

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

historic name UNION CHAPEL

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 220 Sawmill Road

N/A not for publication

city or town Hillsborough

N/A vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Hillsborough code 011 zip code 03244

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Elizabeth H. Murphy
Signature of certifying official

12/17/08
Date

NH Division of Historical Resources
State or 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 commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

☒ I hereby certify that this property is
entered in the National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register

Patrick Andrus

2/3/2009

See continuation sheet
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
other (explain): _____

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0Name of related multiple property listing N/A**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall
RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall
RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen AnneLATE VICTORIAN/Stick/Eastlake**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)foundation granitewalls weatherboardroof ASPHALTother BRICK**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Union Chapel
Hillsborough, New Hampshire

DESCRIPTION

Summary Paragraph

Union Chapel occupies a sloping 0.3-acre lot on the south side of Sawmill Road, in Lower Hillsborough Village, a rural village located in the southwest section of Hillsborough, New Hampshire. The property is bounded by 130' of road frontage on the north and a stone-edged brook along the west. The nominated property includes two contributing resources, a chapel erected in 1886-87 and a fieldstone well likely contemporaneous to the chapel. The chapel sits fairly close to the road, surrounded by lawn on the east and west, beyond which is woods. A fieldstone retaining wall extends from both sides of the front of the building, to terrace the front lawn.

Chapel (1886-87)

Union Chapel is a wood-frame, gable-front, 48' x 27' vernacular Stick and Queen Anne building that rests on a granite block foundation. (Though technically a one-story building, the basement level is fully exposed on the side and rear elevations, due to the sloping site.). The roof is covered with asphalt shingles; a wood finial rises from the ridge at the front. A brick exterior chimney with corbeled cap is found on the rear (south) elevation. The building is clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with flat cornerboards and casings. A vergeboard with applied ornament adorns the front (north) eave.

Windows on the primary (sanctuary) level are grouped in threes, with a shared bracketed sill with roundels. (The rear elevation windows, which were not installed until 1898, lack this sill.) The facade window group is set apart with shed roofs carried on paired, carved brackets; an additional small window appears over the center window. The side elevation windows have stick-like trim extending to the eave. All but the rear first-story windows have Queen Anne upper and lower sash with colored glass in shades of green and purple in the perimeter panes and gray, blue or beige glass in the center pane. (The rear windows, added eleven years later, employ different colors of glass.) Basement level windows are also capped with shed roofs; sash is 2/2.

The focal point of the building is a 9' x 9' tower surmounted by a hip-roof belfry in the northwest corner and which houses the front entrance. The entrance features double, wood-paneled doors and a protective cross-gable shed-roof hood with elaborate foliate ornament. Concrete and wood steps, with an iron pipe railing (installed in 1902) provide

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access. The tower terminates in a pent roof below which are louvered openings flanked by incised brackets. Eight bracketed and chamfered posts support the belfry roof, which is capped with a metal finial and weathervane. (Early documents and photographs show that all of these shed roofs, as well as the main gable roof and the belfry roof, were originally wood, and all but the main roof were painted in bands of contrasting colors.) The bell, cast by Henry N. Hooper & Co. of Boston in 1853, was installed in 1907, salvaged from a local Baptist church.

The entrance to the basement is on the east elevation, accessed by granite steps. Like the windows, the doorway is sheltered by a shed roof; the door has four panels.

The interior of the chapel is open on both levels. Throughout, all of the unpainted, varnished woodwork, including doors, casings, sanctuary stage, beaded-board partitions at the south end of the sanctuary (which shield a closet on the east side and the stairwell on the west), baseboard, and wainscot on the basement walls, remains. Window and door casings are reeded. Rows of straight, slatted, wooden pews on decorative iron legs fill the sanctuary.¹ The stage occupies the remaining portion of the south end of the sanctuary. A carved mahogany lectern, Woodward & Brown square piano, and a Mason & Hamlin organ (purchased in 1894) are all either original or early furnishings.

In the basement, a wood-fired furnace, installed in 1909 for \$80, is still capable of emitting heat upward through bronze floor grates. Two early instruments in the basement include a J & E Foster organ (which came from a local Baptist Church) and a Mehlin & Sons upright grand piano. The north end of the basement has two small enclosed areas for a washroom and a wood shed.

Well (ca. 1887)

The well is located east of the chapel. It is constructed of large, round, fieldstones with a concrete cap.

¹ The pews are stamped "A.H. Andrews & Co., New York." and were likely installed post-1910.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Union Chapel is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

It is significant under A in the area of Social History. From its inception, the chapel has functioned as the anchor of Hillsborough Lower Village, outliving other gathering spots, such as the store, hotel and schoolhouse. Largely a seasonal structure that initially complemented a seasonal population, it has hosted celebrations, weddings, funerals, social events, and fundraisers, in addition to non-sectarian Sunday services and church school, for over 120 years. The chapel's non-sectarian and social role is unrivaled anywhere within the Town of Hillsborough. It has remained in the same ownership since it was built, and the mission of the Ladies Aid Society has remained unchanged from its inception. Though not the only local women's group at the time it was founded, today it is the oldest such organization in Hillsborough. Its ownership of Union Chapel probably contributed to its staying power, as it has given it a permanent meeting space, identity and cause.¹

Like women's groups around the country at the end of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth, the women of the Ladies Aid Society used their organization to do their part in promoting Christian values in their community and collectively contribute to charitable works and war relief. They worked at this in ways typical to the era – through making and selling their hand work, organizing fairs and raffles and seemingly small acts to help a neighbor in need or hometown soldier overseas. At least in the first few decades, the members of the Society were more often than not married to or daughters of the leading business and governmental men in Hillsborough Lower Village, which gave the women insight into and connection with the commercial and political goings on in town and provided the professional services needed to carry out their mission.

The period of significance under Criterion A is 1887-1958, representing the period during which the Ladies Aid Society has been both active and utilizing the chapel as a center of activities. The significant date under Criterion A is 1887, the year in which the chapel was completed.

¹ At least two organizations preceded the Ladies Aid Society. The Ladies Benevolent Society, which was tied to the Congregational Church at Hillsborough Bridge (downtown Hillsborough), was formed ca. 1867. The Soldiers Aid Society, established during the Civil War, was reestablished as the Ladies Circle in 1872; the latter group worked to restore the Baptist meetinghouse. Later organizations included a chapter of the Order of the Eastern Stars, organized in Hillsborough in 1892; the Women's Relief Corps (1894); an Improvement Club (ca. 1895); a (federated) Woman's Club (1897); the Daughters of the American Revolution (1898); and the Fortnightly Club (1899). [See Browne, 1921]

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 significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory history.

Criteria Considerations

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

A: 1887-1958

C: 1887

Significant Dates

A: 1887

C: 1887

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John Jackman

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: _____

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Union Chapel
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It is significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of a late 19th century rural chapel designed and erected by a noted local master builder, John Wesley Jackman. The building combines architectural features of both the Queen Anne and Stick styles and retains an exceptionally high level of integrity, with alterations confined to loss of the original wood roof shingles, and the addition of linoleum flooring and a small washroom in the basement. Both the period of significance and the significant date under Criterion C is 1887, the year in which the chapel was completed. The property is significant on a local level.

Social History

Union Chapel was erected in 1886-7 by the Ladies Aid Society, a group formed four years earlier for the purpose of providing a non-sectarian chapel and social gathering spot for Hillsborough Lower Village. Lower Village was one of four villages in Hillsborough, a town incorporated in 1772. Lower Village's initial development was attributed to its location at the intersection of two post roads established in the 1790s, but it was the opening of the Second New Hampshire Turnpike in 1801 that introduced a period of growth and moderate prosperity that continued throughout the nineteenth century.² The town's first post office soon opened here, as well as the Hillsborough Academy, a school and a tannery. By mid-century, the village included three taverns, a store, more than two dozen houses, a law office, a sawmill, foundry/machine shop, and blacksmith shop. . One historian even dubbed it "the cradle of Hillsborough's political and legal talent."³

By 1886, Hillsborough Lower Village was transitioning from a small-scale industrial center to a residential area increasingly inhabited by summer residents. The Ladies Aid Society's mission was to foster a sense of community in this hamlet, by then consisting of some thirty dwellings, a store, hotel and several surviving mills. Among those mills was the thriving tannery run by the Fuller family. The quality of the tannery's calfskins had caught the attention of Westcott & Son in Boston in the early 1850s, and they became its primary customer. Son Stephen married John Fuller's daughter, Abbie, in 1855, further cementing this relationship.⁴

² One of the other four villages, Upper Village, was also on the turnpike. Hillsborough Center was the original hilltop settlement, while Hillsborough Bridge (or Bridge Village), though settled early on, had a major spurt of growth during the 19th century, in response to the arrival of the railroad and the textile industry that flourished along the Contoocook River. The latter evolved into the primary business district and is now the town center.

³ Browne, 1921: 373-374; Copp, 1897: 176; Hengen, 1992: 4-6. One of the taverns belonged to Governor Benjamin Pierce, father of United States president Franklin Pierce, who was born there. Both Pierces, as well as Franklin's two nephews, Kirk D. and Frank H. Pierce, lived or maintained offices in Lower Village.

⁴ The couple later played an instrumental role in the construction of the chapel, and the Fuller family's interest in the chapel continued into the twentieth century. In 1906, Abbie Westcott's brother, Wirt X. Fuller, a Boston resident who maintained a summer home in Lower Village, presented the chapel with its bell in 1906, salvaged from a

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The Ladies Aid Society started in 1883 with twelve charter members, drawn from village residents. Their aim was to build “a chapel or other public building suitable in which to hold religious worship, Sabbath School, lectures, lyceums, meetings or entertainments of such character as shall promote the welfare and aid in the general improvement of the public” and to create a charitable organization that would find “opportunities for generous work.”⁵ They set a goal to raise \$200, after which they planned to appeal to the local men for assistance. It took three years of hard work to attain that goal, during which the women regularly met to crochet edges of shirts and stockings for the local hosiery mill, held socials and suppers, pieced quilts, and put on plays.

With the \$200 secured, the Society established a committee of three men to complete the fundraising, locate land and initiate construction for the chapel. The land itself was granted from three wealthy Bostonians with ties to the area—Stephen and Abbie Westcott and John Murray—to three local men—Stephen A. Brown, Mark McClintock and Ira W. Jackman) “in trust for the use of the Ladies Aid Society...until such time as it should become duly incorporated.” The society’s records refer to the transfer as a “material subscription” donation from “S. Westcott and Sons.”⁶

The configuration of the lot suggests it was carved from the neighboring property to the west, owned by Brown in 1892.⁷ Brown had deep ties to the village. After working at the Fuller tannery, he became a partner in 1861, when founder John Fuller died suddenly. Following the death of John’s son David in 1867, Brown became the sole owner. Brown served as one of the first trustees of the Ladies Aid Society and undertook to secure the organization’s incorporation papers. His wife hosted the first meeting of the Ladies Aid Society and served as its first treasurer. His sister-in-law, Mrs. John S. Brown, was its second president.⁸

The building was designed by Lower Village resident and local contractor John Wesley Jackman, and built by his construction company, the Jackman Brothers, whose saw mill also

Baptist church in Hillsborough that was being demolished, and donated in memory of their parents. [*Messenger Newspaper*, 9/20/1906]

⁵ Ladies Aid Society Constitution, signed 17 May 1883. Collection of the Ladies Aid Society.

⁶ “Bond for a Deed,” 17 March 1886; 1892 map. Manahan’s and Brown’s wives were charter members of the Ladies Aid Society. John Jackman’s wife became a member soon thereafter. Incorporation was granted in September 1887, and the deed was transferred to the Society in 1892.

⁷ Brown’s residence was the brick cape, still standing at the corner of Sawmill Road and the Second New Hampshire Turnpike. The land that accompanies that house wraps around the chapel lot.

⁸ Rex, 2006: 13; Ladies Aid Society Secretary’s Report, 1891; Brickett, 1885; Browne, 1922: vol. II.

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gave the lumber.⁹ Construction began in May of 1886 and by February, 1887, the Society was holding its meetings in Chapel vestry. The formal dedication was on March 9, 1887.¹⁰

The total cost came to \$2,081.38, over half of which (\$1,218) was collected by cash subscription. Within Lower Village, the project drew financial support from nearly all of its residents, as well as the members of the Society. Real estate auctioneer William H. Manahan and farmer Mark McClintock, both local property owners, gave \$50 each, but most gifts were primarily in the \$5-25 range. Aside from individuals, two organizations donated funds: the Lower Village Sabbath School gave \$31, and the Hanover Street Sabbath School in Manchester gave \$25.

Contributions also came from residents living in other parts of Hillsborough. John Butler Smith, the leading businessman in town, gave \$50.¹¹ Other donors were former Hillsborough residents, who had become successful industrialists and merchants and subsequently moved to urban areas, or were village summer residents with permanent homes in Lynn, Worcester, Charlestown, Lowell, Boston and New York. Two of the first gifts – and among the largest – came from Stephen and Abbie Fuller Westcott of Boston, who each gave \$50. The largest donor, at \$300, was also the most familiar name nationally: Benjamin P. Cheney, founder of what became the American Express Company; Cheney was born in Lower Village and spent his childhood there.

In addition to financial support, the community pitched in to assist in the actual construction of the chapel, donating lumber and providing skilled carpentry labor. There were pledges of over \$175 in labor (the Jackman Brothers gave \$100 alone) and \$85 in materials. Stephen A. Brown donated the wood roofing shingles, at a cost of \$50.

After the chapel was completed, Ladies Aid Society members regularly used it for religious services, community suppers and meetings, especially during the warmer summer months. At their meetings, or “circles” as they referred to them in the records, the women conducted business, socialized, and took up handiwork. While many of the earliest “circle” meetings were recorded simply as: “no work and only had a social time,” the women quickly became busier. They were often planning their next event, which involved assigning organizational tasks to different women, crafting “fancy things” for sale and raffle, and discussing fundraising ideas. Their public events included suppers, socials, and tea parties. The money they raised went primarily to the building’s ongoing maintenance and sometimes for general charitable purposes.

⁹ Brothers Ira and John Jackman were also trustees of the Chapel, starting in 1887, and their wives were members of the Society.

¹⁰ Fuller, 1953.

¹¹ Smith owned the Contoocook Mills Company, which employed over 200 people. Although he was a member of the Congregational Church, he was known to be a “liberal supporter and a generous donor to all worthy charities.” He later became Governor of New Hampshire, 1893-4 (Browne, 1922: vol II: 527).

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The building became the center of Lower Village life and a favorite location for local weddings and celebrations. At times, Sunday School was held there year-round. On occasion, the Society rented out the chapel for non-Society parties, meetings and events, including district school meeting and graduations. The building was wired for electricity surprisingly early, in 1897, accompanied by festivities.¹²

In the 1880s and 1890s, fairs and suppers of various sizes raised funds for the Society's activities. These typically included entertainment, raffles and games, and sale of fancy work and food. The fairs generally brought in \$20-80, and the suppers \$14-20. The August 1887 fair, perhaps the first held at the new chapel, netted an astounding \$224. No other fair income in the record comes close. The records show that the women were almost always working on items for sale – a strategy common to women's groups at the time. The group made many quilts over the years including pieced quilts, outline quilts, and crazy quilts. The quilts took the women months to complete and were collaborative efforts. Most often, the women would come up with a clever way to raffle the quilts by "guesses." For example, a fair-goer could pay ten cents to enter their guess as to how many squares were on the quilt, how many beans were in a jar or a random number one of the ladies had taped to the back of the quilt.¹³

Able caretakers, the women worked steadily to maintain and improve the building. In 1894 alone, they raised \$138 and secured labor donations to move a Mason & Hamlin organ into the sanctuary (where it remains), for water to come into the chapel, for a sink to be installed and "zinked," and for a new carpet for the stage. The following year, they voted to "have the inside of the upper part of the chapel varnished and the walls painted or papered."¹⁴

The women worked to finance preachers for the Chapel, at least through the summer months. By the 1890s, there are regular payments into a preaching fund. While more often payments seem to go to itinerant ministers, at least by 1913, they started seeking a "resident minister for a certain length of time" during the summer seasons. Several times this minister was a student, perhaps because of the temporary nature of the job and the lack of secure salary.

¹² *Messenger News*, 9/2/1897; Ladies Aid Society Secretary's Records; Fuller, 1953.

¹³ The first quilt they made, a red and white pieced quilt, was recently donated to the DAR collection in Hillsborough. By the 1910s, the primary handiwork appears to have been aprons, and the decades through to the 1940s and possibly beyond proved fruitful for apron sales. One innovative fund raising campaign came in 1894, when the women had a professional photograph taken of the Chapel, made into 12 prints and sold at 50 cents each. At least 10 sold right away. There is a photograph hanging in the basement of the Chapel that is likely one of the 1894 prints. [Ladies Aid Society Secretary's Records]

¹⁴ Ladies Aid Society Secretary's Records.

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The women also worked in charitable ways, locally and with contributions to national and international campaigns. Locally, the Society helped the community at large and particular families in need. It was in favor of the District Nurse program from the start and voted \$5 towards the idea in 1916. Regular annual contributions to the District Nurse Association followed. On a more personal level, the charity might be specific to the needs of a family or individual. For example, in 1918 the Society purchased gingham for dresses for a baby whose house burned recently; in 1926 it bought groceries for some women in town; in 1927, it made Christmas baskets for shut-ins; and in 1933, there are instances of buying "milk for Sanborn family" and "stockings for some of the school children." There are also payments for flowers for the sick and for widows and widowers. Often, it combined forces with other groups in town, particularly the Benevolent Society of Hillsborough and the Community Club of Hillsborough Upper Village. It also joined with these groups for social events and charitable fundraising.¹⁵

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Ladies Aid Society received three bequests, totaling approximately \$1,900. The most significant, at approximately \$1,400, came from Lucy Boutwell, which the Society used to establish the Lucy Boutwell Fund.¹⁶

When the United States engaged in World War I, the Society began knitting and sewing for the Red Cross and donating about \$5 annually to the Red Cross. It also donated to the YMCA and Eastern Relief work. The ladies sent packages to soldiers, which included items they had sewn for them. At their meetings, they regularly read letters from local boys serving in France. They purchased a \$100 Liberty Bond in 1918. For the 1917-1918 year, "owing to the war and other conditions, the calls for charity [were] unusually large," and the Society spent \$28.59 on charity work.

Following the war and even during the Great Depression, the women remained faithful to their mission and there appears to have been little effect on their income or activities. For a period, to encourage church attendance, they provided a truck to pick up worshippers along a pre-arranged route, at the Society's expense. The Society continued to hold annual suppers, fairs, and parties, regularly bought straws for schoolchildren's milk, and continued to employ a janitor, pay their light bills, and contribute \$5 each year toward the District Nurse Association. It also contributed to various Red Cross relief funds, the Women's Field Army for the Control of Cancer, and the campaign for flood and hurricane relief in 1938. During these years, the Society also slightly increased its small, local acts of charity. Of particular note during this time was a modest donation to the Franconia Notch Fund, a campaign led by the New Hampshire Federation of

¹⁵ Ladies Aid Society Treasurer's and Secretary's Records; Fuller, 1953.

¹⁶ The bequest was given in three distributions, in 1912, 1913, and 1918. [Ladies Aid Society Secretary's Records]

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Women's Clubs to purchase Franconia Notch in the White Mountains and protect it as a state park.¹⁷

The Ladies Aid Society also did its part during World War II. On December 27, 1941, it bought a \$100 Defense Bond. The women purchased additional \$100 bonds in 1943 and 1944. They also donated smaller amounts to the New Hampshire War Chest, the USO, March of Dimes and Red Cross drives throughout the war. In 1942 they began sending packages to local "over sea" boys." In October of 1944, the Society presented the community with an Honor Roll tablet on the front lawn of the Chapel, which listed seventeen men and two women from Hillsborough Lower Village who served in World War II. During the war, membership in the Society reached its peak at 39.¹⁸

In 1953, the last surviving charter member of the Ladies Aid Society, Josephine Fuller, prompted the Society to renew their dedication to "bring the old and the young together for social development, religious culture and Christian training, to make mankind more noble, more just and more God-like."¹⁹ Today, after more than 120 years, Union Chapel and the Ladies Aid Society continue to serve the community needs of Lower Village and, in recent years, have expanded their reach to Hillsborough at large. The activities today focus on maintaining the building for community use, providing non-denominational services in the summer and at holidays, and holding an annual bazaar and occasional social events. The members also continue the tradition of taking up collections for charitable work, including for the local nursing home and food pantry, and donations to neighbors in need and children.²⁰

Architecture

John Wesley Jackman (1844-1896), the designer of Union Chapel, moved to Hillsborough Lower Village from the neighboring town of Henniker in 1883 and became a partner in a local saw mill. Two years later, his twin brother and neighbor Ira (1844-post 1921) bought out the other partner. Shortly afterward, the two men teamed up to form Jackman Brothers, which erected a number of Hillsborough's structures, all built between 1886 and 1896, a period of tremendous local growth. Union Chapel was perhaps the first to be erected, with John Jackman preparing plans and the brothers' firm providing much of the construction detail. The chapel's

¹⁷ Ladies Aid Society Secretary's and Treasure's Reports; *Messenger News*, 5/20/1920.

¹⁸ Ladies Aid Society Secretary's and Treasure's Reports; *The Union* 10/22/1944 (news clipping in Ladies Aid Society scrapbook). The tablet cost \$22.67, plus \$2.25 for the lettering. The dedication ceremony was led by former Governor Blood.

¹⁹ Fuller, 1953. "Josie E. Manahan" is the name recorded as charter member.

²⁰ Jennifer Zdon, Ladies Aid Society Historian, phone conversation, 7/21/2008.

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design was derived from a nearly identical (although slightly smaller) structure John Jackman constructed for the Universalist Church in Henniker, completed in 1882.²¹

Hillsborough's post-Civil War growth and prosperity stemmed from its textile mills, located along the Contoocook River in downtown Hillsborough.²² The Jackman Brothers were one of three prolific builders in town to take advantage of the wave of new construction, erecting many of the higher end housing on the north side of the river. Among their known residences are houses on the north side of Pleasant Street (toward the west end in an area then known as Whittemore Field and surveyed for building lots in 1892); 112 West Main Street (1892); and a number along Church Street, including nos. 38, 40, 44 and 60. Like Union Chapel, the dwellings are Queen Anne stylistically with highly ornamental porches, turned and incised woodwork, applied stylized sunray motifs on gables and pediments, and sawn scroll brackets. Whether the firm designed the buildings themselves or relied on readily available pattern books is as yet unknown. They also erected St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church (1892) and Rectory (1893) on Church Street.²³

Jackman Brothers is credited with several industrial projects, including the Contoocook Mills Company Dam and the Contoocook & Woolen Mills Company Storehouses, both in Hillsborough; the Electric Light and Power Company Dam near the Hillsborough-Henniker town line in 1894; remodeling the 1857 Stratton & Merrill Mill in Penacook (within the town of Boscawen) in 1883; and constructing two dams in Newport, NH. Again, it is probable that the firm undertook its own engineering studies, as well as the actual construction work.

²¹ That chapel, located near the town library, survives, but was moved ca. 1995 and was then thoroughly renovated on the interior with a subsequent loss of integrity. No other chapels of that design are known to have been built.

²² It was these same mills that provided the women of the Ladies Aid Society with piece work to earn funds for their construction project.

²³ St. Mary's Church has undergone some alterations, including asbestos shingles (resulting in the loss of some exterior horizontal trim), the conversion of a side elevation window to a doorway, adding two basement entrances, and filling in the arched louvered openings of the tower.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 9

Union Chapel
Hillsborough, New Hampshire

View of Union Chapel, 1895
Courtesy of Ladies Aid Society



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 1

Union Chapel
Hillsborough, New Hampshire

Major Bibliographical References

- Brickett, Rev. Harry. "History of Hillsborough" in *History of Hillsborough County, NH*. D. Hamilton Hurd, ed. Philadelphia : J. W. Lewis & Co., 1885: 391-434.
- Browne, George Waldo. *History of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, 1735-1921: Volume I History and Description*. Manchester: John B. Clarke Company, 1921.
- Browne, George Waldo. *History of Hillsborough, New Hampshire, 1735-1921: Volume II Biography and Genealogy*. Manchester: John B. Clarke Company, 1922.
- Copp, Isaac, "A Sketch of Hillsborough." *Granite Monthly*, Vol. 22, No. 3 (March 1897), pp. 154-84.
- Coolidge, Austin Jacobs and John Brainard Mansfield. *History and Description of New England: New Hampshire*. Boston: Austin J. Coolidge, 1860.
- D.A.R. scrapbooks. (Formerly in Hillsborough Historical Room, Fuller Public Library)
- Fuller, Josephine E., "Brief History of the Lower Village Ladies' Aid Society," in *Hillsboro Messenger*, 4 June 1953.
- Hengen, Elizabeth Durfee, "Hillsborough Bridge Village Area Form," 1993. On file at NH Division of Historical Resources.
- Hengen, Elizabeth Durfee, "Hillsborough Lower Village Area Form," 1993. On file at NH Division of Historical Resources.
- Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds
- Ladies Aid Society, Sec'y & Treas. reports 1883-1887; 1892-1900; 1910-1956.
- Rex, Albert, Hillsborough Lower Village Historic District Area Form, 2006. On file at NH Division of Historical Resources

Maps

- 1892 "Town of Hillsborough." *Town and City Atlas of the State of New Hampshire*. Boston: D. H. Hurd.

Photograph and Archive Collections

Ladies Aid Society, Hillsborough, NH

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10 **Page** 1

Union Chapel
Hillsborough, New Hampshire

GEOGRAPHIC DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary for the Union Chapel coincides with Lot 274 on Map 11B on the Town of Hillsborough Assessors' maps dated 2008.

These boundaries are indicated on the attached property sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the Union Chapel includes the 0.3-acre lot that has accompanied the building since it was constructed and which was created specifically for it.

10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property** 0.3 acres**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>19</u>	<u>260450</u>	<u>4777320</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Elizabeth Durfee Hengen with Sarah Dangelas Hofeorganization Preservation Consultant date July 30, 2008street & number 25 Ridge Road telephone (603) 225-7977city or town Concord state NH zip code 03301**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

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

Property Owner

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

name Ladies Aid Society, c/o Jennifer Zdon, Historianstreet & number 176 Sawmill Road telephone 603-478-0682city or town Hillsborough state NH zip code 03244**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 the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

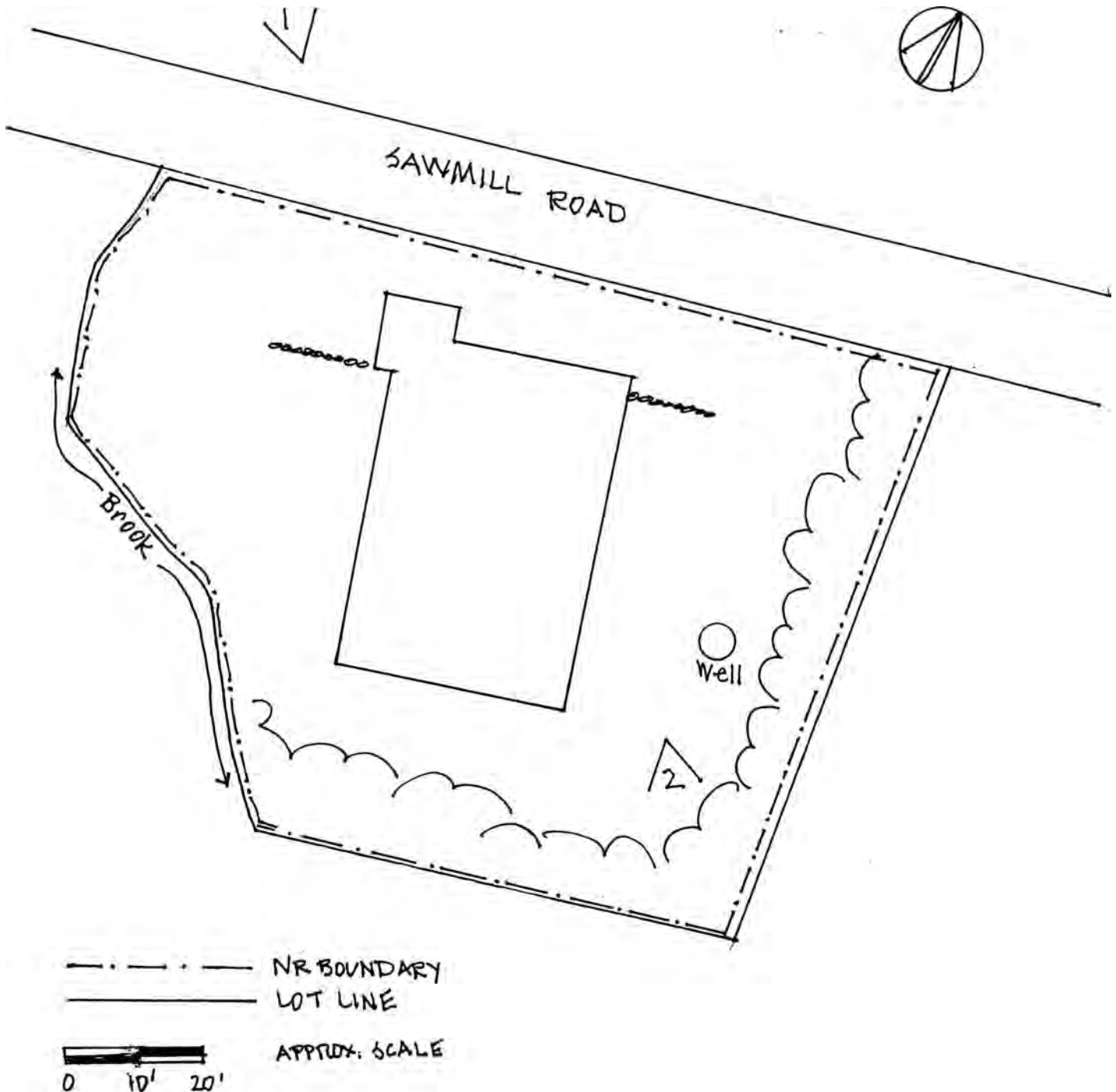
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 2

Union Chapel
Hillsborough, New Hampshire

PROPERTY SKETCH MAP & PHOTOGRAPH KEY



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Union Chapel
Hillsborough, New Hampshire

Section Photograph List **Page** 1

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Name of property: Union Chapel
Town/state: Hillsborough, New Hampshire
Photographer: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen
Date of Photographs: June 2008
Location of negative: 25 Ridge Road, Concord, NH 03301

Photo #1

View: Looking southeast at Union Chapel, showing front (north) and west elevations.

Photo #2

View: Looking northwest at Union Chapel, showing east elevation. Well appears at right.

Photo #3

View: Looking south in sanctuary, toward stage, showing early pews, original woodwork and colored-glass sash.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Union Chapel
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW HAMPSHIRE, Hillsborough

DATE RECEIVED: 12/23/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/12/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/27/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/05/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001411

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/3/09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Ladies Aid Society building significant
for social history - architecture.*

RECOM./CRITERIA A & C

REVIEWER Lisa Delune

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 2/3/09

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Photo #1
Union Chapel
Hillsborough, NH



Photo #2
Union Chapel
Hillsborough, NH

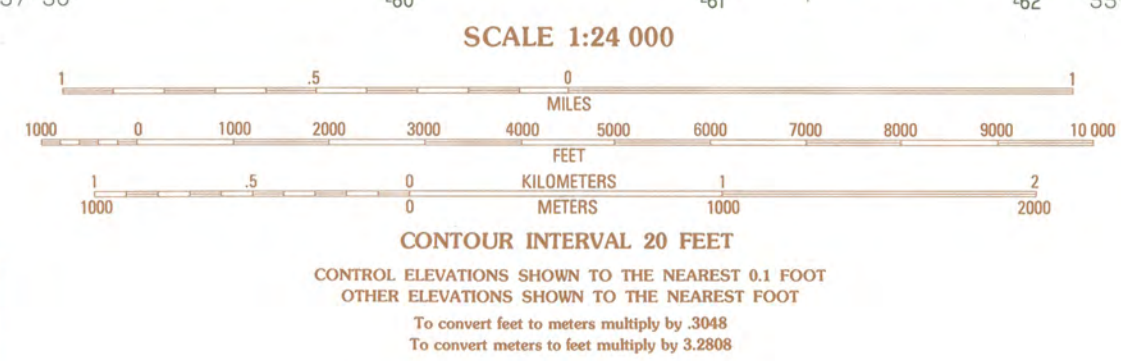


Photo #3
Union Chapel
Hillsborough, NH



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DERIVED FROM IMAGERY DATED.....1981
PHOTOINSPECTED USING IMAGERY TAKEN.....1995
NO MAJOR CULTURE OR DRAINAGE CHANGES OBSERVED
SURVEY CONTROL CURRENT AS OF.....1984
BOUNDARIES, OTHER THAN CORPORATE, VERIFIED.....1999
PROJECTION.....TRANSVERSE MERCATOR
1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID.....ZONE 19
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS.....NEW HAMPSHIRE
UTM GRID DECLINATION.....2°00' WEST
1999 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION.....15°30' WEST
VERTICAL DATUM.....NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1999
HORIZONTAL DATUM.....NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1927 (NAD 27)
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83
for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National
Geodetic Survey NADCON software
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
Federal and State reservations shown on this map

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography.



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Lovell Mountain (7 1/4' x 1 1/4')
4	5	6	2 Hillsboro Upper Village Hemlock 4 Soudan (7 1/4' x 1 1/4')
7	8	9	5 Deering 6 Marlborough (7 1/4' x 1 1/4')
			7 Peterborough North 8 Greenfield

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD LEGEND

Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail

○ Interstate Route ○ U. S. Route ○ State Route

HILLSBORO, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1995

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225





NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources
19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03301-3570
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
www.nh.gov/nhdhr

603-271-3483
603-271-3558
FAX 603-271-3433
preservation@nh.gov



December 17, 2008

Ms. Lisa Deline
National Park Service
Heritage Preservation Services
1201 Eye Street NW
6th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Lisa,

I hope that you are well and enjoying the winter season. I am pleased to present (this time WITH the photos) a nomination for Union Chapel in Hillsborough, NH for the National Register. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Peter Michaud
National Register
Preservation Tax Incentives
& Easements Coordinator



MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa Deline

From: Peter Michaud

Subject: Union Chapel

Date: February 3, 2009



Dear Lisa,

Thank you for your phone call. The Union Chapel map is enclosed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter Michaud".

Peter