

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
Maine	
COUNTY:	
Cumberland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	
MAR 27 1975	

1. NAME

COMMON:	Old Red Church
AND/OR HISTORIC:	First Parish Meetinghouse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:			
Oak Hill Road			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Standish		1 st	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maine	23	Cumberland	005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 <i>(Specify)</i> _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

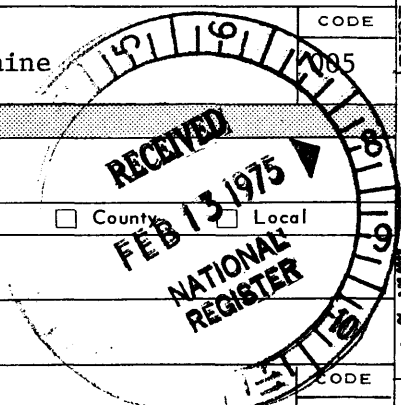
OWNER'S NAME:			
Old Red Church Trustees			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Oak Hill Road			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Standish,		Maine	23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:			
Cumberland County Registry of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Federal Street			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Portland		Maine	005

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
None			
DATE OF SURVEY:	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:		CODE	



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the Maine countryside, the chaste simplicity of eighteenth century architecture lingered well into the nineteenth century. This is reflected in the design of the Old Red Church of 1804-06 in Standish. Here restrained features and large scale were combined to create a starkly impressive rural house of worship.

The Old Red Church is rectangular in shape, stands two stories high, and has a gable roof with one of its gable ends serving as the facade. A belfry surmounts the gable roof at the facade end. The foundation of the building is granite, while the remainder is of frame construction.

The facade or south wall of the church contains four bays on each of the two stories. On the first story, each of the two central bays consists of a doorway with a six-panel door. Each of the two side bays has a large twelve-over-twelve window. An identical window is located in each of the four bays of the second story. Above these windows, the gable roof is outlined in cornice molding, giving the appearance of a triangular pediment. At the center of this pediment is a louvered Federal style fan.

The facade design is completed by a square two-stage belfry. The first stage has four plain walls which are capped by a projecting cornice molding. The second stage is open and is composed of four square corner posts. Adjacent to the corner posts on each side of the second stage is an attenuated column. This stage is surmounted by a projecting cornice molding and a balustrade. On the latter feature, each of the four corner posts is topped by a finial.

The three remaining walls of the Old Red Church are of a simple design. On both the east and west walls, the first and second stories each have a series of five symmetrically placed twelve-over-twelve windows. The north or rear wall has four symmetrically arranged twelve-over-twelve windows on each of the two stories.

The simplicity of the Old Red Church's exterior is continued on the interior. When first constructed, the main portion of the interior was comprised of a large open meeting room which was surrounded by a gallery at the second story level. In 1848 the gallery was replaced by a second floor to serve as the local academy. The original box pews and pulpit were retained on the first floor. The second floor is divided into a central hall which is flanked on either side by two classrooms and leads to a large classroom at the rear of the building. The front of the church contains a foyer with two staircases which originally led to the gallery. Since the remodelling of 1848, these staircases have connected the first and second floors.

The Old Red Church in Standish stands today as an imposing reminder of the important role which religion and education played in nineteenth century American rural life.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1804-06

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-
losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "First Parish Meetinghouse" ("The Old Red Church") in Standish was built between 1804 and 1806 to replace the old meetinghouse in the center of town which had been irreparably damaged by a group of intoxicated soldiers. The land upon which it was built was donated by Rev. Daniel Marrett who had been ordained as pastor in the community in 1796.

Marrett was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1767 shortly after which his family moved to Lexington where, at the age of eight, he witnessed the battle on the green in 1775. After coming to Standish he lived in the house built by Benjamin Titcomb in 1789 which is on the National Register of Historic Places. He dedicated the "Old Red Church" in 1806 and remained as pastor and community leader until 1829 when he was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Tenney.

A religious rift occurred shortly thereafter over the issue of Unitarianism and in 1834 Rev. Tenney led a group which split off to form the Evangelical Congregational Church. Those remaining adopted a Unitarian Covenant and the building was used for their services until 1860.

In 1848 the second story of the church was remodeled to serve as an academy. This project was shortlived, however, when in 1852 one of the Board members absconded with all the funds.

From 1893 to 1898 and again from 1902 until 1914 the building was used as the Standish High School.

Although the building is no longer in regular use services are held there each Sunday in August.

This fine old building and landmark retains a simplicity and dignity inherited from eighteenth century architectural tradition and has served its community in varied capacities for 170 years.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

George J. Varney, Gazetteer of the State of Maine, Boston, 1882
 Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities,
Old Time New England, Vol. XXXVI, No. 2, Oct. 1945

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

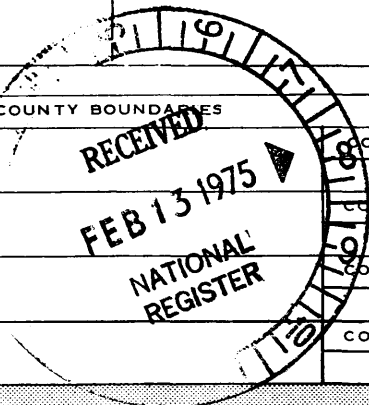
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 44' 18" N	70° 33' 22" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

19/374720
 4843750
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Frank A. Beard - Preservationist
Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr. - Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission DATE: 1/9/75

STREET AND NUMBER: 31 Western Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta, STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James H. Mundy
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date February 6, 1975

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/27/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date 3-27-75