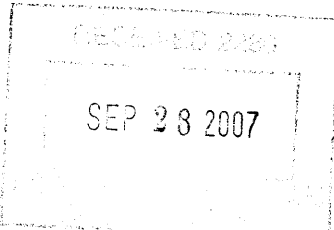


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1151

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 The Common
other names/site number Town Common, Union Common

2. Location

street & number Located between Common Road and Burkett Road N/A not for publication
city or town Union N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Knox code 013 zip code 04862

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.)

[Signature] 9/27/07
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] 11.7.07
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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	
		buildings
1		sites
1		structures
2	1	objects
4	1	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

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE / Plaza

LANDSCAPE / Object

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ Monument

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE / Plaza

LANDSCAPE / Object

RECREATION AND CULTURE / MONUMENT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other : Town Common

Late Victorian / Queen Anne (Bandstand)

Other: No Style (monuments)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other STONE / Granite

METAL / Bronze

Narrative Description

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

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THE COMMON

KNOX COUNTY, MAINE

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DESCRIPTION

The Common, a small historic district consisting of a grassy park-like site, dotted with cultural features, including two contributing monuments and one contributing structure, is located at the center of the Knox County town of Union. First referred to in the town records in 1790, it was deeded to the town in 1809. The Common is oriented west to east, and as originally platted it was roughly rectangular in shape, although the southeast corner is clipped off, making the plot of land narrower along its east edge than along the west edge. Wood frame residential and commercial structures representative of 19th through early 20th century architecture, line a pair of asphalt paved streets that presently define the north and south edges of the Common. Common Road, on the south, and Burkett Road, on the north, intersect each other at the western and eastern edges of the Common, and arc gently south and north respectively, around the green space. Three north-to-south oriented, narrow roads, Town House Road (part of State Route 235), Abbott Way, and a 'no-name road,' divide the green space into four primary, but unequally sized, sections. Another section of the Common occupies the northwesterly corner, north of Burkett Road, in front of the c. 1801 Gillmor House. East of Town House Road and south of Common Road are three additional green spaces which are divided by driveways and now function as front yards for houses built between 1826 and 1847. A fourth front-yard green space occupies the northeast corner of the site, and a fifth is located in front of the c. 1837 Augustus Jones House. These are all technically part of the Common, and in general, all the green spaces have tended lawns. Other than the segment in front of the Jones House, the remainder of the southwest corner of the Common has been incorporated into a small parking area to serve the stores and businesses located along this section of Common Road. The entire district, exclusive of the roads, contains three acres.

The natural topography of the Common rises in height from southeast to northwest. Each segment of the site is vegetated with grass and, to a greater or lesser degree, with deciduous trees. The outer segments of the Common also feature grass and several contain landscaping that in some cases is an extension of the adjacent buildings. A cement sidewalk follows the southern edge of each of the four interior sections, which are also sporadically edged with granite curbstones. Contemporary way finding signs are positioned at the intersections. Additional details on the four largest sections of the Common are described below.

Westernmost section.

Civil War Monument, 1888, contributing.

The westernmost section of the Common is the largest portion of the site. Measuring close to an acre in size, this wedge shaped area is located between Burkett Road, Common Road and Town House Road. Mature maple trees form a continuous canopy over the grassy park. At least three complete rows of these trees, planted on a North-South orientation, occupy the location of elm trees which had been carefully planted in 1859. (Similarly aged and aligned trees are also planted on the northwestern segment of the Common in front of the Gillmor House.)

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At the eastern edge of this island is a Civil War Monument erected in 1888. The eighteen foot high monument faces south and the grade around the monument is terraced on the south, west and east sides. The monument is composed of a three-step, light-colored granite base, and a polished, dark grey granite shaft under a truncated pyramidal cap. A life-sized, white granite Union Soldier, standing at parade rest, and grasping the upturned end of his rifle in his hands, is the crowning statuary. The sides of the shaft are inscribed with the names of Union's Civil War Veterans and casualties. The base of the monument is inscribed "J. Dornan MFG Union 1888", an East Union stone cutter. The statue was carved by E. J. Miller of South Thomaston, and the monument was erected by the West W. Cooper Post of the local G.A.R. According to local histories, immediately south of the terraces and monument was a small reservoir, dug into the subsurface ledge. Apparently used to provide water for the grazing animals, and for fire protection aided by a hand pump, this reservoir was filled in when the terraces were created. A gentle swale in the grass is the only evidence today of its existence.

At the corner of Town House and Common Road are three additional cultural features, including a cement watering trough, and early directional sign, and a c. 1974 map of the Union area. Little is known about the watering trough: it appears in photographs only after the monument was installed. Measuring about two by three feet, it is cast concrete, with the name "E. B. Smith" carved into one of the rims. In the early twentieth century the vessel started to crack and an iron band was added. No longer watertight, it is presently used as a planter. A circa 1920 postcard indicates that this object had originally been located on the island immediately to the east, and was serviced at that time by a hand pump. Behind the trough is a hand stenciled travelers' sign with fingers pointing out the direction and mileage to adjacent and distant towns. It is not known when this was erected, however, it appears to date to the early decades of the twentieth century. West of the traveler's sign is a large map, hand painted on wood and mounted on iron posts, and protected by Lucite. This map reproduces the end paper illustration from Come Spring, the 1940 novel by Ben Ames Williams based on the history of Union. Neither of these minor cultural features contribute to the significance of the site, by virtue of their age (the map,) relocation (the trough), or area of significance (traveler's sign).

West center section.

Bandstand, 1895. Contributing.

The west center portion of the common is the second largest of the sections. It is rectangular in shape and bounded by Town House Road on the west, Abbott Road on the east, and Burkett and Common Roads on the north and south respectively. As with the westernmost portion, this parcel contains maple trees, the age of which range from mature to freshly planted. With the exception of one mature maple near the center of the plot, the remainder of the trees ring the edges of this segment of the Common. A small portion of the northeastern corner has recently been transformed into two parallel parking spaces, and granite curbs line all four sides of the section.

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Just south of the center of this section is the 1895 bandstand. This octagonal wooden structure sits on a concrete footing (poured in 2003) and features an eight sided asphalt roof. The roof rests on wooden, octagonal porch supports, and is ornamented by scroll-cut brackets under the frieze boards. The peak of the roof contains a tapered spire surmounted by an ornamental ball. The open-air bandstand has lattice skirting below floor level, and two-part, half-height side walls composed of horizontal boarding topped by rectangular banisters and top rail. Two feet wide granite lined flower beds surround the structure on all but the north side, where three stairs lead to grade. Historic photographs from c. 1900 and 1925 indicate that the garden beds are not original. At some point between 1925 and 1971 the lower section of the side walls, which had been constructed of latticework, was replaced with the present boarding. An electric panel was installed southeast of the structure in 1923.

East central section.

World War II Monument, 1951. Contributing

Roll of Honor and Peace Time Veteran Monuments, 2007. Non-contributing.

The east central section of the Common, bounded by Abbott Way on the west, Common and Burkett Roads, and an unnamed, short access road on the east, is the next smallest of the sections. Rectangular in shape, this portion contains only a few deciduous trees on the edges, all of which are relatively young. The north edge of this island has also recently been shortened to provide for automobile parking.

Spreading across the center of this section are three memorials. At the west end of the grouping is the 1951 World War II monument. This object consists of a simple bronze plaque with the inscription "DEDICATED TO THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF UNION WHO HELPED PRESERVE US AS A FREE NATION," set below an emblem of an eagle. The plaque is mounted on a rectangular granite pillar with a beveled top surface. At the center of the grouping of monuments is a new monument, the Union Veterans Honor Roll. The tripartite monument features polished white granite slabs separated vertically by polished black granite pillars, all mounted on a rough-quarried white granite base. Bronze panels mounted on the granite slabs, (one for each war or conflict since World War I), are inscribed with the names of people who resided in Union at the time of their departure into the Armed Services. Immediately to the east of this object in another beveled granite pillar with an inscribed bronze plaque recognizing Union's Peace Time Veterans.

East section.

The easternmost and smallest segment of the central Common is a wedge shaped piece of land bounded by the junction of Common and Burkett Roads and the unnamed access road on the west. This section of the Common has thinly growing grass and two, relatively young maple trees. Other than the modern way finding signs and a telephone pole, this portion of the Common is devoid of cultural features (and in that respect, most closely resembles the early era of the Common).

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)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

Period of Significance

1790 - 1951

Significant Dates

1790, 1809

1888, 1895

1951

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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:

Union Historical Society, Union, Maine

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Common in Union is a town-owned green space that has been a community resource since 1790. Surrounded by nineteenth and twentieth century homes, businesses and civic buildings, the Common was initially set aside by the fledgling community as a shared plot of land on which residents could pasture their livestock, gather, and hold military training. Landscape improvements occurred throughout the nineteenth century, first with the removal of ledge and later with the planting of Elm trees. After the Civil War the Common was the site chosen by the local G.A.R. post upon which to erect a stately Civil War monument. The function of the Common then evolved further into a focal point for entertainment and ceremonies when a bandstand was erected in 1895. An additional monument to World War II veterans continued the tradition of adapting the landscape for public art and commemoration. Although somewhat altered by the demands of modern thoroughfares, the Union Common is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as an example of a designed landscape reflecting early community development, as well as for its nineteenth and twentieth century association with the community's social history with regard to its residents' military participation, and for its role as a historic site for community entertainment and celebrations. By virtue of the commemorative functions of the war memorials, Criterion Consideration F must also be considered.

Union Maine was settled between 1772 and 1776 by immigrants from Attleboro, Massachusetts and was incorporated in 1786. As with many other inland towns of the mid-coast region the population grew steadily and strongly through the first decades of the nineteenth-century. The date of the first designation of a Common in Union is unknown, but according to John Langdon Sibley's A History of the Town of Union, the earliest reference to it occurred in 1790; "voted that boars and rams shall not have the liberty of going on the Common," and later during that April 5 meeting, that "hogs shall have liberty of going on the Common at large."¹ Indeed, it is unclear if the boundaries of the space thus referenced corresponds with the boundaries of the property that was finally deeded to the town in 1809. At one point, what later became known as the 'Old Burying Ground hill,' located south of the town center between Round Pond and Seven Tree Pond, was proposed for the site of both the Common and the first Meeting House.² Sibley's account, drawn from the Town Records, continues the machinations during the intervening nineteen years.

Jan. 16, 1796, Josiah Robbins, Timothy Stewart, Amariah Mero, Samuel Hills, and David Robbins were chosen a committee "to apply to David Gillmor for a deed of two acres for a meeting house lot, and to measure the same." There does not seem to have been any action upon the subject immediately; for, Nov. 5, 1798, the town voted not to accept the report of a committee chosen to lay out the Common round the meeting-house, but "to have the Common as surveyed by Mr. Waldron Stone." It was somewhat rough at this time, as we

¹Sibley, p. 136. Sibley is quoting from the *Town of Union Maine Town Records, 1786 - 1802*.

²Sibley, p. 440.

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may infer from an article in the warrant for May 27, 1801, "to see if the town will clear out the stumps and stone out of the Common, so as it may be fit for the town-soldiers." The same warrant contained an article "to see if the town will accept of a deed of land for a Common, for a training-field, from Mr. David Gillmor." The town "voted the selectmen be a committee to apply to Mr. David Gillmor for a deed of the Common in the best manner they can get it for the town, and to postpone the clearing until a deed is procured."

April 4, 1808, upon an article to see if the town will survey the Common, it was "voted that the selectmen look up the deed of the Common, and put it on record as soon as convenient." On the 2nd of May following, it was "voted that the selectmen survey the Common, and compromise with Capt. [Rufus] Gillmor, and David his brother, by giving up the old deed, and taking a new one on the terms proposed by Capt. Gillmor, and get the deed recorded. (Sibley, p. 136-7).

Sibley later points out that there is at least one error in the deed ('east' was written for 'west' at least once), and the length of some of the measurements are minimally incorrect. Due to these inaccuracies, as well as the possibility that several properties had infringed upon the footprint of the property, the Town re-surveyed the Common and marked the corners with granite posts in 1838. Today, the boundaries of the Common, aside from the infringement of at least two buildings and several roads, still represents the entirety of the property conveyed to the Town in 1809.

Sibley's account of the establishment of the Common reveals that this property served, or was intended to serve, a variety of functions. From the first mention, the property was utilized for grazing livestock: boars and rams were prohibited from the land, but hogs were welcome, although between 1794 and 1799 the hogs must have been "yoked and ringed as the law directs" and after 1804 they too were banned. Cattle were present on the Common until 1824, however they were prohibited from being running "loose on the Common on public days."³ The 1801 request to clear the property of stumps and stones reflects the fact that although the property had been in use, it had not been 'improved'. This passage also references the desire of the local militia to designate a local spot for training, although Sibley also states that local militia always mustered in adjacent towns.⁴

In the years before the town received the deed for the property it is likely that the site of the Common was not firmly established. As the passage above indicates, there was a movement to position the Common around the Meeting House. Although this did not happen, there was a geographical connection between the site and this structure. Erected starting in 1793, the Meeting House was located "on the north side of the road from Capt. West's to Christopher Butler's, and on the east of the road to Senebec Pond in the crotch by Mr. Gillmor's new field," or just north of Burkett Road, on the northeast corner of the Common. When a new Meeting House was built in 1839,

³Sibley, p. 136, 138, 140. Interestingly, the Town's first Pound was built just to the west of the Common in 1806. A new, stone pound was erected away from the Common in 1822.

⁴Sibley, p. 352.

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according to Sibley, the footprint of the structure encroached upon the Common. However, Gillmor, who deeded the Common to the town, may have been thinking about its benefit to him personally. According to the Union Historical Society, "The enterprising Gilmore had just built the Cobb Tavern on the Common's north side to attract travelers on the stagecoach route to Searsmont, and wanted to redirect the business center of town, at that time in South Union, to the Common." (Union Historical Society, 2007). As a matter of note, the above passages also indicate that two roads, (now Burkett Road and Town House Road) were located and in use in the vicinity of the Common before the deed was executed.

The term 'Common(s),' or 'Town Common(s)' are now frequently used interchangeably with 'Green' or 'Village Green'; however there are nuances in the meanings. A recent survey of Maine's designed public landscapes reveals that one form of a Commons were the first public landscapes created in the state. These Commons had several distinguishing characteristics: 1) they were typically associated with the Congregational (or first) meeting house; 2) they were relatively small, but centrally located; and 3) they may have been leveled for the purposes of public gatherings, but were not otherwise improved until the late nineteenth century – if at all...." The genesis of both the term, and the practice, was English Common Law, which provided for the shared, common use of pasture, woodlands, peat, stone, and fishery resources, and was expressed in seventeenth-century Puritanical religious visions of an ideal town plan centered on the Church, and shared agricultural lands. Although this concept of community development had faded before most of Maine was settled, there remain several Commons in the state that were originally designated in conjunction with a religious facility, including those in Bethel (Middle Intervale Meeting House and Common, NR: 98000721) and Oxford (Center Meeting House and Common, NR: 97000606).

In contrast to the Common which was typically associated with the meetinghouse lot, the Town Common was often conveyed to a municipality by an individual generally for a token sum specifically for public use. (In this case, not a token sum; Gillmor received \$100 for the three acre parcel he sold to the town.) Located in the center of a community, improvements to the Town Common typically began soon after acquisition. Although similar in appearance, location, site feature, and use as the Common, for the purpose of this analysis, the original ownership of the township space is a key factor that distinguished these two landscape types. It appears that Town Commons represent an evolution from original religious association; that is the displacement of the quasi-secular role of the Congregational Church into general public use replaced by municipal ownership. Surviving town commons are, as a rule, located in the approximate central part of a community surrounded by either commercial, residential, public, or religious buildings, or a mix thereof. They are usually less than an acre in area, although some exceed this by several times. Of those identified in Maine, Union's is the earliest; other town commons are located in Castine, Farmington, Bethel (Hill), and Andover.⁵

⁵ The Castine Common is located in the Castine Historic District, Hancock County, Maine (NR: 73000240) and the Farmington Common is located in the Farmington Historic District, Franklin County, Maine (NR: 94001551). The Bethel Hill Common is located in the Broad Street Historic District, Oxford

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The physical characteristics of an individual common will, with few exceptions, reflect several periods of improvement. Judging from the earliest descriptions and visual records of these spaces, their initial appearance was largely that of an unimproved open area devoid of trees or formal boundary edges such as fencing or curbing. The first efforts to improve the common might consist of leveling it, setting out deciduous trees, and possibly erecting a fence. Subsequent attempts to beautify these spaces were often made throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries by elaborations through the design of circulation systems, the addition of ornamental plantings, or the introduction of structures such as bandstands, fountains, and monuments. Furthermore, with the rapid expansion of improved roadways, the edges of many commons were delineated by curbing, typically of granite. Unlike the Town Commons in Andover, Castine, Farmington or Bethel, the example in Union has been transversed by roads throughout its period of significance, which has resulted in the segmented nature of this property. As noted above, Burkett Road and Town House Road were referred to as roads by 1793. A stereo view photograph of the Common, owned by the Union Historical Society and taken prior to the erection of the Civil War Monument in 1888, shows a rutted dirt road lined with a wooden sidewalk in the foreground (Burkett Road), and dirt driveways and paths in the background (Common Road). Abbott Road is depicted on a 1927 plan of the Common, although the small no-name road to the east is not.

While Town Commons evolved over the nineteenth-century into public spaces which took on entertainment, ceremonial, and memorial functions their progressive development and close association with local social history sets them apart from the twentieth-century, Colonial Revival-inspired and Village Improvement Society-associated Village Greens. These later green spaces, which were often underwritten by summer residents in coastal communities, emerged fully formed, and were often designed by a prominent landscape architect or firm.⁶

As an example of a town common, the Common in Union typifies the evolution from shared pasture land to entertainment, ceremonial, and memorial space. The first of the 'designed landscape' improvements occurred in 1859 when rows of elm trees were planted on the common; those on the two western segments were set on a "true North-South line by compass." (Nash and Kahn, p. 27). While the elms died, several of the maple trees that replaced them maintain this alignment. According to the historian Edwards A. Matthews, it was about the same time that "a reservoir was made south of where the soldiers' monument now stands. This was to provide water for the Hand Fire Engine then in existence for fire protection. With the coming of the public water works in 1895 the old "tub" disappeared, and when the Soldiers' Monument was erected in 1888, the reservoir was filled up, although traces of it are evident now." (Matthews, p. 73-74).

County, Maine. (NR: 77000078).

⁶The preceding three paragraphs draw heavily upon the draft Multiple Property Listing by Shary Page Berg and the draft Designed Historic Landscape Survey context statements by the Maine Olmsted Alliance and the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

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The next major alteration of the Common occurred in the wake of the Civil War. The erection of Civil War Monuments occurred on a statewide basis. At least 135 are known to have been built, the most recent erected in 1983 in Vienna, Maine.⁷ Efforts to raise money for the Soldiers' Monument in Union were spearheaded by the Cooper Post G. A. R. and were underway by 1886. The following paragraph is taken from the *Rockland Opinion's* coverage of the dedication of Union's monument on July 4, 1888:

The purpose of the great gathering was a double one - to fittingly celebrate the glorious anniversary of American independence, and to dedicate, under the auspices of Cooper post, G. A. R., the fine monument just erected by the citizens of Union to the cherished memory of the soldiers of the Union who were killed or died from illness in its defense or have since passed away....The monument, dedicated on this occasion to the patriot dead of the town of Union, is one of the finest of the kind in the state. It is of granite, 18 feet high, with three bases. The die is of polished black granite, with cap, and surmounted by a life size statue of a Union soldier, standing with musket at parade rest. The die is of black granite from the quarry of Mr. George Green, South Thomaston, a very handsome stone. The other parts are of white granite. The statue is 6 feet 4 inches in height (sic), and in conception and execution is an admirable work of art. The face of the figure indicates intelligence and dignity and the pose is graceful and true to nature. The statue was cut by Mr. E. J. Miller of South Thomaston, who has shown himself as clever a workman as our state ever produced. His work has received the warmest commendations from all quarters. The monument was furnished by Mr. James Dorman of Union, under contract. Mr. Dorman was determined to make a first-class job of it, and has done so....Mr. Dorman has photographs of the monument for sale, which will be mailed to any address, at 30 cents for the small size and 50 cents for the large size each, on receipt of price. The inscriptions are on the die. On the south side is an eagle and shield with the words, "The citizens of Union honor their dead who fell in the War of 1861-1865." ...On the east side appear the names of those who died during the war... (and) on the west side are the names of ...deceased members of the Cooper post. As a whole the monument is an exceedingly fine one, and all the citizens of Union are proud of it. They have reason to be so, surely.

In many towns, the statues were not only celebrated for their commemorative value, but as the first examples of public art. Shary Page Berg summarized the prevalence and significance of these monuments as part of a context statement for designed public landscapes as follows:

The Civil War had a profound effect on the state of Maine, with unprecedented loss of

⁷Not a statue per se, the Town of Lisbon, Maine installed a granite slab to honor her Civil War Veterans in 1999.

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life...Civil War monuments and their associated grounds are by far the most common type of public landscape in the state, found in some form in at least 71 communities (Civil War Centennial Commission). Commemoration began even before the war ended. The Bangor memorial erected in 1864 in Mount Hope Cemetery is reported to be the first monument to the Union dead in the U.S. Additional monuments were erected immediately after the war and in the years that followed, with many around the fiftieth anniversary of the conflict. Monuments were provided by municipal governments, veteran's organizations, public subscription, private donor or some combination of the above...

Forms of commemoration varied...most communities erected sculptural monuments in outdoor settings. Many were located adjacent to public buildings such as court houses (Auburn, Bath, Ellsworth), city or town halls (Belfast, Biddeford, Winthrop), or on library grounds (Houlton, Machias, Madison, Pittsfield). Others were located in cemeteries, such as in Clinton, Hallowell, Litchfield, [and] Portland... Union, Freeport and Thomaston were among the towns that placed their monuments in an older common. [In several communities] new public spaces were created. In other communities monuments were located either in the village or along the main road in a visible location....Civil War monuments and their associated landscapes, prominent and visible throughout the state, are often the only sculpture or public landscape in smaller towns....Many communities have World War I and later monuments, but these are almost always smaller, less elaborate and sited in a subordinate way.... (Berg, excerpted from pages 10 - 12).

Indeed, Union continued to place memorial statuary in their centrally located Common. At some point after World War I a large, wooden Roll of Honor was positioned on the center-west portion of the common. Inscribed with the phrase UNION PROUDLY PRESENTS HER HONORED DAUGHTERS AND SONS 'SERVING OUR COUNTRY ON LAND - ON THE SEA- AND IN THE AIR', the relatively ornate monument also featured the names of Union veterans. Little has been recorded in the town histories about this object, which apparently deteriorated in the open air and was removed sometime prior to 1950 without ceremony. In 1951 the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion worked with the town to create and install the small pillar and plaque located in the east central portion of the Common, as a monument to World War I and II veterans. Positioned at some distance from the Civil War Monument, both the location and design of this object reflects the surveys assertion that these later additions were "almost always smaller, less elaborate and sited in a subordinate way." (Berg, p. 12). The recent addition of the new Roll of Honor and Peace Time Veterans monuments continue the tradition of installing public art on Union's Common.

The Common in Union is situated at the center of town and is surrounded by houses, commercial establishments and stores. The post office, historical society and fraternal organizations have, or have been, located abutting the Common, as was the Congregational Church. The original Town House and several other churches are located just beyond the Common on the cross roads. To participate in the civic or economic life in Union is to encounter the Common and the space is

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regularly utilized for civic events, gatherings and ceremonies.

According to historian Barbara Merrill Fox, there have been approximately 164 bandstands erected in Maine. Community bands, often containing musical members of the local militias, formed in the state as early as 1820, and a "brass band era" was in full force by 1835.⁸ During the Civil War troops were frequently accompanied by musicians at the outset of engagements, and upon their return to civilian life, these soldiers (or regimentally aligned volunteer musicians) re-established community bands that played military marching music.⁹ In Union, the Union Brass Band, with a good reputation, existed as early as 1845 or 1846, and a later incarnation, known as the Cornet Band, reformed in 1893. According to Fox, when the Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan made a campaign stop on the Union Common the Cornet Brass Band was hired by the town to play. Two years later, the members of this group built the bandstand and presented it to the town. Fox summarizes the role these structures played in the social life of Maine's towns: "Maine band stands were not the whimsical, decorative follies found in some New England towns; they instead were proud structures of both a practical and purposeful nature, used for important town events, decorated with bunting for the 4th of July and especially appreciated by the town's musical populace...Despite being the social and cultural center of most Maine communities, band stands were so taken for granted that few pictures, and even less written mention is found of them. Books about Maine music and bands seldom mention the financing and construction of the decorative platforms on which these musicians performed." (Fox, p. 29)

Over the years the band stand has continued to provide an important space for public entertainments. In 1925 it was the focus of the community celebration for the 50th anniversary of the Seven Tree Grange. Two local churches conduct summer services from the structure, and the annual Founders Day celebration surrounds the bandstand with a craft fair, Masonic Lodge chicken luncheon, library and historical society events, and a strawberry shortcake festival. The local Chamber of Commerce continues the band tradition with a summer music series.

⁸Fox, p. 12.

⁹ As a side note, band uniforms often mimicked military dress.

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Historic photographs, postcards, stereo views, and copies of deeds, courtesy of the Union Historical Society, Union, Maine.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated property are represented (exclusive of the roads) by the Town of Union tax map 24, lot 73, and in its entirety by the 1927 Tripp Engineering survey "Plans showing the Property (known as Union Common) Conveyed to the Town of Union by David Gilmore, June 15, 1809." The boundary is also sketched on the accompanying map "Union Common," based on the Coffin Engineering survey of 2000.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries as described above reflect the historic limits of the Common as deeded to the Town of Union in 1809 (recognizing the errors in the deed as discussed in Section 7).

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PHOTOGRAPHS

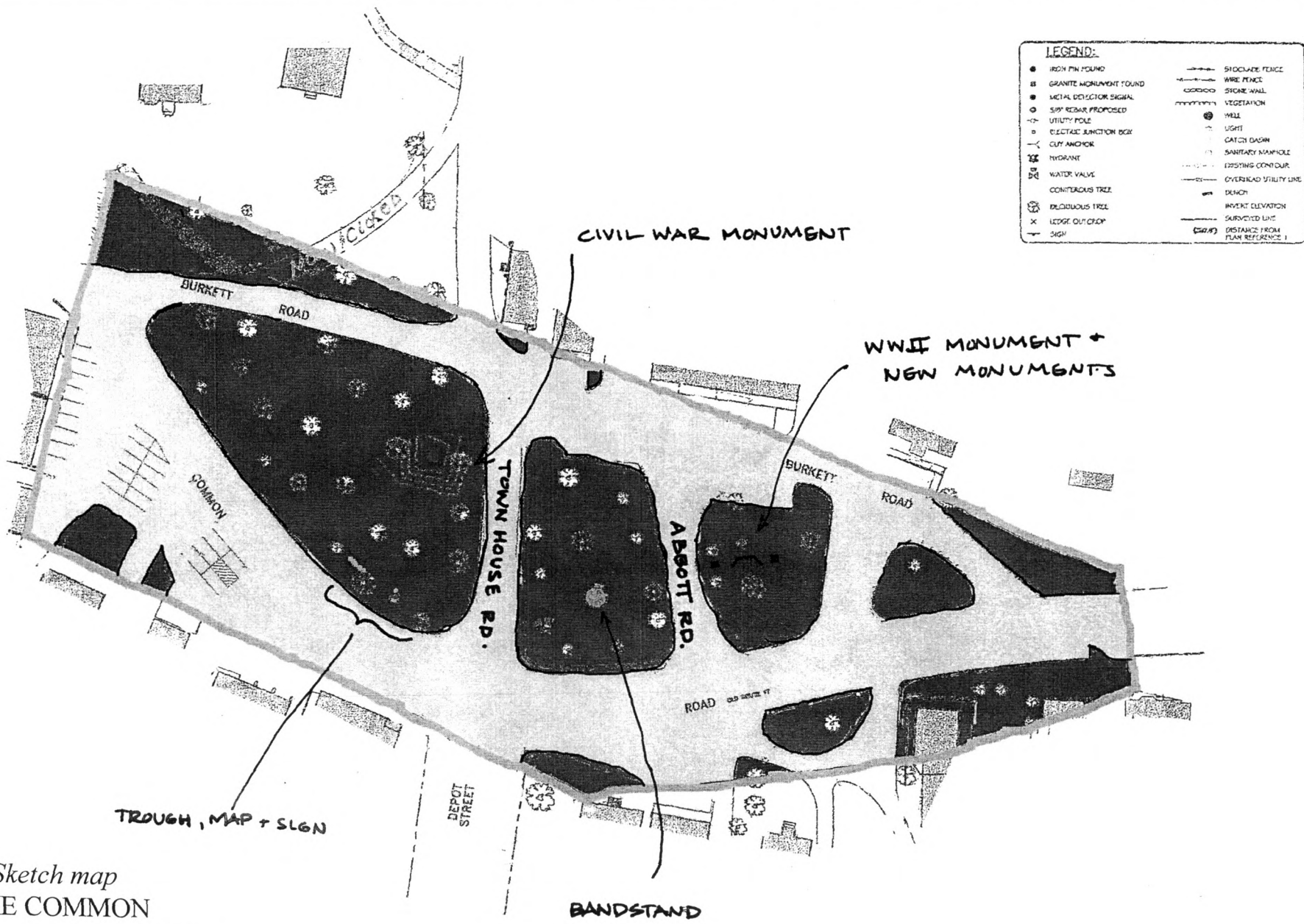
Photograph 1 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
3 July 2007
Westernmost section of Common; facing west.

Photograph 2 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
3 July 2007
Civil War monument, located on the westernmost section of Common; facing north.

Photograph 3 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
3 July 2007
Bandstand, located on the west center section of Common; facing south.

Photograph 4 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
3 July 2007
Bandstand and Civil War monument, Union Common; facing northwest.

MAGNETIC 1963



LEGEND:	
● IRON PIN FOUND	--- SHOCKWAVE FENCE
■ GRANITE MONUMENT FOUND	--- WIRE FENCE
○ METAL DETECTOR SIGNAL	--- STONE WALL
○ SUMP REBAR PROPOSED	--- VEGETATION
○ UTILITY POLE	○ WELL
□ ELECTRIC JUNCTION BOX	○ LIGHT
○ CUT ANCHOR	○ GATE DOWN
○ HYDRANT	○ SANITARY MANHOLE
○ WATER VALVE	--- EXISTING CONTOUR
○ CONTIGUOUS TREE	--- OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE
○ OBVIOUS TREE	○ DITCH
× LEDGE OUT CROP	--- INVERT ELEVATION
--- SIGN	--- SURVEYED LINE
	--- (Dist) DISTANCE FROM PLAN REFERENCE 1

Sketch map
THE COMMON
Union, Knox County, Maine

12 July 2007

Not to scale.