

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JAN 17 1985

date entered FEB 14 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Seal Harbor Congregational Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number Route 3 not for publication

city, town Seal Harbor, vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Hancock code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: None

4. Owner of Property

name Finlay B. Matheson

street & number 240 San Lorenzo

city, town Coral Gables, vicinity of state Florida 33146

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Ellsworth, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A 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 Seal Harbor Congregational Church is a rectangular structure which is two stories high. A steeply pitched gable roof with eaves supported on large brackets almost entirely envelops the second story. The shingled walls are broken only by wood belt courses marking each floor level, and by the stone foundation. Casement windows with small diamond paned lights are employed throughout the church.

The principal facade, on the narrow gable end facing northeast, features an entrance recessed behind a large stone arch. This arch springs from the foundation, both of which are constructed with quarry-faced ashlar. Surmounting the entrance is a shingled curvilinear portico which appears to grow out of the face of the building. Directly above, the gable end is enclosed by a rounded portico which is a continuation of the main roof and shelters a row of four large casement windows. This portico is mirrored on the ground below by the semi-circular stone steps leading into the entrance vestibule.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1902 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former Seal Harbor Congregational Church is an entirely remarkable architectural statement in the context of a summer resort seasonal church building. Its sophistication is compatible with the lifestyle associated with Seal Harbor as a fashionable summer colony.

All efforts, and these have been considerable, have failed to produce the name of the architect of this handsome building.

The church ceased to be used when a year round Congregational church was built in the center of Seal Harbor. When it appeared that the building was going to be torn down by the parish, a summer resident, interested in architecture and historic preservation, purchased it a few years ago and has maintained it ever since with no particular plans for its future use.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"The Word and The Work", June, 1902; July, 1902; September, 1902.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property $\frac{1}{4}$

Quadrangle name Bar Harbor

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	9	5	5	9	9	7	0	4	9	0	4	5	5	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

Assessor's Map 3, Lot 10

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 Frank A. Beard, Historian / Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date October, 1984

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 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. Feltz*

title S.H.P.O. date 12/15/84

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

Melores Byers ~~State Historic Preservation Officer~~ **Register**

date 2-14-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration