

PH035449

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 10 1977
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC * * Congregational Church of Medway

AND/OR COMMON

Wonder Grange

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

ME 11

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Medway

2nd Hon. William Cohen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Benjamin Fiske Heirs

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Medway

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Penobscot County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Bangor

STATE

Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Medway Congregational Church of 1874 is of importance in large part because of its remote location, but also is remarkable in the context of its architectural details.

The building is a two and a half story frame structure with clapboard siding, and is rectangular in plan with a gable roof. Rising centrally above the main facade, which faces west, is a square tower with a pyramidal roof. On each side of the tower is a decorative latticed aperture.

The west elevation on the first story features a central projecting bay window flanked by single panelled doors surmounted by four-paned lights. Over the doorways and bay window is a hood supported by Italianate style brackets.

The second story carries three twelve over twelve windows, while the half story contains a single arched window of twelve panes. The west facade which is in the gable end of the building, is topped by a denticulated pediment.

The north and south sides of the church contain three bays with three windows in each of the two stories. All of these windows are twelve over twelve.

The roof of the church is covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation consists of granite blocks. There is a small brick chimney which straddles the roof ridge at the rear (east) end of the building.

The Medway Congregational Church is charming in its naive stylistic details. As such, it is a good example of a frontier church attempting to emulate its more sophisticated cousins far to the south along the Maine coast.

probably added when church converted to Grange

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

1874

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Mansford Cushman

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Medway Congregational Church of 1874 is a forceful example of vernacular architecture built in a frontier context. Situated on the crest of a hill which slopes down to the Penobscot River it is still a striking focal point on the landscape and at the time of its construction must have been even more impressive in the midst of a virtual wilderness.

Located at the junction of the East and West Branches of the Penobscot River, what is now Medway was first settled as early as 1820. But it was not until this river became the chief avenue for the transport of timber during the years of the great lumber boom that the community began to develop. Even then, however, the press of the huge log drives generally passed it by.

In the early years the settlement was called Nicatou, a local Indian name, and as such was organized as a Plantation in 1852. Gradually small industry developed, particularly the tannery built by Henry Poor & Son in the 1860's. The 1870's and 80's brought the greatest period of growth. During these decades the population, though small, more than doubled. In 1874, the Congregational Church was built and in 1875 the Town of Medway was incorporated.

The church was built under rather unusual circumstances. Benjamin N. Fiske, a local hotel owner as early as 1844, was also extremely active in town affairs, serving as the first town clerk as well as post master and later as town treasurer and selectman. He was also a strong supporter of early religious organization. With his own funds he retained a local builder, Mansford Cushman, to construct the church. Upon completion he deeded it, in trust, to be used as a Congregational Church and as the local school as long these organizations should need it and for these purposes only. Eventually both the school and the church moved their operations elsewhere so that the building reverted to the heirs of Benjamin Fiske who now own it jointly and severally. It has been recently used by the local grange on a lease basis.

An unorthodox but compellingly straightforward building, the Medway Congregational Church remains a landmark in what is still a largely wild and untamed region.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clayton, W.W., History of Penobscot County, Cleveland, 1882
 Penobscot County Registry of Deeds, Book 129, Page 101

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	53	6	8	3	0	5	0	5	0	1	25
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frank A. Beard, Historian April, 1977
 Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

STREET & NUMBER

31 Western Avenue
 Augusta, Maine

DATE

289-2133
 TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Carole S. Shethleworth, Jr.

TITLE

S.H.P.O.

DATE

5/5/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig

DATE

11/21/77

ATTEST:

Charles A. [Signature]

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/15/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER