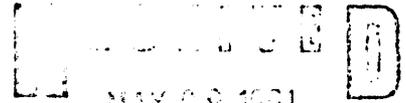


7/6/91

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



MAY 09 1991

NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 18). 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 Church of the Advent other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Church Street city, town Limestone state Maine code ME county Aroostook code 003 zip code 04750

not for publication

vicinity

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

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 1, 0.

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.

Signature of certifying official Maine Historic Preservation Commission

Date 5-2-91

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. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain):

Patrick Andrews

6/21/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Building

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Building

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Granite

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Corner Tower

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Church of the Advent is a small wooden building which is distinguished by a very steeply pitched gable roof and its square entrance/bell tower that is attached to one side. Weatherboards cover the entire building with the exception of the concrete block dining hall which is attached to the rear.

Facing west, the church's front elevation contains two long narrow four-over-four windows with round-arched heads. These are framed by the unornamented raking cornice. A small cross is attached to the ridge of the roof just forward of a brick flue. Slightly recessed from the facade at the northwest corner is the two-stage tower. It has a two-leaf round-arched door on the front side as well as a single window located beneath a pent roof. This roof meets the belfry stage which features a pair of lancet-arched openings on each of the four sides. A pyramidal roof covers the belfry. There are two windows on the tower's north side. The south side of the nave contains four pairs of long, narrow windows one of which has stained glass, whereas the others have two-over-two sash. There are three similar pairs on the tower side. The one-story addition, which was built in the 1960s, has a broad gable roof that extends over the entrance on the projecting west side.

The interior features a handsome finish consisting of darkly stained tongue-and-groove sheathing placed vertically on the walls and horizontally on the tall barrel vaulted ceiling. This material was probably installed in 1897 after the church was moved to its present site. Documentary articles in the North East [a missionary paper of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Maine] made reference to the damage of the interior plaster, presumably the original finish. Since no plaster is evident today, the repair may have consisted of adding the present sheathing. An elaborate alter stands in the chancel behind a curved railing and a lancet-arched opening. A pair of round-arched doors with diagonal sheathing frame the chancel. The wider main entrance door at the rear of the nave is similarly finished. A number of former oil lamps, presumably early features, are located along the nave walls.

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

1881

1896-97

1904

Significant Dates

1881

1896-97

1904

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

Constructed in 1881, the Church of the Advent is a small wooden building exhibiting a combination of Gothic and Romanesque characteristics. It is particularly distinguished by the design and finish of the interior which includes a high barrel vaulted ceiling and surface treatments of narrow tongue-and-groove sheathing. The church is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C and criteria consideration A for its local architectural significance. Criteria consideration B also applies because the building was moved in 1896.

The Episcopal congregation which formed the Church of the Advent in 1872 is believed to have been the first organized religious body in Limestone. At the taking of the 1870 census, Limestone, which was incorporated on February 26, 1869, had a population of only 268 persons. According to accounts of the Church's history, services were originally held in a school house with priests coming from Andover and Grand Falls, New Brunswick. By 1881 the congregation had grown to the point where a permanent religious edifice was considered necessary.

Tradition holds that the building was constructed under the supervision of one Mr. Pelky and Mr. Greenier, although nothing more has been discovered about their careers or residence. In any event, as reported in the September, 1881 edition of the North East [the missionary paper of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Maine] the new church was consecrated the previous July 28th. The article went on to say that "Some work still remains to be done in and around the little church - painting, furnishing, and grading - to make it complete in its appearance and appointments, but even now it is very satisfactory."

Sometime in 1896 the congregation apparently concluded that the building's location was too far removed from the growing village center. The North East reported in December that attempts to move the church had foundered and the structure was left standing in the middle of the highway with the possibility of its pending sale. In its subsequent issue, however,

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Limestone Centennial: 1869-1969. Limestone, Maine. 1969.

The North East. Missionary Paper of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Maine. Portland, Maine. Various Editions.

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

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property occupies the Town of Limestone tax map 4 lot 34.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary embraces the entire parcel historically associated with the Church since it was moved to this site in 1896.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk F. Mohny, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date 4/1991

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

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

It was noted in the August, 1904 edition of the North East that the tower on this church had been raised seven feet and a new belfry built. The precise configuration of the tower prior to this alteration is uncertain, although the reference implies that only the upper stage was changed.

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Section number 8 Page 2

the paper carried a response to its earlier report which blasted the Lewiston Weekly [Evening?] Journal reporter for having misrepresented the entire situation. Apparently, the church had not been extensively damaged during the initial move as previously stated, nor was it being advertised for sale by the town selectmen. It must have been an excoriating article for the respondent, who appears to have been a member of the congregation, felt compelled to state that:

The Episcopal church of Limestone has not been "altitudinously high church, with candle, robe and ritual." There has never been a candle in it, nor is there robe and ritual other than such as may be seen in any Episcopal Church in the land.

The church had reached its new and present site by January, 1897. However, it was still not fully repaired by November when the Bishop's celebration of the Holy Eucharist was reported in the North East. Part of the restoration work done at this time may have included the application of the tongue-and-groove sheathing over the plaster which had been previously described as damaged. Further changes came in 1904 when the North East noted that the tower had been raised seven feet, a new belfry built and the bell placed in it. Unfortunately, the Church's difficulties were not permanently settled. In the July-August, 1921 edition of the North East, an article on the Caribou and Limestone missions described the building's deteriorating environment with "...a livery stable at the doors, and a neighborhood unsympathetic, with baseballs, and rifle shots testifying their disapproval...." Nonetheless, the congregation persevered and the Church remains on the site which it has occupied since 1896.

From an architectural standpoint, the Church of the Advent represents an important local landmark and the town's first historic resource to be nominated to the Register. In a broader context, the building depicts the eclectic character of church design in Maine's small communities in the early 1880s. The combination of Gothic and Romanesque features as seen here with an attached tower as opposed to those surmounting a roof or fronting a facade are typical. Somewhat more unusual, however, is the height of the barrel-arched nave vault which closely conforms to the steep pitch of the roof. This space is made more dramatic by the subsequent application of the tongue-and-groove sheathing.