

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: WARREN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: 4 Sackett Hill Road

city/town: Warren

not for publication: N/A
vicinity: N/A

state: CT county: Litchfield code: 005 zip code: 06754

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

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: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. _____ See cont. sheet.

[Signature] Signature of certifying official October 24, 1991 Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- 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): _____

[Signature] 11/29/91
entered in the National Register

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: RELIGION Sub: religious structure

Current: RELIGION Sub: religious structure

7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Federal

Other Description: N/A_____

Materials: foundation GRANITE roof ASPHALT
walls WOOD other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
RELIGION

Period(s) of Significance: 1818 _____

Significant Dates: 1818 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Unknown _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- _ preliminary 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 -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 2

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	18	637240	4622420	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The nominated property includes that portion of the lot at 4 Sackett Hill Road (Map 49 Lot 17, Warren Assessor records) which is east of a line 50' west of and parallel to the rear wall of the church.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

The boundary includes the historic lot associated with the church, but not the 1946 parsonage.

11. Form Prepared By Reviewed by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Name/Title: Bruce Clouette and Matthew Roth

Organization: Historic Resource Consultants Date: March 27, 1991

Street & Number: 55 Van Dyke Avenue Telephone: 203-547-0268

City or Town: Hartford State: CT ZIP: 06106

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Description	Warren Congregational Church Warren, Litchfield County, CT	7-1
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Warren Congregational Church (Photographs 1 and 2), a Federal-style meetinghouse completed in 1820, faces east atop a high knoll overlooking the intersection of Sackett Hill Road and Route 341 in the center of Warren, Connecticut. The land surrounding the church, and much of the town center, is open, with scattered buildings such as a row of houses along Route 341 and the Town Hall and elementary school across the street from the church. The nominated property includes only the church building itself; utility buildings south of the church's small parking lot and at the rear of the church are town-owned and are not on the church parcel. The church's parsonage, a ranch-type house built in 1946 that fronts on Route 341, is also excluded.

The 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed, clapboarded church rests on a foundation of large granite slabs, with similar stone used for a series of three broad steps across the front of the church and for a mounting platform at the southeast corner. On the facade or east elevation three identical entrances are set within a projecting pedimented pavilion; the three bays are demarcated by slender two-story reeded Doric pilasters with sunken ellipses in the neckings (Photograph 3). Each entrance has similar pilasters forming the jambs and the uprights of the surround, a door of five sunken panels, and a semicircular transom. The transoms have arched molded frames with central keystones and reeded soffits. The transom leading (Photograph 4) is in a radial pattern with beaded festoons, sunbursts, and tiny pineapples near the center point. The cornice of the pavilion features a frieze of alternating diamonds and fluted panels, mutules, and a single large cyma molding. In the triangular space formed by the cornice return, lighting the attic space within, is a three-lobed window glazed as a wheel atop two half-wheels. The entire front of the pavilion is finished with flush horizontal boards.

A steeple of several stages rests partly on the pavilion and partly on the main roof. The large base of the steeple is square in plan and has a clock face on the front and radially-glazed elliptical false windows, with the long axis running vertically, on the side elevations. The cornice repeats that of the front pediment, and there is a simple balustrade. The belfry stage is octagonal, with bell-arch openings and pilasters at the corners. Next is a lantern stage, also octagonal but smaller, with the "muntins" in the blind openings arranged in a geometric pattern suggestive of hearts or bows. The lantern and belfry have mutules below the cornice and a frieze of reeded panels, and both stage have balustrades like that on the base. The final stage is an octagonal shingled spire; it terminates in a turned metal finial,

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Description Warren Congregational Church 7-2
Warren, Litchfield County, CT

above which is a fish-shaped weathervane mounted on a tall mast. The steeple was heavily damaged by lightning in 1891 and was modified at that time; the present lantern cornice and balustrade and the spire represent a 1959 restoration of the original design.

Side elevations have two tiers of five windows. The windows, like those on the second story of the pavilion, have their original twelve-over-twelve sash and board frames outlined by simple applied moldings; the movable-vane blinds are later additions. The rear elevation, which accommodates handicapped access, has in its center a Palladian window with interlaced muntins in the arch; this window is a 1939 restoration of the original pulpit window, which had been removed in 1877. Although there are no corner pilasters, the building's main cornice repeats that of the pavilion, with a full return across the front. A small modern exterior brick chimney rises at the southwest rear corner of the church.

The interior (Photograph 5) is divided into a front vestibule and a large auditorium. In the latter room, tall reeded columns support a central elliptical barrel vault in the plastered ceiling; the Ionic capitals (Photograph 7) are enriched with pearl, egg-and-dart, and flower-bud carvings. A gallery runs along three sides of the church. The rail of the gallery is treated as a cornice, with projecting moldings and a frieze of tiny applied festoons. The front of the gallery has long sunken panels, below which is a band of reeding (Photograph 8). The festoons and moldings of the room's main cornice are similar to those of the gallery's. Window and door frames have simple molded surrounds, and interior doors are constructed with five flat panels. The white-painted pews and gallery benches have stained maple arms and top rails and date from 1859.

Just below the level of the restored Palladian window, whose pilasters repeat the Ionic motif of the columns, is a high pulpit reached by a set of curving stairs on either side (Photograph 6). The platform, stairs, and spiral-carved railings, are restorations, but the pulpit itself and the fluted square support piers are original. The pulpit is constructed of butternut, stained in imitation of mahogany. In plan it has a projecting center section and curved corners. It is richly embellished with a series of moldings at the top, a frieze of applied circular segments, recessed panels, and fluting.

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Significance

Warren Congregational Church
Warren, Litchfield County, CT

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porating at a minimum a belfry and spire or cupola, with balustrades and cornices emulating the elegant steeples of earlier English churches, such as those designed by James Gibbs; and decorative motifs based upon the elegant, freely-interpreted Classicism first introduced into British architecture by the Adam brothers.

Adam or Federal-style ornament is characterized by the lightness of its details, compared with the heaviness of earlier Georgian Classicism or the bold proportions of the later Greek Revival; and by the use of complex geometric motifs, particularly those based upon the ellipse or arched forms. The Warren Congregational Church embodies both these principles: its pilasters and columns are tall and slender, its ornament is rich in detail but not ostentatious, and it makes extensive use of interlaced arches, ellipses, and other geometric designs.

Especially notable is the Federal-style high pulpit. As of 1948 it was one of only three pulpits of the period known to survive in Connecticut, all of which, like this one, had been removed to storage as a consequence of previous remodelings. Now restored to its original position, the pulpit stands as a significant architectural component that helps recreate the interior of an early 19th-century meetinghouse. Its height and elaborate detailing suggest the continued importance of the sermon and the authority of the minister within the denomination.

Although some components of the building represent restorations, nearly all of the exterior details and interior woodwork are original. Restoration work was based upon extensive photographic evidence and in most cases incorporated substantial original material as well.

The restoration of the Palladian window was carried out by J. Frederick Kelly (1888-1947), an influential architectural historian and restoration architect. Starting with the upper part of the arched center window, which is original and was in storage at the time of the restoration, Kelly drew upon other examples in nearby churches and the Ionic motif established elsewhere in this church to recreate its pulpit window.¹ As was typical of his scholarly approach to restoration, the result was restrained and in keeping with the level of sophistication of the rest of the church. Kelly wrote several books on early Connecticut architecture, two of which, The Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut (New Haven, 1924) and Early Connecticut Meetinghouses (New York, 1948), remain in use as important sources even today.

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Significance

Warren Congregational Church
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NOTES

1. Presumably all elements of the window, other than the one remnant of original sash, are creations by Kelly. The entire west end was boarded up in 1877, with the Palladian window and four regular window openings removed, so it is unlikely that much physical evidence of the window's appearance remained. Kelly implies that both exterior and interior details were completely new. See his Early Connecticut Meetinghouses (New York, 1948), 249, 253. It is not known if Kelly had other physical or documentary evidence for his design for the window.

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