

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED **MAY 20 1980**  
DATE ENTERED JUN 30 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*The East Village Meeting House*

AND/OR COMMON

The Old Brick Church, East Montpelier

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

U.S. Routes 2 and 14 in East Montpelier NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

East Montpelier VICINITY OF Vermont CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Vermont CODE 50 COUNTY Washington CODE 023

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

The Old Brick Church, Board of Trustees

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

East Montpelier VICINITY OF Vermont

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the City Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier STATE Vermont

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

July 1978 —FEDERAL  STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier STATE Vermont

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Greek Revival-style East Montpelier Old Brick Church exhibits a gabled 1½-story, 4 x 4 bay main block with a recessed steeple astride the roof ridge. The walls are laid in eight-course American bond and large granite blocks form the foundation.

The front (south) elevation has two 12/8 windows with rectangular cut granite lintels flanking a pair of six-panel Christian doors with large granite lintels and sills. The four second-story windows also have 12/8 sash and granite lintels. The large recessed triangular panel in the gable is outlined in headers and suggests a full pediment, an image initiated by the wide cornice returns. The headers forming the angles of the triangle are cut into small triangular pieces and come to a fine point at each angle. In the center of the panel there is a triangular louvered vent, set off by a border of brick headers.

There are four tall windows on the side elevations and two on the rear elevation; all have rectangular cut granite lintels and wooden sills. Originally, each window contained fifty small panes of clear glass.<sup>1</sup> One 25/25 window exists on the rear of the church. Circa 1908, stained glass memorial windows were installed.<sup>2</sup> Three of these windows remain; the rest were destroyed by vandals. Three additional memorial windows currently grace the structure. They were salvaged from the North Montpelier Church which was demolished in 1954. Because the window openings of that church were larger than those of the Old Brick Church, the bottom transoms and some of the side sash of the windows had to be cut off before their reinstallation.<sup>3</sup> Today, four memorial windows are found on the east side of the church, one on the rear and one on the northernmost bay of the west side. The remaining three windows on the west side have 24 fixed-pane sash. There is a central rectangular opening in the apex of the rear gable, with a granite lintel and wood sill; it is infilled with a plank panel.

A three-stage central steeple dominates the design of the Old Brick Church. The lower section of the square base is sheathed in flush boards, with moldings to resemble cut stone; above this portion are wide paneled pilasters supporting a full entablature. The smaller second stage is the belfry which has rectangular louvered openings. (The bell was purchased from the American Bell Foundry Company of Northville, Michigan and was installed on June 18, 1897.<sup>4</sup> It bears the inscription, "He Leadeth Me.") Pilasters composed of two vertical boards joined by a cap molding flank the louvered openings. A full entablature finishes the second-stage composition. A shingled octagonal spire completes the steeple. It was constructed in 1952 to replace the steeple's original dome and slender spire which were covered in English tin.

<sup>1</sup>Yeaw, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur L., editors, A History of the Old Brick Church, 1969. Manuscript in the files of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vermont.

<sup>2</sup>Includes quotation of "A Brief History of the Society", c. 1898. Page 3.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid. Page 4.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid. Page 7.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid. Page 2.

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

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

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The simple interior of the Old Brick Church contains slip pews facing a pulpit along the rear wall. Originally, the pews were reversed and a high pulpit was located between the two front doors. Circa 1908, the base of the pulpit was sawn off and the top portion installed along the rear wall, and the pews turned around. A choir loft over the high pulpit was closed in at this time, also.

Associated with, and next to the church, is a modern 2½-story, wood frame gabled roof Sunday School building built c. 1960. It exhibits a cement foundation, paired 8/8 windows, a clapboarded exterior with a wide cornice with returns, corner boards, a simple beltcourse at the second floor level, and a triangular louvered vent in each gable. An exterior staircase between the church and the Sunday School leads to a second-story entrance on the side of the school. The open entrance porch is supported on joists which extend to the sidewall of the church.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet 9-1

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Plainfield, VT

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 700500 | 4904925  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B    |    |     
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C    |    |   

D    |    |   

E    |    |   

F    |    |   

G    |    |   

H    |    |   

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of The Old Brick Church, East Montpelier is the same as the property belonging to The Old Brick Church at the intersection of U.S. Routes 2 & 14. *the deed describing the land is in V.S. 1617 Montpelier Land Records - Mont. City Clerk's Office (see phone report of 6/26/80)*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Betsy Bouton and Nancy E. Boone, Architectural Historians

ORGANIZATION

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

February 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

802-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont 05602

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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

*William B. Pinner*

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

*(Signed 5/13/80 - see phone report of 6/26/80)*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Ann A. Reese*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE June 22, 1980

ATTEST: *Patrick Andrews*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6/27/80

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 1833 & 1834

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Stillman & Truman Kelton & others.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Brick Church is the visual, religious, and social focus of East Montpelier village, settled in 1825. Architecturally, it is an excellent example of a masonry Greek Revival Vermont meeting house.

The structure is prominently sited at the junction of two major highways (U.S. Route 2 and Vermont Route 14), and is a landmark for both natives and travelers.

The land for the church was donated by Arthur Daggett and construction of the church, originally called the East Village Meeting House, began in 1833 and was completed the following year. The building was built by Stillman and Truman Kelton and three other men at a cost of \$18,000.<sup>1</sup> Their excellent craftsmanship is evidenced by the fine brickwork in the unusual borders of the tympanum panels. (Some of the same workmen were also employed to build Vermont's second State House, designed by Ammi B. Young and constructed in brick and granite from 1833 to 1838.) Bricks for the church were made locally. The interior woodwork was done by a man from Cabot, Vermont.

Originally, the Old Brick Church served both Methodist and Universalist congregations. Circa 1858, the Methodists withdrew, leaving the Universalists sole use of the church. In 1864, Reverend Olympia Brown, the first ordained woman in the Universalist Church in the United States, preached in the church. Between 1940 and 1951, the church was only used for summer services. It was reopened for year-round use in 1952, and now serves Universalists, Methodists, Baptists, and Congregationalists as a united church with a resident minister who also serves the Old Meeting House in East Montpelier Center (nominated to the National Register, April 9, 1980).

The Old Brick Church stands out against the more common wooden churches in the area. The exterior looks much the same as it did when it was built. Although the spire has been altered, its design is compatible with the rest of the tower, and does not detract from the impact of the overall design, solidly executed in heavy masonry.

The lighter wood-frame construction, smaller scale, and common ornament of the neighboring Sunday School building help to minimize any distraction from the church that it presents.

The boundary of the nominated property is the same as the boundary of the Old Brick Church lot. Streets form the southern and eastern boundaries of the property. A steep hill to the west of the Sunday School building forms a topographic and visual boundary. To the north, a sharp change in use and architectural style defines the nomination's boundary.

<sup>1</sup>Child, Hamilton, Gazetteer of Washington County, Vermont. Syracuse: The Syracuse Journal Company, 1889.

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Child, Hamilton, Gazetteer of Washington County, Vermont. Syracuse: The Syracuse Journal Company, 1889.

Hemenway, Abby Maria, Vermont Historical Gazetteer. Montpelier, Vermont: Vermont Watchman and State Journal Press, 1882. Volume 4.

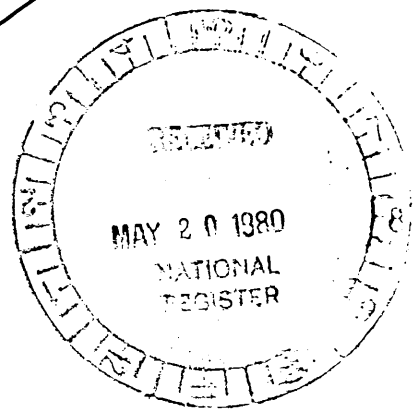
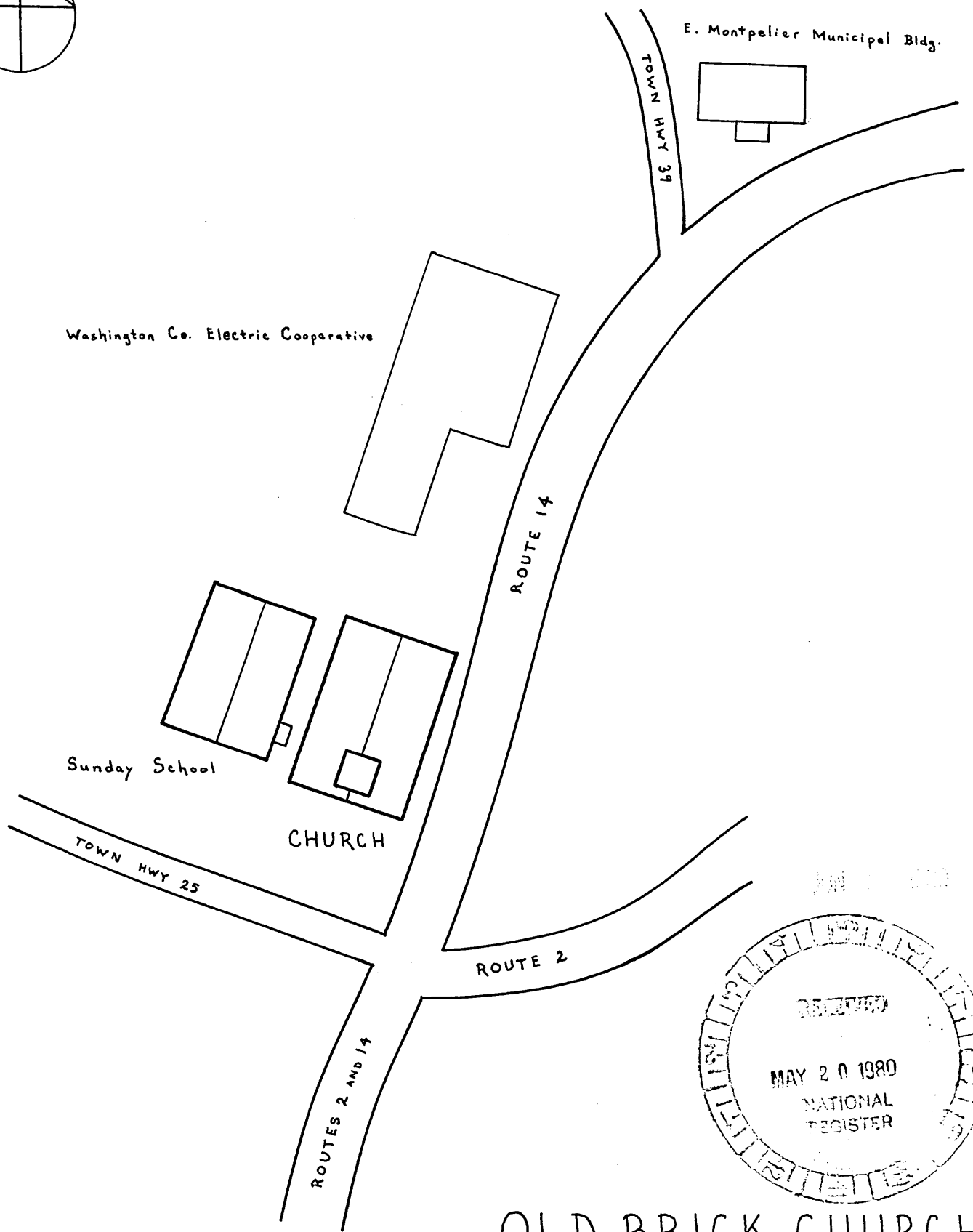
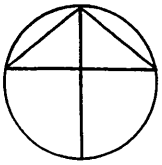
Wheeler, Benjamin I., Journal 1850-1896, Volumes 2-14. In the collections of the Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier; Vermont.

Yeaw, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur L., editors, A History of the Old Brick Church, 1969. Manuscript in the files of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vermont. Includes quotation of "A Brief History of the Society", c. 1898.

Books of the Ladies Social Circle and Library and the Ladies Union Social Circle. In the collections of the Vermont Historical Society, Montpelier, Vermont.

East Montpelier Bicentennial Souvenir Booklet, 1976.

East Montpelier Patron, c. 1897. Pamphlet, Volume 3, #1.



OLD BRICK CHURCH  
 EAST MONTPELIER, VERMONT

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

Nancy E. Boone