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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Union Church
other names/site number Durham Town Hall

2. Location

street & number 744 Royalsborough Road N/A not for publication
city or town Durham N/A vicinity
state Maine code ME county Androscoggin code 001 zip code 04222

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.)

Carol Stearns 6/19/01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
SHPO
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): _____

Edson H. Beall 9/2/01
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Union Church
Name of Property

Androscoggin, Maine
County and State

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	Non-contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Religion/Religious Facility
Government/City Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)
Recreation & Culture/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Federal
Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation Stone/Granite
walls Wood/Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other Front Pavilion & Two Stage Tower

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

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)

Architecture

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1835

1924-1951

Significant Dates

1835

c. 1924

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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 Church
 Name of Property

Androscoggin, Maine
 County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	409430	4870250	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date _____

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

UNION CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Union Church is a gable roofed wooden frame building that is sheathed in clapboards and stands on a granite block foundation. Its facade is distinguished by a three-bay projecting pavilion that partially supports a two-stage tower. The transitional Federal/Greek Revival style building also features Gothic Revival elements in the decorative treatment of the windows.

Facing south, the symmetrically composed front elevation is comprised of the pedimented pavilion, the recessed walls of the main block and the tower. An entrance porch, whose hip roof is supported by two posts standing on low balustrade walls, shelters a broad two-leaf door. It is flanked by six-over-six double hung windows, a trio of which also occupy the wall above. The existing fenestration pattern was developed after the church was acquired in August, 1922 by the Town of Durham for use as a town hall. Originally, two doors with lancet arched louvers occupied the outer bays, and a single window was centered on the upper level. There is a single six-over-six window on the lower stage of the tower that is surmounted by a lancet arched louver and flanking spirelets. The octagonal belfry, which shelters a Revere bell, is comprised of tall lancet arched openings beneath an entablature whose cornice is decorated with modillion blocks. An octagonal conical roof crowned by a tall weathervane caps the tower. A brick flue rises through the roof just off the tower's northwest corner.

The church's three-bay side elevations feature symmetrically placed twelve-over-twelve double hung sash that are decorated in a similar fashion to the tower window. A small, Queen Anne style square window with colored glass is located near the southwest corner. There are two twelve-over-twelves on the rear elevation.

Inside, the front doors open into a vestibule which has a storage room to the right (east) and a pit toilet to the left. A pair of six-panel doors lead to the nave which contains three groups of bench seats, several of which appear to be the original pews. A dais is located at the north end. Symmetrically molded Greek Revival surrounds with corner blocks frame the windows and door openings. A coved ceiling also distinguishes the interior. The original gallery at the rear of the nave was converted to office space when the building became the town hall, and only a rectangular opening offers a view of the nave from this level. Access to this space is gained by way of a stair at the southeast corner of the nave. The original gallery stairs, which were presumably located in the vestibule, are no longer extant.

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Continuation SheetUNION CHURCHANDROSCOGGIN, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Erected in 1835, the Union Church is a late Federal style frame edifice that is detailed on the exterior with Gothic Revival style features and on the interior with Greek Revival moldings. In 1924, the building became the Durham Town Hall. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion A for its association with local government, and Criterion C for its architectural significance. Criteria Consideration A also applies due to the building's former religious use.

Judging from the account of the construction of this church in the *History of Durham, Maine* (1899), it appears that the Union Church was built primarily by Baptists in the Southwest Bend area of the town. The congregation's twenty-two members formally organized themselves into the Baptist Church of Durham on August 8, 1835. The church eventually numbered sixty members, but it subsequently declined such that by 1887 it was dropped from the Baptist Association. However, it appears that the church building itself continued to be used by other denominations -- as it had since its construction -- until the early twentieth century. At an undetermined date, the religious function of the church ceased, and on August 22, 1922 it was deeded to the Town of Durham. It was used as the town hall until 1986, and since then it has been the home of the Durham Historical Society, although the building is still owned by the town.

The Union Church is one of a relatively small number of surviving Federal style religious buildings in Maine that are characterized by a central pavilion which projects from the main block, and a tower that either rises through or straddles both sections. Among the most notable examples of the group are the First Church of Belfast (1818), the First Parish Church in Kennebunk (1770s, with pavilion and tower added c.1800) and the First Parish Church in Portland (1825-26). Late examples of the form, including the Old Union Meeting House in Farmington Falls (1826-27), the Union Church in Buckfield (1832) and the subject building in Durham utilize a consistent design with pedimented pavilions and gable ends, as well as towers astride both sections. Of further note in the latter two examples is the appearance of Gothic and Greek Revival style motifs that herald new architectural influences.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Stackpole, Everett S. *History of Durham, Maine*. Lewiston, Maine: Press of Lewiston Journal Company, 1899.
Reprinted by the New England History Press, Somersworth, New Hampshire, 1979.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Durham tax map 6, lot 32.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire lot that is historically associated with the Union Church.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., ME

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 3

Kirk F. Mohney

April 10, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from S

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Kirk F. Mohney

April 10, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View from SW

3 of 3

Kirk F. Mohney

April 10, 2001

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of interior looking N