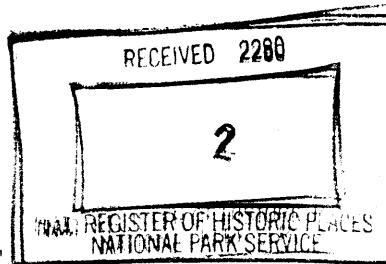


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Oakfield Grange, # 414
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 89 Ridge Road N/A not for publication
city or town Oakfield N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04763

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] 8/14/06
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
SHPP
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] 10.4.06
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson R. Beall

OAKFIELD GRANGE, # 414
Name of Property

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, 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

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL / Meeting Hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ Auditorium

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL / Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other _____

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- SOCIAL HISTORY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1906 -1956

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

1906
c. 1941-45

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Members of the Oakfield Grange, #414

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: _____

OAKFIELD GRANGE, # 414
Name of Property

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 3/10 of an acre

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

1 19 565598 5105115
Zone Easting Northing

3 19
Zone Easting Northing

2 19
Zone Easting Northing

4 19
Zone Easting Northing

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 CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 19 April 2006
street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132
city or town AUGUSTA state ME 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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DESCRIPTION

The Oakfield Grange, #414 is a large, vernacular building located on the south side of Ridge Road, the historic main street in the southern Aroostook town of Oakfield. Built in 1906 by members of the organization, the building is composed of a thirty feet by seventy feet, two-and-a-half story main mass that faces north, and a two story, east facing wing, measuring twelve feet by fifteen feet, affixed to the southern corner of the east elevation. This small appendage encloses one of the Grange's two staircases. The building sits towards the north end of a grassy, level, town lot measuring six-tenths of an acre with little formal landscaping¹. The main roof has a gable on its south end and a gable on a hip at its north end. A lunette window punctuates the north gable peak. The roof of the wing is lower pitched (the ridge abuts the main building just under the eaves), and the east gable end is trimmed with wooden cornice returns. Both roofs are covered with asphalt shingles, and the entire building is clad with painted, but peeling, weatherboards. With the exception of the front bay of the Grange Hall and the wing, which have a concrete slab foundation, the building is supported on low concrete posts. A brick chimney protrudes through the ridge towards the southern end of the larger building. Narrow corner boards and a two-part frieze that runs continuously along the east, north and west elevations conclude the list of exterior stylistic attributes.

Set under the five-pane lunette window and the gable and hip-roof, the north wall is the principal facade. The fenestration consists of two widely spaced two-over-two windows on the second floor, below which is a single window and a two-leaf door (each leaf has five horizontal panels), set in plain trim boards and snugged up against the western corner of the facade. A painted wooden sign proclaiming "Oakfield Grange No. 414" is located between the two second floor windows. The west elevation is divided into six regularly spaced window bays on the first floor and seven on the second floor. (There is no window under the northernmost bay on the first floor.) This pattern is repeated on the east elevation, however the wing intersects the building at what would be the southernmost bay, and the fifth bay on the lower level is occupied by a panel and pane wooden door fronted with a simple wooden ramp and railing. Two additional doors are positioned under a two-over-two window on the north face of the wing, while a third door exits the south wall of the appendage and originally provided access to an attached privy, which has been removed. As with the opposite end of the building, the south elevation is two bays wide with a pair of windows on the second floor and a door and window on the first floor.

As first constructed the north wall featured an enclosed second story supported on four narrow, turned porch supports on concrete footings. The first floor was open below and two windows on the clapboarded first floor wall were positioned in line with the second floor windows. Between

¹In 1905 the Grange purchased the front (northern) half of this lot and erected the Grange Hall the following year. In 1972 the Grange purchased the back (southern) half of this lot from the defunct VFW post. While there are no distinguishing differences between the two halves of the current parcel, the boundary of the nominated property is limited to the 81 square rod parcel that was obtained in 1905.

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1941 and 1945 a concrete slab was poured, the porch supports were removed and the first floor was enclosed. At the same time a staircase which is accessed from the exterior via the two-leaf door was installed along the western wall. This remodeling accounts for the lack of corresponding two-over-two windows in the northernmost bays of the exterior wall, however a smaller, untrimmed window (now covered with clapboards) was cut into the north bay on the east wall. The enclosure of the first floor created a storage (wood storage) room to the east, as well as a very small, windowless room next to the foot of the staircase. This room can be accessed only through an awkward door located at the base of the stairs.

On the interior both the first and second floors consist of a large central room (represented by the centermost five window bays) flanked on the north and south by ranks of various specialized spaces. On the first floor the large room is the dining room, behind which is the kitchen and hallway to the stair wing to the south, and the lobby, furnace room, wood room and two storage rooms to the north. The dining room is separated from the kitchen by a partition wall cut with a large serving window. Two rows of three braced posts extend longitudinally through the room. A newer, hot air furnace is located adjacent to this window at the south end of the room, and exposed ductwork follows the ceiling to the front of the building. In the 1960s the original tin and wainscot dining room walls were removed, insulation was added, and new walls constructed of pressed fiberboard were constructed. At the same time, a drop ceiling and a new floor of narrow pine were installed, and the support posts and braces were encapsulated with fiberboard panels. During this same period the furnace room, which is another windowless room between the lobby and the storage room under the stairs and still houses the original 'Pipeless Coloric' wood burning furnace, was outfitted with fireproof sheet rock. The kitchen retains early fabric and appliances. The walls are covered with 6" horizontal board sheathing. The ceiling is covered with tin, and underscored by a tin covetto-shaped cornice molding stamped with fleurs-de-lis. A long, shallow tin sink is set into the wooden counter that spans the west wall. Additional furnishings include a mid-century refrigerator, early 20th century enamel wood and kerosene stove, painted free-standing pantry, and a long, Formica-clad table.

On the second floor, the Grange consists of a small lobby and two anterooms in the south, a stage and backstage rooms to the north and the large, light-filled auditorium (or hall) at the center. With the exception of the lobby area adjacent to the stairwell in the southeast corner, each of the upstairs rooms features individual tin ceilings and cornice moldings, plaster walls above stained pine beadboard wainscot and hardwood floors. The southwest anteroom also has a picture rail punctuated at even intervals with coat hooks. Throughout the second floor (and to a great degree on the first floor), the stained doors feature five raised, horizontal panels, and both door and windows are trimmed with stained, low-profile mouldings. The stage occupies the north end of the hall. The proscenium arch is formed by several built up layers of complex, machine-cut mouldings, and the stage apron is fronted with beaded boarding, all stained. Small rooms to the east and west of the stage are accessed by a short flight of stairs in the northeast room and via a narrow passage behind the stage back. The size of the northwest corner room was reduced to accommodate the installation of a staircase to the front of the building. The hall is furnished with early 20th century folding theater seats, an upright piano, as well as pedestal and tables used for Grange functions.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Over the years the town of Oakfield has slowly lost both its agricultural economy and significance as a rail center, but the Oakfield Grange continues to offer a tangible link to this Southern Aroostook town's historical development during the late 19th and 20th century. This large structure with its decorative hall and stage and ample dining facilities was built by the local members of the Patron's of Husbandry during a period that witnessed a marked increase in farming activities in the County and a rapid increase in the town's economic development, and also coincided with the period in which "the Grange in Maine reached full maturity".² Historically and currently, the Oakfield Grange is an important and significant structure at the heart of this community, having been home to fraternal, educational, and civic functions since its construction, as well as serving as the only venue in town large enough to host a continual slate of fairs, performances, special events, and recreational activities. The Oakfield Grange #414 is nominated at the local level of significance to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its important role within the context of Oakfield's social, political, and entertainment-oriented history.

The Oakfield Grange # 414 was organized in 1903 by the farming community of Oakfield, a growing southern Aroostook County farming and railroad town. Prior to 1858, when Township No. 5 Range 3 was surveyed and the first lots offered for sale by the State of Maine, only three families had settled in the area. Thereafter, immigration to the township was rapid and the forested town was cleared for farming. By 1866 the township had prospered to the point that it was able to organize as Oakfield Plantation, and by 1880 there were 720 residents in the town. Although the southern and southeastern portions of the town were "extremely stony, (with) immense granite boulders laying thick upon the surface and greatly interfering with agricultural operations", the northern and northwestern sections were better suited to farming³. Describing the town as thus in the early 1890s, Edward Wiggin, in The History of Aroostook County, was nonetheless optimistic about the future of agriculture in Oakfield, stating "though possessed of a rough and rugged surface in many portions of the town, yet there is much good farming land in the town, and the time may yet come when all the hills, now covered with a lofty forest growth, will be converted into fertile farms, and occupied by a prosperous farming community."⁴

While farming did take hold in Oakfield, the widespread adoption of potato farming, and the vast timberlands located to the north of Oakfield led to the rapid growth of Aroostook County as a whole. Central to this development was the introduction of rail lines in the 1890s. The small rural community of Oakfield became an important Aroostook County railroad center by virtue of its location at the

²Day, page 193.

³Wiggin, page 281.

⁴Ibid, page 291.

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junction of two important rail lines. In 1893 the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad completed a main line from Brownville via Oakfield to Houlton, and a few years later a line was built between Oakfield and Ashland.⁵ A depot was constructed at Oakfield during this period but it was subsequently moved to Smyrna Falls when the present one was built.⁶ Oakfield became an incorporated municipality in 1897, a positive sign of its increased economic importance. In 1900, 860 persons resided in the community and there were two general stores and four small manufactories.⁷ By 1912 there were nearly 1,000 inhabitants.

Not only did the population of the town increase in reaction to this growth, but Oakfield became the transportation hub of southwestern Aroostook County. As such, farmers were provided with convenient transportation to larger market areas in Bangor, Houlton, northern Aroostook and even Canada. The 1911 *Souvenir of Oakfield* recorded the occupations of 228 men in Oakfield: of these 123 were farmers and the majority of the remainder were associated with the railroad.

At the end of the nineteenth century Aroostook County was the fastest growing agricultural region in Maine. During the decade that the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad spread through Aroostook County there was a corresponding increase in the number of farms homesteaded, the value of the farm, and the number of acres of potatoes planted. Between 1890 and 1910 the number of acres planted in potatoes jumped from 16,641 to 75,738. In southern Aroostook County, which had less of a monoculture than central Aroostook County, there were also wide gains in the amount of hay and grain grown. As agriculture thrived, and the railroads provided ready access to far flung markets, the membership in the Patron's of Husbandry also grew. By this time every large agricultural community and most smaller ones in the State hosted a local chapter, and as Edward Wiggins describes Aroostook County was no exception⁸ :

As one would naturally expect from the magnitude and success with which farming is carried on in Aroostook, there would spring up farmer institutions and organizations on an equally large and successful scale. This has been the case, and as a result we find in Aroostook that the Grange is a very numerous body, and very much stronger in its organization, and more aggressive and successful in securing the aims and objects it seeks to accomplish for the welfare of the farming community, than is the case elsewhere in the State, or elsewhere

⁵ Historical background on the state is derived from various unidentified newspaper clippings on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

⁶Lord, p. 19. The Oakfield Railroad Station (NR 87000928), constructed in 1912, is characterized by a gable on hip facade with a centrally placed lunette window that closely matches that on the Oakfield Grange.

⁷ Maine Register, 1900.

⁸For analysis on the widespread distribution of the Grange in Maine see also Day, p. 131, 193.

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in New England. (Wiggin, p. 93).

The history of the Grange has its basis in post-Civil War agricultural crises. The following two paragraphs are from a brochure announcing the photographic exhibit titled: "Ritual and Community: The Maine Grange."

The Grange, or Patrons of Husbandry, is an agriculturally-based secret society founded in 1867. The Order, open to both men and women, was designed to meet the economic, social, and educational needs of a class of Americans - the small farmer - whose day to day lives were being irrevocably transformed in the post-Civil War period. The proliferation of the railroad, the mass production of farm machinery, and the increasing control of a new class of business men known as "speculators" or "middle-men" over the sale and distribution of farm products were a few of the many influences which led to widespread enthusiasm for the Grange in the 1870s. National membership in the Grange grew to over 1 million members in the wake of the 1873 depression, when farmers joined the organization as a means of buying and selling farm goods at wholesale prices. In the mid-1870s, membership plummeted as most Grange cooperative ventures failed to meet members' expectations.

By the 1880s, however, Grange membership in Maine was on the increase, part of what has been dubbed "the second Grange movement" centered in the Northeast; by 1887, Maine had the largest Grange membership in the nation. The focus of the second movement was an emphasis on the Grange's educational and social benefits. (Brown, 1922)

The local or subordinate hall was the focus for most of the activities of the Grange. Each of these structures featured large gathering rooms where the rituals and meetings were held, and many also contained a stage and / or a dining room. As explained by Charles M. Gardner in The Grange-Friend of the Farmer, the Grange is

...a symbol of the progress rural families have made in the past eighty years as the result of "meeting together, talking together, working together, buying together, selling together, and in general acting together" for their "mutual protection and advancement, as occasion may requirs".

In Grange halls farm families share their social activities, discuss their mutual problems, plan programs and fearlessly face conditions which call for skillful leadership, and out of which many a betterment project is evolved.

Here in these meeting halls, rural people through their Granges have formulated and carried out projects of far-reaching effect to themselves and to their city neighbors. Starting in Grange meetings, often in good-natured discussion, have been such great undertakings as delivery of mail to farm homes, rural electrification, improved highways, better schools and countless other worthy achievements, which perhaps never would have been attempted but

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for the nucleus of promotion created in alert Subordinate Granges. (Gardner, pp. 366-367.)

For the members of the Oakfield Maine, one of the biggest advantages to membership was the opportunity to shop at the Houlton Grange store. Located fifteen miles to the east, the Houlton Grange, founded first in 1874 and re-established in 1898, was the largest Grange in the United States, with a membership that reached 1200. Until it burned in 1966, the Grange store in Houlton offered area Grange members the opportunity to cooperatively purchase farming equipment and supplies as well as dry goods and groceries at discount.⁹

Upon forming, the Oakfield Grange initially met in the Knights of the Maccabees Hall, located just to the east of where the Grange Hall is now located. The large, two story Maccabees Hall was built in 1897, and in 1904 Grange journals indicate that the Patron's of Husbandry first rented the Maccabees Hall for thirteen dollars a month before negotiating a lease of the building at \$50 annually. At the same time, the Grangers voted to form a stock company in order to raise funds to build their own hall. Planning for the structure was undertaken in the summer of 1904. Initially the footprint building was to be 24 x 40 feet with 20' posts: this was quickly enlarged to 30 x 60 feet with twenty-one foot posts. In the summer of 1905 an 81 square rod lot on the south side of Main Street (Ridge Road) was purchased and the organization started collecting building materials. At the meetings the members discussed raising funds and "voted to buy all the long lumber that the Grange has funds to pay for. Voted that the Grange accept all loans in money, labor and lumber and reimburse the loaners within a reasonable time."¹⁰ The design of the Grange Hall was developed by a building committee, and its construction was a cooperative endeavor, with each man in the Grange required to 'give a days work on building the hall'.¹¹ After two years of planning and gathering materials the Grange voted to raise the hall on October 25, 1906, although a later notation indicated that the raising was delayed until November due to storms in October.

The records of the Oakfield Grange do not reflect the discussions of the Building Committee, but the organization of the building's spaces incorporate the basic design philosophy for Grange Halls as published in Grange handbooks. While the presence of a stage was not required (although most eventually featured a stage or raised dais), the inclusion of an anteroom through which members entered the meeting hall was a key ritualistic component of the buildings. It is not clear, however, whether the stage was an original component of the design in Oakfield, or an addition. While there is no recorded discussion regarding the stage, the manner in which it was appended to the second floor and supported below only on wooden posts, along with breaks in the cornice and soffit trim, suggest that its construction superceded the erection of the rest of the building. However, the stage was

⁹Gwadosky Press Release, 1998.

¹⁰Grange Records, Oakfield Grange. May 26, August 25, September 1, September 7, 1904 and June 21, 1905. Quote from September 1, 1904.

¹¹Grange Records, Oakfield Grange, July 28, 1906.

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completed by the time a post-card photograph was taken of the Grange and Maccabees Halls in 1910. Shortly thereafter the Knights of the Maccabees Hall had been converted to apartments and this organization was also meeting at the Grange, as was the Orange Lodge (Loyal Orange Institution/ International Order of Orange Men), and starting in 1912, the Odd Fellows. Of these fraternal groups the Odd Fellows association with this building was the longest. They continued to meet at the Grange Hall until 1952, and the small windowless room at the base of the northwest staircase still stores their regalia and equipment.

The presence of the stage at the Oakfield Grange, as well as the large auditorium, spacious dining room and convenient kitchen elevated the function of the building from simply the meeting hall of a fraternal organization to the social, civic and governmental center of the town. In short, it was the only large hall in Oakfield. Commencing in 1910 and continuing annually until 1964 (and sporadically thereafter), the Town Meetings and local, state and national polling were held in the Grange Hall.¹² Public suppers, often of oyster stew, accompanied the Town meetings. In addition to other area fraternal organizations, the Oakfield community utilizes the hall for receptions, fairs, weddings, reunions, family and community parties, dances, band rehearsals, and public performances. Indeed, the enclosure of the first floor under the stage, and the installation of the staircase to the Hall between 1941 and 1945 enabled the building to be used by more than one group at a time, and provided a second means of egress during well attended functions, such as the USO dances that were held at the Grange during World War II.¹³ When the Oakfield High School formed in 1935 basketball nets were installed on the second floor of the Grange Hall, which was used as the school gymnasium until 1970. The stage hosted annual one-act plays and elocution contests, as well as dramatic, choral and musical performances for the school. The names of many of the participants in these events are inscribed on the backs of the stage walls. Even after the town built a new high school with a gymnasium and auditorium in 1971 the Grange Hall continued to host an annual Children's theater group each summer through the decade.¹⁴

According to current Grange members, farming declined rapidly in the 1980s, and presently there is only one full time farmer in Oakfield. Although freight traffic still travels through town, passenger cars stopped coming to the Oakfield rail station in 1957. With convenient access via Interstate 95 to Houlton, the County seat, much of the commercial and industrial enterprise that once characterized

¹²In 1922 the Town Meeting was held at the Martin Theater, a short-lived establishment that, when it closed, donated to the Grange the folding theater seats still used in the hall.

¹³An inscription scratched on the wall of the northwest room behind the stage is dated 1941. This inscription is partially obscured by framing for the stairwell indicating it was written before the staircase was installed. Although the Grange records for this period could not be located, the staircase and lower level were present when a current member joined the Oakfield Grange in 1945.

¹⁴Grange records frequently note the rental of the hall to community groups and families for various events.

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the town has left, and it now functions primarily as a bedroom community. With fewer than a dozen members, the Oakfield Grange struggles to maintain its large building, yet the members are mindful that for much of the 20th century the Oakfield Grange Hall #414 served as the fraternal, cultural, and civic center of Oakfield, and as such, demonstrates the building's important purpose throughout its period of significance.

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Records of the Oakfield Grange, #414, Patron's of Husbandry, 1904-2006. Located at the Oakfield Grange, Oakfield, Maine.

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Wiggin, Edward. History of Aroostook. (Presque Isle, Maine: Star-Herald Press), 1922.

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OAKFIELD GRANGE # 414

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Oakfield Grange, # 414 currently owns a town lot containing six-tenths of an acre as described by the Town of Oakfield tax map number 17, lot 47. This lot was acquired in two stages. In 1905 the Grange purchased the front (northern) half of this lot and erected the Grange Hall the following year. In 1972 the Grange purchased the back (southern) half of this lot from the defunct VFW post. While there are no distinguishing differences between the two halves of the current parcel, the boundary of the nominated property is limited to the parcel that was obtained in 1905. This lot, which measured 9 rods to a side and contained 81 square rods, is described in the deed from Samuel White to the Oakfield Grange #414, June 1, 1905 and recorded in the Aroostook County Registry of Deeds, Book 223 page 593.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above referenced boundary, dating to 1905, contains all the property that has been historically associated with the Oakfield Grange, # 414 during its period of significance.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 3.
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
16 June 2005
North facade and east elevation; facing southwest.

Photograph 2 of 3.
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
16 June 2005
Interior of hall with stage; facing northeast.

Photograph 3 of 3.
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
6 April 2006
Interior, first floor kitchen; facing west.