

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0689734

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 7 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1978

**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

Springfield Congregational Church

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

ME 6

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Springfield

VICINITY OF

2nd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maine

23

Penobscot

019

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Springfield Congregational Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Springfield

VICINITY OF

Maine

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Penobscot County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bangor

Maine

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Springfield Congregational Church, built in 1852, is a remarkably detailed and well-preserved example of rural Gothic Revival architecture in a remote setting.

The rectangular building is of frame construction with gable roof, board-and-batten siding, corner facade tower, and granite foundation. A single external brick chimney is sited on the rear of the church, in line with the ridge-pole.

The church facade faces south and contains a double-doored entrance to the left. These doors are panelled and are framed within a Gothic arch. To each side of this doorway is an attached decorative buttress. The center of the facade contains a 3-light Gothic window with intersecting tracery. The right of the facade is dominated by a 3-story tower, square in plan, with an open belfry. This tower, with board-and-batten siding and corner buttresses, is inset into the south-east corner of the church, and projects little. On the facade side is a single-doored entrance within a Gothic arch. The exposed walls of the tower's second story contain Gothic windows of one light, while in the third story each side features a trefoil. The belfry roof is supported by large square posts, and this roof is decorated with four pinnacles connected by an ornate railing with quatrefoils within diamond-shaped panels.

The sides of the church are five bays long, each bay consisting of a lancet window.

An interesting feature was recently rediscovered in the interior. Above a wooden suspended ceiling (apparently installed c. 1893) the original ornate trusswork supporting the roof was accidentally encountered just prior to capping the lower ceiling with insulation. It is hoped that the 1852 exposed structural members will be permanently re-exposed, despite the natural urge for energy efficiency.

# 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

1852

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

First settled in 1830, the Town of Springfield lies in a remote area of east-central Maine, lying between Lincoln on the Penobscot River and Vanceboro on the Canadian border. The region, primarily agricultural, has always been sparsely settled and is set apart from any main stream of economic development.

Yet in spite of these limitations, this small but stylishly conceived board-and-batten Gothic Revival church was built only 22 years after the first opening up of the region to settlement. Clearly the work of a competent professional, exhaustive research has, however, failed to reveal the name of the architect.

The building was erected in 1852 by the Congregational Society which had been formed in 1846 by the residents of Springfield and the neighboring communities of Lee and Carroll. The cost was \$2500 and the original congregation numbered about forty.

Down through the years the church suffered almost continuously from lack of funds and was closed temporarily in 1933 owing to the economic distress of the Depression. For a time the congregation shared a pastorate with the Congregational Church in Lincoln. As an example of the limited resources available, electric lights were not introduced into the building until 1946.

Recent years have seen some amelioration of these difficulties, so that the church again has its own resident minister and the structure is now well maintained.

Relatively speaking, the Springfield Congregational Church ranks as an architectural jewel in unprepossessing surroundings.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clayton, W. W., History of Penobscot County, Cleveland, 1882.  
Springfield Congregational Church Records, Vols. II, III, and IV  
Bangor Daily News, July 20, 1978.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	5,6,7,4,8,0	5,0,2,7,0,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*Map 3, Lots 24 A and B  
 (per Frank Beard, 12-15-78 SR)*

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	DATE	October 1978
ORGANIZATION	Maine Historic Preservation Commission	TELEPHONE	207/289-2133
STREET & NUMBER	242 State Street	CITY OR TOWN	Augusta
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 *Carol S. Greenwood*  
 TITLE *S.H.P.O.* DATE *11/2/78*

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Charles Otis</i> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <i>12 22 78</i>
ATTEST: <i>Ronald Van Dyke</i> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <i>12/18/78</i>