

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000886

Date Listed: 06/28/88

First Baptist Church  
Property Name

York  
County

ME  
State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

6/28/88  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Period of significance: The specific dates entered, 1803 and 1849, are also the same as those for the period of significance. These dates correspond with the church's construction date and the date of its subsequent remodelling. These dates are justified in the statement of significance. Both 1803 and 1849 technically should have been entered under the period of significance as well.

This information was confirmed with Kirk Mohney, National Register Coordinator, MESHPO.

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DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

MAY 23 1988

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 First Baptist Church

other names/site number Old Corner Church

2. Location

street & number West Side, Junction of West Road and Federal Street N/A not for publication

city, town Waterboro, vicinity

state Maine code ME county York code 031 zip code 04087

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.

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: E. S. [Signature], S.H.P.O.

Date: 5/16/88

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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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. See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Patrick Andrus

Date of Action: 6/28/88

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religious/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religious/Religious Structure

**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The First Baptist Church is a rectangular wooden frame building sheathed in weatherboards. Its Greek Revival style appearance featuring a pediment, corner pilasters and broad entablatures above the doors dates to 1849 when alterations were made to the original 1803-04 meeting house. The building stands upon a shallow terraced knoll framed by deciduous trees and bordered by a rail fence with granite slab posts.

The front (east) elevation of the First Baptist Church is divided into two stories each of which has a different but symmetrical fenestration pattern. A pair of widely spaced doors with sidelights, broad paneled surrounds and plain entablature occupy the first story whereas four six-over-six double-hung sash windows with wooden blinds are arranged on the second level. The entire facade is framed by paneled corner pilasters and a broad pediment. A wooden water table is located over the sill and granite slab foundation.

The north and south side elevations are punctuated by a trio of fifteen-over-fifteen-over-fifteen triple-hung sash. Their plain surrounds match those employed on the front windows. They also feature wooden blinds consisting of a single long unit for the middle and lower sash and short panels for the upper sash. The cornice and water table continue along both sides and the pilasters are repeated at the corners. Two small six-over-six windows with Federal style trim are located in the gable peak at the rear.

Like the exterior, the church's interior exhibits the Greek Revival style changes made in 1849. A vestibule is located at the rear of the nave above which is a gallery reached by two sets of enclosed stairs (one of which has been closed). When first built this gallery continued along both side walls. The nave contains three principal sets of wooden pews separated by aisles as well as two smaller groups flanking the raised sanctuary. All of the pews have curvilinear armrests typical of the period. The sanctuary is composed of a projecting dias framed by stairs and containing the pulpit behind which is the organ and deacons' seating. A darkly stained balustrade with turned newels and balusters embrace the slightly elevated area behind the pulpit. The deep paneled reveals of the windows as well as all other wooden trim is finished in a dark stain. An intact turn-of-the-century pressed tin ceiling is composed of square blocks with bullseyes and a wide cornice. The walls are of plaster over lath construction.

 See continuation sheet

**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

1849  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1803-04  
1849  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.

Originally built in 1803-04 and extensively remodeled in 1849, the First Baptist Church located at the Old Corner in Waterboro is a wooden frame building exhibiting traditional Federal period meeting house characteristics juxtaposed with Greek Revival style detailing. It is being nominated to the National Register under criterion C and criteria consideration A as a religious property with significant architectural merit.

The First Baptist Church traces its origins to an organizational meeting on October 27, 1791, held by eight members of the local community known as the Old Corner. Church records indicate that the congregation's first house of worship, a rectangular building 50'x40' in dimension, was erected in 1803-04, at a cost of about \$2,000. This building is believed to have featured galleries along three of its interior walls and a nave floor which sloped toward the high pulpit with sounding board. In 1849 this building was thoroughly remodeled to its present appearance at a cost of \$1,732. Despite the fact that a Baptist Church was organized at the turn of the century in a nearby village center, regular services were held in the building until about 1947. Since that time the church has been maintained by members of the First Baptist Church and Society and occasionally used for weddings, funerals and a yearly Grange Sunday gathering.

Clothed in Greek Revival style ornamentation which is typical of rural Maine buildings of the mid-nineteenth century, the church is nevertheless somewhat unusual because of its pronounced meeting house configuration. This combination of characteristics clearly demonstrates how the earlier meeting house was remodeled in 1849. The ability to visualize the two schemes lends this building additional significance. Although many congregations replaced or made changes to their earlier buildings, few exhibit the clear stylistic distinctions that the First Baptist Church does. For example, the Jesse Lee

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Church records.

Smith, Esther L. "Old Corner Church". Typescript copy on file at Maine Historic Preservation Commission, no date.

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**

Acreage of property Less than 1

UTM References

A 

1	9
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3	5	9	6	9	0
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4	8	2	1	7	7	5
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Waterboro tax map 3, lot 10.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire lot historically associated with the First Baptist Church.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian  
organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1988  
street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132  
city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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Section number 8 Page 2

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Church (N.R. 7/19/84) in Readfield began its life in 1795 as a traditional meeting house but was remodeled in 1825 and then extensively changed in 1857 so that it resembles others of the period. Thus, despite the fact that portions of its eighteenth century frame survive, the building does not exhibit the earlier appearance. This is not the case with the Baptist Church and, therefore, provides the architectural historian with an important glimpse into the process by which people adapted their early nineteenth century religious buildings to meet later popular stylistic configurations.