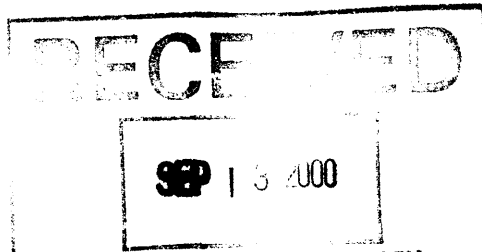


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1204

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions on 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 Dresden Town House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 391 Middle Road N/A not for publication

city or town Dresden Mills vicinity

state Maine code ME county Lincoln code 015 zip code 04342

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.)

Eileen S. [Signature] 9/1/00
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] Edouard H. Beall 10/12/00
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Dresden Town House
Name of Property

Lincoln, 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

_____ 1 _____ buildings
_____ sites
_____ structures
_____ objects
_____ 1 _____ 0 _____ 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)
Government/City Hall
Social Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Other: Wood Posts
walls Wood/Weatherboard
Wood/Wood Shingle
roof Asphalt
other _____

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

DRESDEN TOWN HOUSE

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Dresden Town House is a long rectangular, two-story, gable roofed frame building whose lower story is clad in clapboards and its upper story in wood shingles. It stands on granite and concrete posts in an undisturbed rural setting.

Facing east, the symmetrically composed front elevation contains one original four panel door and a modern replacement steel door that are separated by two six-over-nine double hung sash windows on the first story. The pair of twelve-over-six windows in the second story windows are capped by ornamental, triangular hoods which are linked by a larger scale version of the same design, the center peak of which bears the date 1904 (the year in which the original 1859 building was raised by one story). Narrow corner boards rise to a modest cornice that features short gable end returns.

The four-bay north side elevation has a symmetrical fenestration pattern with six-over-nine double hung sash on the first story and twelve-over-ones above. A vertical board matching the front corner board and located between the third and fourth bay marks the termination point of the original building. The western most bay was apparently added sometime shortly after the building was raised, and its brick flue stack is a more recent replacement for one that was located at the east end. The fenestration pattern on the south side matches that on the north side except that a shed roofed toilet addition with a six-panel door has been made to the fourth bay. There are two six-over-nines on the first story of the rear elevation and a trio of six-pane fixed sash on the second story.

Inside, the first floor contains a vestibule behind the south entrance which has a staircase to the second floor. The north door opens directly into the meeting room which features a speaker's podium along the north wall, voting booths in the northwest corner, and four chamfered posts that support the second floor. There are two openings on the west wall of the meeting room, both of which originally contained windows and one of which now is an entrance to the kitchen. Between them is a lancet arched marble tablet that is the town's Civil War monument. Its inscription reads: IN MEMORY OF THE VOLUNTEERS OF DRESDEN WHO FELL IN DEFENSE OF THE UNION 1861-4. At the bottom is the inscription: ERECTED BY THE TOWN 1867. The walls and ceilings are covered in board sheathing. On the second floor, the large open hall is distinguished by its decorative tripartite tin ceiling and the stage located at the east end. The partition at the east end near the stairs appears to have been added after the second floor was initially built.

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.

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: _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Social History

Period of Significance

1859-1950

Significant Dates

1859

1904

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Houdlette, George F., Builder

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetDRESDEN TOWN HOUSELINCOLN, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Constructed in 1859 by local builder George F. Houdlette and enlarged in 1904, the Dresden Town House is a vernacular two-story frame building that is sheathed in clapboards and wood shingles. The building has housed a number of important community functions including annual town meetings, dances, lectures, religious gatherings, and grange functions. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A for its association with local town government and social history.

The following three paragraphs outlining the history of the construction of the town house appeared in Charles E. Allen's *History of Dresden, Maine* (1931):

The long agitated question of a town house assumed a definite shape during this decade. At the March meeting in 1859 it was voted to build a town house, and William Call, James Houdlett, Jr., and John L. Allen were chosen a committee to select a locality and present a plan. Four hundred dollars was voted for the building. June 13th the committee was discharged, and Dennis Marson was chosen to superintend the work, his pay not to exceed five dollars, which would appear to be small compensation, unless there was something vague about the record of the vote. It was voted that the sills be 7 by 7, the posts 4 by 6, the studding 3 by 5, sleepers 4 by 5, beams 5 by 7, plates 6 by 6. The roof to be full raftered 3 by 8, three feet apart.

At the meeting April 23rd it had been voted to accept a location in James Parris's pasture, near Dennis Marson's house. The plan proposed by the committee was rejected, and a vote was taken that the building be 45 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 12 feet posts, -- that is 12 feet high. Gilmore Blenn, Stephen Mayers, and Elihu Hatch were chosen a new committee, to superintend. There was much contention as to the location of the building, the rather inconvenient site finally chosen being a sort of compromise. It was voted that a row of seats be built inside around the hall, that it be plastered, and painted outside with two coats, and there be a Selectmen's office finished therein.

[On] June 13th the proposals were received for building, and that of George F. Houdlette, for \$579.25, was accepted. The first meeting held in the new building was March 19, 1860, at which time it was voted to post notices of meetings on the building. It was also voted that the town house be let for religious meetings and scientific lectures when the Selectmen think proper. In 1861, the Selectmen were authorized to build a fence around the lot. November 19, 1862, it was voted to let the house to school district No. 5. Other votes were, however, passed relative to this school matter, which will appear in due time. The school house in No. 5 had been destroyed by fire. September 26, 1866, James Parris was paid \$4.50 for building 9 rods of stone wall around the town house.

Dresden's first grange was organized in 1875, but according to Allen (p.826) it was dissolved three years later. In 1901 Eastern River Grange No. 133 was reorganized, and it subsequently made arrangements with the town to add a second floor to the town house for its meeting hall. The Grange was closed on December 31, 1969, but the building continues to be used for special town meetings, voting, and limited community activities.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DRESDEN TOWN HOUSE

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Bibliography

Allen, Charles Edwin. *History of Dresden, Maine*. Privately Printed, 1931.

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.

Dresden Town House
Name of Property

Lincoln, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 440460 4881440
Zone Easting Northing

2

3
Zone Easting Northing

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. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 2000

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.

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National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DRESDEN TOWN HOUSE

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Dresden tax map 6, lot 24.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot that is historically associated with the Dresden Town House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DRESDEN TOWN HOUSE
Section number _____ Page _____

LINCOLN CO., ME

PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 3
Kirk F. Mohny
July, 2000
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
View from NE

2 of 3
Kirk F. Mohny
July, 2000
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
View of first floor looking from NW to SE

3 of 3
Kirk F. Mohny
July, 2000
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
View of second floor looking from E to W