

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 14 1987

date entered JUN 25 1987

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

1. Name

historic Hampden Congregational Church

and or common

2. Location

street & number Main Road North not for publication

city, town Hampden vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Penobscot code 019

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

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Trustees, Hampden Congregational Church

street & number P.O. Box 9

city, town Hampden vicinity of state Maine 04444

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Bangor state Maine 04401

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

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 type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Hampden Congregational Church is a rectangular frame building sheathed in clapboards. Its overall Greek Revival style character is modified by the use of Federal and later Italianate period details. A narrow porch is attached to the front elevation and a short square bell tower surmounts the roof.

The church's symmetrically composed front (west) elevation features a broad gable framing the porch and a Neo-Palladian window. The porch is composed of four Doric columns supporting an entablature and low hipped roof. A paneled two-leaf door framed by a wide, flat three-part surround is recessed behind the columns on a flush sheathed wall. It is bordered by a fluted reveal. Each leaf consists of five panels two of which display Greek frets and a third now carrying a window. The door was further altered with an incision made between the third and fourth panels that reduced its functional height. The narrow wall at either end of the porch contains a three-panel door below a square, nine pane window. Immediately above the porch is a large fifteen-over-fifteen double-hung sash window that is surmounted by a louvered fan with keystone and flanked by wide molded panels. It has a decidedly Palladian effect. Wide paneled pilasters located at the corners of the facade rise to short cornice returns.

Mounted atop the roof ridge is the Italianate style bell tower. It has a short two-stage base capped by broad eaves. The belfry itself features wide corner boards, round arched openings with keystones and imposts on each of four sides and a balustrade in the arch. A denticulated cornice featuring paired brackets is sheltered by the wide eaves of the low pyramidal roof. A weathervane crowns the bell tower. The tower is remarkably similar to the belfry on the 1854 Washington County Courthouse in Machias. Church records suggest that it may have been added in the 1860s.

The three-bay nave contains symmetrically placed six-over-four-over-two triple-hung sash windows with three-part surrounds and deep hood moldings. The entablature carries along both side walls and makes short returns at the endwall. A hip roofed chancel with narrow two-over-two windows on both sides is attached to the rear elevation. The chancel is a later addition replacing the original pulpit window. The nave and chancel rest on a modern concrete basement punctuated with windows.

Inside, the church contains a vestibule that is located within the front porch and a portion of the nave. A trio of paneled doors, including a center two-leaf unit, open into the nave. Their plain surrounds in the vestibule are matched in the nave by bold symmetrically molded surrounds with corner blocks. The doors are located below a balcony (now enclosed) that features a paneled parapet employing a Greek fret decorative band. Immediately in front of the balcony and behind the pews are two octagonal posts. The spacious and well-lit nave containing its original pews is organized around a wide central aisle with narrow side aisles. Moldings similar to those found on the door are also employed around the windows. A raised platform framed by a low balustrade announces the sanctuary. Tall fluted pilasters are located at the corners of the rectangular sanctuary opening. A paneled parapet is located at the rear of the chancel.

Interior renovations were made to the church in 1904 and again in 1907. At some point the chancel was added. During the 1970s the ceiling was lowered, the gallery enclosed and pressed tin (perhaps dating to the early twentieth century renovation) was removed from the walls.

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 1835 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Erected in 1835 by an as yet unknown builder, the Hampden Congregational Church is a handsome rectangular frame building which blends Federal and Greek Revival style features with an Italianate bell tower. The robust character of its Greek Revival details and the unusual front porch distinguish the church from the majority of its vernacular contemporaries.

Hampden Congregational Church traces its origin to an organizational meeting held on May 6, 1817, by Rev. Jehudi Ashmun of the Maine Charity School.¹ This meeting was apparently held at the School's temporary quarters in the Hampden Academy. In November of 1834 a lot was given to the Church for the purpose of erecting a meeting house. The present building was constructed during the following year and dedicated on December 16, 1835. In 1888 a sketch of the church building was prominently illustrated in the record of the Sixty-third Annual Meeting of the Penobscot County Conference of Congregational Churches.² The building continues to serve the congregation.

Church records refer to repairs made to the pulpit, gallery and vestry windows in 1846 and money subscribed for expenses of the belfry in 1863. Presumably it was about this time that the tower was added to the building. Of particular note is the remarkable similarity which exists between this tower and the belfry of the Washington County Courthouse (N.R. 11/7/76) in Machias. The latter, built in 1854, was designed by Bangor architect Benjamin S. Deane.³ Whether he was responsible for the design of this addition has not yet been determined.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cook, Walter L. Bangor Theological Seminary. Orono, Maine: University of Maine Press, 1971.

Church records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Hampden, Maine

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	5	1	2	9	4	0	4	9	5	4	5	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property of .65 acres is contained within the boundary as drawn on the Town of Hampden Tax Map 32, Lot 60.

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 Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April 14, 1987

street & number 55 Capitol Street 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 *Eileen S. Peterson*

title S.H.P.O. date 5/8/87

For NPS use only

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

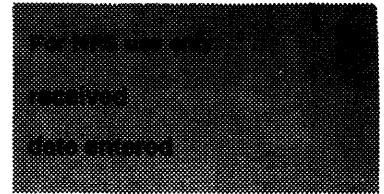
Patrick Andrews date 6/25/87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Beth L. Savage* date 6/25/87

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Hampden Congregational Church

Item number 8

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ENDNOTES

1. Documentation pertaining to the Church's organization and subsequent history can be found in the parish records.
2. A copy of this published record is located in the parish records.
3. National Register Nomination for the Washington County Courthouse, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, January 1976.