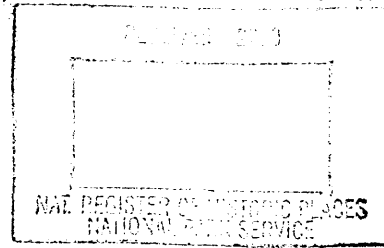


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



214

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 St. Paul's Episcopal Church

other names/site number St. Paul's Church

2. Location

street & number Corner of Bridge street and Route 14 a not for publication
city or town Royalton a vicinity
state Vermont code VT county Windsor code 027 zip code 05068

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.)

Eva Milbrink, NR Specialist 1/25/2001
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:)

Edson H. Beall 3/2/01
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Name of Property

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

Contributing Noncontributing buildings sites structures objects Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures of Vermont

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Religion/Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

other/ non-denominational church

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter Categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls weatherboard

roof metal

other brick

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheet.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Windsor 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

1836-1947

Significant Dates

1836

1880-1900

Significant Person

(Complete If Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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:

Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Windsor County, Vermont

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM references

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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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 Aimee Finley

organization UVM Historic Preservation Program date April 29, 1997

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

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

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 Royalton Historical Society c/o John Dumville

street & number R 1 Box 89D telephone (802) 763-8567

city or town Royalton state Vermont zip code 05068

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.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

Summary

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located on the village common in the center of Royalton, a compact, linear village in Vermont's White River Valley. The church is a small, vernacular, Gothic Revival building constructed in 1836. The builder and architect are unknown. It faces north onto the main road, Vermont Route 14, east of the "T" intersection with Bridge Street. The small church lot gently slopes to the south. A short path leads from the main road to a granite slab and step at the church entrance, passing between two rectangular granite hitching posts with curled metal horns imbedded in their tops. Only stumps remain of the two large shade tree east of the church, but trees remain on the other three sides. The rectangular, front gable, one-and-one-half story church is three bays wide and three bays deep. Dominating the central bay of the front facade is a projecting, three story bell tower with a flat, bracketed roof. This tower houses the building entrance and is decorated with Gothic Revival elements including a trinity window and louvered gothic arches surrounding the bell chamber. Original interior elements include wall and cornice paper stenciling, a pipe organ, ingrained carpet, and kerosene lamps. St. Paul's Church was updated between 1880 and 1900, an event which marks the changing architectural tastes of local parishioners. The newer Queen Anne style interior elements include stained glass windows, elaborate woodwork, and first generation electric light fixtures. The building is in excellent condition. It has undergone some superficial changes over time, but still retains its aspects of integrity including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Exterior

The exterior of St. Paul's is marked by its simplicity, symmetry, and austerity. The structure rests on a foundation of cut fieldstone slabs and is covered by a standing seam metal roof. A brick chimney flue is located on the center roof ridgeline near the southern end of the church, and a small, modern metal chimney is located in the northeast corner of the roof. The hewn post and beam building is clad with white painted clapboards and decorated with corner boards extending down to a water table. The cornice lines consist of simple ovolo moldings below boxed side eaves; the gable ends are partially enclosed by cornice returns. The entrance, located in the bell tower, is a six-paneled door with a plain wood surround and a simple door hood supported by

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

The original wall and floor finishes in the sanctuary and the chancel are marked by subtlety and elegance. The original Gothic Revival style ingrained carpet, a diamond hatch pattern of red crosses and diamonds over a dark green backing, is still present under the pews in the sanctuary. The red carpeting in the aisles is modern. The sanctuary walls are currently painted light green, and the bottom third of the walls are painted dark green, simulating wainscoting. A small section of the original wall stenciling has been uncovered below these later coats of green paint, revealing a delicate pattern of brown stylized fleur-de-lis on muted gold walls. The original stenciled cornice paper is still present and visible in the sanctuary. This paper is decorated with a string of dark gold fleur-de-lis connected by abstract patterns of swirls and lines on a lighter gold background. The chancel has modern red carpeting, but the original stenciled walls and the cornice paper is still present. The chancel walls are painted a light grayish-green and stenciled with a gold fleur-de-lis design. The cornice paper retains the same design from the sanctuary, but the background is colored a dark green, which further separates the chancel from the sanctuary and accentuates the sense of depth.

The church interior was updated with Queen Anne style details in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. Two styles of leaded stained glass windows were installed in the sanctuary after 1891. The two windows on the front facade and the two windows in the third side bay are simple, abstract designs of circles and diamonds. The other four windows, in the first and second side bays, are more elaborate, incorporating arches and foils into the abstract pattern of circles and diamonds. The large chancel window was installed in 1885. The design of this All Saints window consists of a gothic arch enclosing a banner which reads 'BLESSING/AND GLORY/AND HONOR/BE UNTO/ OUR LORD/FOR EVER/REV: XII./R/AMEN' and surrounded by geometric interlocking crosses. The simple window and door surrounds throughout the church interior were replaced at this time by more intricately styled woodwork, decorated with flutes and corner block paterae. New wood pews decorated with corner rosettes were also installed after 1891. There is no evidence that the originals were box pews. An electric system was installed in 1898, reflecting the technological advances of the late nineteenth century. The building still retains five first-generation carbon-filament light fixtures.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 1 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

Summary

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, built in 1836, is the oldest surviving church and one of the oldest public buildings in the town of Royalton, Vermont. It is significant for its architectural design as well as its association with the social history of Royalton village. The church is a rectangular, one-and-one-half story, hewn post and beam, clapboarded building, three bays wide and three bays deep. A projecting, three story bell tower with a flat, bracketed roof dominates the central bay of the front facade. St. Paul's qualifies for statewide significance under National Register Criterion C for its reflection of the distinctive characteristics of nineteenth century early Gothic Revival religious architecture. Significant exterior stylistic details include gothic arches with louvered shutters and a trinity window. Significant interior elements include wall and cornice paper stenciling, a pipe organ, ingrained carpet, and kerosene lamps. St. Paul's was updated between 1880 and 1900 to include more elaborate interior Queen Anne style elements, an event which marks the changing architectural tastes of local parishioners. These newer features include leaded stained glass windows, wood window and door surrounds, pews, and first generation electric light fixtures. St. Paul's also qualifies for local significance under National Register Criterion A for its long association with the development of community life. The architectural merit and longstanding civic associations of St. Paul's Episcopal Church assure its eligibility under Criteria Consideration A. St. Paul's Episcopal Church is eligible under the multiple property listing "Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in Vermont," and meets the registration requirements for churches. No outbuildings have ever been associated with St. Paul's Church, and the possibility of historic archaeological remnants is very remote. The building has undergone superficial changes in its history but still retains its aspects of integrity including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Architecture

In 1832 the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Vermont officially split from the Eastern Diocese. The forty year old John Henry Hopkins, a lawyer by training, a parish priest

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Section 8

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

in Pittsburgh, and later an assistant at Trinity Church in Boston, was named as the first Bishop of Vermont, a position he held until 1868. Bishop Hopkins was a noted architect, and he played an active role in supplying architectural plans for some of the churches built in the diocese during his tenure. One of Hopkins' most notable accomplishments is his "Essay on Gothic Architecture," the first serious treatment of Gothic Revival architecture to be published in the United States. Bishop Hopkins began preparing his treatise on Gothic Revival church architecture in 1831 while he was in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and published it in 1836, although it had been completed long before. In this work, he recommends the Gothic Revival style for churches of all sizes and degrees of complexity because "there is no other style of architecture which admits such variety, which is so beautiful on any scale, and which is so little dependant on size for its effect...The distinctive characters of the style may be preserved in union with the utmost simplicity."

St. Paul's was constructed in 1836 according to the principles described by Hopkins in his essay. Despite the fact that the essay was published the same year the church was built, it is clear that Hopkins had begun to implement his architectural ideas immediately following his election four years earlier. In his treatise, Hopkins counsels church builders to manage with translucent, painted shades over clear glass windows until they could afford the upgrade to real stained glass. Shades fitting this description were found at St. Paul's in the late 1960s. This suggests that the congregation was influenced by Hopkins' specific ideas about window treatments and that the eventual replacement of the clear glass windows with stained glass was expected. In his essay, Hopkins condemns flashy interior decor and churches with too many windows. He recommends the use of flat ceilings for small churches, and the use of such decorative shapes as lancet arches, gothic windows, and foils, the lobe shaped curves formed by the cusping of a circle or arch. He also recommends that congregations show their devotion by building the most expensive churches possible.

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Section 8 Page 3 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

St. Paul's is a small, austere building located in the center of Royalton. The most obvious exterior Gothic Revival elements adorn the upper two stories of the bell tower. The second story of the front tower facade is decorated with a trinity window, a triangular shaped window filled with diamond shaped panes overlying an inverted trefoil. Gothic arches with removable louvered shutters conceal the bell on each side of the third story of the tower. The three story bell tower breaks the low horizontal plane of the one-and-one-half story building, and directs the eye upward. The pitched roof augments the Gothic Revival feeling. Historic documents concerning the original appearance of the church describe dark brown exterior paint, and a low, wood balustrade with tall, slender newels around the flat bell tower roof; these Gothic Revival elements, however, are no longer present.

Christ Church of Bethel, sister parish to St. Paul's, is the only other Gothic Revival Episcopal church dating from this period in the area. Built in 1846 for an expanding congregation, Christ Church has elaborate Gothic Revival decorations, including gothic arch windows and doorways, and quatrefoil windows around the bell chamber of the central, projecting, flat roofed, three story bell tower. These two churches share the basic design features of other Gothic Revival churches in Vermont, including gable front orientation, pitched roofs, central square bell towers, gothic arches and foil motifs.

Interior elements also contribute to the architectural significance of St. Paul's Church. The original wall and cornice paper fleur-de-lis stenciling is still present in the sanctuary and the chancel, although the wall stenciling in the sanctuary has been obscured by later coats of paint. Portions of the original ingrained carpeting are still located under the pews. The two kerosene lamps that lit the sides of the chancel are still functional. By 1842 St. Paul's Church had acquired a one-manual, tracker-action pipe organ built by William Nutting, Jr., a self-taught organ-builder from Randolph Center, Vermont. It is believed to be the earliest extant example of his work in Vermont. In 1972, the organ was featured by the national Organ Historic Society and played during their annual meeting.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

In the 1880s and 1890s the church interior was updated with Queen Anne style details. A large stained glass window was installed in the center of the rear chancel wall in 1885. This design of this "All Saints" window consists of a gothic arch enclosing a banner which reads "BLESSING/AND GLORY/AND HONOR/BE UNTO/ OUR LORD/FOR EVER/REV: XII./R/AMEN." and is surrounded by geometric interlocking crosses. The original twenty-over-twenty, double-hung clear glass windows in the sanctuary were replaced with two styles of stained glass windows after 1891. The two windows on the front facade and the two windows in the third side bay have simple, abstract designs of circles and diamonds. The other four windows, in the first and second side bays, are more elaborate, incorporating arches and foils into the abstract pattern of circles and diamonds. The simple woodwork of the window and door surrounds throughout the church interior was replaced at this time by more intricately styled Queen Anne woodwork, decorated with flutes and corner block paterae. New wood pews decorated with corner rosettes were also installed after 1891. An electric system was installed in 1898, reflecting the technological advances of the late nineteenth century. The building still retains five first-generation carbon-filament light fixtures. These subdued, decorative elements of the church reflect Bishop Hopkins' belief that churches should be solemn and precious, as well as the Episcopalian principles of conservatism and propriety.

Historical Associations

The Town of Royalton was settled in 1771 and its first village, Royalton, was founded shortly after. Important public buildings were erected in the center of town on the village common, reflecting Vermont's historic settlement patterns. By 1850, when the Vermont Central Railroad came through the town, the population of Royalton Village was 300. Train tracks were laid directly adjacent to the oldest structures in the community. Royalton built a depot, but prosperity eluded the village. The newer village of South Royalton, founded in 1848, had success with the railroad, however. Its busy depot began to draw commerce and inhabitants from the older village, and South Royalton has remained the commercial center of the township ever since.

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Section 8 Page 5 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

In the 1830s and 40s, Vermont experienced an increase in church divisions as reform movements and religious fervor became more widespread. In October 1835, at the peak of the village's importance, Royalton Episcopalians formally broke from the larger congregation in the neighboring town of Bethel. St. Paul's Episcopal Parish was organized in Royalton by Richard Bloss, Benjamin Rice, Stafford Smith, and Nathaniel Sprague. In May 1836, the fledgling parish was reorganized with new members Joseph A. Denison, Franklin Joiner, and L.W. Kendall. The same day, a building committee consisting of Richard Bloss, L.W. Kendall, and Nathaniel Sprague was chosen to oversee the construction of a parish church. Church lands were deeded to the parish the next day by Richard Bloss and Elizabeth Sprague. Construction began in September and was mostly complete by November. The first service was held in St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Christmas Eve, 1836, officiated by Reverend James Sabine of Bethel. Bishop Hopkins visited Royalton and consecrated St. Paul's Church in November 1837. The congregation numbered 30 at this time.

From the beginning, the small congregation of St. Paul's Church depended heavily on lay leadership. During much of the nineteenth century when the parish was only able to support a clergyman part of the year, townsmen took on the reading duties. In March 1838, Bishop Hopkins named Richard Bloss and Nathaniel Sprague as lay readers. Reverend Sabine and Reverend B.C.C. Parker each officiated sporadically over the next year. In January 1838, Royalton joined with the community of Randolph to acquire a shared clergyman, and after that one clergyman divided his time among up to four neighboring parishes. Reverend James Sabine was rector from 1836 to 1845, followed by Reverend Dexter Potter from 1838 to 1839, Reverend Nathaniel Sprague from 1839 to 1844, Reverend John Sabine from 1845 to 1846, Reverend Joel Clapp from 1844 to 1847, Reverend Josiah Swett from 1844 to 1868, Reverend C.R. Batchelder from 1868 to 1871, Reverend Moses P. Stickney from 1871 to 1887, Reverend George A. Wilkins from 1892 to 1894, Reverend J.B. Trevett from 1895 to 1897, Reverend G.B. Clark from 1897 to 1899, Reverend C.H. Wells and Reverend G.B. Johnson from 1889 to 1904, and Reverend William B. Reynolds from 1905 to 1922. Reverend Frederick Marcy DeForest was rector steadily from 1922 to 1941. After his death, the periodic pattern of services was resumed.

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Section 8 Page 6 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

Parish organizer Dudley Chase Denison sustained the parish as a lay reader from 1846 to 1873, while maintaining his duties as a lawyer, United States District Attorney, and United States Representative. Taking up where his father left off, lawyer Joseph D. Denison served St. Paul's Parish from 1873 to 1895. During this time the small church received many gifts from the prominent Denison family: a communion set from the family of Dudley Denison in memory of Eunice D. Denison in 1874, the chancel window designed and donated by Clara D. Denison in 1885, a pew inscription plate from Mrs. E.M. Gallaudet in memory of William Denison in 1892, a brass tablet in memory of Rachel Chase Denison by her nine nieces in 1893, a prayer book and hymnal from Alice Denison in memory of George Stanton Denison in 1895, vases and an altar desk from Professor Charles S. and Alice Chase Denison in memory of Jeanette B. Denison in 1901, and chancel furniture from Clara D. McClellan in memory of Alice Denison, Dudley Chase Denison, and Rachel Chase Denison in 1905. The stained glass windows and the new pews are also credited to the Denison family.

The Rix family also supported St. Paul's Church. The Rix's, businessman William and his talented wife Katherine, were ardent unionists who found themselves trapped in Alabama when the Civil War erupted. The family fled back home to Royalton at the first opportunity, where they were regarded as prominent citizens, historians, and intellectuals. In 1901 Katherine Fletcher Kendall Rix donated an altar book to St. Paul's in memory of William Rix. Their daughter, Katherine Kendall Rix married William Skinner, a Junior Warden of St. Paul's parish.

Royalton has always supported St. Paul's Church. From the outset, the small congregation joined with other parishes to maintain a clergyman, while townspeople conducted the regular business of the parish. In 1970, the Right Reverend Harvey Butterfield, Bishop of Vermont, indicated that he wished to close and deconsecrate the church for lack of a congregation. Eighty townspeople reacted to this news by signing a petition of protest. Bishop Butterfield instead formed a committee, Daniel Abbott, Roger Henry, Ray Nash, Bertha McKnight, and Sandra Walton, to assess the congregation. At the request of this committee, St. Paul's Parish was reorganized in 1971, although services remained irregular.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

In January 1996, the Diocese of Vermont finally deconsecrated the church. According to Episcopalian policy, deconsecrated churches are removed completely; the slate is wiped clean. The loss of St. Paul's Church, listed on the Vermont State Register of Historic Places as part of the Royalton Historic District, would jeopardize the character and integrity of the entire historic district. It is a local landmark, occupying a prominent location in the village center. A devastating fire in 1840 burned many important public structures on the common, leaving the church and an inn as the oldest public buildings in Royalton. The church serves the whole community as a reminder of Royalton's heyday in the early 19th century. Many townspeople have an important personal connection with the building; they were baptised, confirmed, or married in St. Paul's Church. The Royalton Historical Society intervened with the Diocese on behalf of the community and gained title to the property in August 1996, saving it from demolition and continuing to assure its availability to townspeople for special events including weddings, funerals, and other community functions.

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Section 10 Page 1 St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Royalton, Windsor County, Vermont

Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southeast intersection of Bridge Street and the Route 14 access road, proceed south 92' along the curb of Bridge Street. Then proceed east 77' along the southern property line, turning north for 100' along the eastern property line to the Route 14 access road. Proceed west 75' along the curb of the access road back to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the grounds historically associated with St. Paul's Episcopal Church.