

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Sewall Memorial Congregational Church

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 558 US Route 1

City or town: Robbinston

State: Maine

County: Washington

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

[Signature] SHPD 10/31/12
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Name of Property

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4. 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:)

Jon Edson W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

12-19-12
Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion / Religious facility

-
-
-
-
-
-

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Religion / Religious facility

-
-
-
-
-

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN / GOTHIC
LATE VICTORIAN / QUEEN ANNE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Wood weatherboard siding (clapboard), with stained glass windows, an ornamental concrete block foundation, and an asphalt roof.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Sewall Memorial Congregational Church is an asymmetrically composed, wood frame religious building with a distinctive corner tower and prominent pointed arch stained glass window on the façade. Built in 1911, the building is located on a grassy, elevated lot on the west side of US Route 1, in the Washington County town of Robbinston, Maine. In addition to the tower and small entry porch attached to the tower, the footprint of the gable front church contains a one story vestry at the rear of the church. A narrow driveway south of the building accesses a small parking area, and a wooden ramp leads from the back entrance to the parking area. The National Register of Historic Places listed Henrietta Brewer House (NR: 83003688), now a motel, is located directly across the street. A brass and stone veteran's "Honor Roll" is on the north side of the front lawn.

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Narrative Description

The front façade of the Sewall Memorial Congregational Church faces east towards Route 1, and beyond that, the Saint Croix River, which forms the boundary between Maine and Canada. Much of the broad building is clad with painted clapboards, with the exception of a small triangle of painted wood shingles directly under the gable on the front façade, and a band of shingles just below the cornice on the tower. Ornamental concrete blocks elevate the building over a low crawl space and a pink granite cornerstone stating "First Congregational Church 1809 1910" is located in the northeast corner of the foundation. The roofs of the main building and the vestry are covered with asphalt shingles, but the roof of the tower and tower dormers are weathered wood shingles. Narrow corner boards mark the edges of the building and the tower, and the slightly overhanging roof is trimmed with a very narrow rake on the gable ends, and fascia under the eaves. The high posted building contains only one interior story.

The façade is divided into two distinct sections consisting of the front wall of the main building and the slightly-projecting tower which is in the southeast corner of the building. Dominating the front wall of the church is a large, stained glass, pointed arch, tracery window, containing four, geometric, lancet sash under a large central foil flanked by hemispherical and trapezoidal panes. (Three of the windows, including the central foil, have been removed for restoration.) The window is set in wooden trim topped with heavy drip moulding.

The tower is located at the southeast corner of the building, but most of the mass of the tower is integrated within the footprint of the main building. The tower is two stories high, with a dormered, pyramidal steeple containing the belfry. A gable roof entry porch is attached to the front wall of the tower; the roof of the porch obscures the wooden, pointed arch tracery panel with drip moulding, located over the extant double wooden doors. Above the porch is a one-over-one wooden sash window, with a pointed arch upper sash and trim that matches the stained glass window. Another example of this upper window is located on the south elevation of the tower, while below are a trio of small, connected, pointed arch, stained glass windows with drip moulding. As mentioned above, a band of wood shingles are above the clapboards on the tower, relieving slightly the tower's un-broken single stage. Above the shingles is the slightly flared roof eave. On each elevation a hip roof dormer projects from the tower roof; each dormer contains a pointed arch opening with wooden louver insert. Attached to the peak of the tower is a metal weathervane. There is no fenestration on the exposed portion of the west elevation of the tower, and the north elevation below the cornice is almost wholly within the roof of the main building. A cast iron bell, manufactured by the Cincinnati Bell Company, and wooden wheel are located on the third level of the tower

Both the south and the north elevations are characterized by evenly spaced bays of single hung, pointed arch, stained glass windows with drip moulding. The north elevation has four of these windows but, due to the presence of the tower, the south elevation has only three windows. Under a separate, low-pitched gable roof at the rear of the church is a vestry that spans the width of the main building. A small ell intersects the south side of the vestry and projects southerly from the main building just far enough to provide a pedestrian door. The

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south wall of the ell contains another pointed arch window, although this example is somewhat shorter than the seven that line the sanctuary, and does not contain stained glass. A matching window is located on the north wall of the vestry. A pair of two-over-two sash windows and a wide back door are located on the west wall of the vestry, and a six-over-six sash is positioned just below its gable peak. This wall is covered with painted shingles rather than clapboards.

The interior of the Sewall Memorial Church contains an entrance foyer in the base of the tower, the sanctuary, and the vestry and store room at the north end. Both the entrance foyer and the sanctuary have plaster walls above varnished pine bead-board wainscot and chair rail. The ceiling in the sanctuary is coved above the north and south walls and flat above the center aisle. Curved, open pews flank the main aisle, and two narrower aisles separate the pews from the outer walls. The floor of the sanctuary is oak but in the entrance it is covered with carpet. All of the windows are set in a heavily moulded trim with bulls' eye blocks at the spring line and keystones at the top of the arch. At the front of the sanctuary the mahogany pulpit, alter, plant stands and chairs (all of which date to an earlier 1841 church) are located on a raised platform situated in front of the gold-painted pipes of a Ryder tracker organ installed in 1950. Slight modifications have been made to the platform in order to accommodate the organ, and the entire platform has been moved forward to provide a narrow access space behind the organ for maintenance.

The stained glass windows in the sanctuary and foyer were designed by an unknown manufacturer or artist using opalescent art glass. Each of the windows follows a standardized design and contains a bottom plaque that was meant to be filled in with a dedication or memorial name. Above the plaque is a floral motif and above this vertical bands of glass rise to a central foil containing a Christian motif. Interrupting these bands at the center of window is a blue glass diamond. The three windows in the foyer are simpler than those in the sanctuary and feature a quatrefoil under the arch along with bands of colored glass. The windows are similar to the types of windows that were sold by the Shattock & McKay company of Chicago, through their *International Art Glass Catalog*, and it is likely that they were stock windows rather than examples specifically designed for the Robbinston church.

The vestry is a large open room, containing several tables, chairs, a display case, and piano. The walls are plaster above bead board wainscot and the floor is carpeted. At the north end of the vestry is a storage room with built in cupboards and coat hooks on the walls.

Historic glass plate images of the church taken sometime after 1911 show a wagon shed with multiple open bays positioned west of the church. This structure fell into disrepair over time and the last portions of it collapsed and were cleared from the site in the 1990s.

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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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1911

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

The Sewall Memorial Church is a notable example of religious architecture in the far eastern Washington County town of Robbinston, Maine. Erected in 1911 to replace an earlier church, the asymmetrically composed, wood-frame building with off-set tower is an example of a form of religious building that became increasingly common after the Civil War, due in part to widely distributed, published plans. Formerly known as the Robbinston Congregational Church, this building is the only example of late Victorian-era religious architecture in this small community. The Sewall Memorial Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C, for its local architectural significance. As a religious structure, criterion consideration A also applies.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion C: Architecture

The Sewall Memorial Congregational Church is a locally significant example of a type and period of religious architecture that developed in the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century, and it represents a marked change in form from the rural church architecture that was common in Maine prior to the 1870s. In order to evaluate the significance of this building in the local context it is necessary to understand the earlier landscape of church architecture in Robbinston. However, a comparison of the Sewall Memorial church to other religious buildings in the town is hampered by a lack of historic information. To date, no comprehensive history has been written for Robbinston, Maine. The town was settled in 1786 and in the nineteenth century the economy centered on wood manufacturing, ship building, canning of seafood and agricultural products, and plaster manufacturing. Located just south of the larger city of Calais, the population crested at 1,100 in 1860, but then declined steadily dropping to only 396 residents in 1970.¹

A small amount of information about the town's religious societies and their associated buildings can be gleaned from extant maps, newspaper articles, directories, and a published memoir of a local postman. Five churches were depicted on the 1881 *Atlas of Washington County* maps of Robbinston: the Congregational church, a Catholic church, and an Episcopal church, all in the village area; a Baptist church in South Robbinston, and a Methodist Episcopal church on Ridge Road in the southwestern part of town. According to the 1884 *Gazetteer of the State of Maine* by George W. Varney, there were Congregational, Methodist and Baptist societies in town. In 1912 the *Maine Register* recorded the existence of all five of the religious organizations, but by the 1915-16 volume the Baptists are no longer referenced. The Catholic church was last listed in the *Maine Register* in 1934-35. Neither of the buildings associated

¹ The population in 2010 was 574.

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with these congregations were depicted on the 1931 USGS topographic map and both are now gone. The Methodist church building is still extant, as is the Grace Episcopal Church.

From what limited information has been found, it appears that the asymmetrically composed Sewall Memorial Church was a significant deviation in form from the five churches constructed in town in the nineteenth century. Three of these were gable front buildings with belfrys and steeples centered on, or in front of, the ridge. An early postcard of Robbinston village shows the 1841 Congregational church. It was a one story, gable front frame church, with a one story belfry tower and a conical steeple situated on the front ridge of the building. A tall, pointed arch window was positioned between two doors, each topped with a pointed arch form (window or panel), and three pointed arch tracery windows lined the south elevation. Quatrafoil cut outs decorated the single stage belfry.

In February, 1911 the *Lewiston Evening Journal* ran a special article on Robbinston, in honor of the town's one-hundredth birthday.² Prominently displayed across the top of the full page article were photographs of the Catholic Church and the (Grace) Episcopal Church. Additional photographs of those two buildings, (and the newly built Sewall Memorial Congregational Church), were captured within the next decade by the Eastern Publishing and Illustrating Company. The Catholic church was a relatively vernacular, front gabled, wood building with a small, gable roof cupola perched over the front ridge. The church had short, pointed arch two-over-one windows, three on each side and two on the front, on either side of a gable roof entrance. Another window was located under the gable peak, and a small rear ell telescoped from the rear (east) elevation. The Methodist church, which is still extant is a gable-front, wood frame building with a small entry vestibule. It does not currently have a tower or steeple. No images have been found of the Baptist church and it's form remains unknown.

These Robbinston churches can be seen a part of a large group of architecturally related mid-nineteenth religious buildings erected in rural areas of the state. 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 at times 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 crenellated towers. The buildings that comprise the general grouping can be further subdivided into three subsets based on the presence of towers and spires.

Located just up the road from the Sewall Memorial church, the Grace Episcopal Church (NR: 01000816) is a building that deviated somewhat on the exterior from the form described above. Built in 1882, and most likely designed by an unknown architect it is a picturesque, rectangular, gable front, Gothic Revival building with decorative parapet walls, an entrance porte-cochere, and an scaffold-type open belfry on one side of the roof. The very simple

² Although according to a later article in the *Lewiston Evening Journal* (8/9/1911) the Sewall Memorial Church was completed by February 1, 1911, there was no photograph of this building included in the February article about the anniversary of the town.

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interior contains only a rustically finished sanctuary. This church was built as a chapel largely by and for summer residents of the area.

While the Grace Episcopal Church is architecturally noteworthy, its design is more eclectic than representative of a type, period, or method of architecture. The Sewall Memorial Congregational Church of 1911, on the other hand, is a good example of a type of late Victorian church that developed in the decades after the Civil War and remained popular into the first decades of the twentieth century. In general these buildings eschew the rigid symmetry and classical proportions of the first half of the nineteenth century. Some of these churches have tightly massed cross-gable plans and others retain an essentially rectilinear footprint, but all of them feature towers and belfries that are placed anywhere but in front of, or over, the gable ridge. The Sewall Memorial church falls within the group of buildings characterized by a rectilinear plan and with a prominent tower located at one of the corners of the façade.

Between 1990 and 1992 photographs were taken of approximately 1289 Maine churches built before 1930. Of these, 186 wood frame churches had strongly rectilinear plans, front gable roofs and asymmetrical facades with prominent corner towers.³ These buildings can be further grouped by the position of the tower relative to the façade: forward (110), flush (22), or back (40), or other (14). Within these groups other common variables include the location of the primary entrance, whether the belfry is open or closed, and whether the façade has a prominent decorative window. The most common form, with 63 examples, is that of a church with a projecting tower and the main entrance located in the base of the tower. Eighteen of these share the characteristics of an only slightly projecting tower with a front tower entrance; the Sewall Memorial Congregational Church falls into this category. Other similar examples in Maine include the 1890 East Raymond Chapel in Raymond (NR: 04000370), the Beth Eden Chapel in Brooklin, 1900 (NR: 01000818), and the 1863 Maple Grove Friends Church in Fort Fairfield (NR: 00000764), which had a side tower added in 1906.

As compared to rural and urban churches in Maine prior to the Civil War, the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century religious buildings were more varied in type, form and ornamentation. This was due in part to the development of new materials and structural advances which enabled builders and architects to migrate away from buildings dependent on heavy timber engineering. At the same time, preferences in church architecture reflected residential, civic and commercial forms of the late Victorian, especially the Queen Anne and Shingle styles. Writing of the period 1870 – 1900 architectural historian Carole Rifkind states:

Visually, church architecture expressed the complexity of its era. Thus, the late-nineteenth century church was characterized by grand scale, intricate and picturesque massing, dynamic contrasts, complicated three-dimensionality, textural richness, and opulent detail. There was a sharp break from convention, a restless originality, and eclectic daring.⁴

³ Stone and brick churches are not included in this count.

⁴ Carole Rifkind. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. (New York: New American Library, 1980), page 146.

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It would be erroneous to classify the Sewall Memorial church as an example of "eclectic daring", but with its three-dimensional façade, strong verticality, bold stained glass windows and contrasting bands of wood shingles, the building has clearly broken from the earlier local forms. Although built in 1911, the building mixes nineteenth century features with a more modern asymmetrical plan. This is not unusual in a rural setting. Rifkind acknowledges that "during these years, vernacular architecture tended to develop at an erratic pace and in an idiosyncratic course, particularly in provincial or bonanza towns where books like Gardner's *Commonsense in Church Building* (1880) transported high style – or rough approximations of it – to the frontier."⁵

Architects, working with denominational organizations such as the Methodist Episcopal Board of Church Extension, helped to advance the 'new' styles of church design throughout the country. Starting in 1870, the Methodists began...

...publishing illustrations and descriptions of churches, and referred parties interested to the architects who could furnish them. Then (they) had a few plans lithographed, with specifications printed, which (they) could furnish at greatly reduced rates, and later, after sundry experiments... entered an arrangement with Benjamin D. Price Architect... under which (they) furnished plans, including detailed drawings and specifications at a mere fraction of what plans would have cost prepared by hand... TAKE NO STEPS TOWARD BUILDING BEFORE SECURING OUR CATALOGUE.⁶

Price (1845-1922) was the second architect the Methodists had worked with, and his plans varied from affordable and simple to complex and stylish. In 1889 Price purchased the rights to his plans and started publishing and selling his designs, independent from the Board of Church Extension, through a mail order catalog entitled *Church Plans*. According to researcher Frank L. Greenagel of the New Jersey Churchscape project, Price claimed to have sold more than 6,000 copies of his plans between 1876 and 1906. At least three churches in Maine were based on Price's work.⁷

The article describing the dedication of the church on August 3, 1911 makes no mention of an architect, building committee or builder. It does note, however, that the three children of the late David B. Sewall offered to build the church in honor of their father, who had been the minister there between 1842 and 1860. The cornerstone of the new building was laid only six weeks after the fire, and the building was completed by February 1, 1911. It is interesting to note that the Robbinston church bares a distinct resemblance to one of the plans published by Price in his 1892 edition of *Church Plans*. "Perspective No. 170" is for a frame church with a slightly projecting tower, main entrance in the base of the tower and a prominent pointed arch

⁵ Ibid, 146.

⁶ Frank L. Greenagel. "Benjamin Price & the Board of church Extension." The New Jersey Churchscape, No. 75, March 2009. <http://www.njchurchscape.com/index-Mar09.html>. October 12, 2012.

⁷ The *Industrial Journal* for January 5, 1900 references Benj. D. Price as the architect for the Old Orchard Beach Methodist Church. On February 14, 1892 the same periodical indicates Price was the architect for the Thomaston Methodist Church. On May 5, 1900, *New England Master Builder* lists Price as the architect for the Madison Methodist Church. See bibliography for fuller citation.

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gothic window on the façade. (See figure 1.) The specifications read in part "Walls, 14 feet; raised ceilings 23 feet high, finished with wood, paneled. Heated by furnace in cellar; tower 9 x9 feet, 62 feet high," and the cost to erect was approximated at \$2,000 to \$2,500. While it would take additional research to determine if the Sewall family obtained this, or another plan from Price, the fact that the building was completed in less than six months begs the question of whether this church was based on a pattern-book plan. If so, this would give the property additional architectural significance.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (If appropriate.)

The following history of the Sewall Memorial Congregational Church was prepared by members of the congregation in 2009.

Following the settlement of the town in 1786, community members originally traveled to worship with the Dennysville Congregational Church. In the first decade of the 19th century, the Church gathered in the local schoolhouse, and formally organized themselves as the Robbinston Congregational Society on November 23, 1811. Their first Meeting house was built on this site in 1841, where the Church and community met until the steeple was struck by lightning on the fourth of July, 1910. Although the flames could not be extinguished, the contents were removed including a number of historic treasures relating to the founding of the town. Among them was a large Aaron Willard gallery clock, presented to the Church by the son of the town's founder and inscribed: "This town settled in 1786 by the first proprietor, Hon. Edward H. Robbins of Milton, Massachusetts."

The current building was completed in 1911 with the generous assistance of the Sewall family – children of the Reverend David Sewall and his wife Mary Drummond, who had served as pastor of the congregation from 1842 to 1859. He was himself the grandson of the Reverend Jotham Sewall, a peripatetic Congregational missionary and "father" of many downeast congregations, including Robbinston. The history of the building parallels the history of the town. Active through the era of the First World War and the hard times of the Great Depression, the church fell asleep in the 1970s, and the building remained quiet for twenty years, with the exception of a family of resident raccoons. In 1992, through the dedicated efforts of remaining members of the congregation, the doors opened again for regular services with a new spirit and a fresh perspective. Original stained glass windows and a magnificent Ryder track organ installed in 1950 attract interest, even in their yet-to-be-restored state. The congregation actively operates and maintains the property, undertaking the preservation of the rehabilitation of this essentially un-denatured structure.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Barnes, Jeff. *Highlights of the History of Robbinston, Maine Colonial Era to the Early Twentieth Century*. [Robbinston, Maine]: Manuscript. , 1970. Copy at the Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine.
- Brown, Ernest E. *Memoirs of a Mailman*. Robbinston, Me: Transcribed by Barbara A. Brown Barnes and Jeff Barnes. , 1905-1943. Transcribed and bound 1994. Copy on file at the Maine State Library, Augusta, Maine.
- "Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Company." *Penobscot Marine Museum*. n.d.
<http://www.penobscotmarinemuseum.org/photo-collections/eip.html> (accessed 10 15, 2012).
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- Greenagel, Frank L. "Benjamin Price 7 the Board of Church Extension." *The New Jersey Churchscape*, No. 75. March 2009. <http://www.njchurchscape.com/index-Mar09.html> (accessed 10 12, 2012).
- Industrial Journal*. January 5, 1900: Copy on microfilm, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.
- Industrial Journal*. February 2, 1892: Copy on microfilm, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.
- Lewiston Saturday Journal*. "1811 The Hundredth Birthday of the Town of Robbinston 1911." February 18, 1911: 7, 12.
- New England Master builder*. May 5, 1900: Transcription on file, Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta, Maine.
- Price, Benjamin D. *Church Plans*. Philadelphia: B.D. Price, 1892.
- Rifkinid, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: New American Library, 1980.
- Shattock & McKay Company. ""Revised" International Art Glass Catalog, Church." Chicago: National Ornamental Glass Manufacturers Association, 1924.
- Tatman, Sandra L. "Price, Benjam D. (fl. 1867-1907)." *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings* . 2012. http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/26653 (accessed 10 12, 2012).
- Varney, George W. *A Gazetteer of the State of Maine*. Boston: B.B.Russell, 1882.
- Woodbury, Ida Vose. "Sewall Memorial Church Dedicated at Robbinston." *Lewiston Weekly Journal*, August 9, 1911: Copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commision, Augusta, Maine.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 371-0014

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

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NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- 1. Zone: 19 Easting: 648571 Northing: 4993818
- 2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
- 3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
- 4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the nominated property are described by the Town of Robbinston tax map number 9, lot 32.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries reflect all the land currently and historically associated with the Sewall Memorial Congregational Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Christi A. Mitchell
organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission
street & number: 55 Capitol Street
city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04333-0065
e-mail: christi.mitchell@maine.gov
telephone: (207) 287-2132 x 2
date: 19 October 2012

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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County and State

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Sewall Memorial Church

City or Vicinity: Robbinston

County: Washington State: Maine

Photographer: Christi A. Mitchell

Date Photographed: 10 July 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 6 ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH_0001.TIF
East façade; facing west.
- 2 of 6 ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH_0001.TIF
South elevation, with rear vestry; facing north.
- 3 of 6 ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH_0001.TIF
Stained glass windows, south wall of tower; facing north.

SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Name of Property

WASHINGTON CO., MAINE

County and State

- 4 of 6 ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH_0001.TIF
Tower belfry; facing northeast. Note window removed for repair, and shingled
band under the eaves.
- 5 of 6 ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH_0001.TIF
Interior of sanctuary; facing west.
- 6 of 6 ME_WASHINGTON COUNTY_SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH_0001.TIF
Interior of sanctuary, with base of tower/entrance foyer in upper middle; facing
east southeast.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

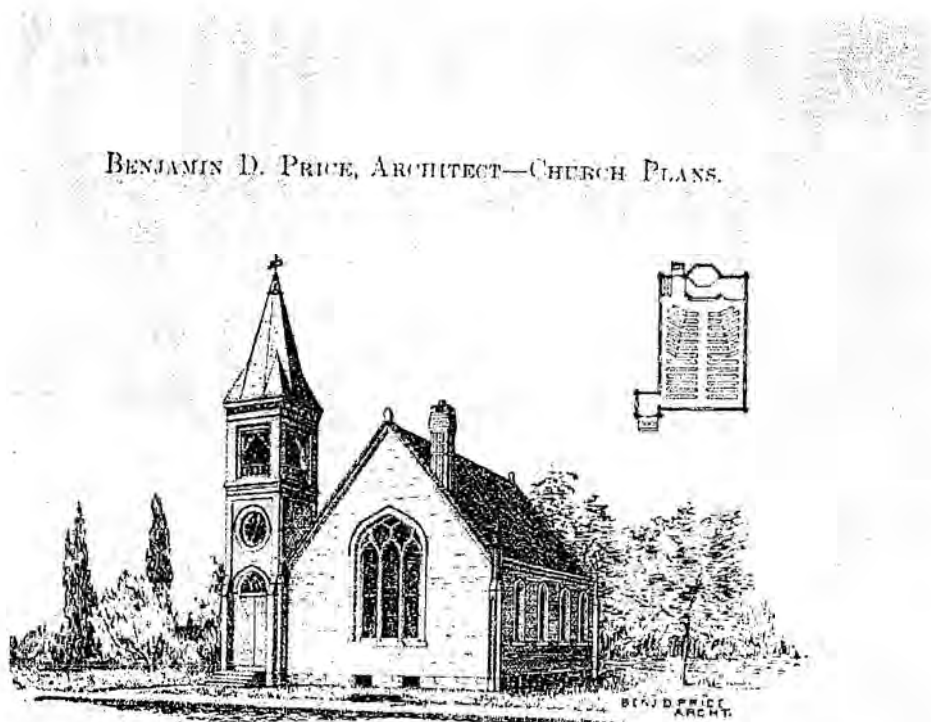
Name of Property **SEWELL MEMORIAL
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**

County and State **WASHINGTON CO.,
MAINE**

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section number **7** Page **19**

Figure 1. From Benjamin D. Price, *Church Plans*. (Philadelphia: B. D. Price, 1892.)
<http://archive.org/details/churchplans00pric>



BENJAMIN D. PRICE, ARCHITECT—CHURCH PLANS.

Perspective No. 170. Price, \$10.00. Frame.

28 x 49 feet, 200 seats; 30 x 49 feet, 225 seats; 32 x 49 feet, 250 seats. Walls, et; raised ceilings 23 feet high, finished with wood, paneled. Heated by furnace
lar; tower 9 x 9 feet, 62 feet high.

Approximate cost, \$2000 to \$2500.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Sewell Memorial Congregational Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MAINE, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 11/02/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/04/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/19/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/19/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001070

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12-19-12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



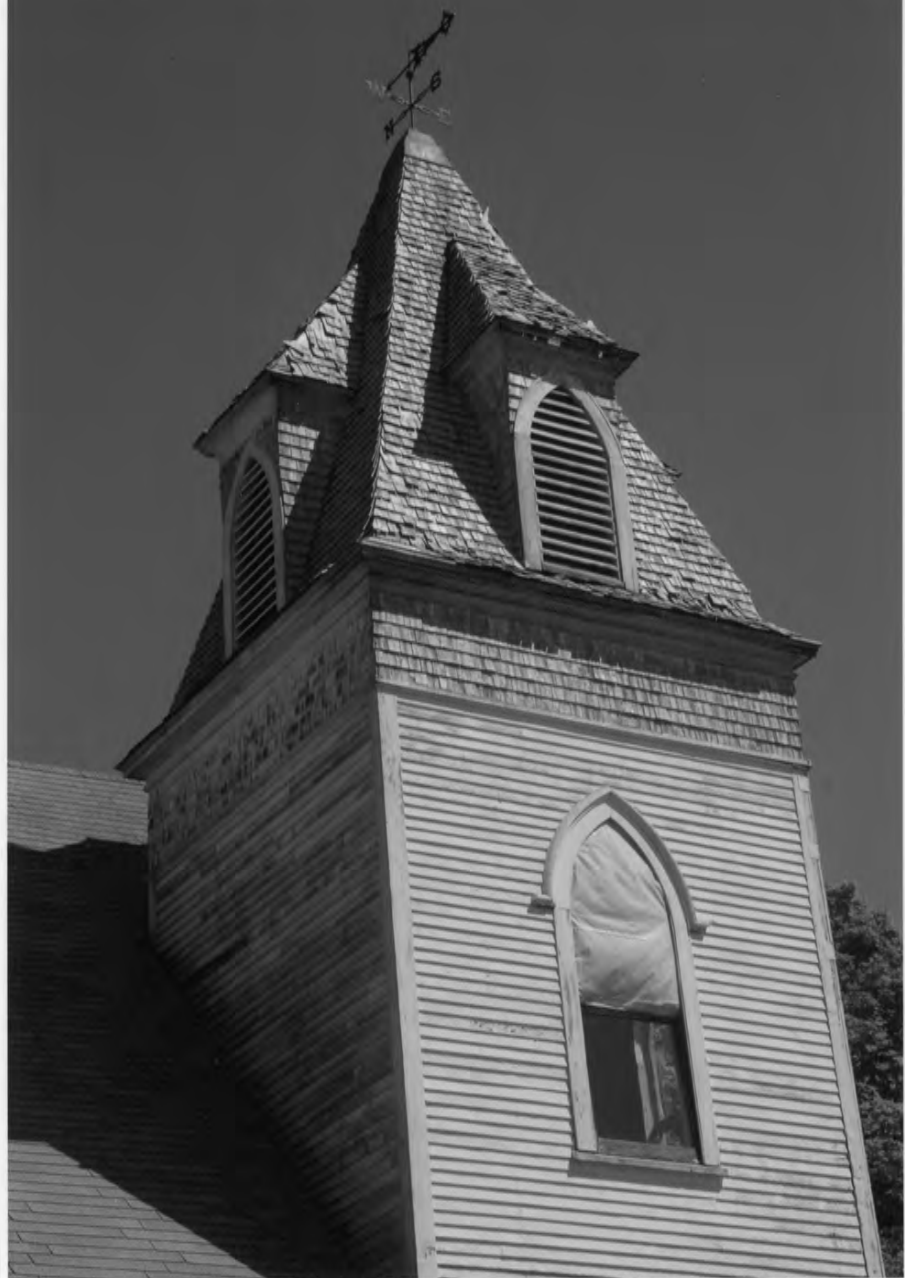
SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH ; WASHINGTON CO., ME



SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH; WASHINGTON CO., ME



SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH; WASHINGTON CO., ME 30F



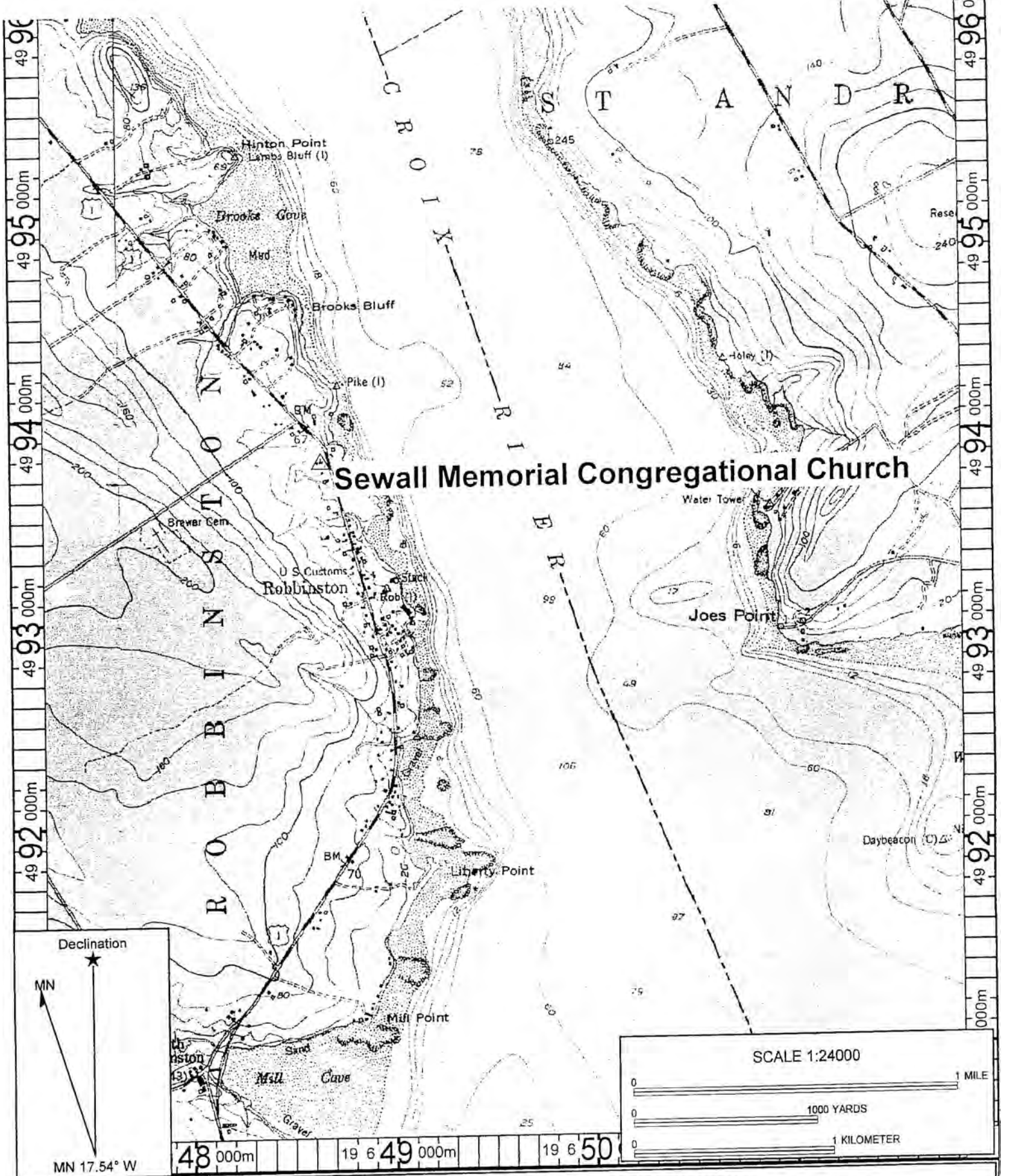
SWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH; WASHINGTON CO., ME A OFG



SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH; WASHINGTON CO., ME 5066



SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH; WASHINGTON CO., ME 6066



Sewall Memorial Congregational Church

**SEWALL MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
WASHINGTON COUNTY, ME**

Name: ROBBINSON
Date: 10/18/12
Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 ft.

UTM: 19/ 648571/4993818
NAD 27



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.
DIRECTOR

31 October 2012

Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW,
Washington D.C. 20005

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find three (3) new National Register nominations for individual properties, and two (2) new National Register nominations for historic districts, all in the State of Maine:

Calais Observatory, Washington County
Sewall Memorial Congregational Church, Washington County
Colonial Apartments, Penobscot County
American Woolen Company Foxcroft Mill, Piscataquis County
Waterville Main Street Historic District, Kennebec County

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 787-2132 x 2.

Sincerely,

Christi A. Mitchell
Architectural Historian

Enc.