

PH0354350

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 15 1977
DATE ENTERED MAY 26 1977

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

**

St. Cyril and St. Methodius Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main and High Streets

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lisbon Falls

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd, Hon. William Cohen

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Androscoggin

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Roman Catholic Diocese of Maine

STREET & NUMBER

510 Ocean Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Portland

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed by Addison D. Pulsifer of Lewiston and built in 1923-4 in Lisbon Falls, the Church of St. Cyril and St. Methodius is a grand example of neo-Gothic in a small town context. The structure is one-storied of brick with a slate-covered gable roof. Square two-story towers flank the entrance.

The main facade is dominated by a huge Gothic arch outlined in stone which encloses a pair of double doors. These in turn are framed in Gothic arches. Above each double door within the arch is a circle with a plain cross and within the great arch enclosing all is a larger repetition of this circle and cross motif. High above in the gable is a rose window. A simple cross sits atop the peak.

The square towers which flank the entrance are identical on the first story, each of the two exposed sides on each featuring twin Gothic windows, each with six sections. The second stories are not identical. The right-hand tower has a single Gothic window on each of the three exposed sides. The left-hand tower has three Gothic windows on each side, each one recessed within a brick panel. The windows on the rear side are bricked-in.

The external sides of the nave are identical, each featuring 3 pairs of Gothic windows and at the rear end of each side a pair of smaller windows.

At the rear of the nave is a three-sided oratory, on the sides of which are single Gothic windows. There is no window at the end of the oratory.

Internally, the Church of St. Cyril and St. Methodius is open, not separated into nave and aisles.

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) immigration
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1926 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Addison D. Pulsifer

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The story of the Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius Church, and of the only Slovak community in Maine, at Lisbon Falls, is essentially a microcosm of the late 19th century immigrant experience in America. The church structure, by no means an outstanding architectural achievement, nevertheless possesses a kind of stubborn solidity which reflects the tenacious determination of a small ethnic enclave to survive in alien surroundings and preserve its integrity.

Well before the beginning of this century the original immigrants of Slovak nationality arrived in the United States from that part of Central Europe which was known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They were motivated, as were many other incoming groups by hopes of economic opportunity and, in their particular case, a desire to avoid the almost universal military conscription to which they were subjected. For the most part they were Catholics belonging either to the Latin Rite or the Eastern Rite of the Church.

Arriving first in New York and settling there and in New Jersey, small groups later began to migrate to various smaller manufacturing centers where employment opportunities existed. One such group came in the late 1890's to Lisbon Falls where the great Worumbo Mill, producing textiles, was experiencing a period of prosperous expansion.

From the beginning, the new arrivals, at first eager to participate in and amalgamate with their new community, were subject to prejudice and alienation, particularly from older immigrant groups among the mill worker population. These attitudes quickly turned the Slovaks into a tightly knit ethnic body determined to preserve its cultural and religious entity. Very shortly after their arrival they began to join various national Slovak fraternal societies, such as the First Catholic Slovak Union of America--called by them the Jednota Society. Eventually they formed a completely local group, the Slovak Catholic Association of Lisbon Falls.

Religion and religious practice created the greatest difficulties which confronted the Slovak community. They were grudgingly permitted to attend the Holy Family Catholic Church in Lisbon Falls, but were forced to sit only in the rear pews. Many of the practices of this

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Plummer, Francis W., Lisbon, The History of a Small Maine Town
(Lewiston, 1970).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	415100	4872080	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				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
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE 207-289-2133

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE Earle S. Fittswood Jr.

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE January 17, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Charles A. Williams</u>	DATE <u>5-28-77</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	Acting Keeper of National Register
ATTEST <u>Hery Ward Javel</u>	DATE <u>5/24/77</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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church were alien to them and, because of the language barrier, they were able to participate in confession only when it was administered by an occasional visiting Slovak priest.

Finally, although living at the edge of poverty, they concluded to erect a church of their own outside the Diocesan authority. For this they were branded as independents and threatened with excommunication. Nevertheless, they persevered and each family pledged what was to them an enormous sum of \$100. By good fortune they found a friend in Lewiston banker, Henry Coolidge, who, on the basis of these pledges arranged a bank loan of \$10,000 and, on his personal note, raised an additional equal amount.

With this financial base, construction was begun in 1923. The foundation was entirely dug with contributed Slovak labor and the men of the church continued to give their services whenever possible during the progress of the work. Finally, in September 1926, the dedication of the church took place under the leadership of its first pastor, the Reverend Honorius Frastacky. The name chosen for the church was derived from two brothers, Saints Cyril and Methodius who were missionary apostles to the Slavic Nations in the 9th century and whose teachings and works still survive.

For ten years the church maintained a separate existence outside the Diocese of Maine. In 1936, however, with the consecration of a new bishop, a reconciliation took place and the building became church property. In March, 1949, the parish was given into the care of O. F. M. Conventuals. The church now serves 150 families including about 450 individual members.

Now firmly established as a religious entity within the Lisbon Falls community, St. Cyril and St. Methodius Church is an enduring testament to the determination of a particular group of immigrants to find their place in American society and, as such, represents the aspirations and achievements of immigrant peoples on a national scale.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
6972 II
LEWISTON

FREEPORT QUADRANGLE
MAINE
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7072 II
(GARDNER)



St. Cyril & St. Methodius C
UTM Reference
19/415100/4872680

ISWICK (JUNC. U.S. 2011) 1.7 MI.
BATH 9.4 MI.

TOPSHAM 2.7 MI.
BRUNSWICK (JUNC. U.S. 11) 3.7 MI.

420 000
FEET
4871
4870
4867

44° 00'
70° 00'