

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 14 1987
date entered JUN 12 1987

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

1. Name

historic Congregational Church of Edgecomb

and or common

2. Location

street & number Cross Point Road not for publication

city, town N. Edgecomb vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Lincoln code 015

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"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 First Congregational Society in Edgecomb

street & number Cross Point Road

city, town North Edgecomb vicinity of state Maine 04556

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Wiscasset state Maine 04578

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A 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 Congregational Church of Edgecomb is a wooden frame building composed of a rectangular gable roofed nave with a centrally placed two-stage tower attached to the front elevation. It is sheathed in clapboards and rests on a tall brick basement.

Facing east, the church's principal facade is dominated by the tower. The tall first stage features molded corner boards rising to a bracketed cornice. These corner boards frame a two-leaf door that is surmounted by a paneled round arched tympanum. The whole unit is bordered by an Italianate style surround. Immediately above the entrance is a trio of long, narrow round arched windows covered by wooden blinds. The larger center window is flanked by two shorter narrower windows. A carved round arched foliate band in the spandrel links these two windows. The molding which frames the composition is similar to that around the door. An open belfry is located at the short second stage of the tower. Trios of corner posts are joined by widely spaced slats, and an arch connects each of the four lattice braces. The belfry supports an octagonal spire which is crowned by a weathervane.

On either side of the recessed nave endwall is a single, narrow six-over-four double-hung sash window with a round arched upper sash. Corner boards similar to those employed on the tower rise to a wide cornice. This cornice carries around the building.

Both the north and south side elevations contain three paired round arched windows in the nave and small segmentally arched six-over-six windows in the basement. A door and bracketed overdoor is located on the south side. The rear elevation has an attached chimney flue and a small shed roofed concrete block addition. Original windows punctuate the basement on both sides of this addition.

Inside, the church retains its restrained but nevertheless handsome finish. A two-leaf paneled door separates the tower vestibule from the nave. Its light wood stain is comparable to the finish on the window surrounds, chairrail and the original curved pews. The pulpit is located on a raised platform with an ornate sawn parapet. The most significant interior feature is the pair of chandeliers which are suspended from plaster medallions above the center aisle. These intricately detailed lights, which are apparently an original feature, contain six oil lamps which have since been converted to electrical sockets. The basement level of the church has been substantially remodeled.

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 -- 1877, 1881 **Builder/Architect** William H. Decker, builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Congregational Church of Edgecomb is the most architecturally significant church building in this small rural community. Construction of the church began in 1877 and, following a four year hiatus, it was completed in the winter of 1881. The composition of its round arched door and window openings and heavily molded surrounds lend it a distinctive Italianate style character. It was built by local carpenter/builder William Henry Decker, about whom little is known.¹

Edgecomb's Congregational Church is thought to have been in existence as early as 1783, although no extant Church records from the period have as yet been uncovered.² The organization of the Church was confirmed by an ecclesiastical council on March 4, 1801, during the installation of the Rev. Benjamin Chapman. Reorganization took place on September 30, 1807, when the society was incorporated under the name of the First Congregational Society in Edgecomb. Services were held in the present town hall until 1860 when the congregation relocated to the former Eddy School.

Construction of the present church building commenced in October of 1877. Following completion of the frame and exterior, further work was delayed until November of 1881. A local newspaper's account of the February 15, 1882, dedicatory service explained that "the people will take great pleasure in their new house of worship for the completion of which they have been laboring the past few years."³ The congregation continues to utilize and carefully maintain the building.

Like many rural late nineteenth century church buildings in Maine, the Congregational Church of Edgecomb employs a traditional combination of a tall square tower joined to one end of a rectangular nave. However, it is distinguished from many of its contemporaries by the composition of its round arched windows, especially the trio located on the front elevation, and the vertical thrust of its bell tower. These features, combined with the distinctive original chandeliers in the nave, clearly demonstrate the building's architectural significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Owen, Katherine Chase. Early Edgecomb, Maine. Privately printed, 1986.
Church records.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 3½ acres

Quadrangle name Westport, Maine

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	4	4	8	1	6	0	4	8	7	0	2	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

The nominated property of 3½ acres is contained within the boundary as drawn on the Town of Edgecomb Tax Map U-8, Lot 3, and Tax Map U-8, Lot 4.

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 Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April 14, 1987

street & number 55 Capitol Street 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 *Eileen S. Patterson*

title S.H.P.O. date 5/8/87

For NPS use only

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

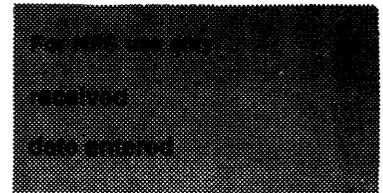
James M. McPherson Keeper of the National Register date 6/12/87

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Congregational Church of Edgecomb Item number 8

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ENDNOTES

1. Decker's name appears in Church records as the builder of their edifice. Family tradition holds that he was the son of William C. Decker whose name appears in the 1857 edition of the Maine Register as a carpenter in Edgecomb. Neither his career nor his son's have been investigated.
2. References to the Church's eighteenth century origin appear in the journal of Moses Davis, Esquire. This information was initially assembled in 1870 by Rufus Sewall, the Church clerk. Katharine Chase Owen, Early Edgecomb, Maine (Edgecomb: Privately Printed, 1986), p. 25.
3. Church records contain a copy of the article which appeared in the as yet unidentified local newspaper. The same article placed the total cost of the building at \$3,455.64.