

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

RECEIVED

SEP 22 2014 RECEIVED 2280



1. Name of Property

Historic name: New Castle Congregational Church

Other names/site number: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 65 Main Street

City or town: New Castle State: NH County: Rockingham

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

		<u>12/11/14</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>SHPO</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	

Signature of commenting official:	Date

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Jan Eason R. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2-2-15
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- RELIGION/religious facility
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- GOVERNMENT/post office
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- RELIGION/religious facility

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DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
GOVERNMENT/post office_
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Weatherboard

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The New Castle Congregational Church is situated on a 2.1-acre lot on the main street in the town center of New Castle. The town of New Castle is an island at the mouth of Portsmouth Harbor. The island is densely settled and features narrow winding streets with many early nineteenth-century houses built right on the edge of the pavement. The center of the town holds, besides the church, the town post office, the late nineteenth-century town hall, a modern fire station, and a small eighteenth-century cemetery of the Frost family. The rocky church lot is bounded on the north side by 199 feet of frontage on State Route 1B and on the east by a 201-foot driveway shared with the Town Hall and the Fire Station next door. The property contains five contributing resources: the church building connected to a modern parish hall by a short passageway, a parsonage built in 1904, a detached garage, and a small cape-style building which houses the New Castle Post Office. A lawn surrounds the church and separates it from the parsonage, which stands behind the church, and from the Post Office in the northwest corner of the lot. On the lawn on the east side of the church is a gazebo which resembles the steeple of the church. A large cedar tree shades the northeast corner of the church, and a small grove of trees and bushes is located in the southwest corner of the lawn. Across Main Street is a small

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walled cemetery owned by the town containing the graves of some eighteenth-century New Castle residents, including one minister.

Narrative Description

Church (1828-1836)

Begun in 1828, the New Castle Congregational Church, an example of the transitional Federal/Greek Revival style, sits on a fieldstone and granite-block foundation. The wall cladding is white-painted wooden clapboards, of which more than half are original, identified by their surviving scarfed joints. The gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. On the front, or north side, the gabled façade is partially covered by a shallow pavilion with a flat parapet. This three-bay pavilion projects only six inches from the building, is framed separately, and is fastened to the frame of the church by large iron bolts. The parapet is finished with a coved molding, which is repeated on the eaves of the other three sides of the building. Spaced evenly across the pavilion are three original six-panel doors with rectangular transoms above. Above each door is a tall round-top twelve-over-twelve sash window which actually projects above the attic floor. Old granite-block steps lead up to the doors from a brick walkway.

A large square platform rises over the north façade supporting a belfry in the form of an irregular octagon of four long sides alternating with shorter panels. The longer sides have arched openings with wood moldings, made to resemble a stonework arch with a keystone and an impost on each side. Each aperture has a low balustrade, behind which the bell, made by Blake Bell Company of Boston in 1891, is visible. The alternating short sides have flat pilasters at each corner, with the same coved molding as the eaves forming the capital. The rounded octagonal cap mirrors the sections below. This same coved molding forms the cornice below the cap. Above the cap rises a short finial surmounted by a ball and weather vane. In 2007 the belfry cap and finial were removed from the church and replaced with a fiberglass replica molded from the original elements. This was done to facilitate the installation of a cell-phone antenna operated by T-Mobile. As a result of the review of the telecommunications project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 a memorandum of agreement was signed that required the preservation of the original belfry cap and its restoration to its original location when the cell tower lease expires.¹ The original weathervane was refurbished and replaced on the new cap. In 2013 the original belfry cap was placed on a gazebo built on the lawn to the east of the church.

The east wall of the church consists of two rows of four twelve-over-eight sash windows. The windows have simple flat surrounds with molded edges and, as in the rest of the church, are original, as is most of the glass, with unobtrusive storm windows installed on the outside. The coved molding continues along the eaves. Along the foundation is a large stone planter, added in 1994. The south (rear) elevation contains two evenly spaced sixteen-over-twelve windows with round tops. Between them is an exterior brick chimney that rises above a modern concrete-block building with a flat roof and three rectangular windows on the long side that stretches the full width of the church. This addition contains the furnace for the church building. Beside the chimney is a clapboarded box for the antenna cables. The cables run from the church across the roof of the furnace room and down into an open enclosure with a stockade fence within which is the mechanicals for the cell-phone tower. This fenced area is bounded on the north by the concrete addition and by the steps leading to the Parish Hall on the west. The west wall of the church originally mirrored the east wall. However, about 1965 the lower south window was replaced by a door, which leads into a short passageway to the parish house.

¹ Letter from James McConaha, NH State Historic Preservation Officer, describing stipulations arising from the Section 106 historic preservation review of the cell tower project, August 11, 2006.

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Each window on the church, except for the south elevation, was fitted with exterior louvered blinds, probably installed during the mid-nineteenth century. The dark-green blinds have been recently restored and replaced on the church building.

The church is entered from the north side. The three entry doors open into a narrow vestibule lit only by the transoms over the doors. From this narrow space parishioners enter the main sanctuary by two doors, set on either side of an alcove in the main hall, the back of which projects into the vestibule. At either of the vestibule is a steep curving stairway leading to the galleries above. Under the east stair is the door to the cellar stairs, and under the west is a small closet. Each wall under the stairs is paneled with vertical bead board sheathing. The rest of the walls are plastered. The plaster has been given a modern textured surface but retains its original sawn lath. The lath is visible in the closet and on the stairway to the cellar.

The main church hall is entered from behind the blocks of original box pews. The pews are set out with a double rank in the center with an aisle on either side and a single rank along the side walls. At the front (south end) two short ranks of pews, known colloquially as "amen pews," face the central pulpit on each side. Except for the front center and the amen blocks, each pew has an original door. The doors have a small raised panel above a long panel, and each is numbered. The panels are fielded with a ninety-degree rabbet in the Greek Revival manner. The walls of the room are sheathed from the floor to the top of the pews with wide boards set horizontally with a beaded molding at the joints. Above the wainscot the wall is plastered. The window frames are fluted with an impost at each upper corner. Each window on the lower level has interior folding shutters. Reproduction tin lanterns are suspended from the fronts of the three galleries, while similar sconces light the back alcove and the galleries.

In the center of the south wall is the pulpit set on a square platform which rises forty-eight inches above the floor and is reached by a flight of steps with a railing on each side. Behind this platform and between the two round-top windows is a projection five inches in depth that extends to the ceiling. There was apparently never any decoration on this plastered wall. The back wall of the enclosed pulpit meets this wall and is horizontally sheathed. On the front of the pulpit is a marble tablet listing ministers of the town church from 1703 to 1792. Its frame is mahogany veneer, and it appears to have been simply added to the front of the original pulpit, since behind the tablet one may see the same horizontal sheathing with a beaded molding which characterizes the pews. The side walls and doors of the pulpit are decorated with painted graining, which was probably done when the tablet was installed in 1852. The pulpit is surrounded on three sides by a shallow platform raised 9 1/2 inches above the main floor.

At the back of the church hall, between the two doors opening into the vestibule, is a shallow alcove intended to accommodate a stove. Evidence in the ceiling shows that a stove pipe once passed through it, and records of the Society reveal that a stove was contemplated as early as 1836 when the church was still unfinished inside.² Across this back wall are mounted four bronze memorial tablets.

The coved ceiling and the underside of the galleries are covered with pressed tin, which was added in 1897. In the center of the ceiling is a pattern of rectangular coffers, while at the sides and under the galleries a smaller, more delicate pattern of squares appears.

There are galleries on three sides of the church. The front of each side gallery has three simple rectangular recessed panels and is finished with a coved molding. The center gallery, being narrower, has two panels. The galleries are supported by Tuscan columns without bases. The galleries are reached by the steep staircase at either end of the vestibule. At the top of each staircase is a plain railing with square balusters. A door directly ahead and one to the side lead to the side and center galleries. Beside the door to the center gallery another door leads into a room over the vestibule, which the records call the vestry. The doors into the galleries are paneled

² Records of the New Castle Congregational Society, January 14, 1836.

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like the doors below. The east entry into the vestry is like the other doors, but the west door is of a later Victorian pattern. The vestry corresponds to the vestibule below. Besides the doors at each end, a large Victorian double door opens to the center gallery. Here the ceiling is tin of the same design as below the galleries but finished with a cornice of an egg and dart pattern. A large patch over the double doors marks where the stovepipe from below passed through to the attic. The floor is of the original wide pine boards now partially covered by 1930s linoleum. The three windows on the front of the church extend above the ceiling, as indicated earlier. In the corner by the east wall is a hatch in the ceiling that leads to the attic. Outside the east door bell ropes from the belfry descend through holes in the ceiling.

The east and west galleries have changed little from the time of building. The three blocks of long pews of vertical beaded sheathing now lack the original doors but are otherwise unchanged. The pew ends are decorated with an ogee crest. There are two blocks of two pews and one of three pews adjoining the pulpit wall of the church all of which face toward the center of the church. In each block the back pew is raised nine inches above the one in front. The third, or top, pew on each side is longer than the others and extends a few inches across the first window from the south side. The windows in the galleries are framed like the windows below, but the tops of the frames are now partly covered by the tin ceiling. The center gallery is only five feet deep and contains no pews.

On the west side of the church is a rectangular building (c.1965-69) that houses a kitchen, activity rooms, and a large Parish Hall. This modern clapboarded addition is connected to the church by a short passageway with two steps down to the level of the west side of the church. This passageway contains a hallway from which opens the kitchen and two restrooms. Just beyond this corridor are stairs leading down to a basement with four activity rooms. In 1969 a single-story modular hall was erected on the platform above the activity rooms. The exterior of this wing, like the church itself, is clad with white-painted wooden clapboards. A long wooden ramp leads up to the double door of the Parish Hall in the gable end of the building facing Main Street.

Gazebo (2013)

On the east lawn of the church is an irregular octagonal gazebo with white wooden pillars and balustrades between the pillars built on a concrete pad. The sixteen-foot diameter gazebo was designed by Preservation Timber Framing, Inc. to replicate (on a larger scale) the belfry on the church next to it. On the roof was placed the restored original belfry cap. Except for the original cap, the gazebo is all new construction. It is so designed that the belfry cap can be removed and replaced in its original location on the church steeple.

Parsonage (1904)

A parsonage for the minister was built in 1904 on a lot behind the church.³ The two-and-one-half story, vernacular Queen Anne-style house with a cross-gabled asphalt-shingled roof sits on a rise nearly one hundred yards behind the church and faces southeast. The brick center chimney is placed where the ridge lines cross. The house is clad with wooden clapboards. Below each floor the wall cladding is slightly flared to give the impression of an overhang. In the yard are old apple trees and large mature trees. The asymmetrical three-bay facade has a one-story porch whose sloping roof is supported by Tuscan columns. This porch stretches across the entire front of the house. On either side of the building is a bay window on the lower story. An unusual feature on the north and south sides of the house is a bold molding running from the tip of the cross gable to the first floor which simulates a gambrel roof. A small square ell was added to the back of the house in 1970. From this ell a door leads to the yard. The two-over-two sash windows are original and once had shutters, although these have now been removed. A small window with diamond panes is set into the northeast wall at right angles to the front door.

Garage (1930)

³ Accounts of the Dailey Circle of the King's Daughters, 1904. The builder was N.A. McKinney of Portsmouth.

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A one-car, detached garage was built at the end of the parsonage driveway in 1930.⁴ It is a small gable-front building with a two-over-two sash-hung window on three sides and a modern overhead door on the front. The walls are of narrow wooden siding panels set horizontally, rather than of the more common clapboard construction.

Post Office (1954)

This small Cape-Cod-style building was specifically designed to be the town post office and is leased to the Postal Service by the church. The single-story structure, clad with white-painted clapboards, faces Main Street. The front façade has two large windows with small panes on either side of the central door that opens into a narrow lobby, the back wall of which is filled with postal boxes and a service window. At the back of the building a low gabled addition has enlarged the large open workroom that extends across the back of the building. On the west side is a short driveway intended for post office parking. At the front of the building is a small flagstone yard with a flagpole and a wooden notice board used for town announcements.

⁴ Records of the Congregational Society, April 15, 1930. The King's Daughters paid for the garage.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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NH
B

ing northwest at the New Castle Congregational Church, showing the side (east)
e rear (south) elevation, the furnace room behind the church, and the fence which
Mobile ground equipment from view.

f 12

ing southwest from the balcony toward the south interior wall of the New Castle
onal Church, showing the pulpit, pews, and the doorway to the "Hyphen" which joins
o the parish hall.

f 12

ing southeast toward the south and east interior walls of the New Castle
onal Church, showing the pulpit and pews.

f 12

ing north toward the north interior of the New Castle Congregational Church,
e pews, balcony and supporting pillars.

f 12

ing northwest from the balcony inside the New Castle Congregational Church,
e pews, balcony and supporting pillars.

of 12

ing southeast at the Parsonage of the New Castle Congregational Church showing
est elevation.

of 12

ing northeast toward the garage of the Parsonage of the New Castle Congregational
wing the southwest and northwest elevations.

of 12

ing southeast toward the New Castle Post Office with the New Castle
onal Church to the left. The front (north) elevation is visible as well as a part of the
elevation. The front (north) of the New Castle Congregational Church is to the left
Post Office.

uction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic
ate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response
s required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460

en Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including
g instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding
nate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior,
NW, Washington, DC.



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Handicapped Parking

Handwritten sign on a wooden A-frame stand, likely providing church information.



















UNITED STATES POST OFFICE NEW CASTLE NEW HAMPSHIRE

73

DO NOT
BLOCK
MAILBOX

YARD SALE
SAT OCT 24
8-11 AM
TREASURES
BARGAIN SALE
50% OFF

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY New Castle Congregational Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW HAMPSHIRE, Rockingham

DATE RECEIVED: 12/19/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/03/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001241

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2-2-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECEIVED
FEB 11 2015
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

