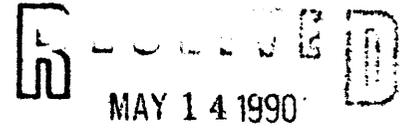


926

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name West Gouldsboro Union Church other names/site number

2. Location

street & number E Side of Route 186 city, town West Gouldsboro state Maine code ME county Hancock code 009 zip code 04607

[NA] not for publication

[NA] vicinity

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- [X] private [] public-local [] public-State [] public-Federal

Category of Property

- [X] building(s) [] district [] site [] structure [] object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0.

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: Ernest Peterson Maine Historic Preservation Commission State or Federal agency and bureau

Date: 5/7/90

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- [X] entered in the National Register. [] See continuation sheet. [] determined eligible for the National Register. [] determined not eligible for the National Register. [] removed from the National Register. [] other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Allison Byer

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action: 6/14/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Shingle

Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Ornamental Exterior Features

and Unusual Interior

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

A religious building of unusual form, this wooden frame church is comprised of a tall gabled nave to which are attached along one side wall a broad pent gable and a projecting entrance vestibule. The latter is surmounted by a square tower crowned by a pyramidal roof. Sheathed in weatherboards and wood shingles, the building exhibits a rich collection of decorative exterior details and an interior of high distinction.

Facing west toward the waters of Jones Cove, the front elevation is separated into two principal components: the steeply pitched gable to the left and the tower to the right. The gabled section is comprised of a trio of round arched one-over-one windows that extend between wide flush sheathed paneling above the water table and a bracketed and square paneled band below the pent gable. The tympanum of this gable is shingled, although its slightly projecting peak is detailed with a grid of narrow boards that produces an effect of half timbering. As originally built, the larger portion of the tympanum featured a false window consisting of two lancet arches enframed by elaborate turned surrounds rising to a round arch. This was set above a decorative panel with carved scrolls at the sides. At an as yet undetermined date this purely decorative ornamentation was removed.

Adjoining the gable to the right is the entrance vestibule and tower. A pair of horizontally paneled doors are flanked by large two-over-two windows which rest on the paneled wall surface that continues around the building. Capping this broad lower stage is a flared roof that tapers up to the tower's narrower square shaft. A large rose window with small square panes of colored glass at the border and four keystones, occupies a point about mid-way up the tower. Above this feature is a false arcade rising to a band of semi-circles and the molded cornice. This decorative treatment is repeated on two of the remaining three sides of the tower. A weathervane crowns the tower roof. Two other alterations to the front elevation, probably in concession to what were undoubtedly maintenance troubles, was the removal of an oriel between the tower and gable and a bulbous pyramidal roof over a narrow projecting bay attached to the southwest corner. Historic photographs show that the oriel had been removed by the early twentieth century, but it is not clear at this point when the other roof was eliminated.

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Continuation Sheet**

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The south end elevation features the bay at the west corner, a rose window similar to the one on the tower, a bay at the east corner defined by a narrow gable, and a treatment of the gable peak that matches the one on the facade. The projecting bay has a double-hung Queen Anne window in its south end that has a lancet arched pane in the upper sash framed by small square panes. The east bay consists of a pent gable sheltered by the main gable with a smaller version of the original front arched window positioned below a fan-shaped gable ornament. The counterpart north end has a two-over-two window and a door (originally a window) on the lower level, a rose window in what was originally the lower of two distinct bands of ornamental wood shingles, and the half timbered pattern in the peak. The rear elevation is punctuated by a trio of symmetrically placed two-over-two windows.

The decorative treatment of the exterior surfaces is matched on the inside by an unaltered display of lightly stained narrow board sheathing with a pattern of squares and alternating chevrons on the ceiling. This space is further articulated by chamfered braces that support the ceiling. A denticulated cornice carries around the nave. With the exception of the projecting vestibule and closet in the bay at the southwest corner the interior is one large rectangular open space. Two sets of pews are separated by the central aisle with the pulpit located at the north end. The furnishings appear to be original. A square wooden enclosure covers the flue stack at the nave's south end.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1888-91

Significant Dates

1888-91

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

West Gouldsboro's Union Church, which was erected between 1888-91, is a wooden frame building of unusual architectural character. Its eclectic, highly picturesque composition is particularly noteworthy when studied in the broader context of Maine's church architecture of the 1880s. For this reason it is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C and criteria consideration A.

The July 12, 1888, edition of the Ellsworth American carried a brief notice stating in part that "The ladies of this village, known as the West Gouldsboro Union Church Society, have made a beginning to build a Union Church here." Subsequent progress reports that appeared in the paper indicate that the building effort was a community one in which donations were solicited and fund raising activities as well as work parties were organized. By November of 1888 the exterior had apparently been largely completed, and work was suspended until the following building season when it was hoped that more funds would be available. In 1889 the grounds were graded, but it was not until May of 1890 that funds were being raised to paint the exterior. The October 30, 1890, edition announced that pews had been purchased and plans called for the interior to be completed during the winter. Finally, on August 20, 1891, the church was dedicated for the use of "all christian denominations."

Among the relatively few wooden frame churches erected in Maine during the 1880s, the building at West Gouldsboro is particularly distinguished in overall composition and detailing. Although a complete inventory of such structures from the period does not as yet exist, those identified to date provide a useful comparative group. Among these are two subsets: the major edifices of stone and brick such as St. Mark's in Augusta (1885-86) and the First Congregational Church in Farmington (1888), and the typically smaller wooden churches and chapels, most of the latter of which were built in the rapidly developing summer resorts. Among this latter group, the Union Church is distinguished by its unorthodox composition. This was unlike the majority of its contemporaries, where the arrangement of elements as developed in the

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ellsworth American. Ellsworth, Maine. Various editions between July 12, 1888 and August 27, 1891.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

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5	7	2	0	2	0
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4	9	2	3	7	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Gouldsboro tax map 60, lot 46.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the building and entire lot historically associated with this property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 3/90

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone (207) 289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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1860s and 1870s, particularly the relationship of nave to tower, was for the most part retained with only details showing a marked change. By comparison, the West Gouldsboro Church exhibits a facade and secondary elevations comprised principally of decorative elements with only minor relationship to the interior arrangement. This fact was underscored by the oriel window and bulbous roof of the bay adjacent to the tower (both features of which do not survive), as well as the existing blind arcade in the tower. The church almost seemed to celebrate the diversity of architectural features available to the builder during the late nineteenth century. Unfortunately, the names of its designer and builder have not been discovered.