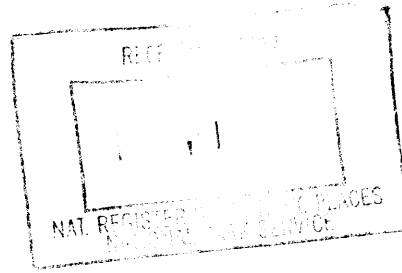


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

19
29



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name West Durham Methodist Church
other names/site number Methodist Episcopal Church

2. Location

street & number 17 Runaround Pond Road N/A not for publication
city or town West Durham vicinity
state Maine code ME county Androscoggin code 001 zip code 04222

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 3/10/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
SKPO
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
4.22.03

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

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)

VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID- 19TH CENTURY / Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN / Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1867

Significant Dates

1867

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

WEST DURHAM METHODIST CHURCH
Name of Property

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., MAINE
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .11 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 9	4 0 7 7 3 1	4 8 6 6 6 7 1	3	1 9		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 9			4	1 9		

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title CHRISTI A. MITCHELL, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

organization MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION date 17 October 2002

street & number 55 CAPITOL STREET, STATION 65 telephone (207) 287-2132

city or town AUGUSTA state ME zip code 04333 -0065

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

WEST DURHAM METHODIST CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., MAINE

Section number 7 Page 2

DESCRIPTION

The West Durham Methodist Church is a small Greek Revival timber-framed structure located on a grassy lot on the north side of Runaround Pond Road in West Durham, Maine. Perched atop a granite foundation, the one story structure is rectangular, with the gable fronted three bay facade facing the road. A small square projection with a slightly lower roof, is centered on the northern end of the structure. This bump-out encloses an arched apse on the interior. The white painted building is sided with clapboards and roofed with gray asphalt; there is no steeple, spire or belfry, and the tops of the chimneys located at the northwest and north east corners of the building have been removed. Both the east and west elevations contain three long nine-over-nine windows with three-part green shutters affixed to the sides.

The church is designed in the Greek Revival style. The front is divided into two segments; the upper portion features a pediment with a broad, overhanging cornice and wide frieze. In the middle of the pediment is another triangular pediment, supported on three delicate Italianate brackets. The interior of this smaller pediment is sheathed with decorative clapboards placed on intersecting diagonals forming a chevron-like image. The lower segment of the facade is framed at the top by the frieze, broad pilasters on the corners, and the exposed granite foundation at the base. This bottom section of the facade has three bays: two exterior doors are located to either side of the tall three part center window. This window is composed of a nine-over-nine sash flanked by two six-over-six sashes. Each of these units has an arched top sash, and the three are unified by simple wooden trim and supported by a single sill, below which four understated modillions are placed. The doors are elongated four-panel Victorians, with applied ogee moulding, and set in surrounds of matched pilasters and narrow moulded cornices. This same cornice detail is used as hoods over the windows on the east and west elevation. Interestingly, both the pilasters on the building's front corners and those adjacent to the doors contain an unusual, perhaps gothic inspired, decorative feature. The interior of the pilaster is carved in relief, articulating a small, down-pointing triangle at the top of the pilaster and complimentary up-pointing triangles at the bottom of the pilasters. This detail is not repeated on the north facing side of the pilasters at the rear of the church, and, due to the presence of the bump-out, the cornice returns do not form a complete pediment.

The interior of the West Durham Church is functional in layout, and contains simple, but pleasing decorative details. Each of the front doors lead to a small entry way, the walls of which are finished with a pressed tin wall covering. Between the entry ways is the choir niche. This recess is lighted by the triple-arched window on the south facade, and sheltered by an ovoid arch which rises to ceiling height. A slightly lower, but otherwise identical niche anchors the northern end of the sanctuary, and provides a recess for the pulpit platform. Hand-grained pews are positioned to either side of the central aisle. Both the front and rear platforms are also detailed with hand-graining. Under the pews the wooden floor remains unpainted, while in the aisles, niches, and front of the church carpet has been laid down. Twin chimneys, now out of service, are located in the corners to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WEST DURHAM METHODIST CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., MAINE

Section number 7 Page 3

either side of the pulpit. They were attached by long elevated stove pipes to matching wood stoves in the south corners of the room. In the center of the plaster ceiling is a large kerosene chandelier suspended from a plaster medallion. The church did not install electricity until 1955 and the four drop lights in the corners of the building date to that period. The position of the niches, pews, entryways, chimneys and stoves all were designed to create a symmetrical, balanced, and ordered interior in which to concentrate on the religious message of the day.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WEST DURHAM METHODIST CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 2

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The West Durham Methodist Church is a well conceived, beautifully proportioned, gable front Greek Revival Church at Methodist Corners in Durham Maine. Facing south, the two-part front of the church contains a classic Greek pediment supported on broad corner pilasters, between which are a pair of entrance doors and a triple arched center window. The middle of the pediment contains an anthemion. The prevailing Greek Revival details are subtly complimented by Italianate details: brackets support the anthemion, triangular points decorate the pilasters and door surround and the central window is not a simple 9/9 as found on the sides of the building, but rather a 9/9 flanked by two 6/6 windows, each topped by a simple arch. Identified as the "second oldest active Methodist church in New England" by the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, the style of the church clearly doesn't reflect the 1804 date emblazoned on the plaque affixed to the front exterior wall.

The early history of this little Greek Revival church is cloudy. It has been asserted that "the building remains much the same as when it was built," which when taken at face value would suggest a construction date of c. 1845-50. (Thompson, p. 19). But according to local tradition, town histories and histories of Methodism in Maine, the West Durham Methodist Church was built in 1804, two years after itinerant Methodist preachers first passed through the area. In August of that year, a great revival was held in a grove behind "where the church now stands". Official incorporation to the church was granted in 1810, granting official permission to construct a church on the site; this is more likely the date of construction. However, the deed between the church Trustees and William Mitchell, signed and recorded on January 23, 1818, suggests otherwise:

"To have and to hold all and singular the above Described (sic) piece of Land with the houses and privileges thereto Belonging unto them, the said Trustees and their successors in office forever in trust that they shall Erect or cause to be Erected and built thereon a house or place of worship for the use of the Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America...." (Book 79, pages 155, 156, 157,)

Although the actual formalization of the land transfer occurred in 1818, the transaction may have taken place, informally, years before, most likely prior to 1814 when The New England Conference held its annual conference in Durham.

Indeed there are indications that the form of the church was significantly different in the first decades of the nineteenth-century. Narrow wood patches in the unfinished floor indicate the orientation of the original pews and aisles, while larger patches suggest the location of the posts that supported the original three sided gallery. Evidence for additional architectural changes can also be seen in a southwestern closet, in which is visible the outline of the stairs to the gallery, as well as chamfered corner posts now hidden in the wall, the ghost of the gallery floor in the plaster, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WEST DURHAM METHODIST CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

finally, two large, now-blocked windows on the front wall of the church. Although these clues complete the picture of how the church looked when first built, they do lend some credence to an earlier 19th century construction date.

Methodism flourished in the first decades of the 19th century and the population of the West Durham Methodist Church, which was also attended by parishioners from nearby Pownal, peaked in 1842 at 425 members, a significant number for a small rural community. The next year the number of Methodists from the Pownal area was large enough to warrant their own church, and thus the Durham congregation was split in half. Throughout Maine a significant number of Methodist Churches were constructed in the 1840s: the North Vienna United Methodist Church was built in 1842; The Berry's Mills Methodist church was built in West Bath in 1839; the north Wayne Methodist Church in 1850, and the Monmouth United Church in 1843. Each structure was designed in the Greek Revival, with details ranging from simple cornice returns to more elaborate facades with pediments, pilasters and anthemions. In general the buildings are small and compact. Only the North Wayne Church has an original steeple, although the Monmouth Church acquired this feature in 1866. Clearly there was an affinity between the religion of the people, Methodism, and the architecture of democracy, Greek Revival, that was manifest in the design of many of the denominations' structures.

Thus it would seem plausible that the West Durham Methodist Church was given a significant remodeling in the Greek Revival style, the 1840s. Perhaps it would be reasonable to consider that this occurred as part of the rededication of the church after the congregation split in two. However there is absolutely no record that suggest the building was altered at this time, rather it was "reconstructed and greatly improved in 1867" (Allen, p. 260). At this time the Church received both an interior and exterior make-over. The shell of the building was modified by removing windows on the facade, and possibly by replacing the windows on the sides, and detailing the front with Greek Revival elements including the pediment, architrave and entablature, and adding a few Italianate brackets and the arched windows. In addition, modern conveniences, including the stoves and the light, were added to the interior, the galleries removed and front and rear arched niches installed, and entryways formed.

The interior of the West Durham Methodist Church is very similar to that of the First Universalist Society of West Sumner, which was also constructed in 1867. The pulpit area is located at the far end of the church, raised on a small platform and tucked into its own arched apse. The two front doors lead to small entry halls that subsequently access the sanctuary. Between the entry halls is a slightly raised platform for the choir, behind which is the arched or triple arched window. The interior of both churches were heated with wood stoves positioned in the rear corners of the sanctuaries and connected by elevated pipe to the chimneys at the front of the room. In Durham, a single kerosene chandelier hangs from a plaster medallion in the ceiling, while four electric drop lights are positioned over the pews. Although the detailing on the interior is simple, it is striking and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

WEST DURHAM METHODIST CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., MAINE

Section number 8 Page 4

representative of a rural church design that occurs in Maine in the immediate post-Civil War decades.

The West Durham Methodist Church is significant for its architectural detailing and design, both on the interior and exterior, and as such is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Although essentially a Greek Revival edifice with an earlier frame, its post-Civil War construction date suggests the lasting affinity this religious society felt with Grecian democratic ideals; beliefs perhaps strengthened by the recent completion of the United States Civil War. Yet at the same time, the interior of the church faces the post-war era by embracing progress and the future in the form of a sanctuary, that while still reverential, is clearly more modern and forward facing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WEST DURHAM METHODIST CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., MAINE

Section number 9 Page 2

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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"Historic Durham Church To Dedicate Plaque Today" in *Portland (Me.) Sunday Telegram* (Portland, Maine: September 14, 1958), p. 10A.

Stackpole, Everett S. History of Durham, Maine. (Somersworth, NH: New England History Press), 1979.

Thompson, Patricia J. Roots and Wings: 200 Years of Methodism in Maine 1793-1993. (Winthrop, Maine: Commission on Archives and History, Maine Annual Conference), 1993.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WEST DURHAM METHODIST CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., MAINE

Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is fully described by the Town of Durham property tax map number 8, lot 82.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary as nominated contains all the land historically associated with the Durham Episcopal Church property as conveyed by deed, January 23, 1818.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

WEST DURHAM METHODIST CHURCH

ANDROSCOGGIN CO., MAINE

Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph 1 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
6 December 2002
South Facade; facing north.

Photograph 2 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
6 December 2002
South and east elevations; facing northwest.

Photograph 3 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
6 December 2002
Interior; facing south.

Photograph 4 of 4
Christi A. Mitchell
Maine Historic Preservation Commission
6 December 2002
Interior; facing north.