

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Maine

COUNTY:
Franklin

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
JUL 25 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The New Old South Congregational Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Farmington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2nd: Hon. William Cohen

STATE: Maine CODE: 23 COUNTY: Franklin CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
The First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Farmington

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Franklin County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Farmington

STATE:
Maine

CODE:
23

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

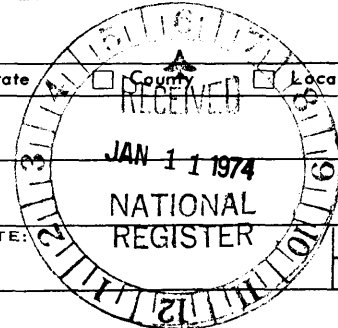
DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

 STATE:



STATE: _____

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JUL 25 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

119524571

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The New Old South Congregational Church in Farmington was designed in 1887 by George M. Coombs. Coombs employed the then popular Romanesque Revival to create the most elegant and unusual late nineteenth century church in Northwestern Maine. He skillfully combined the qualities of an impressive exterior design with a convenient interior plan or adjacent sanctuary and vestry.

The church has a granite foundation, brick wall construction, a wooden frame roof, and brownstone and wooden trim. It stands approximately ninety-two feet on Main Street with a depth of about eighty-six feet. The primary facade is the front wall of the sanctuary section of the church. It is composed of a central bay with a tower at either side. On the lower section of the bay is a series of five vertical rectangular windows which are set into a sill and lintel enframingent of brownstone. Directly above these is a recessed brick panel with an arched top which is located a large rose or wheel window. A brick Romanesque arch with brownstone trim encircles the upper hall of the window. A horizontal course of brownstone begins where the arch stops around the window and runs on either side of it to the flanking towers. The roof of the central bay is gabled with two rectangular vertical windows just below the peak. These have brownstone sills, and a horizontal brownstone course runs directly above them. Brownstone trim is used to outline the gable.

The right tower is the larger of the two. It is square and rises in four stages. The facade of the first stage possesses a large arched doorway with a pair of paneled doors which have a decorative panel of recessed squares above them. A brick Romanesque arch with brownstone trim encircles the upper half of the window. A horizontal course of brownstone starts where the arch stops around the doorway and runs on either side of it. Over the rounded arch is a pointed arch of brownstone. Behind this arch are three horizontal courses of brownstone while to the side of these is a triangular brownstone ornament.

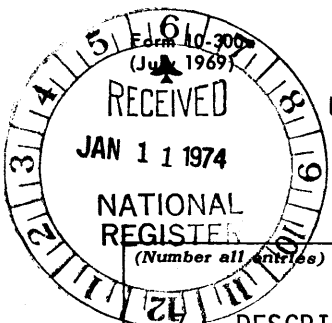
The second stage of the tower contains a pair of elongated vertical windows with brownstone sills and brick Romanesque arches which are outlined with brownstone. A horizontal course of brownstone begins where the arch stops around the windows and runs on either side of them.

The third stage is an open belfrey, the facade design of which is repeated on the other three sides. The base of the belfrey is outlined with a course of brownstone. Above this is a large arched opening, the lower section of which is enclosed by a rectangular panel ornamented with recessed squares. The brick arch is trimmed with brownstone, and a horizontal course of brownstone is located directly below each of its two bases.

A decorative brick cornice is found on all four sides of the tower just below the pointed spire. At each corner of the tower is a square

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. DESCRIPTION

pinnacle with a brownstone base and a brownstone course directly below its point. A delicate metal finial crowns the tip of the spire.

The left tower is smaller than the right one, having only three stages. It is square. The facade of the first stage has a large arched doorway with a pair of paneled doors which have a decorative panel of recessed squares above them. A brick Romanesque arch with brownstone trim encircles the upper half of the window. A horizontal course of brownstone serves as the base of the arch. Above the arched doorway are two horizontal brownstone courses. On either side of the lower course is a small triangular brownstone ornament.

The second stage of the left tower is composed of a recessed brick panel with an elongated arched window in the center. Just below the arch on either side of the window is an ornamental brick course. The facade design of this section is repeated on the left side of the tower. A brick cornice of small recessed panels surrounds all four sides of the tower. The top is crowned by a spire with a delicate metal finial at the top.

To the left of the principal facade is a small projecting section with a slanting roof trimmed in brownstone. This element and the rounded one beyond it form the passageway between the sanctuary and the vestry. The vestry is found to the left and behind these sections. Two rounded arch windows appear on the street side of the vestry. Four rounded arch windows with brownstone sills are located on the south wall of the vestry. To their left is an entrance with a wooden overhang. The roof of the vestry is hipped and has a large shingled dormer on the south side. The dormer is composed of three windows with a triangular pediment above them. An ornamental brick cornice surrounds the vestry section of the church.

The right or north wall of the church has even handsomer features. The north wall of the tower is identical in design to that of the facade with the exception of not having a first story entrance. Beyond this are two rounded arch windows and then a large projecting gable section containing a three part rounded arch window. Encompassing these windows is a large arch. The ornamental brick cornice on the north wall is identical to that on the vestry. The rear of the church is an almost entirely plain brick wall.

The interior of the New Old South Church is devoted chiefly to the sanctuary and the vestry. The sanctuary has retained its original appearance and ranks among the best preserved nineteenth century church interiors in Maine. The room measures seventy-two by fifty-eight feet with a thirty-seven foot ceiling supported by four wooden trusses. The woodwork is

(See Continuation Sheet)

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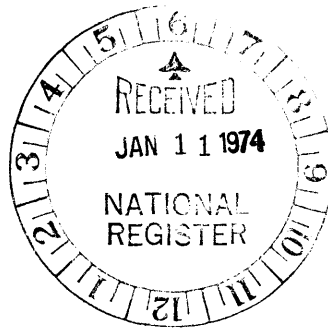
(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

executed in cherry. The plaster walls are painted their original terra cotta tone with stenciled borders and a textured effect to simulate Lincrusta wallpaper. The decorating was done by L. Haberstroff and Son of Boston and has been restored in recent years. Another Boston firm, Redding and Baird, fashioned the superb stained glass found in the large rose window on the rear wall, the series of five arched windows on the north wall, and the circular window above the pulpit area. This glass includes the rich late nineteenth century tones of mustard, green, and brown which were popularized by William Morris and his contemporaries. The quality of this stained glass has been recognized by the Maine Commission on the Arts and Humanities with a grant to aid in its preservation. The total scheme of walls, woodwork, and stained glass creates a strong atmosphere of the 1880's period.

To the left of the sanctuary is the vestry, a large open room for various church functions. Here as in the vestibule in front of the sanctuary the decor is simpler and the windows are a tinted yellow glass.

The New Old South Congregational Church is a distinctive Maine example of the architecture and decor of the 1880's. The quality of its design and the integrity of its fabric make it a building of continuing value.



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1887-88

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Aside from important local historical associations, the chief significance of the New Old South Congregational Church in Farmington is its architecture. It ranks as the most distinctive and well-preserved late nineteenth century church edifice in Northwestern Maine. Designed in 1887 in the Romanesque Revival manner, the building is the work of George M. Coombs, a leading resident Maine architect of the late nineteenth-early twentieth century. Coombs was born in Brunswick, Maine in 1852 and moved to Lewiston in 1871 when he began practicing architecture. There he worked until his death in 1909, becoming the city's most prominent architect and gaining commissions throughout central and northern Maine.

The New Old South Congregational Church was built to replace an earlier church on the site, which was destroyed in Farmington's Great Fire of October 22, 1886. Shortly after the fire, a building committee was formed and subscription papers circulated. George M. Coombs was apparently approached about architectural drawings in the spring of 1887, for the Portland Daily Press of June 10, 1887, noted that, "Coombs of Lewiston is preparing the plans for the New Old South Church at Farmington and will have them ready by July 1st."

Construction on the building began in August of 1887 and was completed on April 1, 1888. The foundation was laid by Levi Bushy and Son of Waterville, while the general contract was under the supervision of William A. Libby of Lewiston and John A. Greenleaf of Auburn. The stained glass windows in the vestry and towers were furnished by Redding and Baird of Boston as were the memorial windows in the sanctuary. The interior painting was the work of L. Haberstroh and Son, also of Boston.

The entire cost of the church was approximately \$21,500. It was dedicated free of debt on June 5, 1888. Since its completion the building has retained its original integrity of design and decor. The exterior is a substantial expression of the Romanesque Revival style. With its rich woodwork, stained glass, and stenciled and textured walls, the interior possesses a strong period atmosphere. While the New Old South Congregational Church in Farmington was under construction, the Portland Daily Press of November 15, 1887, commented, "The church after plans by Coombs of Lewiston, is one of the prettiest little structures in Maine, an ornament to that thriving county town," The statement holds true eighty-five years later.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Benjamin and Natalie, History of the Old South Church, 1814-1965,
Farmington, Maine 1966.

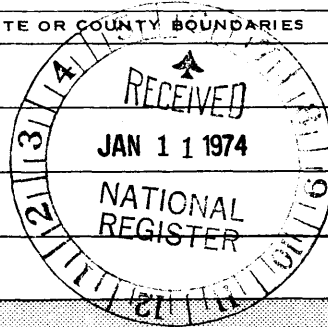
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 40' 05"	70° 09' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: 31 Western Avenue DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
Maine Historic Preservation Commission

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta STATE: Maine CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James H. Munday

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date January 7, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. B. Swartz
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/25/74

ATTEST:
Ronald M. Greenberg
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/22/74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS