

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 2 1976  
DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Louis I. Bussey School

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

US 202

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dixmont Gortner

\_\_VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd Hon. William Cohen

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Penobscot

CODE

019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>social</u>

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dixmont Ladies Club

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Dixmont

\_\_VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Penobscot County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bangor

STATE

Maine

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

With the rise of free public education in the early nineteenth century, the one room schoolhouse became a salient feature of the rural American landscape. The Louis I. Bussey Schoolhouse in Dixmont, Maine, is a building which has its very basis in the public education movement of that time. Built circa 1808 as a small clapboarded, one story, gable roofed structure, this schoolhouse was remodeled, twenty-eight years later in the Greek Revival style, a prevalent motif of the time.

Bilateral symmetry, a portico across the entire front, a roof of moderate pitch, trabeated doors and windows, lack of external ornament on small buildings, and wooden structures invariably painted white, are the hallmarks of the Greek Revival tradition. The Bussey Schoolhouse exemplifies each of these characteristics.

A temple-like open portico was added in 1836 by extending the triangular portion of the northerly facing gable facade. This is supported in the center and at each end by simple posts. Pilasters at each front corner of the actual structure seem to support the portico where they join together. Two large doors punctuate the front facade, emphasizing the building's symmetrical shape. Each door is framed by five small panes of glass on either side, plus a simple architrave. Each side of the building is divided into three bays of windows. A small chimney straddles the roof ridge at the southern end.

Rather than carrying the cornice molding completely around the building and thereby creating a large pediment on the gable sides as was typical in Greek Revival architecture the boxed cornice is brought only slightly around the corners before returning up the slope of the gable. Still, the Greek Revival intent is apparent. Since this style of architecture often denoted grandeur, liberalism, and a growing awareness of democratic heritage, these Greek Revival gestures may have derived from the community's desire to proclaim a degree of prosperity that it had achieved.

As a predecessor of present--day public schools, and as an example of popular architectural motif of the nineteenth century, the Louis I. Bussey Schoolhouse remains today as an important transitional link in the evolution of New England educational architecture.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present town of Dixmont was originally one of the five townships granted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1794, to the trustees of Bowdoin College for the support of that institution. After receiving the deed, the trustees in due time sold the major portion of what was then called Collegetown to Dr. Elijah Dix of Boston for \$21,431, the conveyance being dated July 12, 1801.

Some settlement had already begun and the town grew rapidly taking the name Dixmont in honor of the proprietor and by virtue of the hilly terrain in the vicinity. Dr. Dix took great interest in the development of the town, making frequent trips from Boston to Dixmont in his two wheeled chaise, an arduous journey indeed. It was while on such a visit in 1809 that he was taken sick and died, his remains being interred in the town cemetery with an appropriately marked tombstone.

Such was his concern with the welfare of the town, that in 1808 he contributed a sum of money to the town for the erection of five schoolhouses, the one at Dixmont Corner, District # 2 being the sole survivor.

Of interest, as a sidelight is the fact that Dr. Dix married Dorothy Lynde and sired a large family. One of his sons, Joseph, was the father of Dorothea Lynde Dix, the noted reformer and pioneer in the humanitarian treatment of the mentally ill.

The Louis I. Bussey School, which was so named for a later community benefactor, is now a social center owned by the Dixmont Ladies Club. It stands as a reminder of the paternal concern of Dr. Dix, a land proprietor of unusual vision for his time.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Llewellyn P. and Eleanor A. Toothaker, The History of Dixmont, Maine, 1976.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 487130 4947250  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C         

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian  
Stephen Kaplan, Graduate Assistant  
 ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE July, 1976  
 STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE 207-289-1233  
 CITY OR TOWN Augusta, STATE Maine

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Earle S. Shettleworth, Jr.

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE July 26, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: [Signature] DATE 11/9/96  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 11/2/76