

ONE MILLION
EXT. 1000

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 25 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic OLD BRICK CHURCH

and/or common RICHMOND COMMUNITY CHURCH (preferred)

2. Location

street & number State Route #119; Fitzwilliam Road, not for publication

city, town Richmond vicinity of congressional district (2nd)

state N.H. code 33 county Cheshire code 005

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name New Hampshire Conference of the United Methodist Church

street & number Box #505

city, town Contoocook vicinity of state New Hampshire 03229

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cheshire County Courthouse/Registry of Deeds

street & number 12 Court Street

city, town Keene state New Hampshire 03431

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Richmond Community Church is a brick structure with its northern gable end treated as the facade. The building has a wood-frame gable roof covered with slate and a two-stage belltower placed at the front of the ridge. The brick walls are laid in running bond on a curb or plinth of split granite blocks which are hammered to a smooth surface on the front wall; these blocks, in turn, rest upon footings of split fieldstone.

Detailing of the facade (north elevation) of the building is intended to suggest a hexastyle Doric portico. The facade has three pairs of brick antae or pilasters which project about two inches from the plane of the wall. These bear capitals of corbelled bricks and support a brick architrave eleven courses deep, without separate fascias. Above this architrave is a projecting cornice which extends around the building and has an ovolo-and-cavetto bed moulding and a large Grecian ovolo crown moulding.

Between the middle and outer pairs of pilasters are two doorways with hammered granite steps and thresholds, wooden casings bearing corner blocks and central panels of convex profile, sidelights set into reeded reveals, and eight-panel doors. Above each doorway is a window. These windows have 6/6 sashes and illuminate a gallery placed above the first-floor entry.

The roof gable is treated with a horizontal cornice to create a closed pediment. The tympanum of the pediment is covered with horizontal wooden sheathing and is pierced by three windows with moulded casings and square corner blocks. The two outer windows have 9/9 sashes and the middle window has 12/12 sashes. These windows light a finished attic which was originally used as a Sunday school room.

The lower stage of the two-stage tower is marked by wide, flat corner boards which rise from a plinth to support a flat architrave and a cornice with bed and crown mouldings. The walls of this stage are sheathed with horizontal boarding like that used on the tympanum below. The second stage of the tower is an open belfry set upon a stereobate of three steps. Each corner is supported by a cluster of three pilasters with Doric capitals and recessed central panels. These pilasters support a full Doric entablature which includes a flat architrave, a frieze bearing widely-spaced triglyphs, and a mutuled cornice. The belfry houses a bell cast by George Handel Holbrook of East Medway, Massachusetts, in 1840.

The interior of the building consists of an entry with corner stairs leading to the gallery and the attic chamber, and an auditorium. The auditorium is separated from the entry by a partition beneath the gallery; this has two doors on the same axes as the exterior doors. The gallery is supported by two Tuscan columns which bear a full entablature and, above that, a panelled front. The center of the gallery is recessed in a segmental arc. The entire gallery area has been partitioned off from the auditorium by a wall of matched and beaded boarding.

The auditorium is a fully plastered room with simple square-edged door and window casings. Its flat ceiling merges with the walls in a cove of small radius. The pews are all slip seats with panelled ends. The room retains its nineteenth-century chandelier for kerosene lamps, with additional modern electrical fixtures.

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 1837 **Builder/Architect** Timothy Pickering

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Richmond Community Church is a well-preserved religious structure which represents an important link in a local tradition of brick architecture. This tradition began with the early work of local architect Ammi Burnham Young (1798-1874), who later achieved national prominence. Buildings in the group include secular as well as religious structures which were constructed by local builders active in the lower Connecticut River Valley of New Hampshire during the Greek Revival period. The Richmond Church is the southernmost example and the earliest of a series of related brick churches which are found over a distance of some fifty miles along the Connecticut River of New Hampshire.

Significance, architecture: The Richmond Community Church was built in 1838 by a local Unitarian society who sold a half interest before the structure was completed to the First Baptist Society of Richmond. The building is distinguished from most New Hampshire religious structures of its period by its use of brick pilasters across the facade to simulate a portico. This use of brick, distinct from the earlier Federal-style tradition of plain brick walls or of relieving arches for meeting house facades, gives the Richmond Church a distinct Greek Revival character which is heightened by the detailing of the belfry.

This tradition of brick detailing in the Greek Revival style had its beginning in the Connecticut Valley about 1828, when local architect Ammi Burnham Young, a native of nearby Lebanon, New Hampshire, was employed to design Wentworth and Thornton Halls at Dartmouth College. Young gave these brick buildings gable-end facades, low-pitched roofs with recessed tympanums, and severe stone doorways.

The Richmond Church is the earliest of a group of brick buildings, some of them designed by Young, which later applied the precedents established by Wentworth and Thornton Halls to the development of a mature regional Greek Revival style. Under construction by August, 1838, the Richmond Church set the pattern for religious and secular buildings that would soon follow in its tradition. The church differs from later buildings in the group mainly in having wooden rather than brick gables.

The other buildings in the group followed in quick succession. In 1839, a brick Congregational church was constructed in Plainfield, fifty miles north of Richmond. Although this building has a flat facade, it is significant in having a projecting tablet in the center of its wooden tympanum--a feature which would soon be combined with the pilastered front of the Richmond church as an element of the local style. The Plainfield Congregational Church also had a two-stage wooden tower which is more fully evolved than that of the Richmond Church and established the precedent for other buildings to follow. Between 1839 and 1840, Reed Hall was constructed at Dartmouth College from plans by Ammi Young; it has brick corner pilasters which recall those on the Richmond Church. In 1839, Young also appears to have designed an addition to his earlier Kimball Union Academy (1825) at Plainfield. This addition, which immediately became the dominant portion of the building, had four brick pilasters across the front and a two-stage tower nearly identical with that of the Plainfield Congregational Church of the same period. The academy also had a

9. Major Bibliographical References

-See Continuation Sheet #2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property @ 1/3 acre

Quadrangle name KEENE, NH-VT

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A	1 8	7 2 3 3 0 0	4 7 3 6 9 5 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification: Tax Assessor's Map #5, Sec. C, Lot #5. The nominated property includes all land & buildings which have been associated with the church since its construction.

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	Sandra L. Moyer, Secretary		
organization	Richmond Community Church	date	11 August 1982
street & number	RFD #3	telephone	(603) 239-4973
city or town	Richmond	state	New Hampshire 03470

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*
title Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
NH State Historic Preservation Officer date February 8, 1983

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

[Signature] Entered in the National Register date 3/24/83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet #1 - SIGNIFICANCE

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projecting tablet in the center of its brick tympanum. In 1840, a Baptist Church was built at Plainfield copying many features, including the tower and brick pilasters, from earlier structures in the group. Between 1841 and 1842, a Congregational Church was built at Cornish Center which incorporated all the features of the fully matured style, including brick pilasters, a tablet in the tympanum, and a two-stage tower. Several of these features had been prefigured in the Richmond Church.

During the brief course of its spread throughout much of the Connecticut Valley of New Hampshire, the brick Greek Revival style passed from the province of a skilled architect like Ammi Young to become the common property of local builders. The buildings in Cornish and Plainfield were constructed by Col. Charles Egglestone (1787-1858) of Plainfield. The Richmond Church was built by Timothy Pickering (1781-1844), a local carpenter who constructed many dwellings in the region as well.

As the earliest example of a local building tradition with links to an architect who would soon achieve national stature, the Richmond Community Church stands as an important monument in the architectural traditions of northern New England.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

Continuation sheet #2 - REFERENCES

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AMMI BURNHAM YOUNG BIBLIOGRAPHY

Overby, Osmund R., "Ammi Burnham Young in the Connecticut Valley," JSAH 19 (1960), 119-121.

-----, "Ammi B. Young: An Architectural Sketch," Antiques 81 (1962), 530-533.

Wodehouse, Lawrence, "Ammi Burnham Young, 1798-1874," JSAH 25 (1966), 268-280.

-----, "Ammi Young's Architecture in Northern New England," Vermont History 36 (1968),
54-58.

-----, "Architectural Projects in the Greek Revival Style by Ammi Burnham Young," Old-Time
New England 60 (Jan.-March 1970), 73-85.

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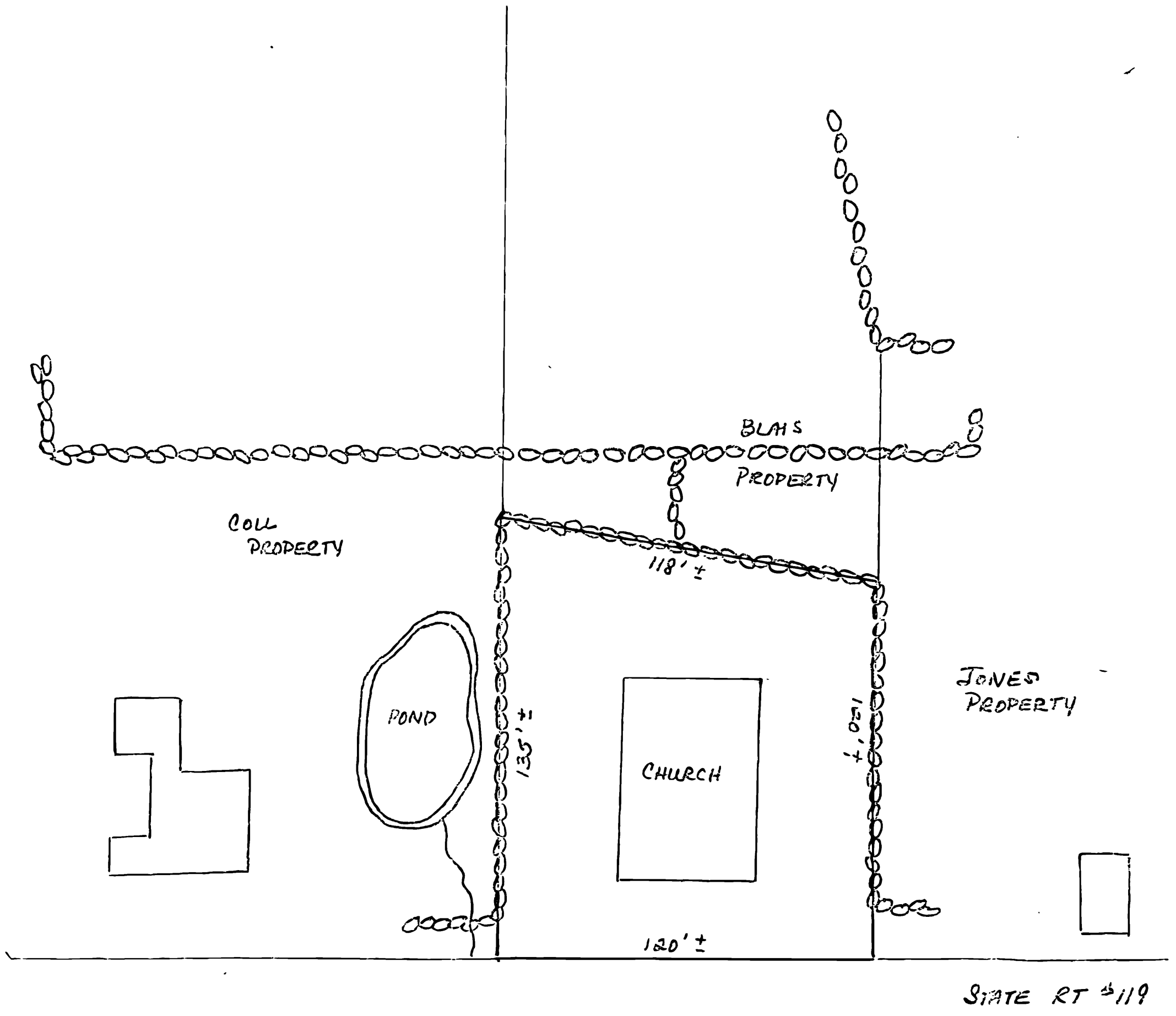
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Continuation sheet #3 - ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION

Item number --

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SKETCH MAP
RICHMOND COMMUNITY CHURCH
RICHMOND, N.H.



(Not to Scale)