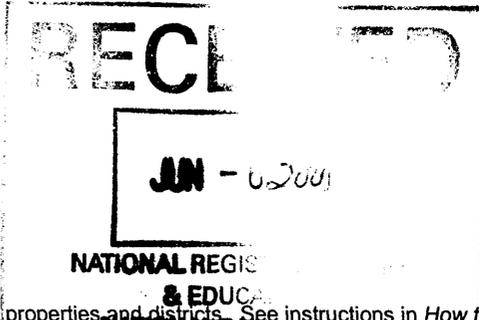


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



763

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 Mill Cove School

other names/site number Littlefield School

2. Location

West Side of Berrys Mill Road,

street & number 0.1 Mile South of Junction with Hill Road N/A not for publication

city or town Bath vicinity

state Maine code ME county Sagadahoc code 023 zip code 04530

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.)

[Signature] 5/26/00
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]
Signature of the Keeper

7/5/00
Date of Action

Mill Cove School
Name of Property

Sagadahoc, 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

_____ 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)

Work In Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-Nineteenth Century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Wood/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

MILL COVE SCHOOL

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Mill Cove School in West Bath is a one-story, one room timber framed school with an attached outhouse ell, which stands parallel to, and beside the Berry's Mill Road north of Mill Cove. The front-gabled school is oriented north-south, and faces a small circular dirt driveway on the west side of Berry's Mills Road. The front of the three-bay building measures 24'-4" wide, with two six-over-six double hung windows flanking a single four-panel wood doorway at the center. The right (east) side of the building is 28'-4" long, and contains three equally spaced six-over-six double hung windows. The left (west) side of the school includes a 15' x 10' ell at its north end, which contains separate outhouse facilities for boys and for girls. A single window is located in the center of the north wall of the school house, opposite to (and aligned with) the front door.

Wide pine boards with old "up-and-down" saw marks can be seen in the front wall, first floor, and roof of the structure. The building is framed as a three bay structure upon a granite and field stone foundation and crawlspace. A large (3'-11" wide x 4'-1" deep) square granite step sits upon the ground near the front door of the building, providing access to the front door and the school. The front door provides immediate access to a vestibule or cloak room, which is currently used for firewood storage. The uninsulated attic is accessible by trap door in the cloak room ceiling. Passing through the cloak room, one enters near the center of the school room, which is oriented to face the incoming students and the front door.

Inside, the traditional teacher's position was at the front, adjacent to both the cloakroom door and the blackboard. A small closet for schoolroom supplies is located in the southeast corner, off the classroom, where it was used for storing chalk, school books, penmanship lettering guides, and other teaching tools. The interior of finish around the windows appears to be of a later Victorian Era period, but was milled to contain cornerblocks with circular ornaments. Other interior finish is plaster applied to sawn lath. The two-chamber outhouse is accessible from the northwest corner of the school and is lower in elevation than the school floor. Transitional rooms with steps serve to accommodate the change in level, as well as to further distance

The attic reveals a timber framed structure with three principal bays and purlins supporting vertical board sheathing. There is no floor in the attic, suggesting it was never used for storage. A stove flue is located on the north endwall.

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)

Architecture
Education

Period of Significance

c. 1853-1946

Significant Dates

c. 1853
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

MILL COVE SCHOOL

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

Constructed about 1853, the Mill Cove School is historically significant as the last recognizable one room school in West Bath, where such buildings were utilized for teaching purposes continuously from the 1770s through the mid-1940s. The modest Greek Revival style frame building is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion A for its association with local patterns of community education, and criterion C for its representation as a typical mid nineteenth century school house.

Between its initial permanent settlement about the year 1740 and 1946 (when it was decided to close the last one room school houses in West Bath), West Bath sent its pupils initially to private houses for instruction, and later to a series of rural one room school houses built throughout the community. There were--at different times--School Districts numbered 1 through 4, and at least that many individual school houses. The only surviving one room school house within West Bath today which remains unaltered is the Mill Cove School (which has also been referred to as the District #3 School and more recently the Littlefield School).

By 1772, there was a community school established in the Mill Cove District (or Berry's Mills section) of West Bath which was then simply a part of the early Bath community--as the incorporation of West Bath was not achieved until 1844. In this early Mill Cove school, Andrew Coombs taught in 1808, and Samuel Winter and Jane Shaw taught in 1811. Teaching patterns in West Bath were explained by the local historian:

The custom in those days was for men to be employed as teachers during the winter term when the older boys weren't as busy on the farms, while the younger children were taught by the women during the summer term. The schoolmasters were paid around thirty dollars a month [in the winter] while the schoolmistresses received weekly two or three dollars [in the summer]. (Purinton, p. 62)

In the latter years of its first built form, the 18th century Mill Cove School additionally served as the first Town House for West Bath, after West Bath split from Bath in 1844. Presumably, the Mill Cove School was chosen for this very worthwhile municipal purpose both because it was the most central of the West Bath schools, as well as located close to Berry's Mills, which then formed the heart of the farming, tide-milling, shipbuilding, and salt-producing community.

The original Mill Cove School building was replaced by the existing school house about 1853, and was then also called the District No. 3 school house on the 1850s maps of Bath and West Bath. After 1869, the Mill Cove School continued to be called by its traditional name, even after Berry's Mills (tidal saw and shingle mills) were last lost to fire that year. In 1976, a former student who attended the school after 1906, recollected that "We called the school Mill Cove School. It was a pleasant school room." (Purinton, p. 66). In 1975, Mrs. Doris (Williams) Clowes of Vassalboro provided a written recollection of attending the school, as well as how the Foster's Point kids were picked up by the teacher in his horse-drawn beach wagon (Fall and Spring) and double runner sled (winter).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

MILL COVE SCHOOL

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

It was a long cold ride in winter, but we were warmly dressed and had warm soap stones on our feet. They were reheated for the return trip home, on the old wood stove at the school. ...I recall several pupils who rode with Mr. Williams. It seems as if they couldn't all have ridden at the same time, as the beach wagon was too small to accommodate so many, but for what it is worth, these are the ones I remember. First to be picked up was...James Tibbetts. ...The next pupil lived with a Mrs. Crocker. His name was Loring Bates. Jay Coombs lived in the house just south and on the opposite side of the road from where we lived. He was the adopted son of Isaac Coombs. Martha Rose and I completed the load. We turned right, just before we got to the Rose farm, and sometimes a boy who lived on this cross road rode with us. His name was Walter Brown. (Purinton, p.76)

During the latter part of the 20th century, the Mill Cove School became known locally as the "Littlefield School" presumably because the nearby fields [or Little field in front of the school by the apple trees and wetlands] became a better recognized landmark, after the tide mills and Mill Cove commerce were gone. The Mill Cove School was active through about 1946 when a vote was taken to close the school, and to transfer the remaining students to public schools in neighboring Bath. Because the school building was still in good repair after it was abandoned, a new use for the building was immediately found. A West Bath Men's Club was organized on December 4, 1946 (only three months after the school was abandoned), and the new club purchased the building. The West Bath Men's Club used the building as its headquarters from 1946 through at least 1975, and met in the building twice a month. (Purinton, p. 75).

By 1992, the Mill Cove School became abandoned. Early efforts to preserve it by Margaret Totten were put aside after the Methodist Church required additional help. Lydia Smith requested additional time to study the problem from the Town in 1994, but no action was taken in either 1995 or 1996. In 1998, Paolo Isnardi showed interest in restoring the school, but the Town proceeded with plans to possibly strip the school of valuables--and to burn the building--before May, 1999, when the Coastal Journal exposed the demolition intent. Public letters of support caused the Town to reverse position, and to authorize a new group called the Friends of Littlefield School, Inc. to repair, restore and adapt for new historical purposes the building, beginning in June, 1999.

West Bath appears to have grown naturally around the Berry's Tide Mills established at Mill Cove in or by the 1740s, and also to have evolved a focus at Foster's Point during the 18th century. West Bath historian William Purinton noted that: "It was in one of the rooms of the Jonathan Mitchell House that the first school in the West Bath area was held." (Purinton, p. 57). The 1857 date that is ascribed to the Mitchell House is undoubtedly a printer's error since Purinton elsewhere noted that district schools were active by 1772. In any event, education was carried on in the Mitchell House and other private places prior to the first formal school houses being built by the 1770s.

In addition to the District No. 3 school, Purinton notes that the Foster's Point School (like the Mill Cove School) was in existence in 1772. It operated until 1906, at which time the last class of students were transferred to the Mill Cove School. In its early years, it went by the name of the District No. 2 school. The Foster's Point School was sold in 1926 and eventually razed. (Purinton, p. 62).

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

MILL COVE SCHOOL

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

District No. 1 was located in the north part of West Bath, adjacent to the New Meadows River. A school building stood in District 1 at the time of West Bath's separation from Bath in 1844. This school was moved several times, and eventually settled opposite William B. Trufant's (in 1858) where, in the 1920s it was adjusted slightly on its site. About 1922 or 1923, the old District No. 1 school was sold to Joseph W. Larrabee, who first altered it into a home for the Sanborns and later moved it once again. (Purington, pp. 59-60). In 1923-1924, a new Lowell School was built by contractor Fred W. Larrabee. This school was abandoned after West Bath school children were sent to nearby Bath to be educated in 1947. The 1920s Lowell School was purchased by Rev. Charles R. Sims who converted it into a residence. The building was moved further north when the new Route 1 was built, in 1964-1966.

To serve the students in the extreme southern end of West Bath, at least one school house was established near Campbell's Pond, Winnegance Creek, and the road to Birch Point on the New Meadows. The history of this school is not well recorded--as the original build date (and District No.) is apparently not known. Purington noted that "In 1901 or 1902 this school building was given the name of Lily School, but by 1919 it had been closed and the pupils were transferred to the Littlefield School in the Mill Cove District. Later, after the building had been sold to the town, it was destroyed by fire around 1933." (Purington, pp. 64-65).

Typically constructed of wood with gable roofs, Maine's one room school buildings were usually given only modest architectural adornments with the result that a school house of 1900 may look very much like one that is several decades older. There appears to have been a common formula for the design of these buildings which embodied widely disseminated ideas about minimum space requirements, proper ventilation and heating, site orientation, and window placement. As early as the mid nineteenth century reformers were suggesting that two entrances were desirable as a way to prevent "much confusion and rudeness" and to promote "orderly habits" (1847 *Board of Education Report*). This feature was not, however, universally used on Maine schools, as is evident in the Mill Cove School. The provision of proper lighting was also central to the issues of school house design, and by the early twentieth century a common solution to this problem was to incorporate a row of windows along one side elevation. This modification was made to many earlier buildings, but was not carried out on the Mill Cove School.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

MILL COVE SCHOOL

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Bibliography

Purington, William. *A Look Into West Bath's Past*. Privately Published, 1976.

Mill Cove School
Name of Property

Sagadahoc, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9	4	3	1	6	4	5	4	8	5	8	7	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2

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3

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

4

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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. Mohny, Architectural Historian; John V. Goff

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MILL COVE SCHOOL

SAGADAHOC, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of West Bath tax map R3, lot 30.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot that is historically associated with the Mill Cove School.