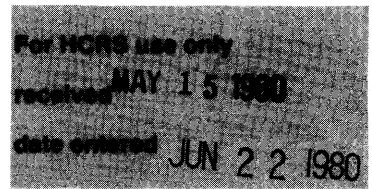


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Parish Congregational Church and Parish House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Church Street _____ not for publication

city, town Augusta, _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county Kennebec code 011

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name South Parish Congregational Church

street & number Church Street

city, town Augusta, _____ vicinity of _____ state Maine 04330

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Augusta, _____ 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 Parish Congregational Church and Parish House is an impressive architectural complex.

The church, built in 1865, is a dramatic example of the Gothic Revival style in granite. It is a monumental building with gabled roofs, clerestory, attached buttresses, and facade towers.

The facade, which faces south, is asymmetrical. In the center is the principal entrance, consisting of recessed double doors within a Gothic arch. Above the entrance is a double Gothic window containing bar tracery. To the right is a lesser tower of three stories with a secondary entrance in the first floor, a pair of lancet windows in the second story, and a double Gothic window with plate tracery in the third story. To the left of the facade is the principal tower which has in its first and second stories double windows with plate tracery and paired lancets in the third story which contains the belfry.

The sides of the church are six bays long. At first story level each bay consists of a stained glass window separated from its neighbor by an attached buttress. At the clerestory level each bay is a pair of recessed lancets below labelled lintels.

The rear of the church has a large projection which contains two lancets below a rose window.

Between the church and the parish house is a one-story addition to the latter, built in 1963. Although of recent date, its low profile and simple design are no detraction.

The parish house is a large and well-designed building in the Stick style, rare in Maine. Built in 1889, this 1½-story structure is of frame construction with cross-gabled roof, internal brick chimney, clapboard siding, and granite foundation. Like the church, the parish house faces south. Throughout the building exterior wall surfaces are divided horizontally and vertically by narrow wooden strips. Unfortunately its original square corner tower as well as decorative iron roof cresting have been removed.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1865, 1889 **Builder/Architect** Francis H. Fassett, James H. Cochrane

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The South Parish Congregational Church is significant as one of the most important works of Francis H. Fassett, Maine's leading mid-19th century architect and as a dominant landmark on the Augusta skyline. Its attached parish house is also a notable example of the Stick Style, examples of which are comparatively rare in Maine.

Although the first area parish was established in Hallowell in 1773, it was not until 1795 that the first meeting house was erected. In 1793 the community was divided into three parishes, the present one being then called the Middle Parish and located in Hallowell proper. After considerable religious upheaval, a united parish was formed which became the South Parish when Augusta was set off from Hallowell in 1797. A new meeting house was built and dedicated in 1809.

In 1864 this building was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Through the inspiration of their minister, Alexander McKenzie, the church members decided the following Sunday that they must immediately rebuild, this time with more durable materials. Within four months the designs for an imposing granite Gothic Revival structure were accepted and the building with its 178 foot spire was dedicated in July, 1866.

The present parish house, dedicated in 1890, is the third such building in the parish but the first on its site. It was connected to the church by an addition in 1963.

This monumental church structure, located at the brow of a steep hill which slopes sharply down to the commercial district and the river, towers over the city in dramatic fashion. It is certainly one of Francis H. Fassett's most articulate and classic designs in his long career as architect of notable public buildings in Maine.

The parish house, originally referred to as the Chapel, was designed by James H. Cochrane, an Augusta architect, and actually completed in 1889.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brookes, Rev. Kenneth, Our Fathers in Their Pilgrimage. Unpublished ms. at the South Parish Church, 1969.

Packard, Anna Beth, A History of The South Parish Congregational Church. Unpublished ms. at the South Parish Church, 1965.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Augusta

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

A

1	9	4	3	8	1	3	1	0	4	9	0	1	7	1	7	1	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 34, Lot 109

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

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

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 Carle S. Feltner

title S.H.P.O. date 5/9/80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register Anna Sue Dwyer date 6/22/80

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 6/18/80

Carle
Acty