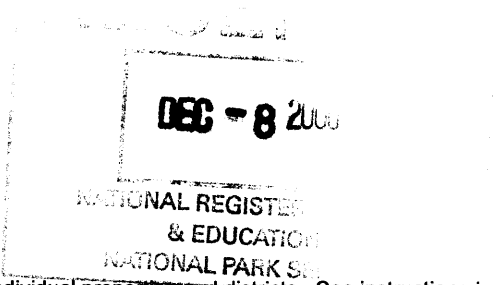


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



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 Colburn School  
other names/site number School No. 3

2. Location

street & number East side of Arnold Road, .4 miles south of junction with Route 27  N/A not for publication  
city or town Pittston  vicinity  
state Maine code ME county Kennebec code 011 zip code 04345

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.)

*Carol L. Fitzgerald* 11/30/00  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

*Edson H. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

1.11.01  
Date of Action

Colburn School  
Name of Property

Kennebec, 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)

Education/School

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Frame Ell

**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**

COLBURN SCHOOL

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Colburn School is a one-story, gable roofed brick building that has a short wood frame ell. It stands on a granite block foundation immediately to the south of Riverview Cemetery, and on a bypassed portion of Route 24.

Facing west, the front elevation contains a single two-over-two double hung sash window that is centered on the wall. A narrow board forms the edge of the roof and wall cap. The building's north side elevation features a pair of symmetrically placed two-over-twos, whereas the south side has a replacement six-panel door at the southwest corner as well as a trio of two-over-two windows. Granite lintels are used throughout with the exception of the door and center window on the south side where timber is employed, and the window frames exhibit common Greek Revival style molding profiles. The shingled ell addition on the rear elevation houses two pit toilets and a wood shed. A single two-over-two window is located in the southerly side of the brick end wall, and it is believed that a second similar window opening was removed in making the paired door openings for the ell. There is a single brick flue rising above the east end of the roof.

Inside, the single room is finished in modern paneling that was added when the building was used for the town office, and a decorative steel ceiling from the early twentieth century. Paired doors at the northeast corner lead to the ell.

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)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1815-1950

Significant Dates

c. 1815

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

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:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetCOLBURN SCHOOLKENNEBEC, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

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Believed to have been erected about 1815, the Colburn School is a one-story, one room brick building with an attached frame ell. It was continuously used as a school house until 1964, and is the most intact building of its type in the town of Pittston. Colburn School is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion A for its association with local patterns of education, and criterion C for its representation of a nineteenth century rural school building.

Kingsbury's *History of Kennebec County*, published in 1892, does not fail to mention the importance of education to the earliest residents of Pittston. There were no fewer than nineteen school houses in the community in 1803 when the town of Gardiner was created from its western half. The town had begun organizing school wards and hiring schoolmasters in 1785. In 1815 the town determined the boundaries of ten school districts, each district electing its own committee. On November 5, 1815, Samuel Oakman sold the small plot of land on which the Colburn School stands to the Middle South School District, in consideration as his contribution to the expense of constructing such a building.

The school received its name from its location in the area of Pittston first known as Colburn Town, on the east bank of the Kennebec River. This part of Pittston was settled by the Colburn brothers in the mid-eighteenth century, one of whom was Reuben Colburn, who built his historic house (NR 10/1/69) nearby in 1763. In 1775, he was commissioned by George Washington to build more than 200 bateau boats for Colonel Benedict Arnold's Quebec expedition, which departed from the house later that fall. Riverside Cemetery, which borders the Colburn School property on its northern side, is the resting place of many members of the Colburn family.

In 1932 the town voted to appropriate funds for the construction of a playground for the Colburn School, then known as School No. 3, there being a lack of a playground at the school since its construction. The year 1932 also witnessed the replacement of the school's wooden benches with seats originally used by Boothbay Harbor schools. In 1959 the town of Pittston sold the Colburn School, both land and building, along with all other town school district buildings, to School Administrative District #11. Use of the school by SAD #11 was discontinued in 1964, with ownership eventually returning to the town in 1973. Twelve years later, having in the interim used the building for the town hall, the local government sold the property to the Pittston Literary and Historical Society for one dollar. Since its purchase, the school has been utilized by the community in several different ways. The Society holds its monthly business meetings at the school, as well as annual fund-raising events held in conjunction with the Arnold Expedition Historical Society.

The one room school house was a familiar object in the rural landscape of nineteenth and early twentieth century Maine. This was the result of a traditional educational system in which towns subdivided themselves into school districts, each of which contained a school house to serve its particular locale. Although the district school system became a target for nineteenth century school reformers, its affect was to produce a vast number and variety of buildings; a figure which at the turn-of-the-century totaled more than 4,000. Twentieth century school consolidation efforts have taken a dramatic toll on the number of these buildings which survive. In 1960, for example, it was reported that only 226 schools in Maine were being held in one-room buildings, a figure which has since dropped to a mere handful (*Report of the State Board of Education*).

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

COLBURN SCHOOL

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

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Historically, Maine's rural school houses have been constructed primarily of wood. However, some of the oldest extant examples are of masonry construction executed in both brick and stone. Among the former are the c.1810 Brick School in Winslow (NR 4/18/77) and the 1827 Brick School House in Aurora (NR 4/23/80), whereas the latter group includes the c.1820 Stone Schoolhouse in Georgetown (NR 8/12/77) and the 1838 Percy District School House in Phippsburg (NR 3/25/99). There is among this group of buildings -- including the Colburn School -- a striking similarity with regard to placement of the entrance at one corner of a side elevation. This is a distinctive characteristic when compared to later school houses that have one or two entrances on their front elevations. In the case of the school in Winslow, the door opens into a small vestibule that abuts a large end wall fireplace, a configuration that also exists in a preserved eighteenth century frame school house in York Village. Although there is evidence that the Colburn School had an entrance vestibule, there is no indication that a fireplace was located on the end wall.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

COLBURN SCHOOL

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

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## Bibliography

Kingsbury, Henry D., and Deyo, Simeon, editors. *Illustrated History of Kennebec County, Maine, 1625-1892*. New York: H. W. Blake & Company, 1892.

Colburn School  
Name of Property

Kennebec, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property Less than 1

**UTM References**  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1|9| ] [4|3|9|9|2|0| ] [4|8|9|3|5|9|0| ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [3| ]  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

2 [ ]  
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 Justin Jackson, Intern  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date \_\_\_\_\_  
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.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

COLBURN SCHOOL

KENNEBEC, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

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## Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Pittston tax map lot U-14, lot 5.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot of less than one acre that is historically associated with the Colburn School.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

**COLBURN SCHOOL**

**KENNEBEC CO., ME**

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_

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### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

1 of 2

Kirk F. Mohney

September 5, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from SW

2 of 2

Kirk F. Mohney

September 5, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of interior looking westerly