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A State of the Union

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How in ten photographs do you describe a state, Maine in this instance? Describing cities may be easier because they often have their Big Bens and Eiffel Towers, and part of a description could indeed be giving viewers what they expect, unless the whole point of your description is denying them that. In the case of Maine, they might expect pine trees (Maine is the pine-tree state), a rocky coastline, a white wooden church, and a moose.

In this instance I give you (a) the wooded rocky coastline and (b) a wooden church (though in coffee, chocolate, lemon and lime, “based,” I have it on the good authority of Earle Shettleworth, “upon paint analysis conducted by Historic New England [SPNEA],” not in the white you could expect); but I deny you the moose. For the rest I have chosen subjects, not because they seemed characteristic (though they may well be that) but because they showed conviction, contradiction, pride, or anguish. I thereby avoid, I hope, both self-conscious eccentricity and predictable advertising.

1. Hockomock Channel
2. Church (1832-33), Dresden Mills
3. Child's grave, Round Pond
4. Sales offering, Edgecomb
5. Front door, Round Pond (with flag)
6. front door, Medomak (with arch)
7. Fragments from the Battleship Maine, Bangor
8. Trailer and fence, Richmond
9. Car, chair, doors and toilet, Round Pond
10. New boat shed, Medomak







