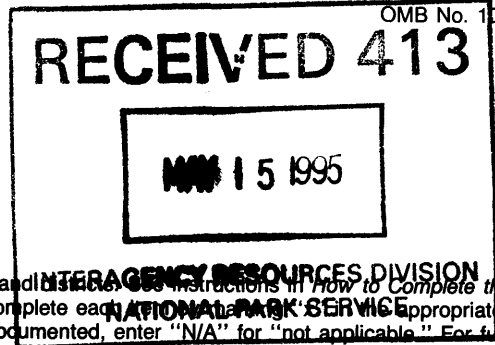


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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 instruction 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 Gray Memorial United Methodist Church and Parsonage

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 8 Prospect Street N/A not for publication

city or town Caribou N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04736

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 5/12/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State of 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 the 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 9/20/95
Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action

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

2 buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

2 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

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood/Wood Shingle

Synthetics/Vinyl

roof Asphalt

other Central Entry/Bell Tower

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 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

1912-1914

Significant Dates

1912

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Astle & Page, Architects/Contractors

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:

Gray Memorial United Methodist Church & Parsonage
Name of Property

Aroostook, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 574910 5189880
Zone Easting Northing

2

3
Zone Easting Northing

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. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1995

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 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.*).

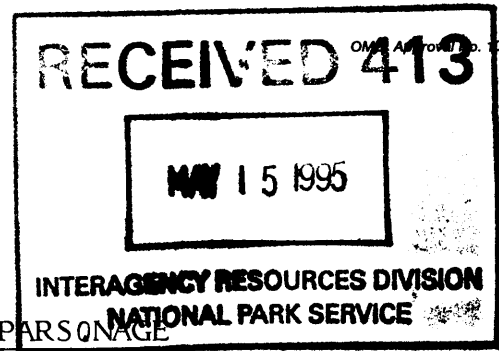
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

GRAY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

Section number 7 Page 2



CHURCH

Located at the northwest corner of Prospect and Sweden Streets in downtown Caribou, the Gray Memorial United Methodist Church is a roughly L-shaped, wooden frame building with a tall two-stage tower that dominates the facade. The use throughout of lancet arched windows as well as larger memorial windows with tracery lends the church a gothic appearance. Brown stained wooden shingles cover the gable ends of the building as well as the upper two-thirds of the tower whereas vinyl siding conceals the original weatherboards on the lower half. The entire building rests on an ornamental concrete block foundation.

The south elevation (fronting on Sweden Street) consists of the central gabled transept framed by the recessed tower to the east that contains the main entrance, and a square two-story stair tower to the west with a secondary entrance and mansard roof. The transept's fenestration pattern consists of a large center window with intersecting tracery framed by a long narrow window with Y-tracery to the west, and an equally narrow but shorter one to the east (this shorter window marks the location of the interior stair). A bulls-eye window is located above the large middle window. Six small rectangular windows located below the larger ones above punctuate the tall foundation. The secondary entrance to the west features a broad shed hood over the door, and a pair of windows in the second story.

The tower has a gabled entry porch on the south side that shelters the two-leaf door and its arched transom. Short paired windows are located above the porch and a trio of longer units is positioned above these. The tower's tall first stage is capped by a bellcast pent roof with paired spirelets at the corners of the belfry stage. Paired openings occupy each side of the belfry and it is in turn capped by a pyramidal spire that has a bellcast base and clock faces on each side. A porte-cochere projects from the tower's east side where it shelters another entry similar to that on the south. One additional variation in the two elevations is the use of a single window above the east entry as compared to two on the south.

Unlike its counterpart to the south, the east transept has two windows with the large central one flanked on the south side by a smaller one. The bulls-eye window is repeated (as it is in each of the major gable ends) as are four of the basement windows, but entrances are introduced between the two large windows and at the northeast corner. The long irregular north elevation is composed principally of the transept's gable framing the trio of large windows which, in this location, utilizes two flanking units of equal size. A third one of these windows is located in the recessed wall of the east transept. Jutting from the northwest corner of the north transept (and intersecting the west end of the east transept at the same angle) is a shed

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GRAY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

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roofed apse with two windows punctuating the north side. The west side has one of the windows with Y-tracery and a single narrower one to its north. A brick exterior flue is attached to the west elevation near the intersection of the stair tower which has a single window on its second story.

Inside, the church presents an intact example of the "Combination Plan," a synthesis of the Auditorium and Akron Plans which came into use after the Civil War. The following description of the virtually unaltered interior is repeated from a 1913 newspaper article describing the dedication services:

The main vestibule is at grade, and has two short flights of stairs down to a reception hall in the basement, and large circular stairs up to the hall on the main floor. The leaded transoms over the outside doors have "Welcome" in brilliant letters, which at night are illuminated by a large electric light directly behind them. The hall on the first floor has a large set of double acting doors opening into the rear of the auditorium, and two sets opening from the vestries. There are two large stairways up to the galleries on opposite sides. Both vestries have accordion doors opening into the auditorium.

The main auditorium is 48X48 feet, with inclined floor. It is well lighted in the day time by the memorial windows, and at night by electric lights at the ceiling, concealed by ground glass globes of large size diffusing a soft light. The gallery floors are raised steps, so that each person has a clear view of the preacher. The galleries are designed to be used as Sunday school class rooms, by the use of curtains. Opening from the galleries are two large class rooms, used by the kindergarten classes. The pulpit and choir loft are at the northwest corner of the auditorium. An alcove for the pipe organ, which is yet to be secured, is at the right of the pastor. There is a room at the rear, for pastor or choir. The auditorium with galleries and vestries will seat 700 persons. The pews are of oak, circular in form, and the vestries have folding chairs.

The walls and ceilings of the vestibule, auditorium, classrooms, and galleries are covered with decorative metal, and the flooring is of cypress. Within the past year the basement level has been remodeled and an elevator installed to provide better access to the interior. All of the memorial windows were furnished by Spence, Bell and Company of Boston. The bell was

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GRAY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

Section number 7 Page 4

manufactured by the McShane Bell Company, and the clock by the Seth Thomas Company of Thomaston, Connecticut.

PARSONAGE

Standing to the north of the church, the parsonage is a two-and-a-half-story, wooden frame dwelling that is covered by a high hipped roof. It is sheathed in vinyl siding. The three-bay Colonial Revival style building features a one-story wraparound porch spanning the front (east) and south sides, projecting second floor bay windows (one in the center of the facade and two on the south elevation), and hip roofed dormers. The parsonage's original date of construction has not been determined, but it may have been less than a decade old when it was moved to its present site to make way for the church.

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Continuation Sheet**GRAY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGESection number 8 Page 2

Designed and built in 1912-14 by the local contracting firm of Astle and Page, the Gray Memorial United Methodist Church is the most stylish historic religious structure in the City of Caribou. With its tall tower and crowning spire punctuated on four sides by a clock, the church is a prominent visual landmark in the community. Its expansive silhouette belies the existence of a remarkably intact interior designed on the "Combination Plan," a melding of both the Auditorium Plan and the Akron Plan. The church is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for its architectural significance. Criteria consideration A applies by virtue of the property's religious function.

The history of Methodism in Caribou traces its beginnings to 1860 when the community's six members were served by a circuit minister in a schoolhouse. As settlement of the region continued, the Methodist congregation grew to a point that they were able to provide a rented house and later their own parsonage in Caribou. In 1878 a camp meeting was organized, and in 1885 a Methodist Church was built one block to the west of the present site at a cost of \$2,500.

By 1911 the growing congregation and need for instructional space forced the church to consider the erection of a new building, a plan which was approved on October 2nd of that year. The present lot containing the residence of A. V. Gould was purchased and the house moved back into a new foundation to become the parsonage. Work commenced immediately on the church itself with the exterior completed in 1913 and the interior finished early in 1914. The new church was dedicated on November 16, 1913. It was named in honor of Bessie Gray, the pastor's wife, who had been a leading activist in securing a new facility.

The contracting firm of Astle and Page appears to have been active during this period throughout Aroostook County. References to the firm's projects appeared in the Industrial Journal (Bangor) as early as 1911 in association with the design and construction of the public library in Presque Isle. Unfortunately, little is as yet known about the firm and its principals. Annual editions of the Maine Register beginning in 1899 list one S. [Schuyler] C. Page as a carpenter and later contractor in Caribou, but it is not known whether he was a member of the firm of Astle and Page. This firm first appears in the 1907-08 edition of the Register under the southern Aroostook town of Houlton. In subsequent listings, however, the firm was listed in both Caribou and Houlton, a fact which gives some indication of the extent of its work. At present, some twelve projects can be associated with the firm; undoubtedly there are many others yet to be discovered. Interestingly, the firm is always listed in the Register under the heading of "contractors," but not "architects," although it is clearly credited with providing design services. Given the wide availability of published model

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

GRAY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

Section number 8 Page 3

church designs that would suit the ecclesiastical needs of the Methodist Church, one can only wonder how extensively these sources were consulted in achieving the design.

From an architectural standpoint this building is an important example of an early twentieth century church whose unaltered plan reflects a synthesis of two major nineteenth century developments in Protestant church design: the Auditorium Plan and the Akron Plan. In the search for a non-ritual church form which would accommodate their worship and educational needs, Protestant reformers and their architects introduced radically new church plans which gained wide use in the post Civil War era. The first of these to emerge was the Auditorium Plan which, as its name suggests, came to be based on the creation of an approximately square seating area with a sloping floor and curved pews or benches. This arrangement put a high emphasis on providing seating and good visibility for a large audience in a relatively small space. Later in the century and in response to the growing prominence of the Sunday school, particularly in Methodist Churches, a second plan was developed which became known as the Akron Plan. This plan provided a graded Sunday school facility in much the same form as the Auditorium Plan defined the worship space. Here, individual classrooms ringed a large central seating area from which they could be separated by folding partitions.

In 1880 architect George Washington Kramer of Akron, Ohio published a plan of what he termed a "Pulpit in the Corner Church" which placed the pulpit, choir and organ in one corner of the auditorium and the entrance at the opposite corner. Kramer is also credited with the idea of the "Combination Plan" which merged the Auditorium and Akron Plans by placing classrooms behind folding partitions along one or two sides of the auditorium and under the galleries (where they existed). This plan appears to have been developed specifically for the needs of small congregations outside of urban areas where the cost of achieving the fully developed Akron Plan would be prohibitive. Thus, one sees in the Gray Memorial United Methodist Church the evolution of this idea in which the classrooms lie adjacent to the vestibule. From the exterior this arrangement is articulated by the tall central tower located between the two cross gable ends containing the classrooms and gallery.

Not long after the construction of the church in Caribou, new aesthetic movements and educational developments within the Methodist Church pushed it to adopt more traditional architecture and a system of Sunday school instruction which placed the Akron Plan in disfavor. Thus, the remarkably intact Gray Memorial United Methodist Church represents the zenith of a church architecture which symbolized the Methodist approach to worship and education in this period.

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Continuation Sheet**

GRAY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Jaeger, A. Robert. "The Auditorium and Akron Plans -- Reflections of a Half Century of American Protestantism." M.A. Thesis. Cornell University. 1984.

"Dedication at Caribou, Maine." Aroostook Republican (Caribou). 1913.

Typescript copy of a history of the Gray Memorial United Methodist Church. N.D. Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

Astle and Page Architect File. Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.

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GRAY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the City of Caribou tax map 31, lot 3.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire downtown lot historically associated with the Gray Memorial United Methodist Church.