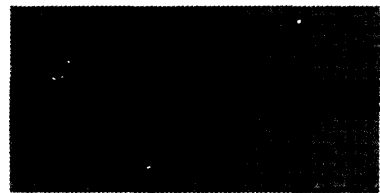


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



83

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Old Saco High School (old)
and/or common Sweetser School

2. Location

street & number Spring Street N/A not for publication
city, town Saco, N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~
state Maine code 23 county York code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Apartments

4. Owner of Property

name Gavin Ruotelo
street & number 7 Oak Hill Terrace
city, town Scarborough, N/A vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Registry of Deeds
street & number
city, town Alfred, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no
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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Saco High School is a two-and-one-half story brick building of rectangular dimension, surmounted by a slated pitched roof. The facade, a long side facing Spring Street, is arranged symmetrically with a raised pavilion in the central bay. A round-arched entry-way framed by raised granite quoins punctuates the pavilion's base. The pavilion has a concave mansard roof sited perpendicularly to the main roof, so that its uppermost story has the effect of a raised dormer. A second pavillion, identical to the first except that it lacks entry or fenestration, adjoins the opposite long wall. The main roof was originally crowned by an elaborate Italianate open cupola, since removed.

The building has a beveled granite base and slightly overhanging wooden eaves, which carry around the gable ends. The eaves contain small florally-carved brackets and dentils, and a dentiled brick course runs beneath them. The building's corners are slightly raised.

Excluding the pavilions, the long sides are divided into four window bays, the short sides three. The lintels of the first-floor windows are round-arched with keystones, those of the second story are segmental. The facade pavilion is lighted laterally by narrow windows, while a doubled arched window stands above the entrance, and a small semi-circular window occupies the gable. Doubled-arched windows with elaborate wooden frames repose in the gable ends.

The window openings are presently boarded over. They originally contained 6/6 double sash windows.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1871-72 **Builder/Architect** George M. Harding

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Old High School is probably Saco's finest Victorian public building, and one of York County's more important school buildings of the later half of the nineteenth century. Probably the last of many public schools designed by the noted Portland architect George M. Harding, the building's clear proportions and restrained but precise detail mark it among the architect's most enduring public buildings.

Harding had used the general configuration of the school in a number of previous plans, including that of the J. Winslow Jones House in Portland (1871, since destroyed) and, most noticeably, Searsport High School (1870). Saco High is distinguished, however, by an unusually clear articulation of parts, the pavilions (stairwells) coming full forward of the main building. The work has a pleasing clarity not often associated with Harding, one of Maine's most grandiloquent Victorian architects.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Fairfield, Roy P., Sands, Spindles and Steeples. Portland, Maine, 1956

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Old Orchard Beach

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	8	2	6	6	0	4	8	1	7	4	1	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map No. 38, Lot 278

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 Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Comm. date April, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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. Holtzworth

title S.H.P.O.

date 5/27/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/14/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration