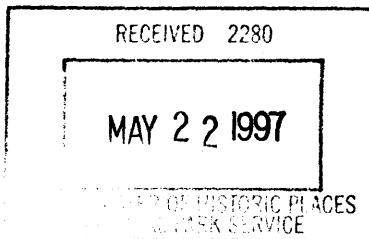


607

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 Columbia Union Church

other names/site number Epping Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number North side of MDOT Road No. 29-608, .05 miles east of Junction with MDOT Road No. 29-610 N/A not for publication

city or town Epping,  vicinity

state Maine code ME county Washington code 029 zip code 04623

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. Beall  
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/16/97  
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 H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

6/20/97  
Date of Action

Columbia Union Church  
Name of Property

Washington, 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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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)

Vacant/Not In Use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Gothic Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Two Stage Tower

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1870

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1870

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Columbia Union Church  
Name of Property

Washington, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Less Than 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 19 596680 4948250  
Zone Easting Northing

3                                                    
Zone Easting Northing

2                                                  

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, 1997

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.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**COLUMBIA UNION CHURCHWASHINGTON, MAINESection number 7 Page 2

---

The Columbia Union Church is a rectangular frame building whose pedimented gable roof is surmounted by a crenelated two-stage tower. It is sheathed in clapboards and wood shingles, and is supported by a granite block foundation. A slab of granite in front of the church bears the date A.D. 1829, the year in which the building was originally constructed. Its present appearance dates from an extensive remodeling carried out in 1870.

Facing south, the symmetrically composed three-bay front elevation contains a large central window that is flanked by a pair of doorways. The window is comprised of a pair of long six-over-six double hung sash windows featuring fixed louver blinds and a gothic style drip moulding. Similar mouldings surmount the doorways that are comprised of nine-panel doors. The corners of the facade are framed by wide paneled pilasters. They rise to an entablature which carries across the facade and along the side elevations. Rising above the pediment and its raking cornice is the flush sheathed tower. It has a squat base and a tall belfry stage with louvered openings on three of its four sides. The belfry is further articulated with trim detail that matches the main block including drip mouldings, corner pilasters, frieze, and overhanging cornice. Its flat roof is articulated with crenelation.

Both the west and east side elevations feature two symmetrically placed windows whose composition is identical to the one on the facade. The space between the windows on the west side is occupied by a shed roofed addition that houses the furnace (added in 1984). The detailing of the pilasters is repeated at each corner but not on the rear elevation where there are short gable end returns. Unlike the other three elevations, the rear elevation is sheathed in wood shingles. It also features an attached woodshed comprised of shed roofed and gable roofed sections. An interior end brick flue punctuates each plane of the roof near the rear wall.

Unlike many churches from this period, the front doors open directly into the nave rather than into a vestibule. A central aisle separates two groups of pews, each of which features a curved armrest terminating in a volute. A raised platform extends across about two thirds of the north end, to the west side of which is a stove whose pipe enters a projecting flue that is plastered. A second stove and flue are located on the floor to the right of the platform adjacent to the door leading to the woodshed. The plastered walls rise above wainscot to a ceiling that features unusual rib-like detailing extending from the corners to a rectangular area in the center. (This is a virtually identical treatment to the one used in the Union Evangelical Church in Addison.) All of the window and doors have wide heavily molded surrounds typical of the period.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**COLUMBIA UNION CHURCHWASHINGTON, MAINESection number 8 Page 2

Originally constructed in 1829 and extensively remodeled in 1870, the Columbia Union Church is a Greek Revival style frame building with Gothic Revival detailing around its window and door openings as well as on its two stage tower. In its remodeled state, the church is remarkably similar in form to the Union Evangelical Church (N. R. 6/7/96) in the neighboring town of Addison, a building that was erected in the early 1860s. Unfortunately, their builders have not been identified. The church is eligible for nomination to the National Register under criterion C for its local architectural significance. Criteria Consideration A also applies by virtue of its religious use.

The Columbia Union Church was originally constructed in 1829, at which time it was known as the Epping Baptist Church. It was the first religious building erected in the Town of Columbia, which had initially been settled by Anglo-Americans prior to the Revolution. Columbia was incorporated on February 8, 1796, and at the taking of the 1800 census its inhabitants numbered 357 persons. The Baptist congregation that originally erected the church traces its origins to 1788, and until the church building was constructed meetings were held in private homes and school houses. At what point the Baptists abandoned this building is uncertain. However, on May 10, 1866 the Columbia Union Society was organized with the express intent as stated in Article 3 of its constitution that "The object of the Society shall be to repair the Union Meeting House suitable for public meeting." This statement implies that the building was already considered to be a multi denominational place of worship, and that it was in need of repair. The extensive remodeling in 1870 was carried out under the direction of this organization. The Columbia Union Society continues to hold title to and maintain the church, although it has not been in use for the past three or four years.

The Columbia Union Church is part of a large group of architecturally related mid- nineteenth religious buildings erected in rural areas of the state. The buildings that comprise the general grouping can be further subdivided into three subsets: 1) churches with towers crowned by spires; 2) churches without spires; and 3) churches without towers. Common characteristics shared by all of these churches include their rectangular gable front orientations (often with a pediment), their plans (generally containing vestibules under galleries or adjacent to a raised platform), and an unmistakable Greek Revival style form that is conveyed not only by the general massing, but also by detailing such as corner pilasters and a broad entablature. These classical details are frequently combined with Gothic Revival features such as lancet arches above windows and belfry openings or in paneled pilasters, drip moldings over doors and windows, and crenelated towers. In some of the earliest members of the group, Federal style elements may even appear (St. John's Episcopal Church in Dresden, N. R. 6/14/91). The Columbia Union Church belongs to the subset of towered buildings that lack spires. In this case the belfry stage of the tower was capped by crenelation, and its mix of detailing includes a wide entablature, paneled pilasters, and pronounced drip moldings. Given its high degree of integrity, the church is a good representative example of a distinct building type erected in Maine during the middle decades of the nineteenth century, a period in which a remarkable number of such buildings appeared on the state's landscape.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

COLUMBIA UNION CHURCH

WASHINGTON, MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

---

Author's telephone interview with Mrs. Ronie L. Strout, Columbia, Maine. April 8, 1997.

Greene, Nancy H., and Drisko, Clarence H. *A History of Columbia and Columbia Falls*.  
Cherryfield, ME: Narraguagus Printing Co. 1976.

Mohney, Kirk F. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Union Evangelical  
Church, Addison, Washington County, Maine. Maine Historic Preservation Commission.  
Augusta. April, 1996.

*Sunrise County Architecture: Significant Buildings of Washington County, Maine*. Second  
Revised and Enlarged Edition. Machias, ME: Sunrise Research Institute. 1996.

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

COLUMBIA UNION CHURCH

WASHINGTON, MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

---

## **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Columbia Tax Map 12, Lot 30.

## **Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire rural lot historically associated with the Columbia Union Church.