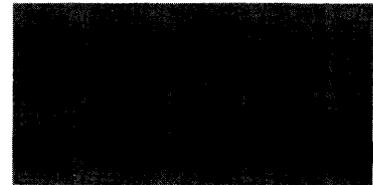


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 First Congregational Church of Buxton

and/or common Tory Hill Meeting House

2. Location

ME 112

street & number Route 112, Buxton Lower Corner not for publication

city, town Buxton vicinity of congressional district First

state Maine code 23 county York code 031

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 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 First Congregational Church of Buxton

street & number

city, town Buxton vicinity of state Maine 04072

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Alfred, vicinity of state Maine

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maine Historic Resource Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maine Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Augusta, vicinity of state Maine

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

The First Congregational Church of Buxton, built in 1822, is a well-preserved and dignified example of the Federal style in an ecclesiastical context.

The church is of frame construction with central facade tower, gabled roof, clapboard siding, and granite foundation. The facade, which faces south, is dominated by the projecting tower which is flanked by flush projections. There are two entrances in the symmetrical facade, each of which is a single panelled door with overlights and entablatured lintels. The tower is square in plan with a belfry which contains an arched, louvered aperture in each side. Above this is an octagonal base for a pyramidal spire and copper weathervane.

The sides of the church are six bays long, each bay consisting of a 20/20 window flanked by exterior black louvered shutters.

The interior of the church is also well-preserved, with simple wainscoting and bench pews.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1822 Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Congregational Church of Buxton, more commonly referred to as the Tory Hill Meeting House, derives particular significance from its architecture, its early history and its associations with the famous author, Kate Douglas Wiggin, whose home nearby is listed on the National Register (9/16/77).

The proprietors of Narragansett No. 1, as the Town of Buxton was originally named, granted land for a church site in 1761. A young newly graduated, but not yet ordained minister, Paul Coffin, was called in the same year and a church building begun. In March, 1763, Coffin was officially ordained and the church incorporated as the First Church of Christ although known far and wide as "The Meetinghouse". (The name "Tory Hill" was applied to the area and the church when the local, Federalist-inclined men refused to be mustered during the War of 1812.) Dr. Paul Coffin served the church until his death in 1821, a 60 year pastorate! In 1822 the first church building was torn down and replaced by the present structure.

Kate Douglas Wiggin was long a strong supporter and worker within the church and community. In 1897 she was instrumental in founding the Dorcas Society, a nondenominational organization in support of the community and the church. It was for this group that she wrote the famous play, "The Old Peabody Pew". Beginning in 1916, this work has been performed in the church each summer on a nearly annual basis, the 106th and 107th performances having been presented in 1979. This event receives considerable publicity each summer and is always heavily attended as a seasonal event. Mrs. Wiggin also drew attention to the church by frequently giving readings of her works there to benefit various groups.

Although the original box pews are gone and the high pulpit altered, the church as a whole, and particularly the exterior, retains pure Federal lines. Sited diagonally facing and set well back from a crossroads, this handsome structure with its old burying ground beside it is regarded as an important landmark over a wide area.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Marshall, Joel M., Buxton Centennial, 1772-1872. Buxton, 1872.

Cousens, Alice C., and Hannaford, Olive W., Recollections of Old Buxton, Maine. Portland, 1972.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1

**UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle name Buxton

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	9	3	7	5	9	3	10	4	8	2	9	1	10	10
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Assessor's Map 16, Lot 31

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/Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1980

street & number 242 State Street telephone 207/289-2133

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Earle S. Feltz*

title S.H.P.O. date 5/9/80

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Bruce M. Dwyer date 6/22/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick Andrews* date 6/13/80
Chief of Registration