

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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MAY 23 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Indian River Baptist Church
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Route 187, Indian River not for publication
city, town Addison, vicinity
state Maine code ME county Washington code 029 zip code 04606

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

John S. Fredman, J.H.P.O. 5/16/88
Signature of certifying official Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Helene Byer Entered in the National Register 6-23-88

fu Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religious/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Greek Revival/ItalianateItalianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/Weatherboardroof Asphaltother Shingled Tower

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Indian River Baptist Church is a modest transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style frame building that has a pedimented three-bay facade and a squat two-stage tower added in the early twentieth century. Sheathed almost entirely in weatherboards, the rectangular church rests on a granite block foundation.

The building's facade which faces southwest contains a pair of four-panel doors surmounted by shallow triangular pediments that are found above each opening. They are separated by two paneled pilasters and an unusual centrally-located thirty-over-thirty double-hung sash window. Additional coupled pilasters rise between the outside edge of the door frame and the corner. A string of guttae delineates the transition from architrave to frieze on the broad entablature that carries around the building. The more restrained treatment of the raking cornice emphasizes the architectural transition that was being made between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Added between 1905 and 1910, the tower consists of an open first stage whose base is shingled and corners are supported by a trio of paneled posts. A pent roof rises to the short louvered belfry that is covered by a hipped roof.

Both the north and south side elevations feature paneled corner pilasters that frame the trio of symmetrically placed thirty-over-thirty windows.

The interior contains a pair of small entrance vestibules that flank a narrow recessed seating area located at the rear of the nave. Two aisles separate the nave into three sections, each of which retains its complement of pews. The windows are framed by shallow pediments and a bracketed cornice carries around the nave below the coved ceiling. A raised platform contains the pulpit. Plaster over lath finish covers the walls and ceiling.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1853

Significant Dates
1853

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Ward, Norman, Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Constructed in 1853-54 by local builder Norman Ward, the Indian River Baptist Church is a modest transitional Greek Revival/Italianate style frame building which is remarkably intact. In recognition of its local architectural significance, the church is presented for nomination to the National Register under criterion C and criteria consideration A.

Little documentation exists to show when the Baptist Church was founded in the small rural community of Indian River. However, the congregation was sufficiently organized by August 31, 1853, when local resident Susannah K. Emerson presented to the Church the parcel of land on which the building now stands. Tradition holds that Emerson also donated a grove of trees which were subsequently used to construct the church. By the turn of the century the Baptist congregation had become virtually inactive, and the use and care of the building itself informally devolved to interested volunteers in the community. In 1986 the American Baptist Churches of Maine transferred the property to the Indian River Community Association.

The significance of this church building derives from its architectural preeminence in a community of small-scale vernacular one and two-story frame houses built for farmers and fishermen. In addition, it is one of only a handful of relatively unaltered religious buildings in western Washington County constructed during the second half of the nineteenth century, and apparently the only one in which a bell tower was not an original feature. In this respect it is more like dozens of churches constructed during the 1830s and 1840s in southern and central Maine than its neighbors in Washington County. The latter are generally more monumental in scale (an appearance largely conveyed through the use of tall central towers) in comparison to the small temple-like form as exhibited in the Indian River Church.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Church records.

Sunrise County Architecture: Significant Buildings of Washington County. Machiasport, Maine: Sunrise Research Institute, 1979.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

1	9
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6	0	7	7	2	0
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4	9	3	6	1	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre is described in Washington County Deeds, Volume 1469, page 3.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire lot historically associated with the Indian River Church.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian
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city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333