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The Winterport Congregational Church is an excellent example of the <u>Gothic Revival style</u> church built on the coast and bays of Maine. The church sets on a high ledge in the center of town and is surrounded by Elm trees. The setting is supurb.

The church is rectangular in shape and has a gable roof. The facade is done in matched boards while the sides and rear are done in clapboards. There are also pilasters at the four corners of the church.

There is a central window on the facade with three windows on each side. Two sets of double doors, one on each side of the central window, serve as the entrances to the church. All doors and windows are framed in pointed arches called lancet arches.

The tower of the church is an inset tower. It is done in matched boards and has a clock. Over the tower is an octagonal spire with pinnacles.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
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🔲 15th Century	17th Century	X 19th Century	
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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

About 1820, in the village of Winterport, Methodists, Episcopal, Congregationalists, Unitarians and Universalists formed a society in order to build a church.

The church was finally built in <u>1831</u> and dedicated in January of 1832. The designer and builder of the Church was <u>Calvin Ryder</u>, a local architect and builder, who built many of the houses in Winterport. He also built the Blake House in Bangor, one of the finest Second Empire Houses in Maine.

The church was known as the Union Meeting House for some time until differences arose between the various congregations using the House. Shortly after its construction, due to interdenominational squabbles, the church became the Congregational Church.

In 1860, the roof of the church was slated, the clock added and some remodeling was done to the inside. The exterior of the church is the same as when it was built, only the inside has had some changes.

This find example of Gothic Revival architecture contributes greatly to Maine's architectural heritage with its beautiful but simple lines.

Its location, overlooking Winterport and the Penobscot River, only enhances the charm of this small New England town.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES												
Coolidge, A. J. & Mansfield, J. B. <u>A History and Description of New</u> England. Boston: Austin J. Collidge, 1859.												
Maine Winters Research Club. <u>Historic Churches and Homes of Maine</u> . Portland, Maine: Falmouth Book House, 1937.												
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