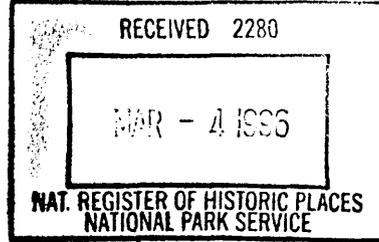


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 Wesleyan Methodist Church

other names/site number Weybridge Town Hall

2. Location

street & number Quaker Village Road N/A not for publication

city or town Weybridge N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Addison code 001 zip code 05753

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.)
Elsa Albertson, National Register Specialist February 29, 1996
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
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): _____

Signature of the Keeper Betty A. Savage Date of Action 4-12-96

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		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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

GOVERNMENT: city hall

EDUCATION: library

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other wood

Narrative Description

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

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Weybridge, Addison County, Vermont

Section 7-Summary

The Weybridge Town Hall, located in the historic center of Weybridge Village, in Addison County, Vermont occupies a prominent position on the west side of Quaker Village Road, sharing the historic village center with the Cotton Free Library. Constructed by the Wesleyan Methodists in 1847, the building was leased to the Town of Weybridge by the Wesleyan Methodist Society in 1893 for their first formal town hall. It remains as a well-preserved example of conversion from a religious building to a town hall. It is a one-story, Greek Revival style, gable-front clapboard structure with an ogee-capped belfry. Among its distinctive original features are the main entrance surround with palmettes, 16/16 windows, six-paneled double entrance doors, and many historic interior details such as wainscoting, denticulated trim, wide floor boards, and original furnishings. Several features can be traced to Asher Benjamin's pattern books such as the massing, ogee-capped belfry, door surround with palmette appliqués, and paneled corner pilasters decorated with palmette appliqués at tops. The building retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association which depict mid-nineteenth century life.

Description:

The 1847 rectangular plan Weybridge Town Hall is a one story, 3 X 3 bay, Greek Revival style wood frame clapboard structure with 16/16 windows. The gable-front faces Quaker Village Road to the east. The property includes the 1847 Greek Revival building with a foundation of a large horse barn in the rear. The Town Hall is nestled between the Cotton Free Library to the north and a residence on the south. A smaller carriage barn on the south adjoining property once belonged to this parcel of land. The structure has a molded box cornice and frieze returning at front gable elevation to form a pediment, which encloses a tympanum decorated with a large sunburst of overlapping planks. Paneled corner pilasters are decorated with palmette appliqués at the tops. The main entrance surround consists of paneled pilasters with palmette appliqués topped by a high entablature and enclosing paired 6-paneled doors. The belfry consists of a box sheathed in clapboard, hexagonal louvered belfry with a denticulated entablature resting on a flush boarded base and topped by a leaded copper ogee-capped dome and

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filigreed weathervane. The original bell still remains in the belfry. Several stylistic features of the building can be traced to master builder Asher Benjamin's pattern books such as the massing, ogee-capped belfry, palmette appliqués, door surround, and paneled corner pilasters decorated with palmette appliqués at tops. The pediment encloses a tympanum decorated with a large sunburst of overlapping planks. Plain milled wood window surrounds emphasize the 16/16 windows with historic cylinder glass. The green slate-covered roof has lead flashing near the belfry.

The north-facing side wall has 2/2 windows in the raised basement. The first bay consists of a large door with two 8 light windows and 2 wood panels. These features date to the turn of the century. The south-facing side basement facade has regularly spaced 12/12 windows

On the rear facade (west), plain wood corner boards were applied to the corners, emphasizing the plain cornice return and plain frieze board under the eaves. There are no windows on this facade. During the 1970s, a new concrete block chimney was installed. Since the foundation was built into the hillside, an entrance ramp was installed in 1994 to provide access for persons with disabilities. The base of the ramp is constructed of pressure treated lumber laid out in a deck-like style with a railing of nine wood posts. A wooden rear door with two panels has been updated with panic release hardware.

The foundation consists of limestone with thick mortar. During the limestone repointing in 1992, the parging was replaced on the east basement wall. A careful study of the original score marks was done to replicate the block size and the mortar mixture. Above the top course, a plank watertable covers the front and two side facades.

Interior:

Inside the east-facing front entrance is a four feet by eight feet vestibule. Plaster makes up the walls of the vestibule and continues into the main hall. Wide painted boards, 6"-8", cover the main floor. To the left, behind two double paneled doors with Bennington Pottery knobs, are two closets. Along the right wall, running from

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left to right, is a door leading to the balcony stairs and a door to the basement stairs. Two similarly paneled doors, with a pew in between, lead into the main hall.

Inside the meeting room, the wall construction combines the chair rail with the window sills. Tongue and groove wainscoting with a simple top board covers the lower part of the walls with plaster above and on the ceiling. Elaborate window surrounds have classical Greek elements which from left to right are: Corona, Scotia, Echinus, Bead, Corona, Corona, and Bead.¹ The plaster ceiling, in the area in front of the balcony, has six regularly placed hanging lamps with brass chains and clear bulbous globes. They date to the turn of the century.

The original pews have rounded back boards and gently curving arms which terminate with a decorative circle rosette. Recessed side panels with Echinus molding completes the decorative motif of the pews. They are arranged in rows of three separated by aisles. The center row consists of two pews with a center board partition. At the front of the room (west), a small three-stepped original platform rises to a pulpit with three panels of recessed molding and stylized fretwork appliqué. Perpendicular to the front stand are two sets of choir pews.

The balcony can be reached by a set of "L"-shaped stairs in the front vestibule. An undulating solid, wood balcony with center projection has milled cornice molding, similar to that of the window surrounds, below the top rail. Large denticulated molding fits below the top rail. Below is a plain dado panel with applied wood strips for decoration. Below the dado is a plain architrave comprised of three wood clapboards. Inside the balcony area, the detailing is not as elaborate as that in the main area of the hall. Plank pews with square edges and gently curving arms are arranged in long rows. Backless benches, placed in the back of the balcony, add extra seating.

Another set of "L"-shaped wooden stairs in the vestibule lead to the basement. Originally constructed entirely of limestone, a poured concrete floor was added in 1992. The walls are comprised of wainscoting with concrete plaster above. A row of built-in plank backed benches line the north and south walls below the windows. A newer furnace sits in the back center. Doors on either side of the furnace lead to

¹Asher Benjamin, *The Practice of Architecture*, 1833, 82-82.

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the back area, now used for storage. Book shelves, left over from the period when this area was a library, line the walls. A wider door, added when this area was converted to the library, gives outside access.

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)

Politics/government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1847 - 1945

Significant Dates

1847

1893

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

Wesleyan Methodist Church
Name of Property

Addison County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 8 | | 6 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 0 | | 4 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 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 Helene K. Tingle
University of Vermont
organization Graduate Program in Historic Preservation date May 9, 1995
street & number Wheeler House telephone (802) 656-3180
city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

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 Weybridge, c/o Richard Bensch, Selectman
street & number RR #1 telephone (802) 545-2189
city or town Middlebury state Vermont zip code 05753

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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Wesleyan Methodist Church
Weybridge, Addison County, Vermont

Section 8-Statement of Significance

The Weybridge Town Hall, built in 1847, remains an outstanding example of a Greek-Revival style religious building. It possesses architectural significant under criteria C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a property type and a period of time, specifically a Greek Revival style church. The building retains its original site and many significant original materials. Since it was later leased to the Town of Weybridge, it also represents a time when communities were reusing church buildings for town halls. It qualifies for state and local significance under criteria A for its significance in politics/ government and for its significance in religion. As a town hall, it reflects the development of local town halls as the principal seat of government in Vermont and the pride townspeople have in their communities. Town halls continue to be important buildings in their districts, villages, and towns due to their use for public functions. When the Town of Weybridge leased the building for its first formal town hall, the population, though declining, needed a place for social functions as well as for town meetings. Previous to its use as a town hall, it served as a church gathering place for the abolitionist Wesleyan Methodists which illustrates a brief period in history when the Methodist Church was split due to issues involving slavery.

Historical Background and Significance

A small following in Addison County formed the Methodist Episcopal Society in 1798. By 1801, the group of 25 to 30 people held regular meetings in homes of local citizens. Many prominent businessmen became leaders in the church. A permanent meeting place was obtained in 1805 when the Methodist Episcopal Church was built near the Twin Village, later called Weybridge Village, a nineteenth century development.² This building no longer stands. As a religious meeting place for the Methodists, it was used until 1847 when the Methodist church split due to issues of slavery. The abolitionist Wesleyan Methodists withdrew, taking their name from the abolitionist John Wesley who was one of the founders of Methodism. In Weybridge, Reverend Cyrus Bendle organized the new church

² Arthur K.D. Healy, "Weybridge, Vermont Sketches and Text,"

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with sixty-six members. They purchased a parcel of land in the historic center of Weybridge Village on Quaker Village Road.

In Weybridge it appears that the local builders used or were inspired by the pattern books of Asher Benjamin. According to Benjamin, houses erected for the worship of the Supreme Being should correspond in character with the reverential feeling of those who assemble within it.³ Elegance should be sought in the choice of form. Several features can be traced to Benjamin's pattern books--massing, ogee-capped belfry, door surround with palmettes appliques, paneled corner pilasters decorated with palmette appliques at tops (Plate 53). This structure is representative of a type of building erected throughout New England by religious societies of all types. In Addison County, Vermont alone, between forty to fifty Greek Revival churches were constructed in the 1840s.

In the decades after the Civil War, the Wesleyan Methodists reunited with the Methodist Episcopal Society. By the 1890s, the population of Weybridge (543) had declined from that of the all time high population in the 1840s (797). The small congregation could not support the church and in 1893 when it was leased to Weybridge by the Wesleyan Methodist Society for their first formal town hall. Previously town meetings were held in the homes of the Selectmen. Although the population of the town was declining, the citizens wanted a building to hold meetings and social events.

During the end of the nineteenth century, many rural congregations were faced with dwindling populations, causing many to share buildings with other religious groups. Several religious organizations, such as the Wesleyan Methodists, ceased to exist. Churches often added social rooms to serve the needs of the community. A common occurrence was for small towns with a limited budget to purchase or lease these buildings for public space or to divide a church sanctuary into two floors to serve a dual purpose. The Weybridge Town Hall was not significantly altered during conversion.

³ Asher Benjamin, *The Practice of Architecture*, 1833, 100.

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When one of the leading town residents, Joshua Franklin Cotton, passed away in 1897, he donated money to Weybridge to construct a free library. In 1900, the Library Trustees donated twenty-five dollars from the Cotton Trust to convert a backroom in the basement of the town hall to make the Cotton Free Library. This space was used until 1911 when an adjoining lot was purchased for the new library building. Concrete purchased for the construction of the library, was used to convert the front steps from three-sided platform steps to the single set of stairs used today.⁴

In early 1990, a grant was received from the Third Century Fund to restore the belfry. Further restoration work was completed on the town hall in 1991 through preservation grants available from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Third Century Fund. The ogee-capped belfry and iron bell received most of the attention due to its once poor condition. Reparging was performed on the front foundation according to its original score marks and mortar formula. During 1991, the ramp was installed on the west (rear) facade for persons with disabilities with a grant from the Vermont Historical Society. Restoration projects in 1992 with Vermont Division for Preservation grants included stripping the windows to the bare wood, jacking up the building, adding supporting columns in the basement, and analyzing cracked walls. To match the funds, the citizens of Weybridge, delighted with the progress, voted an appropriation of \$10,000.

Today the town hall is still used for yearly meetings and for the Selectboard's monthly meetings. It remains architecturally significant to the people of Weybridge because of its long history of use. It continues to be a highly significant public building to the townspeople.

⁴ Middlebury Register, Middlebury, Vermont, November 6, 1995.

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Wesleyan Methodist Church
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Section 9-Bibliography

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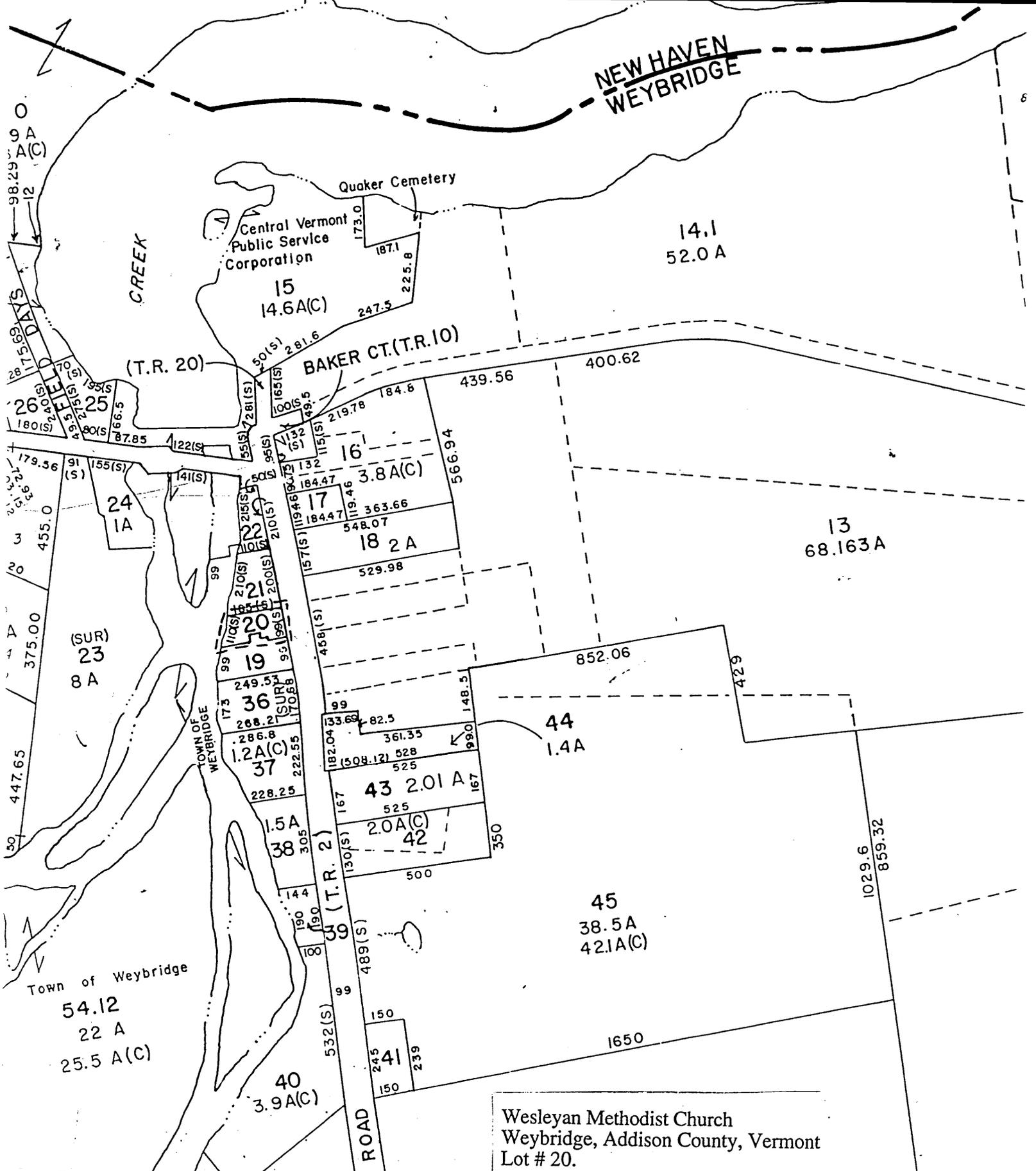
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

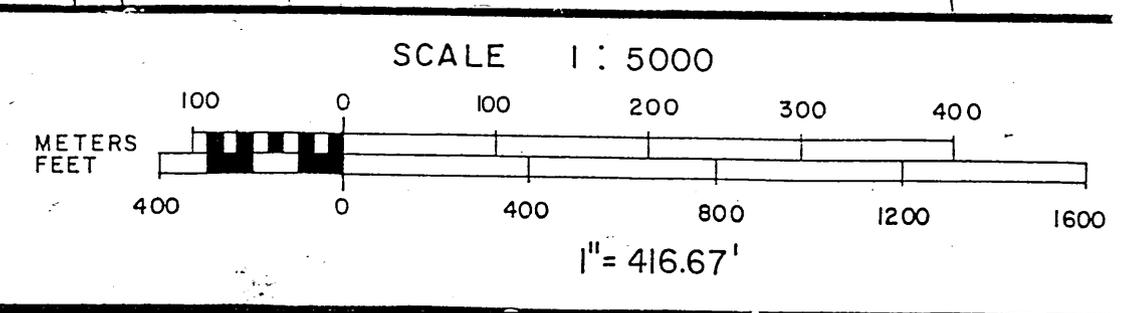
The Wesleyan Methodist Church property is defined as tax lot 20, map 3, on file at Weybridge Town Clerk's Office, Weybridge, Vermont.

Boundary Justification

The property is the lot that has historically been associated with the building.



TRUE YCS
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NORTH DATA
ANGLES ARE REFERENCED
TO TRUE NORTH



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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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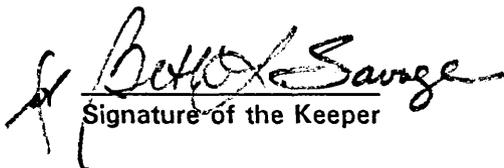
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000387 Date Listed: 04/12/96

Wesleyan Methodist Church Addison VT
Property Name County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

4-12-96
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

8. Statement of Significance: Criteria Considerations

Criteria exception A applies because the church was a religious building when constructed and for much of its history.

This information was confirmed with Elsa Gilbertson, National Register Coordinator, VTSHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without attachment)