

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maine
COUNTY: Penobscot
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE NOV 19 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
St. James Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Centre Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Old Town

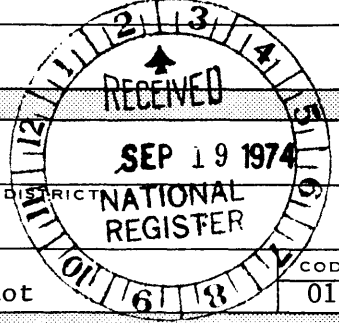
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
2nd

STATE:  
Maine

CODE:  
23

COUNTY:  
Penobscot

CODE:  
019



**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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	XYes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Rector, Vestry and Wardens of the Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Centre Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Old Town

STATE:  
Maine

CODE:  
23

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Registry of Deeds, Penobscot County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Hammond Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Bangor

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:

CODE:

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FOR NPS USE ONLY			

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

St. James in Old Town is typical of the modest but distinctively designed Episcopal churches built in America in the late 19th century. Following a style popularized by Richard Upjohn's model country church in Rural Architecture of 1852, later Gothic Revivalists such as Henry Vaughn created more sophisticated interpretations of the small parish church. Vaughn's St. James is a good example of this architectural trend.

St. James was built in 1892 upon the rectangular granite foundation of an earlier Episcopal chapel of 1852, which was replaced because of its deteriorated structural condition. The present church is of frame construction, stands one story high with a gable roof, and has an exterior sheathing of wooden shingles. The facade or north wall is composed of seven bays. The first bay is comprised of a tall square tower near the northwest corner of the building. The first story of the tower has an entrance on the front. This entrance has a pair of arched board and batten doors with medieval style iron hinges. Surrounding the doorway is a gable roofed portico on which the gable is decorated with half timbering and simple bargeboards. On the front of the tower's second story is a vertical rectangular window with diamond paned glass. The third stage of the tower is the open octagonal belfry which has above each of it's openings, a panel of simple Gothic tracery. The belfry is capped by an octagonal spire.

The remainder of St. James facade is on the first story. To the left of the tower is a series of three, three part arched windows with diamond paned glass. To the left of the windows is a secondary entrance, which is located in a two part projecting vestibule. One section has a half gable roof which continues from the roof of the main building. The doorway is located on the west wall, while a small three part diamond paned window appears on the north side. The other section has a gable roof which projects perpendicular from the main building. A rectangular brick chimney is located at the point where this roof joins the main one. On the north or facade wall of this section is a two part diamond paned window. The gable is decorated with unornamented bargeboards and cut out work. The final facade bay consists of a two part diamond paned window with simple tracery at the top of each section.

The east and west walls of St. James Episcopal Church have similar features. Each wall possesses a large rectangular window, which contains eight elongated vertical sections that have diamond paned glass and simple tracery appearing at the top. Each gable is ornamented with simple bargeboards and a gable ornament with a cut out decoration of two Gothic trefoils and a quatrefoil. Behind this ornament is a small rectangular window. The church's south wall contains a series of three part diamond paned windows identical to those on the facade.

The interior of St. James is basically unchanged from Henry Vaughn's designs. On either side of the sanctuary is a series of Gothic columns which support Gothic arches on the ceiling. The simple natural pine pews

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maine	
COUNTY Penobscot	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	Aug 19 1974

(Number all entries)

7.

Description

are from the original church. The oak altar, altar rail and pulpit are in the Gothic Style from Vaughn's designs. Originally, the sanctuary interior was done completely in natural wood. After a minor fire in 1952, the floor was painted red, while much of the woodwork was painted an ultra-marine blue.

St. James Episcopal Church stands in the center of Old Town's business district. In addition to its significance as an example of late 19th century Episcopal church architecture by Henry Vaughn, the building is a major focal point in a community which has few surviving local landmarks.



**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) 1892

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

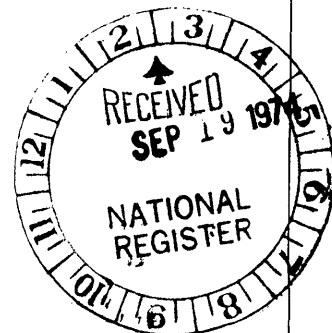
St. James Parish in Old Town was organized in 1849 and the first church building of Gothic design, was erected in 1852. This structure proved unable to withstand the stresses of time and in 1892 was replaced on the same foundation with the present building designed by the noted Gothicist, Henry Vaughn, one of only four designs by him in Maine. The others are the Searles Science Center and Hubbard Hall at Bowdoin College and St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Newcastle.

Henry Vaughn, particularly well known as an ecclesiastical architect, was born in England in 1846. Educated there he studied under George F. Bodley, the famous English Gothicist. Vaughn came to the United States in 1881, after several years of successful practice. His apparent intention was to bring an authentic interpretation of Gothic architecture to America.

Opening an office in Boston, Vaughn acquired over the next several years a considerable reputation in the design of English Gothic churches and institutional buildings. In the early 1900's Bodley, now himself in this country and established in Hartford, Connecticut, invited him to share in preparing a competitive design for the proposed cathedral church (S.S. Peter and Paul) in Washington. Successful in the competition, the two men were commissioned architects for the project in 1906. Following Bodley's death the next year, Vaughn assumed full charge of the work on this monumental edifice, a task which he continued until his own death in 1917.

St. James Church, though relatively small, nevertheless reflects the skill and maturity of its designer and is important as an excellent example of Henry Vaughn's work.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

H.F. and E.R. Withey, Bibliographical Dictionary of American Architects, Los Angeles, 1970.

One Hundredth Anniversary of the Diocese of Maine, Gardiner, 1920.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

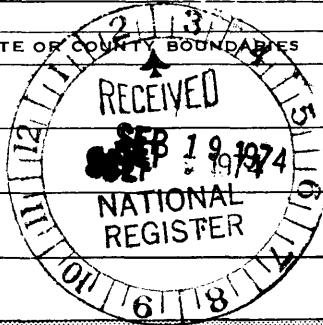
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44 ° 56 ' 03 "	68 ° 38 ' 46 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM  
19/527900  
4975450  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/2 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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
E.G. Shettleworth and F.A. Beard

ORGANIZATION: Maine Historic Preservation Commission      DATE: 8-29-74

STREET AND NUMBER:  
31 Western Avenue

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. Mundy  
Title: State Historic Preservation Officer  
Date: September 16, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

A. Montross  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/18/74

ATTEST:  
Wm. H. ...  
Keeper of the National Register

Date: 11/18/74