

PH0682161

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 14 1978
DATE ENTERED DEC 18 1978

**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

AND/OR COMMON

First Congregational Church of ~~Kittery~~ and Parsonage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Pepperrell Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kittery Point

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF 1st

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

York

CODE

031

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

First Congregational Church of Kittery

STREET & NUMBER

Pepperrell Road

CITY, TOWN

Kittery Point

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine 03905

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

York County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Alfred

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1874</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Congregational Church and Parsonage are a well-preserved pair of Colonial buildings adjacent to each other, facing south on Peppercorn Road in Kittery, Maine.

The Parsonage was built in 1729 and has little changed in the past two and a half centuries. In the 1930's an unobtrusive 1½-story gable-roofed ell was attached to the rear at the north-west corner, and in 1938 a compatible addition was made to the east end of the building. The 18th-century structure is of frame construction with gabled roof and clapboarded walls. The rear portion of the roof has a longer sweep than that on the facade. First-story windows are 9/6, while those above are 6/6. The facade is 5 bays wide with a central entrance. This doorway consists of a single 4-panelled door surmounted by a 4-paned transom and a simple triangular pediment.

The First Congregational Church has seen more alterations, but these are historic in their own right. Built in 1730, the Church was remodelled with dignified Greek Revival detail in 1840. The spire was repeatedly struck by lightning, and in 1892 the belfry was capped with a segmental dome. The basic structure of the building is original, however, and consists of frame construction, gable roof, and clapboarded walls. A single entrance in the 3-bayed gable-end facing south derives from the 1840 remodelling, as do the corner pilasters with inset panels, and the boxed cornices with returns. The Colonial fenestration is intact, and consists of remarkable triple-hung sash (20/20/20).

These two buildings are remarkable survivals from the early 18th century, a period from which little remains above ground in Maine.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

1729, 1730

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The members of the First Congregational Church of Kittery, originally organized in 1653, voted in 1729 to erect a house for use by the ministry, next to the church, built two years earlier. In the same year a fire destroyed the church and the parish built the present one in 1730. A parish burial ground was fenced by a parish vote in 1733 and interred here are some of Kittery's first families. Gen. William Whipple, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was christened in the First Congregational Church of Kittery.

It was in the original parsonage that Dr. Benjamin Stevens was said to have entertained President Washington who, while on a fishing trip out of Portsmouth Harbor, stopped for supplies at the warehouse across the street.

Rev. John Newmarch and Dr. Stevens served the parish well for almost 100 years but in the late 1790's and early 1800's, the church suffered setbacks due to ineffective leadership. However, the church still provided good service to the community.

In 1840, the church was renovated and rededicated and in 1874 it was moved, turned toward the south, and repaired.

In 1910, a new parsonage was built between the old one and the church. During World War II, the old parsonage was used as a community building, housing the overflow of school pupils caused by the influx of families to work at the Kittery Naval Shipyard. Later it was renamed the Benjamin Stevens Community House. The old parsonage has been in continuous use since then as a Christian Education building and for a meetingplace for various civic organizations.

The First Congregational Church, the fourth on this site, is the oldest church in Kittery and one of the oldest in the state of Maine.

Although altered (in the case of the church) and added to (the parsonage) these buildings still express the simple qualities of early 18th century rural architecture so rare in Maine.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Beginning at the southwesterly corner of the church lot, which lies at the right angle of Pepperrell Road opposite the Lady Pepperrell House, the property line runs easterly along the north side of said road 225 feet, thence northerly at a right angle 550 feet, thence westerly at a right angle to the east side of Pepperrell Road. The line then runs south 110 feet along said road, thence easterly at a right angle 165 feet, southerly at a right angle 140 feet, westerly at a right angle 165 feet to the east side of Pepperrell Road and southerly along said road 300 feet to the point of beginning.

This boundary description excludes the new parsonage building.