

OMB NO. 1050-0018
EXP. 12-31-78

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received APR 10 1985

date entered MAY 9 1985

1. Name

historic Advent Chapel

and/or common Pond Road Chapel (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Pond Road, town highway #2 N/A not for publication

city, town Vernon N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Vermont code 50 county Windham code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: meeting hall

4. Owner of Property

name Vernon Historians Inc.

street & number N/A

city, town Vernon N/A vicinity of state Vermont 05354

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Vernon Town Clerk's Office

street & number P.O. Box 116

city, town Vernon state Vermont 05354

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 11/12/71 federal state county local

depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

city, town Montpelier state Vermont 05602

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Advent Chapel, commonly known as the Pond Road Chapel, is a 3 x 3 bay, 1-story gable-roofed, clapboarded vernacular Greek Revival structure with a pedimented principal facade. It is located near the geographic center of Vernon, which borders the Connecticut River in the southeast corner of Vermont and is situated on a level upland formerly exclusively relegated to farming. Recent subdivision of mid-nineteenth century farms is scattered along Pond Road and concentrated at its intersection with Huckle Hill Road to the South. The chapel exhibits original 19th century materials, including historic ceiling and border wallpaper, and interior furnishings.

The one story, gable roofed chapel of 3 x 3 bays has a post and beam frame and is set on a brick foundation measuring approximately 24' x 34'. The slate gable roof has an interior brick ridge chimney with a corbelled cap projecting from the west rear. Sided with original clapboards, the simple structure is further articulated with corner-boards, plain watertable, fascia boards and a widely overhanging box cornice with gable returns on the west rear and a flush boarded pediment on the east front facade. Sash is 6/6 with plain trim and simple unmolded cornices. Louvered wood shutters held open with iron 'S' fasteners flank the windows. The three bay principal facade has a central entrance with a door having two tiers of vertical raised panels, those on top being the longest, all set in plain trim with a simple unmolded cornice. Small wooden louvered vents are located just below the fascia boards on the side facades and in a similar location on the otherwise blind rear facade.

Certain exterior construction details are important to note as virtually all of the materials are original. The clapboards are fastened with cut nails supplemented with an occasional wire nail and are applied with 3½" exposed to the weather on the principal front facade and 4½" exposed on the south, west and north facades. Sash is set in openings measuring 6' 4" x 3' and exhibit some original crown glass and all original iron latches. The original shutters measure 18½" x 6'5½" and the door measures 7'5¼" x 4'.

The interior of the chapel is plaster on lath with plain baseboards, chairrails, windows with plain trim and unmolded cornices, boards with iron clothes hooks in all four corners and 10-12" wide board floors fastened with wire nails. Of particular importance is the historic late 19th c. tan-colored ceiling paper which is decorated with clouds and gold stars and a border paper with garlands of flowers and gold ribbons, all in unrestored condition. The pulpit, organ and choir areas are on a simple raised platform at the west rear.

Interior furnishings are nineteenth century and include: original oil lamps and brackets; a jacquard ingrain woven carpet in the aisles with green, gold, yellow, cream and orange hues woven in floral patterns; deacon's benches or pews in three sections with curved armrests, plain spindles, bookracks underneath and creamy yellow paint with a pinstripe; and three captain's chairs at the rear of the pulpit to match the pews.

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The "cottage organ" is made by J. Estey & Co. of nearby Brattleboro, Vermont, and is #18,501. The drop leaf altar table with turned legs is in front of a bible stand with a chamfered post which holds a "Hardings Medium Edition" Bible of 1860. A "Champion #7 cast iron box woodstove sits in the southeast corner of the chapel, with its stovepipe also heating the interior by running down the center aisle and into the chimney above the pulpit. Electric light fixtures of c. 1920 are on chains hanging from the ceiling and have white molded glass globes.

The condition of the finish of both the interior and exterior are good, with peeling paint, cracked plaster and hanging ceiling paper the most outstanding problems. Some deterioration of floor joists is evident from the center of the side foundation wall where there are vent spaces.

Horse sheds originally lined the west and north perimeter of the chapel property. They are no longer standing.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1860 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Pond Road Chapel is a very good example of vernacular Greek Revival architecture as practiced in rural Vermont. Its historic nineteenth century fabric, including unusual ceiling and border wall paper, and its original interior furnishings remain intact. The Advent Chapel was built in the outlying farming district of Vernon by the Second Advent Society in 1860. It has been in continuous use by the Second Advent Society and its successor, the Advent Christian Church, since its construction.

People in Vernon who embraced the doctrine of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ first met in homes and schoolhouses to conduct their services. By the year 1860, numbers of believers had grown to such an extent that a Second Advent Society was formed and arrangements were made to lease land from George W. Lee on what was then South, or City Road, in order that a chapel be constructed.¹ Enthusiasm was such that the chapel, which could seat 150 persons, was begun in May and formally dedicated in July of 1860, for a cost of \$1,000.² The original lease provides interesting details, such as that horse sheds were to be erected on the west and north sides of the lot, with a "good and sufficient board fence" completing the enclosure of the lot at any place not having sheds.³ Also interesting to note is the fact that quite a bit of writing was given to describing George Lee and his heirs' right to all of the manure that would accumulate on the lot.⁴ The committee who signed the deed for the Second Advent Society were: Eleazor G. Scott, William H. Hewton and Robert Allen.⁵

The Adventists believed in full immersion for baptism and used the nearby Connecticut River on the site of the old ferry.⁶ However, the baptism site was later changed to Robert Allen's ice pond in the interests of safety.⁷

Many outstanding speakers have spoken from the Chapel pulpit over the years. These have included D. L. Moody, Ira Sankey, George Sederquest, Dr. J. William Denton, Reverend I. M. Blanchard, and Joshua Himes.⁸

The Chapel was the primary place of worship for the Adventists until a larger church was built in South Vernon in 1909.⁹ The Advent Chapel continued to be used, with mid-week services during warm weather and later with a less frequent series of Sunday evening meetings in August. In 1969 the Vernon Historians, who were interested in preserving the building, leased the building from the Advent Christian Church and the land from Arthur, Hattie and Theodore Streeter.¹⁰ The exterior was painted at that time and windows repaired, with the interior undergoing a thorough cleaning. In 1984, title to the building and land was transferred to the Vernon Historians in order to continue its preservation, with the stipulation that the Advent Christians Church have the right to conduct services there.¹¹

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .3 acres
 Quadrangle name Bernardston Mass. - Vt.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>13</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>15</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u> <u>10</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deborah S. Noble

organization Keep It Up Associates date October, 1984

street & number RFD Box 85 telephone (802) 695-2507

city or town Concord state Vermont

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Greg Gilbertson*

title Director, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation date 4/4/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Shelaine Byers date 5-9-85
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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This small, simple chapel in the midst of the farmland of Vernon retains its original nineteenth century appearance and finish due, in part, to the reduced financial circumstances of its previous owners. The present owners intend to undertake needed repairs and establish a program of preservation of the existing materials and finishes where possible, only replacing those materials that have deteriorated beyond repair.

Thus, with the transfer of the care of the building to those better able to perform it, worship services will be able to continue in Advent Chapel for many years to come.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Vera Vaughan, Pond Road Chapel, (Vernon, VT, 1984), notes compiled from various sources.

2. Abbie M. Hemenway, Vermont Historical Gazetteer, vo. V, (Brandon, VT: Mrs. Carrie E. H. Page, 1891), p. 279; Hamilton Child, Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windham County, VT, 1724-1884, (Syracuse, NY: The Syracuse Journal C., 1884), p. 304; Vernon Land Records, Book 9, page 202. Note however that there is some discrepancy in the date that the Second Advent society was organized: Child says that the Second Advent Church was organized by its first pastor, Rev. Solomon Cook, in 1874, rather than in 1860, as Vaughan states. Child does say that the chapel was built in 1860. The original lease of 1860, however, mentions a "committee of the Second Advent Society", implying that the society had already been formed.

3. Vernon Land Records, op. cit., Book 9, page 202.

4. Ibid.

5. Ibid.

6. Vaughan, op. cit.

7. Ibid.

8. Ibid.

9. Ibid.

10. Ibid.

11. Vernon Land Records, op. cit., Book 45, pages 252-253.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Child, Hamilton, Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windham County, VT, 1724-1884. Syracuse, NY: The Syracuse Journal Co., 1884.

Hemenway, Abbie M., Vermont Historical Gazetteer, vol. V. Brandon, VT: Mrs. Carrie E. H. Page, 1891.

Vaughan, Vera, Pond Road Chapel, Vernon, VT, 1984, notes compiled from various sources.

Vernon Land Records.

Washburn, A. H., esq., and Lucinda W. B. Washburn, The History of the Town of Vernon. Ludlow, VT: A. H. Hemenway, 1885.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary begins at Point A, located at a stake and stones in the northeast corner of the property at the intersection of the easterly extension of a line running parallel to and approximately 54' north of the north wall of the Chapel and a line running along the west boundary of the right of way of Pond Road (town highway #2). The boundary then proceeds 132' generally southerly along said line to Point B, located at a stake and stones in the southeast corner of the property at the intersection of said line with the easterly extension of a line running parallel to and approximately 54' south of the south wall of the Chapel. The boundary then proceeds 99' generally westerly along said extension, said line and an easterly extension thereof to a stake and stones in the southwest corner of the property, located at the intersection of said line with the southerly extension of a line running parallel to and approximately 40' west of the west rear wall of the Chapel. The boundary then proceeds 132' generally northerly along said extension, said line, and a northerly extension thereof, to a stake and stones in the northwest corner of the property located at the intersection of the northerly extension of said line and a westerly extension of a line parallel to and approximately 54' north of the north wall of the Chapel. The boundary then proceeds 99' generally easterly along said extension, said line, and an easterly extension thereof, to a stake and stones in the northeast corner of the lot, Point A, the point of beginning. The boundary describes the property held in common ownership with the chapel, is coextensive with the property lines and is described on pages 252-253 of Book 45 of the Vernon Land Records. The lot is rectangular and measures 99'x132', containing .3 acres.

ADVENT CHAPEL
VERNON, VERMONT
OCTOBER 1984

