

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 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 Union Church

other names/site number Union Church of New Haven Mills

2. Location

street & number Intersection of River Road and East Street a not for publication
city or town New Haven a vicinity
state Vermont code VT county Addison code 001 zip code 05472

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.)

Eric S. Hart Dep. SHPO 6/22/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
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 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): _____

Eric S. Hart Dep. SHPO 6/22/00
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 7-20-00

Union Church
Name of Property

Addison County, Vermont
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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Current Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility
Social

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Marble
walls Wood
Weatherboard
roof Asphalt
other Metal

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheet.

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Continuation SheetUnion Church
New Haven, Addison County, VermontSection number 7 Page 1**Description**

The 1851 Union Church of New Haven Mills, Addison County, Vermont, is located at the center of a once thriving mill village. Positioned high on a grassy knoll at the crossroads of East Street and River Road, the Union Church overlooks the New Haven River and is adjacent to the historic Lampson School. The church remains a well-preserved example of Greek Revival style architecture built by local builder Eastman Case. The church is a rectangular, wood clapboard structure, with front-facing gable roof, and heavy classical details. Distinctive features are the 20/20 windows, full entablature at the eaves and over the entry door, corner pilasters, gable pediment, and many interior details such as a pressed metal cornice and ceiling, wrought iron kerosene lamps, wood stoves, and classic moldings and details. The property is well preserved and retains its integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Exterior

The rectangular-massed Union Church is a one story, four bay deep, Greek Revival style structure with 20/20 double hung windows. Built in 1851, the post and beam structure with white clapboard siding and front gable pediment conveys a pure classical esthetic. The square Doric corner pilasters provide a bold frame for each facade. The pediment has a tympanum of horizontal flush board siding and is closed by a full entablature with a raking cornice of similar detail rising to the center ridge. Two brick chimneys, one on each side of the center gable ridge, located at the (north) rear roof line, were removed when the current asphalt shingle roof replaced the original slate tile roof. A double door centered on the front facade is the single commanding element to this elevation. Two wood steps lead up to the entry door, which is capped with a full entablature and flanked by Doric pilasters similar to those on the building corners. Each entry door has four vertical wood panels. There are two identical fixed vertical panels over each door creating a heightened appearance to the entrance and facade. The foundation is constructed of cut slabs of marble, dolomite and limestone.

The symmetrical sides, (east and west) have four bays, each containing seven foot high, 20/20 double hung, wood sash windows. The simple wood trim surround provides focus and emphasis on the window. The top of each window meets the entablature at the eave. The windows are large and give the appearance of there being more window than wall. The wood louvered shutters have been removed to storage.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Union Church
New Haven, Addison County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 2

Description (continued)

The (north) rear facade is a solid wall of clapboard siding. The returns of the open gable meet the tops of the corner pilasters and follow a raking cornice to the gable peak. The trim detail of the raking cornice repeats the front facade pediment.

The belfry, centered over the entrance door, extends above the front gable peak in plane with the front facade and consists of two tiers. First, a square block of horizontal flush board siding and plain corner Doric pilasters, serves as the base for the second tier open belfry. The second tier, stepped back from the square base, is a Queen Anne style belfry added in 1880. The upper belfry has two open, half-round wood arches per side with round wood cut-out details at the corners of each arch. A vertical wood panel perimeter rail, with three panels at the base of each arch matches the panels of the entrance doors. The green metal pyramid roof of the tower contains a decorative triangular wood dormer on each of the four planes. The insert of the triangular dormer is white painted vertical flush siding. There is a weather vane at the peak of the belfry roof.

Interior

The double wooden front doors lead into an entryway. A single window cut in half by the ceiling, illuminates the entry space on the east and west walls. The upper sash of both windows appears in the overhead crawl space, which provides access to the belfry. The interior wall, separating the entry from the sanctuary, has three six-panel wood doors. The two end doors open to aisles extending the length of the sanctuary to the chancel. The center door opens into an aisle space behind the last row of pews in the sanctuary.

Inside the sanctuary the full height of the space is accentuated by the three, seven foot tall windows on both side walls. Between the windows are mounted, cast iron kerosene lamps that still serve as the only source of artificial light. Two aisles extend the length of the church and divide ten rows of pews on either side. The arrangement of pews is specified in the original church charter to match those of the Congregational Church of Shoreham, Vermont, built in 1846. The pews' end panels and scrolled arm caps also match those of the Shoreham Congregational Church. The pews are painted white with the arm caps at the ends of the pews painted brown. Also painted brown is the trim cap of the pew back, along with the top trim board of the wainscot surrounding the perimeter of the sanctuary interior.

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Continuation SheetUnion Church
New Haven, Addison County, VermontSection number 7 Page 3**Description (continued)**

A coffered pressed metal ceiling and cornice added in the late 19th century extends throughout the sanctuary and entryway. A brown painted cornice of bows and swags serves as the border to a ceiling of square panels painted white. A large square panel, centered in the sanctuary ceiling once served as the frame for a kerosene chandelier no longer present. Random plank wood flooring is painted brown and extends throughout the church.

In the east and west rear corners of the sanctuary are two wood burning stoves. Overhead stove pipes follow each aisle the full length of the sanctuary and exit the north wall over the chancel. One stove manufacturer is Wagner, Richmond & Smith of Troy, New York, dated 1852, and the second stove is from Champion Pennisular Stove Company of Detroit, Chicago and Buffalo, dated 1886. At the north end of the sanctuary is the chancel, which is raised two steps above the main floor. Cane chairs and a Victorian settee occupy the chancel along with an upright piano and a parlor organ. The organ was manufactured by Carpenter Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont, and the piano was manufactured by Baus Piano of New York. Centered on the wall over the chancel is an old black and white print of the Virgin Mary. To the west of the chancel, mounted on the wall, is a night and one day brass clock with wood casing by Chauncey Jerome of New Haven, Connecticut.

Four choir pews to the west side of the chancel are arranged perpendicular to the main pews of the sanctuary. A symmetrical set of pews on the east side no longer exist, but appear on the original church plan by Eastman Case. The raised platform of the chancel extends over this space and is now the area occupied by the organ and piano. Interior walls throughout the church are original plaster and painted green. There are voids where the plaster has failed, exposing the subsurface accordion lathe. This failure was due to the settling of the foundation, a problem which has since been repaired.

The site is a triangular wedge of land that at one time was bordered by roads on all sides. Currently the south and west boundaries are River Road and East Street respectively. A dirt swale along the east perimeter of the property indicates the path of an old road that once led to a covered bridge crossing the New Haven River to Munger Street. The Union Church serves as the focal point for the village of New Haven Mills and is one of the few remaining buildings of a flourishing mill community.

Union Church

Addison County, Vermont

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.2

UTM references

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>651340</u>	<u>4883680</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Lee William Moffitt

organization University of Vermont, H.P. Program date April 11, 1997

street & number 442 Main Street, Wheeler House telephone 802-656-3180

city or town Burlington state VT zip code 05405-0164

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 Union Church of New Haven (Susan Bennett)

street & number 1080 Munger Street telephone (802) 453-5300

city or town New Haven state VT zip code 05472-9602

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.

Union Church
Name of Property

Addison County, Vermont
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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

Social History

Period of Significance

1851 - 1950

Significant Dates

1851

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Case, Eastman

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:

IUM Special Collections

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New Haven, Addison County, VermontSection number 8 Page 1**Statement of Significance**

The Union Church of New Haven Mills, Vermont, built in 1851, is significant as a well-preserved example of a wood frame Greek Revival style church. Outstanding features of the Union Church are the temple-front gable entrance, bold classical detailing of corner pilasters, full entablature and pediments, and stylistic emphasis on the paneled front door and the oversized windows. Local builder Eastman Case successfully employed in the construction of the Union Church Grecian architectural influences popularized by master builder Asher Benjamin. Another unique element of the Union Church design is a later addition of a Queen Anne style belfry, circa 1880. The Union Church also reflects the prosperity of mid 19th century New Haven Mills. The Union Church represents the growth of New Haven Mills village. It served as a community focus, surrounded by numerous mills and industries. A substantial number of buildings within the village have been destroyed over time due to fire and floods. As one of the few remaining structures of New Haven Mills the architectural merit and long standing civic association of the Union Church ensures eligibility under criteria consideration A.

Historic Background and Significance

About 1780 New Haven grew around separate centers of industry and agriculture, establishing a geographic division of settlement, and a division between its religious communities. The village of New Haven Mills organized a congregation on November 15, 1797, six months after the neighboring New Haven village. Religious meetings were held in the New Haven district schoolhouse with services for the two communities conducted on an alternating schedule. The congregational societies from the village of New Haven Mills and the adjacent New Haven village merged on September 29, 1800. New Haven Mills had excellent water power, so many grist and saw mills, a tannery, triphammer shop, and wagon shop developed here early on. By the 1840's a congregation exceeding 200 prompted the village of New Haven Mills to consider erecting a permanent building for their own religious services. Paralleling the growth of the community, the industrial and agricultural prosperity of New Haven Mills' economy encouraged the building of the Union Church.

On March 22, 1851, the Society of New Haven Mills commenced with monthly meetings to

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New Haven, Addison County, VermontSection number 8 Page 2

Significance (continued)

locate a meeting house, define conditions for subscriptions, and to select a plan for the building. Thirty-nine subscribers pledged \$1,465 for the construction of the meeting house. The original articles of the Society required that subscribers demonstrate their religious affiliation. At the time of establishing the Union Church, different denominations were granted occupancy for the purpose of worship in proportion to the amount of their subscription. It is believed that the Union Church is one of the first ecumenical churches in Vermont for formally recognizing various denominations present within the community.

The Union Church is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style, popular in New Haven Mills and the state of Vermont during the mid 19th century. The 1851 charter of the Union Church directed the design to be, "a plan for a church 36 feet by 51 feet with 46 slips, a dome in place of a steeple, and interior walls of plaster Paris." The Society instructed a meeting house to be built of wood, following the plan of the Congregational Church of Shoreham, Vermont. The Shoreham Congregational Church is located in Addison County, several towns to the south of New Haven Mills. Built by James Lamb in 1846, the design of the Shoreham Congregational Church was inspired by designs in the pattern books of master builder Asher Benjamin, and served as a model for the classical detail elements and arrangement of the plan for the Union Church. The plan of the Union Church is recorded in the original charter and indeed does follow the plan of the Shoreham Congregational Church.

The Society of New Haven Mills commissioned local builder Eastman Case for the construction of the Union Church. Case's artistic sense of Greek Revival architecture is well demonstrated in surrounding homes that he built prior to the Union Church. A fine example of Case's work is the 1841 Amos Eddy house on VT Route 116 in Bristol Flats. The Eddy house is a simple rectangular massing with a monumental Doric portico. The grand scale of elements and Greek Revival styling is present in the Eddy design and also employed by Case in the design of the Union Church.

The design and details of the Union Church can be traced to Case's study of local buildings as well as style plates and examples found in architectural workbooks. The characteristics and philosophy of Greek Revival style architecture was conveyed to carpenters through handbooks popularized by master builders such as Asher Benjamin. The pew ends of the Union Church match the Shoreham Congregational Church and are patterned from a trim detail found in *The*

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New Haven, Addison County, VermontSection number 8 Page 3**Significance (continued)**

Builder's Guide (1839, Plate LXI) by Asher Benjamin. Details for impost moldings over the interior windows and doors of the Union Church can be found in Benjamin's book, *The Rudiments of Architecture* (1814, Plate XXV). The full entablature and classic details of the Union Church were an essential design element used by local builders and leaders of Grecian influenced architecture. The temple-like, gable-front pediment, along with the oversized main entrance and windows captures the essence of Case's work and the architectural fashion of the period. The truss system that allows for spanning large spaces is detailed in Benjamin's *The Country Builder's Assistant* (1797, Plate XXIX, Figure C). Case's application of Benjamin's examples from pattern books uses styles and construction techniques in a composition of symmetry, balance and order that represents Greek Revival style architecture embodied by the Union Church.

In the early part of the 20th century fire and flood destroyed many of the commercial buildings in the village of New Haven Mills. In 1912 a fire destroyed two mills and the covered bridge spanning the New Haven River. The 'Great Flood' of 1927 removed many of the remaining mills and businesses located along the New Haven River. With the loss of industry and the 'Great Depression' a decline of the local economy reduced the village to a crossroads of substantially fewer structures remaining from the mid to late 19th century. In 1929 the local community incorporated as the Union Church of New Haven to preserve the building that now stood empty and unused after nearly a century of community service. In 1943 Middlebury College student Burt Rolfe worked for two summers with a group of students repairing the structure. Prior to World War II Rolfe also conducted occasional services promising "Someday I will fill this church," following his wartime duty. Rolfe was killed on a European battlefield a month later and the church was filled for his memorial service in honor of his dedication to the Union Church.

Current efforts to preserve the Union Church have been the focus of the community while maintaining occasional Sunday services and social functions. A preservation grant awarded by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation for the repair of the foundation in 1990, combined with an archeological dig to assess the sensitivity of the surrounding area, has been one of the many ongoing efforts to preserve the structure. The Union Church serves as a reminder of a period of prosperity and the Greek Revival style architecture that flourished in New Haven Mills.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Union Church
New Haven, Addison County, Vermont

Bibliography

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Benjamin, Asher. *The Country Builder's Assistant, 1797*. New York: Da Capo Press, 1972.

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Bullard, Rev. Ward. Vermont Historical Gazetteer: The Annals of New Haven. Vol. 1.
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Farnsworth, Harold & Robert Rodgers. *A History of New Haven in Vermont, 1761 - 1983*.
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Addison County*. Montpelier, Vt.: 1992.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Union Church
New Haven, Addison County, Vermont

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is an irregular trapezoidal shaped lot. Starting at point A at the southwest corner of the intersection of East Street and River Road and going clockwise around the property at the inside of the road right of way,

proceed north approximately 348 feet along the west perimeter to point B,
thence proceed east approximately 92 feet along the north perimeter to point C,
thence proceed south approximately 348 feet along the east perimeter to point D,
thence proceed west approximately 210 feet along the south perimeter to starting point A.

The property is the original lot associated with the building. There is no recorded Deed for the property in the Town of New Haven Land Records.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the property historically associated with the Union Church.