

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P170699918
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RECEIVED MAR 6 1979
DATE ENTERED MAY 7 1979

**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

First Universalist Church

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Elm and Pleasant Streets

SECTION OF ROAD

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

VICINITY OF

Second

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maine

CODE

23

COUNTY

Androscoggin

CODE

001

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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

First Universalist Church, Unitarian Universalist

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maine

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Androscoggin County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Auburn

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 First Universalist Church of Auburn, designed by John Stevens of Boston and built in 1876, is a large and complex building of the Gothic Revival style.

The building is of brick construction, with gabled roofs (covered with decorative slate), 2 stories, and a facade tower. Trim is of granite and wood. The facade faces south and the tower, square in plan, is attached to the south-west corner of the church.

The tower is of 3 stories with an open belfry and polygonal spine. On each side of the first story is a large 8-panel window within a Gothic arch, while in the second story each side features paired lancet windows. In the third story there is a quatrefoil on each side. The wooden belfry is ornate and contains paired lancet-shaped openings. The corners of the tower, as with all external corners on the building, are fitted with pairs of attached buttresses.

In the center of the facade are a pair of recessed entrances, covered by gabled hoods. Above these entrances is a large rose window. To either side of this bay is a lancet window at second-story level.

The long east and west sides of the church are dominated by gabled projections which give the building a cruciform plan. The projections, like the other bays on the building's sides, contain stained-glass windows of lancet form.

The north end of the church, which contains the chancel, is contained in a polygonal apse, in each side of which are (from top to bottom) a diamond-shaped figure, a quatrefoil, and a 4/4 window.

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 1876 ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ARCHITECT John Stevens, Boston

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As with his Italianate First Congregational Church, in Calais (N. R. 7/12/78), the First Universalist Church in Auburn by John Stevens of Boston is the outstanding statement of High Victorian Gothic Church architecture in the latter city. Although some of the crispness of the original appearance has been lost by the removal of the wrought iron cresting from all the gable ridges, nevertheless the building retains the grandeur and intricacy of detail which marks it as a fine example of its style.

Also, regrettably, the open porch entry at the base of the tower has been enclosed but this does not materially affect the massing of elements which create the overall impression.

Upon its completion in 1876, this church, which supplanted one of 1839 on High Street, was viewed as the finest addition to the architecture of the city that had so far been erected. It retains today a reputation as one of Auburn's outstanding landmarks.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blount, Edward F., Historical Notes on the Construction of the First Universalist Church, Auburn, Maine. Auburn, 1976.

Merrill, O. D., History of Androscoggin County. Boston, 1891.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9
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4	0	1	5	9	0
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4	8	8	2	8	6	0
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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Map 7-2, Lots 72 and 89

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frank A. Beard, Historian/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE

January, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

242 State Street

TELEPHONE

207/289-2133

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

Carle S. Fretterworth

TITLE

S. H. P. O.

DATE

2/27/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. ...
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST: *Donna ...*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-7-79

DATE 5/7/79