

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



83

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

1. Name

historic Lincolnville Center Meeting House

and/or common United Christian Church

2. Location

street & number ME Route 173 N/A not for publication

city, town Lincolnville Center, N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Maine code 23 county Waldo code 027

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

4. Owner of Property

name United Christian Church, Incorporated

street & number R.F.D. #1

city, town Lincolnville, vicinity of state Maine 04849

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waldo County Courthouse

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Lincolnville Center Meeting House is a virtually unaltered, wooden, Federal-style structure. Typical of the rural Maine meeting-house, the building is a simple rectangle, two stories tall, with pitched roof, entrance in the forward gable end, and no steeple or belfry.

Fenestration is regular: five windows on each story in the long walls, one in each gable, three on the second story of each gable end, three on the first story of the rear gable end, and two flanking the doorway. All windows contain original double-hung sash, and over 75% of the lights are also original. All windows are 12/12 save for an oversized 20/20 window above the entry (behind the pulpit).

The building has a fieldstone foundation, and the walls are supported at one point by a natural rock outcropping. Granite slabs have been fashioned around the base of the facade gable end and on one long side, either to aid in support or give the impression of a solid granite foundation.

All walls are clapboarded except for the rear, which is cedar-shingled.

The five-paneled double doors are framed by a simple Federal surround of pilasters and fan, the latter enclosed in a rectangular frame. The building retains its original steps of balanced granite slabs and fieldstones, but a more sturdy set of wooden steps and small porch has recently been placed over it.

The roof is asphalt-shingled, and small woodstove chimnies (brick) have penetrated each slope.

Most of the carpenters' attentions were given to the interior, which remains completely unaltered. The narrow vestibule is defined by a broad, curving wall (behind the alter) with doors at either side leading into the chamber, and doors in the flanking walls leading to the balcony. The alter and pulpit stand adjoining the vestibule, and the large chamber with wrap-around balcony extends back to the rear wall. The wall immediately behind the alter is boldly and smoothly rusticated, and rises to form a pulpit-parapit in the forward balcony. A doorway and staircase leading from alter to pulpit punctuates the wall's center, and is flanked by large wooden consoles.

The pews are boxed, have simple wooden latches, and large plain seats of pumpkin pine. Their exteriors are paneled.

A beaded frieze wraps around the base of the outer edge of the balcony. The rest of the outer edge is simply paneled. The simple but effective beaded friezework is identical to decoration on the outer edge of the alter consoles. The balcony contains box-pews in all but its rear section, which holds four long, free-standing choir-benches. One of the benches has been detached from the floor and moved to another area of the balcony to create room for Sunday-school meetings.

The ceiling was tinned in the early 20th century, but bears a very restrained pattern. Woodstoves flank the later. A metal, Victorian oil lamp-chandelier hangs in the middle of the chamber, and smaller lamps of similar character are affixed regularly below the balcony. The chamber's walls are plastered.

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/
<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 1820-21 **Builder/Architect** Joshua Lamb, Jr.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The meeting house in Lincolnville Center is one of the few completely unaltered Federal meeting-houses or churches extant in Maine. Most other examples were modified in the remaining century either in exterior or interior arrangement, the most common changes being pew and/or pulpit replacement, frescoing, and the addition of vestibules, belfries, and steeples. The only changes in the present building since 1822 have been the addition of a tinued ceiling with a very restrained pressed pattern (c. 1900-20), the possible removal of one or two of the forward box pews, the asphalt shingling of the roof, and the addition of a small wooden porch over the existing granite steps, none being significant alterations.

While Federal-style churches are common in Maine (though increasingly less-so in the Penobscot Bay area and eastward), "meeting houses" of pre-revolutionary arrangement - a simple rectangle, no belfry, wrap-around balcony, two rows of plain windows, box pews, etc. - were extremely uncommon by the 1820's. Although the pulpit of the Lincolnville meeting house is located at one end of the rectangle rather than astride a long wall, as was the earlier custom, the building is more closely related in form to the Georgian meeting house than the Federal church, and may be one of the last holdovers of the earlier type.

The present meeting house is one of less than a dozen in Maine known to have been constructed with the pulpit against the forward rather than the rear wall. This novel arrangement seems to have originated in Connecticut around 1810, but most known examples in Maine date from the 1840's-50's, and only the church at Buxton Upper Corner (1820) makes earlier use of the plan than Lincolnville Center. The Free-Will Baptists particularly favored the arrangement.

Also unusual are the facts of the building's construction. Capt. Joshua Lamb of Lincolnville built the meeting house as a private venture in 1821-22, retaining ownership of the building for at least a decade and selling the pews to defray his own expenditures. The meeting house reportedly failed as a business investment, and was eventually deeded to the congregation. The initial enterprise was a family affair - two of Lamb's brothers were Baptist clergymen who occasionally preached, and a third brother served as deacon.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lincolntonville Town Register, 1907. Brunswick, Maine: H. E. Mitchell, 1907
 Program of 150th Anniversary of United Christian Church Building
 Interview with Mrs. Royce W. Thurlow
 Unpublished research of Stephen Whitney

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Lincolntonville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	9	4	9	1	2	8	5	4	9	0	1	4	8	4	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 18, Lot 24

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 Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2133

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

title *E. S. Stewart* date 5/20/83

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>John Alloush</i></u> Entered in the National Register	date <u>7/21/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	