



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 *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 from 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 First Baptist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 6073 East Avenue [] not for publication

hamlet Newfane [] vicinity

state New York code NY county Niagara code 063 zip code 14108

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 as 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 [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] see continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark Curtis, SAPP

7/5/04

Signature of certifying official/Title : Commissioner for Historic Preservation

Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

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 the 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)

for
Signature of the Keeper Edson R. Beall date of action 9/15/04

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

First Baptist Church of Newfane
Newfane, Niagara County, NY

Section 7 Page 1

Description

The First Baptist Church of Newfane (1843) is a rectangular, gable-roofed, Greek Revival style cobblestone religious building with an early twentieth century stone tower. It is located on the north side of East Avenue, east of NY 78, in the hamlet of Newfane about eight miles north of the center of Lockport. Lake Ontario is less than four miles to the north. The church is surrounded by lawns and a parking lot with minimal landscaping. There are a few nineteenth century and early twentieth century buildings along this section of East Avenue including a circa 1930s Methodist Church, a former trolley station (circa 1893) now a commercial property, and a mid-nineteenth century commercial building (inn). A modern commercial complex is located on the adjacent lot to the north. There is no historic district potential in the neighborhood.

The church, oriented on a roughly north-south axis with its front-gabled end oriented southward toward East Avenue, is a one-and-one-half story, rectangular, gable-roofed building constructed of cobblestones resting on a raised fieldstone foundation. The three-bay-wide south façade is dominated by a central, four-story, square tower (1906) with a pyramidal roof and running bond of rock-face brick. A paneled double-door main entrance is set in a segmental-arched opening at the base of the south façade of the tower. Corner pilasters, corbel table and a bracketed cornice further articulate the tower. Fenestration of the tower is single and paired segmental arched window-openings with stained glass with stone sills. The upper region of the tower is comprised of the belfry, which has paired round-arched openings with wooden louvers. Because of its fine craftsmanship and its integral relationship to the main cobblestone block, the tower contributes to the significance of the church.

The flanking bays of the church façade feature tall, rectangular window openings with stained glass. The main block is embellished with Medina sandstone, quoins, lintels and sills. The cobblestones are unevenly colored, irregular-shaped field cobbles laid three to four rows per quoin. The side elevations are three bays deep. Each side is punctuated by three tall, rectangular stained glass windows. Interior features date to ca. 1906 and include intact pews (two banks separated by a center aisle), handsome pressed metal wainscoting, and a coffered ceiling sheathed with pressed metal.

Attached to the northeast corner of the church is Memorial Hall (1922). Although more than fifty years old, the hall is not an integral component of the cobblestone main block; thus, it does not contribute to the significance of the church.

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 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 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance:

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1843 – 1906

Significant Dates:

1843; 1906

Significant Person:

NA

Cultural Affiliation:

NA

Architect/Builder:

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albany, NY. Division for Historic Preservation. Research files.

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 Building Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other repository: Buffalo, NY:

Clinton Brown Company

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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First Baptist Church of Newfane
Newfane, Niagara County, NY

Section 8 Page 1

Significance

The First Baptist Church, built in 1843, is architecturally significant as a substantially intact, representative example of the cobblestone method of construction in Western New York. The church embodies the distinctive characteristics of the cobblestone method of construction (as discussed at length in the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form [MPDF] *Cobblestone Architecture in New York State* [1992]) in the use of field cobbles laid in horizontal rows and bonded with limestone mortar, the use of stone quoins to decorate and stabilize the corners of the building, and the use of stone sills and lintels to ornament and reinforce door and window openings. Typical of vernacular cobblestone buildings executed during the Middle Period (ca. 1835 – ca. 1845) of this particular type of construction, the church features slightly irregularly shaped, unevenly colored field cobbles, 3-4” in diameter, laid in rows of three to four courses per quoin. The roughly hewn limestone quoins are unembellished; although all are rectangular, their sizes vary considerably. Also typical of the period are the simple, untooled, flat-arched stone lintels and sills around window openings. The church is also architecturally significant as an intact, representative example of the vernacular Greek Revival mode as applied to religious architecture during the mid-19th century.

The First Baptist Church is one of approximately 47 cobblestone buildings in Niagara County, and one of five cobblestone buildings in the town of Newfane. (Information about the other one is currently unavailable.) In a statewide context, about 600 cobblestone buildings (the vast majority of which are dwellings) are believed to survive, according to a reconnaissance level survey conducted by Robert Roudabush in the late 1960s and 1970s. According to Roudabush, the church is one of about 14 cobblestone religious buildings in the state (see MPDF cover form). In terms of integrity of design, material and craftsmanship associated with the primary components of the cobblestone method of construction, the church is substantially intact: all cobblestone walls and stone quoins as well as most stone lintels and sills are virtually intact to the 1843 date of construction.

United States Department of the Interior
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First Baptist Church of Newfane
Newfane, Niagara County, NY

Section 8 Page 2

The First Baptist Church of Newfane is the oldest church in the hamlet of Newfane. The church was founded on May 29, 1829. Initially, the congregation did not have a permanent meeting house. Church meetings were held at Judge Van Horn's brick mansion (1823) on the east bank of Eighteen Mile Creek (Dickerson 1979:18-19), north of the current building on NY 78. On June 23, 1835, the Niagara Baptist Association split the church with the south part of the church in Newfane to remain under the name of the First Baptist Church in Newfane, and the members in the northern portions of the church to form the new Kempville Baptist Church (now Olcott). In 1843 a new cobblestone meeting house was constructed for the First Baptist Church of Newfane at a cost of \$2,200 dollars.

In 1906-07 the church was renovated with the addition of stained glass windows and a finely crafted, Norman-inspired bell tower was added to the church façade. At that time, the chapel was enlarged by two rooms, one of which was for a kitchen. The vestibule and gallery at the front were removed. The new entrance tower replaced the old steeple. The frame of the tower and also the walls of the chapel were veneered with rock-faced brick, to roughly approximate cobblestone walls of the church. An attic-story was added to the building. Interior modifications included a sloping floor and new seats of oak arranged in circular form with a center and two wall aisles. The platform for the pulpit and the choir was moved forward, and the division between the two is marked by a gold-bronzed railing. The inner walls and the ceiling are of steel, the latter has deep panels. The original eight windows of the auditorium were enlarged and replaced by memorials, three of which honor former deacons.

The church remains a prominent local landmark in the community and an important illustration of the cobblestone method of construction in Western New York.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of 1.3 acres

UTM References: **17/685940/4794960**

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the legal lot lines as delineated on the attached county tax map (038.12-6-21).

Boundary Justification: The boundary coincides with the full extent of land historically and currently associated with the nominated resource.

11. Form Prepared By: Ms. Christine M. Longiaru, Clinton Brown Company, Buffalo, New York

contact: Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst

organization Division for Historic Preservation

date June 2004

street & number Peebles Island, Box 189

telephone (518) 237-8643 x 3262

city or town Waterford

state NY zip code 12188

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.

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

name _____

street & number _____

telephone _____

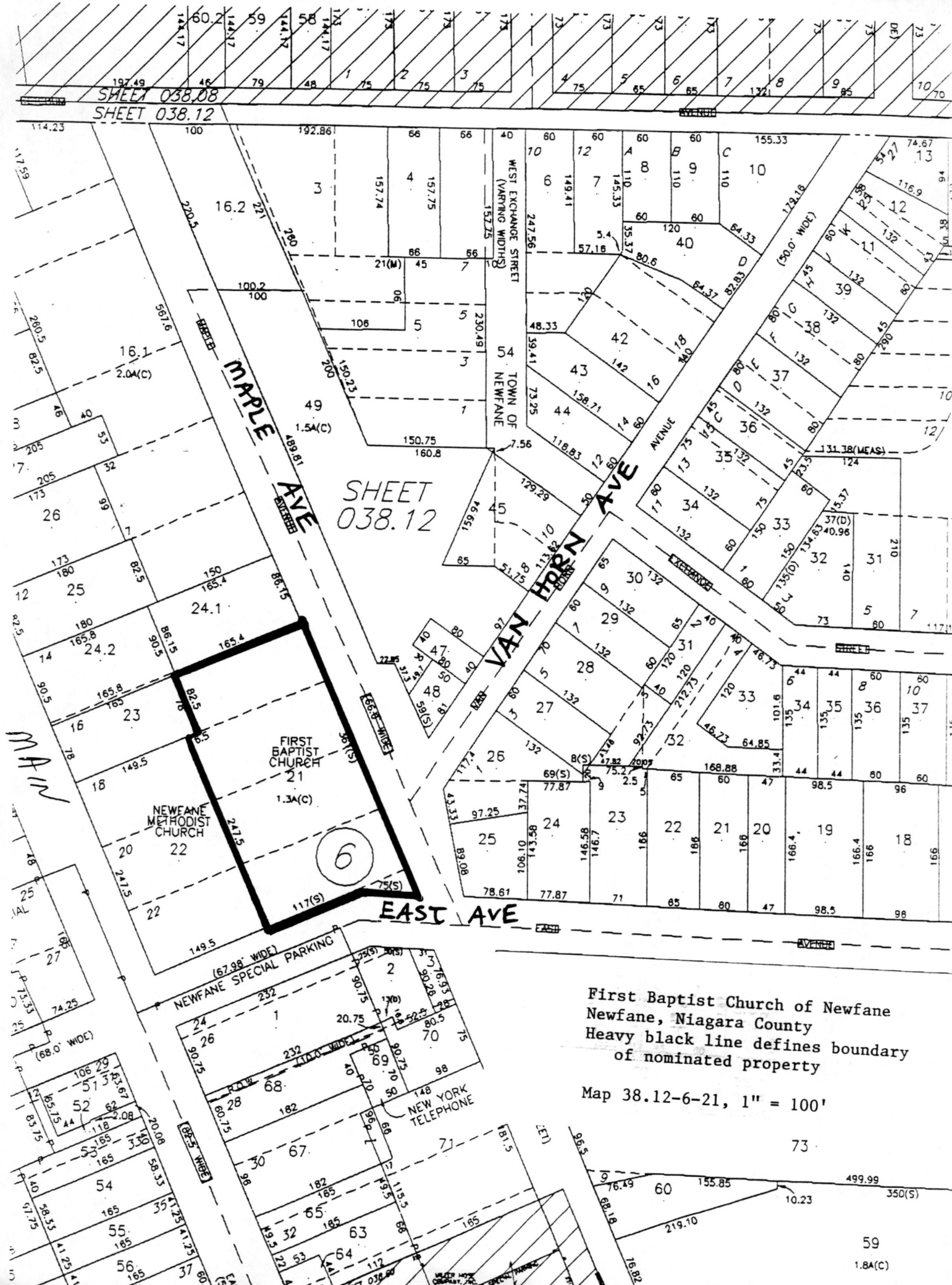
city or town _____

state _____

zip code _____

SHEET 038.08
SHEET 038.12

SHEET
038.12



First Baptist Church of Newfane
Newfane, Niagara County
Heavy black line defines boundary
of nominated property

Map 38.12-6-21, 1" = 100'

59
1.8A(C)



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NEWFANE, NIAGARA COUNTY

Photo & neg: Clinton Brown Co. 2004
Buffalo ny

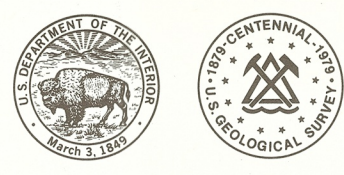
View: Front and side elevations



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NEWFANE, NIAGARA COUNTY

photo & neg: Clinton Brown Co. 2004
Buffalo ny

View: detail of cobblestones



CONVERSION SCALES

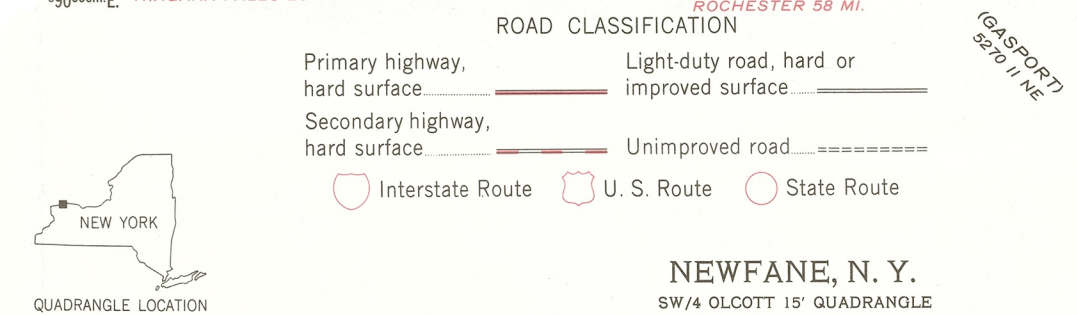
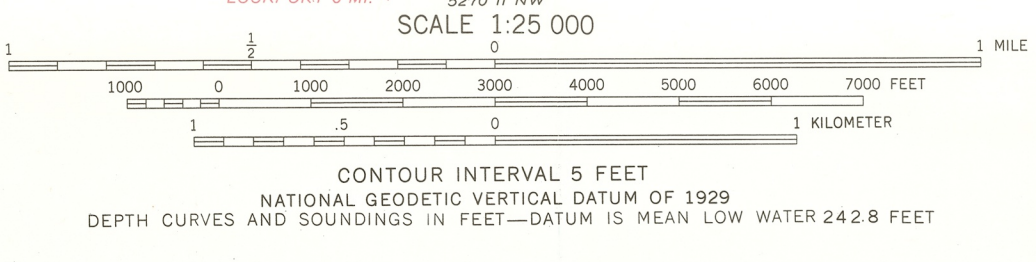
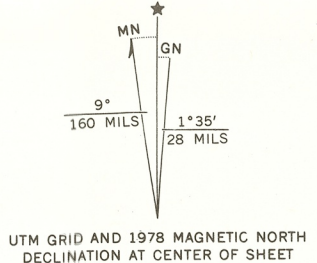
Feet	Meters
15000	4500
14000	4267
13000	4000
12000	3700
11000	3400
10000	3048
9000	2743
8000	2438
7000	2134
6000	1829
5000	1524
4000	1219
3000	914
2000	609
1000	305
500	152
200	61
100	30
0	0

Feet Meters
1 3048
2 6096
3 9144
4 12192
5 15240
6 18288
7 21336
8 24384
9 27432
10 30480

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

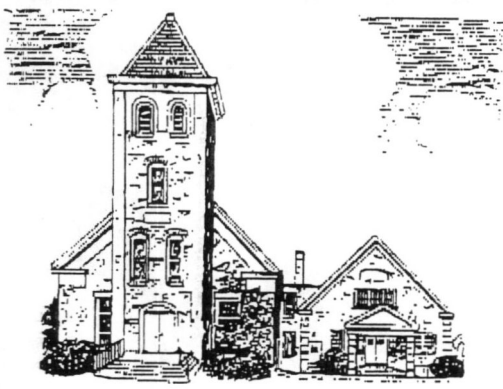
First Baptist Church
Newfane, N. agara Co.
Newfane Quad, Zone 17
E: 685940
N: 4794960

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973. Map edited 1978
Supersedes map dated 1965
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey Chart 25 (1965). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: New York coordinate system, west zone (transverse Mercator)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 17
1927 North American datum
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NEWFANE, N. Y.
SW/4 OLCOTT 15' QUADRANGLE
N4315-W7837.5/7.5
1978
AMS 5270 1 SW—SERIES V821



First Baptist Church

6047 East Avenue
Newfane, New York 14108

Church Phone: (716) 778-9216

April 16, 2004

New York State Office of
Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Ms. Nancy L. Todd, Program Analyst
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
Peebles Island
PO Box 189
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Dear Ms. Todd:

Please accept this letter as full support for consideration and inclusion of The First Baptist Church & Society of Newfane in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. As Board Moderator, I have been granted the authority to prepare this request on behalf of our congregation.

If you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at (716) 625-7512.

Sincerely,

Kimberly D. Buzyniski
Moderator

CC: Clint E. Brown, Clinton Brown Company
Thomas Hartley, First Baptist Church

KDB/s

