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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bedford Presbyterian Church  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 4 Church Road not for publication n/a  
city or town Bedford vicinity n/a  
state New Hampshire code NH county Hillsborough code 011 zip code 03110

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide x locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James McConaha 4/30/07  
Signature of certifying official Date

New Hampshire  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government  
In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, Edgar H. Beall 6.12.07  
✓ entered in the National Register            
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined eligible for the            
     National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined not eligible for the            
     National Register  
     removed from the National Register            
     other (explain):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal



Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Federal  
Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite  
roof Asphalt  
walls Wood  
  
other N/A

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**Description**

The Bedford Presbyterian Church rises from a low hill, facing east and setback from the corner of Church Road and Bedford Center Road in Bedford, New Hampshire. Originally constructed in 1832 in the Federal style; the deep Ionic-columned portico is a Colonial Revival addition dating to 1894. Extending behind is a modern fellowship hall addition which links the original church structure to the 1870 vestry/parish house.

Measuring 51' x 71', the single-story, clapboarded church is set on a foundation consisting of two courses of large granite blocks and is oriented with its façade facing east. Plain cornerboards and a baseboard outline the structure. A wooden band at the top of the window openings encircles around the entire building. The original, broad, pedimented façade is fronted by the 1894 portico which is supported by six smooth Ionic columns, including a pair of columns at either end. Above the columns is a full entablature including a three-part architrave and plain frieze. Centered in the clapboarded pediment there is a divided, semi-circular fanlight topped by a keystone motif.

Fronting the portico concrete steps flanked by granite end stones lead to the central entrance. Each leaf of the double doors displays three raised panels. On either side of the entrance there is a pair of double-hung 6/6 windows with 2 x 3-panes in each sash and a wide muntin separating the windows. The outside shutters overlap the pilasters marking the ends of the portico. Capping the doorway there is a horizontal panel set into a molded surround. Projecting from the panel is a modern coach light. Above the panel is a black sign with gold lettering reading "Bedford Presbyterian Church, Organized 1749, Erected 1832".

A three-stage square tower rises from the front of the asphalt-shingled, gable roof. Each side of the clapboarded base has a circular, black clock face with gilt Roman numerals. Urns on posts mark the corners of the roof, connected by a wooden balustrade consisting of diagonals forming intersecting diamonds. The second stage, constructed of flush horizontal boards and housing an open belfry, is also square in plan with four identical arched openings flanked by a pair of plain pilaster supporting a decorated entablature. Smaller urns on posts mark the corners of this stage; again the posts are spanned by a wooden balustrade in a diamond pattern. The third stage consists of an octagonal drum outlined by paneled pilasters. On each faced there is a vertical panel outlined by narrow

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**Description (continued):**

panels on the top and sides. The gold cushion roof is capped by a weathervane depicting the sun, the moon and seven stars made by a local blacksmith, Nathan Kendall. The bell that hangs in the belfry was cast by Henry N. Hooper & Co. of Boston and was installed in 1844 replacing an earlier bell that cracked.

Both the north and south side elevations of the church are three bays wide. Each bay contains a pair of wooden, double-hung, six-over-six windows with 2 x 3 panes of glass in each sash. Wide vertical muntins separate the two windows making up each pair. (Originally the openings contained one large window with 6 x 6 panes to each sash. The present windows probably date to the 1894 renovations).<sup>1</sup> The windows are fitted with long, narrow shutters and are capped by semi-circular fans with arched surrounds and central keystone motifs. Piercing the granite foundation are three pairs of two-over-two basement windows. The rear elevation of the church is clapboarded and displays flush eaves with returns. A narrow, two-story projection is centered on the rear gable.

Attached to the west (rear) elevation of the church is a single-story, fellowship hall addition constructed in 1998, sheathed in wood clapboards and set on a concrete foundation. The addition is broken up by varying roof slopes including gable, shed and hip profiles while historically-inspired details such as the columned entrance porch on the south side, semicircular fans and the pilaster-framed windows on the north side complement the earlier structure. Fenestration includes double-hung 6/6 windows, used individually and in pairs with 3 x 2-light transoms.

To the southwest of the fellowship hall is the 1870 Vestry/Parish House, a single-story structure oriented with its gable-front facing the east. The building is sheathed in clapboards and is capped by a gable roof with overhanging eaves. It rests on a concrete foundation installed after it was moved to its present location in 1951. The off-center entrance consists of a modern six-panel door flanked by pilasters and capped by a semi-circular fanlight which is set within a larger door surround with pilasters and a full entablature. To the north of the entrance is a double-hung six-over-six window with entablature lintel. An arched two-over-two window with hood mold lights the attic. The south elevation is punctuated by four double-hung, six-over-six windows with lipped lintels. A lower, single-story addition extends to the south of the rear elevation with a Colonial-style entrance at the junction of the vestry and addition.

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<sup>1</sup> *History of Bedford, N.H., 1737-1971*. Bedford: Bedford Historical Society, 1972, p. 215.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**Description (continued):**

Inside, the church building retains much of its woodwork, its box pews and rear gallery. In 1894 the original box pews capped by cherry moldings were made deeper by adding a plank to the rear of the seat. Originally there were 91 pews, between twelve and fourteen were removed when the front of the sanctuary was enlarged and the slave pews in the back were taken out.<sup>2</sup> The alcove extension at the west end of the sanctuary was added in 1885 to house the new organ and to provide room for the choir.

The church occupies a polygonal-shaped lot containing a total of 3.7 acres. The north elevation of the church is set less than ten feet from Church Road. A paved driveway off of Church Road extends to the west of the parish house leading to a large parking lot to the south of the church complex. The driveway narrows as it passes by the church façade where it once again meets Church Road. A modern rail fence marks the edge of the pavement on the south and east side of the parking lot. A partial stone wall marks the western property bound. On the east side of the property, the terrain rises slightly from Bedford Center Road and the area in front of the church consists of a mix of lawn and woods with a retaining wall and a sign. There is a flag pole to the southeast of the church façade.

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<sup>2</sup> Doris Peck Spurway, "Historical Sketch of the Bedford Presbyterian Church", no date.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.  
 B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.  
 C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.  
 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.  
 B removed from its original location.  
 C a birthplace or a grave.  
 D a cemetery.  
 E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.  
 F a commemorative property.  
 G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

A: Social History

C: Architecture

Period of Significance A: 1832-1957

C: 1832; 1894

Significant Dates 1832  
1894

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Longfellow, Alexander Wadsworth  
Kennedy, Thomas

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
9. Major Bibliographical References  
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

prelim. determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office  Other State agency

Federal agency  Local government

University  Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_  
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10. Geographical Data

=====  
Acreage of Property 3.7

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing  
19 294410E 4757590N

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
11. Form Prepared By

=====  
name/title Lisa Mausolf, Preservation Consultant

organization for the Bedford Presbyterian Church date Feb. 2007

street & number 6 Field Pond Drive telephone 781-779-1574

city or town Reading state MA zip code 01867  
=====

Additional Documentation

=====  
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Bedford Presbyterian Church

street & number 4 Church Road telephone (603) 472-5841

city or town Bedford state NH zip code 03110  
=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**Statement of Significance**

The Bedford Presbyterian Church in Bedford, New Hampshire is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Social History, and under Criterion C, Architecture. The property also qualifies under Criteria Consideration A. The Bedford Presbyterian Church has been the primary church in town for over two hundred years. Despite additions to accommodate the congregation's growth over time, the church retains the essential features of its original design. The Bedford Presbyterian Church displays integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The period of significance for the property is 1832-1957 reflecting its original date of construction and the fifty-year cut-off of the National Register. The property is significant on the local level.

Under the category of Social History, the Bedford Presbyterian Church is representative of significant 18<sup>th</sup> century events and trends. Nearly all of the town's early settlers were of Scotch-Irish descent and members of the Presbyterian denomination. Thus, in Bedford the Presbyterian became the established church, in contrast to the overwhelming majority of New England communities that were associated with the Congregational Church. The Bedford Presbyterian Church has effectively been a center of public activity for all of its history and for many years was the only church in town. It is also the oldest structure of any Presbyterian church in New Hampshire.

The Bedford Presbyterian Church is also significant under the category of Architecture. The church displays elements of the Federal style, expressed in its three-stage tower with arched belfry and domed octagonal lantern as well as the blind fans capping the windows on the side elevations. The Ionic portico is a Colonial Revival-style addition, executed in 1894 according to designs by noted Boston architect, Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow, Jr. Other than this, the exterior has been changed only by sympathetically-executed additions and retains its original detailing. Inside, the church has retained much of its original woodwork along with its box pews and rear gallery.



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Section 8 Page 2

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

What is now the land comprising the town of Bedford, New Hampshire was originally part of Narragansett #5, granted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1733. Each township was required to maintain a ministry and set a portion of the grant aside for lots for a minister, the ministry and a school. The first settlers to what is now Bedford arrived in 1737. The overwhelming majority of the early settlers were Scotch-Irish. In most cases their ancestors originated in Scotland before immigrating to the north of Ireland; some of them came from the new settlement of Londonderry, New Hampshire. Thus most of Bedford's first settlers were Presbyterians. The first Presbyterian church in New England was established in Londonderry on April 16, 1745 and was called the "Boston Presbytery". The Presbyterian Church in Bedford was formally organized on August 15, 1749 and actually preceded the incorporation of the town on May 21, 1750. The Presbyterian Church remained the dominant church in Bedford for over two hundred years. Other denominations attempted to organize but were short-lived. There was a Universalist Society in town from 1835 to 1848 and a Baptist Society from 1835 to 1848. It was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that other denominations joined the Presbyterian. The Bethany Covenant Church in Bedford was dedicated in 1963, followed by a Catholic Church in 1966.

Construction of a 40' x 50' Presbyterian meetinghouse was begun in Bedford in 1755 on the present site of the Town Hall. By 1831 the congregation had outgrown its original building. A committee of fifty-six subscribers paid \$100 for land on Houston Hill on which to build a new church. On May 28 Thomas Kennedy of Goffstown contracted to build a 71' x 51' meeting house for \$3,700 and to have the work completed in September 1832. The Goffstown Town History indicates that Kennedy (1777-1840) was famous for the construction and finishing of meeting-houses.<sup>1</sup> The granite underpinnings and finish cost an additional \$739 for a total cost of \$4,439. The frame was raised on June 20, 1832 and on December 25, 1832 the new meeting house was dedicated. This is the church still in use today.

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<sup>1</sup> George Plummer Hadley, *History of the Town of Goffstown, 1733-1920*. Concord: Rumford Press, 1922, vol. 1, p. 333.

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Section 8 Page 3

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

The original bell for the belfry cracked soon after its installation and was removed. The present bell was hung in 1844 and was cast by Henry N. Hooper and Company of Boston.

By 1870 members of the congregation saw the need for another building, smaller than the church and especially adapted to the needs of church gatherings and the Sunday school. At a special meeting held on October 20, 1870 it was voted to build a vestry building and subsequently a lot of land at the southeast corner of the cemetery was purchased from the Riddle family for \$50. The contract for building the structure above the underpinning was awarded to N.R. Bixby for \$1,250. Solomon Manning was paid \$115.95 for putting in the foundation. The cornerstone was laid on September 21, 1871.

In 1881 a gable-roofed vestibule was constructed on the east façade of the church, between the two existing windows, to eliminate the need of entering through the basement. A new pipe organ was obtained in 1885 and an 18'4" x 13' extension was constructed on the west end of the church. A minister's waiting room and study was located beneath the organ. H.C. Bixby was the carpenter for the 1885 project.

In anticipation of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the church, the Ladies' Social Circle sought to make improvements to the interior and exterior of the structure. A parishioner, Mrs. Charles H. Woodbury, secured plans from Boston architect Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow, Jr. (1854-1934). In 1894 the present portico entrance was constructed according to his designs. At the same time the building was resided and the outside painted. Joseph Dana oversaw the work. The horse sheds to the south and west sides of the church were torn down and new ones were erected in their place. Various improvements were also made to the interior including the painting of the walls a deep green, the curving of the ceiling, the addition of red carpet and pew cushions, the addition of a strip of wood at the back of each pew to give it more depth and make it more comfortable and a new carved pulpit with two staircases. A noted Colonial Revival architect, Longfellow was the nephew of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. He graduated from Harvard in 1876 and went on to study architecture at M.I.T. and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Longfellow worked as a senior draftsman in the office of Boston architect H.H. Richardson. After Richardson's death in 1886 he founded the firm of Longfellow, Harlow & Alden.

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

The clock in the church tower was installed in 1898, with funds raised by the Ladies' Circle with the approval of the town fathers. It was manufactured by the E. Howard Clock Company of Boston and was purchased for \$450. The clock is still wound manually once a week; the town pays the church sexton for the service. In 1932 all but one of the forty horse sheds which stood to the south of the church were removed. The final horse shed was torn down in 1949.

In 1951 the Vestry was moved from its original site across Church Road next to the cemetery to its present location behind the church building and expanded for use as a parish house. At that time a basement was constructed, the main room was enlarged by twenty feet and a kitchen ell was added to the north side. Later additions included a stage in 1957 and a south wing containing six rooms in 1962.

Over the years various alterations were also made to the church to meet the needs of a growing congregation. In 1977 offices were installed beneath the sanctuary, followed by a parlor in 1985. In 1997 ground was broken for a new connector building linking the church and parish house to contain classrooms, a new fellowship hall and administrative office space. The addition was designed by architect Dennis Mires of Manchester. The new building and renovated Parish House were dedicated on October 18, 1998.

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**Bibliography**

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*History of Bedford, New Hampshire from 1737*. Concord: Rumford Printing Co., 1903.

*History of Bedford, N.H. 1737-1971*. Bedford: Bedford Historical Society, 1972.

Lindsay, Rev. W.C. "A Brief Sketch of Bedford", *The Granite Monthly*, vol. XXIV, no. 1, January 1898.

Spurway, Doris Peck. *The Book of Remembrance: 250 Years of Commitment to Christ and Community: The Bedford Presbyterian Church, Bedford, N.H. 1749-1999*. Bedford: 2000.

Spurway, Doris Peck. "Historical Sketch of the Bedford Presbyterian Church", no date.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)*. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

"Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow, Jr." Wikipedia.  
<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander\\_Wadsworth\\_Longfellow,\\_Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Wadsworth_Longfellow,_Jr.)>

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**Verbal boundary description**

The nominated property occupies lot 107 on tax map 20 in the local assessors' records. Boundaries of the nominated property are indicated on the attached sketch map.

**Verbal boundary justification**

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Bedford Presbyterian Church.

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

**List of Photos**

The following applies to all photographs:

Name of Photographer: Lisa Mausolf

Date of Photograph: January 2007

Location of Negatives: Lisa Mausolf, Reading, Massachusetts

Photograph 1: View of south and east (façade) elevations, looking NW.

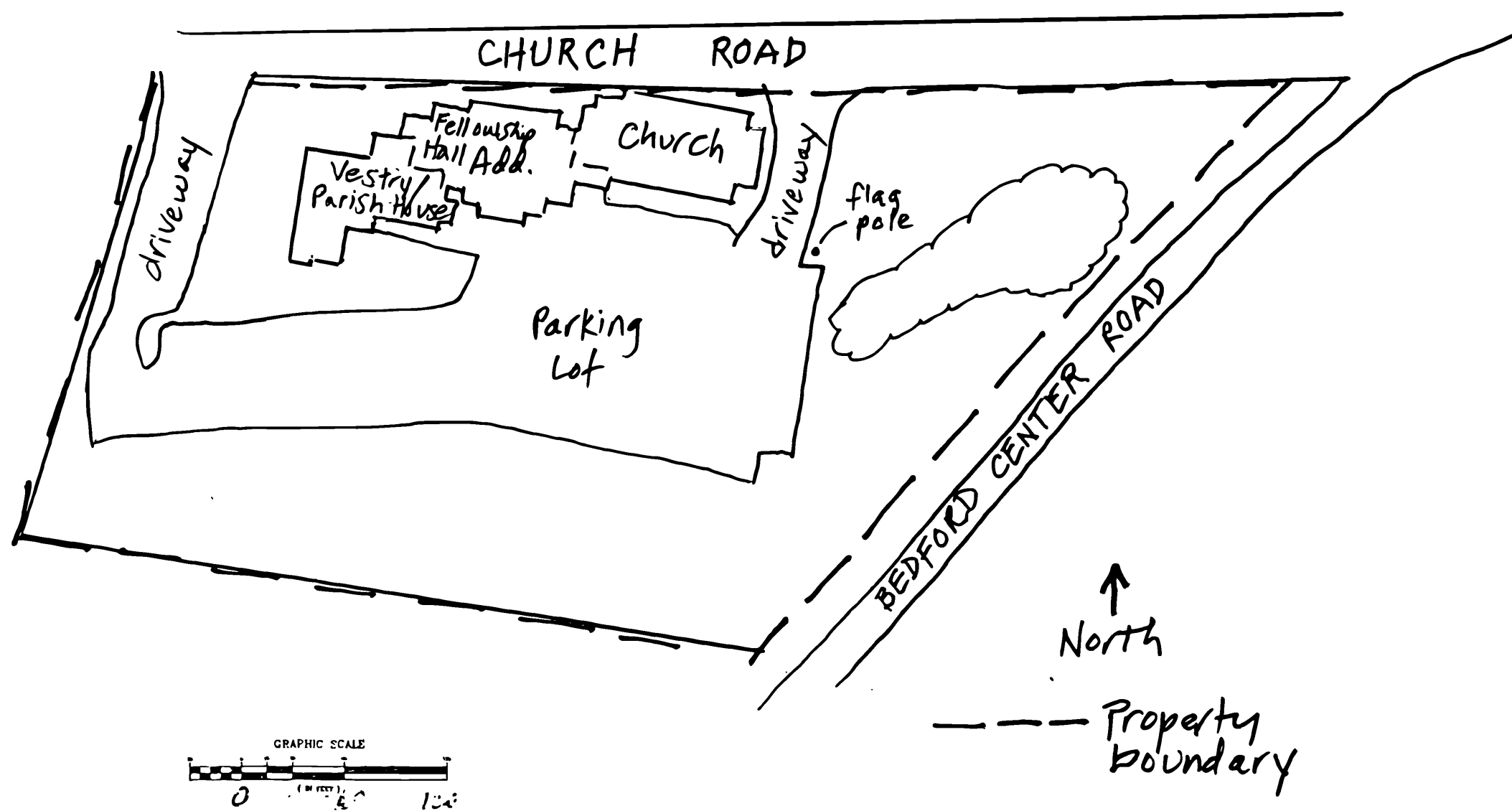
Photograph 2: View of north and east (façade) elevations, looking SW.

Photograph 3: View of additions connecting church and vestry/parish house, looking west.

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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**



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**Bedford Presbyterian Church**  
**Hillsborough County, New Hampshire**

PHOTO KEY

