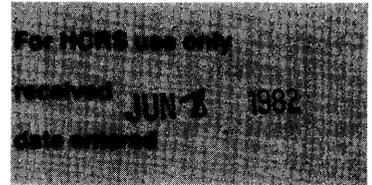


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Readfield Union Meeting House (Preferred)

and/or common Brick Church

2. Location

street & number Church Road N/A not for publication

city, town Readfield N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county Kennebec code 011

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input 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 checked="" 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees of the Brick Church Corporation

street & number P. O. Box 8

city, town Readfield, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04355

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Augusta, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Union Meeting House of Readfield, Maine, built in 1828, is a distinctive example of a Federal style rural church.

The building is of brick construction with a facade tower of frame construction and clapboard siding. The facade, which faces east, is three bays wide, the central bay being the projecting tower (which is squared in plan). In the first story the tower contains an arched and recessed 9/9 window, while in the second story is a circular clock face with Roman numerals on each side. Above the tower's second story is an octagonal belfry with louvered openings flanked by Doric pilasters. The roof above the belfry is of bell-cast form. The first-story facade bays flanking the tower are arched panelled doors, while there are arched and recessed double-hung windows.

The sides of the church are six bays long, each bay being arched and recessed 9/9 windows or double-hung stained-glass windows.

The interior of the church features detailed and finely executed trompe l'oeil painting on all four walls and the ceiling of the sanctuary.

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 checked="" 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 1828 **Builder/Architect** Richard Mace, Jere Page, Francis Hunt

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1828 by the subscription ^{of} 43 members, the Readfield Union Meeting House is a handsome late Federal brick church unusually refined for such a rural context. Of even greater significance is the trompe l'oeil painting on the interior which is unsurpassed in Maine in technique and imagination. *of the 1870's*

One source has claimed that this work could only have been executed by Shoemaker of Boston. The style, however, is similar, though more detailed, to that found in the church at Norlands in Livermore (N.R. 12-30-69). This work is documented as being that of Valentine Keiler of Portland. It is known that Anson Morrill, an active member of the Readfield Church, was a close friend of Governor Israel Washburn, one of the seven Washburn brothers of Norlands, who commissioned Keiler to do the frescoes there.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Reflections of Readfield, Bicentennial Commission of Readfield, Maine.
Farmington, Maine, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4
Quadrangle name Readfield

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 1 9	4 2 2 9 7 5	4 9 1 5 3 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 16, Lot 11A

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	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 April, 1982

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earle S. Feltmeyer* date 6/2/82

title S.H.P.O.

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>Albous Byers</i></u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>7/8/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	