

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 22 1985

date entered JUN 20 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Rumford Point Congregational Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Junction of Routes 5 and U. S. 2 N/A= not for publication

city, town Rumford, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Oxford code 017

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Trustees, Rumford Point Congregational Church

street & number

city, town Rumford Point, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04279

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town South Paris, 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 church at Rumford Point is situated in the center of the village next to the bridge over the Androscoggin River. Constructed of wood with clapboard siding and a gable roof, the Greek Revival style structure has a belfry and steeple over the narrow gable end which is the principal facade. Classical ornamentation includes pilasters, cornice returns and a pediment over the entrance. The belfry is distinguished by round-arched apertures with louvered shutters.

The interior contains trompe l'oeil wall paintings designed with classical motifs. Behind the pulpit is an arch painted to suggest a recessed apse. On the side and rear walls are painted Ionic pilasters. Originally the ceiling was also painted but this was lost when the ceiling was replaced after water damage. A basement was constructed under the church in 1960.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1865 **Builder/Architect** Jonathan Adams Bartlett

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rumford Point Congregational Church of 1865 is significant as one of only ~~five~~ ^{four} churches in Maine known to have interior trompe l'oeil frescoes. Although the ceiling fresco which included a view of a dome interior has been lost due to water damage, the painting on the side walls is in excellent condition and the illusionary choir-apse is striking.

The trompe l'oeil work done shortly after the erection of the church is probably the latest known in Maine and may have been executed by Jonathan Adams Bartlett a local furniture maker, musician, housewright, and noted folk artist who was associated with Jonathan Poor and/or Rufus Porter during their sojourn in the Bethel-Rumford area. It is virtually certain that he was the builder and very likely the designer of the church. An amusing quote from a recently published history of the area states that, "During that winter [1865] it was a pleasant pastime of local people to watch the artist as he did the fresco painting on the interior walls and ceiling."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Typed manuscript by Arthur Gerrier at MHPC.
Martin, Stuart F., New Pennacook Folks. Rumford Point, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name East Andover

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	6	17	9	10	10	4	9	2	18	6	9	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 56, Lot 3

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 April, 1985

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 *Earle S. Felt*
title S.H.P.O. date 5/10/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 6-20-85

J. Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration