

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1976
DATE ENTERED	SEP 3 1976

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC St. John's Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Highgate Falls Village Green

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN  
Highgate Falls

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Vermont

CODE  
50

COUNTY  
Franklin

CODE  
011

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME St. John's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Highgate Falls

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
Vermont

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Highgate Town Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Highgate

STATE  
Vermont

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN  
Montpelier

STATE  
Vermont

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Church stands in a grove of pine trees at the southeastern end of the Highgate Falls village green. It is built in a style which combines the pointed arches of Gothic architecture with a plan and massing commonly found in Federal style churches in New England.

The church is a high, one story building constructed of brick laid in common bond and rests on an ashlar limestone foundation. A narrow central entrance pavilion is framed by the gabled main (west) elevation. The square, brick base of the steeple projects from the gable peak of the church's main body and is supported partially by the entrance pavilion. Both the main block of the church and the entrance pavilion have a wooden cornice with partial returns.

The most outstanding example of the church's hybrid architectural style is the gothicized Palladian window directly above the church's Federal style entrance with its paired six panelled doors, louvered semi-elliptical fan, and architrave surround. The Palladian window consists of a lancet arched section with square lights in the body of the window, crowned by a gothic interlace and flanked by narrow windows decorated in a semi-circular interlacing muntin pattern. All are double hung. Above the window, framed by the raking cornice and returns, is a semi-elliptical blind fan.

Flanking the pavilion on the main (west) elevation, as well as on the side elevations and on the rear of the brick vestry (added to the rear of the church in 1835 and constructed in an identical style) are double hung, pointed arched windows. The three bays on either side elevation contain the largest windows, having twenty square lights in the lower sash and twenty square lights crowned by a gothic interlace in the upper sash. The windows flanking the front and rear entrances are similar, except that they contain fifteen lights plus Gothic interlace over twenty lights on the front elevation and nine lights plus interlace over nine lights in the rear. All windows and doors in the church rest on marble lug sills.

The steeple consists of five stages: First, the square, brick base which contains a circular opening (possibly intended for a clock) on the front (west) elevation, louvered pointed arches on the north and south faces, and a fifteen over ten window on the rear elevation; wooden Doric entablature returns around the top of the first stage. The second stage consists of an octagonal wooden belfry with round arched louvered openings, surrounded by molded architraves with center blocks, on each face and is topped with a modillion cornice. Above is a smaller square stage topped by steeply raked

(Continued on continuation Sheet 7-1)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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cross gablets carrying finials of the ridge and by a conical roof which tapers to a fourth, octagonal stage decorated with paterae on each face. At the top stands an eight sided spire (which has recently been partially blown down).

The roof of the church is covered half with sheet metal and half with asphalt shingles. A small shed roofed lean-to, sided with brick patterned pressed metal stands beside the vestry at the rear of the church.

The interior retains its original form and most of its original appointments. The chancel, set in a four-centered vault, contains a perpendicular Gothic reredos and altar. A panelled dado extends around the perimeter of the narthex. While slip pews replaced the church's box pews in the late nineteenth century, two original pews were returned to the church in the twentieth century and comprise the first row of seating. The church is entirely lit by oil fixtures.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1831-33, 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joel Whitney

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of St. John's Episcopal Church lies chiefly in the unselfconscious successful mixing of Gothic architectural elements with a Federal style plan derived from Asher Benjamin's The Country Builder's Assistant. The church's design reflects the early ecclesiastical Gothic revival in the United States. Most likely, the church's patrons intended that, by adding pointed arches to conventional double hung windows, by similarly adopting the Palladian window, and "Gothicizing" the Wren-derived steeple by attenuating the upper stages and adding finials, they would distinguish their sanctuary from those of more puritan sects.

The church was built in 1831-33 by Joel Whitney of the neighboring town of Enosburg. In 1835 the vestry was added at the rear of the building. The bell, as well as the baptismal font were given to the church in 1836 by Heman Allen, a member of the family of Ethan Allen.

The church's organ dates from 1837 and was manufactured by the New York firm of Henry Erben. The small organ is in a Gothic style case.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

100th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. John's Church, May 28, 1933.

Commemorative pamphlet.

Gongdon, Herbert W. Old Vermont Houses. Peterborough, N.H.: Doone House, 1968.

Interview with Mrs. Oscar Rixford, Highgate, Vermont. 4/7/76.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	6	5	3	9	8	0	4	9	7	6	1	0	B							
	ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING								
C														D							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John R. Axtell, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

April 19, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

802-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*William B. Pinney*

William B. Pinney

TITLE Director; State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE April 20, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Wm. Smith*

DATE 9/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Robert B. Kettig*

DATE 9/2/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Acting*