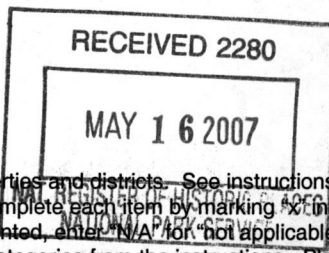


623

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 *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 Lowville Presbyterian Church

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

#### 2. Location

street & number 7707 North State Street [ ] not for publication

city or town Lowville [ ] vicinity

state New York code NY county Lewis code 049 zip code 13367

#### 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.)

*Ruth A Purpont*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

*DSHPO*

*April 23, 2007*  
Date

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & 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 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) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

date of action

*John Edson Mc Beall* *6-27-07*

**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	Non-contributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	<b>TOTAL</b>

**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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls STONE

roof ASPHALT

other

**Narrative Description**

(See continuation sheet)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Lowville Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property  
Lowville, Lewis Co. NY  
County and State

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**Description**

The Lowville Presbyterian Church is located in the village of Lowville, Lewis County. The nominated property of less than one acre occupies a roughly trapezoidal parcel bounded on the east by North State Street, on the south by a short connecting street, on the west by West State Street and on the north by adjacent residential property. The church is oriented with its principal elevation facing south, fronting on a triangular village park.

In plan, Lowville Presbyterian Church consists of a rectangular, stone, gable roofed main block erected in 1831 and an attached gable roofed wing added to the north end of the main block in 1906. The exterior of the church consists of tall, masonry walls constructed of dressed quarry limestone laid random ashlar above a raised stone basement. A smooth stone water table surrounds the building. The principal elevation is dominated by a central entrance pavilion with triangular pediment surmounted by a staged wood bell tower. The engaged, square tower base embellished with pilasters and a molded cornice supports an enclosed, polygonal belfry. The tall spire atop the belfry is capped with a ball finial. The tower base incorporates a mechanical clock with dial faces on three sides. The bronze bell in the belfry was manufactured by the Meneely Bell Company of West Troy, New York in 1860. The steeple clock has always been known as the "town clock." Originally installed prior to 1855 as a single, octagonal dial on the south face of the belfry, the clock was replaced in 1911 to incorporate three dial faces. A simple, molded wood cornice defines the roofline. The principal entrance at the base of the stone pavilion consists of a double-leaf door within a molded wood architrave. A flight of broad stone steps rises to a platform at the main entrance. Secondary entrances are located at the basement level on the east and west side walls. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical, consisting of tall, Gothic arched openings with molded wood tracery and smooth, cut stone sills. A single tall, Gothic window flanks each side of the entrance pavilion, with a center Gothic window located above the entrance. The pointed arched windows lighting the sanctuary contain stained glass generally installed in the late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries to replace earlier glass. The two story, gable roofed, rear addition constructed in 1906 is built of limestone to match the original church.

The main entrance provides access to the church interior at the second-floor level. A narthex extends across the width of the south gable end, with a staircase leading to the lower level and another to the balcony of the sanctuary. The first story contains a fellowship room, kitchen and Sunday school rooms. The sanctuary (66 by 44 feet) located on the floor above reflects renovations undertaken in 1865, when the worship space was re-oriented 180 degrees. The pulpit and altar were re-located from the south to the north end of the church and the center door replaced the original two entrances on the south elevation. Original side galleries were removed and a new balcony constructed at the south end. Open, Gothic wood arches support the ceiling above the front of the balcony. The worship space is divided into two banks of pews by a center aisle leading to a paneled, raised dais. The altar table is located in front of the dais, with the pulpit and lectern on the dais. In 1906 a Gothic architrave the height of the ceiling was cut into the north wall and that portion of the building was extended to accommodate a choir loft, pipe organ and two flanking Sunday school rooms at the sanctuary level. A paneled partition with flanking stairs separates the organ and choir level from the dais. Most of the interior finishes in the building date from renovations carried out in 1906: These include plaster walls above a beaded wood wainscot, stained glass windows, flooring, varnished oak pews and molded, Gothic arched door and window architraves. A false window originally located above the main entrance was replaced in the 1930s by an opalescent glass window installed in the opening. At the same time, the stairs leading from the narthex to the upstairs gallery were reconfigured to allow the front Gothic windows to be fully visible from inside.

Name of Property

**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
- 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:**

1831-1906

**Significant Dates:**

1831; 1865; 1906

**Significant Person:**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect/Builder:**

Ezra Brainard (builder)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheet)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Pierson, William H., Jr. *American Buildings and their Architects: Technology and the Picturesque, The Corporate and Early Gothic Styles.* Garden City, 1978.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 1

Lowville Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property  
Lowville, Lewis Co. NY  
County and State

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**Statement of Significance**

The Lowville Presbyterian Church is significant under Criterion C as a distinguished example of late Federal period religious architecture in Lewis County. Erected in 1831, the present church is the third house of worship occupied by the congregation first organized in 1822. The stone masonry church exhibits the traditional New England meeting house form with applied Federal and Gothic decorative features characteristic of its type, period and method of construction during the first decades of the nineteenth century. The church is a prominent architectural landmark in Lowville that continues to reflect the architectural heritage of the region's first permanent settlers. Modifications in 1865 and 1906 reflect changes in the worship needs of the congregation over time and contribute to an understanding of Lowville's Presbyterian heritage.

The area that became Lowville originally was included in a vast tract of land known as the Macomb Purchase of 1791, which was assembled from lands ceded by the Oneida Indian nation following the Revolutionary War. A portion of these lands were further subdivided the following year, when they were acquired by four principal investor/speculators as the Black River Tract. The region's abundant timber, water resources and fertile agricultural lands attracted settlers primarily from New England, who rushed to purchase farms and building lots offered by Nicholas Low through his agent, Silas Stow. Situated near the confluence of Mill Creek with the Black River, Lowville was first settled in 1799. The community grew as the principal residential, civic and commercial center of Lewis County, becoming an incorporated village in 1854.

The residential and civic architecture of Lowville during the Federal period reflects the strong influences brought to the region by its early New England settlers. Many of the features incorporated into the design for the Lowville Presbyterian Church of 1831 were drawn directly from architect Ithiel Town's design for Trinity Church, New Haven, Connecticut. (Town based his design upon the actual, late Gothic plan of All Saints Church, Derby, England.) Completed in 1817, Town's Trinity Church incorporated Gothic-arched fenestration and an engaged tower superimposed upon the traditional New England meeting house form. Using abundant native limestone, the builder of the Lowville church replicated the random ashlar stone walls advocated by Town as a conscious effort to evoke the Romantic esthetic, conveying a sense of durability and antiquity associated with medieval Gothic church architecture. In its form and decorative elements, the Lowville Presbyterian Church incorporates many of the features deemed essential to enhance worship by followers of Ithiel Town's design precepts. The appearance of this sophisticated architectural form in a rural community such as Lowville attests to its far-reaching influence among former New Englanders settling in New York during the Federal period. The Lowville Presbyterian Church is significant as a distinguished example of its type, period and method of construction that retains a high level of overall integrity.

The site of the nominated Lowville Presbyterian Church originally was deeded to the citizens of Lowville by Silas Stow in 1807 "for the erection of a building that might serve as a meeting house or any other public building and also an academy." Religious services for a time were conducted in the academy building constructed on the site. A group of worshippers favoring the Presbyterian form of worship met in 1822 to organize a congregation, the Lowville Presbyterian Society. The newly formed congregation met in the Lowville Academy building until it burned in 1827. A wood frame replacement church erected on the site in 1829 likewise burned the following year. Undaunted parishioners met in early 1830, pledging to meet the costs associated with constructing a new house of worship. The building committee contracted with local builder Ezra Brainard to erect a stone masonry church at a cost of \$4,000. Dedicated in 1831 by the Rev. Isaac Clinton, the Lowville Presbyterian Church incorporated features familiar to the majority of its New England immigrant parishioners in its meeting house form, engaged entrance/bell tower, staged belfry, tall spire and Gothic fenestration. Extensive renovations to the interior of the church occurred in 1865, funded in large measure by benefactor James L. Leonard. The orientation of the sanctuary was re-oriented and the chancel painted with an elaborate architectural *tromp l'oeil*. As worship needs continued to evolve, further renovations occurred in 1906 and again after a fire in 1941. Despite these incremental alterations, the Lowville Presbyterian Church continues to reflect the intent of its original design. The church is preserved by its active congregation, and it remains a prominent architectural landmark from the early settlement of Lowville.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

**Lowville Presbyterian Church**  
**Name of Property**  
**Lowville, Lewis Co. NY**  
**County and State**

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**Photo Index:**

All Photos:

Lowville Presbyterian Church  
Lowville, Lewis Co. NY  
R. Smith, 2006  
Negative @ NYSHPO, Waterford NY

Photo 1—West (L.) and South elevations, view N;

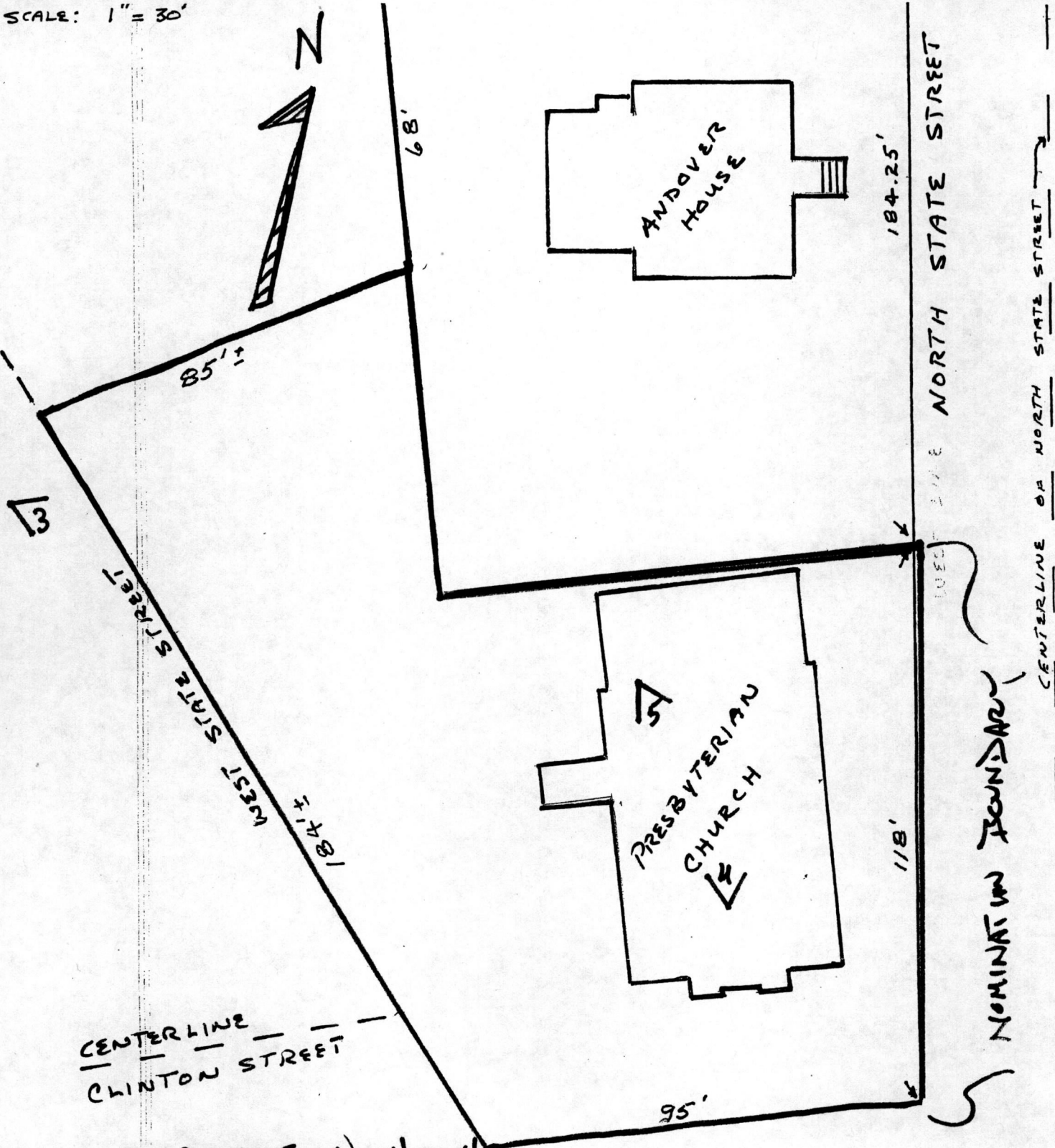
Photo 2—Principal (South) elevation, view N;

Photo 3—North (L.) and West elevations, view SE;

Photo 4—Sanctuary, view North from gallery;

Photo 5—Gallery, view SE.

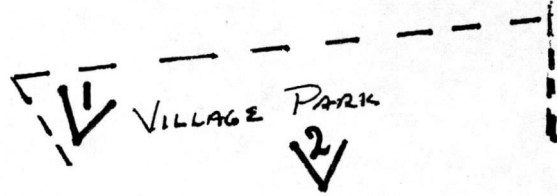
SCALE: 1" = 30'



LOWVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
LOWVILLE, LEWIS CO. NY

SURVEY MAP. NOT TO SCALE

< = PHOTO KEY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Lowville Presbyterian Church  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Lewis

DATE RECEIVED: 5/16/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/05/07  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/20/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/29/07  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000623

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 6-27-07 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.



LOWVINE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
LOWVINE, LEWIS CO. NY

17 434 1372 N N NTS 2

PHOTO 1



LOW VINE PRESS BY (TERMAN) CHURCH  
LOW VINE, VESWISCO. NY

13 434 1372 N N NYO 2

PHOTO 2



LOW VINE PRESBYTERIAN church

LOW VINE, LEWIS CO. N Y

Z 439 1372 N N N45 Z

PHOTO 3



LOWVINE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LOWVINE, LEWIS CO. NY

Z 44W W W Z/ST 404 60

PHOTO 4



LOWVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
LOWVILLE, LOWISCO. NY

11 404 1372 N N N16 Z

PHOTO 5



Lowville Presbyterian Church  
Lowville, Lewis Co. N.Y.  
Lowville Quad.  
18/460070/4848582

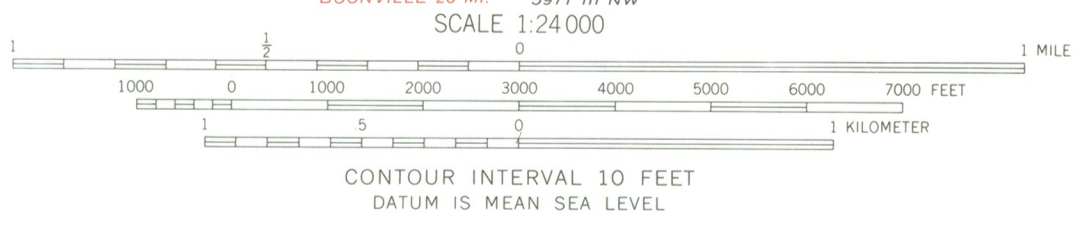
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on New York coordinate system, central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Map photospected 1980  
No major culture or drainage changes observed



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
	State Route



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LOWVILLE, N. Y.  
SW/4 LOWVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4345—W7522.5/7.5  
1966  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1980  
AMS 5971 IV SW—SERIES V821

## STATEMENT OF OWNER SUPPORT

Before an individual nomination proposal will be reviewed or nominated, the owner(s) of record must sign and date the following statement:

I, Lowville Presbyterian Church, am the owner of the property at  
(print or type owner name)

7707 North State Street, Lowville, NY 13367  
(street number and name, city, village or town, state of nominated property)

I support its consideration and inclusion in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

Dorothy B. Payne 4/3/07  
(signature and date)

Dorothy B. Payne, Clerk of Session

7742 North State Street

Lowville, NY 13367

(mailing address)