

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAY 22 1985

date entered JUN 20 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Damariscotta Baptist Church

and or common n/a

2. Location

street & number King's Square not for publication

city, town Damariscotta, vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Lincoln code 015

3. 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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Damariscotta Baptist Church Board of Trustees

street & number

city, town Damariscotta, vicinity of state Maine 04543

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lincoln County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Wiscasset, state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on a hill at the head of Main Street, Damariscotta, the Baptist Church dominates the surrounding village. Designed in the Greek Revival style, the rectangular building has a pedimented gable end and steeple supported on six Ionic columns. The timber frame church has clapboard siding on the sides and flush-board siding on the principal (west) facade. An above-ground basement story elevates the church and contributes to its monumental siting. The tower has classical pilasters at the corners of both stages.

The Baptist Church underwent a major remodelling in 1891 when the windows and doors, which were originally Gothic, were altered to the Colonial Revival style. Lancet arched windows were changed to round arched while each lancet arched door received two consoles and a classical pediment. Above the entries round windows were also added. Attached to the rear of the church is a two story wing erected in 1967.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1843-47 **Builder/Architect** Probably Samuel Melcher of Brunswick

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Standing out clearly as the architectural centerpiece among the mid-nineteenth century brick commercial buildings which reflect Damariscotta's proud history as a seaport and shipbuilding town, this imposing white Greek Revival church with its unusually spaced columns is also a symbol of the establishment of political independence for the community.

The Damariscotta Baptist Church was organized in 1819 as "The Second Baptist Church in Nobleboro" one of the large early political divisions in Lincoln County of which the village of Damariscotta was then a part. The vestry was built and dedicated in 1837 and construction of the church begun in 1843. In 1847, the year of its completion, the name of the parish was officially changed to the Damariscotta Baptist Church in recognition of the incorporation of the community by the State Legislature as a separate town. This was to become effective after March 15, 1848. The church building became the site of the official organization of the town on March 22nd of that year.

Of additional interest is the fact that the building in its exact proportions and unusual column arrangement is virtually identical to the First Congregational Church in neighboring Wiscasset which was designed by the noted architect, Samuel Melcher, of Brunswick. Although no documentation exists, the evidence clearly suggests that Melcher was also responsible for this handsome structure.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Church history written by Constance M. Freeman, 1982, ms. in custody of church clerk. Sturges, Florence, M., High Points in the History of the Newcastle-Damariscotta Area. Newcastle-Damariscotta Woman's Club, Damariscotta, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Damariscotta

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	9	4	5	7	5	6	0	4	8	7	5	2	9	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map #6, Lot 12.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Frank A. Beard, Historian/Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1985

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

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 *E. S. Feltz*

title S. H. P. O. date 5/10/85

For NPS use only

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

J. Helene Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6-20-85

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

