

1-7-00

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NOV 10 1992

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Roosevelt School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number South Side of Route 161, .1 mi. E of Private Rd. #861  not for publication

city or town St. John  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04743

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.)

*Carrie S. Fitzgerald* 11/12/92  
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
 State of 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 the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

**Entered in the National Register** Date of Action

*Helene Byrne* 2/17/92  
 Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Roosevelt School  
Name of Property

Aroostook, 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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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)

Domestic/Camp  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

Colonial Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Wood/Weatherboard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other Wooden entrance porch with bell tower  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**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 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)

Architecture

Education

**Period of Significance**

c. 1920-1942

**Significant Dates**

c. 1920

**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 Sheet

ROOSEVELT SCHOOL

Section number 7 Page 2

The Roosevelt School is a one-story, hip roofed frame building which has engaged vestibule/storage/toilet rooms spanning most of the front elevation and a pedimented entry porch. It is sheathed in weatherboards and stands on a concrete foundation.

Facing north, the symmetrically arranged three-bay front elevation is composed of the centrally-located porch whose pediment is supported by two paneled posts that rest on concrete steps. A short, hip roofed bell tower featuring four battered posts and dentil moldings around the base and cornice crown the porch roof. The present double doors behind the porch are replacements of the originals which contained six panes of glass in each leaf. Paired two-over-two double-hung windows are located slightly off-center on the walls flanking the entry. A simple cornice carries across the elevation and along the narrow side walls of this front block where it meets the taller and wider classroom section. Pilasters frame the corners of both elements. The front plane of the hip roof is punctuated by a shed dormer that has a trio of six-pane windows framed by a repeat of the cornice/pilaster detail.

The east and west side elevations are similar, with one variation, to each other. A group of five, nine-over-nine windows are centrally positioned on each wall, and a single two-over-two unit occupies the recessed side wall of the entry/storage section. Projecting from the northeast corner is a rather long bulkhead. Its low door is framed by the molding pattern found elsewhere and the whole is covered by a segmentally-arched roof clad in metal. The rear elevation has a single door (a later addition) located west of center and an interior brick chimney.

In its original plan, the school building was divided into two symmetrical spaces reached through separate doors in the vestibule. Each side had a large classroom in the main block as well as a coatroom and two toilets - one each for girls and boys - in narrower front section. The west room also has stairs leading to the basement and small closet above them. Painted blackboards are located on either side of the partition and along portions of the back wall. A subsequent, but as yet undated, apparent alteration to the partition is the installation of four hinged doors which can be opened to link the two rooms for group activities. Modifications have also been made to a number of the smaller rooms, but one original bathroom and one closet remain. The former is distinguished by the existence of a saloon style door of diagonal boards which is mounted to a strikingly well detailed frame. The use here of molded surrounds and corner blocks with bulls-eye detail is repeated in all original window and door surrounds. Prior to its abandonment as a school, the interior walls were covered with homasote or like material. Under this, however, is the original narrow tongue-and-groove, varnished material.

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ROOSEVELT SCHOOL

Section number 8 Page 2

Probably constructed in the early 1920s and utilized until 1969, the Roosevelt School was designed to house grades 1-5 in this rural northern Maine community. It is the only extant historic school building in St. John Plantation and, although now used as a part-time summer residence, retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The building is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion A for its association with local educational efforts in the early twentieth century and criterion C for its architectural distinction.

St. John Plantation was first settled by Acadian French in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, but the population remained very small until after 1880. In 1870, for example, there were only 127 persons living in the plantation, whereas by 1910 this figure had risen to 571, with an especially dramatic increase in the decade 1900 to 1910. Although little documentary evidence exists about the nature of the schools in this community, the 1913 edition of the Maine State School Report notes the existence of three school buildings at that time. A fourth one was built for \$350.00 this same year and, although tradition holds that the Roosevelt School was erected about this time, it clearly could not have been constructed for this modest amount of money. It is more likely, however, that the present building was put up in the 1920s, a time when schools which were very similar in form were being erected in a number of communities across the State.

The Roosevelt School is significant from an architectural standpoint as a representation of a model school building for primary grades. Although documentation for the precise origin of the design has not yet been uncovered, in all likelihood it emanated from the State. This pattern of developing and building model school buildings is also evident in other designs erected in Aroostook County in this period. One such model was briefly described and illustrated in the 1920 School Report. An intriguing piece of information about the design employed at the Roosevelt School exists in the form of a notation on the back of a photograph of a nearly identical school in West Falmouth. This reads: Plan "P", 2-Room. Erected in 1925 at a cost of \$4,000, the West Falmouth school was for the use of primary grades as were similarly designed schools erected in Easton (1926), Milford (1921), and Fort Kent (1926-27?). The dates of construction of these schools suggests that the model design dates from about 1920, and thereby establishes a more likely date for the Roosevelt School than one of a decade earlier.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

ROOSEVELT SCHOOL

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Easton, Falmouth, Fort Kent, Milford Town Reports. 1920-1926.

Historic Schools Photographic File. Maine Historic Preservation Commission,  
Augusta.

Report of the State Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of Maine.  
Waterville, Maine: Sentinel Publishing Company, 1911-26.

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

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

ROOSEVELT SCHOOL

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies St. John Plantation Tax Map 16, Lot 44.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot historically associated with this school building.