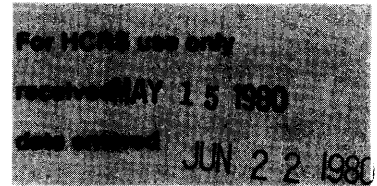


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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

1. Name

historic Union Church

and/or common

2. Location

011 ME 140

street & number

___ not for publication

city, town

Buckfield

___ vicinity of

congressional district

Second

state

Maine

code

23

county

Oxford

code 017

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- public
- private
- both
- Public Acquisition**
- in process
- being considered

Status

- occupied
- unoccupied
- work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
- yes: unrestricted
- no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military

- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other:

4. Owner of Property

name

Town of Buckfield

street & number

city, town

Buckfield,

___ vicinity of

state

Maine 04220

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

has this property been determined eligible? ___ 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 Union Church of Buckfield, Maine, built in 1831 and finished the following year, is a dignified and well preserved example of the Federal style with Gothic Revival overtones.

The one-story Church is of frame construction with gabled roof, central facade tower of two stories, clapboard siding, and cut granite foundation. The symmetrical facade, which faces south, is three bays wide with twin entrances covered by entablatured lintels. Above each entrance is a Gothic window with 12 panes below 10 in the arch. The tower projects slightly from the facade and in the first story contains a double-hung Gothic window, 16/16 below 10 panes in the arch. Above a triangular pediment there is a slightly smaller window at the second story level which is 16/12 below the arch. A simple balustrade tops the tower, where an octagonal belfry with an arched aperture on each side supports a steeple and weather-vane. The steeple's base is octagonal, being a scaled-down equivalent of the belfry below.

The sides of the church are 3 bays long, each bay consisting of a Gothic window equivalent to that in the first story of the tower. Likewise the rear of the church contains three of these windows, but here the central one is slightly elevated above the rest.

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

Specific dates 1832 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Union Church in Buckfield, built in 1832, is an outstandingly handsome and well-proportioned example of a late Federal meeting house with transitional Gothic features. The 91 foot spire is regarded as a model of proportion and grace.

Originally it was called Union Chapel, in the building of which nearly all the prominent citizens of the community of various religious denominations zealously participated. It was modeled in part after the Universalist Church in Livermore with the steeple design based on that of the Universalist Church in Norway - a happy accident which produced a building far better than either of its antecedents.

By the end of the 19th century, the church had fallen into disuse and was in danger of serious deterioration. Fortunately, John D. Long, a Buckfield native who served as Secretary of the Navy under McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, offered a generous contribution for repairs provided the town would purchase it for use as a town hall. The townspeople agreed and bought the church for \$75.00. Shortly afterward, Long procured a bell, cast in the mid-1800's from a Spanish mission on the Texas gulf coast.

The church again fell into disrepair in the 1960's but thanks to a group of dedicated citizens who established themselves as a board of trustees, restoration was begun in 1971 which is projected for final completion in time for its 150th anniversary in 1982.

Beautifully sited on a hill overlooking the town, this handsome structure well deserves its reputation as a local landmark.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cole, Alfred, and Whitman, Charles F., A History of Buckfield. Buckfield, 1915.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/2 **UTM NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle name Buckfield **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>19</u> Zone	<u>390685</u> Easting	<u>4905270</u> Northing	B	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 12, Block 3, lot 3

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian
 organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1980
 street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133
 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Eula S. Feltkowitz

title S.H.P.O.

date 5/9/80

For HCERS use only

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

Patricia Andrews

Keeper of the National Register

date 6/22/80

Attest: *Patricia Andrews*

date 6/13/80