

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 02000787

Date Listed: July 15, 2002

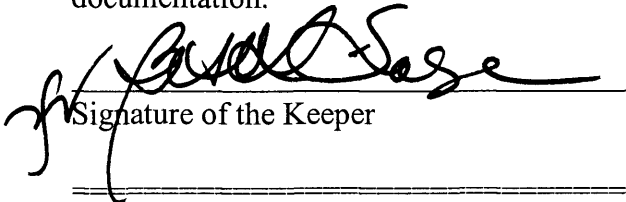
Property Name: Dudley's Corner School House

County: Somerset

State: Maine

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

July 15, 2002
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Statement of Significance

Religion is hereby deleted as an area of significance because it is not justified by the statement of significance.

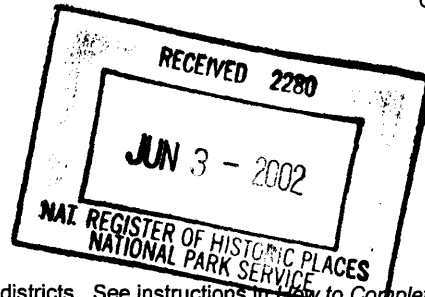
The Maine State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1787



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 Dudley's Corner School House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 5 Dudley Corner Road N/A not for publication
city or town Skowhegan N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Somerset code 025 zip code 04976

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.)

Sarah F. [Signature] Date 5/30/02
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 of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 7/15/02

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	0	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 _____

GOVERNMENT / City Hall _____

RELIGION / Religious Facility _____

SOCIAL / Meeting Hall _____

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT / NOT IN USE _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival _____

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite _____

walls Weatherboard _____

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

DUDLEY'S CORNER SCHOOL HOUSE

SOMERSET CO., MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The Dudley's Corner School House is a one room, gable fronted, school house, located three miles east of Skowhegan Maine. Facing the Kennebec River to the south, the building is located on a small triangle of land on the north side of Route 2, between the Dudley Corner Road and Parkman Hill Road. The one story wooden frame is covered with severely weathered clapboards, which retain what might be the original coat of red paint. Many of the clapboards have been re-nailed in recent years, in an effort to stem the curling and weathering. The building sits on granite slabs and is roofed with asphalt, through the peak of which a single brick chimney emerges at the north end. The entry is located on the east side of the south gable end: it is a six panel door with stop-chamfered stiles and arched rails. The badly peeling door is quickly losing its original yellow paint. Flat moulding surrounds the door and the four-light transom with elliptical ovolo muntins. On each side of the building, except the south facade, a pair of two-over-two windows are trimmed with band moulding. One two-over-two window is located on the south facade. The rake trim is extremely narrow and tapers slightly to the cornice returns. Narrow corner boards and a boxed cornice below the eaves complete the ornamentation on this essentially vernacular structure with a bow to the Greek Revival.

On the interior, the school house contains a small entry vestibule in the southeast corner. The remainder of the structure is a single open space. The north, east and south walls of the vestibule are plaster over wood lath above un-planed, tapered wainscot. The west wall consists entirely of tapered boards to the plaster ceiling. The main school room shows evidence of at least one remodeling, in which partitions and built-in furniture were removed, windows replaced and new woodwork installed. Marks on the wide pine floor in the northwest corner, and along the walls and wainscot indicate that either a closet with shelves, or a desk was built into the corner originally. The ceiling is Beaver Board, and the walls are paint over wallpaper, over plaster and lath. Two installations of vertical tongue and groove wainscot encircle the room: on the north and east walls it is a two inches wide, while on the west and south walls the bead board is almost four inches wide. It appears that this later, Victorian era, wainscot was applied directly over the earlier, horizontal, tapered wainscot. A single fluorescent light is centered on ceiling, and baseboard electric heating elements are positioned on the wainscot in several places. The chimney retains a outlet for a wood stove, the original source of heat in the building. While the interior does not contain many remnants of its days as a school house, most of the cosmetic changes mask, but do not completely replace, the earlier material culture.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

POLITICS / GOVERNMENT

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1835 - 1921

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.

Significant Dates

1835

C. 1900

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 Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DUDLEY'S CORNER SCHOOL HOUSE

SOMERSET CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dudley's Corner School House is a cultural remnant of a significant amount of the nineteenth century history of Skowhegan Maine. Although located about three miles south of the current village of Skowhegan on the east side of the Kennebec, it was the center of education, government and religion for several decades. The earliest incarnation of the school was built in 1804. Prior to moving into town in 1840, the First Christian Church met in the school house, and it was also the location of town meetings and elections. In 1835 the school house was either renovated or rebuilt (it is unclear from the town records) into its current, modest, vernacular Greek Revival form. The school house continued as the site of town meetings and elections until 1849, in addition to holding classes until 1921. Dudley's Corner School House is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A in recognition of the multi-faceted role it played in the civic affairs of early Skowhegan.

Skowhegan was settled in 1771 as a grant from the Kennebec Proprietors, and originally was known as Canaan. The early settlers were drawn to the area for its water access and its lumber. Town centers were established around clusters of rural farms in several areas on each side of the river, and on an island in the river's middle. By the turn of the 19th century schools were being developed in the villages, but the location of the town government was not yet settled. The following description of the role of Dudley's Corner Schoolhouse in early town government is drawn from *Skowhegan on the Kennebec*.

It is a tribute to the drawing power, by that time gained by Skowhegan village, that in the late [18]20's Dudley's Corner, situated so conveniently for several farming neighborhoods and more accessible from the village than the other rural centers, obtained the leadership [of the town]. From 1829 to 1849 inclusive all annual town-meetings were held at Dudley's Corner except two, those of 1838 and 1839, which were in the village at the yellow schoolhouse on Madison St.. All state elections were held at Dudley's Corner from 1823 to 1848, except three...All presidential elections took place at Dudley's Corner beginning with the one of 1824, up to and including the one of 1848. The numerous special town-meetings were sometimes held in a store or tavern in the village...but generally these also were held at Dudley's Corner....Here was the arena of Skowhegan oratory and public business during the constructive years of the 30's and 40's. Dudley's Corner might naturally have come to regard itself as the civic center of Skowhegan.

It may seem strange to us today that the rural section of the town should have been able so long to retain municipal control, but the farms of a hundred years ago were more numerous than today, much more populous, comparatively more prosperous, and proportionately influential....In 1847, when the town house was being planned, an effort was made to have it erected near the old site at Dudley's corner. (Coburn, p. 249-259).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DUDLEY'S CORNER SCHOOL HOUSE

SOMERSET CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

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*). Indeed, once Skowhegan received the railroad in 1856, and became the county seat of Somerset County in 1872, the population increased rapidly, from 1756 in 1850 to 3869 twenty years later. By 1890 the population had increased to 5086 due in part to textile, steel, shoe and paper mills. While the initial population growth led to the proliferation of district school houses, its continued growth in the 20th century made consolidation more economically desirable.

Prior to the turn of the 20th century there were eighteen school houses in Skowhegan, scattered throughout the town and "built where a large enough grouping of children justified having a building and teacher." (Martin, p. 59). Of these, at least ten have been moved from their original locations and at least thirteen have been made into houses, garages, or day care center. Although no longer used as a school, only the Parker School (1860) and Dudley's Corner School House have been neither moved nor remodeled, however the roof of the Parker School collapsed in 1982, and it may now have been demolished. In addition to being an important place in Skowhegan's early town government, it is a lasting and unique example of the school system that educated generations of the town's residents.

Since the last classes were held in 1921 the town has continued to own Dudley's Corner School House. In the 1930s and 1940s it was used seasonally by the Eunice Farnsworth Chapter, D. A. R, and more recently by the Boy Scouts and the Lion's Club. At present, plans are under discussion to preserve or restore the structure and use it for community functions and to interpret the history of the area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

DUDLEY'S CORNER SCHOOL HOUSE

SOMERSET CO., MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools in the State of Maine. Augusta, Maine: Stevens & Sayward, various years.

Coburn, Louise Helen. *Skowhegan on the Kennebec, Vol I and II.* (Skowhegan: Independent-Reporter Press), 1941.

Martin, Kathleen A., Ed. *Voice on the Kennebec.* (Skowhegan: Skowhegan Press), 1983.

Town Records, Volume I, 1823 -1845. On file at the Skowhegan Town Office, Skowhegan, Maine.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DUDLEY'S CORNER SCHOOL HOUSE

SOMERSET CO., MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is described by Town of Skowhegan Tax Map #5, Lot 91.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries of the property are roughly outlined by the triangular intersection of ME Rt. 2 on the South, Parkman Hill Road on the Northeast, and Dudley Corner Road on the West. This is all that remains in town ownership of the property historically associated with Dudley's Corner School House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

DUDLEY'S CORNER SCHOOL HOUSE

SOMERSET CO., MAINE

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3
Dudley's Corner School House
February 26, 2002
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
Exterior, south facade; facing north.

Photograph 2 of 3
Dudley's Corner School House
February 26, 2002
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
Exterior, north west elevations; facing southeast.

Photograph 3 of 3
Dudley's Corner School House
February 26, 2002
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
Interior, school room, facing northeast.