

North Parish Meetinghouse  
St. George Road (State Route 131, about  
1/4 mile south of U.S. Route 1)  
Thomaston  
Knox County  
Maine

HABS No. ME-105

HABS  
ME  
7-THOM  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOW

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## NORTH PARISH MEETINGHOUSE

Address: St. George Road (State Route 131, about 1/4 mile south of U.S. Route 1), Thomaston, Knox County, Maine.

Present Owner: Town of Thomaston

Present Use: Not in use.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a large, early, frame meetinghouse.

HABS  
ME  
7-THOM  
1-

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Originally built by public subscription and owned by the pew holders.

1825 Sold to the Baptists, called North Baptist.  
 1837 Name changed to First Baptist in West Thomaston.  
 1849 Name changed to First Baptist Meeting-house in Thomaston.  
 1858 Last regular services held.  
 1903 The Prince heirs, owners, transferred the title by gift to the town of Thomaston.

2. Date of erection: A subscription to build this meeting house was started among the people of Thomaston January 16, 1792, the town having been unable to provide one. A plot of ground, for the meetinghouse, 116' x 109' was sold for \$40 on May 2, 1796. The frame of the building was erected in three days in 1795, and the building was finished in 1797.

3. Builder, suppliers, etc.: The building was framed and covered by James Stackpole. A Paul Revere bell was given for the building by General Henry Knox.

4. Original plans, construction: The following is extracted from Eaton, History of Thomaston, Rockland and South Thomaston, vol. I, pp. 201-204:

"The building appears to have been about 50 feet in width and probably about the same in length; exclusive of two projecting wings or porches in front, between which was an open court leading to the main entrance into the body of the building below, and covered over by an arch or platform, extending from wing to wing, upon which was erected a bell-fry surmounted by a tall and elegant steeple. The house was furnished with capacious galleries upon three sides, one in front for the singers;

the other two having common seats forward for all who chose to occupy them, and a tier of wall pews in the rear. These galleries were approached by staircases which occupied the two porches. The pulpit, in the opposite end, was elevated, according to the custom which prevailed in those times of two-storied churches; and an echo was provided to send the preacher's voice downwards to the pews below, in the form of a hollow umbrella-shaped sounding board suspended above his head by a well carved hand and arm let down from the ceiling, as if from a concealed giant reclining above it."

HABS  
ME  
7-THOM  
1-

The original price set on 68 pews was \$5296.

The following is copied from a plaque on the front of the church:

"The North Parish Meeting House in Thomaston, now commonly known as The Old Church on the Hill, erected in 1796 by public subscription. Maj. Gen. Henry Knox, one of the principal contributors gave £40, the glass for the building, and the bell cast by Paul Revere. Regular services have not been held here since 1858, and the building was decaying fast when in 1909 the Gen. Knox Chapter D.A.R. raised a fund among citizens and friends for its preservation. The Prince heirs, owners in 1903, transferred the title by gift to the Town of Thomaston."

5. Notes on alterations and additions:

1826 A 15' x 50' vestry was finished off at the back of the singers' seats.

1838 The building was completely remodeled, divided into upper and lower floors; upper finished for church service with new pews; re-dedicated January 10, 1839.

1848 \$500 voted for extending the roof and rebuilding the steeple.

1849 Lower story finished off into a vestry and schoolroom.

6. Sources of information: Cyrus Eaton, History of Thomaston, Rockland, and South Thomaston, Maine, 2 volumes (Hollowell, Maine: Masters, Smith and Co., 1865), pp. 201-204.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a large, early frame meetinghouse, altered several times, most extensively in 1838.

2. Condition of fabric: Poor.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: About 45' west (front) x 52'.

2. Foundations: Random stone.

3. Wall construction: Frame, clapboards, 2-3/4" exposure at the bottom becoming slightly wider toward the top, flat paneled corner pilasters. The west front is divided into five bays by similar pilasters.

4. Openings:

a. Doors and doorways: Four main entrance doors. Eight-panel doors with Greek Revival and later moldings. Simple doorways with flat or molded face pilasters; trim with corner blocks.

b. Windows and shutters: Double hung windows, 24 light over 24 lights, simple frames. No shutters. Double tiers of three windows on each side. Some windows on upper tier replaced by later, paired sash.

5. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof; shingled.

b. Cornice: Molded cornice, horizontal cornice carried across gable end front to form pediment. Full Ionic entablature probably later.

c. Tower: Two-stage tower, clapboarded square first stage, open octagonal belfry for second stage, surmounted by tall pyramidal spire.

#### C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Entrance vestibule and stairway vestibule across east front, main part of church divided into upper and lower floors.

2. Flooring: Wood.

3. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior is unsafe and in ruinous condition with most of the plaster and much of the lath stripped from the framework of walls and ceilings.

D. Site: The church faces west on the east side of State Route 131, on a large open lot, on a hill overlooking Thomaston and the Thomaston harbor. The lot is overgrown with thistles and other weeds.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
August 1962.

HABS  
ME  
7-THOM  
1-

Addendum to:  
NORTH PARISH MEETINGHOUSE  
St. George Road (State Route 131)  
Thomaston  
Knox County  
Maine

HABS No. ME-105

HABS  
ME,  
7-THOM,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HABS  
ME,  
7-THOM,  
1-

Addendum to:

**NORTH PARISH MEETINGHOUSE**  
**St. George Road (State Route 131)**  
**Thomaston**  
**Knox County**  
**Maine**

HABS No. ME-105

Data pages 1 through 3 were previously transmitted to the Library of Congress. This is data page 4.

INVENTORY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRIC IMAGES

The glass photogrammetric plates listed below are not reproducible except with special permission. However, reference prints and film copy negatives have been made from the plates indicated by an asterisk (\*) and are included in the Library of Congress collection of formal HABS/HAER photographs.

- 6 4" x 6" glass plate negatives (3 stereopairs) produced by James Replogle in 1960.

One survey control contact print per plate; survey control information for each pair.

LC-HABS-GS07-27L \* REAR AND SIDE ELEVATIONS--ANGLED

LC-HABS-GS07-27R REAR AND SIDE ELEVATIONS--ANGLED

Left and right overlap: 85%

LC-HABS-GS07-28L SIDE ELEVATION

LC-HABS-GS07-28R \* SIDE ELEVATION

Left and right overlap: 80%

LC-HABS-GS07-29L \* FRONT ELEVATION

LC-HABS-GS07-29R FRONT ELEVATION

Left and right overlap: 80%

PROJECT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Photogrammetric images were incorporated into the HABS/HAER collections in the summers of 1985 and 1986. Inventories of the images were compiled and filed as data pages for each structure recorded. Since the glass photogrammetric plates are not reproducible except with special permission, a reference print and film copy negative were made from one plate of each stereopair and from the most informative plates in sequential sets. The reference prints and copy negatives were then incorporated into the formal HABS/HAER photograph collections.

The Photogrammetric Images Project was a cooperative endeavor between the HABS/HAER Division of the National Park Service and the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. The reference prints and film copy negatives of the original plates were made by the Library of Congress Photoduplication Service with funds provided by the Library of Congress Flat Film Preservation Fund. Additional reproductions were made by HABS/HAER. The project was supervised by HABS/HAER Architect John A. Burns, AIA, and completed by HABS Historians Jeanne C. Lawrence (University of London) in 1985 and Caroline R. Alderson (Columbia University) in 1986.