NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
COMMON: Alna Meeting House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Alna Church

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Route 218, West side, 1.3 miles South of Sheepscot River Bridge at Alna
CITY OR TOWN: Alna Center
STATE: Maine
CODE: 18
COUNTY: Lincoln
CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One):
- District
- Site
- Object
- Building
- Structure

OWNERSHIP:
- Public
- Private
- Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
- In Process
- Being Considered

STATUS:
- Occupied
- Unoccupied
- Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:
- Yes: Restricted
- No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):
- Agricultural
- Government
- Park
- Transportation
- Comments
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Private Residence
- Other (Specify)
- Educational
- Military
- Religious
- Entertainment
- Museum
- Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME:
Town of Alna

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Lincoln County Court House

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1933-1936
FEDERAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington
STATE: D. C.
CODE: 08
7. DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | (Check One) | | (Check One) | | (Check One) | | (Check One) |
|-----------|-------------|---|------------|---|------------|---|
| □ Excellent | □ Good | □ Fair | □ Deteriorated | □ Ruins | □ Unexposed |
| □ Altered | □ Unaltered | | □ Moved | | □ Original Site |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Alna Meeting House is located on a 1/5 acre plot of land on the west side of State Route 218, 1.3 miles South of the Sheepscot River bridge at Alna. It is a frame, 2½ storied, gabled roof building; clapboarded on the front and rear and shingled on both ends. The dimensions about the base are 50'8" in length and 40'7" in width. It has a five-bay front with projecting stair pavilion. There are two tiers of windows, with 24 panes of glass for each window. Its appearance is austere. It is painted in yellow, with white trim and green shutters. It has no bell tower.

The interior is nearly as austere as the outside. Hand-hewn pillars support the balcony that extends around three sides of the sanctuary.

The original box-pews five feet square are still in the church. The seats are narrow and hard, and the backs are stiff. The doors to the pews fasten with wooden buttons. The pulpit stands high above the floor level, and is quite lovely in its simplicity. A bell-shaped sounding-board hangs over it. The rafters are huge, some of them at least 14 inches by 18 inches and hand hewn.

This building is in good condition. The roof is being reshingled. One side of the roof has been completed. The roof on the front side will be done when the weather permits.
One of the show places in Lincoln County is the old Alna Meeting House, built in 1789. It is a splendid specimen of colonial architecture, and an austere monument to those early church fathers, who with infinite labor and great faith erected this old New England shrine. The Alna meeting-house has always been Congregational.

In 1760 a large section of Lincoln County was set off to form the town of Pownalboro and was organized with four precincts. This immediate area was known as the North Precinct of Pownalborough. In 1794, the precinct was incorporated and named New Milford. In 1811 it was renamed Alna.

The enterprising community that grew up on the banks of the Sheepscot seized upon the natural possibilities and potentialities of its location, and there sprang up shipyards in a dozen or more places between Wiscasset and Head of the Tide. With the virgin forests of pine and spruce and fir to supply the lumber, and tide-water mills to manufacture it, there developed a necessity for ships to carry spars and lumber to distant ports.

One of the first concerns for colonists from England in the New World was always the erection of a meeting-house. In 1789, when the affairs of the settlement were prospering, five persons organized themselves into a society and initiated the task of erecting this splendid old edifice. The Reverend Jonathan Ward was called to be the first pastor, and he served the church for twenty years, being succeeded by ten other settled ministers from then on until 1876; since then the growth of other churches in different parts of the town has withdrawn the need for the continuance of this one in active operation.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Varney, George J., A Gazetteer of the State of Maine, B.B. Russell, Boston, 1866

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>CORNER</th>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: John W. Briggs, Historian

ORGANIZATION: State Park and Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: State House

CITY OR TOWN: Augusta, ME

STATE: Maine

CODE: 18

DATE: February 1970

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-655), 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
WISCASSET QUADRANGLE
MAINE
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Aina Meeting House
Latitude 44° 5' 17''
Longitude 69° 37' 12''