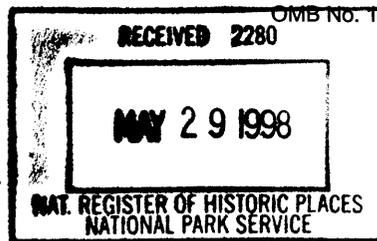


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



722

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 Church of Northeast Harbor

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 21 Summit Road N/A not for publication

city or town Northeast Harbor N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04662

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.)

Edward J. Fitzpatrick 5/19/98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or 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 this 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): _____

Edson H. Beall 6/26/98
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Union Church of Northeast Harbor
Name of Property

Hancock, 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	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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)

Shingle Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Stone
roof Asphalt
other Squat Wooden Belfry

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.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1887

1913

Significant Dates

1887

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Peabody & Stearns, Architects

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):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Union Church of Northeast Harbor
Name of Property

Hancock, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.20

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9	5	5	6	5	3	0	4	9	0	4	6	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

4

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1998

street & number 55 Capitol St., 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

UNION CHURCH OF NORTHEAST HARBOR

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Union Church of Northeast Harbor is a small, cross shaped stone and wood building with a broad wood shingled roof whose south end is surmounted by a squat belfry. The church is located in a residential neighborhood comprised of modest frame houses and large summer cottages. Its lot is surrounded on three sides by mature evergreens.

Oriented with its long axis in a south-southeast to north-northwest direction, the building's principal entrance elevation faces west toward summit road. The asymmetrically composed facade features a gabled transept located south of center, the recessed nave side wall to the north, and an engaged entrance porch to the south which is reached via a wide series of steps bordered by a high stone wall with granite capstones. With the exception of the board-and-batten gable end of the transept, the walls are constructed of glacial stone and quarry faced granite quoins. The fenestration pattern is comprised of a trio of six-over-six double hung sash windows beneath six-pane transoms centered on the transept, four rectangular eight-over-eight windows and a single ten-over-ten on the nave side wall, and the paneled entrance door behind the porch. Stone buttresses are located at the southwest corner of the porch and the northwest corner of the transept. The transept gables are detailed with a denticulated raking cornice and brackets at the junction of the stone wall. As originally built, the roof which sheltered the entrance and a series of small windows in the transept had a shed configuration that projected out from the main roof and was supported by the buttresses. This was altered in 1913 when gables were installed over the transepts. Rising above the roof ridge at the south end, the tower has a board-and-batten base supporting a louvered belfry and a modified broach spire (wherein the apex of its triangular sides falls below the center of the spire).

The south elevation contains a semicircular apse, above which the gable peak is sheathed in board-and-batten siding. A broad gable frames the north end wall which contains the principal entrance sheltered by a flat roofed porch supported by trios of posts resting on a high stone wall. The entrance is surmounted by six six-pane fixed sash and it is flanked by board-and-batten paneling and long twenty-one pane windows with six-pane transoms. There is one buttress located at the northwest corner. The treatment of the east rear elevation is similar to that on the west side except that there are no buttresses or porch. There is also an additional window located to the south of the transept gable, a brick flue punctuating the roof behind this window, and a shed dormer addition extending from the east side of the tower base.

Inside, the walls are finished in plaster over lath, whereas the ceiling is composed of the boxed rafters with tongue and groove sheathing between. A wide, stepped cornice extends along the walls at the point where they meet the rafters. Modest flat surrounds frame the windows and doors. A low vault is formed at the crossing of the nave and transepts. The broad, centrally located pulpit is paneled, as is the wall in front of the choir stalls and organ.

A low stone wall delineates the property boundary along Summit Road, and there is a short stone retaining wall off the northwest corner of the church building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH OF NORTHEAST HARBOR

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

Designed by the noted architectural firm of Peabody & Stearns and constructed in 1887, the Union Church of Northeast Harbor is a striking Shingle Style building whose low stone walls and expansive, wood shingled roof convey the type of organic relationship between building and site that are essential characteristics of the style. The church is eligible for nomination to the Register under criteria C for its architectural significance and criteria consideration A because of its religious function.

The Union Church of Northeast Harbor appears to have its origins in 1883 when a number of families began to worship in a one-room school that stood on the lot immediately to the south of the existing church building. In 1886 the Union Church association was organized and plans were begun for the construction of a suitable building. The lot on which it was subsequently built was given by Samuel N. Gilpatrick, and it was funded by 100 subscribers of which thirty-five were permanent residents and sixty-five were summer visitors. A building committee comprised of Charles W. Eliot, Danforth J. Manchester and Ansel L. Manchester was formed and the firm of Peabody & Stearns retained to design the church. Selection of the architectural firm was undoubtedly influenced by the fact that Peabody & Stearns had previously designed Eliot's summer cottage in Northeast Harbor that was erected in 1881. The church building was dedicated on July 17, 1889. In 1903 the existing organ was given to the parish, and in 1913 alterations, again designed by Peabody & Stearns were made to the transepts.

The Union Church of Northeast Harbor is part of a group of religious buildings erected in Maine during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the popular summer colonies and on several offshore islands (sometimes they were one and the same). Oftentimes these chapels were substantial architect designed buildings which were erected primarily through the interest and funding of summer residents. For example, the chapels at Islesboro, Hancock Point and Seal Harbor were designed, respectively, by Francis R. Allen, John Calvin Stevens and Grosvenor Atterbury. Although related stylistically with all three of these examples -- particularly the one at Seal Harbor which also employs stone and wooden materials -- the Union Church of Northeast Harbor is especially distinctive in its massing and relationship to the site. As architectural historian Weston F. Milliken has written "The low roofline and the curved eaves of the tower atop the indigenous stone make the church appear almost to have grown from the site. The building possesses an organic aspect despite its traditional cruciform plan" ("Peabody & Stearns," p.2).

[The following two paragraphs about Peabody & Stearns were written by Weston F. Milliken for his entry in *A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine.*]

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH OF NORTHEAST HARBOR

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

Among the prestigious architectural firms which worked in Maine during the nineteenth century, Peabody & Stearns was one of the best known. As the leading New England architects after the death of H. H. Richardson in 1886, this Boston partnership received more than one thousand commissions between 1870 and 1917. Peabody & Stearns' work in Maine is comprised of residential, public, ecclesiastical, and commercial architecture. Their Shingle Style residences on Mt. Desert and Islesboro are a record of the firm's work in that idiom -- from the first summer house in Northeast Harbor in 1881 to the last of their Maine cottages in 1905-06.

Robert Swaim Peabody (1845-1917) was the chief designer, while John Goddard Stearns, Jr. (1843-1917) supervised engineering and construction. The former was educated at Harvard, at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, and served for a time as a trustee of Harvard and a lecturer at its architectural school. Stearns graduated from Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard with a B.S. in Engineering. Both men worked in the office of Ware & Van Brunt before establishing their own partnership. A number of important architects trained under Peabody, who was known to allow his draftsmen considerable responsibility in design.

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH OF NORTHEAST HARBOR

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Bibliography

Fifty Years: Union Church of Northeast Harbor 1889-1939. Cornwall, New York: Idlewild Press, 1939.

Milliken, Weston F. "Peabody and Stearns." *A Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Maine.* Vol. IV, No. 2. Augusta, Maine: Maine Historic Preservation Commission, 1987.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

UNION CHURCH OF NORTHEAST HARBOR

HANCOCK, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of 2.20 acres occupies the Town of Mount Desert tax map 5, lot 29-1.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire village lot that is historically associated with the Union Church of Northeast Harbor.