

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 12 1986
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

JUN 20 1986

1. Name

historic Lovell Village Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number Church Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Lovell,

N/A vicinity of

state Maine

code 23

county Oxford

code 017

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name United Church of Christ

street & number

city, town Center Lovell, N/A vicinity of

state Maine 04016

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town South Paris,

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 excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the hamlet of Center Lovell, the church is a one-and-one half story brick structure with a gable roof, granite lintels and a wooden steeple. The rectangular building rests on a granite foundation and has double-hung sash with twelve-over-twelve lights. Designed in the Greek Revival style, the principal facade is on the narrow gable end which has a full brick pediment and a triangular louvered fan in the tympanum. The main entrance, which consists of two large panelled doors, is in the center of this facade and flanked by two windows. Directly above is the belfry with pilasters, entablature and a round dome on a hexagonal base.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input 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 1851 **Builder/Architect** Ammi Cutter

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lovell Village Church, a charming structure of excellent proportion and restrained but well conceived design, was built and probably designed by Ammi Cutter, a brick maker and mason of wide-spread reputation in northern Oxford County.

Of even more interest perhaps, are the circumstances surrounding the erection of the church and what they have to say about the slavery controversy in Maine more than a decade before the Civil War.

Since the founding of the Congregational Church in Center Lovell in the early 1800s, parishioners from the entire town had attended services in the town hall in that village. In 1841, Moses Heald, a member, moved to Georgia for a time and transferred his membership to a church in that state. Although there for a comparatively short time, he did become a slave owner. Shortly he returned to Lovell, having sold his slaves, and wished to rejoin the church. The resulting debate taking place over six church meetings as to whether, having been a slave holder, he should be allowed to return, divided the church deeply. The result was that Mr. Obed Stearns, leader of the opposition which was centered among the Lovell Village members, began a movement which in the event led to the erection of the Lovell Village church. In response the members in Center Lovell shortly erected one of their own.

The whole incident serves to illustrate the fact that the question of slavery was a live and controversial issue even in the smallest Maine villages nearly twenty years before the actual outbreak of the Civil War.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Moore, Pauline W., Blueberries and Pusley Weed: The Story of Lovell, Maine.
The Tar Press, Kennebunk, Maine, 1970.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{4}$
Quadrangle name Center Lovell

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map U2, Lot 25.

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/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

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 *E. S. [Signature]*

title S. H. P. O.

date 5/7/86

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrews

date 6/20/86

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Bernard J. Savage*

date 6-20-86

Chief of Registration