NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. REGEIVED 2280

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

MAY 2 9 2015

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Mornagister of Historic Places 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. 1. Name of Property First Baptist Church, Additional Documentation - Removal Historic name: 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 Location Street & number: 353 Congress Street City or town: Portland State: Maine County: Cumberland Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a 3.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. meets X does not meet the National Register Criteria. I In my opinion, the property recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide local Applicable National Register Criteria: A C D в 21 5 Signature of certifying official/Title: Date MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. Signature of commenting official: Date Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION – REMOVAL

Name of Property

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, MAINE County and State

4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	
entered in the National Register	
determined eligible for the National Register	
removed from the National Register	
other (explain:)	
CD N Ball	7 111 15
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
Signature of the Reeper	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	

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Name of Property

County and State

### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

This documentation is presented to remove the First Baptist Church in Portland, Maine from the National Register of Historic Places.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The First Baptist Church (NR: 78000170) in Portland, Maine was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 31, 1978 in recognition of its architectural significance. The church, an impressive early Romanesque Revival structure, was designed by Levi Newcomb in 1867. The exterior features were characteristic of Norman Gothic Architecture and notable among these were the heavy arched doorway, the flanking towers, and the stonework of the façade.

In 1987 there was concern among some church members that the building had become structurally unstable and at the same time the demographics of the congregation were changing. The congregation voted to relocate in a new, suburban, location. They then had the building demolished on October 2, 1987. Concurrent with this event was an effort to redevelop the urban parcel – but it is unclear as to whether the church was demolished in conjunction with that project, or whether the congregation cleared the lot to make it more saleable. The development plans never materialized and the site is currently used as a large parking lot.

This additional documentation is submitted in order to remove the First Baptist Church from the National Register as per 36 CFR 60.15 (a)(1) because "the property has ceased to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register because the qualities which caused it to be originally listed have been lost or destroyed...". A copy of a newspaper article recording the demolition of the building is enclosed.

## 8. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Down it Goes..." American Journal (Westbrook, Maine), October 7, 1987.

City of Portland, Maine Building Permit 86/1761, renewal. *Demolition: First Baptist Church.* June 19, 1987. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Name of Property

County and State

## Previous documentation on file (NPS):

<ul> <li>preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested</li> <li>previously listed in the National Register</li> <li>previously determined eligible by the National Register</li> <li>designated a National Historic Landmark</li> <li>recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #</li> <li>recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #</li> <li>recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #</li> </ul>
Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:

## Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Form Prepared By

name/title:	Christi A. Mitchell,	Architectural His	torian	
organization:	Maine Historic Pres	servation Comm	<u>ission</u>	
street & number:	55 Capitol Street			
city or town:	Augusta	state: Maine	zip code:	<u>04333-0065</u>
e-mail:	christi.mitchell@ma	aine.gov		
telephone:	<u>(207) 287-1453</u>			
date:	11 February 2015			

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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1.21-12-12

Name of Property

County and State

## • Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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.460 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

	DATA SHEET
FOR NPS US	EONLY
RECEIVED	MAY 1 0 1977
DATE ENTER	ED JAN 3 1 1978

# SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS **TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS** 1 NAME

HISTORIC

First Baptist Church AND/OR COMMON

# 2 LOCATION

CITY TOWN	353 Congress Stre	et		_NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
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	Portland	VICINITY OF	1st-Hon.	David Emery	
STATE		CODE		Cumberland	CODE 005
		23		cumberland	003
CLASSIFIC	ATION				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	-XOCCUPIED		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	XPRIVATE	UNOCCUPI	D	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	_WORK IN P	-	_EDUCATIONAL	_PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESS		_ENTERTAINMENT	XRELIGIOUS
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	_YES REST		GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	X YES UNRE	STRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
		NO		MILITARY	_OTHER:
CITY. TOWN		VICINITY OF		STATE	
	rtland —	VICINITY OF		Maine	
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESCR	IPTION			
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COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, O STREET & NUMBER CITY. TOWN REPRESEN TITLE	142 Federal Strop	eet ING SUR	VEYS	Maine	

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	ONE
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300D	RUINS	XALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Baptist Church on the corner of Congress and Wilmont Streets was designed by Levi Newcomb in 1867 in the early Romanesque Revival Style. This style was also referred to as Norman Gothic by contemporaries.

The structure is two and a half stories with a vestibule at street level leading to classrooms and vestry below and to the church level above. A steeply pitched roof covers the nave, with flanking bays housing the side aisles.

Rear and side walls are brick, with rubble brownstone (also referred to as Connecticut freestone) and Albert stone applied to the facade. Side walls were originally painted to resemble stone but none of this paint remains. An arched corbel table of brick headers runs below the roof cornice along the side walls. The side walls are load bearing. Further structural support is obtained by the post and beam construction, with granite underpinnings. Cast iron columns are visible at the lower vestry level. On the church level, large supporting columns are encased in plaster.

The building's facade faces Congress Street and is dominated by the square towers which flank the central tripartite doorway. The towers are square with three levels, the uppermost demaroated by triple, arched window openings, the others by stringcourses. Battlements decorate the tower tops which are copper covered. Originally, the tower at Congress and Wilmont Streets was 82 feet and the other 62 feet high. The extra 20 feet was removed from the taller tower about 1965 as a safety precaution.

The main entrance to the church consists of three arched doorways surrounded with geometric decorative moulding and swirled columns of Albert stone. On the wall surface above the doorway is a stained glass window arrangement consisting of a central rosette window above several tall, narrow, arched panes. From the inside, the window fills the entire wall of the end gallery.

The side walls are six bays long with six-over-six leaded casement windows at the lower level. At clerestory level, the windows are paired alternating lancet or round arched windows with stained glass emblems in the spandrel of each pair.

The vestibule at street level leads up to an entry area at the Church level through side stairways, or down to the lower level with classrooms and vestry.

Tower rooms are accessible from the vestibule and from the upper end gallery within the main church. The rooms are used as classrooms and for storage.

Two side doors open into the church proper from the entry area. To the side of each door, a small paneled stairway leads to the upper galleries. The church is rectangular in plan, with a central nave, side aisles, galleries and UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS US	EONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY	1 0 1977
DATE ENTER	ED	JAN 3 1 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

a semi-circular sanctuary. Rows of columns support the upper galleries and separate the nave and side aisles. The columns are clusters of four plaster colonettes with ornately molded capitals. The ceiling height is 46 feet, and vaulted with wood. Pews occupy the center of the nave and the side aisles.

The sanctuary area is raised on a semi-circular dais within the apse. A choir loft (added about 1951) portrudes slightly over the speaking area. The pulpet and heavy black walnut chairs are original to the building. Dark paneled doors below the choir loft slide open to reveal a modern, sunken, baptismal font which was added about 1966. Above the font, is a wall painting of a Holy Land landscape. Small changing rooms surround the rear of the sanctuary.

The large, concave wall surface of the sanctuary is punctured by a circular window bearing the figure of a flying dove. Presently it is stenciled with a simplified, geometric design.

Gallery walls are off-white. The spandrels connecting supporting columns which run the length of the gallery are cream-colored with a hint of pink. Side aisle walls are off-white with textured plaster over panelled wainscotting, imitating walnut. Pews and columns are painted dark brown. Carpeting is red, as are pew cushions. Gallery railings and santuary paneling appears to be original walnut. Originally, organ pipes rose on either side of the sanctuary. These have been removed and the original organ replaced by an electric one to the right of the sanctuary.

Lighting is indirect or recessed, except for the gallery ceiling where lantern-like lights are suspended on chains.

The vestry below can be reached through the street vestibule, or at the apse end of the church through fire escape corridors. This lower area has received much partitioning and remodeling into classrooms, offices and changing rooms. Twelve foot columns support the floor above.

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1867	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT Levi Newcomb	
_1900	COMMUNICATIONS		POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
X 800-1899	_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	_THEATER
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1500-1599	_AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	- SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEULUGY PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8. SIGNIFICANCE

The First Baptist Church on Congress Street was designed in 1867 by Levi Newcomb. Newcomb was born in Scituate, Massachusetts in 1822 and was the son of a master mariner. He, too, went to sea, but returned to learn the trade of mason. Eventually, he began an architectural practice in Boston, where he designed several churches and residences, along with dormitories for Tufts, Harvard and Dartmouth.

Upon this reputation he was hired to come to Portland to design the Portland Savings Bank Block, 1866-67, on Exchange Street, The First Baptist Church, 1867, and the Noyes Block on 57 & 59 Deering Street, 1868-69. He later formed an influential practice with his son Edgar Allen Poe Newcomb.

The exterior features of the church are well adapted forms characteristic of early Romanesque Revival style. This is especially evident in the arched doorway of the main entrance, the flanking towers, and stonework of the facade.

The building's interior has undergone several alterations, the most recent taking place in the 1960's. At this time, floors were recarpeted, rooms were partitioned, ceilings were lowered, and walls and ceilings repainted. The interior of the church itself, although refurnished with new pews, sanctuary and organ, still maintains its original atmosphere created by the contrasts of white walls against dark woodwork.

Aside from its interior and exterior merits, the site of the First Baptist contributes greatly to its significance as an architectural landmark. The structure is located in Portland's business and governmental district, near the County Courthouse and Portland City Hall. Lincoln Park occupies the area across the street from the church, affording an undisturbed view of its facade from numerous locations. In addition to its excellant condition and site, it is within walking distance from the city's oldest church, First Parish, the Chestnut St. Church designed in Gothic Revival style, and the Historic Old Port Exchange area.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Portland Daily Press: Oct. 23, 1866; June 12,13,18,Nov. 13, 1867; May 18, 1868; Jan. 15, July 1, 1869.

Daily Eastern Argus: Oct. 23, 1866; June 24, 1867; May 4, 1868; July 2, 1869.

Portland Transcript: Oct. 27, 1866.

# **10GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

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FORM PRE	PARED BY				
NAME / TITLE	Nancy Monaghan				
ORGANIZATION				DATE	
STREET & NUMBER	Greater Portland	Landmar	ks, Inc.	April, 1977 TELEPHONE	1
	165 State Street			774-5561	
CITY OR TOWN				STATE	
	Portland			Maine	
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hereby nominate this criteria and procedure	ate Historic Preservation O s property for inclusion in es set forth by the National SERVATION OFFICER SIGNATU	the National Park Service	Register and certify	that it has been evaluat	THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF
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First Baptist Church Portland, Me. MAY 101977 Combedience Co. Frank A. Beard 10/76 Me. Historic Preserv. Comm. View from the southeast 19 JAN 31, 1978

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



National Register of Historic Places Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MAINS

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Date Entered JAN 3 1 1978

#### Name

All Souls Church

First Baptist Church

Clapp, Charles Q., Block

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Chase, Hezekish, House

Pittoton Congregational Church

Lewiston Public Library

#### Location

Angusta Kannebec County

Portland Cumberland County

Portland Cumberland County

Brunswick Cumberland County

Unity Waldo County

Pittston Kennebec County

Lewiston Androscoggin County

Also Notified

Hon. William D. Hathaway Hon. Edmund S. Muskie Hon. David F. Emery Hon. William S. Cohen

880

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

Mott/js 2/15/78

State Historic Preservation Officer Mr. Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. Director, Maine Historic Preservation Commission 31 Western Avenue Augusta, Maine 04330

NATIONA			DATA	
<b>1NAME</b> as it appears on federal register First Baptist Church	æ.	THER NAMES:		AN 3 1 1978 05
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Sfunctions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		dates of initial construction: major alterations; historic events;		SETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION
architectural style(s):	architect	:	master builder:	@engineer:
g landscape architect / garden designer:	minterior decorator:	@ artist:	Bartisan:	builder/contractor:
NAMES give role & date MRSONAL: LVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:				
<b>BNATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP</b>	-			

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Property Baptist ( Comberland Working Number 5, 10, 77, 736 State CONTROL TECHNICAL Photos\_ Maps HIS'accept 1/2/18 Lowne NO V.B.D. HIS ARCHITECTURAL ARCHITECTURALY SILANI FOR IS EXECUTION IN THE THEN-LABELED "NORMAN COTHIC" STYLE, A FORE PANER OF THE COMANESQUE REVINE. ARCHEOLOGIST OTHER HAER Inventory \_\_\_\_\_ Review **REVIEW UNIT CHIEF** Qees of See allove BRANCH CHIEF 1.31.28 KEEPER 1978 Send-back National Register Write-up Entered 4.4.78 Federal Register Entry Re-submit IN T :2106-74 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7

#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY First Baptist Church NAME:

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, Cumberland

DATE RECEIVED: 5/29/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/14/15 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 78000170

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:NDATAPROBLEM:NLANDSCAPE:NLESSTHAN50YEARS:NOTHER:NPDIL:NPERIOD:NPROGRAM UNAPPROVED:NREQUEST:NSAMPLE:NSLRDRAFT:NNATIONAL:N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN

REJECT 7.14.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

REMOVED from National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA		
REVIEWR	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.



# OCT 07 1987.

NEW ENGLAND NEWSCLIP AGENCY INC.



**DOWN' IT GOES** - A wrecking crane moves in on the second of two steeples of Portland's First Baptist Church on Friday. Within hours it was down, completing the leveling of the historic building to make way for a massive group of office, business and residence towers. Portland City Hall is in the background.



#### MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RECEIVED 2280 55 CAPITOL STREET 65 STATE HOUSE STATION MAY 2 9 2015 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333 Nat Begister of Historic Place

## Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

PAUL R. LEPAGE GOVERNOR

22 May 2015

EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR. DIRECTOR

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper of the National Register National Park Service 2280 National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Fl. Washington D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find four (4) new National Register nominations for properties in the State of Maine:

Ella R. Hodgkins Intermediate School, Kennebe County Great Chebeague Golf Club, Cumberland County Norton's Corner School, Piscataquis County Lewiston Mills and Water Power System Historic District, Androscoggin County

The photographs submitted with the Lewiston Mills and Water Power System Historic District were developed from black and white film negatives. As such, there is no accompanying image disk. Please note that for the sake of convenience the photographs have been labeled with an abbreviation of the district name (i.e. LMWPS Historic District). Accompanying this nomination are copies of letters of objection submitted by 2 (only) of the 39 property owners.

Also enclosed are six (6) registration forms for the removal of National Register Listed properties in Maine:

McElwain House, Aroostook County Burgess, Walter and Eva, Farm, Piscataquis County Bradford House, Androscoggin County First Baptist Church, Cumberland County New Sharon Bridge, Franklin County Crockett, Knott, House, Knox County

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at  $(207) 287-2132 \times 2$ .

Sincerely, Christe G. Mitchell

Christi A. Mitchell Architectural Historian

Enc.