

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: MAINE	
COUNTY: Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.5.18.0028	DATE 5/19/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Alna Meeting House

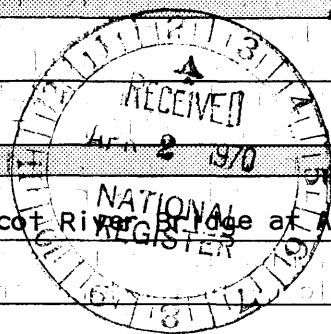
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Old Alna Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 218, West side, 1.3 miles South of Sheepscot River Bridge at Alna

CITY OR TOWN:
Alna Center

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **18** COUNTY: **Lincoln** CODE: **015**



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Alna

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Alna** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **18**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Lincoln County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Wiscassett** STATE: **Maine** CODE: **18**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1933-1936** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

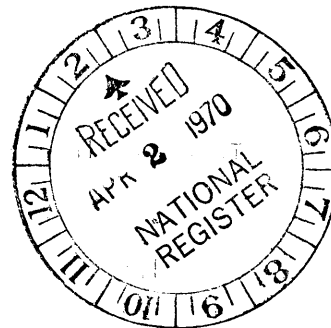
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alna Meeting House is located on a 1/5 acre plot of land on the west side of State Route 218, 1.3 miles South of the Sheepscot River bridge at Alna. It is a frame, 2 1/2 storied, gabled roof building; clapboarded on the front and rear and shingled on both ends. The dimensions about the base are 50'8" in length and 40'7" in width. It has a five-bay front with projecting stair pavilion. There are two tiers of windows, with 14 panes of glass for each window. Its appearance is austere. It is painted in yellow, with white trim and green shutters. It has no bell tower.

The interior is nearly as austere as the outside. Hand-hewn pillars support the balcony that extends around three sides of the sanctuary.

The original box-pews five feet square are still in the church. The seats are narrow and hard, and the backs are stiff. The doors to the pews fasten with wooden buttons. The pulpit stands high above the floor level, and is quite lovely in its simplicity. A bell-shaped sounding-board hangs over it. The rafters are huge, some of them at least 14 inches by 18 inches and hand hewn.

This building is in good condition. The roof is being reshingled. One side of the roof has been completed. The roof on the front side will be done when the weather permits.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Built in 1789**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the show places in Lincoln County is the old Alna Meeting House, built in 1789. It is a splendid specimen of colonial architecture, and an austere monument to those early church fathers, who with infinite labor and great faith erected this old New England shrine. The Alna meeting-house has always been Congregational.

In 1760 a large section of Lincoln County was set off to form the town of Pownalboro and was organized with four precincts. This immediate area was known as the North Precinct of Pownalborough. In 1794, the precinct was incorporated and named New Milford. In 1811 it was renamed Alna.

The enterprising community that grew up on the banks of the Sheepscot seized upon the natural possibilities and potentialities of its location, and there sprang up shipyards in a dozen or more places between Wiscasset and Head of the Tide. With the virgin forests of pine and spruce and fir to supply the lumber, and tide-water mills to manufacture it, there developed a necessity for ships to carry spars and lumber to distant ports.

One of the first concerns for colonists from England in the New World was always the erection of a meeting-house. In 1789, when the affairs of the settlement were prospering, five persons organized themselves into a society and initiated the task of erecting this splendid old edifice. The Reverend Jonathan Ward was called to be the first pastor, and he served the church for twenty years, being succeeded by ten other settled ministers from then on until 1876; since then the growth of other churches in different parts of the town has withdrawn the need for the continuance of this one in active operation.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Works Progress Administration Writers, Maine - A Guide Down East, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston 1937
 Varney, George J., A Gazeteer of the State of Maine, B.B. Russell, Boston, 1886
 Allen, Charles Edwin, History of Dresden, Maine, Kennebec Journal, Augusta, 1937

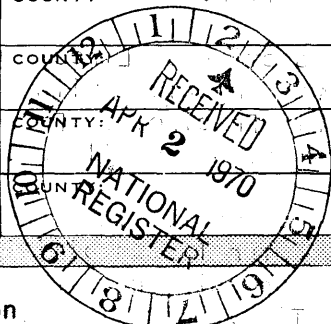
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		44° 5' 17"	69° 37' 12"	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/5 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John W. Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Park and Recreation Commission DATE: February 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: State House

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta, STATE: Maine CODE: 18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Lawrence Stuart
 Title Director
 Date March 26, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Connerley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date MAY 19 1970

ATTEST:
William J. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date MAY 19 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 19/400000/4881505
 1-12-70

1957

WISCASSET QUADRANGLE
MAINE
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Alna Meeting House
Latitude 44° 5' 17"
Longitude 69° 37' 12"

