, Union Hall has continued to be a focal point for community gatherings and it is one of the last functioning remnants of the village's independent identity. The Whitefield Union Hall is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its significant contributions to the social and cultural history of Whitefield for over 100 years.

Centered at the intersection of two river roads with the Pittston and Wiscasset Roads, in its heyday Kings Mills contained several stores, the King/Ford Mills (saw mill and grist mill), a depot for the Wiscasset, Waterville and Farmington railroad, as well as the Bell School, Union Church and post office, and several dozen residences. However, as the 20th century progressed the mills were destroyed (Hurricane Edna, 1954), the stores and post office closed, and the depot was burned after the railroad stopped service in 1933. The Bell School closed in 1943 and has since been converted into a private residence. The newest community building, the Volunteer Fire Department building across from Union Hall was built in 1947. While still recognizable as a village, the overall sense of identity that was once fostered by the landscape in Kings Mills has been greatly diminished.

The Whitefield Fish and Game Club (WF&GC), formed in 1899, provided local men with a forum for social events combined with a focus on conservation. According to one version of the certificate of corporation, the purpose of the organization was for "conducting and maintaining a social and fraternal club the object of which is to promote the best interests of its members and the conservation of the fish and game of the State of Maine to the full intents of the law." (Whitefield Historical Society, Ms 97.1, Coll. 60, Book 1). Immediately upon forming the group started to plan for the erection of a meeting hall. In order to raise money to purchase a lot and build the hall, a separate entity, incorporated as the Whitefield Union Hall Stock Association, was formed. While many of the funds were raised through the sale of stock, the records of the WF&GC also note commitments of labor and materials. By the end of 1899 they had pledges for 126 days of labor, 26 thousand shingles, 6 thousand (board feet?) of lumber and \$23.00.

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WHITEFIELD UNION HALL

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

From the beginning, plans for the building of the hall were made in consultation with the Whitefield Grange, No. 101. This grange, one of two in town, was chartered in 1875, but the location of its early meetings is not known. In general, grange halls in Maine contain auditoriums and stages, and often facilities for dining, as well as anterooms that served ritualistic functions. While the plan of Union Hall does not include the standard anteroom, records of the WF&GC indicated that a committee was appointed to "convene with the Grange in regard to building a hall", and they were instructed to "obtain a plan of the Hall desired by the Grange." Eventually, they voted "that the Club agree to grant the Grange the use of eight feet across the Hall for the use of ante rooms". In addition to having input on the design of the building, the Grange contributed fifty dollars towards its construction, and held a "chopping bee," possibly an event to harvest the timbers for the building's frame. (Whitefield Historical Society, Ms 97.1, Coll. 60, Book 1).

Of the two organizations, the Grange, or Patron's of Husbandry is by far the more familiar. The history of the Grange has its basis in post-Civil War agricultural crises. The following two paragraphs are from a brochure announcing the photographic exhibit titled: "Ritual and Community: The Maine Grange."

The Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry, is an agriculturally-based secret society founded in 1867. The Order, open to both men and women, was designed to meet the economic, social, and educational needs of a class of Americans - the small farmer - whose day to day lives were being irrevocably transformed in the post-Civil War period. The proliferation of the railroad, the mass production of farm machinery, and the increasing control of a new class of business men known as "speculators" or "middle-men" over the sale and distribution of farm products were a few of the many influences which led to widespread enthusiasm for the Grange in the 1870s. National membership in the Grange grew to over 1 million members in the wake of the 1873 depression, when farmers joined the organization as a means of buying and selling farm goods at wholesale prices. In the mid-1870s, membership plummeted as most Grange cooperative ventures failed to meet members' expectations.

By the 1880s, however, Grange membership in Maine was on the increase, part of what has been dubbed "the second Grange movement" centered in the Northeast; by 1887, Maine had the largest Grange membership in the nation. The focus of the second movement was an emphasis on the Grange's educational and social benefits. (Brown, 1922)

By October of 1900 the main section of the building had been constructed (the ell was added shortly thereafter), and the WF&GC held the first of their game suppers. The members would embark on a competitive shooting match, and then communally prepare the days bounty and serve it to the public as a fundraiser. Along with the dinner, entertainment and dancing was held. These annual events were well known throughout the state, and were only discontinued when a law was passed that prevented the selling and serving of wild game. The conservation focus of the

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WHITEFIELD UNION HALL

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

group continued, and the club's minutes record interaction with the Lincoln County Fish and Game Association and the Maine Fish and Game Department. Standing committees included the 'stocking committee,' and in the 1950s the club participated in a state and county program to stock brooks and streams and redevelop salmon habitat in the Sheepscot River. (Whitefield Historical Society, Ms 97.1, Coll. 60, Book 5).

Throughout the period of significance, Union Hall served the private functions of the Grange and WF&GC, as well as was the location for public entertainments. Orchestras were hired and dances were held frequently (square dancing is mentioned in the records in 1951), and plays and other entertainments were sometimes co-sponsored by the two groups. After the Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Department was formed, the Ladies Auxiliary became a third organizational partner in the building, and fire department functions were held there as well. Commencing in the late 1940s the annual 4th of July festivities (parade, fire department muster, games, auction, and dinner) were held in and around the hall - a tradition that continues to this day. Local residents also recollect that the Whitefield High School, located in the nearby Bell Schoolhouse, also used the hall for its hot lunch program as well as for plays, dances, and events.

In 1947 the Union Hall Association (the stock company) officially transferred ownership of the building to the Whitefield Fish and Game Club and the Grange. The Whitefield Grange combined with the Arlington Grange in 1969 and deeded their half of the building to the WF&GC. When membership declined, the WF&GC deeded the building to a consortium of four Kings Mills organizations in 1974 in order that the building might continue to serve the community. These were the Kings Mills Volunteer Fire Department, the Helping Hands Society, the Whitefield Union Church, and the Ladies Auxiliary, which combined to form a new Union Hall Committee. Since that time the community has continued to use the building for dinners, sales, talks and gatherings, although in recent years the auditorium has been closed awaiting improvements to comply with life-safety codes. At present the Union Hall Committee and the Whitefield Historical Society have joined forces to raise money to complete some necessary repairs and maintenance with the goal of re-opening the auditorium and expanding the opportunities for public functions at the Hall.

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WHITEFIELD UNION HALL

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, Elspeth. "About the Grange." *Ritual and Community: The Maine Grange*. A brochure announcing an exhibition of photographs by Rose Marasco. (Gorham, ME: University of Southern Maine), 1992.

Deeds, various years. Lincoln County Registry of Deeds, Lincoln County Courthouse, Wiscasset, Maine. Copies on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

Records of the Whitefield Fish and Game Club. Whitefield Historical Society, Ms 97.1, Coll. 60, Books 1-5. Whitefield, Maine.

Sacks, Marie. A Brief History of Whitefield 1760-2004. (Prepared for the Whitefield, Maine Comprehensive Plan; printed in booklet form by the Whitefield Historical Society), 2004.

Waters, Henry C. Kings Mills Whitefield, Me. 1772-1982. Second Edition. (Whitefield, Maine: Re-published by the Whitefield Historical Society), 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .17

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 9 | | 4 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 | | 4 | 8 | 9 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 1 |

Zone Easting Northing
2 | 1 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | 1 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Zone Easting Northing
4 | 1 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 20 October 2006

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME 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 _____ telephone _____

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.

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Continuation Sheet

WHITEFIELD UNION HALL

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are fully depicted by the Town of Whitefield tax map number 31, lot 9.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries as described by the above cited tax map represent the entire urban lot that has been associated with the Whitefield Union Hall since it was constructed in 1900.

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Continuation Sheet

WHITEFIELD UNION HALL

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
23 October 2006
East facade; facing west.

Photograph 2 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
23 October 2006
East facade and south elevation; facing northwest.

Photograph 3 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
23 October 2006
Interior: dining room, first floor. Facing northwest.

Photograph 4 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
23 October 2006
Interior: stage, second floor. Facing southeast.