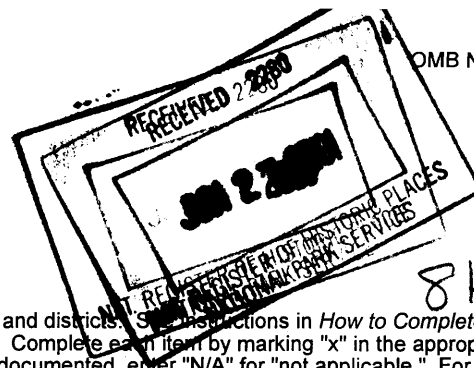


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 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 Proprietors Meeting House and Parish House

other names/site number Universalist Church of Scarborough and South Buxton

2. Location

street & number Southeast Corner of Junction of Route 22 and Old County Road N/A not for publication

city or town South Buxton N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04093

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.)

Eileen S. Fritzschey SHPD 6/19/01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

Edson B. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 8-2-01

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	Non-contributing	
<u>2</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</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)

Work In Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Gothic Revival

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Front Pavilion and Two Stage Tower

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

PROPRIETORS MEETING HOUSE & PARISH HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

Meeting House, c. 1839

The Proprietors Meeting House is a rectangular wooden frame building that has an attached entrance pavilion on the front elevation and a two stage tower that straddles the roof of the pavilion and that of the main block. It is sheathed in clapboards, and it stands on a granite block foundation.

Facing northwest (for ease of description the facade shall be assumed to face north), the symmetrically composed front elevation is dominated by the two-bay pedimented pavilion and the tower. Two widely spaced six-panel entrance doors are framed by wide fluted surrounds and they are surmounted by lancet arched louvered fans with similar moldings. The tympanum of the pediment is flush sheathed. A cornice of moderate depth caps the base of the tower which supports a flush sheathed belfry stage comprised of four Federal style round arched openings detailed with pilasters and keystones. At present, a small octagonal spire surmounts the low hip roof of the tower. No documentation has been uncovered that shows or describes an earlier spire. A brick flue rises through the roof of the main block's north end about midway down the west slope.

The side elevations feature one twelve-over-twelve window in each side wall of the pavilion, as well as a trio on the nave. Each window is surmounted by a louvered fan similar to those on the facade. The rear elevation contains a single six-over-six window centered below the gable peak, as well as short gable end returns.

Inside, the front doors open into a vestibule from which two doors lead to the nave and a staircase to a narrow hall behind the gallery. A semicircular projection of the back wall of the nave also projects into this vestibule, which has high board wainscot on all walls (as does the nave). The nave has a number of distinguishing features including the original box pews located in three groups on the main floor and a smaller group on either side of the dais; a gallery at the rear that is supported by three Tuscan columns and has a concave shape across the center group of pews; symmetrically molded Greek Revival style window and door surrounds; a coved ceiling that is covered with ornamental tin; an overscale segmental arch with pilasters and a denticulated cornice located behind what appears to be the original pulpit and corner posts; a semicircular window in the ceiling above the arch that creates a light shaft from the window on the rear elevation; and low bench seating that follows the curve of the recess on the rear wall.

Parish House, 1914

Standing to the east of the Meeting House, the Parish House is a one-story, three-bay bungalow style building whose hip roof covers an engaged front porch. The building is sheathed entirely in wood shingles.

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Continuation Sheet

PROPRIETORS MEETING HOUSE & PARISH HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

The front elevation features a central entrance flanked by two-over-two double hung sash windows. They are sheltered by the porch, which is supported by four posts linked by a slat balustrade. Trios of two-over-two windows occupy the side elevations, and a shed and hip roofed addition are located on the rear wall. Inside, the principal room is an auditorium whose walls are sheathed in narrow wainscot and whose ceiling is covered in decorative tin. A stage is located at the south end. Modern kitchen and bathroom facilities are located in the additions.

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 a 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

c. 1839
1914

Significant Dates

c. 1839
1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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: _____

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Continuation SheetPROPRIETORS MEETING HOUSE & PARISH HOUSECUMBERLAND, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Constructed in 1839 or 1840 by an as yet unidentified builder, the Proprietors Meeting House is a late Federal period frame church building featuring Gothic and Greek Revival style detailing. An adjacent bungalow style parish house was erected in 1914. The two buildings are eligible for nomination to the National Register under Criterion C for their local architectural significance. Criteria Consideration also applies by virtue of their historic religious use.

(The following four paragraph account of the church's history is repeated verbatim from the publication *Bicentennial, 1772-1972, Historical Souvenir Book, Buxton, Maine.*)

The history of the Society is broken. In 1838 a meeting was held at the home of Ebenezer Coolbroth for the purpose of electing officers for the Sunday School. The Meeting House was erected in 1840 [this date conflicts with another source that states the building was completed in 1839]. Daniel Moulton and six others were commissioned to build the meeting house on land given by Widow Margaret Moulton upon the consideration that she be given one pew for her own use. The first pastor was a Mr. Hussey, followed by James Sawyer, both serving short terms. There was no regular pastor employed for several years.

In 1856, the Rev. H. J. Bradbury of Westbrook held services and continued until as late as 1861. The Sunday School continued active through these years. Early records show that people came from great distances by horse and carriage and that the Sunday School was overflowing. From 1861 to 1869, no regular services were held. The Rev. L. L. Record held services for two summers only. Then came an interval of 20 years during which time the Meeting House was rarely opened. In 1876, citizens undertook to save the building. Accordingly, money was subscribed, and the House was re-shingled and repainted inside and out. In 1889, another Sunday School building was erected next to the Meeting House. A Paul Revere bell was placed in the steeple in 1890 and in 1902, the House was again repainted and reshingled.

From 1889 to 1901 inclusive, the pulpit was occupied by students from Tufts College except for 1897 when the Rev. T. B. Payne of Westbrook preached there. The Rev. Mr. Hammond, a graduate of Tufts, preached for some time during the summer. The Rev. Mr. Webber of Bar Mills succeeded him in the Fall. The following summer, the Rev. Mr. Sayles was the preacher. In 1891-1892, Henry Hoyt, also of Tufts, was the preacher and, through his efforts, the First Universalist Parish was organized in 1891 with Williams Jose, Ambrose Deering, and Fred Berry as Trustees.

Merrill Ward, one of the students, organized the Young People's Christian Society and also organized the Universalist Church Society at Bar Mills, which later united with the Scarboro Corner Church, in 1895. Between 1896 and 1901, services were held in both places, but since 1901, no regular services have been held at either place. One especially interesting feature of the church is the beautiful 8-foot mahogany pulpit which was made in Portland and brought to the church by a team of oxen. Some of the early preachers of the church were the Rev. Harry Townsend, Kenneth Hawkes, and Moore.

According to a brief undated history of the church that was prepared by the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society for "Old Home Sunday," on January 13, 1896 the Ladies Aid Society began a movement to raise money for the purposes of erecting a parish house. This was accomplished in 1914 with the construction of the existing bungalow style building.

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PROPRIETORS MEETING HOUSE & PARISH HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

More recently, the church building and parish house have been deeded to the Friends of the Proprietors Meeting House which has begun a campaign to restore the church.

The Proprietors Meeting House is one of a relatively small number of surviving Federal style religious buildings in Maine that are characterized by a central pavilion which projects from the main block, and a tower that either rises through or straddles both sections. Among the most notable examples of the group are the First Church of Belfast (1818), the First Parish Church in Kennebunk (1770s, with pavilion and tower added c.1800) and the First Parish Church in Portland (1825-26). Late examples of the form, including the Old Union Meeting House in Farmington Falls (1826-27), the Union Church in Buckfield (1832) and the subject building in South Buxton utilize a consistent design with pedimented pavilions and gable ends, as well as towers astride both sections. Of further note in the latter two examples is the appearance of Gothic and Greek Revival style motifs that herald new architectural influences.

The parish house is representative of the more modest examples of bungalows found throughout Maine. Characteristic features include the low hipped roof, engaged porch and shingled exterior. Its interior plan and finishes continue to reflect its historic use as a social hall for the congregation.

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PROPRIETORS MEETING HOUSE & PARISH HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

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Bicentennial, 1772-1972, Historical Souvenir Book, Buxton, Maine. Buxton Bicentennial Committee, 1972.

"Old Home Sunday," Scarborough-South Buxton Universalist Church, Annual Worship Service. Buxton-Hollis Historical Society, no date.

Proprietors Meeting House & Parish House
Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less Than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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

3

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

2

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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 April, 2001

street & number 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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PROPRIETORS MEETING HOUSE & PARISH HOUSE

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Scarborough tax map R-2, lot 5D.

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot that is historically associated with the Proprietors Meeting House and Parish House.

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PROPRIETORS MEETING HOUSE & PARISH HOUSE

CUMBERLAND CO, ME

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PHOTOGRAPHS

1 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

October 27, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of meeting house and parish house from SW

2 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

October 27, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of meeting house from S

3 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

October 27, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of meeting house interior looking NW

4 of 4

Kirk F. Mohny

October 27, 2000

Maine Historic Preservation Commission

View of meeting house interior looking SE