

PH 0508098

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 31 1977
DATE ENTERED	FEB 17 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 Universalist-Unitarian Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Silver and Elm Streets

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Waterville

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st Hon. David Emery

STATE

Maine

CODE
023

COUNTY
Kennebec

CODE
011

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Unitarian - Universalist Church

STREET & NUMBER

Silver and Elm Streets

CITY, TOWN

Waterville

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Augusta

STATE

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1894</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Universalist Unitarian Church of 1832 in Waterville is a fine example of a late Federal style meetinghouse with early elements of the Gothic Revival. This frame building is rectangular in plan with clapboard siding, granite foundation, and gable roof covered with asphalt shingles.

The facade of the church faces south and features a three-bay-wide central projection with central entrance. This entrance contains double pannelled doors (six panels per door) within a simple frame with entablatured lintel. Above the entrance is a rectangular stained-glass window. To either side of the entrance, rising to a height of two stories, is a tall rectangular stained-glass window, divided horizontally about two-thirds the way above the sill. A triangular pediment capping the facade projection contains a central stained-glass window of Gothic form.

On the main body of the church's facade (to either side of the projection) is a single two-story bay with rectangular stained-glass windows; the first-story windows are capped by louvered arches in the Gothic manner.

A central facade tower is present, flush with the projection. This is square in plan with a large black clock face carrying Roman numerals on each of its four sides below the belfry. The octagonal belfry is surrounded by a delicate wooden balustrade and features eight open Gothic arches. The roof of the belfry consists of an octagonal dome surmounted by a simple cross.

The side walls of the sanctuary, which face east and west, are five bays wide, featuring tall rectangular stained-glass windows capped by louvered arches of Gothic form.

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

1832

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Universalism was brought to Maine by a travelling preacher from New Hampshire, Thomas Barnes, who visited Waterville in 1802. Here the denomination flourished and in 1826 a congregation was organized in the town meetinghouse with Reverend Sylvanus Cobb as its pastor. Five years later a committee of six, headed by devout Waterville Universalist Jediah Morrill, was given the task of arranging for the building of a church. Simeon Matthews donated part of the lot for the new meetinghouse and \$4200 was appropriated for the building. A bell was purchased for the tower in 1832 and a clock was donated by Morrill. The new Universalist Church was dedicated on January 1, 1833.

Later, in 1833, the town voted to hire a suitable person to ring the bell of the church three times a day for a year, at a cost not to exceed \$30. Another arrangement with the town was made whereby the town agreed to care for the land in front of the church in return for use of this land as a park.

In 1894, the church suffered \$1500 worth of damage from fire. At this time Mr. George H. Ware volunteered to build a cellar on the same lot, and move the church onto it at his own expense. This proposition was accepted, along with one made at the same time to turn the building to face south. A new bell was purchased for \$150 and the exchange of the old, cracked bell.

The Universalist church was active in education, overseeing Waterville Liberal Institute. The formation of a separate Unitarian society hurt the attendance of the Universalist church, but the combined Universalist-Unitarian Church of today continues to function. This well proportioned Federal-Gothic Revival transitional structure is an important landmark at the southern entrance to the business center of Waterville.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Centennial History of Waterville. Waterville, 1902

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	44,94,90	4,93,25,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Frank A. Beard, Historian Kristen Stred, Intern
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE October, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

TELEPHONE
289-2133

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

Eileen S. Feltworth

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

October 27, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Ketting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 2/17/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE 2-9-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER