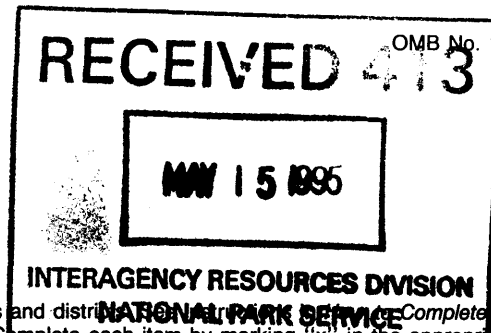


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name West Brooksville Congregational Church

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number East Side of Route 176, 1 mile Northwest of Junction with Varnum Road N/A not for publication

city or town West Brooksville N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county HANCOCK code 009 zip code 04617

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
[Signature] 5/12/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)  
Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register 6/20/95 Date of Action

West Brooksville Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Hancock, Maine  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Three Stage Tower with Spire

**Narrative Description**

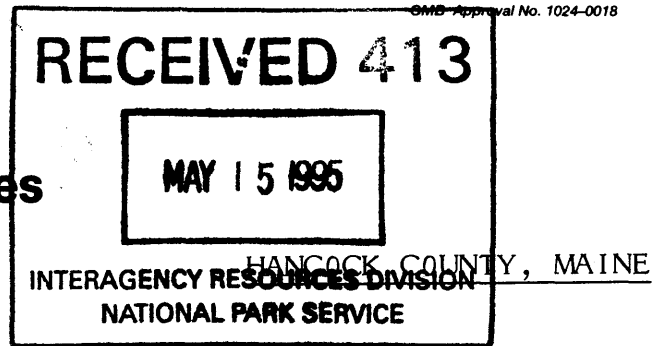
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

WEST BROOKSVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Section number 7 Page 2



The West Brooksville Congregational Church is a Greek Revival style wooden building that has a pedimented two-bay facade and a three-stage tower crowned by a spire. It is sheathed in weatherboards and rests on a granite block foundation. A recessed vestry wing added in 1898 extends from the southeast corner of the nave.

Facing west, the symmetrically composed front elevation contains two identical entryways located between a trio of paneled pilasters; one in the center and one at each corner. The pilasters rise to a broad entablature and pediment. Smaller scaled versions of these elements (minus the pediment) frame the six-panel doors and transoms which are reached by separate wooden stairs. The tower is composed of a short base, a taller intermediate stage that has a pronounced cornice and a sawn balustrade, the octagonal belfry stage with louvered panels in each of four sides and pilasters forming the others that meet a broad entablature, and the graceful octagonal spire surmounted by a weathervane.

The three-bay nave sidewalls contain symmetrically placed pairs of tall but narrow six-over-six windows with operable louvered shutters and trim that matches that found on the front entrances. Both the corner pilasters and broad entablature are continued on the side elevations with one pilaster (originally two) also appearing on the rear elevation where a short return meets the raking entablature. A shallow rectangular apse is located on the rear elevation below a two-over-one attic window. Attached to and running diagonally across this elevation is a wooden fire escape (installed in 1988) from the second floor of the vestry. Although the rear wall and apse are now sheathed in weatherboards, an earlier photograph shows that they had been covered with wood shingles.

The front elevation of the gable roofed vestry addition (which has a rubblestone foundation) features a single two-over-two window and a projecting pedimented entrance vestibule at its southwest corner. Its detailing imitates but does not fully replicate that of the original building. There is a window on the north side of the vestibule, and a pair of windows in the south end of the vestry. Three more are arranged across the rear (east) side and there is one in the shed roofed hall on the north end as well as a door and window above.

Inside, the decorative detailing of the nave complements the unmistakable Greek Revival exterior. Molded window surrounds support shallow pedimented hoods that are adorned with carved rosettes and vines. Paneled pilasters frame the two entry doors in the nave and have acanthus capitals squeezed beneath the entablature and paneled balustrade of the balcony. The chancel is framed by tall paneled pilasters with volutes on their sides and stylized scrolls on their faces. They support a full entablature with

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WEST BROOKSVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

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dentils in the architrave and carved ornamentation on the frieze similar to that above the windows. The nave contains five seating areas with the original pews: three in the main body separated by aisles, one located to the north of the chancel, and the fifth in the balcony. A steel ceiling consisting of paneled squares and a curved wall cornice molding is a late nineteenth or early twentieth century alteration, whereas the door located to the south of the chancel was added in 1898 at the time of the vestry's construction.

In 1982 a fire destroyed a section of the nave floor and resulted in water and heat damage throughout the interior. The church was subsequently restored.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [X] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1855

1898

Significant Dates

1855

1898

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gardner, Jesse, Builder

Lord, Thomas, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

West Brooksville Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Hancock, Maine  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9	5	1	9	3	0	0	4	9	1	5	5	5	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

2 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

3 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

4 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1995

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

WEST BROOKSVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

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Constructed in 1855 at a cost of \$2,250.00 (minus the bell), the West Brooksville Congregational Church is a striking and well preserved rural Greek Revival style edifice constructed of wood. According to church records it was built under the supervision of the North Castine master builder Jesse Gardner with the interior work carried out by the Blue Hill carpenter Thomas M. Lord. (As discussed below, there is disagreement about the extent of Lord's involvement.) The church is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for its architectural significance. Criteria consideration A also applies by virtue of it being a religious property.

The West Brooksville Congregational Church was organized on January 4, 1826, and until the construction of the subject building, met in a nearby school house (which also served as the town house). By the early 1850s the idea of erecting a proper church building had become a serious one, and on July 22, 1854, a meeting was held to consider the matter. With unanimous support favoring construction, a building committee composed of S. B. Blodgett, S. T. Tapley, and Thomas Stevens was appointed. They must have set to their task immediately for on May 3, 1855, work on the frame began. The church is said to have been completed by haying time. It was dedicated on November 30, 1855.

Although no written Church records were made during the period of the building's construction, information about this undertaking was gathered by the church clerk and formally accepted into the congregation's records in 1898. At that time it was noted that the cornerstone was laid by Eben Hill of Penobscot, Thomas Gardner was the master builder, Thomas M. Lord was responsible for the interior, S. B. Blodgett and T. N. Shepardson finished the belfry, and Dudley Bridges painted the interior. The extent of Lord's role as noted in the Church records is at odds with information contained in a 1947 article by Samuel M. Green about this noted local carpenter/builder. In his article, Green ascribes the design and construction of the church to Lord based on information contained in his notebooks which have been preserved. Further support for Lord's greater role in the design was also based on a comparison with his other known church projects in neighboring towns, among which are Baptist Churches in Brooklin and Blue Hill built, respectively, in 1853 and 1856. The absence of further information about master builder Jesse Gardner, and the clear relationship of the West Brooksville church to Lord's other known work makes a strong argument in support of Lord as the designer.

Regardless of who is ultimately credited with the building's design, it stands as a monument to the way in which the Greek Revival style was translated in Maine's wooden rural churches. As Green himself put it in 1947:

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WEST BROOKSVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

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In his respect for the materials and tools of his craft Lord has created a truly wooden architecture within the general confines of the Greek Revival style. The orders are interpreted in the language of carpentry with a nicety of joinery which exploits all the construction possibilities of wood. Though Lord stands in no awe of Greek details, as we have seen, he senses the essentials of their proportion; he interprets the academic orders in the vernacular of carpentry. Especially notable at West Brooksville is the treatment of the pediment and of the entablatures. The simplification of the classical forms to three smoothly joined planes, one above the other, is a particularly happy solution in wood. This series of three is also an important element of the design as a whole, appearing in the detail of the tower and in the three stages of the tower itself. The monumentality of effect, the easy broad transition or masses, and the simple detail of the handsome Ellsworth church [which Lord designed and built in 1843] is reflected in this less correct but nearly as impressive building at West Brooksville. But its chief beauty remains in its homely charm and in the forthrightness which derives from the exploitation of the medium of wood.



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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

WEST BROOKSVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE

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Green, Samuel M. "Thomas M. Lord: 1806-1880." A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine. Vol. IV, No. 15. Augusta, Maine: Maine Historic Preservation Commission. 1987.

Snow, Walter A., Comp. Brooksville, Maine: A Town of the Bagaduce. N.D.

Copies of Records of the West Brooksville Congregational Church on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

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**Continuation Sheet**

WEST BROOKSVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Brooksville tax map 17, lot 118.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot historically associated with the West Brooksville Congregational Church.