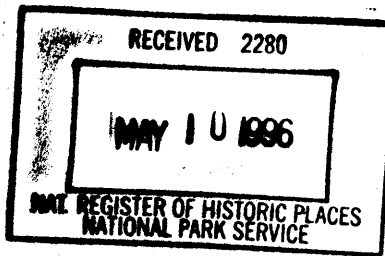


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Evangelical Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number North Side of Addison Ridge Road, 2.0 Miles South of U. S. Route 1 N/A not for publication

city or town Addison vicinity

state Maine code ME county Washington code 029 zip code 04606

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.)

[Signature] SHPO 5/3/96
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
 State of 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 the 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:)

[Signature] Edson H. Beall 6/7/96
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the
National Register,

Union Evangelical Church

Name of Property

Washington, 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	Noncontributing	
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

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Bell 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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes. C is checked.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A-G with checkboxes. A is checked.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1860

Significant Dates

c. 1860

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCHWASHINGTON, MAINESection number 7 Page 2

The Union Evangelical Church is a rectangular frame building whose pedimented gable roof is surmounted by a two-stage tower. It is sheathed in weatherboards and is supported by a granite block foundation. The church's rural location atop Church Hill with its view of the winding Pleasant River to the west, offers one of the most spectacular sites of any church building in the state.

Facing south, the symmetrically composed three-bay front elevation contains a large central window that is flanked by a pair of doorways. The window is comprised of a pair of long six-over-six double hung sash windows featuring fixed louver blinds and a gothic style drip moulding. Similar mouldings surmount the doorways that presently have four-panel doors, the upper two-thirds of which contain glass panels. The corners of the facade are framed by wide paneled pilasters that are enriched with lancet arches and chamfered edges. They rise to a broad denticulated entablature which carries across the facade and along the side elevations. Rising above the pediment and its denticulated raking cornice is the tower. It has a squat base that is sheathed in weatherboards, and a flush sheathed belfry stage with louvered openings on each of its four sides. The belfry is further articulated with trim detail that matches the main building including drip mouldings, corner pilasters, frieze, and overhanging cornice. An early twentieth century postcard of this church shows that the cornice was surmounted by crenellation.

Both the west and east side elevations feature two symmetrically placed windows whose composition is identical to the one on the facade. The fully detailed pilasters are repeated at each corner and on the rear elevation where there are short gable end returns. The raking, denticulated cornice is repeated on the rear wall.

The interior has small vestibules at the entrys which in turn lead into the nave. The space between these vestibules is now a storage area, but it is evident from the raised platform and the recent framing installed within the broad elliptical arch facing the nave that this was originally opened, possibly for the use of a choir. The arch has a broad molded surround and a paneled balustrade wall at the bottom. Two aisles separate three groups of pews, the center of which is a double grouping. Each pew is finished with a curved armrest terminating in a volute. A raised platform containing the alter, lecterns, and other furniture extends across the north end. At the rear of this platform are two brick flues that appear to have served a pair of stove pipes in an earlier heating system (they are at present not in use). The plastered walls rise to a coved ceiling with unusual rib-like detailing extending from the corners to a rectangular area in the center of the ceiling. All of the window and door surrounds feature pronounced hoods.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCHWASHINGTON, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

The Union Evangelical Church in Addison is a rectangular wooden frame building which combines elements of the Greek and Gothic Revival style in a general pattern that is repeated on a number of extant mid nineteenth century churches throughout the state. Constructed in the early 1860s, this building is the third church on the site, the previous two having been erected in 1789 and 1839, respectively. It is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion C for its local architectural significance. Criteria Consideration A also applies because of the building's religious affiliation.

According to local historians, a non denominational church was erected on the site of the present building in 1789. This was apparently the first religious structure built in Addison, which had been initially settled after the close of the Revolutionary War (it was not incorporated until 1796). The new building was named the Union Evangelical Meeting House. It stood until 1839 when it was destroyed by a gale, a not surprising fact given its exposed hilltop site. Preparations were made immediately to replace the church with a new one that, upon completion, is said to have had a capacity of between 500 and 600 persons. There is no known description of this building which was struck by lightning and destroyed in 1860. The existing church was constructed by an as yet unidentified builder when funds were secured, although its date of dedication is unknown. It is still used for religious services on a regular basis.

The Union Evangelical Church is part of a large group of architecturally related mid- nineteenth religious buildings erected in rural areas of the state. The buildings that comprise the general grouping can be further subdivided into three subsets: 1) churches with towers crowned by spires; 2) churches without spires; and 3) churches without towers. Common characteristics shared by all of these churches include their rectangular gable front orientations (often with a pediment), their plans (generally containing vestibules under galleries or adjacent to a raised platform) and an unmistakable Greek Revival style form that is conveyed not only by the general massing, but also by detailing such as corner pilasters and a broad entablature. These classical details are frequently combined with Gothic Revival features such as lancet arches above windows and belfry openings or in paneled pilasters, drip moldings over doors and windows, and crenelated towers. In some of the earliest members of the group, Federal style elements may even appear (St. John's Episcopal Church in Dresden, N.R. 6/14/91). The Union Evangelical Church belongs to the subset of towered buildings that lack spires. In this case, the belfry stage of the tower was originally capped by crenelation as documented in an historic photograph, and its mix of detailing includes a denticulated entablature, paneled lancet arched pilasters, and pronounced drip moldings. Given its high degree of integrity, the church is a good representative example of a distinct building type erected in Maine during the middle decades of the nineteenth century, a period in which a remarkable number of such buildings appeared on the state's landscape.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

WASHINGTON, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

The Union Evangelical Church bears a striking resemblance to the Epping Baptist Church in the nearby town of Columbia, a building which is said to have undergone a substantial remodeling in 1870. It is certainly plausible that the church in Addison served as a model for the alterations in Columbia, and they may in fact have been executed by the same builder. Unfortunately, no documentation has as yet been uncovered to establish this connection.

One final point regarding this property that is worthy of mention its dramatic site. While many rural church buildings in Maine occupy sites with picturesque settings that have had little or no late nineteenth or twentieth century encroachment, very few share -- or more particularly take advantage of -- the type of vista that accompanies the Union Evangelical Church. From its location about one-hundred feet above sea level, the church's entries open onto a lawn to the southeast of which the grade changes rapidly to meet the Pleasant River and its broad tidal marsh. Although this site has proven at times to be a dangerous one (witness the destruction of the 1789 and 1839 buildings by natural forces), it is one that provides a dramatic link between the natural and man made environment.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

WASHINGTON, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 1

Mitchell, H.E. *The Addison and Harrington Register*. Brunswick, Maine: H.E. Mitchell Company. 1905.

Sunrise County Architecture: Significant Buildings of Washington County. Machiasport, Maine: Sunrise Research Institute. 1979.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION EVANGELICAL CHURCH

WASHINGTON, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The Union Evangelical Church occupies the Town of Addison tax map 1, lot 24.

Boundary Justification

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