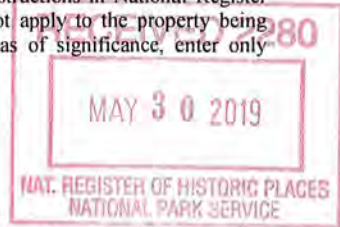


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

4181

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lower Waterford Congregational Church

Other names/site number: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in Vermont  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 63 Lower Waterford Road

City or town: Waterford State: VT County: Caledonia

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<i>Sand Proschmann</i>	<i>May 24, 2019</i>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>State Historic Preservation office</i>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

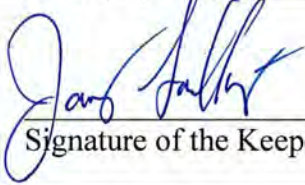
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

7.8.2019  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

SOCIAL/meeting hall

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

SOCIAL/meeting hall

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, stone, asphalt shingle

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### **Summary Paragraph**

The Lower Waterford Congregational Church is the dominant work of architecture in the village of Lower Waterford, which is located along the Connecticut River in the southern portion of the town of Waterford, Vermont. Sited at the southeast corner of the intersection of Maple Street and Lower Waterford Road, the two-story, Greek Revival church has white clapboard siding, a stone foundation, and a timber-framed gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The north end of the church is surmounted by a three-stage bell tower consisting of a base and two hip-roofed sections topped by an octagonal spire with wood shingles. The building is 42'-0" wide and 62'-0" long with 20'-0" of wall height. It exhibits box cornices with cornice returns; corner boards; label moldings; double-hung sash windows with 16-over-16 lights; pedimented window and door heads; and paneled window and door casings. The church is built into a bank and has a full depth finished basement. It is a good example of the Greek Revival church property type as described in the *Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in Vermont* MPS. Built in 1859, with minor alterations in 1900 and 1939, the church retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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## **Narrative Description**

### Exterior

The timber-framed structure is clad with narrow-reveal wood clapboards on each elevation. The above-grade portions of the fieldstone foundation are capped with granite underpinnings at the north end of the building and stepping down the east and west side elevations. The fieldstone foundation is exposed above grade on the south elevation. At the north end of the building a course of foundation stones has been replaced with concrete block. Each corner of the building is elaborated with built-up corner boards capped with an abacus and supporting an entablature derived from the Tuscan order. The crown of the raking cornice is composed of flat-stock molding angled inward towards the corona. A split fillet caps the raking and horizontal coronas, and a bedmold provides a transition from the soffit to the frieze. The architrave and frieze are separated by a stepped taenia. The entablature is discontinuous across the gable ends and is resolved with modest cornice returns.

The façade of the building faces north and is slightly above the grade level of the adjacent road surface. Centered on the façade is a 16-over-16-light double-hung window with wood sash. The window is flanked by identical doorways, each with six panels: three tall panels above, and three short panels below. The field of each panel is formed by rebating the margins of the panels into the rails and stiles of the door. Each door is accessed via a set of concrete steps and a small landing, bordered by a contemporary metal railing. The window and doors feature identical trim, consisting of built-up surrounds divided into five sections: tall, narrow sections on each side, blocks at

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each corner, and a horizontal section on top. The surrounds mimic the corner boards in their design and construction. Each surround is framed with label moldings and capped with a pedimented lintel.

The east elevation features three tall and evenly spaced 16-over-16-light double-hung windows with wood sash. Unlike the façade window, these do not have the detailed surround or pedimented lintel, but they do have label moldings. On the lower level of the east elevation are three irregularly spaced smaller windows, with six-over-six-light double-hung wood sash.

The west elevation is identical to the east elevation, with the exception of a doorway inserted between the second and third windows on the lower level. Framed with flat stock, the doorway has a four-light transom panel. The ground adjacent to the west elevation is graded into three terraces, supported by long granite blocks placed perpendicular to the foundation.

The south elevation is bisected by a tall, narrow exterior brick chimney supported by a battered concrete base. The chimney breaks through the eaves just left of center and is corbeled at the top. A single six-over-six-light double-hung window is located to the right of the chimney and lights the attic. On the lower level, the chimney is flanked by two six-over-six-light double-hung windows.

The steeple rises in three diminishing stages above the façade and is capped with a spire. The first stage, the tower base, rises to the height of the ridgeline and is clad with narrow-reveal wood clapboards and flat corner boards. The second stage is slightly smaller than the base and is clad with horizontal flush board siding of various widths. A

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full-height rectangular louvered vent is centered on each wall. This stage is capped with a projecting cornice and full entablature like that found on the main block of the building, and it has a hipped roof. The third stage is slightly smaller than the second stage and has a low band of horizontal flush board siding. The upper walls are slightly inset from this band and are also made of horizontal flush board siding of various widths. A full-height rectangular louvered vent is centered on each wall, and this stage is capped with a projecting cornice and full entablature. This stage houses the church bell and also has a hipped roof. Finally, the bell tower is capped with an octagonal steeple set on a low octagonal base and clad with wood shingles. A weather vane is mounted on the tip of the steeple.

Portions of the horizontal flush board siding on the second and third stages of the steeple appear to have been salvaged from an earlier building, as evidenced by the fluted surfaces of the boards that face the interior of the steeple. These boards are painted a weathered green.

The church bell was fabricated by Naylor Vickers & Co., most likely at their Boston foundry. It is made of cast steel, which the company promoted as more durable, lighter weight, and less expensive than cast bronze. The bell was installed in the tower in 1860.

### Roof Frame

The roof frame consists of four king rod trusses, each spanning 40'-0". The bottom chord of each truss is made of softwood timber measuring 12" x 12". Miscellaneous

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empty mortises on these timbers indicates that they may have been salvaged from an earlier building. They are supported at midspan by a king rod that drops from the apex of the 7" x 8" principal rafters down and through the bottom chord. The roof system, between the principal rafters that bear on the ends of the chords, is composed of large purlins and braces running between the principal rafters and smaller common rafters that are footed on a flying plate that forms the eaves overhang. Like the bottom chords, the principal rafters have empty mortises for struts near midspan, but the shape of the mortises suggests a different former use. Undersized 4" x 5" struts are tenoned into 8" mortises on the rafters and drop to a point several feet away from the kingrod where they are nailed to the bottom chord.<sup>1</sup> Repairs to stabilize and strengthen the roof framing were undertaken in 2001.

### Interior

On the main floor, the interior of the church is divided into two spaces: an entry vestibule and the sanctuary. The two oversize doors on the façade lead into the vestibule, and two standard doors in the partition wall between the vestibule and the sanctuary provide access between these two interior spaces. These doors are similar in construction to the façade doors, except each has four panels: two tall panels above, and two short panels below. At the east end of the vestibule is a small restroom, and at the west end is an enclosed staircase leading to the lower level. A drop-down attic stair panel in the ceiling of the stairwell provides access to the attic and bell tower. The

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<sup>1</sup> Jan Lewandoski, *The Lower Waterford Congregational Church, Lower Waterford, Vermont/The Preservation Trust of Vermont Technical Assistance Program*, June 29, 2001.



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vestibule has a wood floor, and the plaster walls are keyed into split-board lath. The ceiling of the vestibule has been lowered from its original height, resulting in a partial interior obstruction of the tall central façade window. A heavy rope, used to ring the church bell, drops through a hole the vestibule ceiling between the central window and the eastern entry door.

The sanctuary consists of three rows of pews divided by two aisles. The pews have scroll ends with a recessed panel and a flat reclining back with a flat cushioned seat. The space underneath each pew is enclosed with a wooden board that fills the gap between underneath the edge of the seat and the floor. The lectern is centrally placed at the south end of the sanctuary on low platform. The wall behind the lectern is divided into thirds, with the central portion projecting out approximately 12'-0". Recessed within the projection is a tall Gothic arch. The walls have wood paneling to the height of the pews and are plaster above. The ceiling is finished with decorative panels of pressed tin with a tin cove molding. Suspended from the center of the ceiling is a large ornamental double-cone reflector that is the primary source of artificial light in the sanctuary. The reflectors are lined with either mirrored glass or silvered metal and the fixture provides intense, concentrated light.<sup>2</sup> Glass crystals are suspended from the outer edge of each reflector. The fixture is presently electrified but was originally lit with kerosene lamps. It could be lowered from the ceiling for cleaning and lighting.<sup>3</sup> Small pendant fixtures with glass shades are suspended in each corner of the sanctuary. Natural light is provided

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<sup>2</sup> Denys Peter Myers, *Gaslighting in America* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1978), plate 86.

<sup>3</sup> E.P. and H.K., *Lower Waterford Congregational Church: 1798-1973 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* (St. Johnsbury, VT: Troll Press, 1973), 10.

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by the six large windows, which have interior louvered shutters, one set for the lower sash and one for the upper sash.

The floor of the sanctuary consists of a single layer of wide boards over which carpet is laid in the aisles. Underneath each pew is a long, narrow vent that opens to the lower level. Each vent has single louver with a central pivot that can be adjusted to open and close the vent as necessary and control the flow of heat from the lower level into the sanctuary. The heating system operated as follows:

The heating system was four box stoves in the Vestry. These burned four foot [sic] wood, supplied by the parishioners. Later two of the stoves were taken out. Stove pipes ran the length of the Vestry and into two chimneys which were inside the building. They went through the floor into the auditorium, rose to a point about the top of the present Gothic arch, and were connected by a horizontal section with one chimney above going out through the roof. This arrangement allowed a good deal of heat to be radiated by the stove pipes and chimney...the floor vents could be closed off if only the Vestry needed to be heated.<sup>4</sup>

The enclosed lower section of the pew in front ensures that the heat from the vent is directed to the occupants of the pew where the vent is located. This heating system has since been replaced by a modern furnace with metal ductwork, but the louvered vents remain intact.

Like the upper level, the lower level is divided into two sections. The northern section, underneath the vestibule, is unfinished space. The exposed floor joists for the

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 11.

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vestibule are unpeeled logs, the top surfaces of which have been planed flat. Whereas the sanctuary is a clear-span space, the lower level has six evenly spaced posts with asymmetric lintels supporting the floor load of the sanctuary above. The asymmetrical positioning of the lintels over their posts is necessary because they are carrying different loads at each end, and the lintels reflect this loading.<sup>5</sup> The posts and lintels are made of wood and have chamfered edges. The finishes on the lower level appear to date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, with Douglas Fir flooring and flat stock window trim. At the south end of the room is a c. 1950 open kitchen with plywood cabinets and drawers. The ceiling of the lower level is unfinished and is composed of large timbers with 2"x8" joists lapping into them.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for 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.

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<sup>5</sup> Lewandoski, *Lower Waterford Congregational Church*, 1.

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**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
Social History

**Period of Significance**

1859-1957

**Significant Dates**

1900, 1939

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Architect/Builder**

Richardson, Charles (builder)

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Lower Waterford Congregational Church is being nominated under the Multiple Property Listing (MPL) *Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in Vermont* with the *Religious Trends, 1615-1950* historic context. Built in 1859 in the Greek Revival style, the Lower Waterford Congregational Church meets the registration requirements for the “church” property type. It is eligible for listing under Criterion A: Social History, for its role as a social institution in the village of Lower Waterford. It is also eligible for listing under Criterion C: Architecture, as an example of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture. The period of significance begins in 1859, the year the church was built, and ends in 1957, when municipal and educational activities shifted from the church to the new elementary school. The church meets Criteria Consideration A because it derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction and importance to the social history of Lower Waterford.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Congregationalism is one of the oldest denominations in the state of Vermont, the first congregation having been formed in 1762 in what is now Old Bennington.<sup>6</sup> By 1780,

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<sup>6</sup> Hall, Raymond A. “Congregational Churches of Vermont,” *Vermont History* XXIV, no. 1 (1956): 26.

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21 Congregational churches had formed in Vermont, 19 of which were located in the Connecticut River Valley.<sup>7</sup> The Congregational Society in Waterford formed on May 30, 1798, and built their first meetinghouse in 1818 on lot owned by Abial Richardson. This location of this building was on the east side of Old County Road South, near Mad Brook, as noted on the 1869 Beers Atlas (Figure 1).

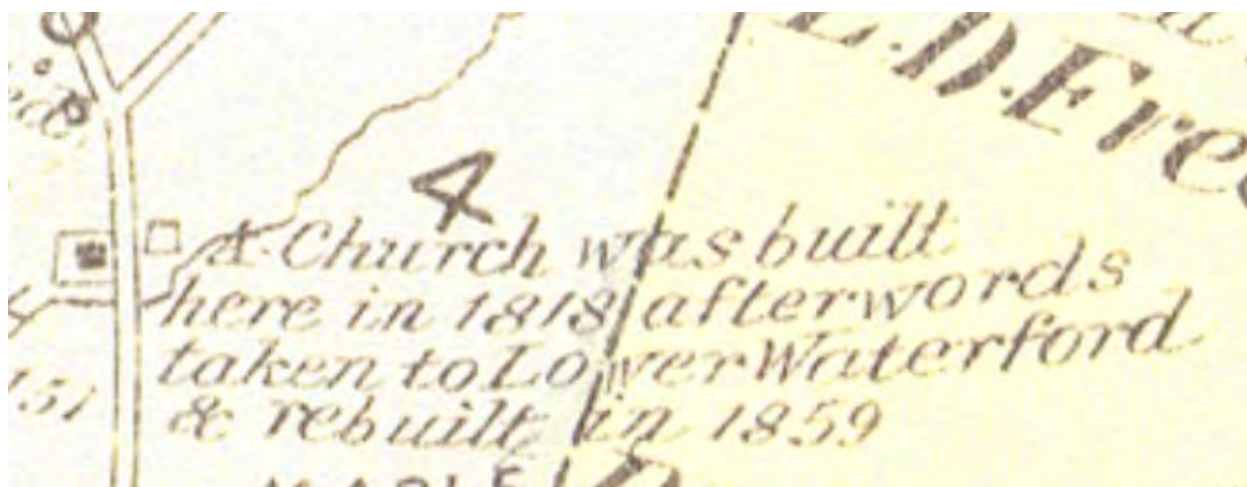


Figure 1. Excerpt from 1869 Beers Atlas. Text reads: "A Church was built here in 1818 afterwards taken to Lower Waterford & rebuilt in 1859."

According to Charles Harris's 1941 history of the town, the 1818 meetinghouse was damaged by fire around 1832 and torn down.<sup>8</sup> This is contradicted, however, by the 1856 Walling Map, which clearly indicates that the "Old Church" was still standing at that time (Figure 2).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>8</sup> Harris, *A Vermont Village*, 51.

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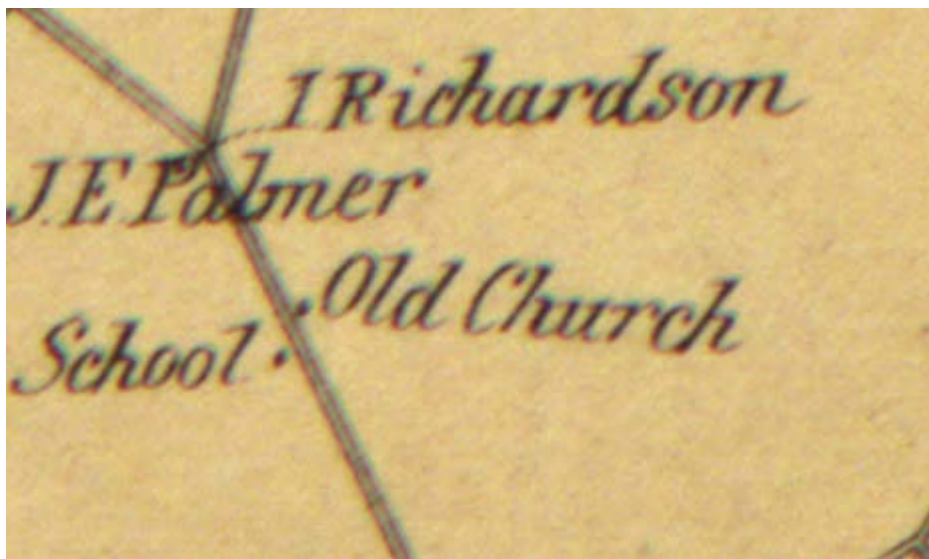


Figure 2. Excerpt from 1856 Walling Map, which notes the presence of the 1818 "Old Church."

Based on these maps, it appears that the 1818 church was vacated, but not demolished, following the 1832 fire. The congregation decided to rebuild, but in a new location on a lot that had been donated in Lower Waterford. The Harris book states that a new church measuring 60 feet long and 42 feet wide was built in 1837, reportedly incorporating some of the lumber and furnishings from the first church.<sup>9</sup> This is also contradicted by the 1869 Beers Atlas, which says that parts of the 1818 church were used to build the 1859 church in Lower Waterford, not the 1837 church. The builder of the 1837 church was Francis Rice Carpenter, who constructed it for \$1,900.00.<sup>10</sup>

According to Harris, "In 1857 or 1858 [the 1837] church was burned and the present church building was built in 1859 at a cost of \$2251."<sup>11</sup> Contemporary newspaper accounts of the fire contradict this information as well, reporting in July 1859 that the

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 51.

<sup>10</sup> *Vermont Chronicle*, "Waterford," July 8, 1871.

<sup>11</sup> Harris, *A Vermont Village*, 51.

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1837 church “was destroyed by an incendiary fire.”<sup>12</sup> In honor of the congregation’s centennial, the a celebration took place in June 1898 at which members shared memories of the history of the church. The *St. Johnsbury Republican* published a lengthy account of the day and the speakers, including the following summary of the address by Hon. Hiram K. Dewey of Barton, VT:

The fire occurred July 1. Aug. 10, following, a building committee was chosen and the contract let to Charles Richardson, who promised to have the new church, for which he was to receive \$2175, completed the first of December. It was dedicated Jan. 11, the Rev. Zenas Goss officiating. Mr. Dewey’s father was one of the building committee and inaugurated a novel arrangement, for those days, for heating the audience room. Stoves were placed in the basement and heat reached the upper room through ventilators beneath the seats. Mr. Dewey said every one [sic] at the dedication was much interested in the new heating apparatus and Rev. Henry Fairbanks said in his address in response to the address of welcome, that the new device ought to work well for it was designed to warm people at the right end. The actual cost of the church was \$2325.01.<sup>13</sup>

Captain Charles Richardson was a local craftsman who ran a carriage and cabinet shop in Waterford’s Upper Village in the mid-1840s.<sup>14</sup> Captain Richardson reportedly “built a great many bridges in this vicinity,” including one in Lower Waterford that was destroyed in 1890.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> *Bellows Falls Times*, “Vermont News,” July 15, 1859.

<sup>13</sup> *St. Johnsbury Republican*, “Our Pioneer Church,” June 29, 1898.

<sup>14</sup> *Vermont Chronicle*, “Fire,” February 19, 1845.

<sup>15</sup> *The St. Johnsbury Caledonian*, “Lower Waterford/The Bridge Disasters,” May 15, 1890.



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### Criterion A: Social History

As noted in the Multiple Property Submission, churches and meetinghouses in Vermont often “served both a religious and political function, being places where church services and town meetings were held.”<sup>16</sup> Historian Edmund Fuller describes the role of the church in rural Vermont as follows: “A well-grounded community worship was a part of nearly every town. Congregationalists were most numerous, especially in the Connecticut River Valley, where the migration of whole communities and congregations had helped to preserve the ways and habits preceding migration to Vermont.”<sup>17</sup>

Since its construction in 1859, the Lower Waterford Congregational Church has provided space for many local activities beyond religious services. Lower Waterford Village achieved significance in the early nineteenth century as an important stop on the Portland Post Road. According to Harris:

It was called the tunnel, through which passed as many as 100 teams a day, farmers of northeastern Vermont, carrying their produce to Portland and exchanging for such commodities as were needed in the home communities such as rum, molasses, spices, etc. Six-horse stages passed through there regularly, carrying mail and passengers.<sup>18</sup>

By 1840, the town of Waterford reportedly had 1,300 residents and Lower Waterford boasted two stores, a sawmill, a tannery, two blacksmith shops, a tailor shop, and

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<sup>16</sup> National Register of Historic Places, *Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in Vermont* (Montpelier, VT: 2001), 16.

<sup>17</sup> Edmund Fuller, *Vermont: A History of the Green Mountain State* (Montpelier, VT: State Board of Education, 1952).

<sup>18</sup> Harris, *A Vermont Village*, 2.

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approximately 30 dwellings. What the village lacked, however, was a large gathering place for public meetings and events. The town has never had a dedicated Town Hall building, where such activities typically take place. This need was fulfilled by the Lower Waterford Congregational Church, which provided space for social, civic, and religious activities in both the sanctuary (upper level) and vestry (lower level). As noted by Harris, “the vestry is used as a community hall for giving suppers, holding town meeting, and other community activities.”<sup>19</sup>

The church bell, typically rung three times each Sunday morning, also served a community purpose as an alarm bell for fire warnings and when there was news of national importance.<sup>20</sup>

The annual town meeting, a Vermont tradition since the mid-eighteenth century, is a form of direct democratic rule in which community members gather to discuss local issues, elect municipal officers, approve the annual budget, and conduct other business. Until 1957, when the Waterford Elementary School opened, the annual Waterford Town Meeting was held in the lower level of the church. Likewise, the annual eighth grade graduation ceremony was held in the sanctuary every year until 1957, when it too relocated to the new elementary school. In the early twentieth century communities throughout New England began the annual tradition of Old Home Days, which were “deliberate attempts by struggling towns to encourage people who had moved away (and presumably made good elsewhere) to come back for a visit and

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 54.

<sup>20</sup> E.P. and H.K., *Lower Waterford Congregational Church: 1798-1973 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* (St. Johnsbury, VT: Troll Press, 1973), 10.

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perhaps, even, to stay.”<sup>21</sup> Waterford is known to have observed Old Home Day as early as 1901, when:

nearly one hundred and fifty returning sons and daughters who again visited the homes of their childhood and saw, as of yore, the places where father and mother, brother and sister, friends and neighbors of the years gone into the past, used to meet us.<sup>22</sup>

Waterford’s Old Home Days celebration was held at the church every summer, typically with a community meal in the vestry and a program in the sanctuary. Voting in the November general elections took place in the lower level until 1984, and the space continues to be used by the Select Board for large meetings and special events sponsored by the adjacent Davies Memorial Library. It is used by the Waterford Historical Society in the summer months because of the exceptionally large public turnout for its monthly programs. In addition, the Congregational Church hosts a community-wide Memory Tree Ceremony every December. It also partners with the historical society for an annual benefit event that draws attendance from outside the town's boundaries.

Perhaps the best indicator of the importance of the Lower Waterford Congregational Church to the local community is the fact that in 1939, during the Great Depression, the Ladies’ Aid Society and the Congregational Society were able to raise \$2,300 to undertake extensive improvements to the building and ensure its continued use. Once this work was completed, Harris reported that “the church building’s physical condition is

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<sup>21</sup> Peter Gilbert, *Old Home Days Commentary* (Colchester, VT: Vermont Public Radio, May 5, 2006).

<sup>22</sup> *The St. Johnsbury Caledonian*, “Waterford’s Celebration,” August 21, 1901.

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excellent, inside and out, the better to serve the community socially, civically, and spiritually.”<sup>23</sup>

### Criterion C: Architecture

The Lower Waterford Congregational Church is a good example of the Greek Revival style expressed in an ecclesiastical building. The gable-front orientation of the building, with full entablature, pedimented lintels, and label moldings are all characteristic of the Greek Revival style. Reflecting its rural location, the building is modest in its decoration and lacks the monumental portico, columns, and pilasters typically found on urban examples. The cornice crown, for example, is made of flat stock instead of the more architecturally correct cymatium molding. This may be an indication that the more elaborate cymatium molding was either not available in Lower Waterford or was too expensive and beyond the means of the congregation. Likewise, the corners of the building are elaborated with built-up corner boards that lack a base and a capital and, as such, cannot be considered pilasters. This is also a simplified approach to the Greek Revival, enough to provide a reference to the Classical style but executed in an affordable and less technically complex manner.

The spire on the top of the bell tower is believed to be a late-nineteenth century addition, perhaps added when the building was rehabilitated and re-dedicated in 1900. Exactly when it was installed has yet to be determined. Typically, Greek Revival-style protestant churches built in the mid-nineteenth century have bell towers capped with a

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<sup>23</sup> Harris, *A Vermont Village*, 55.

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Caledonia, VT  
County and State

flat or shallow hipped roof. Examples of this form in neighboring towns include the Community Church (1844) in Concord, and the Barnet Center Church (1849).

A semi-circular choir loft originally located at the rear of the sanctuary was removed in 1900,<sup>24</sup> the same year that the ornamental pressed metal ceiling was installed in the sanctuary.<sup>25</sup> Repairs were made to the building in 1939, including foundation work, a new chimney, remodeling the vestry, painting and papering the interior, and laying new carpet in the sanctuary.<sup>26</sup> Overall, the church continues to reflect its original design and construction.

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<sup>24</sup> E.P. and H.K., *Lower Waterford Congregational Church: 1798-1973 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* (St. Johnsbury, VT: Troll Press, 1973), 11.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, 54.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 54.

Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Caledonia, VT  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Bellows Falls Times*. "Vermont News." July 15, 1859.

E.P. and H.K. *Lower Waterford Congregational Church: 1798-1973 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*. St. Johnsbury, VT: Troll Press, 1973.

Fuller, Edmund. *Vermont: A History of the Green Mountain State*. Montpelier, VT: State Board of Education, 1952.

Gilbert, Peter. *Old Home Days Commentary*. Colchester, VT: Vermont Public Radio, May 5, 2006.

Hall, Raymond A. "Congregational Churches of Vermont." *Vermont History* XXIV, no. I (1956): 25-39.

Harris, Dr. C. E. *A Vermont Village*. Yarmouth Port, MA: The Register Press, 1941.

Heath, Donna, interview with Kathryn A. Piper, Waterford Historical Society, 2017.

Hodgdon, Allen D. *Lower Waterford Historic District/Survey #0316-9*. Montpelier, VT: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, 1980.

Lewandoski, Jan. *The Lower Waterford Congregational Church, Waterford, Vermont*. Burlington, VT: Preservation Trust of Vermont Technical Assistance Program, 2001.

National Register of Historic Places, *Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in Vermont*. Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, 2001.

*The St. Johnsbury Caledonian*. "Lower Waterford/The Bridge Disasters." May 15, 1890.

---. "Waterford's Celebration." August 21, 1901.

*St. Johnsbury Republican*. "Our Pioneer Church." June 29, 1898.

*Vermont Chronicle*. "Waterford." July 8, 1871.

---. "Fire." February 19, 1845.

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Caledonia, VT  
County and State

\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_\_\_ Other State agency

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal agency

\_\_\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** HSSS #0316-9-5

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 0.25 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 44.35448° N

Longitude: 71.90746° W

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Lower Waterford Congregational Church is shown as the solid black line on the accompanying map titled "Lower Waterford Congregational Church."

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Lower Waterford Congregational Church.

Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Caledonia, VT  
County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kathryn Piper, JD, Ph.D., Trustee  
organization: Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
street & number: P.O. Box 111  
city or town: Waterford state: Vermont zip code: 05848  
e-mail: kathrynapipe@gmail.com  
telephone: 802-748-9435  
date: October 17, 2018

name/title: Devin A. Colman, State Architectural Historian  
organization: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation  
street & number: 1 National Life Drive, Floor 6  
city or town: Montpelier state: Vermont zip code: 05620  
e-mail: devin.colman@vermont.gov  
telephone: 802-585-8246  
date: April 4, 2019

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Caledonia, VT  
County and State

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Lower Waterford Congregational Church

City or Vicinity: Town of Waterford

County: Caledonia County

State: Vermont

Photographs 1-3 by Helen Pike, January 14, 2019  
Photographs 4-6 by Kathryn Piper, October 10, 2018  
Photographs 7-17 by Devin Colman, March 14, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 17. View looking south at north (front) elevation of church.
- 2 of 17. View looking southeast at north (front) and west (side) elevations of church.
- 3 of 17. View looking east at west (side) elevation of church.
- 4 of 17. View looking northeast at west (side) and south (rear) elevations of church.
- 5 of 17. View looking northwest at front portion of east (side) elevation.
- 6 of 17. Detail of box cornice and trim on northwest corner of north (front) elevation.
- 7 of 17. Detail of window on side elevation.
- 8 of 17. View looking east of west side of bell tower and spire.
- 9 of 17. View looking east inside the entry vestibule, with exterior doors on the left and doors into the sanctuary on the right.
- 10 of 17. View looking south inside the sanctuary.

Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Caledonia, VT  
County and State

- 11 of 17. View looking north inside the sanctuary.
- 12 of 17. Detail of double-cone reflector chandelier and pressed tin ceiling.
- 13 of 17. Detail of pressed tin ceiling and cove molding.
- 14 of 17. Typical floor vent seen from above, underneath a pew, with louver in the "open" position.
- 15 of 17. Typical floor vent seen from below, between floor joists, with the louver in the "open" position.
- 16 of 17. View looking south inside lower level (vestry). Note wood posts with asymmetrical loading on the lintels.
- 17 of 17. View looking northwest inside lower level (vestry). Staircase leading to entry vestibule is in the far corner.

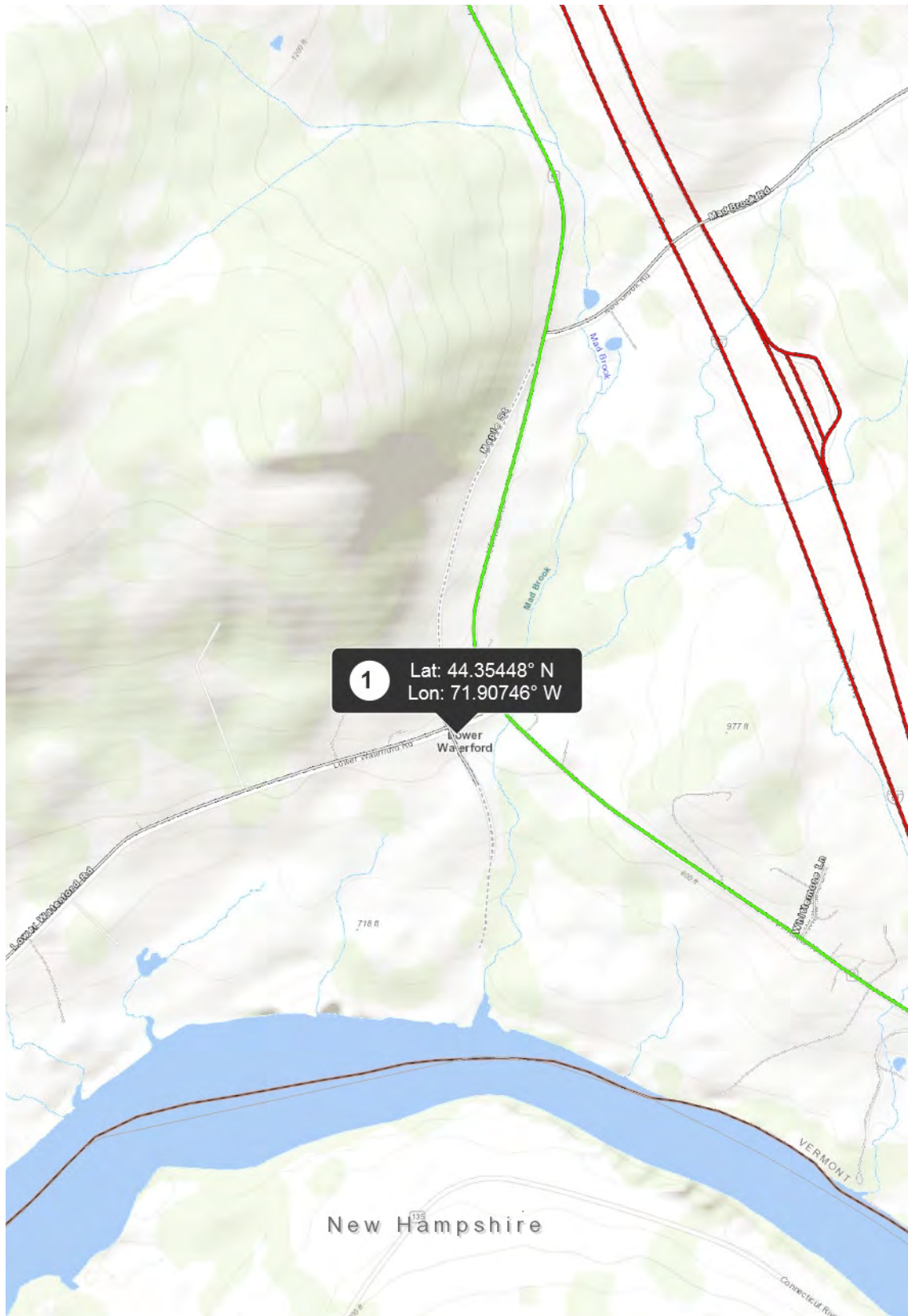
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding

Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
Name of Property

Caledonia, VT  
County and State

this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior,  
1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



### LEGEND

- Airports
- Rail Lines
- Town Boundaries
- County Boundaries
- Buildings
- Village Boundaries

63 Lower Waterford Road  
Waterford, VT

### NOTES

Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
63 Lower Waterford Road  
Town of Waterford  
Caledonia County, Vermont

0.43 0 0.22 0.43 Miles

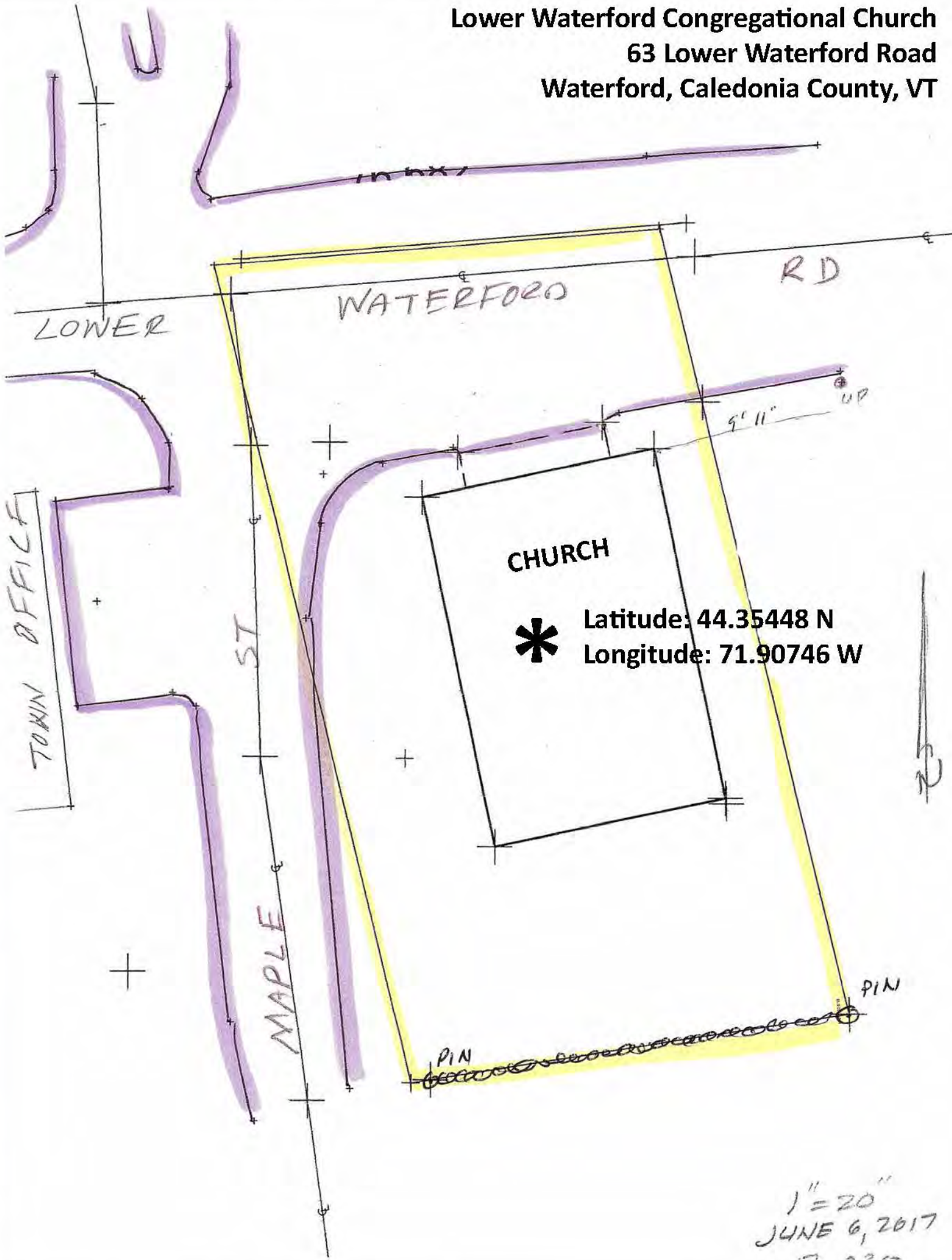
WGS\_1984\_Web\_Mercator\_Auxiliary\_Sphere  
THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

1:13,677  
April 4, 2019

DISCLAIMER: This map is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. VCGI and the State of Vermont make no representations of any kind, including but not limited to, the warranties of merchantability, or fitness for a particular use, nor are any such warranties to be implied with respect to the data on this map. © Vermont Center For Geographic Information



Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
63 Lower Waterford Road  
Waterford, Caledonia County, VT



CHURCH



Latitude: 44.35448 N

Longitude: 71.90746 W

RD

WATERFORD

LOWER

TOWN OFFICE

ST

MAPLE

9' 11" UP

PIN

PIN

1" = 20'  
JUNE 6, 2017























HYMNS  
421  
422  
425

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Lower Waterford Congregational Church

Multiple Name: Religious Buildings, Sites and Structures in Vermont MPS

State & County: VERMONT, Caledonia

Date Received: 5/30/2019      Date of Pending List: 6/19/2019      Date of 16th Day: 7/5/2019      Date of 45th Day: 7/15/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100004181

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      7/8/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Very good example of rural Greek Revival church. The building has an interesting method of heating the sanctuary from the basement through a series of louvered vents hidden under the pews. The building also served the village as a social institution, with school classes and other municipal activities.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A & C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

**From:** [Fred Saar](#)  
**To:** [Colman, Devin](#)  
**Subject:** Lower Waterford Congregational Church  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 14, 2019 10:55:34 AM

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Thank you for the information on the public meeting of the Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to be held in St. Albans on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Waterford Selectboard is actively engaged with the Church in exploring avenues for adaptive reuse that will insure the long term use and maintenance of the church building. The Church is a central component of Lower Waterford, and coupled with the historic Rabbit Hill Inn forms the center of the Lower Village.

The Selectboard would like to express our support for the nomination of the Lower Waterford Congregational Church for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and our commitment to working with the Church on strategies to address preservation of the building.

Fred Saar  
Waterford Selectboard



May 24, 2019

Joy Beasley  
Keeper of the National Register  
National Park Service  
National Register Program  
1849 C Street, NW (Mail Stop 7228)  
Washington, DC 20240



**Re: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Property in Vermont**

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disks contain a true and correct copy of the nomination for the Lower Waterford Congregational Church located at 63 Lower Waterford Road in Waterford, VT, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Notification

The property owner(s), Chief Elected Official and Regional Planning Commission were notified of the proposed nomination on April 15, 2019.

- No objections to the nomination were submitted to the Division during the public comment period.
- An objection to the nomination was submitted to the Division during the public comment period. A copy of the objection is included on Disk 1.
- A letter of support for the nomination was submitted to the Division during the public comment period. A copy of the letter is included on Disk 1.

Certified Local Government

- The property being nominated is not located in a CLG community.
- The property being nominated is located in a CLG community, and a copy of the local commission's review is included on Disk 1.

Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits

- This property is not utilizing the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits.
- This property being rehabilitated using the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits. A copy of the *Part I – Evaluation of Significance* form is included on Disk 1.

State Review Board

The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation reviewed the draft nomination materials at its meeting on May 23, 2019. The Council voted that the property meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation under Criteria A and C and recommends that the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at (802) 585-8246 or [devin.colman@vermont.gov](mailto:devin.colman@vermont.gov).

Sincerely,  
VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Devin A. Colman  
State Architectural Historian