

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only
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date entered 6-13-86

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 North Waterford Congregational Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number "The Commons" N/A not for publication

city, town North Waterford, X vicinity of Waterford

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name Congregational Church of North Waterford, c/o Rev. Nancy Taylor

street & number P. O. Box 54

city, town East Stoneham, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04231

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

This church is located in the predominately rural setting of North Waterford. The hamlet consists of a scattered collection of buildings, mostly dating from the nineteenth century. The church is a two story rectangular building with a gable roof and clapboard siding. In the center of the narrow northeast facade is a tower containing the main entrance, belfry and steeple. The windows in the church are square-headed and segmental arched with six lights each.

This Italianate style building features segmental and round arched windows, classical pilasters and modillion blocks. The facade of the tower is entirely sheathed in matchboard siding. A distinctive feature of the church's design is the tower, which tapers upward at each stage and culminates in an octagonal spire.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input 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 1860 **Builder/Architect** George Hobson/Thomas Holt

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

It is unlikely that a more beautiful (within its architectural context) or delicately proportioned rural church better sited can be found in Maine. Its classic lines, noble steeple and aspect on a high slope above the Commons have made it the subject of innumerable memorabilia and carried its picture the world over. Also unusual is the fact that its records are detailed and complete, contained in bound leather volumes dealing with run of the mill church meetings, but also devoting many pages to such matters as the public trial in 1871 of Serena Chaplin for fornication (she was found guilty but retained as a member by one vote) to the drawn out litigation between Mr. Mosher and Deacon Green over a barrel of bad apples.

The first Congregational Church in Waterford was founded in 1801 in the village known as the Flat beside the lake. This church (the present structure built in 1928) is included in the Waterford National Register Historic District. About four miles away the village of North Waterford began to develop in the first decades of the 19th century and, though the journey was tedious and often impossible in winter, the faithful for many years made the journey to the Flat. By mid-century, however, North Waterford had begun to thrive with small industry and became more closely linked with East and North Stoneham and South Albany. This was noted by the principal benefactor of the subject church, William Warren Greene, who presented a generous donation toward the raising of a community church. The structure was raised on July 4, 1860 and dedicated the following Christmas Eve. At its inception the church had about 50 members, 32 of whom came from the older church at the Flat. Today the church operates in a united parish including the churches of Stoneham and Albany.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hoyt, Fogg and Donham, The History of Waterford. Portland, 1879
 Waterford Historical Society, Waterford, Maine: 1875-1976. Somersworth, 1977.
 Gage, Thomas Hovey, Notes on the History of Waterford, Maine. Worcester, 1913.

10. Geographical Data

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

Quadrangle name _____ North Waterford

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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3	5	8	5	9	0
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4	9	0	4	5	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 74, Lot 10.

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, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine

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 *E. S. Fitzsimons*

title S.H.P.O. date 5/7/86

For NPS use only

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

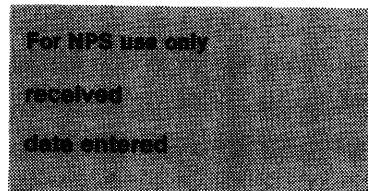
J. Allouso Byer Entered in the National Register date 6-13-86
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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



NORTH WATERFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

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The church's designer, Thomas Holt, had an unusual career which combined architecture and engineering for the Maine Central Railroad. His practice as an architect, beginning in his native Bethel and continuing in other communities such as Norway and Yarmouth, apparently included a specialization in church design. The North Waterford church is perhaps the most outstanding surviving example from this phase of his career. By the mid-1860s Holt devoted most of his time to the design and construction of railroad bridges and stations along the Maine Central Railroad. His important work in Maine in this field lasted until he moved to California in 1876.