



Webster Grammar School

Auburn, Maine

*National Register Nomination**

Sutherland Conservation & Consulting researched and wrote the National Register nomination for the Webster Grammar School in Auburn, Maine in 2010. The school is significant for its architecture and as the first junior high school in New England.

The school was designed by Harry S. Coombs, local architect, in the Colonial Revival Style and constructed in 1915-16. The design bridges the transition in educational philosophy with a new emphasis on practical studies, while meeting the needs of the community, which was growing rapidly in the early 20th century.

During this time that the quality of education was being scrutinized and newly constructed schools were outfitted with resources to teach manual arts courses. The creation of the Junior High was meant to strengthen the curriculum.

Gender-divided spaces followed the earlier structure of school organization, but the plan also called for classrooms specifically for courses such as domestic science, wood working, and a machine shop. The incorporation of these rooms with standard classrooms was an innovation reflecting the changing values in education.

*SCC prepared the National Register Nomination of this property in conjunction with a certified historic tax credit rehabilitation project.

