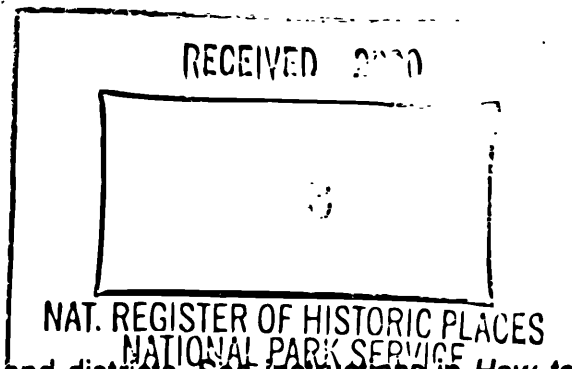


AUG 01 2006

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1130

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 an 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 First Universalist Chapel

other names/site number Miner Memorial Chapel, Miner Memorial Library

2. Location

street & number 3 2nd New Hampshire Turnpike NA not for publication

city or town Lempster NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Sullivan code 019 zip code 03605

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Wanda Ray Wilson Deputy SHPO 10/30/2006
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson H Beall 12/12/06
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

First Universalist Chapel
Name of Property

Sullivan County, N.H.
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid 19th Century

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other NA

Narrative Description

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

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1845

Significant Dates

1845

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

William B. Parker

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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

Name of repository:

First Universalist Chapel
Name of Property

Sullivan County, N.H.
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	7 2 9 1 2 0	4 7 8 9 7 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

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 David Rue11

organization _____ date July 25, 2006

street & number 7 Hill Avenue P.O. Box 1254 telephone 603-968-7716

city or town Ashland state N.H. zip code 03217

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Lempster

street & number 856 U.S. Route 10 P.O.Box 33 telephone 603-863-2698

city or town Lempster state N.H. zip code 03605

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

First Universalist Chapel, Lempster
Sullivan County, New Hampshire

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The First Universalist Chapel of Lempster (later known as Miner Memorial Chapel and now as Miner Memorial Library) is a small wooden building that stands at the southwest corner of the intersection of the 2nd N.H. Turnpike and Route 10 (also known as the Dartmouth College Highway) in the village of East Lempster, in the town of Lempster. Built as a church, it now serves as the public library for the Town of Lempster. The gable roofed building is one and a half stories high. (The upper level attic is, however, unfinished and unused.) The post and beam framed building is best described as a vernacular structure with some Federal and Greek Revival style features.

The building is set on a cut granite block foundation with no openings, as there is no basement. The clapboarded walls are trimmed by deep sillboards and narrower cornerboards. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed by a box cornice with moldings, frieze and returns on three sides, the north front gable end and the east and west lateral sides. The rear south gable end has close verges with returns of the lateral cornices. Rising from the east slope of the roof, near the northeast corner of the building, is a tall, slim round metal vent pipe for the former toilet.

The north gable end, facing the 2nd N.H. Turnpike is the main façade of the building. The only entrance to the building is a large five panel door with molded panels in the center of the three bay façade. Mounted on the upper part of the door is a bulletin board with clear plastic cover and plain metal frame. The door is trimmed by a molded frame with plain upper and lower corner blocks. The door is flanked on each side by Colonial Revival electric light fixtures. The door is served by two granite steps, an upper step made from a single large granite block, surrounded on all three sides by a lower step formed of three granite blocks. Visitors are assisted on the east side of the steps by a simple metal pipe rail that rises from the lower step to end on the east side of the door frame, and on the west

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Continuation SheetFirst Universalist Chapel, Lempster
Sullivan County, New HampshireSection number 7 Page 2

side of the steps by two short wooden rails, one mounted diagonally on the wall west of the door frame, and one mounted vertically on the doorframe itself. A flagpole bracket is mounted on the east side of the doorframe. Above the doorway is a painted wooden sign with molded edge identifying the building as the Miner Memorial Library. To the west of the door is a book drop slot, covered by a wooden flap, and protected by a small wooden hood. In each side bay of the main façade is a large 12/8 sash window, whose plain frame is topped by a drip molding. The windows are flanked by working louvered shutters on hinges. The windows are now covered by modern storm windows with 1/1 sash and vinyl covered frames. Beneath each window sill is a modern wooden flowerbox mounted on metal brackets. Directly above the door in the gable is a semi elliptical blind louvered fan with a plain frame. In the apex of the gable is a small louvered metal attic vent.

The two bay west and east lateral walls are virtually mirror images of each other. Each has two large 12/12 sash windows, larger than the north front windows, but similar in design, with plain frames topped by drip moldings, louvered shutters, vinyl covered storm windows and wooden flowerboxes on metal brackets. The east wall, facing Route 10, also features a large bronze plaque mounted to the north of the northern window. The plaque entitled "IN MEMORY OF / ALONZO AMES MINER D.D.", outlines Rev. Miner's career and qualities. It is dated "1927" and was "PLACED BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSALIST STATE CONVENTION".

The main level of the two bay south gable end has two large 12/12 sash windows in plain frames. They no longer have shutters although the pintles remain on the window frames. They do have modern vinyl covered storm windows like the other main level windows. Between the two windows is the circular metal vent for the gas heater. In the gable is the plain framed six pane window for the attic. Like the windows below, it has shutter pintles, but no shutters. In the apex of the south gable is another small louvered metal attic

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First Universalist Chapel, Lempster
Sullivan County, New Hampshire

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vent.

The main level now has three rooms, but originally only had two, an entry hall occupying the northern sixth of the building, and a main room occupying the rest of the main story. The entry hall has since been subdivided to create a storage room from the eastern third of the space. All three rooms still have their wide board floors and plaster ceilings.

The entry hall, in the northwest corner of the building, has walls of painted plaster on three sides and a newer wall of painted plasterboard on the east, separating it from the storage room. All the walls have deep baseboards. A high simple wooden rail, once used for coat hooks, is found on the south and west walls, and on that part of the north wall to the west of the window. A large round light fixture hangs on a chain from the ceiling directly behind the main entrance door at the east end of the room. In the southeast corner of the plaster ceiling is a plain framed wooden panel which provides access to the attic. Plain frames surround the entry hall's openings. At the east end of the north wall is the wide five panel exterior door. The frame of the large 12/8 sash window in the north wall reaches to the ceiling. In the south wall is the four panel door to the main room.

The main room, which occupies about five-sixths of the building, has wide board floors, painted plaster walls and ceilings. The walls are trimmed with plain deep baseboards. The ceiling, which is higher than the ceilings of the two other rooms, has large coves on the lateral sides, so that the plaster of the east and west walls blends seamlessly and gracefully into the flat portion of the ceiling. Hanging by chains from the ceiling are four older round light fixtures like the one in the entry hall. Four more modern fluorescent light fixtures are mounted directly on the ceiling to supplement the older lights. Attached to the center of the ceiling is a modern ceiling fan. To its south, a small

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Continuation Sheet**

First Universalist Chapel, Lempster
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wooden panel, attached to the ceiling, marks where the stovepipe from the former woodstove once connected to the former chimney.

The main room's woodwork is more decorative than that of the other two rooms. The door and window frames all have molded side and top trim with plain upper corner blocks, but no lower corner blocks. The windows have plain aprons under their sills. In the north wall are the two four panel doors to the entry hall and the storage room. The room is lit by six large 12/12 sash windows, two each in the east, west and south walls. The northern doors and the southern windows are placed symmetrically around the central axis of the room. Between the windows in the rear south wall is the tall modern gas heater.

The main room now serves as the main library space, with the librarian's desk and workspace set in the northwest corner, and the rest of the room devoted largely to books. The wooden bookshelves are usually only lightly attached to the walls so that they could be removed without altering the walls. The north wall has bookshelves between the two doors and one wall mounted bookcase at the east end. The east and west walls are both covered with bookshelves to the south of the north windows, including the spaces under the south windows. The south wall is covered with bookshelves, save for the gas heater and the windows. The upper portions of the walls are visible, as the bookshelves do not reach to the ceiling. There are also four free standing bookcases set on the main room floor.

The storage room in the northeast corner has a wide board floor, three older plaster walls, and a newer western plasterboard wall. The walls all have deep baseboards and are covered with wallpaper. A high simple wooden rail, like that in the entry hall, is found on the south wall, the east wall, and that part of the north wall to the east of the window, and still retains a few coat hooks. The plaster ceiling has a central modern light fixture and, in the

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Sullivan County, New HampshireSection number 7 Page 5

southeast corner, a hole that once contained the vent pipe for the toilet formerly located here. Plain frames trim the four panel door to the main room in the south wall and the 12/8 sash window that stretches to the ceiling in the north wall. The east wall is now covered with a cabinet and wooden storage shelves.

The unfinished attic has two levels, as the ceiling of the main room is about two and three-quarters feet higher than the ceilings of the two northern rooms. The floors of the two levels are simply the exposed ceiling joists, with loose insulation filling the spaces between the joists and a few loose boards placed over the joists to allow access. In the floor of the lower area is the plain framed access panel from the entry hall below. In the lower area at the north end, the framework of the walls is exposed with the studs, posts, braces and plates all visible. The north, west and east walls of the lower area are the exposed board walls of the exterior, while the south wall is the exposed laths of the main room's northern plaster wall. The north and south gable walls are also the exposed exterior walls with studs, boards and braces visible. At the peak of each gable is a small screened and louvered metal vent. In the south gable is the attic's only light source, an untrimmed six pane window. Above both areas is the exposed roof with its board ceiling, hewn rafters and hewn ridgepole. The rafters have been tied together with collar beams that are obviously newer wood than the rest of the framework. Two hewn tie beams cross the attic floor, one above the main room's north wall and one in the middle of the main room ceiling. The latter tie beam is tied to the adjoining rafters by newer simple braces and is supplemented by a metal cable that stretches between the two rafters above the tie beam across the attic. Charred wood can be seen at the south end of the both roof slopes. Other boards in the west slope of the roof have obviously been replaced with newer wood. The location of the former chimney a couple of yards from the south end is revealed by a notch cut into the west side of the ridgepole and by an adjoining patch of new wood in the west

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roof slope. Near the northeast corner, about a foot of the round metal vent pipe for the former toilet still projects down from the east roof slope.

The Chapel occupies virtually all of its small lot, leaving just small strips of land on each side. On the north side, the front lawn varies from four to five feet deep and is set off from the pavement along the 2nd N.H. Turnpike by a curb of granite blocks in front of the steps and to the west of the steps and by a taller fieldstone retaining wall to the east of the steps. On the east side of the building is a lawn with a flowerbed raised above Route 10 by a retaining wall built mostly of large granite blocks. The lawn is as much as nine feet wide at the south end, but narrows at the north end as the retaining wall curves around the corner at the road intersection. On the west side of the building is a narrow strip of land, only one or two feet wide, which is mostly grassed. The south end of the lot is marked by a stone retaining wall which runs about five to six feet from the building. This southern area is partly grassed and partly covered with small shrubs. Two vertical cylindrical propane gas tanks stand at the southeast corner of the building.

Changes to the building have been mostly relatively minor modifications, with some modernization and some changes required for its new use as a library since 1965. The main level windows were all covered with modern storm windows in 1984.¹ The mid 1980's also saw the installation of flowerboxes on the front and side windows.² The original shutters having been lost, presumably from decay, a new set

¹ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1983 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (Springfield, Vt.: 1984), p. 36; LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1984 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (Springfield, Vt.: 1985), p. 29

² LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1985 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (1986), p. 45; interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 9, 2006; interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006, interview of Cheryl McGuinness by David Ruell, June 22, 2006

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of old shutters of the right size were acquired in Vermont and installed on the front and side windows in the 1980's.³ The wood shingles that once covered the roof have been replaced by asphalt shingles.⁴ The roof has lost a chimney but gained a vent pipe. Old photographs show a brick chimney set on the west side of the ridge near the south end of the building.⁵ When the library was renovated in 1965, the old chimney was removed as "unsafe to use".⁶ The vent pipe on the east slope dates from the 1977-78 installation of a gas fired toilet.⁷ The toilet has since been removed, but the vent pipe remains.⁸

The entrance in the north gable end has seen some small changes. There is some uncertainty about the light fixtures flanking the doorway, as small lights do seem to appear in poorly reproduced published photographs from the 1950's.⁹ However, it has also been stated that the lights were installed by the library¹⁰. It may well be that entrance lights were installed in the 1940's or 1950's, after the building was electrified circa 1941,¹¹ and subsequently

³ Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006

⁴ Postcard labeled "East Lempster, N.H." (collection of Laura Pinkney, Lempster, N.H.)

⁵ Ibid., Lempster Old Home Day Association, "Old Home Day, Thursday, August 19, 1952" brochure cover

⁶ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1965 (Newport, N.H.: 1966), p. 50

⁷ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, 1977 (Springfield, Vt., 1978), p. 43; LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, 1978 (Springfield, Vt.: 1979), p. 39

⁸ Interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 9, 2006

⁹ Lempster Old Home Day Association, "Old Home Day, Thursday, August 19, 1952", brochure cover; Lempster Old Home Day Association, "Old Home Day, Thursday, August 21, 1956", brochure cover; "A Gentleman at Harvard", THE HISTORY OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE (Warner, N.H.: 2000), p. 175

¹⁰ Interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, May 30, 2006; interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006

¹¹ "Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H. beginning

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replaced by the library. Other changes at the entrance can be assigned to the library. The library sign above the door was probably installed when the library opened,¹² although it was repainted in 1982¹³ and perhaps at other times. The bulletin board was mounted on the door in the 1978-1980 period.¹⁴ The book drop was added in 1983.¹⁵ A flag and the bracket to hold it were donated in 1985.¹⁶ The two wooden hand rails to the west of the door were installed to aid elderly library patrons in the 1980's or early 1990's,¹⁷ one at least dating to 1990.¹⁸ They both appear in a 1994 photograph, but the metal pipe hand rail does not.¹⁹ The metal rail has been dated to both the 1990's and the early to mid 2000's.²⁰ The attic vent in the peak of the north gable appears in the 1994 photograph.²¹ The north attic vent and its counterpart in the south gable were presumably added in the late 20th century, after the building was converted to a library.

The west side has seen one significant addition, the bronze plaque honoring Alonzo Ames Miner, which was unveiled

September 5, 1922" (manuscript, N.H. State Library, Concord, N.H.), unpagged, meetings of Sept. 2, 1941 and Sept. 1, 1942

¹² Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006; interview of Cheryl McGuinness by David Ruell, June 22, 2006

¹³ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1982 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (Springfield, Vt.: 1983), p. 38

¹⁴ Interview of Cheryl McGuinness by David Ruell, June 22, 2006

¹⁵ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1983 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (Springfield, Vt.: 1984), p. 36

¹⁶ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1985 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (1986), p. 45, interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 23, 2006

¹⁷ Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006; interview of Cheryl McGuinness by David Ruell, June 22, 2006;

¹⁸ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1990 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (1991), p. 52

¹⁹ Deborah A. Stone "The Making of A Small Town Library: The Lempster Free Public Library" Historical New Hampshire, vol. 49, no. 3 (Fall, 1994), p. 180

²⁰ Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006, interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 9, 2006

²¹ Stone, op. cit., p. 180

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on Old Home Sunday, August 21, 1927.²² The most important exterior change made by the Universalists was the addition of the three southern windows. On January 24, 1859, the Universalist Society voted to establish a five man committee to consider repairs to their meetinghouse.²³ On February 14, the Society met again to take up the question and "voted to have two windows in the South end of the house", "voted to have a small window in the south end of the chamber" and chose a committee of three to carry out these changes.²⁴ "Chamber" was apparently used in the archaic sense of an upper room or loft, in this case the attic. So, the vote was to add the two main level windows and the one attic window in the south end of the building. There is no report of the renovation committee's activities, but presumably they carried out the Society's orders soon after the votes. The southern windows have since lost their shutters. A more recent change was the installation of the metal heater vent, which must date from the installation of a new gas heater in 1989.²⁵

The only change in the interior layout was the subdivision of the entry hall by a new wall into two rooms, the current entry hall and a storage room, as part of the conversion of the building into a library in 1965-1966.²⁶ The hanging light in the entry hall and the four hanging lights in the main room were installed when the building was electrified.²⁷ The electrification of Lempster began in

²² Argus-Champion (Newport, N.H.) August 4, 1927, p. 4 and August 25, 1927, p. 3

²³ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H." (manuscript, N.H. State Library, Concord, N.H.), unpaginated, meeting of January 24, 1859

²⁴ Ibid., meeting of February 14, 1859

²⁵ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1989 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (1990), pp. 46-47

²⁶ Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006;

interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 9, 2006

²⁷ Interview of Horace Cragin by David Ruell, June 8, 2006

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First Universalist Chapel, Lempster
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1939, when the first electric power lines were erected.²⁸ At their annual meeting in September of 1941, the Universalists voted to wire their chapel.²⁹ A vote of thanks at their 1942 annual meeting for the gift of a pulpit light indicates that the wiring was completed and the lights installed in the interim.³⁰

The Universalists did make some changes to the main room. As already noted above, they improved the lighting by adding the two south windows around 1859 and the four hanging electric lights around 1941. In 1923, the room was wallpapered.³¹ In 1983, the wallpaper was removed and the plaster walls repaired and painted, returning them to their 19th century appearance.³² A Lempster resident who attended services in the Chapel during its last years recalls that there were two small and short platforms, one in middle of the south wall for the pulpit, and one in the northeast corner near the easterly northern door for the organ and choir. The furnishings of the chapel, the settees that served as pews, the organ and the pulpit, were all movable. The room was heated by a woodstove next to the north wall, with a stovepipe running almost the length of the room to the chimney.³³ The platforms were apparently removed when the room was remodeled to house the library in 1965-1966. The woodstove and its stovepipe replaced by a gas heater in 1965,³⁴ which was, in turn, replaced by the present gas heater in 1989.³⁵ The hole in the ceiling where the

²⁸ "A Gentleman at Harvard", op. cit., p. 113

²⁹ "Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H. beginning September 5, 1922", meeting of Sept. 2, 1941

³⁰ Ibid., meeting of Sept. 1, 1942

³¹ Ibid., meeting of Sept. 4, 1923

³² LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1983 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (Springfield, Vt.: 1984), p. 36

³³ Interview of Horace Cragin by David Ruell, June 8, 2006

³⁴ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1965, p. 50

³⁵ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1989 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (1990), pp. 46-47

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stovepipe rose to the chimney was covered by a simple wood panel.³⁶ The conversion to a library also required the construction of bookcases and bookshelves, an ongoing process as the library's annual reports record new shelves and bookcases in 1965, 1972, 1973, 1984, 1990 and 1994.³⁷ And there may have been others that were not reported. The added weight of the bookcases and the books required the addition of more support under the floor in 1985.³⁸ A ceiling fan was installed in 1981.³⁹ The lighting was improved by mounting four fluorescent light fixtures on the ceiling in 1994.⁴⁰

The storage room was created from part of the entry hall in the 1965-66 library renovations. It is believed that the present wallpaper dates from that time.⁴¹ And it seems probable that the ceiling light was installed at that time as well. The new room was at first used for storage.⁴² In 1977-78, the room was converted to a restroom by the installation of a gas fired toilet.⁴³ (The property has

³⁶ Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006; interview of Cheryl McGuinness by David Ruell, June 22, 2006

³⁷ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1965, p. 50; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1972 (Newport, N.H.: 1973), p. 55; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1973 (Claremont, N.H.: 1974), p. 42; LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1984 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (Springfield, Vt.:1985), p. 29; LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1990 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (1991), p. 52; 1994 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE (Claremont, N.H.: 1995), p. 60

³⁸ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1985 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (1986), p. 45; interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006

³⁹ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1981 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (Springfield, Vt.: 1982), p. 38

⁴⁰ 1994 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, LEMPSTER NEW HAMPSHIRE, p. 60; interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006

⁴¹ Interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 9, 2006; interview of Cheryl McGuinness by David Ruell, June 22, 2006

⁴² Interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 9, 2006

⁴³ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, 1977 (Springfield, Vt.:

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neither running water nor land enough for a septic system.) The toilet was not a success, as there was no water supply for washing, and some children were afraid of the incinerating toilet. So it fell into disuse.⁴⁴ The toilet was removed in the mid to late 1980's.⁴⁵ All that now remains is a hole in the ceiling once used by the vent pipe. The 1994 annual library report notes the installation of shelves in the storage room.⁴⁶

The attic was given a window at its south end around 1859, as described above. It still shows the scars and the repairs of the fire on the night of June 2 and 3, 1951 that destroyed four buildings in East Lempster village and damaged the Chapel.⁴⁷ Charred wood remains in the attic. And extensive repairs were made in 1951, using the insurance collected after the fire.⁴⁸ The new boards in the west roof slope must indicate those repairs. The library was insulated in 1981.⁴⁹ The roof received structural repairs in 1990,⁵⁰ as the eastern roof slope was separating from the wall below.⁵¹ It seems likely that the collar beams and the metal cable above the central tiebeam were installed as part of those repairs. As noted above, the modern metal attic vents appear in a 1994 photograph⁵² and were presumably installed by the library.

1978), p. 43; LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, 1978 (Springfield, Vt.: 1979), p. 39

⁴⁴ Interviews of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, May 30 and June 9, 2006; interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006

⁴⁵ Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006

⁴⁶ 1994 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, p. 60

⁴⁷ Argus-Champion (Newport, N.H.) January 5, 1951, p. 1

⁴⁸ "Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H., beginning September 5, 1922", meeting of Sept. 4, 1951, and treasurer's report for the year ending Sept. 4, 1951

⁴⁹ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1981 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, p. 38

⁵⁰ LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1990 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, p. 52

⁵¹ Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006

⁵² Stone, op. cit., p. 180

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Photographs from the late 19th century and early 20th century show the granite block retaining wall on the west side of the property, but not the curb or the fieldstone retaining wall on the north side of the lot.⁵³ The curb has been in place for a long time,⁵⁴ so it probably dates from the early to mid 20th century. A gas tank was installed with the new gas heater in 1965.⁵⁵ The tank appears at the southwest corner of the building in the 1994 photograph.⁵⁶ But, it was moved to its present location when a house was built on the lot west of the library.⁵⁷

Despite the several minor changes described above, the Chapel retains its basic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

⁵³ George H. Emerson LIFE OF ALONZO AMES MINER, S.T.D., LL.D (Boston, :1896), photograph opposite p. 12; postcard labeled "East Lempster, N.H." (collection of Laura Pinkney, Lempster, N.H.)

⁵⁴ Interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 9, 2006

⁵⁵ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1965, p. 50

⁵⁶ Stone, op. cit, p. 180

⁵⁷ Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006

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The First Universalist Chapel (also known as Miner Memorial Chapel and now as Miner Memorial Library) is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as one of the best vernacular churches in southern Sullivan County. Built in 1845, it is a fine example of the vernacular architecture of the mid 19th century. The Chapel, although smaller and less elaborate than most of the other churches of the area, is notable for the fine proportions and the simple dignity of its design.

The early history of Universalism in Lempster is now somewhat unclear, as there are no records surviving from before 1842.¹ Local historians are agreed that, in the mid 1830's, the Universalists joined the Methodists and some Congregationalists in building a church in East Lempster. This union church was short lived, as the Universalists and the Congregationalists both soon moved out, leaving the church to the Methodists.² That church did occupy a prominent position, at the northwest corner of the main road intersection in East Lempster, the village that had grown up around the junction of the Second New Hampshire Turnpike (chartered in 1799) and the Croydon Turnpike (chartered in 1804)³, which were then the two main roads through the town.

There must have been some earlier Universalist

¹ Interview of Horace Cragin by David Ruell, June 8, 2006

² Helen Bingham "Lempster" in ed. D. H. Hurd, HISTORY OF CHESHIRE AND SULLIVAN COUNTIES, NEW HAMPSHIRE, (Philadelphia: 1886), p. 189; Henry H. Metcalf, "Lempster Celebrates the 150th Anniversary of its Charter", Granite Monthly (September-October 1917) vol. 49, no. 9-10, p. 188; LEMPSTER N.H. BICENTENNIAL 1767-1967 (circa 1967), unpagged; Lucy E. Smith, HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY, LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, APRIL 23, 1842-SEPTEMBER 2, 1924 (Newport, N.H., 1925), unpagged preface; "A Gentleman at Harvard", THE HISTORY OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE (Warner, N.H.: 2000), p. 197-8. Bingham and the LEMPSTER BICENTENNIAL booklet date the church to around 1835, "A Gentleman at Harvard" to 1836 or 1837.

³ Frederic Wood, THE TURNPIKES OF NEW ENGLAND (Boston: 1919), pp. 219 and 232

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organization, as the surviving records begin with a meeting on April 23, 1842 at which "The original Society of Restorationist met agreeably to previous notice..."⁴. But, nothing further is apparently known about this earlier group.⁵ A committee of three was chosen at the April meeting "to revise the old Constitution".⁶ The committee reported back at the next meeting on June 4, 1842, and the new constitution they proposed for "The Universalist Society in Lempster, New Hampshire" was adopted with minor alterations. The meeting ended with "a protracted conversation in which nearly every member present participated upon the building of a Meeting House & different plans proposed & discussed".⁷ The new Society met again on July 4, when it was voted "that there be a Committee of five appointed by the chair for to draft a Constitution for to regulate the building of a Meeting House & to solicit subscriptions to that effect not only from the Society members but from any others that might feel disposed to aid in the undertaking." Five men, B.A. Miner, Ralph Spencer, Abel Richardson, William B. Parker and T.R. Spencer were then appointed to the committee. The July 4 meeting ended with "a protracted debate of different plans proposed for the building of a House of Worship".⁸ Unfortunately, the surviving Society records then fall silent on the subject of the building until 1847, after the Chapel had been completed, leaving the actual construction process somewhat obscure.

⁴ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster N.H." (manuscript, N.H. State Library, Concord, N.H.), unpagged, meeting of April 23, 1842

⁵ Interview of Horace Cragin by David Ruell, June 8, 2006; interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, May 30, 2006

⁶ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster N.H.", meeting of April 23, 1842

⁷ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster N.H.", meeting of June 4, 1842

⁸ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H.", meeting of July 4, 1842

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Land was acquired for the Chapel on January 31, 1845, when Dan Gale of Lempster conveyed to Benajah A. Miner and Benjamin Parker of Lempster, "Agents of the First Universalist Society in said Lempster", a lot at the southwest corner of the intersection of the 2nd New Hampshire Turnpike and the Sugar River Road (today's Route 10). The lot was small, only 30 feet wide on the Turnpike and 40 feet long on Route 10. But, it was a prominent location, in the center of East Lempster opposite the Methodist Church. The deed makes no mention of a payment, and specifically requires that the land was "for the use of a house for public worship of said society".⁹ So it appears that Dan Gale donated the lot, even though he and his wife Martha were not members of the Universalist Society.¹⁰

The Chapel appears to have been erected in the same year. On September 11, 1845, Dan Gale mortgaged his property, "excepting so much of the above premises as is covered by the Meeting House owned by the Universalist Society of said Lempster",¹¹ implying that the building was standing by that date. Two local historians, writing in the early 20th century, also stated that the building was erected in 1845. One, the historian of the Universalist Society writing in the mid 1920's, specifically credited that date to Hiram Parker, a long time member and officer of the church and an eyewitness to the building of the Chapel, whom she had interviewed.¹²

⁹ Deed, Dan Gale to First Universalist Society of Lempster, January 31, 1845, Sullivan County Registry of Deeds, Book 37, Page 282 (manuscript, Sullivan County Courthouse, Newport, N.H.)

¹⁰ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H.", members list following the Constitution; Lucy E. Smith, op. cit., List of Members in unpagged appendix

¹¹ Mortgage deed, Dan Gale to Daniel McSmith and Alvah Smith, September 11, 1845, Sullivan County Registry of Deeds, Book 39, Page 108 (manuscript, Sullivan County Courthouse, Newport, N.H.)

¹² Henry H. Metcalf, p. 188; Lucy E. Smith, p. 4 and unpagged preface

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The builder was identified by his own son, Rev. Sylvester A. Parker, writing a sketch of the town in the late 19th century, who described "the Universalist Chapel, built more than fifty years ago by William B. Parker... Five hundred dollars was the price paid Mr. Parker for his work."¹³ William Bateman Parker (1809-1890) was a life long resident of Lempster. His obituary notes that "he held most of the town offices while in the prime of life and was a member of the legislature for two years... In religion, he was a Universalist and he lived and died amid the influences of Universalism, and rejoiced that one of his sons devotes his life to preaching and prompting the liberal faith."¹⁴ He served on the above noted committees to write the new constitution for the Universalist Society and to solicit funds for the Chapel.¹⁵ He would subsequently serve as the President of the Universalist Society for decades, from 1852 to 1868 and again from 1870 until his death.¹⁶ His obituary does not mention his occupation, but he is described in the 1850, 1860 and 1870 censuses as a farmer.¹⁷ What other experience Parker may have had as a builder is still unclear.

The financing of the new Chapel is also unclear. The Society did establish a committee in July of 1842 to solicit

¹³ George H. Emerson, LIFE OF ALONZO AMES MINER, S.T.D., LL.D (Boston, 1896), pp. 5 and 11

¹⁴ Obituary of William Bateman Parker, New Hampshire Argus and Spectator (Newport, N.H.), October 3, 1890, p. 1

¹⁵ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H.", meetings of April 23 and July 4, 1842

¹⁶ Lucy E. Smith, op. cit. , p. 26

¹⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Population Schedule of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850", microfilm roll 441 (New Hampshire, Sullivan County) , page 58, line 21; U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Population Schedule of the Eighth Census of the United States, 1860", microfilm roll 681 (New Hampshire, Sullivan County), page 1004, line 31; U.S. Bureau of the Census, "Population Schedule of the Ninth Census of the United States, 1870", microfilm roll 850 (New Hampshire, Sullivan County), page 531, line 2

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subscriptions for the proposed meeting house.¹⁸ And a 1917 historical sketch of the town does state that the "chapel was ...paid for by subscription."¹⁹ However, the most common method of building a church in the early to mid 19th century was for a group of proprietors to finance the construction and then recover their investment by the sale of pew rights. The first mention of the new Chapel in the Universalist Society records suggests that this method was followed. At its March 23, 1847 meeting, the Society voted "that a committee of three be appointed to set off the unsold Settees to the proprietors". The committee reported back with a division "made on the appraised value of the settees as originally made". Specific seats in the settees that served as pews were assigned to B.A. Miner, William Spaulding, William B. Parker, and the estate of Benjamin Parker, with the unspecified remainder going to "the other proprietors".²⁰ Perhaps, both methods of financing were used, beginning with a public subscription that proved inadequate and was followed by the formation of a group of proprietors to finish the project. In the absence of the proprietors' own records, we cannot know exactly how the Chapel was paid for.

In the twelve decades the Universalists owned the building, they made relatively few changes. Their most significant change was the 1859 decision to put two main level windows and a smaller attic window in the south gable end.²¹ In 1923, the main room was wallpapered.²² 1927 saw the

¹⁸ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H." meeting of July 4, 1842

¹⁹ Henry H. Metcalf, p. 188

²⁰ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H.", meeting of March 23, 1847

²¹ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H.", meetings of January 24 and February 14, 1859

²² "Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H. beginning September 5, 1922", (manuscript, N.H. State Library, Concord, N.H.) meeting of September 4, 1923

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mounting of the bronze plaque honoring native son Rev. Alonzo Ames Miner on the east side of the building.²³ Rev. Miner (1814-1895) was not only a leading Universalist minister and reformer and the president of Tufts College²⁴, he was also a major benefactor of the Lempster Universalists. On his death, he left a \$2000 trust fund, with its annual income to be used to support Universalist preaching in Lempster, provided the local Society raised at least \$25 per year for the same purpose.²⁵ Sometime in the early to mid 20th century, the Chapel was renamed the Miner Memorial Chapel. That name does not appear in the 1925 history of the Universalist Society.²⁶ But, it does appear in passing in the Society records as early as 1949.²⁷

The only real attempt at modernization of the Chapel made by the Universalists was the 1941 vote to install electricity.²⁸ This lack of change may have reflected respect for the fine old building, but it may also have been due to the reduced circumstances of a declining congregation. Lempster reached its earliest recorded highpoint of population at 999 people in 1830, and the population remained high in the 1840's when the Chapel was built, with census counts of 941 in 1840 and 906 in 1850. But the town then went into a serious decline, down to 391 people by the turn of the century and to a low point of 273

²³ "Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H., beginning September 4, 1922", meeting of September 6, 1927; Argus-Champion (Newport, N.H.) August 4, 1927, p. 4 and August 25, 1927, p. 3

²⁴ Clarence R. Skinner "Miner, Alonzo Ames", DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY (New York: 1934), vol. XIII, pp. 21-22; Henry H. Metcalf, "Glimpses of Old Lempster", Granite Monthly (August, 1907), vol. 39, no. 8, pp. 254-257

²⁵ "Constitution & Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H., will of Dr. A.A. Miner and meeting of April 24, 1899

²⁶ Lucy E. Smith, op. cit.

²⁷ "Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H., beginning September 4, 1922", meeting of September 6, 1949

²⁸ "Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H., beginning September 4, 1922", meeting of September 2, 1941

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in 1930. There was a slight rebound to 312 in 1940 and 309 in 1950, but then a drop to a new population low point of 272 in 1960.²⁹ Presumably, the membership of the Universalist congregation followed a similar pattern.

By the mid 20th century, the Universalist Society appears to have been struggling. The Society began discussing the need for shingling the roof in 1943 but did not finally vote to shingle the roof until 1949, suggesting that funds were tight.³⁰ A fire that swept through East Lempster on the night of June 2-3, 1951, destroying four buildings, did damage the Chapel.³¹ But, the repairs were apparently covered by insurance.³² After 1948, services were held primarily in the summer, particularly when a minister was vacationing in the area.³³ The Society did not hold annual meetings from 1955 through 1958 and again from 1960 through 1962, since there were not enough members in attendance to form a quorum.³⁴ In 1961, the trustees of Rev. Miner's fund declined to make their annual contribution for preaching, because the Society had raised only \$12.71, not the yearly \$25 match required by the donor's will.³⁵ In

²⁹ New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission, POPULATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, PART 1, 1623-1940 (Concord, N.H.: 1946), pp. 18-19; New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission, POPULATION AND AREA OF CITIES, TOWNS AND COUNTIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1950 (Concord, N.H.: 1950), p. 6; New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission, POPULATION AND AREA OF CITIES, TOWNS AND COUNTIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1960 (Concord, N.H., c. 1960), p. 11

³⁰ "Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H., beginning September 4, 1922" meetings of September 5, 1943, September 6, 1944, September 3, 1946, September 27, 1948, and September 6, 1949

³¹ Argus-Champion, January 5, 1951, pp. 1 and 3

³² "Records of the 1st Universalist Society in Lempster, N.H., beginning September 4, 1922", meeting of September 4, 1951, treasurer's report for year ending September 4, 1951

³³ Interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, May 30, 2006

³⁴ "First Universalist Society of Lempster, N.H.", records from 1954 to 1965 (manuscript, N.H. State Library, Concord N.H.), unpagged

³⁵ Letter from Trustees of Tufts College to Treasurer of Universalist Church, dated June 23, 1961, in records of First Universalist Society

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1963, with only five members left in the Universalist Society, the group held three special meetings, one with the executive director of the state Universalist organization, to consider dissolving the Society, but took no action.³⁶ At an April 1964 meeting, they returned to the question of dissolution, discussed the possibility of giving the Chapel to the Town of Lempster for a library, and voted to contact the selectmen and the library trustees to see if they favored such a gift.³⁷ At what proved to be the last annual meeting in September of 1964, the Society, with only four members present, voted "to carry through our intentions of offering the Chapel to the Town of Lempster for a Public Library by inserting an article in the Town Warrant in March."³⁸ At the March 9, 1965 town meeting, the voters did approve the article "to accept the Miner Memorial Chapel at East Lempster for a Town Library", and appropriated funds for its renovation.³⁹ On March 22, 1965, the "surviving members" of the Universalist Society formally voted to dissolve the Society and to transfer all its funds to the N.H. State Universalist Convention.⁴⁰ Most of the settees were given to the members, the organ and other items were disposed of.⁴¹ And on June 12, 1965, the Chapel was deeded to the Town of Lempster.⁴²

(typescript, N.H. State Library, Concord, N.H.), single page

³⁶ "First Universalist Society of Lempster, N.H.", meetings of June 4, July 9 and September 3, 1963

³⁷ "First Universalist Society of Lempster, N.H.", meeting of April 24, 1964

³⁸ "First Universalist Society of Lempster, N.H." meeting of first Tuesday in September, 1964

³⁹ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF LEMPSTER, N.H. FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1964 (Newport, N.H.: 1965), p. 5; Argus-Champion, March 11, 1965, p. 2

⁴⁰ Untitled record of votes of meeting of March 22, 1965, in records of First Universalist Society of Lempster (typescript, N.H. State Library, Concord, N.H.), single page, signed and dated March 22, 1965

⁴¹ Interview of Horace Cragin by David Ruell, June 8, 2006

⁴² Deed, First Universalist Society of Lempster to Town of Lempster, June 12, 1965, Sullivan County Registry of Deeds, Book 462, Page 63

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Since its establishment in 1892, the Lempster public library had been housed in a second floor room in the town hall.⁴³ Renovations to the Chapel took some two years, with the library opening in 1967 in its new home,⁴⁴ now renamed the Miner Memorial Library.⁴⁵ These renovations and the subsequent changes made for the library have been rather modest and unassuming. The exterior has seen the removal of the small chimney and the addition of a bulletin board, the library sign and the window boxes.⁴⁶ The entry hall was divided into two spaces, one becoming a storage room.⁴⁷ The main room saw the removal of the small platforms for the pulpit and the organ, the addition of bookcases and bookshelves, and the replacement of the woodstove with a gas heater.⁴⁸ The exterior is basically the same as it was in

(typescript, Sullivan County Courthouse, Newport, N.H.)

⁴³ Deborah A. Stone, "The Making of a Small-Town Library: The Lempster Free Public Library", *Historical New Hampshire* (Fall 1994), vol. 49, no. 3, pp. 157-159, 161

⁴⁴ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1965 (Newport, N.H.: 1966), pp. 50-51; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING, DECEMBER 31, 1966 (Newport, N.H.: 1967), p. 50; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1967 (Newport, N.H.: 1968), pp. 10 and 51

⁴⁵ Stone, op. cit, p. 157; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1965, p. 5

⁴⁶ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1965, p. 50; interview of Cheryl McGuinness by David Ruell, June 22, 2006; interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 9, 2006; interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006; LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1985 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (1986), p. 45

⁴⁷ Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006; interview of Laura Pinkney by David Ruell, June 9, 2006

⁴⁸ Interview of Horace Cragin by David Ruell, June 8, 2006; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1965, p. 50; ANNUAL REPORTS

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the mid 19th century. And, with the exception of the new wall between the entry hall and the storage room, the interiors remain, despite the significant change of use, much as they were when the building was the Universalist Chapel. The building is a very well preserved example of a small mid 19th century vernacular church.

The Chapel is one of the best examples of its type in its area, southern Sullivan County. Twenty-four historic churches or former churches still stand in the seven towns, Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Unity and Washington, that make up this area.⁴⁹ Eight of these buildings have been altered, two of the former churches so drastically that they should be excluded from further consideration in this comparison. The former Methodist church in Charlestown village, built in 1836, was moved in 1856 and converted to an apartment house.⁵⁰ Little remains of its original exterior. Goshen's Christian Church was dedicated in 1853, but subsequently moved and turned into a Methodist church in 1878. After its 1891 purchase by the local Grange, it was turned into a Grange Hall. The steeple was removed in 1892 and the whole building was raised in

OF THE TOWN OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1972 (Newport, N.H.: 1973), p. 55; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN OF LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1973 (Claremont, N.H.: 1974), p. 42; LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1984 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (Springfield, Vt.: 1985), p. 29; LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 1990 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS (1991), p. 52; 1994 ANNUAL TOWN REPORTS, LEMPSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE (Claremont, N.H.: 1995), p. 60

⁴⁹ The list of twenty-four churches was developed by reviewing the town histories and consulting the local historical society or historian in the seven towns.

⁵⁰ Martha M. Frizzell, SECOND HISTORY OF CHARLESTOWN, N.H. (Littleton, N.H.:1955), pp. 66 and 287; interview of Joyce Higgins by David Ruell; March 24, 2006. The building was listed on the National Register in its present condition as part of the Charlestown Main Street Historic District on June 10, 1987.

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1908 to add another story for a dining room beneath the original structure.⁵¹ Its appearance is now that of the grange hall, not the church. Other buildings were less seriously altered. The former Methodist Church in Acworth, was erected in 1844 and moved in 1854-55. Also converted to a Grange Hall, it has also lost its steeple, although the main block of the church remains largely intact.⁵² Five churches are now covered with vinyl siding, including the North Charlestown Methodist Church, the Charlestown Congregational Church, St. Catherine of Siena Church in Charlestown, the Community Baptist Church in Goshen and the Lempster Methodist Church. So, only sixteen churches, two-thirds of the surveyed buildings, can be considered reasonably well preserved.

The surveyed churches range in age from the 1780's to the 1880's. The vast majority were built in the predominant high styles of that period, particularly the Federal, Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles. The earliest of the churches are the three surviving town meetinghouses, all predominantly Federal in style. The Washington Meeting House, built in 1787-89, had a tower added in 1820.⁵³ The Lempster Meetinghouse, built in 1794, also had a tower added in 1822.⁵⁴ These two towers were also Federal in style. By contrast, the Langdon Town Hall, first used in 1803, has a Federal style main block, but the steeple, built in 1851, is

⁵¹ Walter R. Nelson, HISTORY OF GOSHEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE (Concord, N.H.: 1957), pp. 219-221, 351

⁵² Helen Frink, 'THESE ACWORTH HILLS', A HISTORY OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1767-1988 (Acworth, N.H.: 1989), pp. 72-74; interview of Mary Lou Robinson by David Ruell, March 28, 2006

⁵³ Ronald and Grace Jager, PORTRAIT OF A HILL TOWN, A HISTORY OF WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1876-1976 (Washington, N.H.: 1977), p. 469; Lisa Mausolf, National Register nomination for the Washington Common Historic District (typescript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.). The Meetinghouse was listed on the National Register as part of the Washington Common Historic District on March 14, 1986.

⁵⁴ "A Gentleman at Harvard", op. cit., pp. 194-196. The Meetinghouse was placed on the National Register on September 8, 1980.

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Greek Revival in style.⁵⁵ Also built in the Federal style were the Acworth Congregational Church of 1821⁵⁶, the Unity Town Hall (formerly a Baptist church) of 1831⁵⁷, and the Lempster Methodist Church of the mid 1830's.

The only pure example of the Greek Revival style is the Baptist Church in South Acworth, now the United Church of Acworth, built in 1818 but remodeled in 1845.⁵⁸ More common are churches that are basically Greek Revival in design, but which also have Gothic Revival features. The former Methodist Church in Acworth of 1844,⁵⁹ the North Charlestown Methodist Church of 1842,⁶⁰ Goshen's Community Baptist Church of 1851,⁶¹ and the Langdon Congregational Church of 1842,⁶² all have Gothic windows. The North Charlestown Methodist Church, the Langdon Congregational Church, the West Unity Methodist Church of 1845-46,⁶³ and the Washington Congregational Church of 1840,⁶⁴ all have towers decorated with Gothic inspired elements, such as crenellation or pinnacles. The purest examples of the Gothic Revival style

⁵⁵ Frank B. Kingsbury, HISTORY AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER OF THE TOWN OF LANGDON, SULLIVAN COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE (White River Junction, Vt.: 1932), pp. 96, 99-102

⁵⁶ Helen Frink, op. cit., p. 67. The church was listed on the National Register on June 13, 1975.

⁵⁷ Unity Historical Committee HIGHLIGHTS IN HISTORY OF UNITY, N.H. (c. 1964), pp. 10, 23; Lisa Mausolf, National Register nomination for Unity Town Hall (typescript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.). The Town Hall was listed on the National Register on June 6, 1985.

⁵⁸ Helen Frink, op. cit. pp. 66-67

⁵⁹ Helen Frink, op. cit., pp. 72-74

⁶⁰ Martha M. Frizzell, op. cit., p. 289. The church was listed on the National Register as part of the North Charlestown Historic District on June 9, 2005.

⁶¹ Walter R. Nelson, op. cit., pp. 227-228

⁶² Frank B. Kingsbury, op. cit., pp. 89, 91-92

⁶³ Unity Historical Committee, op. cit., pp. 20-23

⁶⁴ Ronald and Grace Jager, op. cit., pp. 72-73. The church was listed on the National Register as part of the Washington Common Historic District on March 14, 1986.

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are all found in Charlestown village, the Congregational Church of 1839, the South Parish Unitarian Church of 1843, St. Luke's Episcopal Church of 1863, and St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church of 1880.⁶⁵ The one example of the Italianate style in the area is the Baptist Church in East Washington, built in 1877-78.⁶⁶

Besides these high style churches, there are four simpler buildings, examples of the vernacular building tradition, plain buildings with few references to the fashionable architectural styles of the day. The Quaker Meeting House in Unity was built around 1820.⁶⁷ The Seventh Day Adventist Church in Washington was erected in 1841-42.⁶⁸ It was followed in 1845 by the Universalist Chapel in Lempster. The former Methodist Church in East Washington, built in 1859, now serves as the local Grange Hall.⁶⁹

In this small group of vernacular churches, the two buildings from the 1840's stand out. The Quaker Meeting House has almost no architectural pretensions, as it is without decoration and has an informal asymmetrical design. Its Quaker simplicity is carried to an extreme. The former Methodist Church in East Washington has been significantly altered. A late 19th century photograph shows that the steeple once had two stages, notably an upper open belfry stage, topped by a finial. The steeple has since been reduced to one plain enclosed stage. The main façade formerly had two second story windows and none in the first story, but now has no second story windows and two first story windows. An addition has been constructed on one

⁶⁵ Martha M. Frizzell, op. cit., pp. 284-285, 287-288. All four churches were listed on the National Register as part of the Charlestown Main Street Historic District on June 10, 1987.

⁶⁶ Ronald and Grace Jager, op. cit., p. 474

⁶⁷ Unity Historical Committee, op. cit., pp. 15-17

⁶⁸ Ronald and Grace Jager, op. cit., pp. 80-82, 474

⁶⁹ Ibid. pp. 283-284, 474

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lateral side.⁷⁰ The proportions and composition of the former church's exterior now seem awkward. By contrast, the Adventist Church of Washington and the Universalist Chapel of Lempster are both well designed, with symmetry, good proportions, and nicely composed exteriors. The Adventist Church echoes the Greek Revival style in its pedimented cornice and the frames of its entrances, and could be considered a very stripped down version of a Greek Revival building, on the borderline between the vernacular and the high style. The Universalist Chapel in Lempster quotes from the high styles in two features on the main façade. The louvered fan in the gable is Federal in inspiration, while the door frame seems more Greek Revival in origin. But, it remains a vernacular building, with simple corner boards, cornice, and window frames. What distinguishes the Chapel is the high quality of its design. Although the smallest church in southern Sullivan County, it is nevertheless one of the most attractive, a fine example of the vernacular building tradition in the mid 19th century. Its simple but effective design makes it one of the area's better examples of religious architecture.

⁷⁰ HISTORY OF WASHINGTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE, FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME, 1768-1886 (Claremont, N.H.: 1886), photograph opposite p. 24

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ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND OTHER TOWN OFFICERS OF
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January 31, 1845, Book 37, Page 282

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September 11, 1845, Book 39, Page 108

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Interview of Emily Fairweather by David Ruell, June 12, 2006

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Interview of Joyce Higgins of Charlestown Historical Society by David Ruell, March 24, 2006

Interview of Laura Pinkney of Lempster Historical Society by David Ruell, March 24, 2006

Interview of Mary Lou Robinson of Acworth Historical Society by David Ruell, March 28, 2006

Interview of David Stephan of Goshen Historical Society by David Ruell, March 27, 2006

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property was described in the original deed from Dan Gale to the First Universalist Society as a basically rectangular lot at the southwest corner of the intersection of the 2nd N.H. Turnpike and the road known today as Route 10. The lot was described as thirty feet wide on the 2nd New Hampshire Turnpike, and forty feet long on Route 10. (The deed is recorded in Book 37, Page 282, in the Sullivan County Registry of Deeds, in the Sullivan County Courthouse, in Newport, New Hampshire.)

Verbal Boundary Justification

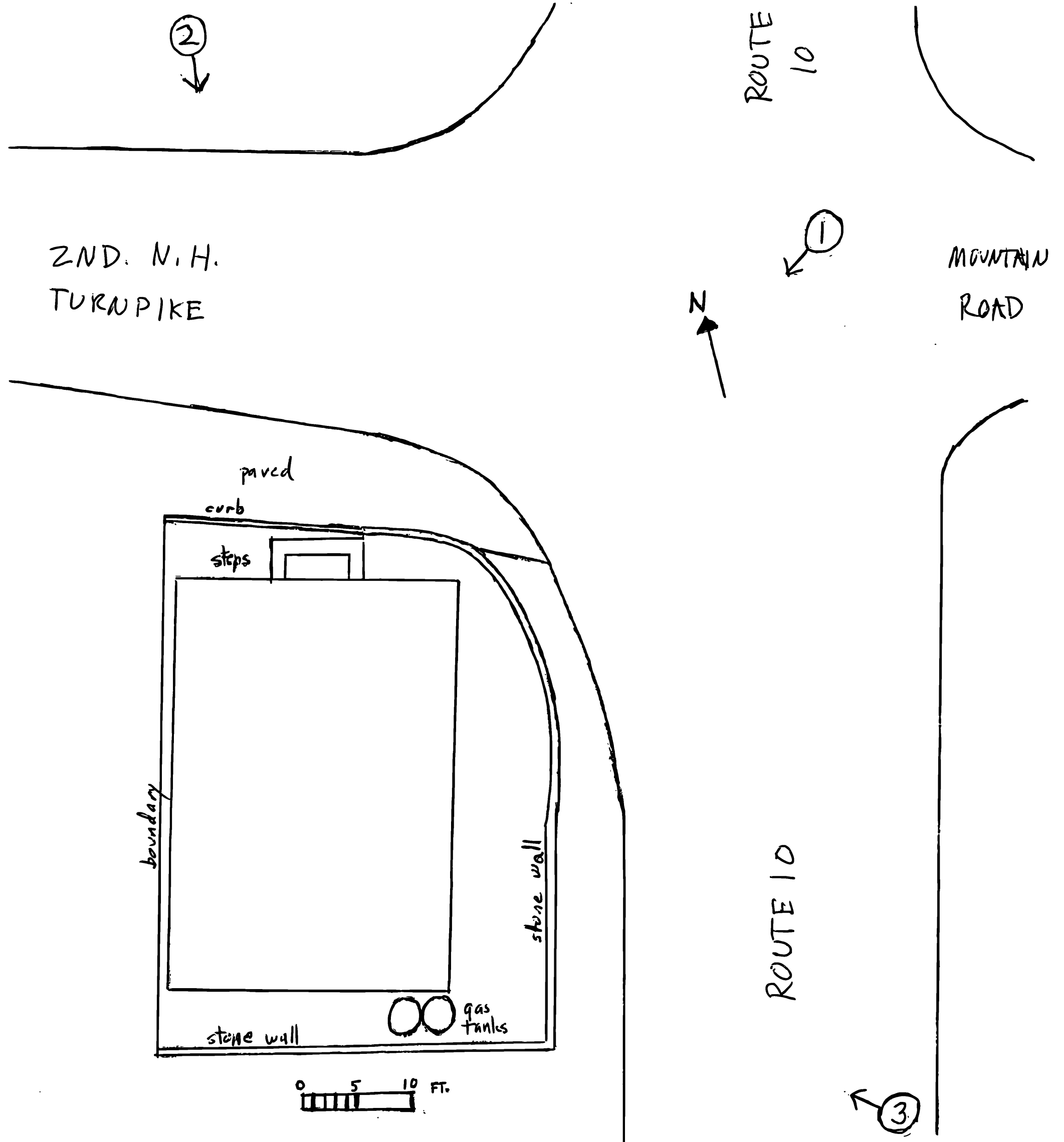
The nominated property includes the First Universalist Chapel, and the small lot, little larger than the building itself, on which the Chapel has stood since its construction in 1845.

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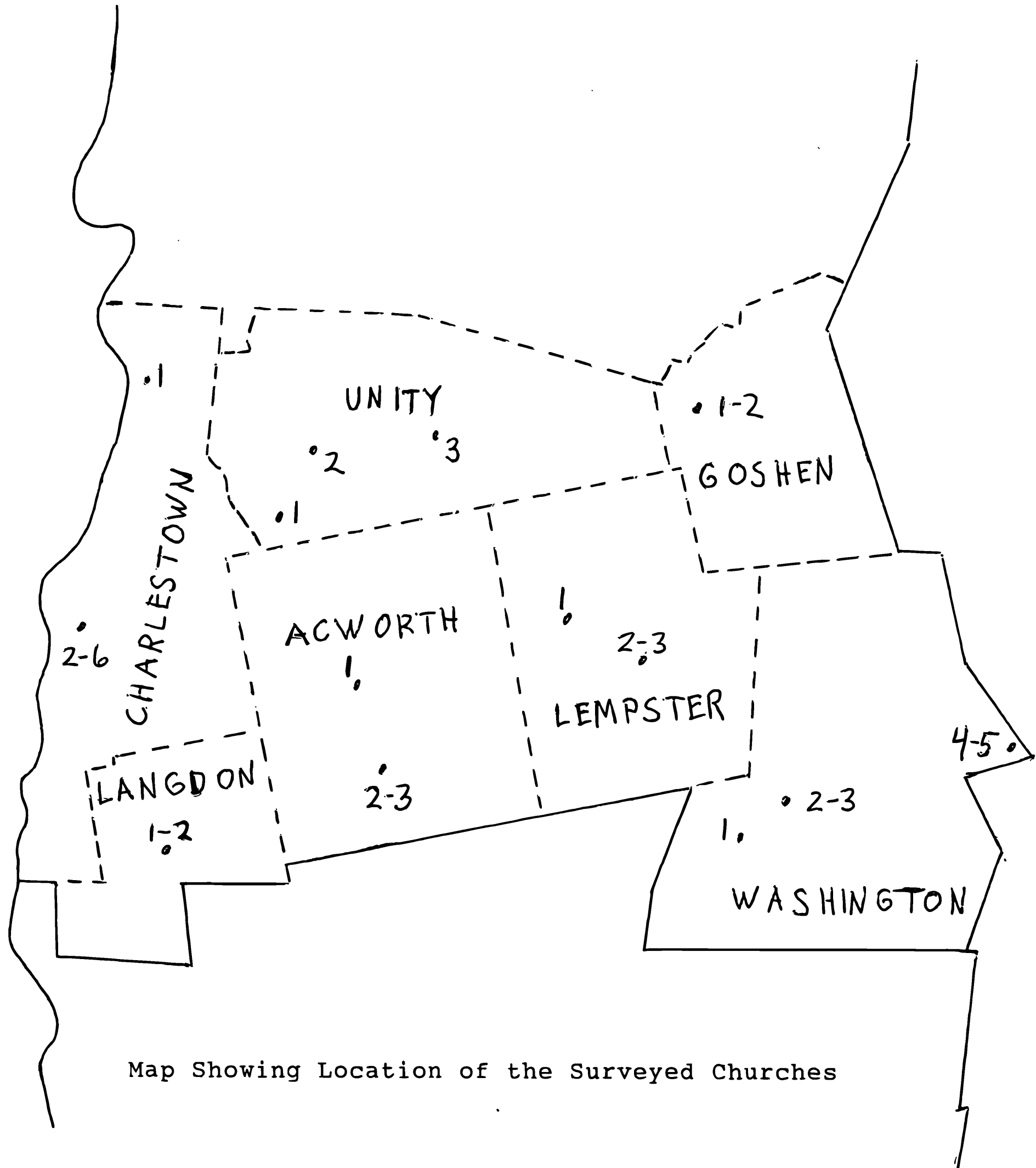
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FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHAPEL LEMPSTER N. H.

CHURCHES OF SOUTHERN SULLIVAN COUNTY
Photographs taken by David Ruell on June 27, 2006



Map Showing Location of the Surveyed Churches