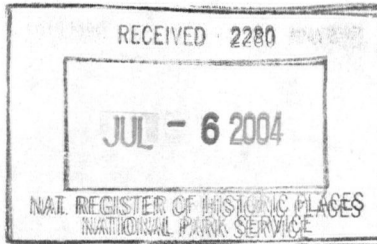


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 56 CR 23 (Main Street)  not for publication

city or town Hartford  vicinity

state New York code NY county Washington code 115 zip code 12838

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

[Signature], Supo 6/21/04  
Commissioner/State Historic Preservation Officer Date  
Signature of certifying official/Title

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature]  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall 8/20/04

**Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery**

Name of Property

**Washington County, New York**

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/church

FUNERARY/cemetery

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/church

FUNERARY/cemetery

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof slate

other

**Narrative Description**

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

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Continuation Sheet

Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery  
Washington County, New York

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**Narrative Description**

The Hartford Baptist Church sits on the east side of Main Street (CR 23), north of the cemetery, in the unincorporated village of North Hartford, Washington County, NY. The building, designed by architect Benjamin D. Price of Philadelphia, is an excellent example of Late Gothic Revival, representing the tastes of its major funders, William H. Rowe of Troy, and Abbie L. Cotton of Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; and the church's main contractor, A. M. Wilson, of Poultney, VT. This is significant in that the church does not represent a vernacular style, but, rather, a mainstream example of Late Gothic Revival. The church, cemetery and grounds still possess good integrity, the exception being the absence of the exterior wood horse sheds, dismantled and auctioned in 1955. The church building is in good repair, and its outer fabric and inner decoration, including moveable furnishings, have seen little change, save for the over-painting of some hand-painted stenciling and artwork, and the minor addition of some removable dropped ceilings, as described below in the section on the interior.

**Exterior Description:** When the second church was completed and opened for worship in January of 1891, an extensive description of the construction was given in *The Granville Sentinel*.<sup>1</sup> The architect, B. D. Price of Philadelphia, provided a printed card with the building's specifications. This was handed out as a souvenir at the time the church was built. Writing on the website of the *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project*, Sandra L. Tatman provides this biographical information on Price:

Although Benjamin D. Price was a well-known and successful architect who specialized in church designs, surprisingly little has been discovered regarding his life and training. He appears in the Philadelphia city directories from 1868 to 1888, with an office at 615 Walnut Street from 1868 to 1875, at 1018 Arch Street from 1876 to 1879, and at 1026 Arch Street from 1880 to 1888. By 1893 the Philadelphia Real Estate Record and Builders Guide is recording an office for him in Lansdowne, PA; and by 1904, when he and his brother Max Charles Price issued their Church Plans, his office was located in Atlantic Highlands, NJ.

From Philadelphia Price had, like several other church architects, maintained a successful mail order design business. In a pamphlet purporting to contain a few pages taken from his "Annual Catalogue of Church Plans for 1892," Price declared that his specialty was church plans of moderate cost adapted to the use of church builders in all sections of the United States. He further stated that although the Methodist Board of Church Extension had sponsored the compilation of these plans, he had become sole owner of the designs by purchase on 14 November 1889. Since that time the M. E. Board of Church Extension and other societies had sold them on commission to those who preferred to buy that way, but

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Price had also sold directly to others. Price further boasted that in 1891 600 of his church plans had been sold, with total sales over the years to 31 December 1891 at 5,350.

In addition to his mail-order church design business, Price engaged in a lively trade in paper imitation stained glass.<sup>ii</sup>

Price was also the original architect on the Government Street Methodist Episcopal Church of Mobile Alabama,<sup>iii</sup> as well as the Demopolis Methodist Church in Marengo County, Alabama.<sup>iv</sup> How Price came to the attention of the church and/or its major contributors is not known.

The church structure measures 56 feet in length by 77 feet wide. The church is composed of two gabled roofed wings placed perpendicularly. The sanctuary of the church is a gable-roofed structure 40 feet wide by 56 feet in length with the ridge of the main roof running east west. The exterior fabric of the entire building is brick veneer of locally made brick manufactured at Peppers' of Middle Granville. The masons who laid the brick were the Gibson brothers, presumably of Granville.

It has a rubble foundation built almost entirely on solid rock. The 1890-91 structure was built upon the footprint of the old, as evidenced by a comparison of the current cellar and a photograph taken of the basement of the old church, after the burned remains had been cleared away. The north and west foundations are partially rock (shale) ledge, cut back in 1870 when the cellar was enlarged for the 1815 structure. The foundation is dressed with local bluestone, which itself rises approximately 4 feet above grade.<sup>v</sup> *The Granville Sentinel* notes: "The foundation was laid by Turner and Cooper of Granville" and "[t]he bluestone trimmings were furnished by J. C. Reardon of Glens Falls." This bluestone is a particular grade of limestone, which in this region would most probably have been quarried in the neighboring Town of Kingsbury. This is indicated by its composition, quality, and similarity to stone used in, for example, the 1891 Bennington Battle Monument, documented to have been built in of Kingsbury bluestone. The roof is Granville slate.<sup>vi</sup>

The church's interior structural members are of wood. "The timber and lumber came mainly from Chaffee and Co. of Rutland [Vermont], Cookes of Whitehall, and Kenyon & Baldwin of Sandy Hill [Hudson Falls, NY]."<sup>vii</sup>

All elevations are pierced with both tracery and plate tracery windows. The church's main (west) elevation fronts Main Street, and is approximately 50 feet high at the ridge. The roof is of common pitch. The church bears two towers, the smaller, measuring 9.5 feet square and 27 feet high, at its northwest corner; and the larger, measuring 12 feet square, and 85 feet high, at its southwest corner. Both have main entry doors with tracery over each. Over the smaller northwest door is a round, compass-style

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window, containing standard fixed sash framing in a rectangular pattern. The windows contain a combination of clear and colored glazing.

Architect B. D. Price's specifications state that the southwest tower is the "main tower." It is the bell tower, supporting a wood-framed spire approximately 40 feet high. The main tower contains the church's main entry door. The spire itself is composed of an elaborate belvedere crowned with a flèche, roofed with slate. In the steeple is a 908-pound bell, cast by Meneely & Co. of West Troy, NY.<sup>viii</sup> The façades of the belvedere are in the form of gable-ends, with an elaborately decorated belfry at each corner. Within each façade the fenestration on consists of three lancets, or unglazed pointed-arch openings, two smaller flanking a third larger. The spire is topped with a weathervane.

The south elevation, facing the graveyard, has a shallow wing, approximately 4 feet deep and 30 feet high, with a gabled roof. This helps accommodate the unusual placement of the seating inside, running with the ridge and facing north. A large tracery window fills the façade, throwing additional light to the pulpit area on the north wall.

The service area of the church, including meeting room, kitchen and office are contained in a gabled roofed story and a half room that runs the length of the east elevation at a 90 degree angle to the main hall. Part of the original design, its construction is the same as described above. Originally, these had been a lecture room, dining room and kitchen.

**Interior Description:**

Entering from the front (west) elevation, each of the two towers provides a vestibule which projects slightly into the main hall, or nave. The space between the vestibules is open. Originally it had no seating, and as described in 1891, was "sacred to hand-shaking."<sup>ix</sup> It allows for maximum light to pour into the church from the immense pointed arch window on the front façade.

The sanctuary is the main hall, also called the "auditorium" by the architect. The interior is established more as a New England meetinghouse than a church, as the seating is facing north, rather than east to west. The room is approximately 33 feet by 48, with a vestibule on the west formed by the flanking entryways from the north and south towers. The sanctuary is unobstructed to the ridge. It has semi-circular seating arranged in series of segmental arches "in a bowled floor of 18 inches fall."<sup>x</sup> That is, the floor is raked with a rise of approximately 1-inch for every two feet. The floor of this is built upon a set of fanned joists radiating in a sunburst pattern from the area of the full-immersion baptistry.

The pews originally sat 300. Some have been moved from the very front nearest to the pulpit to the rear. All are original and are "golden oak," white oak with cherry trim and, as noted above, face the north side

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Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery  
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of the church, as opposed to more traditional seating. The pews were purchased from the Globe Furniture Company of Northville, MI.<sup>xi</sup>

The flooring is 2¼-inch maple tongue-in-groove, kerfed to form curved flooring that conforms to the same arch of the pews. It is nailed directly into the floor joists which radiate in spoke fashion from a hub beneath the pulpit. The overall style of the woodworking in the church is influenced by the American Eastlake style.

The pulpit is located in the center of the north wall, with a choir space to the right (east) of it. The structure of the pulpit, which was used in the old church, is Renaissance Revival. It is made of walnut with burl walnut veneer on the raised arched panels, which are East Anglian. (This is based upon the coupling and the decorative engaged columns which have no entasis and the three pillars that are topped with a polygonal abacus.) The top is decorated with dentil moldings.

The pulpit stands on a semi-circular raised platform approximately 30 inches high. It extends from the north wall, within which is a recessed pointed arch rising approximately 23 feet. The baptistery is within the raised platform and extends into the area to the rear (north) of the pulpit, which is within a wing (or "baptistry addition" as architect Price called it) that measures on the exterior approximately 23 feet wide by 6 feet deep. The area into which the baptistry extends measures 2 feet wide by 6 feet in depth. The back baptistry area is separated from the pulpit area by a large door raised and lowered on a pulley system. When raised the inner room surrounding the north half of the baptistry allows for at least two people to stand on either side. An exterior door is located on the east. A second door to the northwest of the room leads up a stairwell with a winding stair to an unfinished area above the baptistry. It has a first coat of plaster with a single coat of sealing paint. The floor is wide plank tongue in groove pine, with a simple pine baluster. Directly above the stairwell is a stained glass window on the north elevation. This is capped by a pitched roof of the same angle, covered in slate. The baptistry wing's interior and exterior doors are obviously recycled from the older church, judging by their construction and hand-graining.

The baptistry's cistern is full immersion. It is of brick construction beginning at the cellar floor. It has wood heated water piping with a standpipe to prevent backflow.

The rear (east) doors connecting to the original "lesson room" in the rear (east) are double swing. The original lesson room was, and still is, divided into two rooms, then a kitchen and lesson room, now a kitchen and meeting room. These rooms are at a 90-degree angle to the main hall and the combined room is wider than the main hall by 6 feet on the south and 7 feet on the north. On the south, this provides an alcove for an entry that has a timber accessibility ramp to it.<sup>xii</sup>

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The main room, or auditorium as it was first called, is 29 feet high and the ceiling is paneled in native spruce wainscoting. The walls are King Windsor cement, the casings and trim of white pine. The doors are cyprus. The windows were created by George H. Reeves of Saratoga Springs and the colored glazing was described as having been done with mulled ondayant, cathedral and opalescent glass.<sup>xiii</sup> George Tilford, of the Reeves firm, did the glasswork, as well as directed Hartford craftsman Horace Allen in doing the single tint frescoed walls.<sup>xiv</sup>

There are four trusses with windbeams. There are interior secondary rafters, with exposed purlins. The ceiling is decorated with diagonal, narrow wainscoting.

The original chandelier in the main room was a Frink 60-inch for kerosene lamp. This was replaced by three electrical chandeliers installed around 1926, according to church board member Sylvia Van Anden, who recalls the church at that time. The Frink is no longer in existence.

*Changes noted:* Reversible modifications have been made. In the sanctuary, or auditorium, as noted, some of the pews have been moved. Carpeting has been placed on the auditorium floor in the areas most heavily trafficked. The single tint frescoed walls have been repainted in a different color. The north tower entry is no longer used as such, though it functions. The lecture room, dining room and kitchen rooms to the rear (east) have been modified over the years by the addition of lightweight dropped ceilings. The entry to the cellar was changed in the 1980s.

To the rear of the church stood sheds, constructed in 1890-91. These, according to church records, were sold and removed in 1946.

In all, the original architectural integrity of the Hartford Baptist Church is virtually intact.

### End notes

<sup>i</sup> "Dedicated to God." *The Granville Sentinel*. (A. W. McArthur, publisher; Granville, NY; 1/30/1891). p. 1

<sup>ii</sup> Tatman, Sandra L. Philadelphia Architects and Buildings Project. [www.philadelphiabuildings.org](http://www.philadelphiabuildings.org).

<sup>iii</sup> McGehee, Tom. "Mobile Now and Then". *The Mobile Harbinger*. (2/2/1999.)

<sup>iv</sup> Website (<http://www.archives.state.al.us/markers/imarengo.htm>) of the Alabama Department of Archives & History, 624 Washington Avenue; Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0100

<sup>v</sup> "Dedicated to God." *The Granville Sentinel*. (A. W. McArthur, publisher; Granville, NY; 1/30/1891). p. 1.

<sup>vi</sup> "The slate was from Norton Brothers' of Granville, and was laid by Messrs. Allen and Statia." *The Granville Sentinel* (1/30/1891). p. 1. The article refers to the tinwork as having been done by "the prince of tanners, Joseph Palmer."

<sup>vii</sup> "Dedicated to God." *The Granville Sentinel*. (A. W. McArthur, publisher; Granville, NY; 1/30/1891). p. 1.

<sup>viii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid.

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- <sup>x</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xiii</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Ibid.

Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery  
Name of Property

Washington County, New York  
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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Social History  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1891 - 1954  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1891  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Benjamin D. Price, Architect  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance:**

The Hartford Baptist Church and Cemetery comprise an architecturally and historically significant property that has been the focus within the Town of Hartford of major social issues and events that were also affecting the region, state and nation. These include the religious revivals of the late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century; the Anti-Masonic movement, the Abolitionist Movement and the Civil War; and the Temperance Movement.

The largest church in the unincorporated village of Hartford, central to the Town of Hartford, the present church structure opened for worship January 22, 1891. It was built on the site of the original Baptist Church, constructed in 1789 on this site on land owned by then New York State Senator (and later Governor) DeWitt Clinton. In 1798, Clinton specifically deeded over the land to the church for its building and cemetery.

The Hartford Baptist Church structure is architecturally significant as a prime example of Victorian Gothic ecclesiastical architecture. The architecture, largely intact, is the only such example within the town and one of the few in all of Washington County. Its adjoining cemetery is historically and architecturally significant, with its important examples of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century gravestones. Furthermore, the cemetery, active until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, holds the burial places of 19 Revolutionary War soldiers, among the many citizens buried there. Together the church structure and cemetery form a significant property that is intrinsic to the history of Hartford.

**Historic Context**

The Hartford Baptist Church began with the establishment of the first Baptist Society of Westfield in 1787. At that time, the Town of Hartford had not been incorporated and its lands were a part of the Town of Westfield, which also included the present day Town of Fort Ann. With the Revolution's end, immigration to the region had resumed, with the majority coming to present-day Hartford being Congregationalist and Baptist settlers from Connecticut.

The Baptist congregation held its first services not far from the present church in a farmhouse in what is now the Town of Hartford, then part of the Town of Westfield. The first actual church structure was a log meeting house constructed in 1789 on a site immediately to the south of the present Hartford Baptist cemetery in the hamlet of Hartford, then called North Hartford. It was known as "The First Church of Westfield." In March 1793, the Town of Hartford was set off from Westfield and at that time the church was renamed "The First Baptist Church of Hartford." Among its first parishioners was Col. John Buck, the town's first settler, who is buried in the adjacent graveyard.

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As noted, the Hartford Baptist Church sits on the east side of Main Street north of the cemetery. At the time, Main Street was part of the colonial road system later magnified into the Troy to Whitehall post road, so vital in Washington County's development before the coming of the canal. North Hartford was the earliest settlement in the present town. Among its first settlers was David Austin of Connecticut. Austin was the land agent for DeWitt Clinton. Austin's first wife, Hanna Lee Austin, was cousin to Maria Franklin Clinton, wife of DeWitt Clinton.<sup>i</sup>

DeWitt Clinton made major land purchases throughout the region and, in 1798, a year after being elected New York State Senator, Clinton and his wife sold a plot of land to the Hartford Baptist Society for "one cent."<sup>ii</sup> Many of David Austin's siblings are listed in the church's original records books, still in existence.

Most significant is the wording in the deed, which was to convey for the price of one penny that parcel of land "containing two acres of land, including the church and burial ground," thereby indicating that Clinton had allowed use of his land for that purpose for several years, perhaps even since the time of his original purchase of it. As Abraham Downs' was the first burial, in 1792, the cemetery was in use at least from that time. Today's church and cemetery sit on the Clinton's land. The deed may hold the county's record, perhaps even the state's record, for delay in filing, as it was not formally recorded at Washington County until December 1932.<sup>iii</sup>

Clinton's deed of gift specifically notes by name the "Reverend Amasa Brown," the church's "Elder." Brown was influential in the early Baptist church of both Vermont and New York. Born in Swansea, Mass., in 1754, he served in the Revolution and then settled in Ira, Vermont, as a farmer. His preaching began, it is thought, with the creation of the First Westfield Baptist Church, which fell under the jurisdiction of the Shaftsbury Association, organized in 1780 in Shaftsbury, Vermont. It remained so until the Washington Baptist Association was formed at Hartford in a meeting held at the Hartford Baptist Church in August 1826.

The church grew under the Rev. Brown, an influential pastor. As early as the Revolution, stirrings of the great religious revival to come were evident. By the time of Brown's ministry, it had begun in earnest in this region. Between 1793 and 1806, for example, the church grew from 146 members to 435,<sup>iv</sup> most of whom were from the Town of Hartford, which had a population of 2,108.

Until his untimely dismissal in 1821, Brown baptized 882 people. Among them was the missionary Rev. Jonathan Wade, born in Otsego and baptized in Hartford at age 18. The church history in the minutes of the *Washington Union Baptist Association* note:

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“On June 6, 1823, they [Wade and his wife, Deborah Lapham Wade] both passed their tests as Missionaries and left for Burma. They saw many hardships. At one time he was imprisoned. Their lives were many times in peril. Sometimes they had nothing to eat, but rice boiled in water. He compiled a Burmese Dictionary. He completed a spelling book in the Karen language and translated a tract. He helped to establish a Karen Church and they named the place "Wadesville." On account of ill health, they came to the United States on furlough, giving addresses and making appeals for help for thirteen months, then returned to Burma in 1834.”

The couple remained in Burma, now Thailand, until their deaths decades later. Rev. Wade served a total of 49 years there.<sup>v</sup>

In the War of 1812, Brown served as Chaplain to the local regiment when it was called up in 1814 to serve in northern New York.<sup>vi</sup> He returned and led the congregation in building a new structure. In all under Brown, three churches were built. The second church building was built in 1805 and served until replaced in 1815-16 with a third, this on the site of the present church. The third church had a capacity for 700 people. Brown's reign ended as the church grew more conservative. The congregation, for unspecified reasons, dismissed the elderly man, but did not seek to tarnish his name. He lived to 1830 and was buried in the church's graveyard.

The church, as was common then, was at the center of many of the major social and religious upheavals of the time. In 1830, the congregation split over the issue of Free Masonry that wracked the nation. “The church passed three emphatic Anti-Masonic resolutions, while a number of its prominent members, including the Pastor, belonged to the Fraternity.” This resulted in eighty church members withdrawing, organizing a second Hartford Baptist Church in 1830, and constructing a separate building in 1833. In 1843, the pastors of the two churches effected a reunion. The breakaway congregation's 12-year-old church structure was sold to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1844 and stands to this day on Main Street, opposite the cemetery of the Hartford Baptist Church.<sup>vii</sup>

The importance of the Washington Association, organized at a convention held at Hartford in August 1826, would grow. At its annual meeting in Hartford in 1835, the Washington Association united with the Bottskill Baptist Association (of Greenwich, Washington County, NY) and to form “The Washington Union Baptist Association.” In this resulting union, there were “seventeen churches, twelve ordained ministers, two licentiates and an aggregate membership of 3,643 in all the Churches.”<sup>viii</sup>

From the 1830s on, the slavery and the abolitionist movements became central issues throughout Washington County and its churches. By 1850, they became burning issues. That year the church passed this resolution: “Resolved, That as a church we will not permit our desk to be occupied by a minister who

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is a slave holder, neither will we sit at the Communion Table with any who are slave-holders, knowing them to be such, and we direct our pastor to inform all such applicants of this action of the church.”<sup>ix</sup>

It is not surprising then that at the outbreak of the Civil War, the church played a major civic role in promoting the Union cause, in being the champion of the defeat of the Confederacy, which espoused slavery, and in the recruitment of soldiers:

The Civil War . . . had raged on for a year. In response to Lincoln’s first call for volunteers, a fiery meeting was held April 1861 at the Hartford Baptist Church. . . . The rally raised 19 enlistees and over \$5,000.

That year, the 22nd Regiment formed in April, the 93rd in November and the 2nd Cavalry that fall. It was the formation of Washington County’s 123rd Regiment in 1862 that marked the Hartford’s enlistment center’s debut. Lincoln had called for 300,000 volunteers. Historian Brayton and Norton wrote, “In response to this call, a great war meeting was held in Argyle on the 22nd of July.”

Each town met the call. With Hebron, Hartford put together Company E. A second great meeting was convened, this time in Hartford. People rallied at the Baptist Church across the street and enthused potential soldiers flocked across the street to the shop of cabinetmaker Sylvanus Hatch, who set up his shop as Hartford’s enlistment center.

By its fourth rally, Hartford had gone over quota. A total of 65 men had dutifully enlisted at Hatch’s shop. Farewell speeches were made at the church. The soldiers marched to Hartford’s tiny green, site of the war monument today, where they received a prayer of blessing from “Grandma” Morrison. Onward they went to Salem where they encamped until September 5, when they boarded the troop trains for Washington, DC, some never to return.<sup>x</sup>

A final social issue, of local and national importance, led to the destruction of the old 1815 church structure and the creation of the new church in 1891. In 1870, modifications had been made to the framed 1815 structure. The cellar was dug out and expanded, and the church in all could accommodate 1,000 people. Friction, however, arose between two factions over a new baptistry and led to another split in the congregation. This was soon healed, but the issue of Temperance arose quickly in its wake and fed upon the discord.

The Temperance movement had started in the nearby Saratoga County Town of Moreau in 1808 and had gained ground in the region ever since. By the 1870s temperance societies flourished through Washington and adjacent counties. By 1890, the movement had yielded several different political parties, including the Prohibition Party, which fielded local candidates for the State Legislature.

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Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery  
Washington County, New York

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In 1887, through the efforts of male and female temperance proponents, the town was voted “dry,” and the day after the election, a chapter of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union was founded in Hartford by, among others, members of the Hartford Baptist Church, including Lucy A. Wood and Louisa Gourley. The congregation was wracked with the issue of wet versus dry. On the morning of Sunday May 4, 1890, the Hartford Baptist Church and “adjacent sheds” burned to the ground just before morning services, the work of an arsonist. The Granville Sentinel reported: “the fire was set by persons angered by the recent prosecutions of unlicensed liquor dealers.” The pulpit, chairs, church records, books, and all materials from the cellar were saved. Today the pulpit and adjacent chairs are still in use on the altar.

xi

The uninsured congregation staggered under the blow, but Baptist and non-Baptist alike in the community rallied to raise the funds to rebuild. As noted, the newer structure was built upon the footprint of the old, as evidenced by a comparison of the current cellar and a photograph taken of the basement of the old church, after the burned remains had been cleared away. Among the church’s major contributors was Hartford native William Rowe of Troy, NY. Rowe was influential in getting others from the Collar City to contribute, including “Brother Justus Miller,” who became the largest contributor.

The new edifice cost approximately \$9,000 and was paid for by the time it was completed in 1891.<sup>xii</sup> It is hypothesized that William Rowe was instrumental in securing the services of architect B. D. Price of Philadelphia. Rowe had great wealth and had, in Horatio Alger style, worked his way from the floor of a textile mill to its ownership. He was a major textile industrialist in Troy, NY, until his death in 1898. Rowe summered in Hartford and maintained an active involvement in his native community.

Another major contributor was James M. Northup of Hartford. Northup was known as “The Potato King.” In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, he was a pioneer in the growing and sale of potatoes and probably did as much as any single person to advance potato cultivation and sale in both Washington County and northern New York State. A self-made man of considerable wealth, he was a state assembly member, held other public offices and is considered to have been the chief architect of Hartford’s weathering the various financial panics that devastated the agricultural community. Not long before his death he contributed the Meneely bell to the new church and contributed an additional \$1,000.<sup>xiii</sup> Northup’s home still stands, very nearby the Hartford Baptist Church.

The new structure was not an emotional replacement for the older structure. Its smaller capacity (300 seats compared to the 1,000 seats of the 1816 church) attests to this. The church maintained a strong presence, nonetheless, in the community. The only major changes to the physical church occurred in 1922 when the parsonage burned and in 1955-6, when the sheds were sold and removed. Over the next 50 years, as Hartford’s population continued to shrink, so too did the church’s. After World War II, the congregation became yoked with another in order to share a minister. In recent times under a

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reinvigorated board of trustees and a new minister, steps have been taken to restore and preserve the church's architectural heritage, to record and preserve its archival records, and move forcefully into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Historical significance of the cemetery**

The cemetery is in its own right extremely important. It contains the graves of many of the first settlers, such as Abraham Downs, and has been in use since 1792, when Downs was buried there. The cemetery was abandoned for maintenance purposes after the burial of Grace Cone Armstrong in 1989. Among those buried there are veterans of the French and Indian War, the Revolution, Civil War, WW I and WW II. The graveyard holds major historical significance in that it contains 19 Revolutionary War veterans, among them the church's first minister, Rev. Amasa Brown, and Col. John Buck, Hartford's first settler of European descent. Buck was at the Battle of Bunker Hill, fought at New London and was at Valley Forge. Capt. Samuel Taylor is also buried there. Taylor served three years under Washington. In 1843, at age 83, he was honored by "handing" the inscription on the newly created monument at Concord, Massachusetts.<sup>xiv</sup>

Its late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century gravestones indicate the strong New England influence in their design and have important funerary artwork that convey the transition from that influence to a more local expression. Civil War historian Michael Russert, chair of the Flag Commission for New York State and an authority on the Civil War period, has also noted that there is an important Civil War ceremonial mound in the cemetery, rare if not unique to the area. Brayton and Norton's history of Hartford notes that in 1879, the people of Hartford noted that towns all around were "erecting pretentious soldiers' monuments." Hartford lacked the money to do this and instead, earth was drawn from James Northup's farm, fashioned into a mound and covered with sod from the cemetery. It was ready for the Memorial Day ceremonies the next day. It remains to this day.<sup>xv</sup>

Conclusion

The 1891 Hartford Baptist Church structure and adjoining graveyard are architecturally important and vital to the fabric of Hartford. Coupling the architectural significance of the church structure and adjoining graveyard with the rich history of the Hartford Baptist Church itself, this is a valuable asset to the heritage of this region and to New York State.

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**End Notes**

- <sup>i</sup> Austin's first wife, Hanna Lee Austin, and Abigail Whitney Maynard, wife of Caleb Brown, were sisters and both were cousins of Maria Franklin Clinton, wife of DeWitt Clinton. Caleb Brown was among the first settlers of South Hartford and a major figure in early Hartford history. The Brown home, today called "Brown's Tavern," is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- <sup>ii</sup> Patton, Joan. "For the sum of a penny, foundation was laid for Hartford Baptist Church." *The Post-Star* (4/7/1991).
- <sup>iii</sup> Washington County (NY) Deed (Liber 206, Page 334) showing conveyance of property from "DeWitt Clinton of the City of New York, Esquire and "Maria his wife"; as recorded by "Jeremiah Lansing, one of the Masters(?) in Chancery of the State of New York
- <sup>iv</sup> Minutes of the *Washington Union Baptist Association*, p. 8.
- <sup>v</sup> Minutes of the Ninety-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Washington Union Baptist Association, held with the First Baptist Church of Hartford, N. Y. June 12 and 13, 1928. p. 10-11. Interestingly, no mention of his having created a dictionary or any other work is found in other histories of Christian missionary work in Southeast Asia. Those histories referenced credit only Adoniram Judson, who had begun his missionary work in Burma only eight years before the Wades, with beginning the task of having begun a dictionary, which was completed posthumously by a fellow missionary.
- <sup>vi</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>vii</sup> Ibid, p. 9-10.
- <sup>viii</sup> 1928 Minutes of the *Washington Union Baptist Association*. Chrisfield Johnson. *History of Washington County, New York; with Illustrations; 1737-1878*. Philadelphia, Everts and Ensign, 1878.
- <sup>ix</sup> Minutes of the Hartford Baptist Church., June 18, 1850.
- <sup>x</sup> Cutshall King, Joseph. "Over My Shoulder" *The Sunday Post-Star*. Glens Falls, NY; June 8, 2002.
- <sup>xi</sup> *The Granville Sentinel* (1/30/1891). p. 1.
- <sup>xii</sup> Brayton, Isabella and John E. Norton, *The Story of Hartford - A History*. Hartford, NY; 1929. p. 112-113.
- <sup>xiii</sup> Stone, William. *Washington County: Its History*. (1901). P. 23-24.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Brayton and Norton, p. 11.
- <sup>xv</sup> Brayton and Norton, p. 95.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery  
Washington County, New York

Section number 9 Page 1

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Patton, Joan. For the sum of a penny, foundation was laid for Hartford Baptist Church. *The Post-Star* (4/7/1991).

Stone, William. *Washington County: Its History*. (1901).

\_\_\_\_. Minutes of the Ninety-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Washington Union Baptist Association, held with the First Baptist Church of Hartford, N. Y. June 12 and 13, 1928.

**Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery**

Name of Property

**Washington County, New York**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of property** \_\_\_\_\_ 4.4 4acres \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	630212	4802358	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Heavy black outline on attached map defines boundaries of the nominated properties: Church 1.3 acres & Cemetery 3.14 acres

**Boundary Justification**

Boundaries drawn are consistent with the property historically associated with the church and cemetery.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joseph A. Cutshall-King, Preservation Consultant (ed. By L. Garofalini, NYSOPRHP, 518-237-8643 ext. 3267)

Co-Researcher: Sylvia B. VanAnden, Box 35, Hartford, NY 12838

street & number Box 154 telephone 518-632-5201

city or town Cossayuna state NY zip code 12823

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



## THE NEW BAPTIST CHURCH.

AT HARTFORD, WASH. CO., N. Y.

ARCHITECT, B. D. PRICE, Phil., Pa. BUILDER, A. M. WILSON, Poultney, Vt.

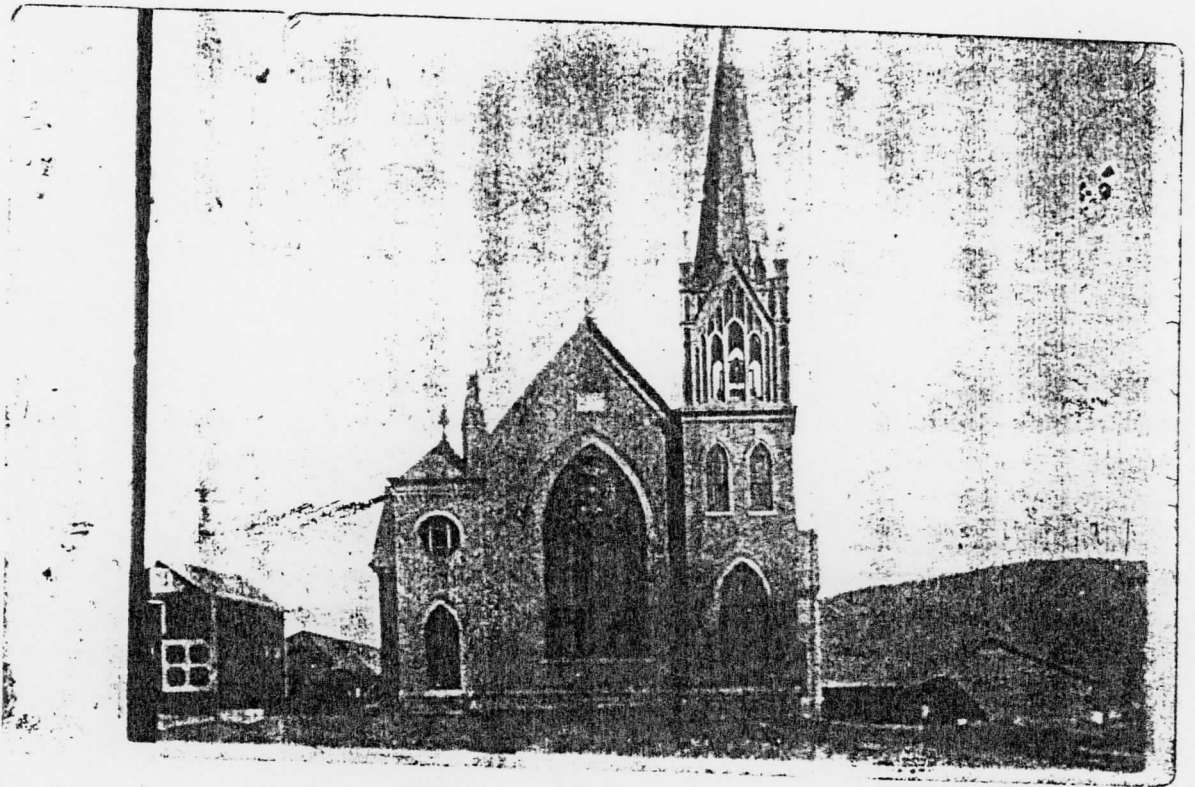
**MATERIAL:**—Wood, — Brick Veneer, — Bluestone Trimmings.

Extreme dimensions, 56 x 77, feet; auditorium, 40 x 55, 300 sittings; lecture room, 20 x 28; dining room, 14 x 20; kitchen, 10½ x 20; Baptistry addition, 10 x 18; walls 16 feet high. Ceiling 29 feet; main tower, 12 x 12, 75 feet high; small tower, 9½ x 9½, 27 feet high. Rooms connect by folding doors; heated by furnaces in cellar.

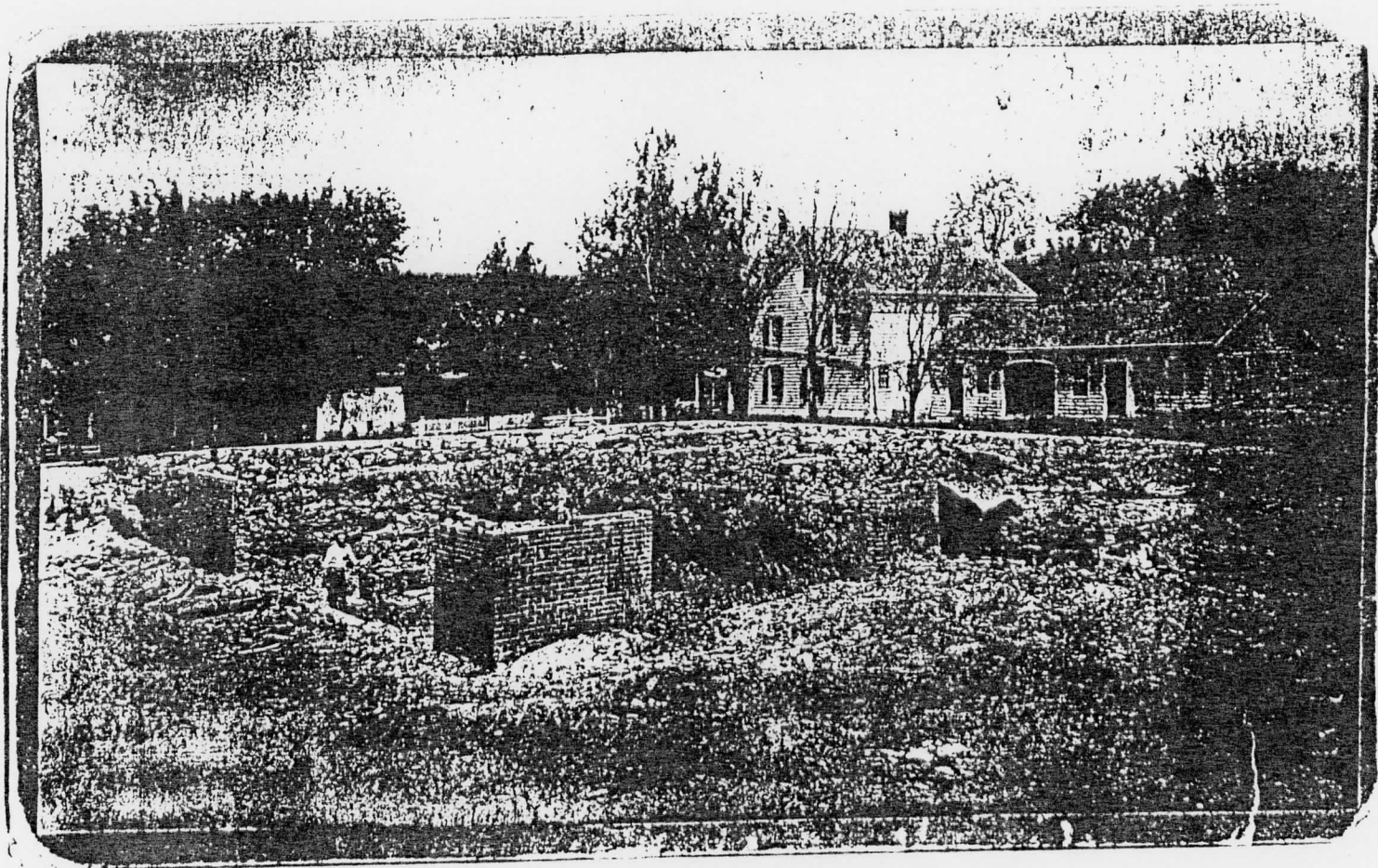
Copy of Architect's Souvenir Card

Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery  
56 CR 23 (Main St.)  
Hartford, Washington County, NY

Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery  
56 CR 23 (Main St.)  
Hartford, Washington County, NY



Copy of Historic Photo of Church and Horse Sheds  
(date unknown)

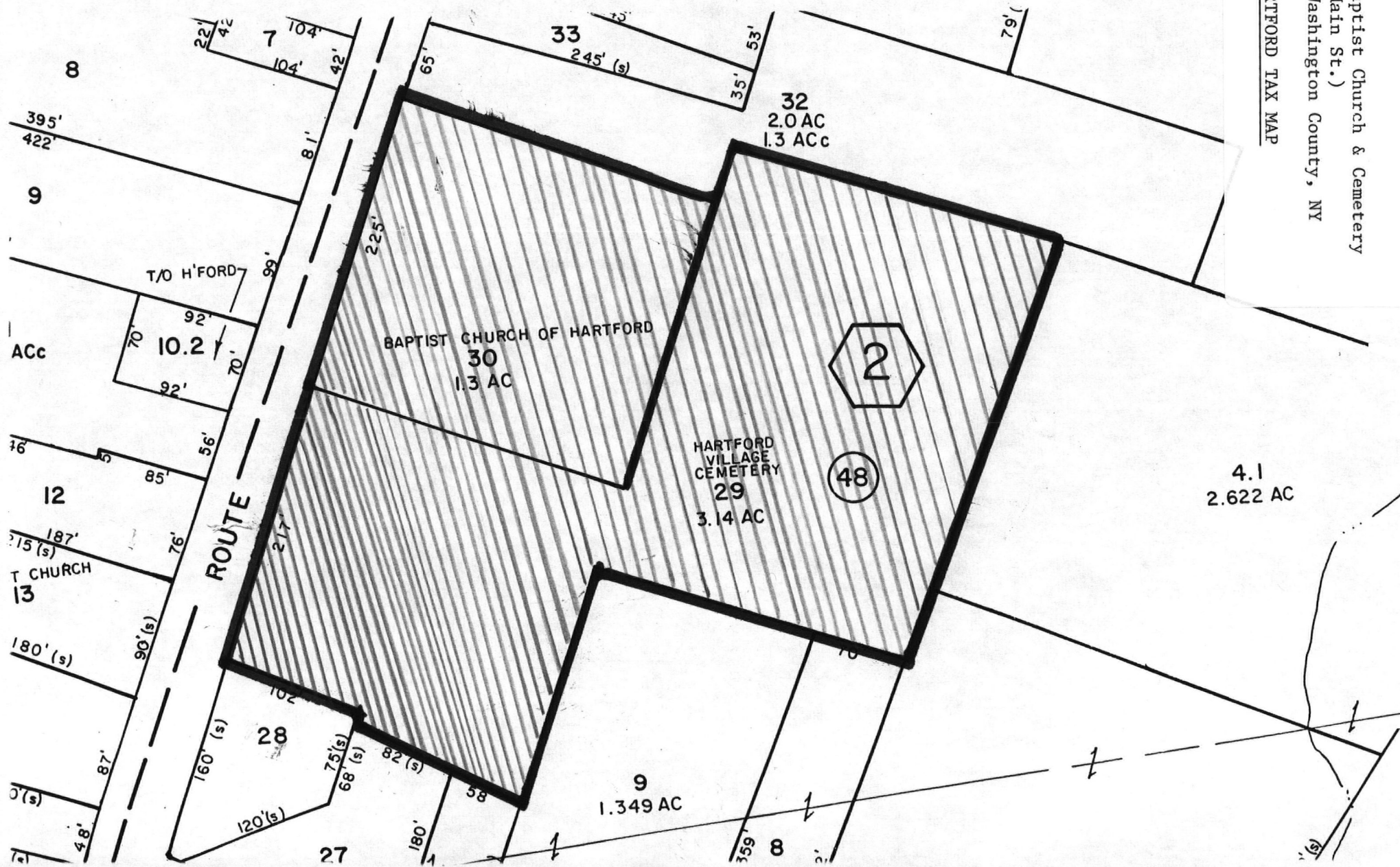


Copy of Historic Photo Showing the Foundation of the Previous Church after the 1890 Fire

Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery  
56 CR 23 (Main St.)  
Hartford, Washington County, NY

Hartford Baptist Church & Cemetery  
56 CR 23 (Main St.)  
Hartford, Washington County, NY

TOWN OF HARTFORD TAX MAP



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hartford Baptist Church and Cemetery

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 7/06/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/27/04  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/11/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/19/04  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000875

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 8/20/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



HARTFORD Baptist Church  
& Cemetery

56 CE 23 (Main St.)

HARTFORD, Washington County  
NY

Photo: Sylvia Van Andren, 2003

view: west (front) elevation



HAETFORD Baptist Church &  
Cemetery

56 CR 23 (Main St.)

HAETFORD, Washington County  
NY

Photo: Sylvain Van Anden, 2003

view: south (side) west (front)  
elevations



WILLIAM H. HILL  
BORN 1810  
DIED 1870

HILL

HARTFORD BAPTIST Church + Cemetery  
56 CR 23 (MAIN St.)

HARTFORD, Washington County, NY

Photo: Sylvia Van Andren, 2003

view: east (rear) elevation



HARTFORD BAPTIST Church + Cemetery  
56 CR 23 (MAIN ST.)

HARTFORD, Washington County, NY

PHOTO: Sylvia Van Andeen, 2003

view: detail of spire



HARTFORD Baptist Church + Cemetery  
56 CR 23 (Main St.)

HARTFORD, Washington County, NY

Photo: Sylvia Van Andren, 2003

view: pew detail



HARTFORD Baptist Church + Cemetery  
56 CR 23 (MAIN ST.)

HARTFORD, Washington County, NY

PHOTO: Sylvia VanAndren, 2003

view: Altar + choir seating



HARTFORD BAPTIST Church + Cemetery  
56 CE 23 (MAIN St.)

HARTFORD, Washington County, NY

PHOTO: Sylvain Van Andren, 2003

view: window detail



HARTFORD BAPTIST  
CHURCH + Cemetery  
56 OR 23 CHAIN ST.  
HARTFORD, Washington  
County  
NY

Zone: 18  
E: 630212  
N: 4802358

Prepared and published in 1982 by the New York State Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Map base from 1944 U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle.

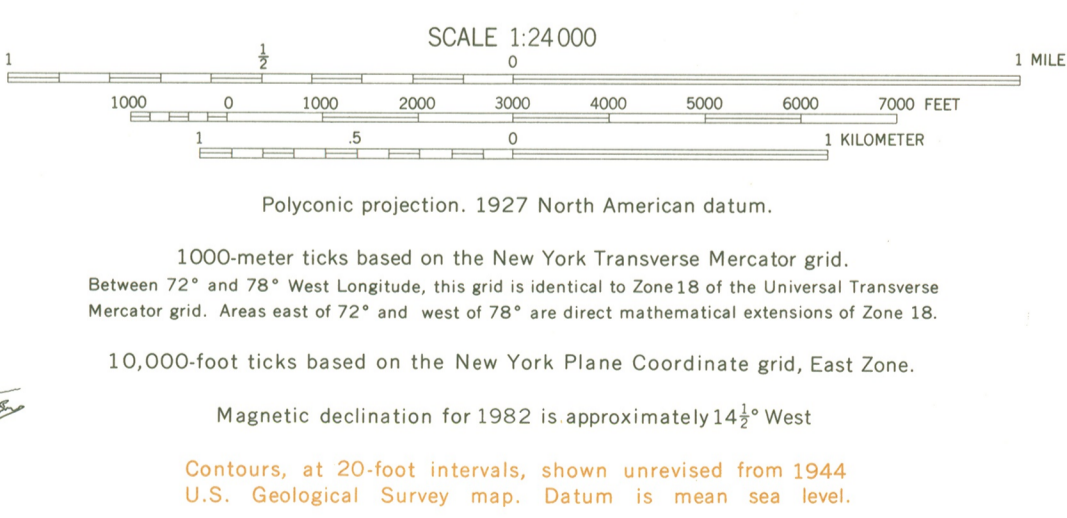
Map revisions made using 1981 aerial photography, construction plans, official records and other sources. Features revised include: highways and other transportation facilities; civil boundaries; recreation sites; hydrography; and buildings. Grey tint indicates intensely developed areas in which only landmark buildings are shown. Darker grey shows open water. Revisions may not comply with National Map Accuracy Standards.

Correspondence concerning this and other maps of the Department of Transportation should be directed to: Map Information Unit, New York State Department of Transportation, State Campus, Albany, New York 12232.

1982 revisions by A. J. Carros



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

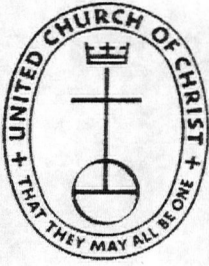


BOUNDARIES:

State.....	-----
County.....	-----
Town or City.....	-----
Incorporated Village.....	-----

ROADS:

Touring Route markers:	-----	Divided highways and streets:	-----
Interstate.....	(7)	Wide mall.....	-----
U.S. ....	(8)	Narrow mall or barrier.....	-----
State.....	(9)		
State Highway number and limit.....	-----	Undivided highways and streets:	-----
County road.....	(7)	4 or more lanes.....	-----
Interchange number.....	(8)	Less than 4 lanes.....	-----
		Vehicle track; trail.....	-----

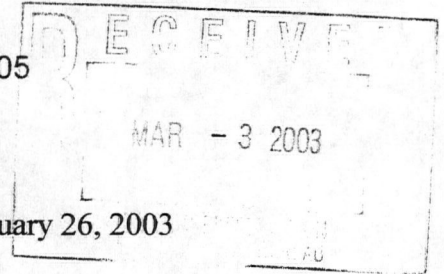


## Hartford Yoked Parish

Congregational, United Church of Christ and  
American Baptist Churches, USA

P.O. Box 40, 56 Main Street  
Hartford, NY 12838

Email: [kappillan@msn.com](mailto:kappillan@msn.com) (518) 632-5805



Linda M. Garofalini  
Historic Preservation Program Analyst  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island  
P.O. Box 189  
Waterford, New York 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Garofalini:

This is to confirm that the property and building of the First Baptist Church at 56 Main Street, Hartford, New York, are owned and cared for by our Baptist Society membership in Hartford, New York.

On Sunday, January 26, 2003, a special meeting of our Baptist membership was called to order immediately following the Worship Service at 12 Noon by Moderator, Gary Burch. After a discussion of the process involved in finalizing the registering of our historic church and the property it encompasses, a motion was made by Chrys Nestle to go ahead with the plan to put our First Baptist Church and Property in Hartford, New York on the National Registry of Historical Landmarks. Carol Cornell seconded the motion. The membership voted unanimously in favor to approve the motion.

Please move forward to complete this undertaking. Direct any further needs to Sylvia and Robert VanAnden who are spearheading this endeavor.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Marion Jessen*  
Marion Jessen

Clerk, First Baptist Church

Moving into the future, trusting in God's grace and leading.  
The Rev. Michael H. Richards, Pastor and Teacher