

PH0503754

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**FOR NPS USE ONLY** **DATA SHEET**  
 RECEIVED **SEP 12 1977**  
 DATE ENTERED **JAN 31 1978**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Pittston Congregational Church

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Intersection, Routes 194 & 27

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Pittston VICINITY OF 1st Hon. David Emery CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Maine CODE 23 COUNTY Kennebec CODE 011

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Kenneth E. Tuttle

STREET & NUMBER R.F.D. 4

CITY, TOWN Pittston VICINITY OF STATE Maine

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kennebec County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Augusta STATE Maine

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_ STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Congregational Church of Pittston is of importance in the context of its architectural details, because it displays elements of three distinct styles. The building's basic form derives from the Federal meeting house, but the facade with its doric pilasters and bold pediment is Greek Revival; and in all likelihood the four corners atop the tower once held pinnacles in the Gothic Revival manner (a virtually identical church in Dresden Mills retains its pinnacles).

The building is a one and a half story frame structure with clapboard siding, and is rectangular in plan with a gable roof. Rising centrally above the main facade, which faces west, is a square tower with a flat roof. As noted above probably there once was a pinnacle on each corner of the tower roof. There is an arched window in each of the four sides of the tower, covered with louvered shutters.

The main elevation of the church features six doric pilasters below a simple entablature. Above this is a large triangular pediment. There are two doorways in the facade symmetrically positioned. Each doorway contains a panelled double door. Above each doorway is a semi-circular arched double-hung sash window with eight lights below and eight lights plus ten in the elliptical toplight above.

The north and south sides of the church are three bays wide. Each window is double-hung sash, sixteen over twelve, with wooden fans above and louvered shutters to either side of the lower sashes.

The roof of the church is covered with asphalt shingles. The foundation consists of granite blocks. There is a small brick chimney which straddles the roof ridge at the rear (east) end of the building.

The date "1819" is painted centrally on the main elevation. This date is incorrect (see Significance). A large rectangular sign carrying the word "ANTIQUES" is positioned in the centre of the west pediment. This sign reflects the adaptive re-use of the building, a re-use which has been effected discreetly.

The Pittston Congregational Church is a fine example of a rural meeting house of the 1830's which displays a conservative Federal form but was strongly influenced by Greek and Gothic Revival tastes. As a transitional building in an excellent state of preservation and occupying a nearly unchanged setting, it is most worthy of entry into the National Register of Historic Places.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1836

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Congregational Church of Pittston's primary significance lies in its successful combination of the Federal, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival styles. It serves well, also, as a reminder of the devotion of the church members who established the congregation and the meeting house. Thus, the building is also important for its historical association.

The Congregational Church was first organized at the home of Major Reuben Colburn on Nov. 17, 1812. Major Colburn was a devout Congregationalist who, for many years, had taken his family to the Congregational meeting in Georgetown. This meant a 35-mile trip in a canoe to Georgetown each Saturday, and a 35-mile paddle back upstream on Monday. Major Colburn is also remembered for filling a contract to build the 200 bateaux used in Arnold's march to Quebec.

The Congregational Church began with five ministers at its organizational meeting, and eight church members. The church building was constructed in 1836. The congregation continued to grow, and by 1851 it had 46 members, a Sunday school with 40 students, and a library of 200 volumes. The building continued to be used as a church until 1894 when a new, more centrally located structure was built. It is now well maintained and used as an antique shop.

Standing prominently on a hill overlooking the Kennebec River, the Pittston Congregational Church is an important local landmark of exceptional architectural merit.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hanson, J.W. History of Gardiner, Pittston and West Gardiner. Gardiner, 1859.

Congregational Yearbook - 1913

Kingsbury, H.D. and S.L. Deyo, History of Kennebec County. New York, 1892

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	9	4	3	9	6	6	0	4	8	9	6	0	7	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B 

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY Kristen Stred, Student Assistant

NAME / TITLE Frank A. Beard, Historian  
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE 6/77

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street

TELEPHONE 289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta

STATE Maine

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Earle S. Sheddworth Jr.*

TITLE S.H.P.O.

DATE 9/6/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1-31-78

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE 1-25-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER