NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JAN 29 2001

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OMB No.10024-0018

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	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1. Name of Property	
historic name Shoreham Congregational Church	
other names/site number N/A	<u> </u>
2. Location	
street & number School Street	tion
city or town Shoreham na vicinity	
state <u>Vermont</u> code <u>VT</u> county <u>Addison</u> code <u>001</u> zip code <u>057</u>	70
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this a 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.) Signature of certifying official/Title	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is: Da Da	te of Action
entered in the National Register See continuation sheet	2/01
determined eligible for the National Register	
See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the	
National Register removed from the National Register	
Register Other, (explain:)	

<u>Shoreham Congregational Chur</u> Name of Property	Addison County, Vermont County and State			
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
private public-local public-State public-Federal	building(s) district site structure object		11	_ sites _ structures
Name of related multiple (Enter "N/A" if property is not p	objects 1 Total Number of contributing resources previous listed in the National Register	_ Total		
Religious Buildings,si	tes& structures	n/a		 _
6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter Categories from instruct	Current Func (Enter Categorie	tions es from instructions)		
Religion/religious fac	Religious/Re	eligious Facility		
Social/meeting hall		Social/civic		
7. Description				
Architectural Classificati (Enter Categories from instruction		Materials (Enter categories	from instructions)	

walls Brick

foundation Limestone

roofSlate

other_Marble_____

Narrative Description

Greek Revival

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

See Continuation Sheet.

		am Congregational Church f Property	Addison County, Vermont County and State
8. 9	Sta	tement of Significance	
(Ma	ırk "	cable National Register Criteria 'x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the ty for the National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture
X	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Social History
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
\square	С	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.	Period of Significance
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
		ia Considerations "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates 1846
Pro	per	ty is:	1894
X	A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	1906
	В	removed from its original location.	Significant Person
	С	a birthplace or grave.	(Complete If Criterion B is marked above)
	D	a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation
	E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	N/A
	F	a commemorative property.	
	G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder Lamb, James
(Exp	lain	ive Statement of Significance the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) Jor Bibliographical References	
		graphy	
(Cite	the	books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or	
		ous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
Ц	p C	reliminary determination of individual listing (36 FR 67) has been requested	State Historic Preservation OfficeOther State agency
	p	reviously listed in the National Register	Federal agency
		reviously determined eligible by the National legister	Local government University
	d	esignated a National Historic Landmark	☑ Other
		ecorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
	re	ecorded by Historic American Engineering	

Record # _____

Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
creage of Property 1.84	
TM references lace additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 118 6 36 2 0 0 4 8 6 1 1 1 6 0 Zone Easting Northing 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Zone Easting Northing 4
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	see continuation sheet
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation she	et.)
11. Form Prepared By	
name / title Paul Wyncoop	
organization University of Vermont, H.P. Prog	ram date April 14, 1997
street & number Wheeler House	telephone <u>802 656-4006</u>
city or town Burlington	state <u>Vermont</u> zip code <u>05740</u>
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating	g the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties	s having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photograph	s 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 Shoreham Congregational Church	
street & number <u>School Street</u>	•
city or town Shoreham	state <u>Vermont</u> zip code <u>05770</u>

Addison County, Vermont

Shoreham Congregational Church

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.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7 Page1	Shoreham Congregational Church Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont
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Anchoring the western end of historic Shoreham village, and sitting prominently atop a small rise at the intersection of Main Street and School Street, is the Shoreham Congregational Church. The monumental front facade of the church faces east toward the village, and its grand Greek Revival architecture demonstrates that this is one of the villages most important structures. The church, built in 1846, is a rectangular, one story, three by four bay building with American bond brick load bearing walls, painted white wooden trim, marble accents. brick corner and wall pilasters and a rough cut limestone foundation. One fifteen over fifteen over fifteen sash window (original) and three twelve foot stained glass windows dating from 1903 on each side provide the building's fenestration. A five over twelve pitched gable slate roof with two slender brick chimneys and a prominent belfry with four clock faces caps the structure. Shoreham born master builder James Lamb utilized the designs of Asher Benjamin and employed high quality materials to express Greek Revival details like a three quarter facade portico with monumental wooden fluted Doric columns, a full entablature, marble lintels and bases, brick pilasters, full pedimented gable ends with solid wood tympanum, and a Greek Revival belfry. The interior maintains much of its original Greek Revival detailing. including original plaster and wainscoting, wooden pews, window trim, and altarpiece. The Shoreham Main Street (Route 74) runs east-west off of Route 22A and the village is defined on its east and west extremes by two houses of worship; St. Genieveve's wooden Roman Catholic Church on the eastern end (at the junction of Routes 22A and 74) and the Congregational Church approximately one-half mile to the west. Originally built on the town common and designed for use both as a church and the local government meeting house, the building maintains its historic integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Site

The building sits in the center of its lot with the ground gradually sloping away on all but the south side, where there is a level gravel parking area. From School Street there is a concrete sidewalk leading to the front steps of the building and a short driveway that leads into the parking lot. From the back of this lot a looping drive goes behind the church and connects to Main Street. Pine shrubs grow against the front of the church and a half-dozen maples of varying ages are scattered around the lot. The north side of the property also contains a granite memorial stone with a plaque honoring Levi Parsons Morton, son of a former pastor, who was born in Shoreham and later became vice-president of the United States under Benjamin Harrison.

The Front Facade

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7 Page2	Shoreham Congregational Church Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont
-----------------------	---

The front facade of the church is defined by its grand portico, which rises approximately twenty feet to the base of the gable end and is approximately eight feet in depth. It is capped by a full entablature with a flat roof, and at the base of each column is a marble plinth, each set into a concrete platform (not original) that is level with the main floor of the church. Eight concrete steps extending nearly the full width of the portico lead from grade up to the main entry. The outer boundaries of these steps are defined by two concrete pedestals, which are aligned with the two outer columns of the portico. Two handrails have been added in the center of the stairway.

Centered between the inner columns of the portico, the paired, four-paneled entry doors are set within an oversized surround nearly twelve feet high with classical columns and a full entablature. Above the doors four vertical panels are laid out side by side across the width of the entablature, giving the main entry a monumental appearance.

The brick plane of the facade is broken by four brick pilasters which protrude one bricklength from the wall. The center two pilasters are located directly behind the outer columns of the portico. The bases are rectangular pieces of limestone and the capitals, with their rectangular necks, fillets and abaci, are of wood. The tops of the pilasters meet the full entablature, which continues uninterrupted around the entire building. The cornice of this entablature consists of a plain corona and cymatium, and also serves as the base of the pediment. The triangular pediment is surrounded on its upper two sides by two thin bands of trim followed by a wider band, which is then finished with another small band before the pediment intersects the roof-edge fascia.

The final element of the front facade is the belfry, which sits on the main roof ridge, several feet back from the front of the building. This octagonal tower is actually a three-staged square tower with chamfered corners. The lowest stage contains four large panels facing north, south, east and west, all with black clock faces with golden Roman numerals and arms. The chamfered corners of this stage are paneled pilasters, and the southwest corner contains a small six pane window just above the roof ridge. The entire stage is capped with an entablature that recalls the main building. The second stage is of smaller diameter, but equal height, with center panels containing green wooden louvers on the four main sides and chamfered corners, each containing paired Ionic wooden columns and an extending entablature. The top stage of the tower is equal in diameter to the second, but is much shorter, containing four horizontal panels with stylized anthemion decoration on the main faces and paired scroll brackets on each of the corners. This is capped by a thin, two-piece fascia, on top of which sits an octagonal slate roof. The roof is crowned with a decorative brass and wrought iron windvane in the shape of an arrow.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7_	_ Page3_	Shoreham Congregational Church Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont
		

The North and South Facades

On the sides of the church the foundation is visible, with the lowest portions of the wall comprised of a smaller, rougher cut limestone, which were probably meant to be below grade. The above grade portion of the basement has three large four-by-four foot windows on the south side, and four such windows on the north side. All of these windows have ten over ten wooden sashes (two rows of five panes each) and painted white wood trim. On the south side there is a fourth opening toward the front corner of the building that contains an entry door to the basement. This paneled and windowed door is enclosed by a small, gable-roofed entryway of light construction, with two five-paneled wooden doors, and was built sometime after the original building. This entrance extends perpendicularly to the south wall, its peak barely rising over the level of the foundation. The foundation and basement are separated from the brick-walled main level of the building by a limestone beltcourse. From this beltcourse rises a flat brick wall, with corner and wall pilasters topped in the same manner as the front pilasters. The brick walls terminate at the base of the entablature that encircles the building. The bays formed by the pilasters all contain window openings that are equal in size, approximately four by twelve, and all have wooden sills and white marble lintels.

The window closest to the front of the building on both sides is of three sections; each sash approximately four feet by four feet with small panes: five panes across and three panes vertically. Much of the glass appears to be hand-blown. The other three windows are stained glass, installed around 1903 according to local sources. The glass contains a variety of bright colored panes, including vivid reds, and depicts religious scenes. These windows are also in three sections: a small operable lower section, a central section of approximately four feet by eight feet, and a top section. The top section is an arch filled by a circular wooden frame resting on two down-turned semi-circular frames set side by side. Within the arch and surrounding and filling these frames is stained glass. Outside of the arch painted white wood fills out the rest of the rectangular top section.

The Rear Facade

The back of the church is a flat, monolithic wall of brick, broken only by four brick pilasters. The foundation has a single door opening in the center, with a modern metal fire door, surrounded by a white, wooden frame. A blacktop walkway leads from the rear driveway up to this door. The limestone foundation is partially exposed on either side of the door.

The Chimneys

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	4	Shoreham Congregational Church Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont
Gection number_	-' —	i age _		Shorenam, Addison County, Vermont

Two brick chimneys break the plane of the south slope of the slate roof. The first is located several feet from the edge of the roof, aligned with the second brick pilaster from the front of the building in the wall below. The second chimney is three quarters of the way up the roofline at the back wall of the church. Both chimneys are slender and plain, rising to equal heights one or two feet above the roof ridge.

THE INTERIOR

The Basement

The basement level of the church is a large open space, formerly used as the Town Hall, and is accessed through either the side door on the south side or the door at the rear of the building. The ceiling, approximately eight feet high, is acoustical tile. The walls are very thick, as seen by the depth of the window sills, and are of plaster. The floor is carpeted, covering surfaces of wood flooring and concrete slab. There are restrooms, a kitchen, and mechanical space at the rear of the basement, and utility space, stairway and elevator at the front. These spaces are separated from the open meeting area by plaster-covered wood frame walls.

The Entry Hall

The main level can be reached via the elevator (added recently and located at the front of the building to the north of the main entry) or stairway from the basement, or by the main entry doors from the outside. All three passages lead to the entry hall of the church, located in the front quarter of the main floor. The entry hall is open and airy, with natural light provided by the clear glass windows on the north and south walls. The floors are refinished six inch pine, and the walls and ceilings of plaster. The ceiling height of approximately ten feet is limited by the fact that there is a balcony space above this area. Along the front (east) wall the main entry occupies the center, and to the north and south there are enclosed stairways and elevator shaft both up and down to the balcony and basement. These stairs are reached through sixpaneled wooden doors. Along the inner wall of the entry hall there are two paneled doors leading into the nave; one to the center-right, the other to the center-left.

The Nave

The nave is a large rectangular open area, with high plaster ceilings and walls, stained glass windows with full surround trim capped with a triangular pediment, three rows of wooden pews separated by two aisles, an ornate Greek Revival altar-piece, of two floor to ceiling Tuscan columns with composite capitals, (which provide the backdrop for the modest altar) and wall to wall red carpeting. The wooden altar has a painted white railing and is raised approximately two feet above the main floor. It is accessed via stairs on both its north and

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7 Page _	_5	Shoreham Congregational Church Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont
------------------------	----	---

south sides. From the ceiling four older, simple brass light fixtures hang from long chains (actual date unknown), and above these four white, modern ceiling fans circulate air in the nave's upper extremes. Currently painted a pale green, the walls start with a course of four inch wide wainscoting that rises approximately three feet with plaster above.

The main floor of the nave is dominated by simple, painted wooden pews with stained seats and trim which are divided into three rows; a single row of pews along both the north and south walls, and a double central row, halved by a wooden divider the height of the pews. There are also two distinct banks of pews in both the northwest and southwest corners of the nave, facing the altar. Currently the northwest bank is covered with a temporary wooden stage.

The balcony is no longer open to the nave, having been closed off by a solid plaster wall. Also, the original ceiling and wall trim are only partially visible from the nave, since a sloping plaster drop ceiling hides them. Both the balcony wall and the drop ceiling were probably installed at the same time. The balcony now houses the workings for the clock, as well as serving as a storage space. From this area the original Greek Revival plaster detail of the upper wall and ceiling is visible. A six-paneled door leads to a stairway within the tower from which the heavy post and beam wood construction of the roof and clock tower can be viewed. The construction is of very large (approximately two foot by two foot) main carrying beams of pine, or possibly chestnut.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number8 Page1	Shoreham Congregational Church Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont
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The Shoreham Congregational Church, built in 1846, is an exceptional example of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture in Vermont. Grand architectural features include a three quarter monumental portico with fluted Doric columns, full entablature, full pedimented gable ends, and a Greek Revival detailed belfry. Its high style conveys the importance of the building as a religious, social and civic center, and reflects the wealth of the area at the time from sheep farming. The structure embodies the spirit of the Greek Revival style as a powerful, ornate yet simple temple that speaks to democracy and freedom of religion in both style and function. Its straight lines and geometry, quality materials and workmanship, and unadorned fields of brick and slate contrast the strong Greek Revival details in a similar way to which the wealth and idealism of the congregation at the time contrasted their traditional Yankee values. The church meets National Register Criteria C in the area of architectural significance as one of the best examples of high style Greek Revival for religious buildings in Vermont and as a notable work of a Vermont master, James Lamb, who was born in Shoreham and lived there at the time of construction. It also meets National Register Criteria A, since its construction and grand style were made possible because of the great wealth accumulated in Shoreham from merino sheep farming and wool production, which was a local and state-wide agricultural trend that influenced the town, state and nation's history. Since the building also served as the site for all town meetings from 1846 until 1956, it also meets Criteria A for local significance through its role in local government and politics. The church is being nominated as part of a multiple property submission, "Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in Vermont" under the property type "Churches" and clearly meets the registration requirements for the property type church. This church meets Criteria consideration A as a religious property because it derives primary significance from architectural distinction and historical importance.

Historical Background

Prominently located on a small hill at the west end of Shoreham village, the Shoreham Congregational Church serves as a visual, as well as religious and community landmark to the small settlement. The church as it stands today was built in 1846, and its architectural style and history reflect the economic fortunes of the Town of Shoreham. The Town, located near Lake Champlain in central-western Vermont, was chartered in 1761. The first Congregation was formally organized on March 25, 1794 by Reverend Ammi R. Robbins and Reverend Peter Starr, both missionaries from Connecticut. In its early years the Congregation employed both a native American preacher on occasion, and noted black cleric the Reverend Lemuel Haynes. In 1800 a very large wooden meeting house was built based on the design of the Worcester, Massachusetts meeting house. This structure was constructed near the site of the current church, reportedly had a capacity for more than one thousand people and cost

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number_	_8	Page _	_2	Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont

approximately six thousand dollars. For the next 46 years this building served the congregation, during which the church's first revival, led by the Reverend Jedediah Burchard in 1835, netted 173 new members.

In 1809, Merino sheep from Spain, with their high quality heavy fleece, were introduced into Vermont, Addison County, particularly Shoreham and Orwell, proved to be ideal for the raising of these sheep due to the flat fertile lands of the area. With the opening of the Champlain Canal in 1823, Vermont was connected to the Hudson River and other water transportation systems. Shoreham, with Lake Champlain access at nearby Larabee's Point, thrived as both a wool production and distribution center, and was tied into the markets of New York City and the expanding western United States. The wool industry was stimulated by both the opening of the canal and by the effects of the federal tariff of 1823 which encouraged manufacture and trade in the United States. One of the sponsors of the tariff. Senator Charles Rich, was from Shoreham, and invested in a large flock of Merinos. Proportionally, by the mid 1830s, Addison County had more sheep per acre and more wool production than any other county in the United States. In 1837 the population of sheep in the county was more than 159,000 and by 1840 this number had risen to over 260,000. In Shoreham these numbers were 26,584 in 1837 and 41,188 in 1840. While sheep farming peaked in Addison County in 1840, the production of wool did not decline much in the next ten years due to better stock and more wool per sheep. Thus, throughout the 1840s the wool trade continued to flourish in Shoreham. Wool products originating in Addison County were distributed all over the United States and the fine quality wool from Vermont was world renown. Sheep farmers, merino breeders, land owners and wool distributors all prospered from the trade, and the wealth from the period is still evident today in the historic architecture of the region.

Church Construction

In 1845 the Congregation asked the Town of Shoreham for permission to build a meetinghouse on the town common. This was granted and in 1846 the Town asked the Congregation for the privilege of holding Town and Freemen's meetings in the basement of the new meetinghouse. On April 12, 1847, the Congregation voted unanimously to dispose of the old meetinghouse and on March 27, 1848, the building was sold to Mr. Blanchard for \$440 who decided that it would serve better as a wool warehouse and moved it to Larabee's Point.

In 1846 the current structure, planned as both a religious meeting house and a town meeting site, was built at a cost of over seven thousand dollars. The style selected was Greek Revival, a very popular style in Vermont at the time, and also strongly representative of democracy,

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number8 Page3	Shoreham Congregational Church Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont
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freedom and order. The design was most likely taken from The Practice of Architecture, the 1833 architecture guide by Asher Benjamin. Asher Benjamin was a renown American-born architect of Federal and Greek Revival buildings and publisher of numerous books and catalogues of design. Benjamin's first book The Country Builders Assistant of 1797, was designed to help American builders design and construct buildings of the Federal style in specifically American styles and methods. The Country Builders Assistant was the first book on architecture in America by both an American author and publisher. In the 1830s Benjamin began publishing books concentrating on the Greek Revival Style and by 1843 had produced four different volumes on Greek Revival architecture and building methods. The design selected for the Shoreham Congregational Church appears to be closely based on drawings from The Practice of Architecture, specifically plate 53, and from Benjamin's Builders Guide of 1839, plates 58, 59, 60 & 61. The church did not replicate these designs exactly, but utilized many of the features and combined many elements from the different drawings. In selecting the Greek Revival style put forth by Benjamin, the Shoreham Congregation supported Benjamin's philosophy concerning the appropriateness of Greek Revival architecture for Churches. In the Practice of Architecture Benjamin states:

A House erected for the worship of the Supreme Being, should correspond in character with the reverential feelings of those who assemble within it. While, therefore, we aim at elegance in the form of the columns, pilasters, entablatures, ceilings, windows, and doors, let it be a grave and simple elegance, and not the gaudy kind.

Shoreham born and raised master builder James Lamb is credited with the construction of the building by the Hemenway's Vermont Gazetteer of 1860 and by Reverend Josiah Goodhue's 1861 *History of Shoreham* (a search revealed no contemporary evidence of construction or design). Previous to his work on the Shoreham Congregational Church, Lamb had become well-known for his Greek Revival houses in Shoreham, Orwell and Middlebury, especially the grand Wilcox-Cutts house in Orwell, built in 1843. He also did interior renovation work in the Greek Revival style to the Middlebury Congregational Church, and built the Greek Revival Kelsey-Sullivan house in Salisbury. Lamb utilized the designs of others to create magnificent Greek Revival structures of the finest materials. His specialty was in the Greek Revival style, often utilizing the guidelines and styles set forth in the books by Benjamin. When styles changed and the public demanded different types of buildings, Lamb's practice declined. Unwilling or unable to change Lamb took his own life in 1871.

During the construction of the Shoreham Church, James Lamb lived in Shoreham, overseeing the construction of the building. The building's solid construction of brick, massive timber rafters and slate roof combined with marble, limestone and wood detailing, displays both long

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	_	_		Shoreham Congregational Church
Section number_	_8	Page _	_4	Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont

lasting craftsmanship and the wealth of the patrons at the time. The Greek Revival style and monumental shape of the structure give it the appearance of a Greek Temple in brick. The building is monumental yet simple, ornate yet refined. The materials are elegant and of the highest quality, but they are appropriate in scale and usage. By utilizing the Greek Revival style in this manner, the Congregational Church in Shoreham is able to praise democracy, religious freedom and Yankee reserve simultaneously.

Recent History

The Church functioned in its duel capacity as religious and civic meeting house continuously until 1956, when the town hall was moved to the Shoreham School. In 1894 the Congregation celebrated its centennial with its second revival. In 1994 a bicentennial was held, for which a church history was prepared and restoration was completed on the belfry, and in November of 1996 the Church celebrated the 150th anniversary of the building.

During the history of the building no major architectural changes have been made to alter the structural integrity of the building. There were, however, two notable alterations. The first took place in 1903 when enough money was raised by the congregation to replace six out of eight of the original windows with stained glass windows. These windows are of particularly high quality for the region, and feature rare red hues in the panes. The scenes depicted include religious themes utilizing both agricultural and maritime symbolism. The second major alteration was by the town in 1906. The church belfry was converted into a clock tower with four prominent faces being added to each side of the tower structure. Since the tower is prominently visible from all parts of the village, and since the town had shared use of the building since its construction, it was deemed appropriate to utilize the tower as a timepiece for the community. During these renovations the clock's workings were placed in the area of the choir loft and a plaster wall was installed at the rear of the church, cutting of this former balcony from the rest of the nave.

NPS Form 10-900-a OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number_	9	Page _	_1	Shoreham Congregational Church Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number10 Page1	Shoreham Congregational Church Shoreham, Addison County, Vermont
Boundary Description	
Town of Shoreham, Town Common, Town Lot 57.	
Boundary Justification	
This town lot retains its original boundaries and is building.	the lot historically associated with the