

PH0505901

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

RECEIVED OCT 18 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 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  All Soul's Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER S of Mechanic Falls on ME 26 at Poland Spring  
State Route 26  
CITY, TOWN Mechanic Falls Me. VICINITY OF 2nd - Hon. William Cohen  
STATE Maine CODE 23 COUNTY Androscoggin CODE 001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Poland Spring Preservation Society  
STREET & NUMBER Box 444  
CITY, TOWN Poland Spring 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  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
\_FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

# 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

All Soul's Chapel in Poland Spring is a late but good example of a country church in the Gothic Revival style, completed in 1912.

The building is of granite ashlar with a gable roof covered with slate shingled and a central tower extending beyond the facade, which faces north-west. This tower has a flat parapet roof and a belfry with ornate louvered openings. In plan it is square and its facade contains the principal entrance to the chapel. This entrance consists of a Gothic shaped double-doorway. On the sides of the tower, in the first story, are recessed a pair of mullioned Gothic stained-glass windows. Each corner of the tower is equipped with attached buttresses.

The sanctuary is long and rectangular in plan. The sides, which face north-east and south-west, contain four three-part mullioned Gothic windows in stained glass.

Extending from the north-east side of the sanctuary, from its northern end, is a small gabled entry with a panelled door below a Gothic arch. A projection of similar scale is present on the south-west side, at the south corner; this is capped by a shed roof and contains a single small gothic windows in its south-west side.

Extending from the rear of the sanctuary is a shallow, gabled projection slightly lower and narrower than the sanctuary itself. On its south-west end is a three-part Gothic stained-glass window. An external chimney, apparently of much later date, is attached to this elevation.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

G. Henri Desmond

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A church as part of a hotel resort is not a common thing although several were to be found throughout the country at the beginning of the 20th century. However, an edifice as substantial as All Soul's Chapel and designed in a restrained Gothic Revival style was rare indeed in such a setting.

The first impulse toward public religious observances at the huge and highly fashionable Poland Spring House began among the employees in 1885 under the leadership of a Mr. Julius Gassauer. At first services were held outdoors but occasional inclement weather resulted in the inauguration of a "chapel fund" to provide a suitable shelter. Some early meetings were held in the hotel dining room and guests of the hotel began to attend, who also contributed to the fund. Money raising efforts continued for several years until approximately \$15,000 had been raised. The Ricker family, proprietors of the Inn, took great interest in the project and donated a site for the chapel on the highest point of land on the hotel property.

Ground was broken in September of 1910 and contributions continued to swell the fund. G. Henri Desmond, a prominent Boston architect was retained to design the structure. Among other Maine commissions executed by Desmond were the expansion and remodeling of the Maine State House in Augusta, the design of the Fidelity Trust Company, Portland's first "skyscraper", and the Portland Theater, all in 1910. In 1918 he drew the plans for Portland High School.

In addition to contributions to the fund, many special gifts were received including the beautiful memorial window behind the altar, the pulpit, lectern, baptismal font, and the communion service. Maine granite was employed throughout with quartered oak of finest quality for the vaulting, doors and other interior woodwork. The floor was of inlaid mosaic executed by Italian craftsmen.

The chapel was formally opened on September 1, 1912 and the following year a peal of four bells was installed in the tower.

Both Catholic and Protestant services were held during the summer months from 1912 until the closing of the hotel in the 1960's. During that period and after, the chapel was much in demand for summer weddings. Now owned by the Poland Spring Preservation Society, it is to be restored and maintained as a reminder of the great days of Maine's premier summer resort complex.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Poland Anniversary Committee, Poland: Past and Present, 1795 - 1970. Lewiston 1970

Mel Robbins, Poland Spring. 1975

Board of Trade Journal, Portland, Vol. XXI. No. 12

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	9	3	9	0	9	1	0	4	8	7	5	5	0	0
ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

B 

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

C 

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

D 

ZONE			EASTING					NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian  
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE October, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street TELEPHONE 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Euse S. Shelton*

TITLE S.H.P.O.

DATE 10/11/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert B. Rettig*

DATE 11/17/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Charles...*

DATE 11/16/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER