

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUN 19 1984

date entered JUL 19 1984

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

**1. Name**

historic Swedish Lutheran Church

and or common Old Church Hostel

**2. Location**

street & number Wilkins and Hebron Streets, N/A not for publication

city, town Monson, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Piscataquis code 021

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Wilhelmina H. Eller

street & number 1111 Army-Navy Drive

city, town Arlington, N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22202

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number

city, town Dover-Foxcroft, 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

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Swedish Lutheran Church is a large wood frame structure with clapboard siding and Gothic ornamentation. On the east end of the building is an entrance vestibule with a gable roof and lancet arched windows containing two-over-two double-hung sash. Surmounting the vestibule is a bell tower with molded panels and pointed arched apertures. The Gothic motif is continued at the base of the hexagonal spire where the cornice on each elevation is broken by steeply pointed gables. The lancet arched windows on the north and south sides of the church have similar pointed caps.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**      1890                      **Builder/Architect**                      Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Swedish Lutheran Church in Monson, built in 1890, is architecturally and socially an interesting reminder of the ethnic heritage of this small community located in a fairly remote part of Maine. Beginning in 1875 large numbers of Swedish immigrants, as well as some Norwegians and Welsh, were drawn to Monson to work in the famous black slate quarries in the area. Not understanding English and wanting to worship in their own tongue, they built what was known as the Swedish Mission Church in an architectural style strongly reminiscent of similar structures in their native country. Some of the members of this church were Lutheran, which was the State Church of Sweden and some were of other beliefs. There was a break in the organization and in 1892 the Swedish Methodist Church was built. From that time on the Swedish Mission Church was known as the Swedish Lutheran Church. Both churches had Swedish ministers who conducted services in their native tongue.

The Swedish Lutheran Church was sold to the American Legion in 1946 and this organization in turn sold the building to a private owner in 1970. The structure is now operated as a hostel along the route of the nearby Appalachian Trail.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Monson, Maine, Sesquicentennial Committee, 1972.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/2  
Quadrangle name Greenville

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	9	4	6	0	5	8	0	5	0	1	4	6	0	0
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 7, Lot 3

### 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 May, 1984

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 *Lucas S. Feltman*

title S. H. P. O. date 6/8/84

### For NPS use only

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

*Meloree Byer* date 7/19/84  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration