National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

FEB 1 4 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines* for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

(1 om 10 occa). Typo an omnoo.			
1. Name of Property			
historic name South Congre	gational Church		
other names/site number United	Church of Christ in Newport		
2. Location			
street & number 58 South Mai	n Street	n/a L	not for publication
city, town Newport		n/a L	_ vicinity
state New Hampshire code	NH county Sullivan	code NHO1	9 zip code 03773
3. Classification	·		
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resour	ces within Property
rivate	X building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
public-local	district		1 buildings
public-State	site	· .	sites
public-Federal	structure		structures
,	object		objects
·		_2	1Total
Name of related multiple property listi	ng:	Number of contrib	uting resources previously
		listed in the Nation	•
			·
4. State/Federal Agency Certific	eation	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
In my opinion, the property medical Signature of certifying official NEW HAMPSHIRE	etsdoes not meet the National Regist		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
In my opinion, the property med	ets does not meet the National Regist	er criteria. See co	intinuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other offici	al	÷	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau	· · ·	•	
5. National Park Service Certific	eation		
I, hereby, certify that this property is:			
Centered in the National Register.			
See continuation sheet.	(Soft)	morre	3/30/89
determined eligible for the National	il -		
Register. See continuation sheet.		200	
determined not eligible for the		• •	• , , ,
National Register.			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
removed from the National Register	er.		•
other, (explain:)			
	Signature of the	Keeper	Date of Action

6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)		
Religion/Religious structure	Religio	on/Religious structure	
Religion/Church-related residence	Religio	on/Church-related residence	
			
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (er	nter categories from instructions)	
	foundation _	Granite	
Federal	walls	Brick	
Colonial Revival			
	roof	Slate	
	other	Wood	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The South Congregational Church property consists of a church and parsonage situated on a level grassy lot at the corner of South Main, Church and Laurel Streets in Newport, New Hampshire. Federal style brick church with its beautifully proportioned four and the later two story Colonial Revival brick stage steeple parsonage retain virtually all of their original integrity and The church, facing westward, is set back approximately detailing. fifty feet from South Main Street with side elevation its approximately fifteen feet from Church Street. The parsonage is located in the northwest portion of the property with a clapboarded garage to the east. A system of concrete sidewalks link the church, parsonage and the parking lot running along Laurel Street at the rear A signboard set in brick is located in front of the of the church. church near the sidewalk running along South Main Street. tree is located by the front sidewalk between the church parsonage. Another is located north of the church addition.

Set above a granite foundation the South Congregational Church is a two story brick structure dominated by blind arcades with imposts painted white ordering the facade into five bays with six bays on the The brick is laid in a Flemish bond. A triple side elevations. portal pavilion echoes the pedimented main section which is broken by a four stage tower. Each of the entrances contains a six panel door flanked by pilasters with recessed panels. A course of vertical striations and guttae support a fanlight of leaded tracery which is encircled by a molding adorned by diamonds and an outer brick arch. Granite steps with cast iron railings front the three entrances. second floor rectangular openings above the entrances contain louvered panels with gauged flat arch brick lintels and wood sills. pediments are flushboarded. Centered in the porch pediment segmentally divided ovoid window surrounded by a diamond molding with urns and tree designs. Flanking each side of the pavilion is a 12/12 window with blinds on each floor. This window form is repeated on the side elevations. The building's continuous cornice is comprised of guttae and a plain frieze with small scroll brackets adorning the double pediments. A four stage tower rises from the front of the gabled roof. The base is sheathed in wide clapboards with a boardedup circular opening on each side flanked by pilasters seupon maior sheen

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this propert nationally	y in relation to other properties: statewide	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B C C	D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D DE DF G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Architecture	Period of Significance1823-1918	Significant Dates 1823 1872 1918
	Cultural Affiliation n/a	<u>-</u>
Significant Person n/a	Architect/Builder John Leach (1823) James T. Kelley (191	8 Parsonage)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. The South Congregational Church, constructed in 1823, derives its primary significance as one of western New Hampshire's finest Federal-Although the interior has witnessed various style brick churches. stylistic changes over the years, the exterior has been changed only by sympathetically executed additions and retains its original The combination of a brick body, four stage steeple and integrity. Federal detailing seen in Newport's South Church is without parallel The addition of a parsonage to the church property in in the region. 1918 has not negatively affected its integrity. The period of significance commences in 1823 with the church's construction and terminates in 1918 with the construction of the parish house.

steeple is the farthest north of a South Congregational Church's number of churches derived from the Federated Church in Templeton, Massachusetts, designed in 1811 by Elias Carter, a country carpenter and builder. Born in Auburn, Massachusetts, Carter (1781-1864) was the son of an English builder, from whom he reportedly inherited many Carter was also reportedly greatly drawings and specifications. influenced in the design books of Asher Benjamin.² variations on the Templeton steeple, consisting of a square, open arched belfry supporting two octagonal stages and a spire, were built in Fitzwilliam, NH in 1816, Dublin in 1818, Hancock in 1820 and Acworth in 1821. said that Fitzwilliam was copied from It is Templeton, and it is known that Dublin was copied from Fitzwilliam and Hancock from Dublin although a thorough study of the cross connections within the group has yet to be made. The Templeton structure itself seems to have been derived from English prototypes through builder's handbooks and resembles Gibbs' 1719-20 spire of St. Clement Danes in London in particular.4

Churches descending from the Templeton Church generally repeat two minor features in addition to the steeple design. The vertically elliptical window in the pediment and a line of downward pointing brackets below the cornice. The Newport Church displays the window but its cornice brackets are regular in configuration.

	X See continuation sheet
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	X See Continuation sheet
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)	Primary location of additional data:
has been requested	State historic preservation office
previously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings	University
Survey #	X Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering	Specify repository:
Record #	United Church of Christ,
	Newport, NH
10. Geographical Data	, newpore, mi
Acreage of property1.7 acres	
LITM Deferences	
UTM References A 1 8 7 2 9 2 7 5 4 8 0 4 6 0 0 B	
	Zone Easting Northing

the state of the contract of the state of th	See continuation sheet
	See continuation sheet
Verbal Boundary Description	
The nominated property occupies lot 357 on Map	45 in the local tax accessors' records
with a frontage of 230 feet along Main Street,	340 feet on Church Street and 198 feet
along Laurel Street. Boundaries of the nominate	ed property are highlighted in yellow
on the attached sketch map.	
	See continuation sheet
Boundary Justification	
The boundaries of the nominated property are co-	-extensive with those of the original
parcel acquired for the church and upon which i	t was constructed. This is the parcel
which has been associated with the church since	its erection.
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The second of t	See continuation sheet
f	
11. Form Prepared Bysecures and the second s	The state of the s
name/title Lisa Mausolf, assisted by Anna R. Ten	
organization Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Council ;	
street & number 314 First NH Bank Building	telephone (603) 448-1680
city or townLebanon	state NH zip code 03766
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Geometri	HUHHDOL		I aye _	

arch with keystone. A swag design is below each with a pair of consoles, edged in bead molding with foliate leaves below, located in the frieze flanking each side of the arch. Small brackets and raised on pedestals mark vertical lines decorate the projecting eaves. Urns the corners of the roof with a spindle balustrade. The second stage, housing an open belfry, is also square in plan with four identical arched openings, the spring line of each supported by pilasters which are in turn flanked by a pair of pilasters on each side. pattern, modillions and dentil course wrap around this stage. stage too is capped by a balustrade with corner urns. The third stage consists of an octagonal drum articulated by paired pilasters with louvered arch openings. A Doric frieze of triglyphs with guttae encircles at this level, above which are mutules with pierced holes, crowned by an "x" patterned balustrade with smaller urns. octagonal drum is located above decorated by paneled pilasters, oval panels adorned by a Greek fret frieze and a final urn balustrade. bulbous roof is capped by a copper ball and spindle which act as a base for a "Flying Breeches" weathervane. A Revere bell swings in the belfry.

The rear of the church is adorned by returns with a clapboarded gable. Several windows have been filled in on the rear elevation which features a chimney in the center of the rear slope. Set perpendicular to the church is a 1 1/2 story gable-roofed brick addition, recessed slightly on the south elevation and projecting from the north. On the south side the gable is clapboarded and lit by a doublehung 6/6 window in the attic, with two 6/6 windows with flat gauged lintels and a panelled and glass door punctuating the first floor. The facade and north elevation repeat the recessed arches, brackets and guttae of the main building. A hip roofed, double-doored entrance vestibule fronted by granite steps projects from the west side, facing Main Street.

A new brick one story addition with an asphalt roof constructed in 1987 is set perpendicular to the first addition, aligned with the roof line of the church and its south wall. On the south side the new addition partially envelopes the first addition. Markings on the brick indicate the location of the former door hood. The west end of the roof forms an entrance porch in front of the existing doorway with a single column resting on a brick wall supporting the southeast corner of the roof. Two fixed 4x3 windows and two doublehung 12/12 windows light the south side. Brick on the addition is laid in a bond consisting of eight rows of stretchers followed by a row alternating stretchers and headers. The foundation is poured concrete. At the

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rear of the addition the central section projects slightly from the remaining wall surface. The gable is clapboarded and punctuated by a At the corners, pilasters of brick circular vent in the center. project slightly and support cornice returns. The rear elevation measures four bays wide, three of which contain doublehung 12/12windows with flat gauged arch brick lintels and concrete sills. second bay consists of a recessed entrance with a metal door. the corner, on the north side are two 8/8 windows with a single 8/8 window and metal door punctuating the adjacent east side. side (rear) of the chapel addition (the addition set perpendicular to the church) is lit by three doublehung windows containing 6/6 sash and The north side is four bays wide capped by flat gauged arch lintels. and displays recessed arches like those seen on the body of the The oval opening in the flush board pediment has been boarded up. Brackets and guttae decorate the cornice below a slate roof. foundation under the chapel addition is constructed of granite.

To the north is a $2 \frac{1}{2}$ story brick parsonage, capped by a slate hip roof with a balustrade marked by corner urns. The south side, treated as the facade measures three bays wide. The multilight wooden front door is flanked by full sidelights and is fronted by an entrance portico, with a broken pediment roof supported by two pairs columns above a brick base, accessed by concrete steps. The sides of the entrance porch are sheathed in lattice work with a central ovoid window on each side. on the first floor are tripartite Windows consisting of a doublehung 8/8 window flanked by sidelights and panel pilasters and capped by flat gauged arch brick lintels with central concrete keystones. Four-light window strips punctuate the basement The second floor windows, here and elsewhere on the building contain doublehung 8/8 sash with flat gauged arch brick lintels and There is a tripartite 8/8 window over the entrance. simple sills. Unlike the other windows on the building this opening lacks louvered The cornice with guttae seen on the church is blinds. bracketed repeated here. Two pedimented dormers containing 8/8 sash punctuate the facade. Brick chimneys project from the east and west roof slope.

Spanning much of the east facade is a two story flat roofed section consisting of an open porch on the first floor and glassed sunroom above. On the first floor Doric columns are spanned by turned balusters above a wooden floor. A multilight door and two windows punctuate this level. Upstairs, continuous 2x4 casement windows rest on a recessed panel base with the cornice of the brick building continuing around this section as well.

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On the rear elevation, the first floor of the parsonage is lit by four windows: a wide 8/8 window, two small 6/6 windows and an 8/8 window. Upstairs the three windows echo those seen elsewhere on the building. The street side of the building (west side) is two bays wide. Upstairs the windows contain 8/8 sash, downstairs there are tripartite windows.

Projecting eastward from the east elevation of the parsonage and to the right of the two story porch is a single story flat-roofed brick building connecting the main house and a one story gable-roofed, clapboarded garage. Two small windows light the brick building.

Resting on a concrete foundation, the garage was moved to its present location when the addition was constructed at the rear of the church in 1987, necessitating the garage's removal from that site. The single car garage is oriented with a modern aluminum garage door on its east-facing pediment front. The clapboards on the building were recently replaced. Wide cornerboards give rise to a plain frieze under a projecting boxed cornice. A glass and horizontally panelled door punctuates the south side. A doublehung 2/2 window lights the west elevation. The exact date of construction of the garage is not known. Based on Sanborn insurance maps at the New Hampshire State Library it was built sometime after 1928 but definitely by 1942. It is considered non-contributing within the context of this nomination, due to its having been moved and alterations.

Original Appearance

The exterior of the church has survived relatively unchanged since its construction in 1823. In 1872, a brick chapel was added to the rear, necessitating the bricking in of the windows on the east side of the church building.² In keeping with the detailing of the original structure, recessed arches, brackets and guttae decorate the west and north sides. The windows used were salvaged from the dismantled church on the west side of town. The ell at the rear was added in 1923 to house a modern kitchen.³ The most recent brick addition at the rear dates to 1987 and was designed by Sherr and McCrystal, Architects of New London.

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As viewed today, the exterior appearance of the parsonage is virtually identical to when it was constructed in 1918. The garage building previously located behind the church was moved to its present position in 1987 to make way for the addition.

In contrast to the exterior, changes to the interior have been frequent, subject to over a century and a half of changing styles and tastes. As originally constructed, box pews filled the interior, square along the walls with the rest parallelogram in shape. was a high pulpit and "the desk projected in such a way as to leave a recess underneath large enough for several persons to sit in. pulpit was entered through this recess by stairs in the rear."4 Repairs and modifications taking places as early as 1853 raised the floor, cut down the pews, lowered the pulpit and changed the seats in In 1868 the church was totally remodelled at an expense the gallery. of nearly \$8,000 including the installation of semicircular pews made of chestnut and trimmed with walnut. The ceilings and walls were frescoed.⁵ Colored glass windows replaced the original windows in 1877.6A subsequent restoration in 1927 replaced these windows with painted the walls ivory as opposed to their dark clear glass, Victorian tones and replaced the pews yet again. Iron columns were replaced with pillars at this time and the crimson hanging decorating the sanctuary arch was put in place.

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FOOTNOTES

- Sanborn Map Co., Sanborn Insurance Map of Newport, New Hampshire. (New York: March 1928; corrected 1935, 1942 & 1953). [State Library, Concord]. The 1928 map shows a set of horsesheds behind the church. A subsequent correction glued over the building documents the subsequent construction of a one story accessory building, wood frame with a composition roof, apparently the garage which survives today. Although corrections were made to the maps in 1935, 1942 and 1953, this particular correction would appear to have been made in 1935 or 1942 as it has yellowed more than some other corrections made to the set of maps.
- Manual of the Congregational Church in Newport, NH (Newport, NH: Barton & Wheeler, Printers, 1887), p.11.
- 3 Information from Mrs. Myron Tenney, Church Historian, 1988.
- Samuel H. Edes. <u>History of the South Congregational Church & Society</u>, <u>Newport</u>, <u>New Hampshire</u> (Newport, NH: 1954), p.14.
- Edmund Wheeler. The History of Newport, NH from 1766 to 1878 (Concord, NH: Republican Press Assoc., 1879), p.117.
- 6 Manual, p.10.
- 7 Information from Mrs. Myron Tenney, Church Historian, 1988.

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The design of the Newport Church bears striking similarities to the Acworth Congregational Church, built just fifteen miles to the south two years earlier. Acworth's Church has been credited by some as being a Carter design although positive evidence has not emerged. (Listed on the National Register 6/13/75).5 Although Newport's church is made of brick and Acworth's is clapboarded, the massing of the two are very similar. Both consist of two story pediment-fronted bodies, with front pavilions and four stage towers. Both feature an elliptical pediment opening. On each the two lower sections of the steeple are square with two octagonal lanterns above; each stage is capped by urned balustrades. The detailing on the upper three stages of each tower, from the arched belfry up to the domed roof with balled spindle, is nearly identical.

According to the South Church History the churches at Acworth, Croydon Four Corners, Newport and other places were built after the same plans. Six dollars were paid to a relatively unknown master builder from Concord, John Leach (1778-1865) for plans for the South Church and framing the structure. Other structures credited to Leach include the First Baptist Church in Concord (1824-25); Merrimack County Bank (1826) and the gothic St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Hopkinton (1827-8). The First Baptist Church reportedly once had a steeple similar in detail to that of South Church but was remodeled in 1875 in an Italianate style.

The brick body of the Newport church with its blind arcades and limestone impost blocks is identical in detail to the Unitarian Church constructed a year later (in 1824) in Deerfield, Massachusetts by a student of a skilled carpenter-builder named Isaac Damon (1781-1862). It is possible that the design for both the Deerfield and Newport structures came from the same builder's book or from Isaac Damon's church at Greenfield, Massachusetts (no longer extant) which they both resemble. Federal style elements incorporated in the design include blind arcades and fanlights.

Within the region, South Church is part of a tradition of brick churches found in the western counties of Cheshire and Sullivan during the 19th century yet stands alone in terms of the purity of its Federal-style detailing. Nearby, Old St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, a brick structure with rectangular tower erected in Claremont in 1823-4 defies stylistic characterization although many of its

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features are vaguely Federal. The awkward combination of urns, bullseye openings and triangular relieving arches above many of the windows make this an unsophisticated structure, especially in comparison to the contemporary South Church.

The brick churches in the region constructed after South Church are generally more eclectic in design. The First Congregational Church built in Jaffrey in 1830-31 combines Federal, Greek Revival and Gothic Revival elements while Master Builder Col. Charles Egglestone (1787-1858) was responsible for a number of brick churches with two stage towers and Greek Revival detailing erected in the Plainfield/Cornish area between 1839 and 1842.¹¹

The South Church Parsonage, constructed in 1918 is a good example of Colonial Revival style design and although built nearly a century after the Church, functions as a sympathetic, if not historically accurate, neighbor. As is evident here, architects designing in the Colonial Revival mode during the late 19th and early 20th century freely combined elements derived from classical, Georgian, Federal and other styles of architecture. The Parsonage borrows its balustraded, hip-roofed block from the Colonial period, while decreasing the five bay facade typical of the era to three. Fenestration similarly deviates from what was common in the early 19th century and include wide doublehung 8/8 sash and tripartite windows. Full sidelights, based on Greek Revival prototypes, flank the doorway. Typical of the Colonial Revival style is the application of a variety of historic details including keystones, urns, Roman Doric columns, and pediments, combined in a decidedly contemporary fashion. The small scroll brackets and guttae decorating the cornice are based directly on those of the South Church.

Historical Background

Newport was one of sixteen towns to receive its charter from the Royal Governor of New Hampshire, Benning Wentworth in 1761. From a base of 15 families in 1769 the population of Newport steadily increased as did the need for an organized church. A Congregational Church was formed in Newport in 1779 and a church building was erected in 1793 on a small eminence at the foot of Claremont Hill in the western part of town near the junction of what are today Unity and Claremont Roads. 12

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The location of the present church standing somewhat apart from the center of town relates to a war lasting nearly 25 years over where the village of Newport should be established. The construction of the Croydon Turnpike in 1806 in the eastern part of town, shifted emphasis from the west where the original meetinghouse stood and settlement Creation of this north-south artery resulted proliferation of through travel and the siting of a number of hotels and public houses along the route. In a few years the center of business activity became concentrated in this area, beginning a period of rivalry between factions north and south of the Sugar River, each eager to be the center of trade. The leaders of the two factions were Col. William Cheney, favoring the north and James Breck, favoring the At the same time Breck advised a new meetinghouse for the Congregationalists on the south end of Main Street, William Cheney gave land for a Baptist Church at the north end. The two were built concurrently with the dedication of the Baptist Church occurring slightly before that of the Congregational Church. The north side of Main Street eventually emerged victorious, leaving the Congregational Church slightly south of the center of town. 13

The South Congregational Church was erected as a private enterprise in 1822. The building committee, consisting of James Breck, Hubbard Newton, Elkanah Carpenter and Caleb Heath assumed all liabilities and depended on the sale of pews for compensation. The Church Society merely voted after it had been completed that it should be a place of public worship. The Society purchased pews amounting to only \$470 including the minister's pews. The rest of the pews were purchased by individuals. The Revere and Son bell which hangs in the steeple (#275) was purchased by James Breck in 1822 for the building.

Deacon Enoch Noyes, blacksmith, deeded to the church the original two acres of land on which the church stands. Capt. Seth Richards deeded to the Society an additional acre, north of the Noyes lot. In time this was used for a parsonage and three successive buildings have been built on it. The predecessor of the current parsonage was built in the early 1870's and was moved c.1918 down South Main Street (next to 131) to make way for the brick parsonage visible today. 16

In 1918 Mrs. Lizzie M. Richards, widow of Seth Richards, presented the church with the present parsonage. The building committee consisted of Myron W. Tenney, George E. Lewis and Eugene Paul. James T. Kelley of the firm of Kelley and Graves, Boston designed the building and

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supervised the work. 17 Richards was one of the few in the area able to afford the services of a metropolitan architect of Kelley's reputation. Kelley (d.1929) is remembered as the designer of a number of public buildings in Boston, distinguished homes in the Back Bay and other town and country residences. 18 Nearly twenty years earlier (1898-1899), Kelley designed a residence for the Seth Richards family in Newport (now Richards Free Library, listed on the National Register). 19 The building is an outstanding example of the Colonial Revival style in a region where such expression of opulence are relatively rare. In contrast to the Richards Residence, Kelley's approach to the South Church Parsonage design was far more conservative, following closely the form and spirit of the earlier Church building within a considerably smaller budget than that alloted for the Richards Residence.

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FOOTNOTES

- Edmund W. Sinnott, <u>Meeting House and Church in Early New England</u>. (New York: McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc. 1963), p.98.
- 2 Ibid, p.95.
- George F. Hanson "The Church-on-the-Hill; Acworth, NH" National Register Nomination, March 1975.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 <u>Manual of the Congregational Church in Newport, NH.</u> (Newport, NH: Barton & Wheeler, Printers, 1887), p.9.
- Samuel H. Edes <u>History of the South Congregational Church and Society:</u> Newport, New Hampshire. (Newport, NH: 1954), p.7.
- Bryant F. Tolles, Jr. <u>New Hampshire Architecture: An Illustrated</u>
 <u>Guide</u>. (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1979),
 p.179.
- 9 Sinnott, p.99.
- 10 Tolles, p.172.
- 11 Ibid. p.129, 176.
- 12 Manual, p.9.
- 13 Edes, p.6-7.
- 14 Manual, p.9.
- Eva A. Speare, <u>Historic Bells in New Hampshire</u>. (Plymouth, NH: Courier Printing, 1944), p.25.
- 16 Edes, p.16-17.

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- 17 Argus & Spectator, May 24, 1918, p.2.
- 18 Henry & Elsie Withey, <u>Biographical Dictionary of American</u>
 <u>Architects (Deceased)</u>
- "Richards Free Library, -National Register Nomination" prepared by Lisa Mausolf, April, 1984.

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National Register Nominations for:

The Church on the Hill, Acworth, NH. Prepared by George F. Hanson, March 1975.

Richards Free Library, Newport, NH. Prepared by Lisa Mausolf, April 1984.

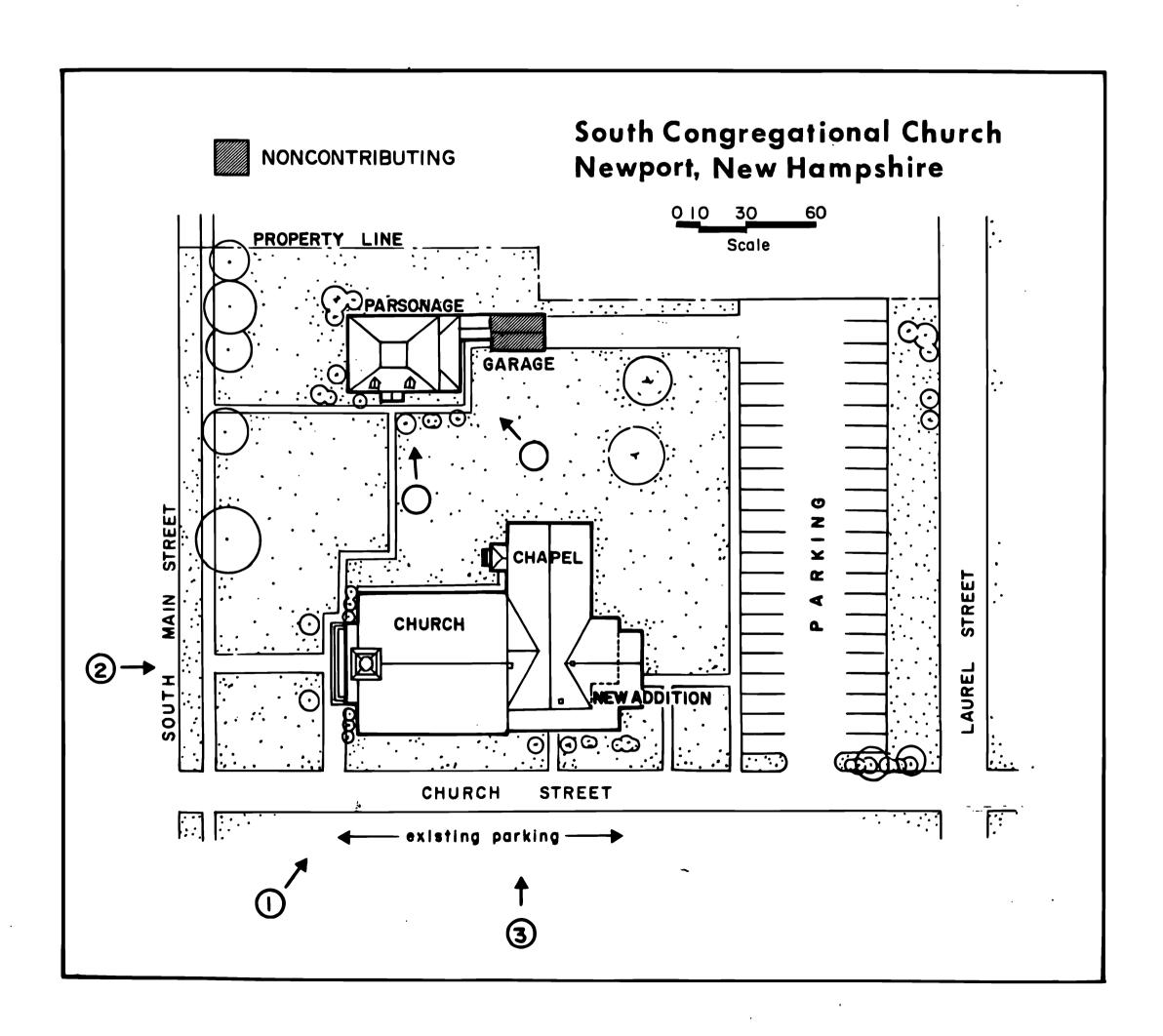
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This certifies that the appearance has not changed since these photographs were taken.

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PROPERTY OWNER:

United Church of Christ Newport, NH 03773