

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Maine</b>
COUNTY: <b>Franklin</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE <b>OCT 30 1973</b>

HB  
# 414490  
2019 N 494157C

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**The Union Baptist Church**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**The Old Union Meeting House use this**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Farmington Falls U.S. 2**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Farmington**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**2nd: Hon. William Cohen**

STATE: **Maine** CODE: **23** COUNTY: **Franklin** CODE: **007**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Union Baptist Church**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Farmington Falls**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Farmington**

STATE:  
**Maine**

CODE:  
**23**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Franklin County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Farmington**

STATE:  
**Maine**

CODE:  
**23**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**None**

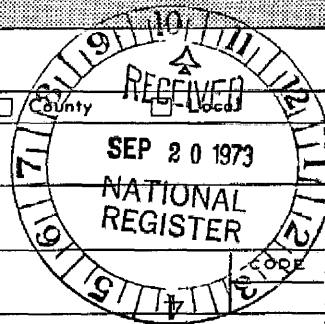
DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Union Baptist Church is located at Farmington Falls in the town of Farmington, Maine. Work commenced on the church in 1826 but was not completed until 1827. The church was also dedicated in 1827. The design is attributed to Benjamin Butler (1748-1828), a prominent Farmington carpenter-builder. A native of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, Butler moved to Farmington in 1790 and built many of the town's earliest structures, including the first bridge across the Sandy River. He was a member of the church's building committee.

The Union Baptist Church is a rare Maine example of a church which is eighteenth century in form on the exterior, but was constructed in the 1820's and has Federal style details. The overall exterior appearance of the building is eighteenth century with its large gable roofed meeting area fronted with a square central tower surmounted by an open octagonal belfrey and a pointed spire.

Originally, the form derives from Sir Christopher Wren's great series of late seventeenth century London Churches. In New England, the form began to appear in Boston in the 1720's with such brick churches as Old North Church and Old South Church. These and others inspired the design of much of New England's eighteenth century church architecture. Benjamin Butler, who planned the Union Baptist Church in Farmington Falls, would have been exposed to the typical New England Church form in Massachusetts before he arrived in Maine in 1790. Eleven years later in 1801, Butler designed Farmington's Center Meeting House, which was erected in 1803. There he employed a large gable roofed meeting area with a central tower and spire on the front. A quarter century later Butler served on the Union Baptist Church's building committee and probably provided the plan which is similar to the exterior of his Center Meeting House. Thus, although the Union Baptist Church was built in 1826-27, it was based upon an early nineteenth century structure which, in turn, was the inheritor of the late seventeenth and eighteenth century Anglo-American church form. The Union Baptist Church is now Maine's finest surviving example of this once popular form.

Beyond its interest as a building type, the church displays some handsome exterior Federal period details. Each side has a series of eight windows topped by fans. The projecting central bay of the tower is the focal point of the facade. Its first story has two identical doorways ornamented with delicate Federal pilasters and louvred fans. Centered above these entrances is a large window, on either side of which is a delicate Federal pilaster. Over this window and encompassing the width of the bay is a handsome triangular pediment. A window is found on either side of the first and second stories of the projecting bay. A window in the front wall of the building is found at the second story level on either side of the tower. Half way between the tower pediment and the belfrey is a large louvred fan. The open octagonal belfrey is comprised of eight octagonal pillars which support an octagonal pointed spire with a weathervane at its top.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Franklin	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 30 1973

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

The interior is comprised of a small entry hall and a large meeting room with pews and podium at the front. The interior has undergone few alterations since its completion.

The Union Baptist Church is a handsome example of an earlier building form being combined with features of a current style. Whether this was due to Butler's eighteenth century training or whether it was the product of a rural society, the result is an engaging structure with major architectural significance for Maine.



Approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Secretary of the Interior, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Penobscot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 20 1973

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

2

Also worthy of note is the considerable amount of original wavy glass in the windowpanes and the cellar floor of the main house which is covered with tile reputedly brought from England as ship ballast.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1826-27

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beyond its architectural significance, the Union Baptist Church has much historical meaning to its community and region. The church was originally constructed to be used as a meeting house to serve many denominations. Methodists, Free Baptists, Universalists and Congregationalists all used this church, one Sunday in four. The Methodists, however, were in the majority and they did in fact exercise more control than the others over the church. Each of these denominations eventually built their own churches and today the Union Church is the Union Baptist Church.

The land upon which the church was built was donated by Thomas D. Blake and Elnathan Pope.

No alterations were done to the church until 1854 when some minor work was done to the interior. This work consisted of painting, papering and rebuilding the pews. In actuality, the building has never been altered significantly.

This handsome survival, from the early 19th century, is a landmark at Farmington Falls. It commands its location and is a permanent memorial to all those denominations who made its creation possible. Its present owners, the members of the Union Baptist Church have a deep interest in their building. As their clerk Dorothy Crowell wrote recently, "It has been preserved through the years by a small group of devoted workers who believed that it ought to be kept intact as a fine specimen of early American architecture."



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Francis Gould, A History of Farmington, Franklin County, Maine  
Farmington: Knowlton, McLeary & Co., 1885

Parker, Thomas, A History of Farmington, Farmington, Maine 1846.

The Franklin Journal and Farmington Chronicle August 23, 1927

The Franklin Journal and Farmington Chronicle July 17, 1970

The Franklin Journal and Farmington Chronicle February 9, 1971

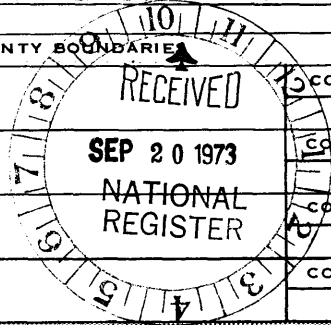
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44 ° 37 ' 25 "	70 ° 04 ' 41 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Richard D. Kelly

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: July 9, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta, STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: James H. Munday  
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
Date: September 17, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Gonnally  
~~Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation~~  
Associate Director, professional Services  
Date: OCT 30 1973

ATTEST: Wm. H. [Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register  
Date: 10-25-73