

PH009767 DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 11 1975
DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1975

**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

Centre Street Congregational Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Centre Street

CITY, TOWN

Machias

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd Hon. William Cohen

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Washington

CODE

029

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Centre Street Congregational Church (Rev. Raymond H. Korndorfer)

STREET & NUMBER

Centre Street

CITY, TOWN

Machias, Maine

STATE

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Machias

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Centre Street Congregational Church ranks as one of Maine's rare examples of an early Gothic Revival church. Designed in 1836, the church has remained the unchallenged architectural focus of this northern coastal community since its doors opened in 1837.

The Centre Street Congregational Church is a rectangular structure with a gable roof. A square tower projects from the facade, while a five-sided apse stands at the rear. The building has a granite foundation and is of frame construction with a clapboarded surface.

The facade or west wall of the church is divided into five bays. The three central bays comprise the great square projecting tower. The tower is approached by a long, broad flight of stairs which leads to a triple arched entrance. Located in the first stage of the tower, this entrance is composed of a large open pointed arch flanked by a smaller one on either side. These arches are enframed by pilasters with recessed panels and have hood moldings above them. In the open foyer behind the three pointed arches are three comparable pointed arch doors.

In the central bay of the second through the fourth stages of the tower appears an elongated pointed arch window with a hood molding above it. This great window is flanked by plain panels on the second and third stages. These panels are enframed by pilasters identical to those on the first stage with the exception that the third stage ones have pointed tops. In addition to the peak of the central window, the fourth stage features decorative crenellation with a pinnacle at each corner of the tower.

The fifth stage of the tower has a clock on each of its four sides. Each corner of this stage is ornamented by a rectangular pilaster with a pointed top. The fifth stage is surrounded by crenellation with a pinnacle at each corner. From the center rises an octagonal spire which terminates in a weather-vane. From the base of each of the four major sides of the spire projects a lowered opening with a pointed top.

The two remaining facade bays are located at either side of the tower. The basement story of each one contains a double door with a rectangular over-light above it, while the main story features an elongated pointed arch window with a hood molding above it. On the roof over each window is a short section of crenellation.

The north and south walls of the church are of identical design. Containing a basement story and a main story, each wall is comprised of four bays. The basement story has four three part windows, while the main story has four pointed arch windows with hood moldings above them.

The east or rear wall of the church is divided into three major sections and (See Continuation Sheet)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 11 1975
DATE ENTERED	MAY 12 1975

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

has both a basement and a main level. The central section contains the five-sided apse. The apse has a two part window at the basement level of each wall and a pointed arch window with a hood molding on the main story of each wall. The two remaining rear bays are located at either side of the apse. The basement story of each one contains an enclosed entrance, while the main story has a pointed arch window with a hood molding above it.

The interior of the Centre Street Congregational Church has two levels. The basement story is devoted to a large, simply finished room which is used as the vestry. The main story is devoted to the sanctuary, which retains its original pews and pulpit. Although Gothic Revival on the exterior, the sanctuary interior is characterized by plain Greek Revival woodwork. Its outstanding decorative feature is the series of late 19th century stained glass windows, some of which are set into the pointed and mullion pattern of the originally clear glass windows. With the exception of these windows, the fabric of the church remains in an original state of preservation.

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 1837

~~DESIGNER~~ ARCHITECT

Mr. Stephenson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Centre Street Congregational Church in Machias is an important example of the first phase of Gothic Revival architecture in New England. The first Gothic Revival ecclesiastical structure in the region was Charles Bulfinch's Federal Street Church of 1809 in Boston. This and the series of churches which followed it during the period from 1810 to 1840 were medieval in detail but not in structure. Gothic details were placed upon the traditional rectangular church form with its central facade tower. Churches ranging from Trinity in New Haven, Conn. (1814-15, Ithiel Town, Architect) to Trinity in Boston (1828-29, destroyed) paved the way for the more academic interpretation of Gothic which was to dominate this country's ecclesiastical architecture for the duration of the 19th century and into the 20th.

In Maine the first example of an early Gothic Revival church is the stone Christ Church in Gardiner (Rev. Samuel Farmer Jarvis, Architect, 1819, National Register 7/24/73). The next major Gothic Revival Church in the state was St. John's in Bangor, which was designed in 1835 by Richard Upjohn, then of Boston. Constructed of wood between 1836 and 1839, the now destroyed St. John's bore elaborate medieval details but shared its predecessor's lack of structural Gothic elements.

In a state with few Gothic Revival buildings, the novelty of St. John's design probably made a strong impression on the landscape. As the Bangor church took form in 1836, the Congregationalists of the small northern coastal town of Machias decided to replace their late 18th century meeting house. On March 10, 1836, the parish adopted a plan furnished by a "Mr. Stephenson." While Stephenson's identity has not been discovered in Machias, Bangor or Boston records, his design was, interestingly, a modified version of Upjohn's St. John's.

A month later, on April 18, the congregation voted "that a committee of four be appointed for building the meeting house as soon as may be of the size reported by our late committee and substantially according to the drawings furnished by Mr. Stephenson with instructions to report any alterations in the model which may to them seem advisable." G. S. Smith, David Longfellow, William F. Penniman, and Samuel Burpee were designated as the building committee. Burpee was a local master builder and may have directed the construction of the church. At the same April meeting, the parish agreed to purchase the site for \$1,200 and to authorize their treasurer to pay any building costs, which ultimately totaled \$9,757.

The Centre Street Congregational Church was completed within less than a year's time, and its dedication took place on April 13, 1837. Captain Stephen Longfellow was chosen to obtain a bell. During a visit to Boston, he purchased a second-hand (See continuation sheet)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Drisko, George W. Narrative of the Town of Machias Machias, 1904

books
Records Boos of the Centre Street Congregational Church

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 421950 49152220
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C

UTM OK
CD
 B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D

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 Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian
Frank A. Beard, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE April 4, 1975
 STREET & NUMBER 31 Western Avenue TELEPHONE 207-289-2133
 CITY OR TOWN Augusta, Maine STATE Maine

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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.

James H. Mundy SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE April 7, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>August A. Connelly</u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>5/12/75</u>
<u>Ronald M. Greenberg</u> MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>5/9/75</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 11 1975

DATE ENTERED

MAY 12 1975

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

bell which had been cast by Paul Revere's foundry. It measures 33 inches from top to bottom and 38 inches in diameter at the base.

The Centre Street Congregational Church has undergone only a few important changes since its completion in 1837. In 1859 the women of the parish established an Organ Society to provide music for the church. Their project was slowed by the Civil War. However, by 1867, they had raised enough funds to purchase the present organ from George Stevens of Cambridge, Mass., a leading 19th century New England organ maker. The ladies also came to the rescue in the matter of a clock. In 1854 the town meeting voted to indefinitely postpone the placement of a town clock in the church tower. Undaunted, the women formed a Ladies Clock Society, which earned enough money through staging special events to install the present public time piece in November of 1870. Costing \$600, this large eight-day clock was manufactured by Howard of Boston. The church's final major alteration came in 1899 with the installation of a series of stained glass windows representing Biblical themes.

The Centre Street Congregational Church stands today as the most prominent architectural landmark in Machias as well as an engaging example of the early Gothic Revival in New England. As the community's historian, George W. Drisko, observed in 1904:

The Church was dedicated free from debt; the pride of the town, because of its size and beautiful architectural outlines. No one thing ever accomplished by its citizens did so much to elevate and promote the town's good name.