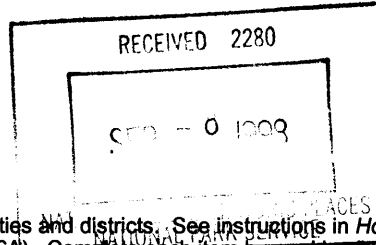


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Moose River Congregational Church

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Northeast Corner of Route 201 and Nichols Road  N/A not for publication

city or town Jackman  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Somerset code 025 zip code 04945

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  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Case S. [Signature] 8/20/98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 10/8/98  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Moose River Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Somerset, Maine  
County and State

**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>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic

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**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboards

roof Metal/Tin

other Three Stage Tower with Spire

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**MOOSE RIVER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**SOMERSET, MAINE**

**Section number   7   Page   2**

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The Moose River Congregational Church is a late Gothic Revival style gable roofed frame building whose front elevation is dominated by a four stage entrance/bell tower that is surmounted by an octagonal spire. It is sheathed in clapboards and stands on a granite block foundation. The main body of the church is covered by a metal roof.

Facing south, the symmetrically composed front elevation is comprised of the centrally located projecting tower, single four-over-four double hung pointed arch windows in the nave end wall that are decorated with drip moldings, and paneled corner pilasters that rise to short gable end returns and a steep raking cornice. The base of the tower contains a gabled vestibule accessed through a wide two-leaf doorway (with modern replacement six-panel doors). This doorway is surmounted by a dentil course, a pointed arch framing a stained glass window, and drip moldings. Paneled pilasters with pointed arches and capitals containing diamond shaped panels frame the corners of the vestibule (and are similar to those used on the main block of the building). They meet short gable end returns that have a broad overhanging cornice. A full raking cornice and frieze decorate the gable end. The tower's second stage rises above the vestibule and features corner pilasters and long thin, eight-pane windows on its three sides that are capped by pointed arches and drip moldings. Its third stage is comprised of a steep pyramidal roof sheathed in wood shingles of which the middle and upper two courses exhibit a wave pattern. The fourth stage is comprised of the belfry, each side of which is punctuated by two large pointed arch openings. It is capped by an octagonal, wood shingled spire that rises above a shallow hip roof and features an elaborate weathervane.

Both the east and west side elevations are divided into five equal bays that contain identical windows to those on the facade nave end wall. The cornice carries across the side walls to corner pilasters identical to those at the front. A one-story vestry with a shallow hip roof spans most of the rear elevation below a round window located high in the gable peak. The vestry contains a window on its west side, a pair of two-over-two pointed arch windows on the north elevation, and a door on the east wall. The decorative cornice and pilasters are employed on both the rear elevation of the main block as well as on the vestry. An exterior brick flue is attached to the rear wall of the nave.

The most notable interior feature is the soaring quality of the worship space that was achieved by attaching the ceiling to the underside of the roof rafters except at the upper third where it is flat (reflecting the location of cross ties). The windows and doors are framed by flat surrounds with the addition of vertical shafts flanking the pointed arches. There are three sets of pews separated by two side aisles. The raised chancel dates from a remodeling that took place in 1934, but the existing oil lamps are original furnishings that were restored to the interior. Several stained glass windows have been installed during the this century, the most recent one of which dates to 1988. The cellar was finished in the 1940s for use as a kitchen and meeting area, and an accessible ramp was added to the front of the building in the 1980s.

**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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1890-1891

**Significant Dates**

1891

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

MOOSE RIVER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SOMERSET, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

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Constructed in 1890-91, the Moose River Congregational Church is a late Gothic Revival frame edifice that is a conspicuous landmark along Route 201, historically known as the Canada Road, in north central Maine. It is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its local architectural significance. Criteria consideration A also applies by virtue of the property's religious function.

First settled in 1820, the residents of the Moose River Valley were sporadically served by circuit preachers from a variety of denominations beginning as early as 1849. As was the case in the early years of settlement in many Maine towns, the community did not have a specific place of worship for several decades. In 1873, Moose River Plantation erected a school house in which the upper floor accommodated religious services in what was known as the Union Church. Records indicate that there was no resident pastor for this church, and that services were held only in the summer months. As the population of the area increased during the 1880s, it became apparent that a church building was necessary to accommodate the growing number of worshippers. Reflecting this situation an article that appeared in an unnamed newspaper in November, 1889 stated that "A move is being made to raise funds to build a new Church here. Some \$400.00 has been subscribed since the books were opened two weeks ago." On July 19, 1890, the Moose River Congregational Church was formed by nine area residents.

Construction of the building presumably began shortly after the founding of the Church, and it is reported that the weathervane was installed atop the spire in the fall of 1890. Work was suspended during the winter months, but resumed in March of 1891. The church building was ready for use in June of 1891, but it was not dedicated until May 24, 1892. Church records indicate only that a Mr. Oliver from Industry, Maine was the contractor. In the *Maine Business Directory for 1887*, one Hiram Oliver is listed as a Carpenter and Builder from the village of West Mills, Industry. William Collins Hatch states in *A History of The Town of Industry, Franklin County, Maine* (1893), that Hiram Oliver was a "Carpenter and millwright." (p.783) However, he also notes that Hiram's younger brother Eli Noyes Oliver was a carpenter and farmer who lived in Industry. Additionally, the June 13, 1889, edition of the *Farmington Chronicle* contains an article describing the work on the new church in Wests Mills, a project for which Eli N. Oliver had been "engaged as Master workman on the structure." Until such time that more definitive documentation is uncovered, it is impossible to be certain which of these two builders might be the one responsible for the construction -- and presumably the design -- of the Moose River Congregational Church.

Architecturally, the Moose River Congregational Church is part of a group of religious properties erected in Maine beginning in the mid nineteenth century that share the general characteristics of a steeply pitched gable end orientation to which is attached a centrally located entrance tower. Whether executed in the Gothic, Italianate, or Romanesque style, these buildings exhibit in their design a decided change in fashion from church architecture in which towers were typically mounted atop the roof or above a portico. While this approach allowed the essential Greek form of the pedimented or gable front to be unobscured, in many cases the tower itself appears as if it is an appendage, rather than a unifying design element to the facade. In contrast, church design in the second half of the nineteenth century more fully integrated the tower into the overall composition of the front elevation, a shift that revived in spirit the form of Federal period churches.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

**MOOSE RIVER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**SOMERSET, MAINE**

**Section number   9   Page   2**

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### **Bibliography**

Hatch, William Collins. *A History of The Town of Industry, Franklin County, Maine.*  
Farmington, Maine: Press of Knowlton, McLeary & Co., 1893. Reprinted by the  
New England History Press, Somersworth, New Hampshire, 1984.

Reed, Ruth S. *A History of the Moose River Congregational Church of Jackman U.C.C.*  
Jackman, Maine: Moose River Congregational Church, 1990.

Moose River Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Somerset, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less Than 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	401660	5054600
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date July, 1998

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**MOOSE RIVER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**SOMERSET, MAINE**

**Section number 10 Page 2**

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## **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Jackman tax map 15, lot 20.

## **Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire village lot that is historically associated with the Moose River Congregational Church.