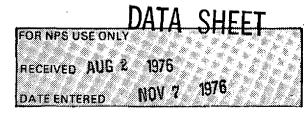
Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



			LE SECTIONS		
NAME					
HISTORIC	1				
	Louis I.7 Bussey /So	chool			
AND/OR COMMON		·z · ·	- <u>-</u> • •	• 4	
LOCATION					
STREET & NUMBER					
	US 2022				
CITY, TOWN	V 2 8 6		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT		
	Dixmont Corner		2nd Hon. William	Cohen	
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
	Maine	23	Penobscot	019	
CLASSIFIC	ATION				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE		
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM	
X_BUILDING(S)			COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDEN	
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION		ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X.YES: RESTRICTED			
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED		TRANSPORTATIO	
		NO	MILITARY	X_OTHER: SOCIA	
OWNER OF	PROPERTY				
NAME					
	Dixmont Ladies (21ub			
STREET & NUMBER					
CITY, TOWN			STATE		
	Dixmont	VICINITY OF]	Maine	
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION		•••	
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CONDITION CHECK ONE CHECK ONE __EXCELLENT __DETERIORATED __UNALTERED XORIGINAL SITE RUINS XALTERED __MOVED DATE_ __UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

With the rise of free public education in the early nineteenth century, the one room schoolhouse became a salient feature of the rural American landscape. The Louis I. Bussey Schoolhouse in Dixmont, Maine, is a building which has its very basis in the public education movement of that time. Built circa 1808 as a small clapboarded, one story, gable roofed structure, this schoolhouse was remodeled, twenty-eight years later in the Greek Revival style, a prevalent motif of the time.

Bilateral symmetry, a portico across the entire front, a roof of moderate pitch, trabeated doors and windows, lack of external ornament on small buildings, and wooden structures invariably painted white, are the hallmarks of the Greek Revival tradition. The Bussey Schoolhouse exemplifies each of these characteristics.

A temple-like open portico was added in 1836 by extending the triangular portion of the northerly facing gable facade. This is supported in the center and at each end by simple posts. Pilasters at each front corner of the actual structure seem to support the portico where they join together. Two large doors punctuate the front facade, emphasizing the building's symmetrical shape. Each door is framed by five small panes of glass on either side, plus a simple architrave. Each side of the building is divided into three bays of windows. A small chimney straddles the roof ridge at the southern end.

Rather than carrying the cornice molding completely around the building and thereby creating a large pediment on the gable sides as was typical in Greek Revival architecture the boxed cornice is brought only slightly around the corners before returning up the slope of the gable. Still, the Greek Revival intent is apparent. Since this style of architecture often denoted grandeur, liberalism, and a growing awareness of democratic heritage, these Greek Revial gestures may have derived from the community's desire to proclaim a degree of prosperity that it had achieved.

As a predecessor of present--day public schools, and as an example of popular architectureal motif of the nineteenth century, the Louis I. Bussey Schoolhouse remains today as an important transitional link in the evolution of New England educational architecture.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION		
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE		
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER		
_X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present town of Dixmont was originally one of the five townships granted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1794, to the trustees of Bowdoin College for the support of that institution. After receiving the deed, the trustees in due time sold the major portion of what was then called Collegetown to Dr. Elijah Dix of Boston for \$21,431, the conveyance being dated July 12, 1801.

Some settlement had already begun and the town grew rapidly taking the name Dixmont in honor of the proprietor and by virtue of the hilly terrain in the vicinity. Dr. Dix took great interest in the development of the town, making frequent trips from Boston to Dixmont in his two wheeled chaise, an arduous journey indeed. It was while on such a visit in 1809 that he was taken sick and died, his remains being interred in the town cemetery with an appropriately marked tombstone.

Such was his concern with the welfare of the town, that in 1808 he contributed a sum of money to the town for the erection of five schoolhouses, the one at Dixmont Corner, District # 2 being the sole survivor.

Of interest, as a sidelight is the fact that Dr. Dix married Dorothy Lynde and sired a large family. One of his sons, Joseph, was the father of Dorothea Lynde Dix, the noted reformer and pioneer in the humanitarian treatment of the mentally ill.

The Louis I. Bussey School, which was so named for a later community benefactor, is now a social center owned by the Dixmont Ladies Club. It stands as a reminder of the paternal concern of Dr. Dix, a land proprietor of unusual vision for his time.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Llewellyn P. and Eleanor A. Toothaker, The History of Dixmont, Maine, 1976.

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, j)	Stephen Kapla	•			
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