

PH0004121

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

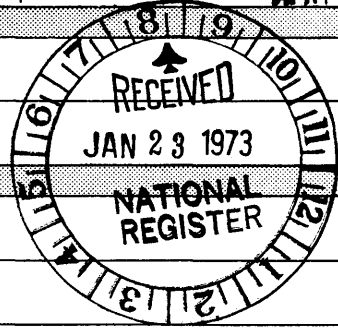
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Hon. Peter N. Kyros

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine	
COUNTY: Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 23 1973



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Academy Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newcastle

STATE: Maine      CODE: 23      COUNTY: Lincoln      CODE: 015

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland

STREET AND NUMBER:  
510 Ocean Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portland      STATE: Maine      CODE: 23

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Lincoln County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Wiscasset      STATE: Maine      CODE: 23

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
H.A.B.S. Survey (Me.-84)

DATE OF SURVEY: July, 1960       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER:  
801 19th Street N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maine

COUNTY: Lincoln

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 23 1973

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

When St. Patrick's Catholic Church at Damariscotta Mills was built in 1807 it resembled very closely some of the Colonial brick churches in Tidewater Virginia. St. Patrick's stands out as an excellent combination of Colonial and Federal styles. St. Patrick's was consecrated in 1808. The spire was not added until 1866 and an old photograph of the church shows that the original belfrey had a hip roof.

St. Patrick's was designed and built for solidity and endurance. The walls of the church are one and a half feet thick and are solid brick. The bricks were made on the opposite shore of Damariscotta Lake and hauled across by oxen during the winter of 1807.

The church has no cellar and is set on granite blocks. Limestone was imported from Ireland and made into mortar on the spot. Apparently the great limestone beds of Maine were unknown to these early settlers.

The entrance to the church is a pair of simple doors. The massive original key is still used. Above the doors is a lovely fan with a small delicate cross at the center. Above this is a beautiful round stained glass window depicting the figure of Christ. The ten arched windows on the sides of the church at one time were shuttered. Now they are memorial stained glass windows.

The original wooden altar, made in the shape of a tomb, is still in use. The original floors of the church are still intact and two of the original pews, large plank benches, are still in use. The railings of the stairway leading to the curved ceiling choir loft are also original construction. The doors within the sanctuary are engraved with the harp of

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maine	
COUNTY	Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		APR 23 1973

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

2

Ireland and a sprig of leaves.

A Paul Revere bell still calls the congregation of St. Patrick's to worship. The bell was donated by Matthew Cottrill in 1818 and is engraved with his name. The bell is one of 93 known to exist and is one of the last bells cast by Paul Revere, Sr. As far as can be determined, St. Patrick's is the only Catholic Church in New England to possess a Paul Revere bell.



**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

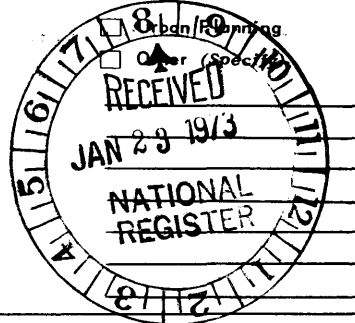
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1807**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation		



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Patrick's Catholic Church at Damariscotta Mills is not only the oldest Catholic Church in Maine but is the ~~oldest~~ surviving Catholic Church in New England.

The parish was founded in 1796, mainly through the efforts of James Kavanagh and Matthew Cottrill, two merchants who settled at Damariscotta Mills in the late 18th century.

The first church erected at the Mills was Our Lady of the Mills Chapel, a wooden structure. As there was no priest to say mass, it was used mainly for prayer.

~~The first mass said in the District of Maine was in the summer of 1798 by Father Jean Louis Anne Madgalene Lefebvre de Cheverus. After his missionary work among Maine Indians, and administering to the few Catholics who had settled in Maine, Father Cheverus was made the first Bishop of Boston in 1810. Some time later he was recalled to France by Louis XVIII and in 1823 made Bishop of Mantauban. In 1826, he became Archbishop of Bordeaux and a few months before he died in 1836 he was created Cardinal.~~

The first priest to actually administer to the Catholics at Damariscotta on a somewhat full time basis was Father Romagne. He was (See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS  
false  
mundy says elimin.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

H.A.B.S. Survey (Me-84).  
 Lewiston Journal Magazine; St. Patrick's Catholic Church, June 10, 1972.  
 St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Newcastle Maine, Sesquicentennial, 1808-1958. Damariscotta, 1958.

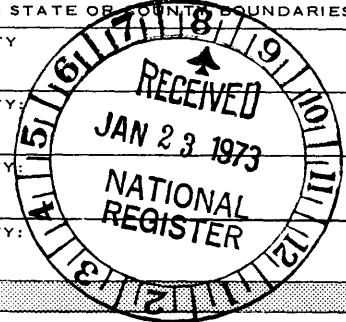
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44 °	03 ' 31 "	N
NE	° ' "	° ' "		69 °	32 ' 00 "	W
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Richard D. Kelly, Jr.  
 ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: Oct., 1972  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue  
 CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:  
 National  State  Local   
 Name: James H. Mundy  
 Title: State Liaison Officer  
 Date: January 15, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.  
Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Date: 4/23/73  
 ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Secretary of The National Register  
 Date: 4/18/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Maine	
COUNTY	
Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 23 1973

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

2

brought to Damariscotta by Father Matignon, another missionary to the Indians of Maine. Father Romagne agreed to spend the winters with the Kavanaghs and return to his missionary work with Father Cheverus when the latter made his journeys to Maine during the summer months.

Father Cheverus had always wished for a priest to be in residence at Damariscotta Mills, but when the hour finally arrived in 1817, one Father Ryan, was sent to Whitefield, and Damariscotta remained a mission church. Father Ryan was the first priest to be ordained in New England.

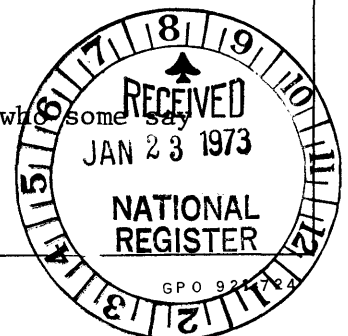
It was not until 1932 that St. Patrick's had a resident priest when Father Charles F. Bennett came to Damariscotta. In 1933, Father Edward F. Lynch was appointed Pastor at St. Patrick's.

James Kavanagh and Matthew Cottrill came to Damariscotta after landing in Boston. These two enterprising men very soon made their fortune in lumber and shipbuilding. Their prominence and success attracted other Irish immigrants to the area from Boston and the Maritime Provinces.

Edward Kavanagh, the eldest son of James, had a most successful career as a lawyer and merchant. He turned to politics and was U.S. Minister to the Court of Lisbon, Portugal. In 1843, he became the first Catholic to become governor of Maine as well as the first Catholic to hold office in any New England state. He is buried in St. Patrick's cemetery beside the church at Damariscotta Mills.

The architect of St. Patrick's was one Nicholas Codd, who some say

(See Continuation Sheet)



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

*(Continuation Sheet)*

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 23 1973

*(Number all entries)*

8. SIGNIFICANCE

3

was brought from Ireland specifically to design the church and the houses of Kavanagh and Cottrill. Their houses, done in the Federal style in 1803, still stand at Damariscotta Mills. The Governor Smith House in Wiscasset was also designed by Nicholas Codd.

