



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.
DIRECTOR

26 June 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

In September of 2008 the Maine Historic Preservation Commission was contacted by a resident of the Town of Bristol regarding whether the Russell Parish House, owned by the Congregational Church in Bristol Mills, might qualify as a 'historic property.' In order to determine if the property was eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (the historic property recognition program managed by this office) the Commission contacted the Bristol Historical Society and asked if they would provide historical information and photographs of the building. Based on the information they submitted in January of 2009 the Commission feels that the Parish House does not individually meet the National Register of Historic Places Criterial of Eligibility, copy enclosed.

The Commission has been involved with the Bristol Historical Society's architectural surveys of Round Pond Village and Bristol Mills since 2003. In order to determine if the Parish House might be eligible for listing in the National Register within a historic district, the Commission also requested and received copies of the completed architectural survey forms for properties over 50 years of age within the nucleus of the village of Bristol Mills. After examining this information I am pleased to say that in our judgement, there is a historic district in Bristol Mills that fulfills the eligibility requirements of the National Register of Historic Places. The Milton Russell Parish House would qualify as a contributing resource within this historic district, should it ever be nominated. A preliminary map of the eligible historic district and a list of the properties within the district are enclosed for your information.

The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's list of those properties that retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, association and feeling, and which are significant within the fields of architecture, archaeology, engineering, culture or history. The National Register program, which was started in 1966, contains over 78,000 listings; however the effects of being listed are widely misunderstood. Listing in the National Register honors a property or district by recognizing its importance to its community, State, or the Nation; it **does not** require owners to open their properties to the public, to restore them, or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so. Owners can do anything they wish with their property provided that no Federal license, permit, or funding is involved. However, one of the goals of the program is to encourage property owners to understand the history of their property, how their property reflects historic patterns of design, settlement, or function, and to encourage them to explore avenues for adapting historic properties for new or continuing uses. Although the



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Parish House has been altered, its size, massing, location, and detailing still convey its historic function as one of the village's last 19th century commercial buildings. The Commission understands that the owners of this property are considering replacing this property with a new parish hall. Doing so will remove one of the last physical vestiges of the period when Bristol Mills functioned as a self-sufficient village, and would have an unfortunate effect on the character of the village and the eligible historic district.

The Commission has no immediate plans to nominate any Bristol Mills Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places; however, we would be pleased to discuss the procedure should the property owners and residents of Bristol Mills wish to pursue district listing. In the meantime, the property will be included in the Maine Historic Resources Inventory which will provide the same protection as if it were already listed in the National Register.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Christi A. Mitchell
National Register Coordinator

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Bristol Mills Historic District

Preliminary Eligible Property List

Map #	Address	Property Name	Contributing?
B-1	1268 Bristol Road	Bristol Town Hall	y
B-2	1276 Bristol Road	Drummond House	y
B-3	1284 Bristol Road		y
B-4	1290 Bristol Road	Weeks House	y
B-5	1320 Bristol Road	Seaside Grange #171	y
B-7	1325 Bristol Road	Poor Farm/Sproul House	y
B-8	1311 Bristol Road		y
B-9	1297 Bristol Road	1812 Farm	y
B-10		Bristol Mills Cemetary	y
B-11	1283 Bristol Road		y
B-12	8 Longfellow School Road	Parsonage House	y
B-13	17 Longfellow School Road	Longfellow School	y
B-14	1267 Bristol Road	Bristol Diner	y?
B-15	1263 Bristol Road	Milton Russell Parish House	y
B-16	1261 Bristol Road	First Congregational Church	y
B-17	1255 Bristol Road		y
B-18	1253 Bristol Road		y
B-19	1249 Bristol Road	US Post Office	n
B-20	1245 Bristol Road		y
B-21	1241 Bristol Road	Prentice House	y
B-22	1233 Bristol Road		y
B-23	1225 Bristol Road		n?
B-24	1215 Bristol Road		y
B-25	? Form missing.		?
B-28	33 Benner Road		y
-	Benner Road Arch Bridge	NR listed.	
B-29	42 Benner Road		y

Bristol Mills Historic District

Preliminary Eligible Property List

B-30	1204 Bristol Road	Masonic Lodge #54	y
B-30	1206 Bristol Road		y
B-31	1212 Bristol Road		y
B-32	11 Bristol Dam Loop		y
B-33	? Form missing.		
B-34	? Form missing.		
B-35	4 Redonnet Mill Road		y?
B-36	5 Redonnet Mill Road		y?
B-37	1242 Bristol Road	Tibbetts Farm	y?
B-38	1258 Bristol Road		n
B-39	1250 Bristol Road		y
B-40	4 Upper Round Pond Road		y
B-41	Upper Round Pond Road	Herbert Grave Yard	y
B-42	18 Upper Round Pond Road		y
B-43	24 Upper Round Pond Road		y
B-44	28 Upper Round Pond Road		y
B-45	42 Upper Round Pond Road	Drummond Farm	y
B-46	23 Upper Round Pond Road		y
B-47	19 Upper Round Pond Road		y?
B-48	? Form missing.		
B-49	? Upper Round Pond Road	Former CMP Power house	n
B-50	? Upper Round Pond Road	C.C. Robbins Saw Mill site (ruins)	y?
B-6	Map 8 Lot 68	Old Town Pound (needs further research	?

Boundary of National Register of Historic Places eligible
Bristol Mills Historic District.



Boundaries are preliminary and subject to revision after further research.

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Community Planning and Development, Commerce,
Industry

Period of Significance: Approximately 1790 to 1930.

27 February 2009
EGS, KFM, CAM