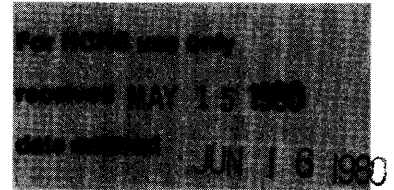


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 South Solon Meeting House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5 miles southeast of Solon village not for publication

city, town Solon, Me. vicinity of congressional district Second

state Maine code 23 county Somerset code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 South Solon Meeting House Corporation

street & number c/o Mrs. Patricia Davidson Reef
15 Coyle Street

city, town Portland, vicinity of state Maine 04101

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Skowhegan, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 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 South Solon Meeting House is an excellent example of a Gothic Revival church in a rural context. Built in 1842, the one-story church is of frame construction with gabled roof, central facade tower, and clapboard siding.

The symmetrical facade, which faces east, is three bays wide and contains twin entrances. These doorways each contain a slightly recessed single paneled door below a blind Gothic arch, seen above all bays throughout the building. The central facade bay is a 20/20/20 window. The small tower is square in plan with a shuttered aperture of Gothic form on each side. Above the tower is a pinnacled railing.

The sides of the church are three bays long, each bay consisting of a 20/20 window.

The interior of the church is well-preserved, its box-pews being wholly intact. In the 1950's students and faculty of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture executed a remarkable series of frescoes depicting Biblical themes.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1842 **Builder/Architect** John Doe, joiner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The South Solon Meeting House of 1842 is significant as a remarkably well preserved example of a very early church building, taking its extremely remote location into consideration. Although simple in design, the architectural execution is remarkably detailed.

The interior of the building is completely intact from the high, stair approached pulpit to the box pews with their brass numbered doors. A particularly fascinating and unique feature is the fresco work which decorates all the wall and ceiling surfaces. These remarkable pieces of religious art were executed between 1952 and 1957 by artists from the prestigious Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture located nearby. Only the most talented artists across the country are admitted to this advanced academy where they receive instruction from the top rank of contemporary painters and sculptors. The Skowhegan School is one of very few in the country where fresco painting is taught. Chosen by jury, many of those who worked on the meeting house project are nationally known artists, including William King, Philip Bornath, Henry Varnum Poor, Alfred Blaustein and Edwin Brooks.

The meeting house is now a cultural and educational center administered by a state wide board of trustees and houses workshops, lecture series, tutoring groups and occasional non-sectarian religious services.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cummings, Mildred H., South Solon: The Story of a Meeting House.
New York, 1959.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Anson

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	4	3	8	5	2	0	4	9	7	3	3	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing					

C

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D

Zone				Easting				Northing					

E

Zone				Easting				Northing					

F

Zone				Easting				Northing					

G

Zone				Easting				Northing					

H

Zone				Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map R8, Lot 42

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 April, 1980

street & number 242 State 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. Sheddworth date 5/9/80

title S.H.P.O.

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Barbara Ann Oringer</u>	date <u>6/16/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Patrick Andrews</u>	date <u>6/12/80</u>
Chief of Registration	