

P140369519

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 10 1976
DATE ENTERED SEP 8 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Congregational Church of Chelsea
AND/OR COMMON United Church of Chelsea

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Chelsea Green
CITY, TOWN Chelsea VICINITY OF Vermont
STATE Vermont CODE 50 COUNTY Orange CODE 019

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME United Church of Chelsea
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Chelsea VICINITY OF Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk of the Town of Chelsea
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Chelsea STATE Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE 1976 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN Montpelier STATE Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	<i>ARR</i> CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The United Church of Chelsea is located at the east end of one of two adjacent greens in the village of Chelsea.

The clapboarded building of post and beam construction rises two stories from a granite block foundation, exposed at the front (west) where the ground gently slopes downward. The shallow pitched pedimented gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

On the front (west) gable elevation a pedimented central entrance pavilion projects approximately 3 feet from the main block. On the first story, paneled, double door, flanked by four-pane sidelights are recessed behind two fluted wooden columns "in antis", which in turn are flanked by plain wooden pilasters supporting a simple entablature with a three-part architrave. Above are three large, rectangular windows with stained glass. Paneled corner pilasters rise the full height of the building to a wide entablature beneath the clapboarded pediment.

Rising from the roof of the entrance pavilion, and in front of the gable end of the main block is a three-stage steeple. The bottom stage is square in plan, clapboarded, with a simple modillion cornice and topped with a low balustrade. On the front (west) face is a gravity-powered clock. The belfry above is octagonal in plan with rectangular louvered openings on the west, north, east and south faces, alternating with recessed panels. The church bell was cast in East Medway, Massachusetts in 1840. Above each is a semi-circular wooden drip molding with a keystone. There are guttae under the narrow boxed cornice. The belfry is surmounted by an octagonal, louvered cupola with an octagonal, wood-shingled bellcast roof topped by an ornate weathervane.

On either side of the entrance pavilion are 8/8 windows with shutters on the first story and 2/2 lozenge-patterned, acid-etched windows in the second story. On the side elevations are four 8/8 windows with shutters on the first story and four large, rectangular windows with stained glass in the second story in axis with the first story windows.

Paneled corner pilasters rise full height to an entablature continuous with that on the entrance pavilion, but which ends at the two rear (northeast and south-east) corners. At the rear (east) is a projecting 2-story wing with a gabled roof with partial returns, which houses the apse. Corner pilasters rise to an entablature identical to that of the main block. On the first story is a simple doorway; on the second story is a large, rectangular window with stained glass similar to those on the side elevation of the main block. All windows have wooden sills and simple, peaked lintels.

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The interior of the church was altered in 1848 when a three-sided gallery was removed and the building was made into two stories. The first story contains function rooms while the church sanctuary is located in the upper story. In the sanctuary, windows are capped with pointed arched moldings, and three, 3-part pointed-arched openings at the apse end contain the organ, the altar, and an entrance to a rear chamber. Pointed-arched moldings are on the end of each pew. The ceiling is sheathed with pressed metal and a large Victorian chandelier is suspended at the center.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1811-13; 1848

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The United Church of Chelsea is both an outstanding structure in its own right and an important component in the villagescape of a well-preserved Vermont hill town. The church building dominates the village of Chelsea while at the same time relates excellently to both its immediate site, the village's maple-lined green, as well as to its larger environment, a narrow river valley surrounded by steep, wooded hills.

Constructed as the Chelsea Congregational Church in the years 1811-1813, the church's plan is derived from plates published in Asher Benjamin's The Architect's Companion. Notable original Federal style elements include the central pavilion and the steeple, a fine vernacular version of Benjamin's design.

In 1848 major interior alterations were made to the church. Although it is undocumented, it is probable that exterior alterations in the current Greek Revival style were made at the same time. The wide entablature, corner, pilasters, and entrance "in antis" are Greek Revival details of particular interest.

In 1929 the Chelsea Congregational Church merged with Methodist Church to form the United Church of Chelsea. The church has remained an important part of the villagescape for over 160 years.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allen, Jr., O. Fay. The Congregational Church of Chelsea, address delivered July 28, 1963 at Chelsea, Vermont

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>704075</u>	<u>4873057</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Jane A. McLuckie, Architectural Historian and
John R. Axtell, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION <u>Vermont Division for Historic Preservation</u>	DATE <u>April 27, 1976</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>Pavilion Building</u>	TELEPHONE <u>802-828-3226</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Montpelier</u>	STATE <u>Vermont</u>

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 William B. Pinney William B. Pinney,

TITLE Director/State Historic Preservation Officer DATE April 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Wm Pinney</u>	DATE <u>9/3/76</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST <u>Robert B. Rethig</u>	DATE <u>9/2/76</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Acting</u>	