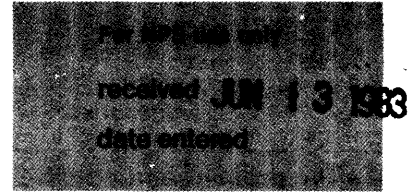


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Pittsfield Universalist Church

and/or common First Universalist Church, Pittsfield

2. Location

street & number Corner North Main and Easy Streets N/A not for publication

city, town Pittsfield, N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Maine code 23 county Somerset code 025

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 type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<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 First Universalist Church, Albert O. Perry, Minister

street & number 9 Easy Street

city, town Pittsfield, N/A vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Skowhegan, 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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First Universalist Church of Pittsfield is a large, irregular Queen Anne structure built in 1898-99. Its main body consists of two one-and-one-half story pitched-roofed sections arranged perpendicularly to form a "T". The "shaft" of the "T", consisting of the sanctuary, runs east to west, and is slightly wider and longer than the "bar", which contains a central auditorium, a parlor at the south end, and vestry rooms at the north. The "bar" section is the body of the original Universalist Church (1857, remodelled 1871), the steeple and foundation having been removed, the building turned 90°, and the whole completely remodelled.

Two square, pitched-roofed towers adjoin the south side of the sanctuary, one at the south-east corner, and a slightly taller and broader one at the joint between the two sections. The larger tower has a pitched-roofed entrance porch; the smaller, an entrance portico. A third, rounded, tower or turret joins the sanctuary at its northeast corner. The two towers at the eastern corners of the sanctuary, while clearly defined, do not enclose space separate from that of the sanctuary. The main tower, by contrast, is volumetrically independent of the main sections.

The walls of the building are clapboarded, with three narrow courses of imbricated shingles in each gable end. Vinyl siding is systematically being applied to the towers, but may not be used on the broad main walls. The roof is asphalt-shingled and in good condition. The foundation is of granite slabs, with small granite blocks applied to the base of the rounded turret.

A number of changes have occurred to the exterior since 1899. The uppermost portion of the main tower, originally a square open belfry with a small, round turret at each corner and iron cresting between, was at some point removed and replaced with a simple, pitched-roofed half-story like that of the smaller south tower. Decorative corner turrets on the smaller tower and on the corners of the south gable end have likewise been removed, along with subdued cresting that originally ran along all of the roof spines and gables. While destroying detail, these changes haven't significantly altered the relationship between parts.

The base of the main tower is a large vestibule connecting with the sanctuary, auditorium, and parlor. The walls in this room and throughout the church are of painted plaster, with wainscoting and classical revival door moldings of white pine darkly stained. The interior doors off the vestibule have stained glass transoms.

The single vestibule window and those of the auditorium and parlor are round-arched and of stained glass. The original altar of the auditorium (formally the sanctuary), has been fashioned into a stage.

The sanctuary abuts the auditorium, and is separated from it by a screen of cypress and oak doors. The room tilts considerably toward the altar and organ in the northeast corner (marked on the exterior by the rounded turret). The pews are of light hardwood. The ceiling is decorated with frescoes in the form of variously-shaped panels against a cream-white background. Each panel contains a single biblical figure, executed in light ochre shades.

On each of the sanctuary walls is a tripartite stained-glass window. Those of the north and east walls appear to form an interlocking series of arches. The three panels of the east and north windows, and the center panel of the south, are of favril glass. A more common grade of stained glass appears in the flanking panels of the south window and throughout the church generally.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 1898-99 **Builder/Architect** Frederick E. Hatch of Dexter

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The First Universalist Church of 1898-99 is Pittsfield's principle historic meeting-house, and perhaps the best local example of the Queen Anne style. The exterior has been slightly remodelled, but the unique interior remains perfectly preserved. The building contains an uncommon amount of stained-glass for a small-town church, even the interior transom-lights being fashioned of it.

Most important is the art-work of the sanctuary. On the ceiling are eleven small frescoes by the noted Maine artist Henry H. Cochrane (1860-1946). Cochrane was extremely prolific, decorating literally hundreds of Maine's churches and buildings. The bulk of his work, however, consists of non-figurative abstract or floral decoration. The Pittsfield frescoes are among Cochrane's finest and most ambitious works as an artist.

The stained-glass windows of the sanctuary are also of rare quality. Executed by Redding, Baird, & Company of Boston, the favril glass panels are singular in Somerset County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Pittsfield Examiner; June 21, 1899.
Souvenir and Program of the Dedication of the Universalist Church;
Pittsfield, 1899.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Pittsfield

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	4	6	9	7	7	5	4	9	5	8	2	5
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Property Map U5, Lot 36

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 Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian/Frank A. Beard, Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date April, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Carole S. Stewart

title S.H.P.O.

date 5/27/83

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Delores Byrne
Keeper of the National Register
Entered in the National Register date 7/11/83
Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration