

From: [Abernathy, Alexis](#) on behalf of [WASO NRHE NR Info. NPS](#)
To: [WASO NRHE NR Info. NPS](#)
Subject: National Register Weekly List 09/03/2021
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 9:35:10 AM

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WEEKLY LIST OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON PROPERTIES: 8/30/2021 THROUGH 9/2/2021

ATTENTION—IMPORTANT UPDATE**

Effective (4/10/20), the National Register program launched an electronic-only submission process for the duration of the COVID-19 situation while our staff and the staff of our preservation partners engage in extended telework operations. Instructions for (1) the organization of submissions and (2) how to access and upload submissions via the designated FTP site were distributed to recipients of this distribution list and posted on the National Register Website landing page at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>

KEY: State, County, Property Name, Address/Boundary, City, Vicinity, Reference Number, NHL, Action, Date, Multiple Name

ARIZONA, MARICOPA COUNTY,
Willo Historic District (Additional Documentation),
Roughly bounded by Central Ave., McDowell Rd., 7th Ave., and Thomas Rd.,
Phoenix, AD90002099,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 9/2/2021

ARKANSAS, CONWAY COUNTY,
Morrilton Commercial Historic District (Additional Documentation),
Roughly bounded by East Railroad Ave., East Broadway, North Division, and North Moose Sts.,
Morrilton, AD03000085,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 9/2/2021

FLORIDA, HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY,
Costa, Dr. Frank J., House,
16116 Lake Magdalene Dr.,
Tampa vicinity, RS100003022,
LISTED, 9/2/2021

ILLINOIS, BUREAU COUNTY,
Oakland Cemetery Historic District,
1013 Park Ave. West,
Princeton, SG100006864,
LISTED, 9/1/2021

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,
Ravisloe Country Club,
18231 Park Ave.,
Homewood, SG100006865,
LISTED, 9/1/2021

ILLINOIS, KANKAKEE COUNTY,
Pope Brace Company Building,
197 South West Ave.,

Kankakee, SG100006866,
LISTED, 9/1/2021

ILLINOIS, MCLEAN COUNTY,
Fairview Sanatorium,
905 North Main St.,
Normal, SG100006867,
LISTED, 9/1/2021

INDIANA, VANDERBURGH COUNTY,
Harding and Miller Music Company (Additional Documentation),
518-520 Main St.,
Evansville, AD82000098,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 8/30/2021
(Downtown Evansville MPS)

INDIANA, VANDERBURGH COUNTY,
O'Donnell Building (Additional Documentation),
22 NW 6th St.,
Evansville, AD82000115,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 8/30/2021
(Downtown Evansville MPS)

INDIANA, VANDERBURGH COUNTY,
Parson and Scoville Building (Additional Documentation),
915 Main St.,
Evansville, AD82000117,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 8/30/2021
(Downtown Evansville MPS)

INDIANA, VANDERBURGH COUNTY,
Puster, L., and Company Furniture Manufactory (Additional Documentation),
326 NW 6th St.,
Evansville, AD82000118,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 9/2/2021
(Downtown Evansville MPS)

INDIANA, VANDERBURGH COUNTY,
Siegel's Department Store (Additional Documentation),
101-105 SE 4th St.,
Evansville, AD82000122,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 8/30/2021
(Downtown Evansville MPS)

INDIANA, VANDERBURGH COUNTY,
YMCA (Additional Documentation),
203 NW 5th St.,
Evansville, AD82000128,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 9/1/2021
(Downtown Evansville MPS)

INDIANA, VANDERBURGH COUNTY,
YWCA (Additional Documentation),

118 Vine St.,
Evansville, AD82001853,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 9/2/2021
(Downtown Evansville MPS)

INDIANA, VANDERBURGH COUNTY,
Firestone Tire and Rubber Store (Additional Documentation),
900 Main St.,
Evansville, AD84001702,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 9/1/2021
(Downtown Evansville MPS)

MISSISSIPPI, NESHOBIA COUNTY,
Booker T. Washington High School,
234 Carver Ave.,
Philadelphia, SG100006878,
LISTED, 9/2/2021

NEBRASKA, DOUGLAS COUNTY,
Union State Bank Building,
1904 Farnam St.,
Omaha, RS100006794,
LISTED, 9/2/2021

NORTH CAROLINA, SURRY COUNTY,
Mount Airy Historic District (Additional Documentation),
Main, Brown, Market, Franklin, W. Pine, Rockford, Worth, Cherry, and Gilmer Sts., Moore, and
Hines Aves.,
Mount Airy, AD85002931,
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVED, 9/2/2021

OHIO, LUCAS COUNTY,
Madison Avenue Historic District Superior Street (Boundary Increase),
311, 315-317, 319-323, 325-327, 329, 331-333, 335 North Superior St.,
Toledo, BC100006862,
BOUNDARY INCREASE APPROVED, 9/2/2021

VERMONT, WINDHAM COUNTY,
Brookline Baptist Church,
632 Grassy Brook Rd.,
Brookline, MP100006892,
LISTED, 9/1/2021
(Religious Buildings, Sites and Structures in Vermont MPS)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**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 PropertyHistoric name: Brookline Baptist ChurchOther names/site number: n/aName 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. LocationStreet & number: 632 Grassy Brook RoadCity or town: Brookline State: VT County: WindhamNot 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 X 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 X 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 X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D*Laura V. Trieschmann*

July 29, 2021

Signature of certifying official/Title:**Date**Vermont Division for Historic Preservation**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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

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 ☐

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

Structure ☐

Object ☐

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION: religious facility

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Gothic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Stone, Slate, Weatherboard

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The 1836 Gothic Revival Brookline Baptist Church is located on the east side of Grassy Brook Road, the main thoroughfare in the rural town of Brookline. The church is characterized by its brick walls, pointed relieving arches, and multi-stage bell tower. Other historic features include the original doors and windows, interior vestibule, sanctuary and gallery, and grained wood finishes. Projecting from the east (rear) elevation is an 1895 wood-framed vestry addition. The church is remarkably intact and possesses all seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places criteria: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Narrative Description

Setting

Brookline is an irregularly shaped rural town that is bounded to the west by the West River and rolling hills and to the east by a steep mountain range. The Grassy Brook and its namesake road run through the town's north-south valley. The church is centrally located within the town at the north end of a flat, one-acre, town-owned parcel on the east side of Grassy Brook Road. It shares the parcel with a former elementary school that is now used as a day care center. The church has a small setback from the road and is surrounded by a yard ringed by trees, with small, wooded areas to the north and east. A low rubble stone wall lines the north edge of the yard. There is a steep bank at the rear/east edge of the property, and at a gentler drop in grade at the northeast corner of the yard. There are the rubble stone remains of an outbuilding foundation near the northeast corner of the vestry, and an unpaved driveway between the church and school. There is a mid-nineteenth century farmstead across the street and to the south. The rest of the area surrounding the church is mostly undeveloped and contains scattered single-family homes.

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

Exterior

The building consists of an 1836 Gothic Revival brick church and 1895 wood-framed rear vestry. The 1½ story, three-by-three bay symmetrical church faces west toward the road and has a 40' wide by 47' deep footprint oriented perpendicular to the road. The 1½ story vestry spans most of the rear (east) elevation and is 37' wide by 29' deep.

The church has a rubble stone foundation, quarried schist underpinning, and American bond brick walls, with nine stretcher rows per header row. The wall panels are recessed by one wythe and utilize running bond, with a header row above each door and window opening. The front-gable slate roof has an approximately 8/12 pitch with a small overhang and boxed cornices, and a two-stage timber-frame bell tower with clapboard siding. Based on the general knowledge of early slate roofs in Windham County, it is likely that the slate was quarried in Guilford, Vermont. The front (west) elevation has three equidistant pointed relieving arches containing doors and windows. The outer arches contain doorways with stone thresholds and windows at the gallery level. The center arch is taller, extending further into the gable, providing three levels of windows that light the vestibule, gallery, and attic. The doorways are accessed by stone slab steps with modern wrought iron railings and have large six-panel "cross and prayer book" doors with ogee trimmed panels and wrought iron Norfolk latches with trefoil backplates and lathed grasps. The side elevations of the church have three equidistant pointed relieving arches, each containing a window that lights the sanctuary. The front elevation has twelve-over-twelve wood windows, and the side elevations have twenty-over-twenty wood windows. Architectural trim is limited to molded gable and eaves cornices and cornice returns with bed moldings. At the rear gable wall, the gable trim is limited to a flush fascia board.

The centered, square, wood-framed interior bell tower rises through the roof ridge just beyond the gable peak and has two telescoping stages: a base and a belfry. The base lacks fenestration and is encircled with a molded cornice under a copper pent roof that meets the base of the belfry. The belfry is encircled with a molded cornice and each face has a vertical window opening with paired, closed, louvered shutters. It has a low 12' by 12' pyramidal sheet copper roof concealed from street level by a parapet and hollow corner pinnacles atop cased newels. The crenelated parapet is paneled, with each face containing a center step with a second row of panels.

The vestry's front (south) elevation is flush with the south wall of the church, and the north elevation has a slight setback. The gable peak of the vestry is set slightly below the gable peak of the church, and the roof pitch is steeper than that of the church. The five--by-three-bay, wood-framed structure rests on grade and sits on a low brick wall at the south elevation and rubble stone walls at the east and north elevations. It has clapboard siding; a slightly overhanging open-eave corrugated metal roof; an entry porch in the fourth of five bays at the front elevation; flat-stock water table, cornerboards, gable rake, and door and window casings; and small brick interior chimneys at each roof slope, adjacent to the brick church. The porch is a later addition and has a wood deck, square corner posts supporting a plain gable roof, and wood railings. There is also an off-center doorway at the east gable wall, with unpainted steps, landing and railing. Both doorways contain four-panel wood doors, and the south door has a filigree brass knob.

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

Vestry fenestration consists of two-over-two wood windows: four at the south elevation, two at the first story of the east elevation and one in the attic, and four at the north elevations.

Interior

The brick church contains a full-width front vestibule bookended with closets and enclosed winder staircases to the gallery, a 40' by 35' sanctuary with a raised pulpit, and a gallery above the vestibule. Two doors, in line with the front doors, lead from the vestibule to the sanctuary and the aisles in between the three columns of pews. The pulpit is elevated on a low dais, which spans the rear (east) two-thirds of the sanctuary, leaving room for the doorway to the vestry. There were two original rear window openings of the church. When the vestry was built, one of the twenty-over-twenty windows was left intact and blocked up from the vestry side. The other window was removed, and its opening converted to a doorway to the vestry. The gallery has a flat floor with wood plank flooring, and the attic is accessed via a hatch door in the gallery ceiling. The west two-thirds of the vestry contains two meeting rooms divided by a large archway, and the rear of the vestry contains a kitchen, bathroom, and foyer. (See floor plan in Figure 5 on Maps Continuation Sheet.)

The church has unfinished wood plank flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, unfinished flat-stock door casings, and thin window trim. The sanctuary has unfinished plank baseboards and chair rails, unfinished horizontal plank wainscoting in the sanctuary between the doorways, a carpeted raised pulpit with a paneled railing, and a paneled parapet gallery railing. There are three columns of wood pews; a wide set in the middle, and narrower outer sets, with aisles that align with the vestibule doorways. The pews have paneled back rests and armrest casings and scrolled armrests. The railings and pews are varnished. Applied ornamentation includes a painted medallion at the ceiling; and wood "graining" at the rails and stiles of the interior face of the front doors and corner staircase doors, both faces of the doors between the vestibule and sanctuary, and at the casings of the pew armrests.

There are nineteenth-century cast iron stoves at the northwest and southwest corners of the sanctuary, near the doorways from the vestibule, which were made by the Bellows Falls Iron Foundry. Their stovepipes, suspended by wires from the ceiling, extend west-east through the length of the sanctuary and exit through the rear wall into the two small chimneys. There are "schoolhouse" type pendant lights in the sanctuary that appear to date to the turn of the twentieth century. The first ceiling light in the church hung from the extant hook in the ceiling medallion.

The vestry has unfinished wood plank floors, plaster walls, suspended tile ceilings, painted flat-stock door and window casings, and painted paneled wood doors. The large archway between the two principal rooms contains two large bi-fold doors; each door has six panels (narrow three-over-three panels), and the remaining doors in the vestry have four panels. The kitchen and bathroom have linoleum flooring, and the bathroom has false wood paneling.

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

Structure

The church has a timber frame structure. The roof frame consists of queen post trusses with long straining beams. The trusses support tenoned principal purlins, which support half-round common rafters, which are tenoned into a five-sided ridge beam. According to timber frame specialist Jan Lewandoski, most of the timber frame roof system appears to be hemlock, with poplar and pine common rafters. The bell tower has a telescoping frame; the belfry frame base extends about twelve feet down within the tower base, and the belfry posts rise through the roof to form the corner newels. Two square encased columns have been added from the rear vestibule wall up to the steeple for supplemental support. There is an early shingled bell deck that was covered with another deck to support the extant bell, and an interior roof over the bell that provides a sounding board. The belfry contains an 1899 bell made by the C.S. Bell Co. of Hillsboro, Ohio. The floor structure consists of 9" by 9" carrying beams with half-round hemlock joists, which rest in pockets in the foundation and on interior piles of stones.¹

Construction Chronology

Construction of the brick church began in 1836 and was completed prior to June 1837, and the vestry was constructed in 1895. The exteriors of both structures retain their historic appearance, with only minor twentieth-century changes: the addition of the stair railings at the front, and the porch and stairs of the vestry. The interior is also quite intact. There is evidence of a platform at the west wall of the sanctuary, which may have been the original pulpit, with the congregation facing the opposite direction as today. The stoves are difficult to date as information on the Bellows Falls Iron Foundry could not be found, but it is likely that based on their design, they date to no later than the 1880s. The tertiary colors and design of the ceiling medallion indicate that it dates to the late nineteenth century. In the vestry, the kitchen's linoleum flooring was installed in 1955, the bathroom was added to a corner of the rear foyer in 1973, and the suspended tile ceilings were added in 1976.

Repairs to the timber frame structure and bell tower, as well as restoration to the exterior of the bell tower, were undertaken in the late 2010s. This included new timber frame bracing in the attic and bell tower; replacement of the belfry roof, cresting and pinnacles; and window restoration. The cresting and pinnacles were replaced in-kind, and the only visible work is the supplemental timber frame bracing in the attic and tower, and the new cased columns that are visible in the vestibule and gallery.

Changes over time to the property include the removal, long ago, of horse sheds that appear in old photographs, as well as the structure at the north edge of the property, where there are the remains of a building foundation. (See Historic Images Continuation Sheet for images showing the historic appearance of the church and its setting.)

¹ Jan Lewandoski. "The Brookline Church, Brookline, Vermont, A Preservation Trust of Vermont Technical Assistance Survey."

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- ☒ 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

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

1836-1945

Significant Dates

1895

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Brookline Baptist Church is significant as an excellent example of an early brick Gothic Revival church and could be considered one of the most intact and finest vernacular examples of this style among Vermont's religious structures. The building displays noteworthy features such as pointed relieving arches, bell tower with pinnacles and paneled parapet, large multi-pane windows, and grained interior wood surfaces. The church helps depict Brookline's early religious history and is one of two historic public landmarks in this rural community; the other being the 1822 round Brookline Schoolhouse. The intact 1895 rear vestry of the church was added to provide space for community meals and gatherings and contributes to the significance of the church. The church holds local significance and meets Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places for its contribution to Brookline's social history, and Criterion C for its distinctive and intact architecture. The Brookline Baptist Church meets Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties because it derives its primary significance from its social history and architectural distinction. It is being nominated under the Multiple Property Listing for "Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in Vermont," and meets the registration requirements for the church property type. The church relates to statewide themes of Historic Architecture and Patterns of Town Development, and Culture and Government, and its period of significance is from 1836, when the brick building was constructed, to 1945, when regular services at the church were discontinued. There are no threats to the building's integrity. Its current stewards, the Town of Brookline and Brookline Meetinghouse Committee, intend to preserve and maintain the building into the foreseeable future.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Historical Background and Significance

The Brookline Baptist Church (church) was the location of regular religious services for over 100 years and has also functioned as a meetinghouse for local community social gatherings and town meetings. The church association was established locally in 1785. This was not long after people of European descent began permanent settlement in the Brookline area – as well as the much of the rest of Windham County – in the 1770s.

Brookline was not one of the original Windham County towns that were first chartered in the 1750s, but was instead comprised of parts of Athens, Putney and Newfane. According to the 1886 *Local History of Brookline, Vermont*, the settlers became unhappy with the geographical and political separation between their valley location and the other parts of the three towns, and over the course of twenty-four years created the town of Brookline. The part of Putney that became the east side of Brookline was set off to Brookline in 1794 (when the Town of Brookline was chartered with this name), the Athens end of Brookline was attached in 1804, and the west side of Brookline was granted from Newfane in 1820.² It was not uncommon in Vermont, where initial town boundaries were not determined by geography, for areas isolated by mountain ranges

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

to break off from one town to become part of another. The first town meeting in Brookline took place in 1795.

The *Local History of Brookline, Vermont*, also describes the town as “a picturesque valley with its fertile meadows, verdant hillsides, and primeval forests, so alluring to the early settlers....”³ Brookline remained a quiet rural community with agriculture as its primary economic activity well into the twentieth century. Early industry was limited to scattered saw and grist mills along the Grassy Brook, and a small hamlet developed north of the church, which appears on the 1856 McClellan and 1869 Beers atlases (See Figures 6 and 7 on Maps Continuation Sheet). Development related to the West River Railroad, which opened in 1880 on the opposite side of the mountain range to the west, did not reach isolated Brookline.

The Baptist Church was the third church association established in Vermont, after the Congregational Church and the Episcopal Church. According to the *History of Baptists in Vermont*, the first Baptists in Vermont inhabited the southwestern corner of the state. They had separated from Bennington’s First Congregational Church and gathered in Shaftsbury and Pownal. The Shaftsbury church was organized in 1768, and its first meetinghouse was built in 1786. The “Vermont Baptist Association” of churches was organized in Manchester in 1785, and over time expanded to include churches in the western Vermont counties of Bennington, Rutland and Addison. Guilford was the first town in Windham County to have a Baptist church, which was organized in 1780. Dummerston and Westminster came next, in 1782.⁴ *New England Dissent, 1630-1883, The Baptists and the Separation of Church and State*, states: “Although the Baptists were never a majority of the population or even of the church members or churchgoers in Vermont, their denomination grew proportionately more rapidly than did any other, including the Congregational, from 1768 to 1807.”⁵

The *History of Baptists in Vermont* notes that a Baptist church was organized in Brookline in 1785, and:

The first date on record is September 4, 1798, when a covenant was copied from an earlier one dated 1785, which was undoubtedly the time when the church was organized. We have no knowledge of what transpired for the first thirteen years. The records are meager and imperfect. This church belonged to the Leyden Association, till the time of the Windham Association, and never failed to make its annual report.⁶

Another record stating the church’s organization in 1785 is a Vermont Baptist Association document from 1877 that notes the 1785 date.

The Windham County Association was originally organized in 1793 as the Leyden Association, as it was formed in this town in Massachusetts, just south of Windham County’s state border. It included churches in both Massachusetts and Vermont, primarily Windham County. In 1835, the association divided to form one association in each state, and the Windham County Association was established. At this point, Windham County’s Baptist churches were located in Brookline –

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

with eighty-nine members – and Putney, Halifax, Marlboro, Newfane, Dummerston, Guilford, Wilmington, Wardsboro, Whitingham, Dover, Stratton, and Readsboro.⁷

The Baptist Church was the first church denomination in Brookline, and for several years, there was no regular pastor; instead, visiting clergy from Baptist churches in other towns preached in Brookline. The first Brookline pastor was Amos Beckwith, who was ordained in 1802, and the first deacons were Lemuel Blandin and John Blandin. No church building had been constructed by this point, and services at the time were held in Josiah Taft's barn. According to a 1928 manuscript by Clara Cutler Weatherbee about the history of Brookline, a crude log building was constructed in 1810 to house church services.⁸ An 1827 *Vermont Chronicle* article reported on the annual meeting of the Vermont Baptist Convention, of which the Brookline church was a member.⁹ A Sunday school was established in 1828.

At a March 1836 meeting, which was recorded in the Union Church's journal, members of the Baptist, Universalist and Methodist churches who resided in Brookline, Athens, Westminster and Newfane, voted in favor of building a Union church. Within a few months, for an unknown reason, the Baptists decided to build their own church edifice, and two churches were built that year, the Union Church and the subject Baptist Church. The Baptist Church's separate journal from 1836 does not mention the issue at all, but a notation written in April does mention the sale of the "old meeting house."¹⁰

The Union Church was constructed in a small village about one mile north of the Baptist Church (see Figure 5 on Historic Images Continuation Sheet). This was Brookline's only village and was located at what is now the intersection of Grassy Brook Road and Parker Road. In the nineteenth century, this intersection was an important crossroads; Parker Road – now a dead-end – originally extended west to what is now Route 30, and the other crossroad extended east and over the mountain ridge into the Putney road network. The Union Church, a sawmill, a blacksmith shop, a cemetery and several residences were located around this crossroads. Today the village and the crossroads are no longer discernible and only a few older residences remain.

The Baptist Church, on the other hand, was built in a more sparsely settled location to the south, as seen on the 1856 McClellan and 1869 Beers atlases (see Maps Continuation Sheet). Perhaps the Union Church members, since they planned earlier, were able to purchase a more advantageous location than the Baptist Church, and/or the Baptist Church members decided to buy a lot from their clerk. The Union Church was known as the "Upper Church," presumably due to its location north of the Baptist Church. According to Weatherbee, services were held at the Union Church until the 1920s, when it was abandoned. It was later demolished.

According to *The Local History of Brookline, VT*, the Baptist Church was constructed in 1836 and its largest contributors were Samuel Stebbins, Samuel Cutler, and Ira Cutler. It cost \$1,690, and the dedication took place on June 1, 1837. The building was "subsequently" slated and painted by Samuel Cutler, and a bell was procured by William Stebbins.¹¹ The land had been purchased for \$40 in August 1836 from Anthony Mason, who was the clerk of the church at the time. In the deed, the grantee was the "Prudential Committee of the Brookline Baptist

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

Meetinghouse Society of Brookline and Townshend,” the sale was for the “express purpose to build a meetinghouse,” and the lot was four rods deep by eight rods wide, or .2 acres. (A rod is 16.5 feet.) This is the current width of the primary rectangular section of the lot, and the rear lot line likely only reached just past the rear wall of the brick church. (See Figure 3 on Maps Continuation Sheet.)

It is unclear who the pastor was in 1836. The *History of Baptists in Vermont* states that it was David Cutler, who had been ordained there in 1827, and *The Local History of Brookline, VT* states that it was Dany Brown, who served from 1835 to 1836. In any case, Pastor Denzel Crane was ordained in June 1837 on the day that the dedication took place.

Criterion A: Social History

The Brookline Baptist Church was historically one of the only local venues for social and civic events and remains so to this day. The Union Church was the only other public gathering place, and as noted above, was abandoned in the 1920s.

Non-religious civic and social functions began at the Baptist Church no later than 1849, when the annual meeting of the Windham County Total Abstinence Society was held there and announced in the *Brattleboro Eagle*. Abstinence was a major civic cause in Vermont at the time. The post-Civil War era brought more activities that were specific to the church. According to a 1928 report by Clara Weatherbee, the church’s Ladies Aid Society was organized in 1865 as the Brookline Baptist Female Benevolent Society and had a constitution and bylaws. Anyone could become a member, even men, by signing the constitution and paying twenty-five cents. Their fundraising efforts included the creation and sale of quilts, knit goods, and hats, and through the hosting of fairs, suppers and entertainment.¹²

The church remained active throughout the nineteenth century, and the vestry addition was constructed in 1895 to provide space for community gatherings and meals, including the (renamed) Brookline Ladies Benevolent Society’s annual dinners. An 1894 deed from local residents William and Susan Hastings, conveying 30 acres to the church, included the land needed to expand the church parcel to accommodate the vestry at the rear end of today’s parcel. It was common in late nineteenth century Vermont for churches to host secular activities such as suppers and plays, often for the purpose of fundraising, and many churches had additions constructed to provide kitchens and meeting spaces. Brookline’s first Old Home Days celebration was held at the church in 1928. It included musical and historical programs in the church, outdoor food booths, and nearby baseball games.

A new bell was installed in the belfry in 1865, and as noted in *The Local History of Brookline, VT*, the interior of the building was remodeled in 1868, including the installation of a reed organ that was procured by Mrs. J.B. Stebbins and Mrs. William Adams.¹³ No details on the work were given, but judging by their design, the extant stoves may have been installed then.

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

Pianos and organs began to become a more common feature in churches in the late nineteenth century, as well, and a new organ was installed in the church in 1896. It was donated by brothers and Brookline natives Leonard, Oscar and Albert Merrifield of the Western Cottage Organ Company of Illinois. In 1899, the extant bell was installed, replacing the second one. Its yoke states that it was made by the C.S. Bell Co. of Hillsboro, Ohio.

In 1927, the church sold part of the 30-acre parcel to the Town of Brookline, which constructed a schoolhouse just south of the church. The school was later updated and expanded into today's structure. In 1944, the majority of the 30-acre parcel was sold, except for the Town-owned property that includes the church and school.

The church maintained a parsonage for a good part of its history, possibly in two different locations. The earliest found reference to a parsonage is in an 1874 deed "for the Brookline Baptist Parsonage Society," for 40 acres further south on Grassy Brook Road. If this parsonage was built, it is unlikely that it remains standing. The 1894 deed mentioned above also included a house across the street from the church, which became a parsonage. This mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival residence remains standing and was part of the land sold off in 1944.

The sale of the second parsonage property in 1944 also marks the point at which the church ceased offering regular services. Brookline's population decreased by two-thirds in the century following construction of the church, from 328 in 1840 to 104 in 1940 – less than 20% of the 2010 population. Although there were church members from other towns, by the 1940s there were not enough worshippers to sustain a pastor, and regular services ceased about 1945. That year, the church property was deeded to the Brookline Ladies Benevolent Society.

From then until the 1980s, occasional summer services were held, as well as weddings, funerals, memorial services, harvest suppers, elementary school special programs, and graduation ceremonies. The vestry was used for town meetings in the 1970s and 1980s. Since the 1980s, the building has remained in use with the occasional wedding and community meeting, as well as crafts fairs and social gatherings that have often served as fundraising events.

Restoration projects were undertaken in the 1980s and 2010s, by Paul Dedell of Newfane and Newton Timber of Windham, respectively. Timber frame specialist and architectural historian Jan Lewandoski provided a conditions assessment report for the latter project. Ownership of the property was transferred to the Town of Brookline in 2014, which already owned the school property, and the name of the church was changed to the "Brookline Meetinghouse" to acknowledge its civic purpose.

Today, after serving for over 100 years as a place of religious services and at least 170 years as a community gathering place, the church remains an important example of early nineteenth century religious architectural expression in a rural Vermont town, marks the growth and influence of the Baptist Church, and reflects the economic conditions of Brookline at the time it was a successful agricultural area. The building stands as the only historic symbol of Brookline's

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

religious, civic and social history, and along with the round schoolhouse, represent the only historic community buildings in Brookline.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Brookline Baptist Church is an excellent example of an intact Gothic Revival church in Vermont. It also represents the traditional meeting house form of the early nineteenth century, with a rectangular mass, front-gable orientation with entrance, and integrated tower.

According to the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for “Religious Buildings, Sites and Structures in Vermont,” the Gothic Revival Style was based on the “European Gothic” style and was utilized during the “romantic, back-to-nature movement spearheaded by the Hudson River School, on a secular, popular level, and with the Second Great Awakening on a religious level.” For religious buildings, the style was first popularized by the Episcopal Church in New England in the early nineteenth century.¹⁴

The Gothic Revival Style was generally utilized in Vermont from the 1830s to the 1870s, although variations of the style are found in many churches constructed after this period and until the early twentieth century. The style was less common in non-religious buildings, and often appeared as applied ornamentation on classical residential buildings. Gothic Revival residences primarily date from the 1850s to the 1870s. After the Civil War, later Victorian-era styles became popular for church designs, such as Italianate, High Victorian Gothic, Queen Ann, and Shingle Style.

The first Gothic Revival church in Vermont was the 1826 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Middlebury, which is a contributing resource in the Middlebury Village Historic District. According to *Buildings of Vermont*, this church's pastor, Rev. Benjamin Smith, promoted the use of the style in order to distinguish the church from other sects, including Baptist. He advocated for the Gothic style based on his knowledge of English country churches with their “humble” features.¹⁵ The St. Stephen's church remains intact and has Gothic Revival features such as pointed arch windows with tracery, ornamental front entry enframingent with pinnacled pilasters, and crenellated bell tower.

Another advocate for the use of the Gothic Revival Style in church architecture, and possibly its biggest influencer in Vermont, was Bishop John Henry Hopkins. According to “Historic Churches of Vermont” by Elsa Gilbertson, Hopkins moved to Vermont in 1832:

to become the first bishop of the newly established Vermont Episcopal Diocese. In 1836 he published the first American-authored book on Gothic Revival architecture, *Essays on Gothic Architecture*. He recommended the Gothic Revival style for churches of all sizes and complexity.¹⁶

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

Hopkins' book notes that the Gothic style was superior to the "Grecian" style when it came to ecclesiastical buildings, as Gothic churches were more likely to lead the eye upwards, toward heaven, and provide an "elevated solemnity."¹⁷

Common features of Vermont's Gothic Revival churches utilized in the Brookline church include front-gable massing, pointed arches, and belfries topped with pinnacles and crenellation. On the interior, common features include paneled pews and board wainscoting. The front-gable rectangular massing was the typical Vermont meetinghouse form of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Most have interior bell towers, although many high-style examples have towers that project from the front gable wall.

The statewide use of the style was contemporaneous with the Greek Revival Style, which was more commonly used in all types of buildings, including churches. Many churches also display features of both styles, including gable pediments, entablatures and other heavily molded wood trim, and marble trim. Many Greek Revival churches employed one Gothic feature, the pointed arch. The use of the pointed arch in Vermont churches began in the 1830s, primarily in Windham County. *Essays on Gothic Architecture* includes plates of different types of Gothic arches that originated in England. The Brookline church appears to utilize the arch in Plate 1b, the "four-centered pointed arch."¹⁸ (See Figure 4 on Historic Images Continuation Sheet.)

The proliferation of 1830s and 1840s Vermont churches that were primarily Greek Revival in style helps distinguish the Brookline church from its contemporaries, and the Brookline Church is the only church in Windham County with a design based solely on the Gothic Revival Style. There are a handful of area churches with Gothic Revival features that also have a strong Greek Revival influence. They include the nearby 1832 wood-framed Union Hall in Newfane – a contributing resource in the Newfane Village Historic District – which has a pedimented front gable. (This building is now a public meeting house but was originally a church.) It should be noted that the design of Union Hall may have influenced the design of the Brookline church, with its pointed arch windows and two-stage bell tower with crenelated parapet and pinnacles. The ca. 1830s brick Baptist Church in West Brattleboro – the only other Baptist church of the Gothic Revival Style in Windham County, is similar to the Brookline church, but also has a pediment. The 1833 brick Grafton Congregational Church is a blend of both styles, with a Greek Revival portico. The 1837 wood-framed Guilford Center Church is primarily Greek Revival, except for pointed arch windows.

The Brookline church does have the classical, symmetrical, front-gable massing of a Federal or Greek Revival-Style church, but this was the basic form of Gothic Revival vernacular churches in Vermont, and the lack of a pediment helps present the Gothic Revival appearance, particularly with the use of pointed relieving arches that extend into the gable. St. Stephen's Church, mentioned above, is considered Gothic Revival but maintains the massing and symmetry of the previous classical styles.

The Brookline church, along with the Grafton and West Brattleboro churches, is one of five brick churches in Windham County dating to the first half of the nineteenth century. There is

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

also an 1842 brick Methodist church in Putney, which is of the Greek Revival Style, and an 1817 brick Federal Style church in nearby Athens.

The church is remarkably intact and retains all of its significant historic features, including the massing, stone foundation, brick walls, slate roof, pointed relieving arches, bell tower with decorative parapet and pinnacles, doors and hardware, windows, timber frame structure, floor plan, pulpit, gallery, wood floors, plaster walls, grained wood doors, pulpit and gallery railings, and pews. The building also displays the use of locally sourced materials, such as brick and Guilford slate. The addition of the 1895 vestry contributes to the historic appearance of the brick church. It is an intact and good example of a practical upgrade and helps depict the social and civic history of the church.

² Stickney and Stebbins, *The Local History of Brookline, VT*

³ Ibid

⁴ Crocker, *History of the Baptists in Vermont*

⁵ McLoughlin, *New England Dissent, 1630-1883, The Baptists and the Separation of Church and State*

⁶ Crocker

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Weatherbee, "A Brief History of Brookline"

⁹ *Vermont Chronicle*, November 30, 1827

¹⁰ Brookline Baptist Church. Manuscript Collection.

¹¹ Stickney and Stebbins

¹² Weatherbee, "History of the Ladies Aid Society, Brookline, VT"

¹³ Stickney and Stebbins

¹⁴ Multiple Property Documentation Form, Religious Buildings, Sites and Structures in Vermont

¹⁵ Andres and Johnson, *Buildings of Vermont*

¹⁶ Gilbertson, "Historic Churches of Vermont"

¹⁷ Hopkins, *Essay on Gothic Architecture, with Various Plans and Drawings for Churches, Designed Chiefly for the Use of the Clergy*

¹⁸ Ibid

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

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Bellows Falls Times, December 1, 1871, March 5, 1898.

Brattleboro Eagle, January 11, 1849.

Brattleboro Reformer, August 13, 1928, September 8, 1990.

Burlington Weekly Sentinel, October 13, 1865.

The Earth, February 11, 1899.

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 # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VHSSS 1303-5

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 43.01486° N

Longitude: 72.60737°W

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the property is a rectangular .50 acre section of a 1.0 acre parcel owned by the Town of Brookline, Tax Parcel 000003 024. South of this, the property is occupied by the former Brookline Elementary School, and north of this is a small leg extension along the road.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary is the original 1836 parcel plus an extension of this parcel to accommodate the addition of the 1895 vestry. The boundary does not include the section of the parcel that includes the school, or the northern leg of the parcel, since they are not associated with the historic function or significance of the church. This boundary conveys the historic significance of the property.

Brookline Baptist Church
Name of Property

Windham, VT
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Paula Sagerman, Historic Preservation Consultant
organization: _____
street & number: P.O. Box 365
city or town: Brattleboro state: VT zip code: 05302
e-mail: pj.sage@live.com
telephone: 802-451-0417
date: February 10, 2021

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.)

Photographs

Photo Log

Name of Property: Brookline Baptist Church
City or Vicinity: Brookline
County: Windham State: Vermont
Photographer: Paula Sagerman (unless otherwise noted)
Date Photographed: November 21, 2020

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

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

1 of 32: Facing northeast toward church

2 of 32: Facing southeast toward church

3 of 32: Facing northeast toward church (photo provided by Brookline Meetinghouse Committee)

4 of 32: Facing northeast toward church

5 of 32: Facing southeast toward church, with school in background

6 of 32: Facing northeast toward church

7 of 32: Facing east toward front elevation

8 of 32: Facing northwest toward church; vestry on right

9 of 32: Facing southwest toward vestry

10 of 32: Facing northeast toward bell tower

11 of 32: Facing northwest toward bell tower (photo provided by Brookline Meetinghouse Committee)

12 of 32: Facing east toward front door

13 of 32: Facing north toward typical side window

14 of 32: Facing south in vestibule

15 of 32: Facing north in vestibule

16 of 32: Facing west in vestibule toward front door

17 of 32: Facing northeast toward door between vestibule and sanctuary with typical door latch

18 of 32: Facing east in sanctuary

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, VT

County and State

19 of 32: Facing northwest in sanctuary

20 of 32: Facing west in sanctuary

21 of 32: Facing southwest in sanctuary

22 of 32: Facing north in sanctuary toward pulpit

23 of 32: Facing north in gallery

24 of 32: Facing east toward sanctuary from gallery

25 of 32: Medallion at ceiling of sanctuary

26 of 32: Facing northeast in northwest corner of sanctuary toward stove

27 of 32: Facing east in attic

28 of 32: Facing north in attic

29 of 32: Facing north in meeting rooms of vestry

30 of 32: Facing southwest in meeting rooms of vestry

31 of 32: Facing north in kitchen of vestry

32 of 32: Facing northwest toward remains of foundation north of church, and stone wall at north edge of yard.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
Tier 2 – 120 hours
Tier 3 – 230 hours
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property
Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Images Page 1



Figure 1. Facing north toward Brookline Baptist Church, ca. 1910

From Porter C. Thayer Photographs, University of Vermont Libraries Digital Collections

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Images Page 2

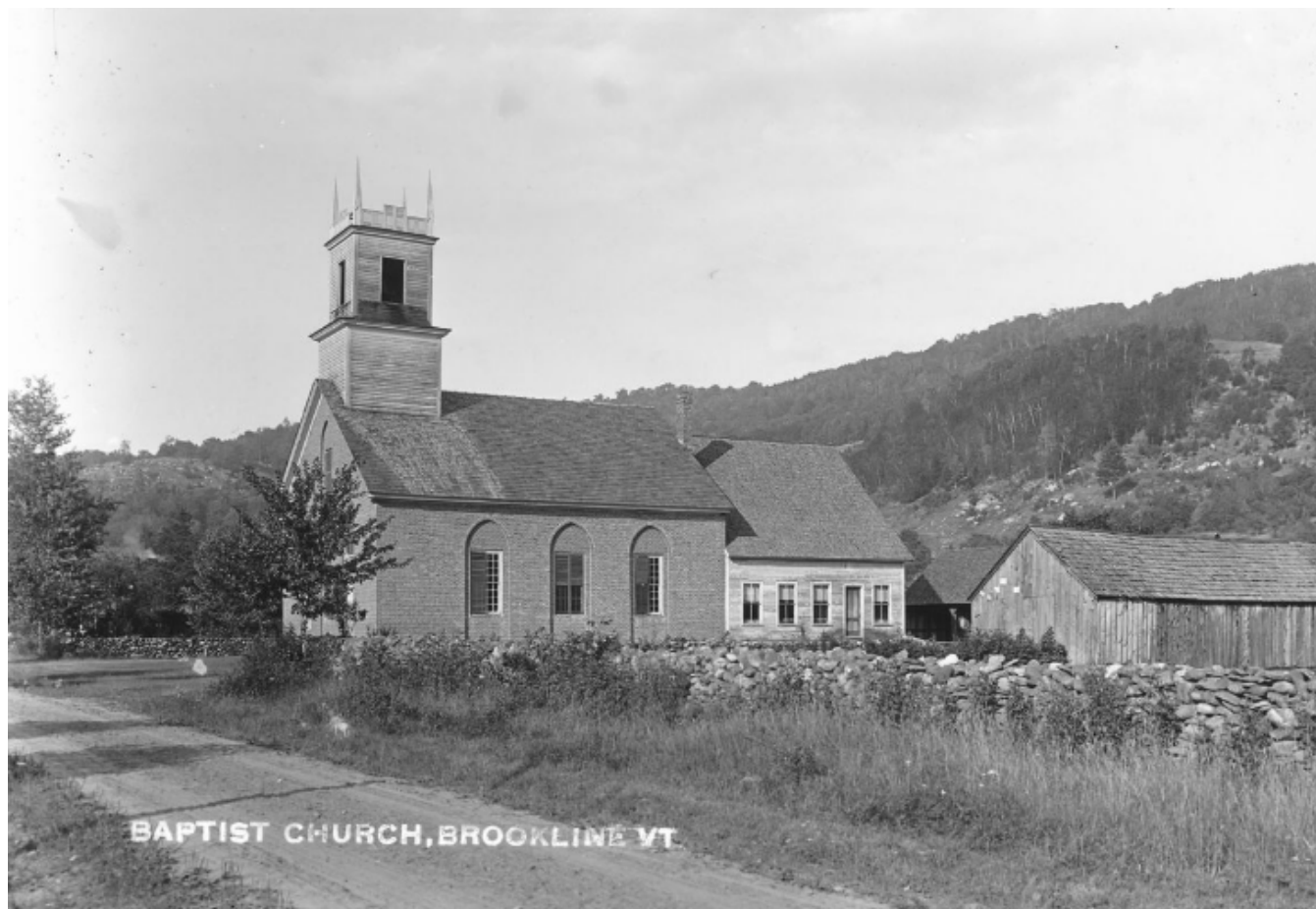


Figure 2. Facing northeast toward Brookline Baptist Church, ca. 1910
From Porter C. Thayer Photographs, University of Vermont Libraries Digital Collections
Note the outbuildings to the right.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Images Page 3

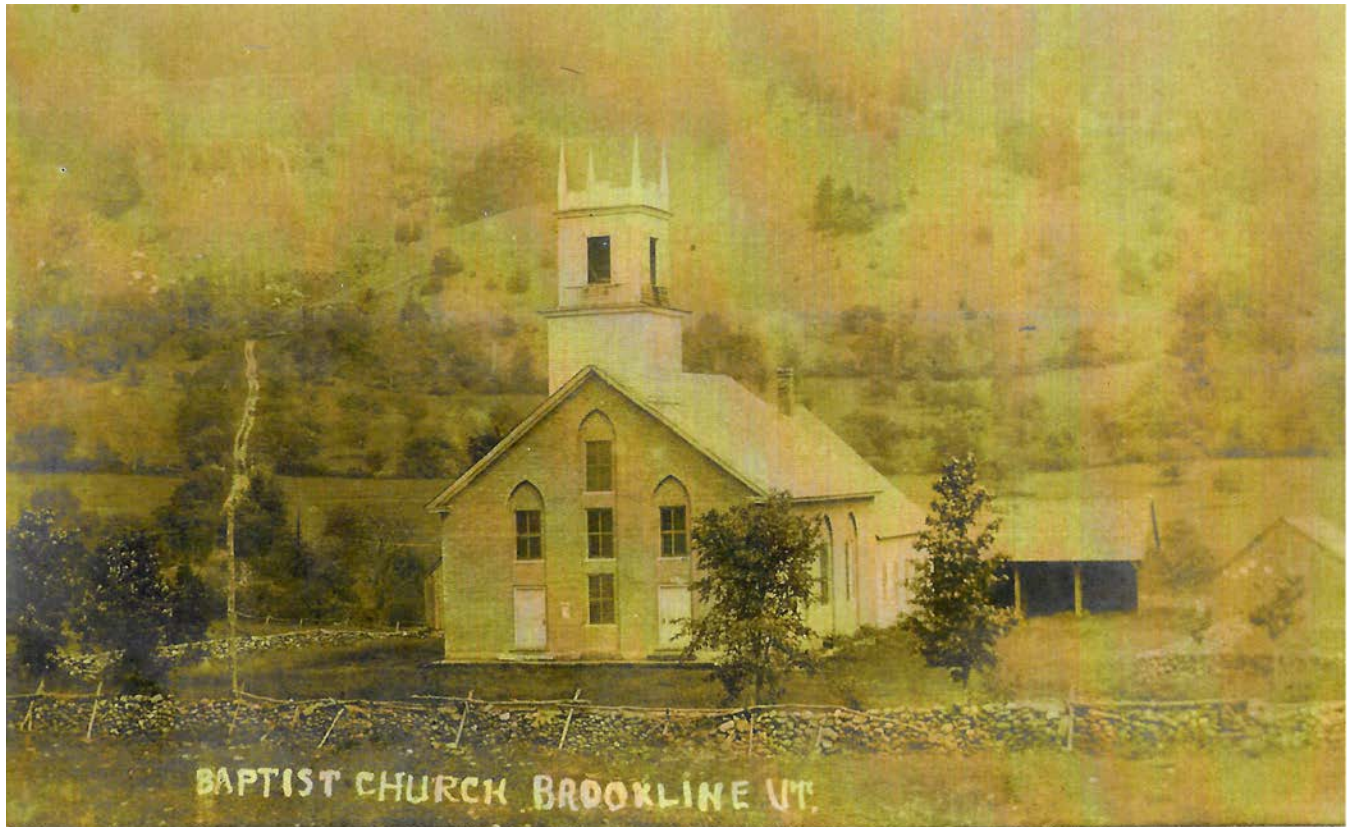


Figure 3. Facing east toward Brookline Baptist Church, n.d. (likely shortly after 1895)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property
Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Images Page 4

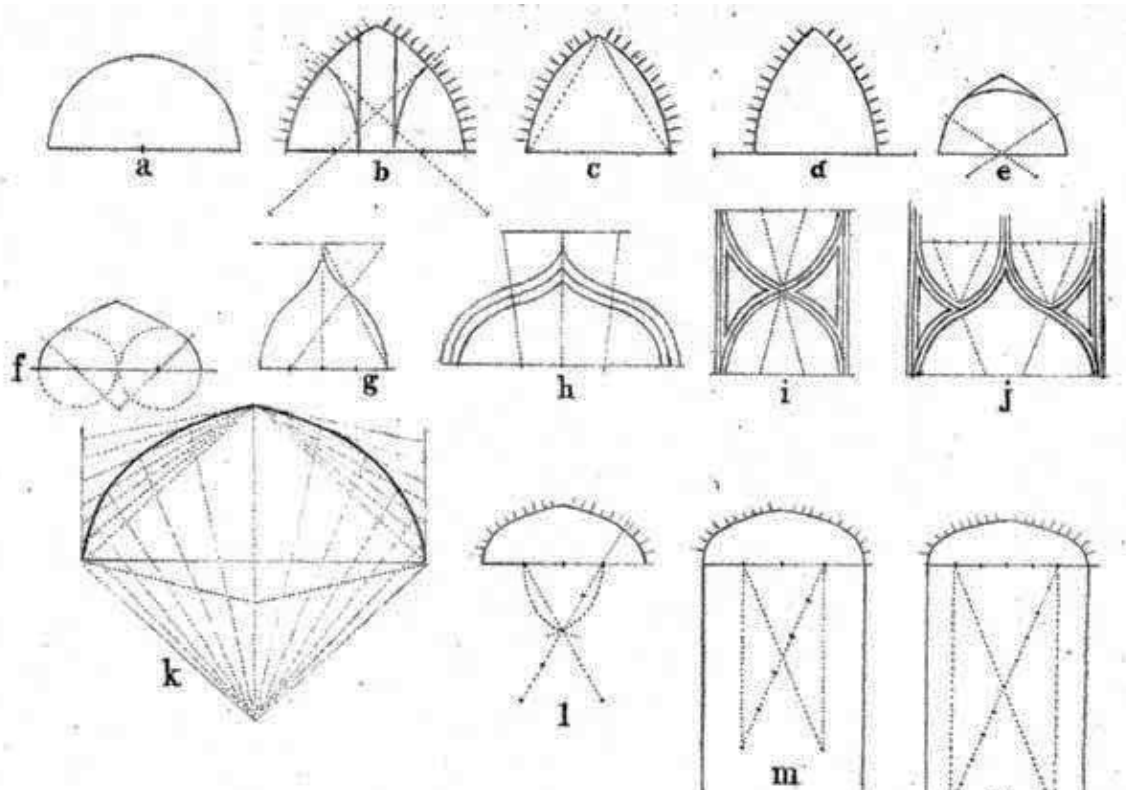


Figure 4. Gothic arches illustrated in 1832 *Essays on Gothic Architecture*
Brookline Baptist Church arches match Plate b, the “four-centered pointed arch”

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property
Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Historic Images Page 5



Figure 5. Facing east toward Union Church (on right), n.d.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property
Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 1

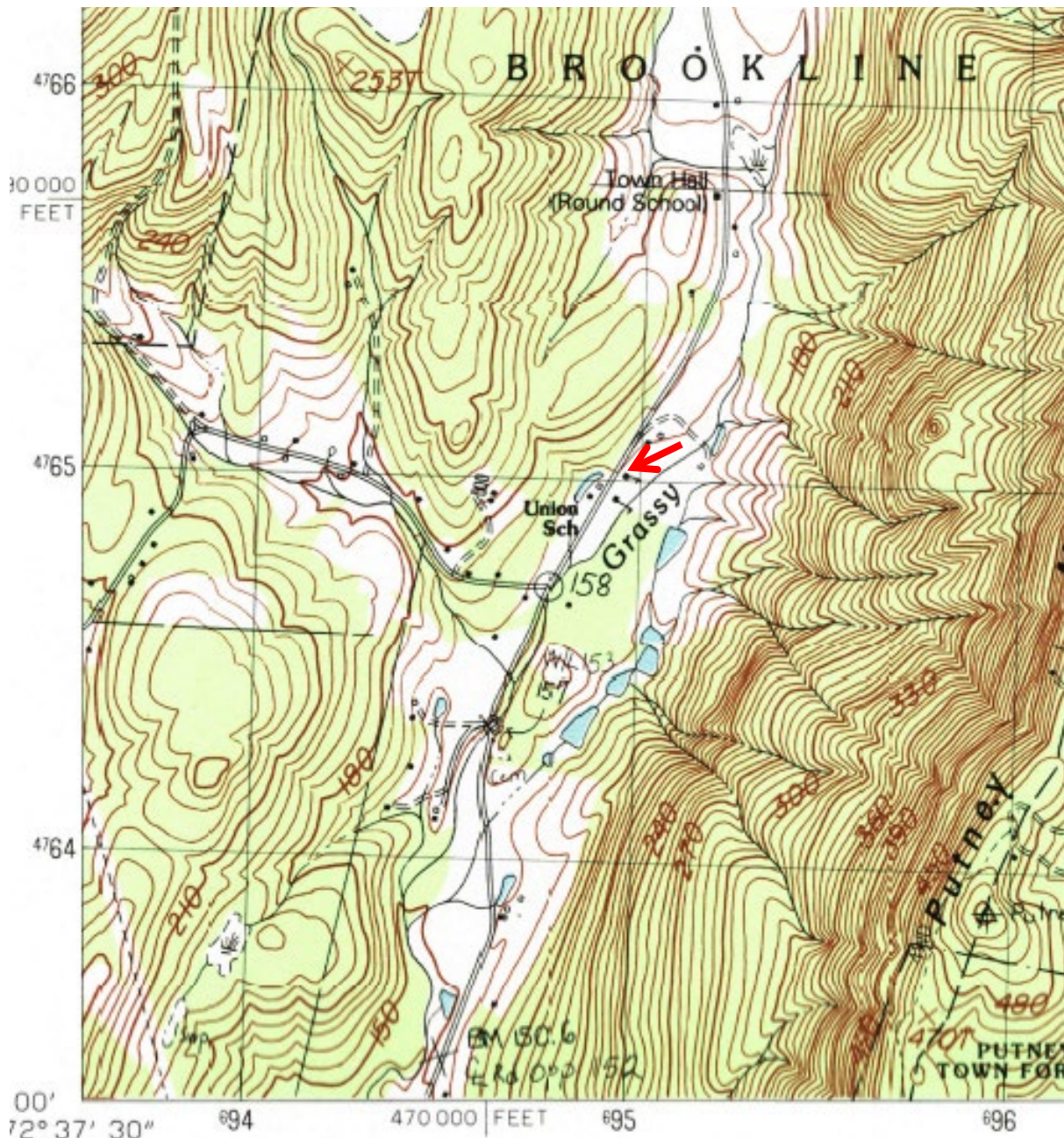


Figure 1. Section of 1997 Westminister West USGS Topographic Map

Red arrow points to location of church

Lat: 43.01486 N

Long: 72.60737 W

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 2



Figure 2. Vermont Parcel Program Map, Vermont Center for Geographic Information
Red Arrow points to church

Lat: 43.01486 N

Long: 72.60737 W

Map shows parcel boundary that includes school to the south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 3



Figure 3. Vermont Parcel Program Map, Vermont Center for Geographic Information
Red lines denote National Register boundary, white lines denote property boundary

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 4



Figure 4. Photo Key Map

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property
 Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 5

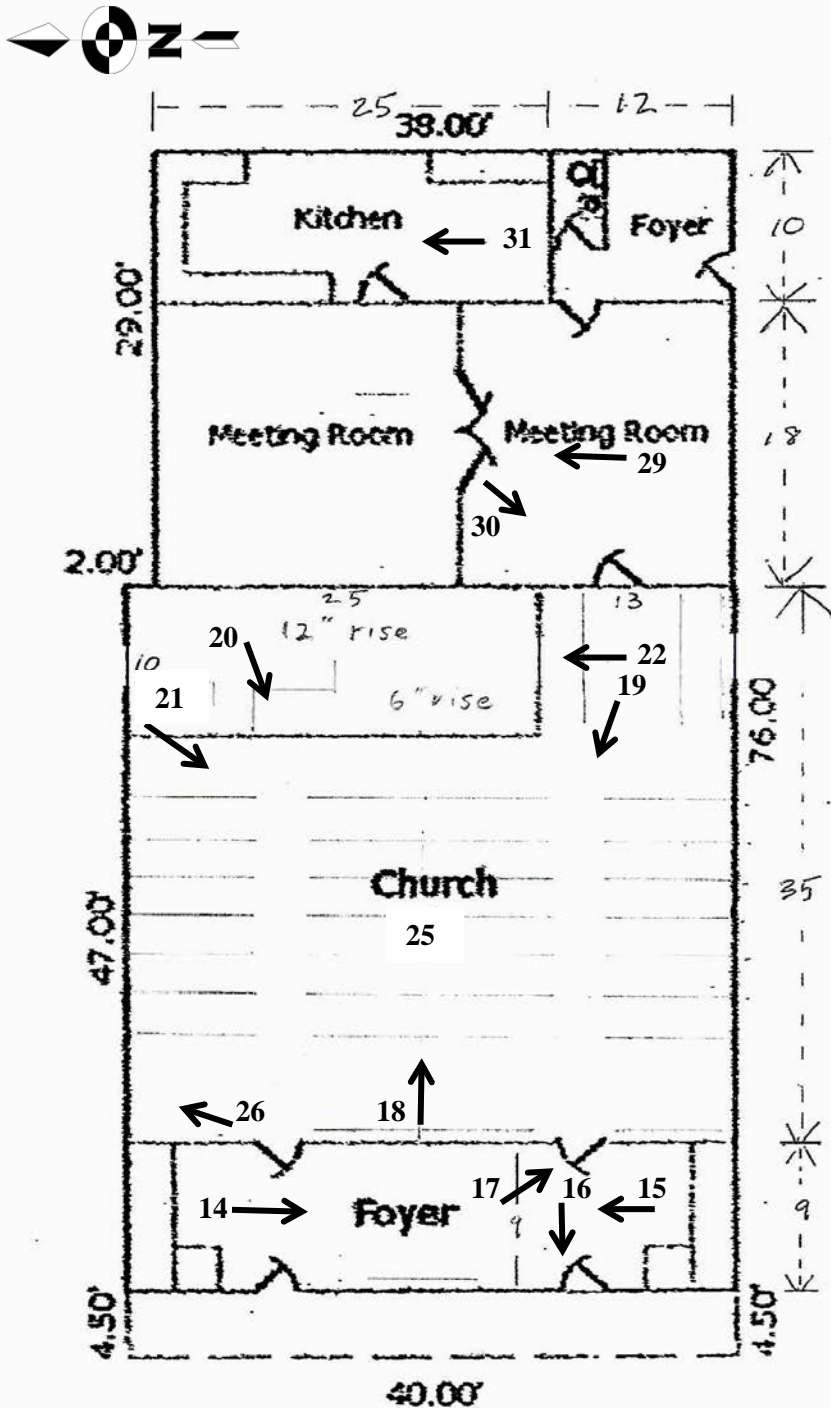


Figure 5. Floor Plan and Photo Key

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 6

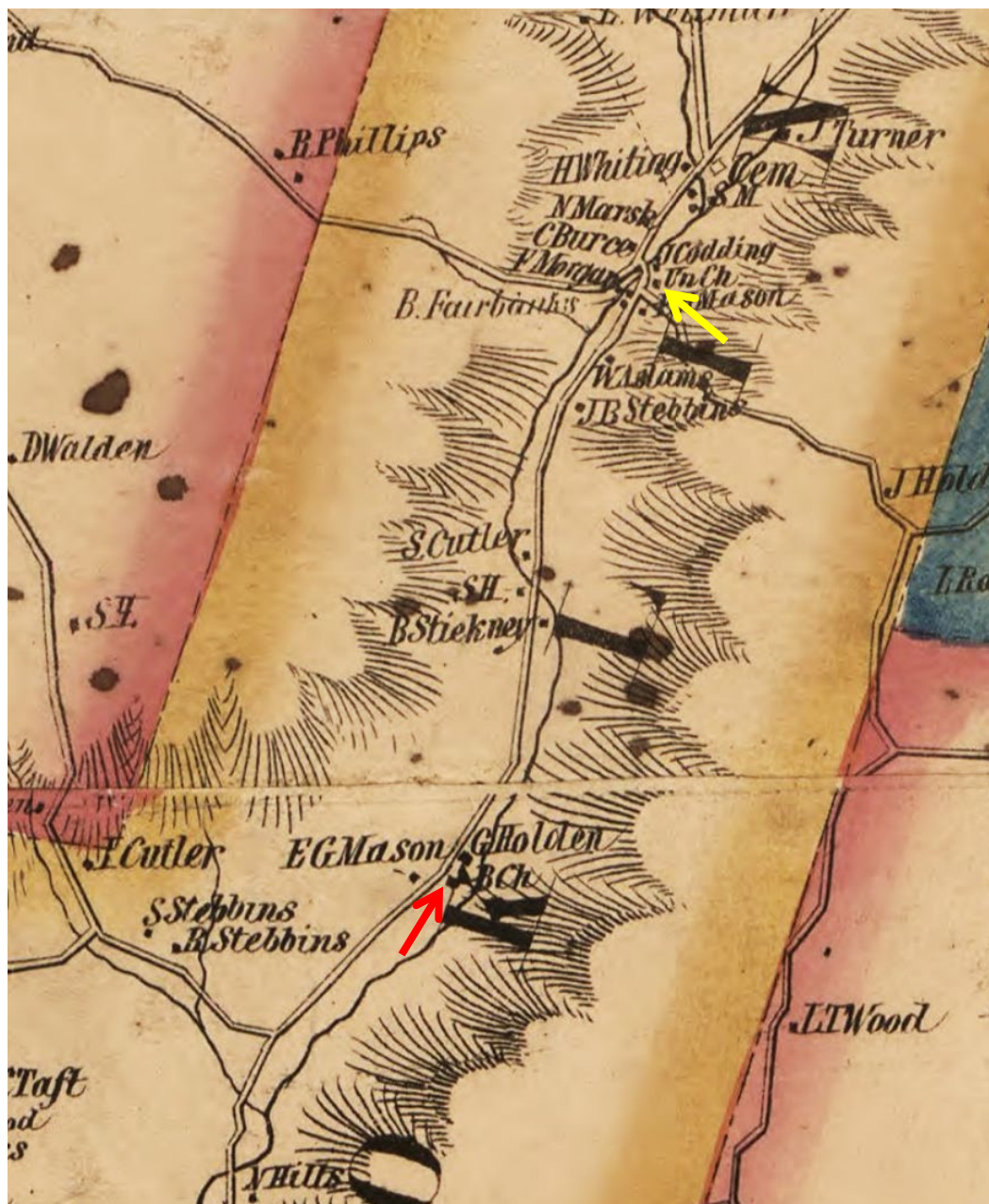


Figure 6. 1856 McClellan Atlas

Red arrow points to Baptist Church, yellow arrow points to Union Church

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Brookline Baptist Church

Name of Property

Windham, Vermont

County and State

Religious Buildings, Sites, and Structures in VT

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 7

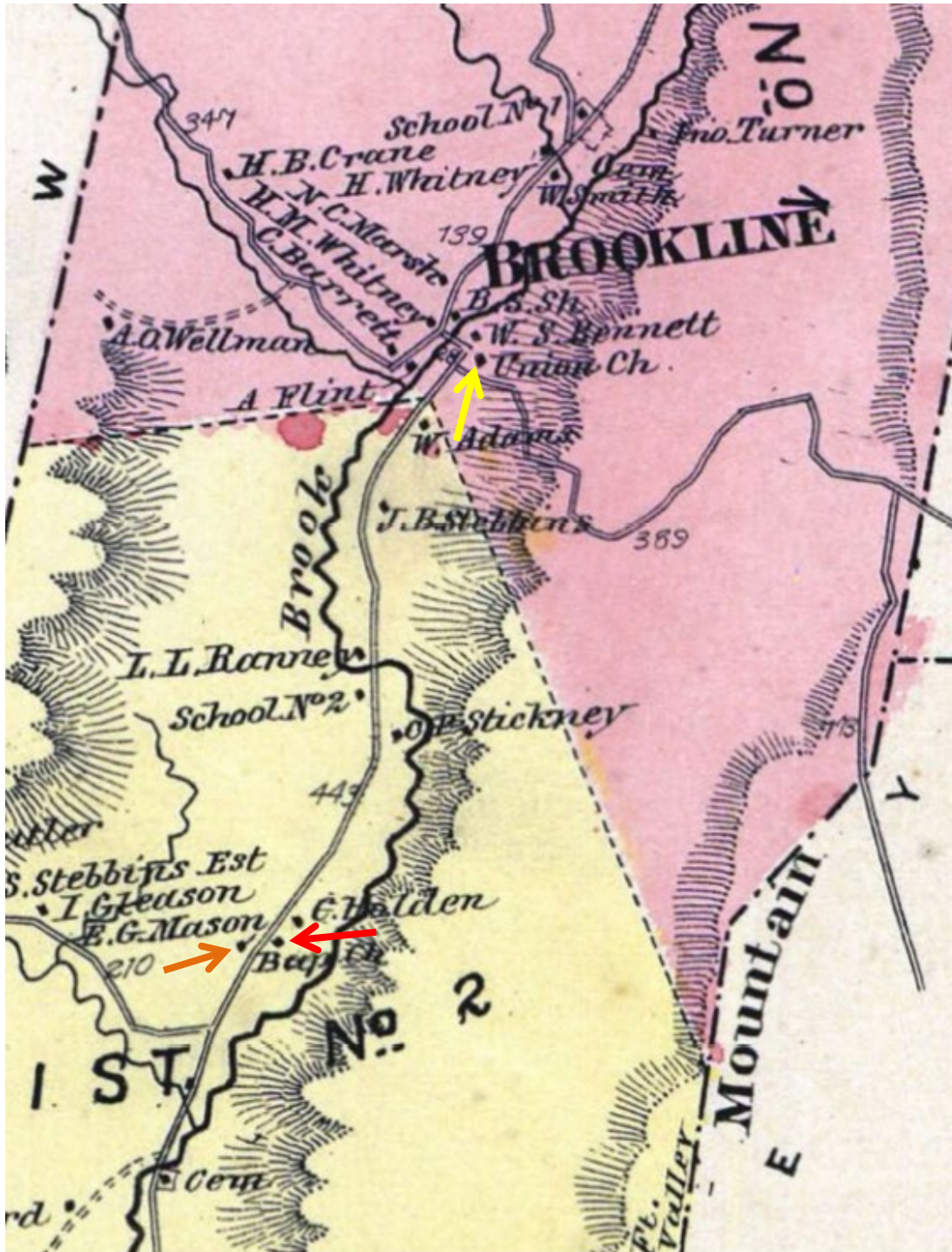


Figure 7. 1869 Beers Atlas

Red arrow points to Baptist Church, yellow arrow points to Union Church,
orange arrow points to future Baptist parsonage



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0001



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0002



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0003



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0004



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0005



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0006



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0007



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0008



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0009



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0010



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0011



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0012



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0013



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0014



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0015



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0016



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0017



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0018



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0019



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0020



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0021



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0022



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0023



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0024



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0025



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0026



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0027



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0028



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0029



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0030



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0031



VT_Windham_BrooklineBaptistChurch_0032