

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 21 1986

date entered MAR 20 1986

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

1. Name

historic Union Hall

and/or common Town Office

2. Location

street & number 3 Reservoir Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Searsport, N/A vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county Waldo code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" 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 Town of Searsport

street & number P. O. Box 411

city, town Searsport, N/A vicinity of state Maine 04974

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number

city, town Belfast, 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

## 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 Searsport Union Hall is a two-and-one-half story wood frame structure with a gable roof and wood siding. The rectangular structure has entrances on both narrow gable ends. Designed in the Italianate style, the town hall is divided in the Renaissance manner between a "basement" containing the ground level entries and a "piano nobile" containing the hall.

The basement level is sheathed with flash-board siding and has double-hung sash with six-over-six lights. Flanking the doors on both the north and south ends are pilasters which, on the north side, terminate with brackets that originally supported a decorative balcony. A molded belt course marks the horizontal division between this level and the piano nobile, which is sheathed in clapboards with quoins at each level. The windows are two sets of double-hung sash separated by wood panels. These windows also have six-over-six lights, except for the topmost sash which is round arched with an additional three lights. In addition, the two principal elevations have paired windows surmounted by an additional round arch in the style of a Florentine window.

The cornice which extends along the eaves and forms a pediment in each gable end is supported on paired brackets. In the tympanum of each pediment, which is also sheathed in clapboards, are paired windows with four-over-four double-hung sash and decorative window caps. A single brick chimney with a corbelled cap is located on the west slope of the roof. The interior of the town hall is largely unaltered, although the original woodwork is quite simple and consists mainly of wainscot and molded architrave trim.

The only significant alterations to the building have been the removal of a small octagonal cupola at the north end of the roof and the loss of a balustrade over the north entry. Also replaced are the doors at either end of the building. Two additional windows were added to the ground floor of the west elevation and a door was created out of an existing window on the same side. A fire escape door also replaced a pair of double-hung sash on this elevation.

# 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 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** 1863 **Builder/Architect** John Lane/George M. Harding

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

Union Hall is a highly distinctive Italianate public hall which, except for the loss of its cupola, remains virtually unaltered. Designed by the very eminent Portland architect George Harding, this structure is unusually ambitious and imposing for a relatively small town municipal building.

A contemporary newspaper item noted:

"We called upon our friend, Mr. Geo. M. Harding, Architect, at his office yesterday and found him and his assistant busily engaged upon the drafting of several public buildings. The first we noticed were the plans and elevations for a new hall to be built in Searsport, Me., by Mr. J. H. Lane. It is a very neat design with all the modern conveniences, ante, dining and cooking rooms."

Constructed in 1863 during the depths of the Civil War, the Searsport Union Hall reflects the great period of maritime prosperity of this town, which produced more sea captains than any other community in the country.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Portland Daily Press", June 5, 1863.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/2

Quadrangle name Searsport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	9	5	0	6	0	0	5	4	9	2	2	7	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 16, Lot 20

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 January, 1986

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 *Eula S. Fullerton*  
title S.H.P.O. date 2/19/86

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
*James M. McPherson* Entered in the National Register date 3/20/86  
Keeper of the National Register

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

Chief of Registration