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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dunstan Methodist Episcopal Church
other names/site number West Scarborough United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number Route 1
city, town Scarborough
state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04074

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature] SHPO
Date: 6/7/89
State or Federal agency and bureau: Maine Historic Preservation Commission

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] 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 of the Keeper
Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Gothic/Queen Anne

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Wood/WeatherboardWood/Shingleroof Asphaltother Wooden ShedPorch on Tower

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dunstan Methodist Episcopal Church is an L-shaped frame building that is sheathed in weatherboards and wood shingles and features Gothic detailing and a square corner tower. Its present appearance largely dates from a turn-of-the-century remodeling of an earlier Greek Revival church.

Fronting on four lane Route 1, the church's principal facade is comprised of a gable roofed nave juxtaposed with a tower at the northeast corner. A large lancet arched memorial stained glass window with tracery is centrally located on the nave endwall. It rises through the wide band of decorative shingles that extend between the weatherboards on the lower level and those in the gable peak. Two colored glass basement windows punctuate the brick foundation on this elevation. The tower's front wall contains a shed roofed entrance porch that shelters a paneled two-leaf door, a narrow lancet arched stained glass window and a louvered belfry crowned by a pyramidal roof. Low parapets frame the steps that lead to the porch whose roof is supported by two posts and sawn arched brackets. A band of shingles above the porch matches those on the nave and a narrow cornice caps the first stage (a balustrade originally surmounted this cornice). Sawn brackets are utilized in the square belfry whose louvers are a later addition. Narrow windows similar to the one on the face of the tower are located on both the east and west sides. In addition, a molded stringcourse on the east side forms a peaked line that rises from the porch roofline and then returns to a point below the cornice.

The east nave wall is five irregular bays in width, although the three lancet arched windows that mark the nave are symmetrically placed. The middle unit of this trio is both taller and somewhat wider, but each one contains stained glass. The two windows at the southeast corner are much smaller than their counterparts. One of them is apparently original since a contemporary postcard view shows the existence of a narrow gabled chancel. At some point this was subsequently enlarged by the addition of one bay and the roof was raised to meet the main one. There are five asymmetrically placed basement windows on this elevation.

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Three windows, similar to those on the east, are symmetrically placed along the west wall of the nave. They are matched with Queen Anne style colored glass basement windows. Projecting from the southwest corner of the elevation is a hip roofed parish house added in 1928. An enclosed entrance porch to this addition is located at the intersection with the original block and each of its three walls contain two six-over-six windows. An exterior flue stack rises on the rear elevation of the church where there is also a door to the basement and two small windows.

Inside, the church continues to illustrate its turn-of-the-century remodeling. Stained wainscot carries around the walls the remainder of which are covered in pressed metal - as is the ceiling. Similarly finished woodwork frames the windows, doors, and the round arched opening that marks the chancel. A curved raised platform extends into the nave and across the east side where it contains the choir area and behind it the organ. To the west of the chancel is a door that opens into the parish house. Two groups of curved pews fill the nave below a trio of Gothic style lamps that are suspended from the ceiling. The parish house is wholly utilitarian in design and finish as is the basement whose rooms were created in 1952 when the cellar was excavated.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1907

Significant Dates

1907

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cochrane, Harry H.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

West Scarborough's Methodist Episcopal Church is a modest wood frame edifice whose present appearance is largely the result of an extensive 1907 remodeling. The significance of the building derives from this alteration, which was the work of the architect and artist Harry Hayman Cochrane (1860-1946) of Monmouth, Maine. Because it is one of only a handful of intact commissions by the architect the building is significant under National Register criterion C.

The Dunstan Methodist Episcopal Church in Scarborough was organized in 1802, two years after a successful local Methodist revival. Services were initially held in an abandoned Congregational Church. In 1810 the congregation erected a separate building which it utilized until 1839 when a second church was erected. Despite wide fluctuations in membership during the nineteenth century, the congregation continued to utilize this site. With its numbers again on the rise after 1900 the Church expressed its renewed strength by undertaking in 1907 a dramatic remodeling of its 1839 building. Harry H. Cochrane was commissioned to design the new work.

Cochrane was a man of many talents and interests, among the most accomplished of which was his work as an artist and architect. In fact, during his lifetime Cochrane was known as "The Maine Leonardo". His earliest known professional employment began in 1881 as an art instructor and photographer in Brunswick. Six years later he returned to Monmouth and at the same time undertook the decoration of his first church building. Cochrane's reputation for this type of work was widespread, and although the total number of commissions is not known, estimates have ranged from 300 to 500 projects.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Methodist Church 150th Anniversary and Re-Dedication: 1802-1952. Scarborough, ME: West Scarborough Methodist Church, 1952.

Peladeau, Marius B. "Harry H. Cochrane: 1860-1946." A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine. Augusta, ME: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1989.

Portland Press Herald, January 1, 1908.

See continuation sheet

**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:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than 1

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
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3	8	7	6	7	0
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4	8	2	4	5	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Dunstan Methodist Episcopal Church occupies the Town of Scarborough tax map U-32 lot 11.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property of less than one acre embraces the church building and the adjacent non-contributing parsonage historically associated with the congregation.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1989  
street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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No record has been uncovered to suggest that Cochrane had any formal architectural training. By his own admission Cochrane's self-taught knowledge of the topic was gained in order to make his decoration conform to the different architectural styles. Nevertheless, he did engage in the design of entire buildings, the most remarkable of which was Cumston Hall in Monmouth (N.R. 8/14/73), a rambling multi-function Queen Anne style building erected in 1899-1900. Of Cochrane's nine known extant building commissions in Maine, eight are located in Monmouth. The one exception, of course, is the United Methodist Church in Scarborough.

Unlike his other commissions, the project for the Methodist Church involved the remodeling of an existing building. Cochrane substantially changed the slope of the low Greek Revival style roof into a steeply pitched profile more appropriate for the Gothic detailing that was added. To one corner a tower was appended and stained glass windows, designed and made by Cochrane and his crew, replaced the more traditional double-hung sash. Perhaps because of budgetary constraints the interior walls were not decorated with painted murals but rather with suitable pressed metal. Documentary photographs show that the exterior shingles and weatherboards were painted a dark color offset by light trim. Despite additions made to the rear and west sides, the church continues to exhibit the significant elements as designed and executed by Cochrane.