

1457

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 *NPS Form 10-900a* or *NPS Form 10-900b* for 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 Loudville Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Center of Louds Island N/A not for publication

city or town Loudville vicinity

state Maine code ME county Lincoln code 015 zip code 04011

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 H. Newell 11/6/95
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 A. Beall 12.14.95
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

entered in the
National Register

Loudville Church
Name of Property

Lincoln, 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>		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)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood/Shingle

roof Asphalt

other Central Bell Tower/Entry

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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1913

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stratton, Milton W., Architect

Elliott, George, Builder

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Loudville Church
Name of Property

Lincoln, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>19</u>	<u>465060</u>	<u>4864020</u>
	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. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date September, 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**

LOUDVILLE CHURCH

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The Loudville Church is an L-shaped frame building that is sheathed in wood shingles and features a square bell tower containing the entry. A concrete foundation supports the church which is located on the sparsely populated Louds Island in Muscongus Bay.

Facing south, the building's front elevation is comprised of the projecting gable end of one leg of the L containing the social hall, the recessed tower to the east, and the short wall plane of the nave sidewall. The roof's broad eaves frame two groups of three two-over-two double hung sash windows that are centrally located on the wall one above the other. There is a contemporary bulkhead at the southwest corner of the facade and a basement window in the foundation. The tower's south side has a set of wooden steps and balustrade that lead to a two-leaf four-panel door sheltered by a bracketed pent roof, above which is a one-over-one window. Paired louvered vents at the belfry level have four-centered arches, and the tower is capped by a pyramidal roof. Two angular projections midway up the tower's west side extend to the roof plane of the adjacent L.

The east elevation has a large ogee arched tri-partite stained glass window centrally located in the sanctuary endwall. One-over-one windows are positioned on the lower and mid sections of the tower and the louvered openings are repeated at the top. A trio of two-over-two windows are asymmetrically located on the north side along with a single basement window. On the west elevation there are two stained glass double hung windows in the sanctuary endwall, and a door near the southwest corner which opens into the social hall.

In plan the church is arranged with the sanctuary located in the east-west axis of the L with the entrance vestibule and social hall in the south end. The interior throughout is finished with tongue and groove wainscot and walls and ceiling surfaces covered with decorative steel. The nave and sanctuary are further distinguished by the exposed lower sections of the framing system that supports the roof and sidewalls. Shaped brackets that are wholly decorative in function are located at the joints of the various truss elements.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

LOUDVILLE CHURCH

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

(The first two paragraphs of the following narrative were written by Adolf Placzek, Professor of Architecture Emeritus, Columbia University.)

The Loudville Church, an attractive structure built in 1913, stands today as a reminder of a long period in Maine history when offshore islands played an important role in the State's economy and were able to sustain year-round populations. In addition, the church building recalls a deplorable incident of long ago: the eviction in 1912 of the mixed-race inhabitants from Malaga Island where they had lived as unchallenged squatters since the mid 1800s. In January 1913 the State purchased Malaga Island and tore down all the buildings except for the four year old schoolhouse which was given to the Maine Seacoast Missionary Society. Dismantled and shipped to Louds Island, the schoolhouse provided much of the lumber used to build the Loudville Church, which was designed by the Bar Harbor architect Milton W. Stratton. The building is eligible for nomination to the Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance. Criterion A also applies by virtue of its religious function.

Muscongus Island, or Louds Island as it is more commonly known today, has a long history of human habitation. Thought to have been the home of the Indian chief Samoset, the island was first settled by English colonists in the mid 1600s. However, it was not until the 1750s, after the end of the French and Indian Wars, that the island was permanently inhabited on a year-round basis. Although there are various references to religious services being held on Louds Island since at least 1798, there was no church building until the present structure was erected. By this time the island's population had reached its historic peak of nearly 150 persons who were served by two stores, a post office, and a one-room schoolhouse with over twenty students. Within a half-century, however, year round habitation ceased, and the houses were gradually sold to summer residents.

The history of the Loudville Church building begins in 1908 when a small red shingled, hip-roofed schoolhouse was built on Malaga Island in the Town of Phippsburg, some thirty miles by water from Louds Island. During this period Malaga Island and its impoverished, largely African-American inhabitants were the subject of a bitter debate in the press and in the neighboring mainland communities over what should be done about this "...degenerate race of colored people, many semi-idiots and criminals." As described by John P. Mosher in his M.A. Thesis entitled *No Greater Abomination: Ethnicity, Class and Power Relations on Malaga Island, Maine, 1880-1912*, the sequence of events "...leading up to the expulsion of the island residents can be considered a classic case of cultural imperialism. Residents of Malaga Island became estranged from the mainland, investigated by summer people and state government, and encouraged to conform to middle class standards by well meaning reformers." It was this latter group, composed of people from as far away as Boston, who financed the construction of the schoolhouse with the intent of raising the educational level of the island children.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**LOUDVILLE CHURCHLINCOLN, MAINESection number 8 Page 3

Following the dissolution of the Malaga Island community, the school building was given to the Maine Seacoast Missionary Society by the group which had helped finance its construction, and men from Louds Island disassembled and transported it to their island. There, following the plans of Milton W. Stratton and under the supervision of Master Builder George Elliot of Round Pond, the lumber was used to erect a new non-denominational church building. Of the approximately \$3,000 which the church cost to build, the gift of lumber was estimated to be worth \$600. The Seacoast Mission raised \$1,500 by an appeal to its supporters and friends, and the rest was provided by the island people. Today, the Loudville Church continues to be used during the summer months for both religious and community purposes. It is still associated with the Maine Seacoast Missionary Society which supplies a pastor for one or two months. The building is also used for meetings of the Louds Island Association. In recognition of the general community interest in and use of the building, the Louds Island Association contributes toward the annual church budget and provides most of the funds for repairs.

Architecturally, the Loudville Church is an intact, well detailed example of an early twentieth century religious building in a rural context. With its L-shaped gable roofed configuration and the entrance tower located in the angle between the two blocks, the church exhibits a popular form for ecclesiastical architecture in the period. In Maine, this style was adopted by a wide range of Protestant denominations including the Congregationalists, Methodists, and Unitarians. The use of Gothic motifs in windows, stained glass windows, and decorative steel coverings on the walls and ceiling is typical in these buildings. The Loudville Church is distinguished from most of its contemporaries, however, by the fact of its construction in a very small island community at a time when other comparable settlements would have been using older, more traditionally designed buildings. Its design appears to have been strongly influenced by the Maine Seacoast Missionary Society, which had constructed a similar building in 1910 on Head Harbor Island (pulled down about 1940), also designed by Stratton. In contrast to these island chapels, the majority of architecturally related churches erected in this period were built in much larger mainland towns.

The church's architect, Milton W. Stratton, was born in Hancock, Maine in 1871. According to a biographical sketch which appeared in the 1906 *Bar Harbor Record Souvenir Edition*, Stratton had studied architecture in the Boston firms of Little, Brown, and Moore and that of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson. In 1892 he came to Bar Harbor and entered into a partnership with Fred L. Savage, an association which lasted for six years. The sketch notes that much of his work was for residential properties including "...recently erected fashionable residences in Brookline, Mass." Although a complete accounting of his work is yet to be made, Stratton is known to have designed many commercial, public, and residential buildings on Mount Desert Island, as well as several structures elsewhere in Maine including Ellsworth and Bangor. The Loudville Church may be the only extant example of his relatively few religious commissions in the state. Stratton died in Bangor on June 17, 1938.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

LOUDVILLE CHURCH

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

Eighth Annual Report of the Seacoast Missionary Society. 1913.

McLane, Charles B. *Islands of the Mid-Maine Coast. Vol. III.* Gardiner, Maine: Tilbury House.

Mosher, John P. "No Great Abomination: Ethnicity, Class and Power Relations on Malaga Island, Maine, 1880-1912." M.A. Thesis. University of Southern Maine. 1991.

Placzek, Adolf. "The Loudville Church," N.D.

Secretary's Record Book. Loudville Church Society. March, 1913-April, 1914.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

LOUDVILLE CHURCH

LINCOLN, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property occupies the Unorganized Territory Tax Map LI2, Plan 1, Lot 27.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary embraces the entire 6,400 square foot island lot historically associated with the Loudville Church.