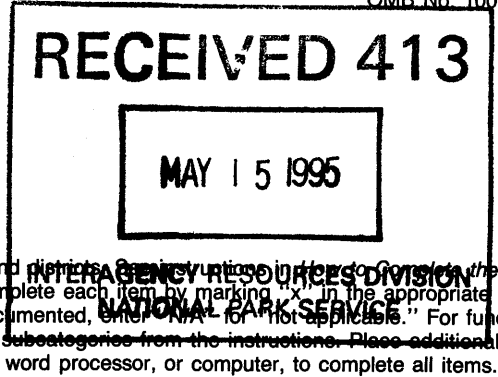


726

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. 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 North Newport Christian Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Northeast Corner of Junction of route 222
and Pratt Road N/A not for publication

city or town North Newport N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Penobscot code 019 zip code 04953

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.)
Edward H. Beall 5/12/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State of 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 the 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:)

for
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper
Entered in the National Register 6/20/95 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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Bracketed window and Door Hoods; Cornice

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1857

Significant Dates

1857

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Steward, Abiah, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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:

North Newport Christian Church

Penobscot, Maine

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>483660</u>	<u>49707000</u>
	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. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1995

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 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.).

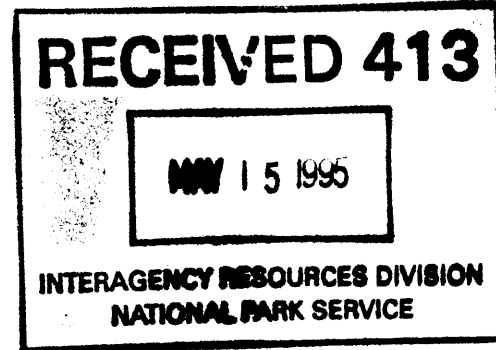
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

NORTH NEWPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Section number 7 Page 2



The North Newport Christian Church is a three-bay gable roofed frame building with transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style characteristics. It is sheathed in weatherboards and rests on a granite block foundation. The church stands at the northeast corner of Route 222 and Pratt Road in the rural crossroads of North Newport.

Facing south, the building's symmetrically composed facade contains an elevated, centrally located twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash window that is flanked by two entrances featuring four-panel doors. A large triangular false louver is positioned in the gable peak. The steeply pitched roof has broad overhangs and gable end returns that are supported by brackets. Smaller scale versions of these brackets decorate the pronounced surround of the gable louver and the flat hoods above the doors and center window. Pilasters frame the corners of the building and rise to a wide entablature that extends below the raking cornice and along both side elevations. Two tiers of long granite blocks linked by iron ties act as the front steps.

The three-bay side elevations each contain large twelve-over-twelve windows with bracketed hoods and a small square opening with a Queen Anne sash (added after 1907) that illuminates the vestibules. At the rear is an eight pane, fixed sash window located off-center and below the gable peak, as well as a brick stove flue.

Inside, small vestibules are located at the southwest and southeast corners with doorways into the nave. The three original groups of pews are separated by two aisles, and a short platform at the north end contains the pulpit, organ, and chairs for the minister and deacons. Varnished grained trim frames the doors and windows, and similarly finished wainscot carries around the interior except where it has been replaced by tongue-and-groove sheathing on the south and along three-quarters of the north walls. Plaster over lath walls rise to a broad decoratively painted wall cornice and ceiling of steel. This was installed in 1907, at which time the wainscot may have been added and a small balcony between the vestibules removed. The interior also retains several pieces of furniture from the 1890s and its central kerosene lighting fixture.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

NORTH NEWPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Section number 8 Page 2

Constructed in 1857 by local carpenter Abiah Steward, the North Newport Christian Church is a virtually unaltered example of a modest rural religious building which combines Greek Revival and Italianate style characteristics. Originally erected by both the Baptist and Christian congregations, the church has long been used solely by the latter denomination. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for its local architectural significance. Criteria consideration A also applies by virtue of its religious association.

According to an historical narrative written for the town's centennial celebration in 1914, the community of North Newport was first settled in 1807 by the John Ireland family. In 1817 a Baptist Church was organized, and the Christian Church was founded about 1840. The two congregations met in separate schoolhouses. Beginning in 1850 meetings were held to discuss the idea of erecting a single church building in which both groups could meet. These discussions led to the formation of the North Newport Union Meeting House Company, which purchased the one-third acre lot of land on which the present building stands on June 15, 1857. Tradition holds that the location was chosen as the mid-point between the two schoolhouses with the two congregations each occupying the one-half of the church nearest their former place of worship.

In 1907 a local newspaper account of the church's fiftieth anniversary gave the following detailed account of the arrangements for its construction:

The plans and specifications were made and submitted for bids on buildings. Only two people put in bids, and the contract was given to Abiah Steward of North Newport for \$1,600, to finish from the foundation, the foundation being taken by interested parties in the neighborhood. Abiah Steward, the contractor hired Mr. Stone of Corinna to lay out the work and take charge of frame. The crew to board and shingle were mostly farmers, but who could frame any ordinary building. The outside was finished by Abiah Steward, Joshua Daniels, William Page of Corinna, and J. H. Steward, who also did the lathing. The sashes, outside doors, blinds, and clapboards came from Fairfield. The clapboards were all planed by hand by Joshua Daniels and J. H. Steward. Addison Small of East Newport and Abiah Steward did the mason work and Elbridge and J. H. Steward were the tenders.

As soon as the plastering was sufficiently dry, then came the inside finish, the three, Abiah Steward, making the altar and ends of pews, J. H. Steward the pews, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH NEWPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Section number 8 Page 3

Joshua Daniels the gallery.

The specification called for plain painting, but the contractor who took much pride in the building, hired a Mr. Sleeper of Stetson, the best painter in the section to paint and grain the church.

There is no record of who prepared the plans and specifications mentioned in this description.

It is uncertain when the Christian Church became the sole occupant of the building. However, the absence of any reference to another denomination in the 1907 article suggests that this transition had occurred by then. The Christian Church held regular services here until about 1975, when the building was closed. Maintenance of the church continued, however, and in 1990 it was again opened for occasional services and other events.

The North Newport Christian Church represents a form of design which is somewhat unusual for mid-nineteenth century religious buildings in Maine. In contrast to the vast majority of churches erected in this period in both rural and urban contexts, this particular building lacks a tower. In fact, the elimination of this feature coupled with its relatively small size and detailing relates the church more to contemporary town houses or schoolhouses than it does most other similar property types. Apart from the issue of the tower, this building shares an unmistakable relationship to a pair of churches erected several years earlier in the neighboring towns of Corinna and Exeter. The latter two buildings (both of which survive) are forthright vernacular interpretations of the Greek Revival with pediments and towers. However, the arrangement of their facades and in particular the use of a triangular louver in the tympanum is very similar to that of the North Newport Church. Undoubtedly, they provided a model for the building committee.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH NEWPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

A Brief History of Newport, Maine: 1814-1914, Newport. 1914

"North Newport Christian Church Observes 50th Anniversary." Newspaper
Article of Unknown Source. 1907.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

NORTH NEWPORT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the Town of Newport tax map 12, lot 16.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire rural crossroads lot historically associated with the North Newport Christian Church.