

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAY 22 1985
date entered 20

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Dexter Universalist Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number Church Street not for publication

city, town Dexter, vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Penobscot code 019

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a 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 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Dexter Universalist Church Board of Trustees

street & number Church Street

city, town Dexter, vicinity of state Maine 04930

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Belfast, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title n/a has this property been determined eligible? n/a yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Universalist Church is prominently situated on a hill in the center of the Village of Dexter. To the north, east and west are a mixture of residential, commercial and public buildings, while below the church to the south is the central business district. This rectangular structure is constructed of wood with a gable roof. The main body of the church has clapboard siding and tall square windows with stained glass. On the front (west) facade is a tower and vestibule with flush-board siding. There is a two-story ell on the rear (east) which dates from 1912.

The outstanding architectural features of the church are concentrated on the front. A tower in the center of this elevation includes a belfry and steeple. It is flanked by a two-story vestibule with a hip roof and tall segmental arched windows. At the base of the tower is a small entrance vestibule with segmental arched panel doors and a pedimented cornice. The ornamental details on the tower include recessed panels in a variety of configurations and floral trim which is either incised or applied. The cornice with guttae and modillion blocks and the raised basement with rusticated horizontal siding unifies the 1870 tower with the original structure.

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 1828–29, 1867–70 **Builder/Architect** Thomas W. Silloway

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ranking among the best work of the prolific Thomas W. Silloway of Boston, a noted architect and also a Universalist minister, this is really a building of 1867-70 although the frame of the original church structure of 1828-29 remains intact. The architect after considerable deliberation with the elders of the church concluded that, although a new church building was wanted, the proportions of the old church were such that its basic structure could be re-used.

Silloway designed a great many churches throughout New England, as well as the present Vermont Statehouse. He also wrote several books on both architecture and theology. His other work in Maine includes the Universalist Church in Lewiston (destroyed), the Trinitarian Church in Castine (extant), the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Calais (destroyed), the Universalist Church in Augusta (remodelled for shops), the Baptist Church in Springvale (extant), and the Second Congregational Church in Biddeford (altered).

Of passing interest is the fact that the ceiling and all walls (except the front) of the sanctuary are completely covered by pressed metal.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The "Gospel Banner", January 1, 1870. Augusta, Maine
Chase, H. M., History of Dexter. Dexter, 1904

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____ 1 _____

Quadrangle name Guilford

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	9	4	7	7	2	0	0	4	9	8	5	5	3	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map #10, Lot 45

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/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1985

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *E. S. Feltman*
title S. H. P. O. date 5/16/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 6-20-85

Melores Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration