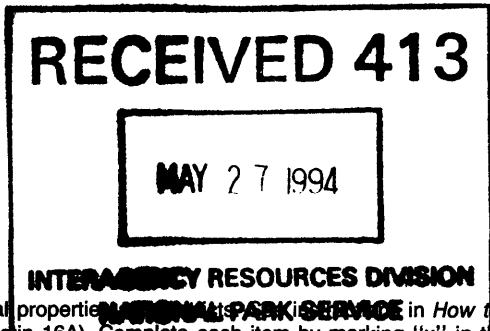


638

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 (as defined in How to 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 Union Church

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

2. Location

street & number South side of Rt. 302, .10 miles west of Junction with Rt. 11/114  N/A not for publication

city or town Naples  N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04055

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] SH PD 5/18/94  
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:

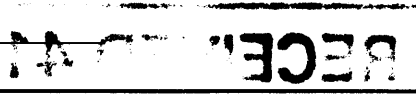
- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper  
Edson H. Beall

Entered in the National Register 6-24-94  
Date of Action

Union Church  
Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine  
County and State



**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

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

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Recreation & Culture/Auditorium

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

foundation Stone/Granite

Gothic Revival

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Two-Stage Tower

**Narrative Description**

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Union Church is a Greek Revival style wooden frame building which has a pedimented facade that is surmounted by a two-stage tower. It is sheathed in weatherboards and rests on a granite block foundation.

Facing north, the symmetrically composed front elevation features a pair of widely separated four-panel entrance doors which frame a large, central twelve-over-twelve window. Paneled corner pilasters rise to the broad entablature. A raised, triangular louvered panel occupies the center of the pediment's tympanum. The tower has a squat base supporting a taller belfry each side of which contains a lancet arched, louvered opening. A spire crowns the composition. Both stages of the tower are detailed in a manner which repeats the architectural embellishment of the main body of the church.

The three-bay side elevations contain twelve-over-twelve windows with shutters, and also feature corner pilasters and a broad entablature. There are no window openings on the rear elevation, the gable end of which is sheathed in a replacement composition board, probably over or in place of weatherboards.

Inside, the church has recently been restored to its original appearance (with the exception of modern lighting). This undertaking included the removal of a suspended ceiling added in the 1950s and structural repairs to the sagging tower. The plan is typical of the period with a full width vestibule at the rear at one end of which is the narrow enclosed stair to the balcony. A curvilinear recess at the rear of the nave between the two entry doors was probably the location of a stove. The original pews are still in place and are organized in five groups: three in the nave and one each on either side of the raised pulpit platform.

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

1857

Significant Dates

1857

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

UNION CHURCH  
Name of Property

CUMBERLAND, MAINE  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less Than 1

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9	3	7	1	1	0	0	4	8	6	9	5	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

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. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1994

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  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH

Section number 8 Page 2

Prominently sited in the village center of Naples, the Union Church is a Greek Revival style frame building erected late in 1857. Founded by three local religious societies, the church building is believed to have been regularly used until the early twentieth century. It is now utilized in the warm months of the year for a variety of religious and non-religious activities. The church is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its local architectural significance and criteria consideration A as a religious property.

According to documentary sources the Union Church was found in 1857 by two Freewill Baptist societies (the Association Baptist and the Star Baptist), and the Congregational society. By July 15, 1857, the joint Union Committee had received subscriptions for construction amounting to \$1,620.00. The following month the subscribers appointed a building committee composed of John P. Davis, H. O. Knight, and Benjamin Mitchell. The committee's first formal action appears to have been the appraisal and sale of the 48 pews, a process which realized \$991.50. At present, the builder hired by this committee to erect the church has not been identified. Nonetheless, construction must have commenced shortly after the committee's appointment since the church was dedicated on January 26, 1858, with both Congregational and Baptist ministers presiding.

The history of the Union Church during the late nineteenth century and early years of the twentieth is somewhat obscure. According to the annual editions of the Maine Register, beginning in 1878 - and continuing thereafter - the position of clergyman for the Union Church was vacant. In addition, the registers contain no reference to a Baptist society in Naples. We might conclude from this information, therefore, that the congregation of the Union Church had dwindled to the point that by the late 1870s it could no longer support its own clergy. It seems likely that the ministerial duties were assigned to another pastor until regular services ceased altogether early in this century. For a period of time thereafter the Methodists (whose nearby church was also erected in 1857) occasionally used the church followed by an Episcopalian congregation in the 1950s (during which time the interior was altered). Presently, it serves as an auditorium for community events, hosts weddings, and is used for at least one church service each year. A recently formed restoration committee has undertaken significant steps to return the interior to its original configuration by removing the suspended ceiling and reinforce the structural system of the roof and tower.

Architecturally, the Union Church is not unlike many buildings of this type erected in smaller Maine communities during the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s. In fact, it is a virtual twin of the nearby Methodist Church, although it originally featured a bell tower whereas the Methodists apparently did not add one until the early 1900s. Common characteristics shared by the churches

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

UNION CHURCH

Section number 8 Page 3

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in this period include the rectangular gable front orientation, often with a pediment, a multi-stage tower surmounting the roof, and Greek Revival style detailing in pilasters, entablature and window surrounds. Some of the earliest examples, such as the 1832-33 St. John's Episcopal Church in Dresden (N.R. 6/14/91), may have Federal period detailing, but the typical mix of original characteristics includes Greek Revival and Gothic Revival features. This is the combination employed at the Union Church as is evident in the lancet arched, louvered openings of the belfry. Thus, this building is not only a prominent local architectural landmark, but also exhibits a distinct pattern of church construction in mid-nineteenth century rural Maine.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

UNION CHURCH

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

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Dingley, Robert Jordan. Now I Will Tell You... The Story of Naples, Maine,  
Its History and Legends. Naples: Naples Historical Society. 1979.

Everts & Peck. History of Cumberland County, Maine with Illustrations and  
Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers. Philadelphia:  
Press of J. P. Lippincott & Company. 1880.



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

UNION CHURCH

Section number 10 Page 2

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Naples Tax Map U-25, Lot 31.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary embraces the entire village lot historically associated with the Union Church.