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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

JUN 12 1989

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 Milford Congregational Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number NW Corner of Main & Ferry Streets

not for publication

city, town Milford

vicinity

state Maine

code ME

county Penobscot

code 019

zip code 04461

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> 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 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. See continuation sheet.

James S. [Signature] SAPO
Signature of certifying official
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

6/7/89
Date

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:

- 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:)

Albion Byrne [Signature] 7/13/89 [Date]

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)

Late Victorian/Romanesque/Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granitewalls Wood/WeatherboardWood/Shingleroof Asphaltother Corner Tower and Buttresses

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Milford Congregational Church is a large asymmetrical structure with a gabled nave and pyramidal roofed tower located on the southeast corner of the building. The church rests on a granite foundation and a modern one-story addition, which is attached to the rear elevation, rests on a concrete foundation. The gabled nave is sheathed in weatherboards and the tower is covered in weatherboards as well as diagonally and vertically placed flush board sheathing. One interior flue rises from the asphalt roof near the rear of the church, and there is a transept on the south elevation.

The east facade is comprised of one side of the tower and the nave end wall. On the lower section of the tower there is one round arched double-hung sash window and nearer the sanctuary a round arched entrance which has a two-leaf paneled door. This base is covered in weatherboards. The second stage of the tower, whose width matches that of the base, has a large lunette with square panes. Around its frame are sections which are covered in vertical and diagonal flush board sheathing and separated by moldings. The cornice of the tower's second stage is decorated with saw tooth shingles, and finials rise from the corners of the roof. The belfry stage has two round arched openings (a pattern repeated on each of its four sides), and it is crowned by a pyramidal roof with two segments. Originally covered in round and diamond shaped shingles, the roof is now asphalt. The nave end wall has one central round arched stained glass window with geometric tracery, and a bulls-eye window in the gable peak also decorated with geometric tracery. South of the central window is a narrower round arched window with tracery similar to that of the central window. On the south end of this elevation is another round arched entrance with two-panel doors. Above this entrance is a smaller bulls-eye window. A small section of flush board wall, fitted between the tower and the gable, and plywood paneling (originally flushboard) running underneath the window sills, completes the facade.

On the south elevation, the base of the tower is distinguished by corner buttresses framing a pair of round-arched double-hung sash windows. The detailing of the second stage is identical to that of the east elevation. The transept also has two corner buttresses separated by a Romanesque window containing two round arched double-hung sash windows.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Between the tower and transept is a shed roofed connector with a round arched window. On this elevation, which is covered in weatherboards, there is plywood paneling between the window sills and foundation (which has two fixed cellar windows).

Covered in weatherboards, the north elevation has a Romansque window on the west end, framed by a gable with end returns and two buttresses. The remainder of the elevation has three tall, narrow round-arched double-hung sash windows, a corner buttress on the west end, and a central projecting modern entrance.

On the rear elevation, a modern one-story gabled addition abuts the original church which has a round-arched double-hung sash window in the gable peak.

The interior of the church has a large nave, a central hall, a library, and a closet in the base of the tower. The wall between the hall and nave is distinguished by two elliptical windows which can be raised and lowered. These windows are flanked by doors to the nave, which has stained glass windows composed of geometric patterns. The hallway leads to the modern addition which has offices and classrooms. The undercroft has a large open space and kitchen.

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

1883-85

Significant Dates

1883-85

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wing, Asa T., Contractor

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

Built between 1883 and 1885 by Old Town contractor Asa T. Wing using plans drawn by an as yet unidentified architect, the Milford Congregational Church is one of the most architecturally significant buildings in town. Because the architectural detailing and stained glass windows remain virtually intact and unaltered, it is being nominated under National Register criterion C for its architectural significance.

As early as 1880, Milford residents enlisted Old Town minister H. A. Freeman to deliver sermons in the "new" school. This continued until June 28, 1883, when at the first organizational meeting of the embryonic parish it was resolved to accept the lot deeded by the Bodwell Power Company and proceed to build a church. Over the next two years the church was constructed, and on April 7, 1885, supporters organized their church by choosing a name, Creed, and Covenant. The Milford Congregational Church was formed on April 15, 1885, after the Ecclesiastical Council of Congregational Churches met and approved the membership list submitted by Reverend H. A. Freeman.

Tradition maintains that the first building was "a long, narrow building with a cellar, built on the south side of the lot deeded by the Bodwell Power Company." Evidence of an earlier building in the belfry indicates that the current vestry was probably the first church, to which the nave and tower were added.

Surviving account books, payrolls, receipts, and correspondence provide a detailed record of the church's construction, which began sometime in 1883. After the sum of \$1,281 was raised, Old Town contractor Asa Wing began building, using a contract prepared by Milford Lumber Company agent A. W. Butler. Part of the contract reads:

The Building Committee of the First Congregational Church sent a letter to the contractor in which was found the following:

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of the First Congregational Church Milford, Maine: 1885-1985.
Milford, ME: First Congregational Church, 1985.

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 119 52179510 4971681710
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property of less than one acre occupies the Town of Milford tax map 23, lot 38.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn to include the entire lot historically associated with the Milford Congregational Church.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Jester/Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1989

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

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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The contractor has to assume all responsibilities for all work done on the building inside and out. He must follow to the letter the architect's drawings. All workmanship must be first class and all materials good quality.

The lumber used will be white pine free of all large knots. The doorframes throughout the house will be made in pairs, 7 1/2 ft. high and 5 ft. wide.

All the windows in the church were designed by a competent architect whose plans are to be followed through by the builder.

The clapboarding will be of clear pine.

All the inside rooms shall be plastered at the contractor's expense and all the glass in the windows at the contractor's expense.

All the paint and hardware will be purchased by the Building Committee.

Gutters will be used on all the eaves with no downspouts.

One coat of paint will be put on outside of the building at the contractor's expense.

The master mason, Asa Eastman, began work on the foundation on September 21, 1883, and the granite came from the Jewell Granite Company in Bangor. In the latter months of that year, the church was framed, boarded and roofed by Tozier Brothers. Construction nearly halted during the first half of 1884 because of the lack of funds. However, money was raised and the church was lathed, plastered and partially finished, inside and out.

The stained glass windows were installed in February and March of 1885, and they came from David Welch and Company, Portland, at a cost of \$211.71. The 1885 Maine State Year-Book and Legislative Manual lists the Welch Company as glass cutters and engravers. Cut glass and Ground glass for doors, churches and ships' cabins.

The Milford Congregational Church is one of the most intact and architecturally significant buildings in this small town. The combination of architectural details, including the use of shingles, weatherboards, flush-board, and heavily molded Romanesque windows make it an unusual and prominent building in the context of its mostly vernacular and substantially altered residential and commercial neighbors. In addition, the building clearly illustrates the experimental period of the church design that was taking place in the 1880s.