

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received *APR 29 1981*
date entered

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

1. Name *Union Church*

historic IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

and/or common UNION CHURCH (preferred)

2. Location

street & number South Main Street, Route 28 South not for publication

city, town South Wolfeboro vicinity of congressional district First

state N.H. code 33 county Carroll code 003

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Immanuel Baptist Church

street & number South Main Street

city, town Wolfeboro vicinity of state N.H. 03894

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Registry of Deeds
Carroll County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square, PO Box #208, Route 171

city, town Ossipee state N.H. 03864

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Union Church is a rectangular wooden building with clapboarded walls, a gable roof, and a split granite foundation without basement. The structure is oriented with one gable end facing the road and treated as the facade. The first story of this elevation has a porch which is recessed eight feet into the body of the building and is screened by two square Doric columns and two antae placed at regular intervals. At the right and left ends of this recess are two doors of typical Greek Revival design, having four flat panels surrounded by applied mouldings of Grecian ovolo profile and simple flat casings. The columns of the porch support a wooden entablature which spans the recess.

The second story of the facade has three equally-spaced windows which originally lighted a gallery above the front doors. These windows have 6/6 sashes and simple casings of square-edged boards. Above the windows is a projecting cornice which includes a Grecian ovolo crown moulding and is supported by wide corner boards which are decorated with capitals to resemble Doric pilasters. The cornice embraces the entire building and, with a similar raking cornice, creates a triangular pediment on the front. Near the front of the ridge is a low three-stage tower having a square first story with clapboarded walls, square-edged corner boards, and a moulded cornice. Above this is an octagonal belfry with flush-boarded sides and four openings with elliptical-arched tops. This stage is capped by a moulded cornice, above which is a low dome with a short spire and a weathervane in the form of a fish.

The north and south sides of the building each have three large windows with 16/12 sashes glazed with old clear glass. The rear window on the south elevation is covered by a small, modern wing, but has not been removed.

The interior of the building is a single auditorium measuring about 35 feet square. It has a low platform at the west end, opposite the front doors. Doors at the east end of the auditorium provide access to closets and to stairs leading to the former gallery.

Original appearance: The building has changed little since its completion. The original gallery over the porch on the east end facing the platform at the opposite end of the auditorium, was closed off from the main room in 1905. The building was originally fitted with 38 pews, which have been removed and stored. The church originally had two chimneys on the west wall; one has been removed to a point below the roof. A flight of stairs which originally extended the full width of the porch has been reduced to the width of the southern interval between columns, the other two intervals being barred by a lattice railing.

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 checked="" 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 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 Built in 1845 by a group of villagers. **Builder/Architect** Henry B. Rust, Gilman Folsom, Geo. Rust, Jos. R. Davis, Nathaniel Hicks, Daniel Wiggin, Wm. Pinkham, Henry L. Rust, and Ezra Pinkham.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Union Church is a typical rural New Hampshire meeting house in the Greek Revival style. The building reflects simple architectural features shared by a number of other small meeting houses in a town which was notable in the nineteenth century for the diversity of its sects and for a high degree of religious activity. Religious fervor in Wolfeboro demanded the construction of no less than sixteen church buildings during the 1800s. Like the majority of these buildings, Union Church incorporates simple stylistic elements derived from the Greek Revival style which prevailed in both domestic and institutional architecture in New Hampshire during the mid-1800s. The porch of two columns in antis, the triangular pediment, and the square tower, in particular, emulate similar features seen on such local buildings as the Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro Academy. Built in 1821 in Wolfeboro village, this structure eventually acquired a tetrastyle Doric portico, characteristic Greek Revival detailing, and a two-stage belfry reminiscent of the one on the church. Other religious buildings in Wolfeboro also provided a context for the Greek Revival features of Union Church, notably the Christian meeting house (1838), the North Wolfeboro Union meeting house (1840), and the East Wolfeboro Free-Will Baptist/Methodist meeting house (ca. 1845). Union Church is, therefore, typical of its period and locale in every respect and is important as one of many small Greek Revival meeting houses which survive in its region and document a period of intense religious activity in the mid-nineteenth century.

Union Church is one of sixteen buildings constructed within the township of Wolfeboro in the nineteenth century to accommodate an intense religious fervor which resulted in the establishment of a diversity of sects. Most of these churches shared aspects of Arminianism and thus were frequently willing to cooperate with one another in the construction of meeting houses for their common use. Union Church is such a building, having been built by people who accepted various religious views. Universalists were predominant among the builders, but the pulpit was kept open to preachers of every view and was seldom filled by a Universalist minister.

The religious diversity which provided the impetus for the construction of Union Church began in Wolfeboro in the late 1700s. Town meeting house, built between 1788 and 1792, was never associated with a settled minister of the Congregational Church, as was commonplace in the majority of New Hampshire towns. Instead, the first church organized in Wolfeboro was Free-Will Baptist—a religion which had been founded by Benjamin Randall (1749–1808) in the neighboring town of New Durham in 1780. The Wolfeboro Church, organized under the direct authority of Randall, was characterized by an Arminian or "experiential" theology which repudiated the predestinarianism that prevailed among the Calvinistic Congregationalists and Presbyterians of New England. The direct participation and self-examination required of adherents to the Free-Will Baptist religion soon manifested itself in the establishment of other sects with similar viewpoints.

Among the first of these were the Christians or Christians, another Arminian sect of local origin. Elder Mark Fernald (1784–1851), a prominent Christian minister, carries out some of his earliest itinerant preaching in the Wolfeboro area in 1811. A church was formed there

9. Major Bibliographical References

Unpublished manuscripts--Records of the First Universalist Society in Wolfeboro, 1-4-1834.
 Records of the Re-organization of the Union Church at South Wolfeboro, 4-30-1895.
 Copies of these histories are available in the Wolfeboro Public Library, or from
 John A. Wiggin, Ida Pineo, Wilma Grant, or Beverly A. Goodrich, all of Wolfeboro, N.H.

-see continuation sheet #2-

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one

Quadrangle name Wolfeboro, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:625000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax map 4, lot 18, block 2, from Tax Assessor's Records, Wolfeboro, NH.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beverly A. Goodrich

organization Society for the Preservation of the Union Church of South Wolfeboro date November 28, 1981

street & number Pine Hill Road, RFD #1, Box #295 telephone 603-569-3391

city or town Wolfeboro state N.H. 03894

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date February 23, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

 date 4/24/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 4/27/82

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

New Hampshire



Continuation sheet #1-SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

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in 1812, eventually constructing its own meeting house in 1838. The Christians and Free-Will Baptists shared a sufficient number of tenets that they joined together to build the town's first union meeting house in 1841 at Wolfeboro Center. In several similar instances, Free-Will Baptists joined local Methodists to construct meeting houses which they shared in common. These cooperative experiments prepared the way for the building of Union Church at South Wolfeboro in 1845. Union Church is thus typical of the nineteenth-century religious attitudes of its locale not only in representing the interests of a diversity of sects, but also in demonstrating their cooperation toward a common goal.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

New Hampshire



National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet #2-MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

Item number 9

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REFERENCES

Much of this information came from my father, John A. Wiggin, whose ancestors lived in this section of the town from 1811 to the present time. John A. Wiggin is now 69 years of age, has lived in South Wolfeboro all his life. His father, Willie A. Wiggin worked in the blanket mill, and as a boy, my father observed first-hand the buildings, and can relate the many goings-on in South Wolfeboro. I interviewed him several times during the month of November 1981.

(Juliet E. E. Peverley of Chestnut Cove Road, Alton, N.H. has these histories, also.)