

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 20 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Dixmont Corner Church

and/or common Dixmont Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 202 N/A not for publication

city, town Dixmont, N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

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

4. Owner of Property

name Dixmont Methodist Church; Rev. Carl Schreiber, Pastor

street & number

city, town Dixmont, N/A vicinity of state Maine

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Penobscot County Courthouse

street & number Hammond Street

city, town Bangor, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Church at Dixmont Corner is a post-and-beam structure of rectangular proportions, with a pitched roof and square, pinnacled belfry. The main portion is one-and-one-half stories tall and is divided into vestibule with open balcony above, chamber, and attic. The vestibule has recently been sub-divided to provide ancillary rooms. The belfry is an integral part of the structure, its corner-posts extending down into the attic and, in the front corners, down to the base of the main section.

The building is unusually clear in its proportions, the belfry being fully a third as wide, one fourth as deep, and half as tall as the main section. Similar decoration on both facade and belfry increase their sense of unity.

The facade is divided into three bays, each defined by a thin lancet moulding almost Federal in character. The center moulding is the tallest and encloses a rectangular window (originally 20/20 but modified into doubled 1/1's around the turn-of-the-century) which appears to be a lancet because a louvred lancet "shutter" hangs immediately above it.

Each of the remaining windows (three on each side) was similarly modified from an original 20/20 configuration and is similarly capped by lancet shutters. The flanking bays of the facade contain five-pannelled doors. A louvred Federal fan masks an attic ventilator in the gable. The facade is flanked by shallow corner-boards with inlaid lancet mouldings.

Similar lancet corner-boards shield the corners of the belfry, and a louvred lancet ventilator faces each elevation. A course of small dentils runs along the eave of the building's shallow hipped roof, and two-stage wooden pinnacles, each supported by thin iron bars, sprout from the corners. Inside the belfry is a bronze bell.

All elevations are clapboarded save for the rear, which is shingled. Some of the nineteenth-century pine shingles of what is now on asphalt-shingled roof survive beneath the belfry.

The chamber is little-altered, retaining its original free-standing pews, pine-boarded floors, and wooden balcony and alter rails, all very Federal in association. Two Christian-cross doors lead from chamber to vestibule. The chamber walls and ceiling were tinned in a Colonial Revival pattern around the turn-of-the-century, and an arched stained-glass window was installed in the rear wall just to the right of the alter, about the same time.

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 1834–35 **Builder/Architect** Rowland Tyler of Dixmont

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Union Church at Dixmont Corner is one of the oldest and finest churches in rural Penobscot County. Designed and constructed by Dixmont carpenter-builder Rowland Tyler, the church was among the earliest carpenter-gothic buildings in the Penobscot region, and an unusually sophisticated example for so remote a township.

Rowland Tyler was the manager of the Dix land-holdings (present-day Dixmont) as well as a respected carpenter-builder. The Bangor City Hall of 1812 is the only other work attributable to him, but its importance suggests that Tyler was a major Penobscot region builder from an early date. The Dixmont Corner Church, Tyler's only verifiably extant work, was probably modelled on either the First Congregational Church of Bangor (1831-2), a brick structure with a wooden cupola, or the Orrington Methodist Church of 1832 (Charles H. Pond of Bangor, architect), a carpenter version of the Bangor Church. Both churches used applied Gothic Revival ornament on a classically proportioned mass in a very deliberate fashion, and are perhaps the first in Maine that can be linked to the "Gothic Church Revival" of the post-Federal period. The Winterport Congregational Church of 1834 (Calvin Ryder, architect/builder) and Dixmont Corner Church soon followed, differing in the refinements of the original Bangor-Orrington design. While the picturesque Winterport Church is justly acclaimed as among the most beautiful on the Maine coast, the Dixmont Church is no less pleasing in its clear, virtually perfect proportions.

The Dixmont Church was a rare and early statement of the Gothic Revival in a remote farming region, as distinct from the coastal or riverine ports where architectural style was almost exclusively perfected. As such, it was doubtlessly the inspiration for the dozen or more carpenter-gothic churches that sprouted in surrounding towns in the ensuing two decades, none of which surpassed the original in quality or ambition. The church remains perhaps the most aspiring piece of architecture in any of the rural villages between the Penobscot and Kennebec Rivers.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Dixmont. Llewellyn and Eleanor Toothaker.
"Rowland Tyler", file at Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name Brooks

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	4	8	7	1	8	0	4	9	4	7	2	5	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

Assessor's Map 12, Lot 2

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1983

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 *Paul S. Feltz*

title S.H.P.O. date 5/20/83

For NPS use only

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

Alvina Byers Entered in the National Register date 7/21/83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration