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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 and districts. See instructions 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 Little Brown Church

2. Location

East Side of Route 32, .05 miles South of Junction with

street & number Back Shore Road N/A not for publication

city or town Round Pond N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Lincoln code 015 zip code 04564

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.)

Carol S. [Signature] 5/19/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or 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 this 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] 6/26/98
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Union Church
Name of Property

Lincoln, Maine
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Other/Board & Batten

roof Asphalt

other Two Stage Belfry

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Union Church in Round Pond village is a relatively small wooden frame building in the Gothic Revival style. It is sheathed in board-and-batten siding, rests on a granite block foundation, and has a two-stage tower mounted at the front gable end.

Facing west, the three-bay front elevation features a broad entrance platform (with twentieth century railings) and a central entrance whose two-leaf four-panel doors are flanked by twelve-over-twelve double hung sash windows. Both the door and windows are surmounted by triangular multi-pane windows. The side enframements of the door and windows are comprised of two-part flat moldings, whereas the upper triangular window has a three-part molding of which the outer one projects slightly to form a hood. A single double-hung window similar to those on the lower section of the facade is positioned in the gable peak. Mounted atop the roof ridge at the west gable end, the tower has a short base sheathed in clapboards and a belfry stage that is clad in wood shingles. There is a louvered, pointed arch opening on each of the four sides of the belfry, an overhanging cornice, and a shallow pyramidal roof crowned by a finial and weathervane. The tower's present roof configuration has been altered from the original which, according to a sketch that appeared in *A History of the Towns of Bristol and Bremen* (1873), initially featured a tall spire and corner spirelets. Tradition holds that the spire was destroyed in an 1869 gale, which means that the documentary sketch of the church was prepared to show the building's appearance prior to that event.

There are three double-hung windows on the side elevations that match those on the facade. Three more occupy the east gable end, one of which is in the gable peak. The basement level contains a door and two six-over-six windows on the north side (a third window opening has been converted to a vent for the furnace), a pair of six-over-sixes on the east end, and three on the south side. An interior brick flue punctuates the north slope of the roof at the east end wall. The 1873 illustration indicates that a second flue was located on the south roof slope, a fact that is confirmed by the double stacks visible on the interior.

Inside, a narrow vestibule spans the rear of the building from which two doorways lead into the nave. The vestibule contains a pair of small boxed beams adjacent to these doors that are supported by brackets. Doors at both ends conceal steeply enclosed stairs that lead to a gallery at the back of the nave. The interior finish is comprised of wide beveled window and door surrounds, board wainscot, plaster over lath wall on the walls and narrow board sheathing on the ceiling. There are three groups of pews separated by two aisles, and a raised chancel that is framed by a low balustrade with turned balusters and newels. The pew ends are detailed with pointed arch panels, and the gallery features one long rectangular panel. Wall sconces and a central chandelier suspended from a ceiling medallion appear to date to the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. Of additional note, is the fact that the interior paint color remains unchanged. The basement level is separated into three rooms, including a kitchen, furnace room, and the larger multi-purpose room. Although the chamfered posts are probably original, it appears that most of the balance of the finish including the narrow tongue and groove wainscot and kitchen cabinetry, probably dates from the turn-of-the-century.

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.
- 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:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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

1853

Significant Dates

1853

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:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**UNION CHURCHLINCOLN, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Erected in 1853, the Union Church is a modest Gothic Revival style wooden frame building that features board-and-batten siding and pointed arch windows. It is one of only a handful of such church buildings that survive in Maine. The church is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criteria C. Criteria consideration A also applies because of the building's religious function.

Little has been written about the history of the Union Church in Bristol. By one account the church building was dedicated late in 1853 (a second source gives the date 1854), and the congregation was initially served by the Rev. William A. Drew. His successor, Rev. J. H. Howe, was pastor until 1860. For a brief time thereafter, the church building was used by the Baptists and Adventists, but it appears to have fallen into disrepair in the years during and immediately after the Civil War. Renewed interest in the church during the 1870s resulted in repairs to the building under the leadership of the Union Sewing Society. The local residents were subsequently served by a variety of pastors during the summer months, a tradition that holds to this day.

Church records indicate that on March 1, 1853, a committee comprised of seven local men was formed to build the meeting house. Committee members James A. Raitt drafted the frame of the church whereas R.A. Brown provided the plans for the interior and the pews. The other members were Samuel Hines, Steven Harding, Theodore Pool, Samuel Blaisdell, Joshua Thompson, and Parker Mears. The records make no reference to the involvement of an architect or master builder. (A notation in the file states that Montgomery Orff was the architect, but no information has been found about him and his name does not appear in the church records.)

Although the general scale and massing of the Union Church is not unlike others that still exist in Maine, its board-and-batten siding, the configuration of its pointed arch windows and doorway, and the preservation of its original exterior and interior color schemes are notable characteristics, particularly in small communities such as Bristol. Wooden Gothic Revival style religious buildings that employ this combination of features are quite rare in the state, and judging by the design of extant nineteenth century churches and documentary sources they always have been. Among the survivors is the First Parish Church (NR 12/2/69) in Brunswick, designed by Richard Upjohn and built in 1845; the Central Congregational Church (NR 5/17/73) in Bath, designed by Arthur Gilman and built in 1846; and St. Anne's Episcopal Church (NR 7/8/82) in Calais, designed by James Renwick and erected in 1853. These three churches are major edifices that were built in large, prosperous towns, with the assistance of professional architects, two of whom were nationally prominent. From the standpoint of community size, the Springfield Congregational Church of 1852 is perhaps more the equivalent of the Union Church, although it is a more fully developed rendition of the Gothic style with its corner tower and buttresses. (However, its original board-and-batten sheathing has recently been replaced by horizontal vinyl siding.) The more typical use of Gothic Revival style features on mid nineteenth century wooden churches in Maine is through the use of arches above windows and doors as well as in towers decorated with spirelets or crenelation. Oftentimes, these design elements are utilized side-by-side with Greek Revival forms such as broad pilasters and entablatures. Thus, it is within this context that the design and integrity of the Union Church in Bristol achieves significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH

LINCOLN, MAINE

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Bibliography

Johnston, John, LL.D. *A History of the Towns of Bristol and Bremen in the State of Maine, Including the Pemaquid Settlement*. Albany, New York: Joel Munsell, 1873.

Records of the Union Church, Round Pond, Maine.

“Round Pond’s Little Brown Church still a melting pot in 120th year.” *Kennebec Journal* (Augusta), August 25, 1973.

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National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH

LINCOLN, MAINE

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Bristol tax map 14, lot 76.

Boundary Justification

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