

# Determination of Eligibility (DOE)

Inventory #: JAF0518

DOE Review Date: 8/14/2024

Date Received: 8/7/2024

Final DOE Approved: Yes

## Property Name: First Universalist Church/Cutler Memorial Building

**Area:**

**Address:** 33 Main Street

**Town:** Jaffrey

**County:** Cheshire

**Reviewed For:** SR

**DOE Program(s):**

State Register

### Determination of Eligibility:

State Register eligible, individually			<b>Integrity:</b> Partial	<b>Level:</b> Local	
<b>Criteria:</b>	<b>A:</b> Yes	<b>B:</b>	<b>C:</b> Yes	<b>D:</b>	<b>E:</b>

### Areas of Significance(s):

Architecture

Social History

**Period of Significance:** 1844 to 1974

### Boundary:

The 0.26-acre tax parcel serves as the State Register boundary.

### Statement of Significance:

The Cutler Memorial Building is eligible for the NH State Register for its role in the social history of Jaffrey and for its architecture. From 1845 until 1939, the building served as an important center for communal life as the meeting place for the varied groups of the Church. This communal role continued after the building was transferred for use by the Jaffrey Women’s Club. The building is also significant for architecture as an example of a parish Greek Revival style church that was updated in the last quarter of the 19th century with an Italianate bell tower. Despite the loss of the original exterior wooden clapboard siding, the building retains many character-defining features.

### Comments:

### Follow Up:

Notify appropriate parties

# INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM

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### Name, Location, Ownership

Historic name First Universalist Church/Cutler Memorial Building  
Street and number 33 Main Street  
City or town Jaffrey  
County Cheshire  
Current owner Jaffrey Woman's Club

### Function or Use

Current use(s) Social: Club house  
Religion: Church or temple  
Historic use(s) Religion: Church or temple  
Social: Club house

### Architectural Information

Style Greek Revival/Italianate  
Architect/builder Daniel French, Jr & Joseph Crombie, Jr.  
Source May 4, 1844 Building Contract (J.H.S.)  
Construction date 1844  
Source Research  
Alterations, with dates Steeple added (ca. 1883);  
Interior remodeled & exterior restored (1971);  
Vinyl siding (1976); Steeple repairs (1993-1995)  
Moved? no  yes  date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Exterior Features

Foundation Granite  
Cladding Vinyl  
Roof material Asphalt shingle  
Chimney material N/A  
Type of roof Front gable  
Chimney location N/A  
Number of stories 1.5  
Entry location Façade, center  
Windows Double-hung, 15/15  
Replacement? no  yes  date: 1971

### Site Features

Setting Downtown business district  
Outbuildings N/A



Photo #1 Direction: South  
Date July 18, 2024

Landscape features Mature trees, Other: retaining wall  
Tax Map Map 238, Lot 36  
Acreage 0.26 Acres  
State Plane Feet (NAD83) x: 888,118, y:115,135

### Form prepared by

Name Mae H. Williams  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Survey July 18, 2024

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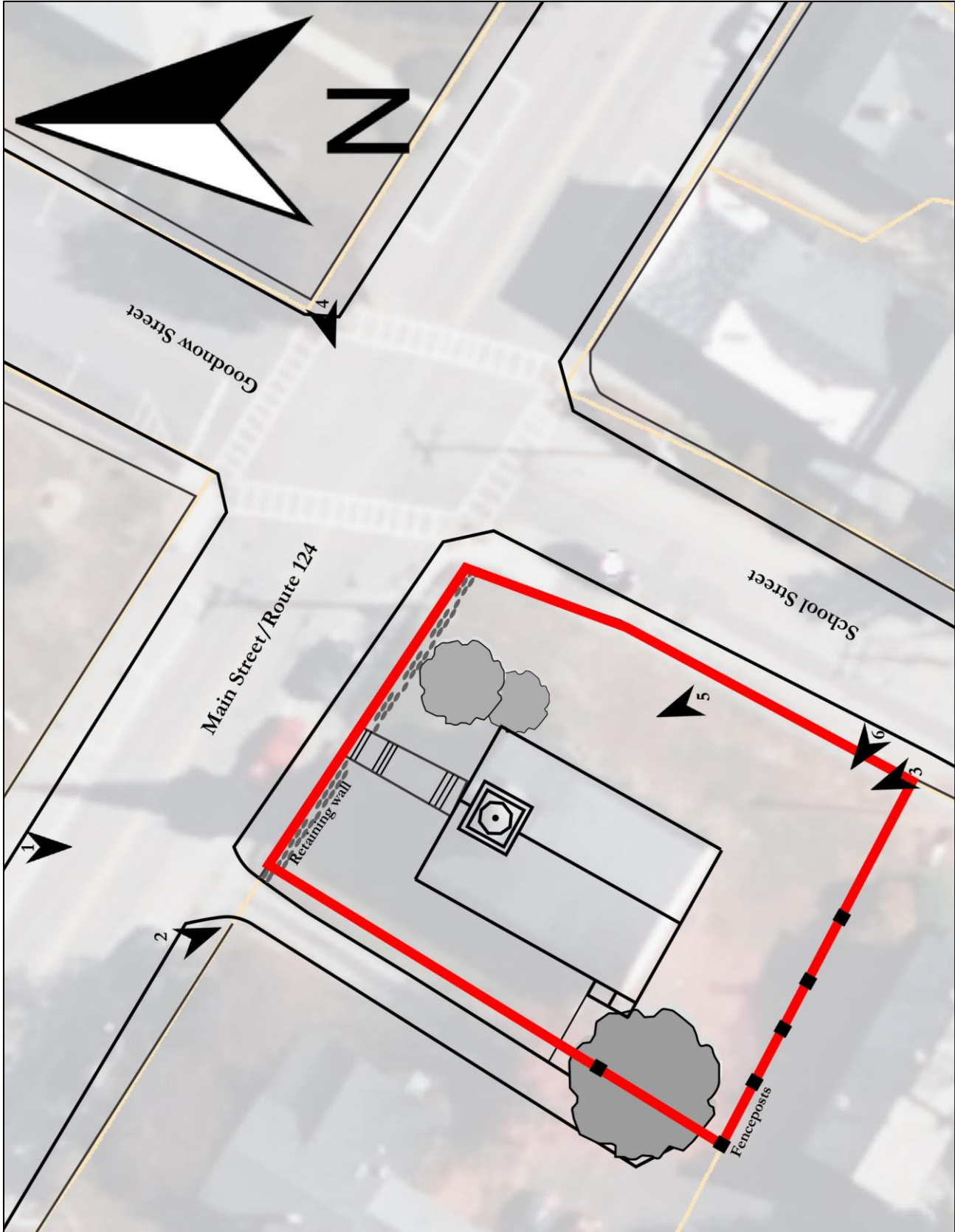
LOCATION MAP:



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**PROPERTY MAP AND PHOTO KEY:**



**Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development:**

The Cutler Memorial Building was constructed as the First Universalist Church of Jaffrey in 1844 and dedicated in 1845. Though the building has undergone several periods of construction and reconstruction through different ownerships, it has served as a central meeting place for the people of Factory Village/East Jaffrey (now Jaffrey Village) for 180 years. The first major change to the structure came in ca. 1883, when the original Greek Revival belfry and spire were removed and replaced with more fashionable Italianate features. After the last pastor of the First Universalist Church died, the building ownership was transferred to the Jaffrey Woman's Club, and the building has been utilized as a meeting hall for this group since 1939. In 1971, a fire ripped through the interior of the structure, resulting in the large-scale renovation of the interior.

Early History of Factory Village and Development of the First Universalist Church (before 1844)

In order to more fully understand the history of the Cutler Memorial Building, it is helpful to understand the early history of the town's settlement and the history of different religious groups in Jaffrey.

The Massachusetts General Court first granted Jaffrey and Rindge as "Rowley-Canada" to soldiers from Rowley, Massachusetts in 1736. In 1749, the Masonian Proprietors re-chartered the area as "Middle Monadnock". After European settlement of the area began in the late 1750s, Gov. John Wentworth (1737-1820; Royal Gov. 1767-75) re-granted the town in 1767 and incorporated it in 1773, naming it after the prominent Portsmouth Jaffrey family.<sup>1</sup>

On the condition of the grant, a site as near as possible to the geographical center of the town was chosen for a Meetinghouse and Common. Samuel Adams (1750-1813) was awarded the contract for building this Meetinghouse, and cut the timbers on the highlands east of Thorndike Pond and dragged them over the snow to the Common during the winter of 1774-1775.<sup>2</sup> The actual construction of the Jaffrey Center Meetinghouse began in May 1775.

As with most New England Meetinghouses, the Jaffrey Meetinghouse provided a centralized meeting place for both town municipal meetings and religious gatherings. Prior to the Toleration Act of 1819, towns charged a ministerial tax on their citizens to support the services of the town-employed minister (most commonly of the dominant Congregational denomination) who held regular meetings for the inhabitants in the meetinghouse. Although the Toleration Act stated that no person shall be taxed against his will to support a specific religion, pre-existing contracts with settled ministers were allowed to continue, and separation was often a slow process. This meant that the Rev. Laban Ainsworth (1757-1858), Jaffrey's first and only settled minister, was allowed to continue holding Congregational services every Sunday for the next several years.

On April 20, 1822 the Town of Jaffrey voted to allow "every religious denomination in Jaffrey to have the use of said house on Sabbath days in proportion to the valuation of their property."<sup>3</sup> The Congregational denomination maintained a strong majority, however, during the years following the passage of the Toleration Act other Churches were organized in Jaffrey with denominations that worked quickly to construct their own houses of worship, including the First Universalist Society which organized on November 16, 1822.<sup>4</sup>

In 1823, the Congregationalist, Baptist, Universalist and Unitarian Societies all presented their membership to the Town to figure out the Sunday schedule, 27 Sundays of which were presented to the Congregational Church. On March 31, 1823, the Universalist Society consisted of Daniel Adams; Daniel Adams, Jr.; Oliver Bailey; Roger Brigham; Samuel Buss; Benjamin Cutter; John Cutter; Nathaniel Cutter; William Dean; Adams Fisk; Levi Fisk; Samuel Foster; Daniel French; John Gilmore; Sewall Gould; William Hodge; James Ingalls; Isaac Jewell; Oliver Jewett; Benjamin Lawrence, Jr; Ithamer Lawrence; Edward Perkins; Eliot Powers; Benjamin Prescott, Jr.; James C. Smith; John Stone; Samuel Stratton; Thomas Taylor; Cotton Tufts; Gershold Twitchell; Oliver Warren; Elijah Wellman, Jr., and Charles Witt and was allotted 13

<sup>1</sup> Elmer Munson Hunt, *New Hampshire Town Names and Whence They Came* (Peterborough, NH: Noone House, 1970), 136.

<sup>2</sup> Albert Annett and Alice E. E. Lehtinen, *History of Jaffrey (Middle Monadnock) Vol. 1: An Average Country Town in the Heart of New England* (Jaffrey, NH: Town of Jaffrey, 1937), 172.

<sup>3</sup> Daniel B. Cutter, *History of the Town of Jaffrey, New Hampshire from the Date of the Masonian Charter to the Present Time: 1749-1880* (Concord, NH: Republican Press Association, 1881), 67.

<sup>4</sup> Cutter, 80; D. Hamilton Hurd, ed., *History of Cheshire and Sullivan Counties, New Hampshire* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1886), 226; and Alice E. Lehtinen, *History of Jaffrey, New Hampshire Vol. III: Narrative & Genealogical* (Peterborough, NH: Transcript Printing Company, 1971), 86. Captain John Stone was chosen as the first moderator of the Church; Caleb Searle, clerk; John Cutter, treasurer; and Mr. John Cutter and Colonel Oliver Prescott, committee.

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Sundays.<sup>5</sup> By 1829, the proportions had changed and apportionment was as follows: 21 Sabbaths for the Congregationalists, 13 for the Universalists, 9 for the Unitarians, and 9 for the Baptists.<sup>6</sup>

Over the next few decades, the different religious groups in Jaffrey constructed their own church edifices which allowed them to worship whenever they pleased. In 1830, the Baptist Church on East Main Street was constructed at the site now occupied by the United States Post Office.<sup>7</sup> In 1831, the First Congregational Church's brick meetinghouse (14 Laban Ainsworth Way/Map 228-72) was constructed east of the Meetinghouse.<sup>8</sup> In 1831, the Universalists were left the sole religious group occupying the town Meetinghouse, against the protest of many of the taxpayers.<sup>9</sup>

Union Meetinghouse/Jaffrey First Universalist Church (ca. 1845-1939)

The Universalist Church continued to use the Jaffrey Meetinghouse for services until they were ready to construct their own building in Factory Village/East Jaffrey in 1844.<sup>10</sup> The Universalist Church under the watchful eye of pastor **Stillman Clark** (pastor 1839-1851)<sup>11</sup> appointed a building committee, consisting of **Laban Rice** (1801-1873),<sup>12</sup> **Peter Upton** (1816-1910),<sup>13</sup> and **Samuel Smith** to site and oversee the construction of a purpose-built meeting-house of their own in the growing population center of Factory Village approximately 2 miles to the east of Jaffrey Center.

The building committee purchased a small tract of land on the south side of the highway (approximately 55 square rods or 0.34 acres) in Factory Village from **Moses Perkins** (1768-1854)<sup>14</sup> on April 22, 1844 for \$100.<sup>15</sup> Perkins lived on the "Spofford homestead" (later owned by his son, Aaron, then Perkins B. Mead) just to the northwest of the building site, along the main artery through Factory Village (Jaffrey Center).<sup>16</sup> On May 4, 1844 the building committee contracted with **Daniel French Jr.** (1803-1858) and his brother-in-law, **Joseph Crombie, Jr.** (d. 1877) to construct the "Union Meetinghouse", as the First Universalist Church was initially called.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Cutter, 68.

<sup>6</sup> Cutter, 68 and Annett & Lehtinen, Vol. I, 260.

<sup>7</sup> Robert B. Stephenson and Catherine L. Seiberling, *Jaffrey Then and Now: Changes in Community Character* (Jaffrey, NH: Jaffrey Historic District Commission, 1994), 35.

<sup>8</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, Vol. I, 225; and Stephenson & Seiberling, 35.

<sup>9</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, Vol. I, 231.

<sup>10</sup> The Universalist Church was the last to use the Jaffrey Meetinghouse for religious meetings: the building was home to secular meetings only after 1844 and Jaffrey voters changed the legal name of the structure from Meetinghouse to Town House on July 5, 1855 (Annett & Lehtinen, Vol. I, 197).

<sup>11</sup> Cutter, 80.

<sup>12</sup> Laban Rice enlarged the Cutter homestead while he ran the home as a summer boarding establishment and served as a Jaffrey Selectman for 8 years and represented the town in 1846 (Annett & Lehtinen, *History of Jaffrey Vol. II: Genealogies* (Jaffrey, NH: Town of Jaffrey, 1934), 644). Laban Rice is interred at Cutters Cemetery in Jaffrey Center (Anonymous, "Find A Grave – Millions of Cemetery Records Online" ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)), Laban Rice (1801-1873)).

<sup>13</sup> Upton came to Jaffrey from Tyngsborough, Massachusetts in 1837 and quickly became one of the most influential businessmen in town and intrinsically linked to the "social betterment" of the town. In 1851, he aided in planning a new brick schoolhouse and hall, in 1859 he supervised the erection of the Granite State Hotel (burned 1875), he was involved in the construction of three brick banking blocks, the Monadnock Railroad, and, serving as one of the executors of the estate of Susan Bethiah Clay (1826-1893), he was instrumental in the construction of the Clay Memorial Building/Jaffrey Public Library (38 Main St/JAF0284) in 1895 (Annett & Lehtinen, Vol. I, 679-680; Annett & Lehtinen, Vol. II, 823; Anonymous, "Find A Grave..." ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)), Peter Miller Upton is interred at Conant Cemetery in Jaffrey; and Mae Williams with Brian Gallien, *Historic Building Assessment for the Clay Memorial Library* (2023), 5.

<sup>14</sup> Anonymous, *Find A Grave* ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)), Moses Perkins (1768-1854) is interred at the Old Burying Ground in Jaffrey Center.

<sup>15</sup> Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, book 151/169. The tract was part of lot No. 17 in the 7<sup>th</sup> range. A second, adjacent parcel of only 4 rods (0.025) acres was added to this initial purchase on May 16<sup>th</sup> 1844 (Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, book 151/261), bringing the parcel very briefly up to 59 rods then back down to the present size the same day when the lines with the adjacent Almira Blodgett property were readjusted (Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, book 151/262).

<sup>16</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, Vol. II, 583.

<sup>17</sup> This original contract is in the collection of the Jaffrey Historical Society.

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Daniel French, Jr. grew up on his father's homestead farm and moved to East Jaffrey Village, living in a home that was occupied by Jennie *Fairbanks* Lynch in 1930.<sup>18</sup> "He was an active business man and owned much real estate. He was also a stone mason and contractor, and was much employed in laying walls, digging cellars and wells, and building highways. He m. (1) Marie Crombie, b. Jan 9, 1803, daughter of Joseph Crombie..."<sup>19</sup>

The 6th of 11 children of Joseph and Mary *Wright* Crombie, Joseph Crombie, Jr. was also a prominent business man in Jaffrey.

In 1837 or 1838 he bought the Francis Wright homestead, now (1931) owned by Emile Labrie, which he occupied for three years. In 1843 he was untaxed but soon afterward returned to Jaffrey and bought the saw and grist mill in East Jaffrey Village, which he sold in 1847 to Bascom and Merrick, after which he lived again on the Wright homestead carrying on the business of farmer and butcher. About 1855 he formed a partnership with Alonzo Bascom for the operation of the village saw and grist mill, which was continued until the death of Mr. Bascom in 1872. He lived from this time in a house on the site of the present Bean Block, which is still occupied as a residence on Depot Square, a few feet south of its former position.<sup>20</sup>

With access to a saw mill, French and Crombie likely manufactured much of the lumber for the Union Meetinghouse's frame themselves, at the Bascom mill. From the detailed Building Committee specifications listed in the contract, we know that the approximately 38' by 50' frame was made of spruce and pine timbers with studs placed 2' on center and boarded with 3/4" thick square-edge hemlock or pine sheathing.<sup>21</sup> The building contract further specified that the belfry and steeple be furnished "like the plan of Joel O' Patrick[']s as shown by said building committee" except with a square cupola. Eave details were to be similar to the north eaves on "Mrs. E. Duncan's house" and the south eaves similar to the "village school house".<sup>22</sup> The detailed specifications go on to describe interior furnishings, window blinds (including a drawing of the window and blind configurations, figure 1), and finishes throughout the building, offering a rare and very detailed account of the original appearance of the First Universalist Church. The contract specified that the building was to be completed by year's end and that the total cost was to be \$1,133.<sup>23</sup>

The "Union Church" (as the First Universalist Church was originally named) was dedicated on January 29, 1845 with services commencing at 10:30 A.M.<sup>24</sup> On March 31, 1845, the building committee (Laban Rice, Peter Upton, and Samuel Smith), transferred the title of the completed "Union House" to the First Universalist Church (aka. Andrew Emory *et al*).<sup>25</sup> The Church organized a Sunday School shortly thereafter, which grew to 60 members by 1878.<sup>26</sup>

In 1850, a new Congregational Church was organized in East Jaffrey.<sup>27</sup> This group constructed their own house of worship (now known as the United Church) further west along Main Street in Factory Village later that year (54 Main Street/Parcel 238-155). The presence of two houses of worship in the Village attested to its rapid growth during this period, as the mills along the reliable water source of the Contoocook River thrived during the period of industrialization leading up to the American Civil War (figures 2 & 3).

In 1858, the First Universalist Society was officially gathered and the Union Church was renamed the **First Universalist Church** with the first official meeting of the society held on June 12.<sup>28</sup> In 1860, a bell was placed in the belfry, which had

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<sup>18</sup> After the death of his first wife, Crombie m2 Mariette P. Stebbins, who m2 George Fairbanks after Crombie's death. This property was located on the south side of River Street.

<sup>19</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. II*, 309.

<sup>20</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. II*, 187.

<sup>21</sup> Jaffrey Historical Society Collections, May 4, 1844 building contract, 1.

<sup>22</sup> Jaffrey Historical Society Collections, May 4, 1844 building contract, 1-2.

<sup>23</sup> Jaffrey Historical Society Collections, May 4, 1844 building contract, 5. The Jaffrey Historical Society collections also include a small notebook of expenses kept by the "Building Committee" throughout the construction process, including partial payments to French and Crombie on August 30<sup>th</sup>, Peter Upton for a lightning rod on August 30<sup>th</sup>, and final payment to French & Crombie on January 31, 1845.

<sup>24</sup> *New Hampshire Sentinel*, January 15, 1845 referenced in Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. I*, 232 and "Woman's Club building was a church in 1844" (*The Ledger* newspaper clipping in collection of Jaffrey Woman's Club), July 22, 1971.

<sup>25</sup> Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, book 158/45.

<sup>26</sup> Cutter, 80.

<sup>27</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. I*, 233 and Hurd, 225.

<sup>28</sup> Cutter, 80; Hurd, 226, and Lehtinen, 86.

apparently sat empty since 1845.<sup>29</sup> A new bell “of superior tone” replaced the 1860 bell just 10 years later in 1875 when the pastor of the Church was W. J. Crosby.<sup>30</sup> The new bell was made by the “William Blake & Co. formerly H. N. Hooper Co. Boston, Mass.” An offshoot of the Paul Revere Foundry, William Blake and Paul Revere III renamed the foundry the Hooper, Blake and Revere Foundry in 1830 with their former apprentice, Henry Hooper. After the Civil War, the company was renamed **William Blake & Co.** of Boston in the late 1860s.

At least two stereographic photographs were taken of the Church in the early 1870s by local photographer Denzil S. Rice (1838-1882).<sup>31</sup> The first of these two images shows a group of minstrels gathered on the lawn in front of the First Universalist Church (figure 4). Though the lightly-colored steeple is difficult to see against the sky, the photograph clearly shows the original bell platform and spire with notably Greek Revival proportions and square open belfry and square spire with ball finial. Of note are the closed exterior shutters and narrow stove chimney at the southern end of the building. The second photograph (figure 5), shows the building in context with surrounding houses and a large crowd gathered on the street and lawn, likely as they prepared to parade to Jaffrey Center to celebrate the centennial of the Town in 1873<sup>32</sup> or the nation in 1876.<sup>33</sup>

By 1878, the First Universalist Church had a congregation of 48 members with 60 enrolled in Sunday School and a “ladies circle” actively involved in benevolent causes in the village.<sup>34</sup>

The First Universalist Church granted the Town Clock Association permission to place a clock (which the Town would maintain) in the tower of their church.<sup>35</sup> The 1884-1885 Jaffrey Town Report states that the Town paid F. S. Pierce \$18 for insuring the town clock and James S. Lay \$66.41 for “balance on town clock” during the 1884 fiscal year.<sup>36</sup> Because it is documented that the clock was placed in the tower in 1884, it has commonly been assumed that the Greek Revival belfry and spire were replaced with the present Italianate belfry and spire at the same time.<sup>37</sup> An undated stereographic photograph in the collection of the Jaffrey Historical Society (figure 7), indicates that the tower renovation preceded the installation of the clock, as the image clearly shows the new tower with blank medallions where the clock would be installed in 1884. As of writing it is unclear as to the duration of time between the completion of the tower’s renovation and installation of the clock, however it should be noted that between the undated stereographic view of the building with the new belfry and spire and the first known image with the clock (figure 8), the chimney cap was also reconfigured, new trees were planted at the corner of Main and School Streets, and street lighting was installed.

In 1905, Albert Baldwin gifted a custom-built Estey organ to the Church in memory of his sister, Martha.<sup>38</sup> By 1911, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Jaffrey indicates that the building was heated with a furnace and had electric lights.<sup>39</sup>

Reverend Myron Lewis Cutler (1858-1930) died on August 2, 1930,<sup>40</sup> after serving as the pastor of the First Universalist Society for nearly forty-three years.<sup>41</sup> For several years after his death, the members of the church, which had greatly

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<sup>29</sup> Cutter, 80; Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. I*, 232 and “Woman’s Club building was church in 1844” (*The Ledger* newspaper clipping), July 22, 1971.

<sup>30</sup> Cutter, 80; Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. I*, 232 and “Woman’s Club building was church in 1844” (*The Ledger* newspaper clipping), July 22, 1971.

<sup>31</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. II*, 642-643.

<sup>32</sup> Handwritten note on verso of Jaffrey Historical Society reprinted photograph (1996.51.35).

<sup>33</sup> Stephenson and Seiberling, 43.

<sup>34</sup> Cutter, 80.

<sup>35</sup> “Lightning Strikes Cutler Memorial, Interior Ruined” (*Peterborough Transcript* newspaper), July 22, 1971.

<sup>36</sup> Town of Jaffrey, *Annual Reports of the Town Officers of Jaffrey, N. H. for the Year Ending March 1, 1885* (Peterborough, NH Peterboro Transcript Office, Farnum & Scott, 1885), 67.

<sup>37</sup> Lisa Mausolf, “National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Downtown Jaffrey National Register Historic District” (2002), 90. Other secondary sources state that the “present spire was built in 1883, costing about \$500” (“Triple D Meeting, United Church of Jaffrey” (unpublished manuscript, February 23, 1993), 1).

<sup>38</sup> The organ cost \$976.16 and was reported as “one of the finest ever made” (“Club to repair Estes organ” newspaper clipping, May 13, 1969).

<sup>39</sup> 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Jaffrey, Sheet 3.

<sup>40</sup> Anonymous, “Find A Grave...” ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)), Rev. Myron Lewis Cutler (1858-1930) is interred at Conant Cemetery.

<sup>41</sup> Lehtinen, 86.



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diminished in size after a peak of membership in the late 1800s, alternated between worshipping at the East Congregational Church (in East Jaffrey/Jaffrey Village) and the First Baptist Church (Jaffrey Center).<sup>42</sup>

Jaffrey Woman's Club (1939-present)

On September 1, 1939, the Jaffrey First Universalist Society voted to convey their real estate to the New Hampshire Universalist Convention with the understanding that the Convention would then offer the property to the **East Jaffrey Woman's Club**.<sup>43</sup> The East Jaffrey Woman's Club was the outgrowth of "The Afternoon Reading Club," which Mrs. H. N Packard started in 1915,<sup>44</sup> with early meetings held in "Library Hall" (otherwise known as the Clay Memorial Building/Jaffrey Public Library).<sup>45</sup> In 1921, the Club reorganized as "The Monday Club", changing the name in 1922 to "The East Jaffrey Reading Club". "In May, 1923, through the efforts of Mrs. Edward L. Fay [Lura C. Worthen Fay]<sup>46</sup>, who was then president, the Club affiliated with the New Hampshire Federation of Woman's Clubs, and five years later changed its name to 'The East Jaffrey Woman's Club.'"<sup>47</sup>

The last recorded meeting of the First Universalist Society of Jaffrey was held on October 4, 1839. In a meeting held at the home of Alice W. Poole, the group "voted unanimously that the trustees of the First Universalist Society of East Jaffrey be authorized and instructed to transfer the funds of said society to the New Hampshire Universalist State Convention".<sup>48</sup> In November, 1939, the East Jaffrey Woman's Club voted to "accept the gift of the Universalist Church"<sup>49</sup> and on December 29, 1939, the New Hampshire Universalist Convention deeded the former Church to the East Jaffrey Woman's Club.<sup>50</sup> After making unspecified "necessary alterations",<sup>51</sup> the club moved into the former Church, which they renamed the **Cutler Memorial Building** in honor of the Church's former pastor. When the village of "East Jaffrey" was renamed "Jaffrey", the club was renamed the **Jaffrey Woman's Club**.

The Club gained momentum through the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, holding bi-weekly meetings. The group sponsored the multi-volume *History of Jaffrey* in the 1930s, and worked with other organizations throughout the municipality to try to "make Jaffrey a better place to live" by embarking on everything from beautification projects to sponsoring local health initiatives.<sup>52</sup> By the late 1930s, the club had departments of study in Art and Travel, Literature, Dramatics, Home Economics, Civics, Music, Hospitality, and Courtesy.<sup>53</sup>

In the mid-1950s, architect B. Leonard Krause oversaw the installation of a new path at the front of the building. Granite steps, quarried in Milford, were laid at the front of the building with hand-wrought railings on either side manufactured by local blacksmith Charles Folsom. Melvin Walker and Ralph White assembled the railing at D. D. Bean & Sons, and Henry Belletete, then road commissioner for Jaffrey, laid the blacktop path.<sup>54</sup>

By the mid-1960s, the club membership grew to 135 members.<sup>55</sup> When the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs held their diamond jubilee in the Cutler Memorial Building in 1966, the building hosted 350 people.<sup>56</sup> Though the membership had dropped somewhat by the late 1960s (with 112 active members and 20 associate members in 1968), they

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<sup>42</sup> Lehtinen, 86.

<sup>43</sup> Lehtinen, 86.

<sup>44</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. I*, 729.

<sup>45</sup> Lehtinen, 261.

<sup>46</sup> Anonymous, "Find A Grave..." ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)), Lura C. Worthen Fay (18872-1963) is interred at Conant Cemetery.

<sup>47</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. I*, 729.

<sup>48</sup> Lehtinen, 87.

<sup>49</sup> Lehtinen, 86.

<sup>50</sup> Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, book 486/416-417. The initial deed included the restriction that it "shall not be used as a public dance hall, moving picture house, public bowling alley, or for things of like nature, and upon breach of any of these conditions, the said property shall revert to said grantor". The restriction was rescinded February 1, 1940 (Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, book 486/535-536).

<sup>51</sup> Lehtinen, 261.

<sup>52</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. I*, 729-730.

<sup>53</sup> Annett & Lehtinen, *Vol. I*, 730.

<sup>54</sup> "Triple D Meeting, United Church of Jaffrey" (Manuscript, dated February 23, 1993), 3.

<sup>55</sup> Jaffrey Woman's Club 1965-1966 scrapbook.

<sup>56</sup> "Women's Clubs Diamond Jubilee" *Manchester, NH Union Leader*, Friday March 4, 1966.

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remained an active part of the community.<sup>57</sup> In 1969, the Jaffrey Woman's Club orchestrated the repair of the 1905 Estey Organ and hosted a series of concerts that were open to the local community.<sup>58</sup> (figure 9).

By 1970, the Jaffrey Woman's Club had become a real philanthropic force in the region, raising about \$500 a year for Dollars for Scholars and other educational grants.

They have also raised funds for Crotched Mountain, the Laconia State School, the Visiting Nurse Association, Girl and Boy Scouts, and other charitable causes. Their biggest project, says [club chair] Mrs. Krause, is the Dental Fund, which provides free dental care for needy children. This program involved state matching funds, a state dollar for every local dollar raised. This project has been going on since 1946, and the club's \$5,000 raised has mean \$10,000 worth of dental care.<sup>59</sup>

The Cutler Memorial Building suffered a devastating fire on Saturday July 17, 1971. That day started in a celebratory mood as the Woman's Club held a gala luncheon to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club and enjoy music from the newly-restored organ<sup>60</sup> and ended in despair, as the Club questioned whether to consider the building a total loss.

A bolt of lightning struck the utility pole at the intersection of Main and School Streets at around 6:15 PM. Assistant fire-chief Robert Bunce heard the crack form the police department garage across the street.<sup>61</sup> The Dodge family was sitting on the porch of their house which was several doors down the street when it happened, and the Dodge children saw the strike and told their father, Richard. The jolt apparently traveled up the wires to the northeast corner of the building, where it set fire to the electrical entry switch in the kitchen and quickly spread to the wooden structure (rather than hitting the steeple directly, as was originally assumed).<sup>62</sup> By the time Richard Dodge sounded the alarm, the northeast kitchen window had already blown out.<sup>63</sup> Jaffrey Fire was on the scene in moments, followed by Peterborough and Meadowood at 6:25 and Winchendon, Massachusetts at 6:40 PM (Rindge was also called to cover the Jaffrey Station).<sup>64</sup> The town clock kept running until about 6:40<sup>65</sup> or 6:45 PM<sup>66</sup> but by the time the fire was out, and the windows boarded over at about 10 PM, there were fears that the fire had caused significant structural damage to the tower, and that the weight of the slate would cause the spire to collapse. The fire was so hot in the kitchen that not only were all of the appliances destroyed, but a silver tea set was melted into a solid molten mass (which has been preserved by the Society as a memorial of the event). Though only the northeast corner of the building was burned directly, the interior was so heavily damaged by smoke and water, that the entire contents of the Women's Club thrift boutique were considered a total loss.<sup>67</sup>

After the fire, the Jaffrey Woman's Club anxiously awaited the insurance company's decision regarding the extent of coverage for the fire-damage. When the insurance company payment fell far short of the cost of restoration, the Club seriously began to weigh demolition against the hefty price of restoration. A special meeting of the Woman's Club was held in late August, where members raised questions such as "Do we really want to restore the building?" and "If the building is torn down, what happens to the town clock?" The club engaged the Edward Bergeron Co. of Keene to come up with a quote to rebuild the structure as it was (\$18,600). Significantly exceeding the \$10,000 pay out from insurance, the Club wrestled with how they would raise the additional funding.<sup>68</sup> The Club held a follow-up public meeting at the Jaffrey Civic Center on September 28, 1971 to seek additional input from the community at large.<sup>69</sup> After receiving strong community moral and financial support, the Jaffrey Woman's Club voted unanimously in favor of restoring the building, and a restoration committee led by chair, Mrs. Roger R. Smith, was given the go ahead to begin restoring the 127-year-old

<sup>57</sup> 1967-1968 Jaffrey Woman's Club scrapbook.

<sup>58</sup> "Club to repair Estes organ", unidentified newspaper clipping, May 13, 1969.

<sup>59</sup> "Woman's Club building was a church in 1844" (*The Ledger*, July 22, 1971).

<sup>60</sup> Jaffrey History Committee, *The History of Jaffrey, New Hampshire Vol. IV: Narrative and Genealogical* (Peterborough, NH: Transcript Printing Company, 2000), 209.

<sup>61</sup> "Lightning strike burns Cutler Memorial, Jaffrey", *The Ledger newspaper*, July 20, 1971, pages 1 & 6.

<sup>62</sup> "Lightning Sparks Jaffrey Fire, Former Church Hit", *Keene Evening Sentinel*, July 19, 1971 and "Lightning Strikes Cutler Memorial, Interior Ruined", *Peterborough Transcript*, July 22, 1971.

<sup>63</sup> "Lightning strike burns Cutler Memorial, Jaffrey", *The Ledger newspaper*, July 20, 1971, pages 1 & 6.

<sup>64</sup> "Lightning Sparks Jaffrey Fire, Former Church Hit", *Keene Evening Sentinel*, July 19, 1971.

<sup>65</sup> "Lightning strike burns Cutler Memorial, Jaffrey", *The Ledger newspaper*, July 20, 1971, pages 1 & 6.

<sup>66</sup> "Lightning Strikes Cutler Memorial, Interior Ruined", *Peterborough Transcript*, July 22, 1971.

<sup>67</sup> "Lightning Sparks Jaffrey Fire, Former Church Hit", *Keene Evening Sentinel*, July 19, 1971.

<sup>68</sup> "Woman's Club questions fate of burned clubhouse", *The Ledger*, September 2, 1971.

<sup>69</sup> "Woman's Club Tussles with Meeting Place" *Peterborough Transcript*, September 23, 1971.

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landmark.<sup>70</sup> Interior demolition began on Monday October 4.<sup>71</sup> By December 2, 1971, the Town Clock Agent, George Sirois, had the town clock back up and running.<sup>72</sup> Bergeron Construction Company of Keene, gathered up their equipment after they finished the majority of the interior restoration of the building on December 10, 1971. The project was completed on schedule and without the Club accruing debt, thanks to the generosity of the community, in particular the American Legion Post which raised nearly \$250 through a tag sale.<sup>73</sup> The February 1, 1972 "Report on Restoration" listed

- 1) Preservation of a historic building and the tradition it represents
- 2) Restoring the Town Clock housed in its steeple.
- 3) The wonderful sense of community that was generated.
- 4) A building for the whole community to use and enjoy...and no longer just the Woman's Club Building.<sup>74</sup>

As the permanent results from the successful project. The restoration had truly been a community project that was enabled by the strong sense of place, community, and reverence for history held by the citizens of Jaffrey.

Several relatively minor changes were made to the building over the next twenty years. In 1976, the Jaffrey Woman's Club opted to cover the exterior siding with new vinyl siding. In 1985, interior floors were sanded and refinished. In 1986, new vinyl shutters were added to the exterior of the building.

On April 29, 1991, the Membership of the Jaffrey Woman's Club voted to withdraw from the General Federation of Women's Clubs due to their declining numbers and having trouble keeping up with the requirements of the larger membership organization.<sup>75</sup>

On October 27, 1992, Connor Powers of Structural Technology, Inc. determined that the Cutler Memorial Building's spire was structurally unsound and in danger of falling and suggested that the building be closed.<sup>76</sup> After meeting with the Town, the Club held an emergency meeting on November 10, 1992 and voted to close the building and shut off all of the utilities (including the Town Clock). Mike Cahill and/or Dan Quinn<sup>77</sup> of Skyline Engineers of Maryland performed an inspection of the steeple in January of 1993. On February 6, 1993, the Club engaged Skyline to perform an emergency stabilization of the spire while funds could be raised for a more permanent solution. The emergency stabilization proposal cost \$20,800, \$8,000 more than one which would have removed the spire.<sup>78</sup> A Restoration Committee, chaired by Joanne Buck, was also formed to draft a Warrant Article for Jaffrey Town Meeting to raise matching funds to help pay for the additional \$55,000 to \$80,000 needed for restoration.<sup>79</sup> The \$25,000 Warrant Article passed March 27, 1993 with the requirement that the Woman's Club raise a 50% match.

In 1994 and 1995 the belfry and town clock were restored. Damaged timber framing members within the attic of the building were replaced with a steel sub-structure while more publicly visible damaged elements were replaced with wood in-kind. The original clock faces were reproduced with gold-leafed hands and numerals, and the original faces were auctioned off (with the permission of the Selectmen) to help fund the project. In October of 1994, the Jaffrey Woman's Club received a Preservation Award from Inherit New Hampshire (now the NH Preservation Alliance) at their 6<sup>th</sup> annual awards ceremony at the State House in Concord.<sup>80</sup> The repairs to the building were finished in 1995 with a total project cost of \$102,000.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> "Jaffrey Woman's Club to restore Cutler", *The Ledger*, September 30, 1971.

<sup>71</sup> Untitled newspaper clipping, *The Ledger*, October 7, 1971.

<sup>72</sup> "Jaffrey Clock Running", *The Ledger*, December 2, 1971.

<sup>73</sup> "Cutler Memorial restoration done", *The Ledger*, December 16, 1971.

<sup>74</sup> "Official Summary Report Form" General Federation of Women's Clubs/Sears, Roebuck and Co., February 1, 1972 (Collection of the Jaffrey Woman's Club).

<sup>75</sup> Jaffrey History Committee, 210.

<sup>76</sup> "Cutler Memorial Restoration Timeline" (Jaffrey Woman's Club), 1.

<sup>77</sup> "Steeple in danger of falling off Cutler Building" (*Winchendon Courier and Jaffrey-Rindge Chronicle*, Thurs, Feb. 4, 1993), 1-2.

<sup>78</sup> "Cutler spire to be steadied without emergency dismantling" (*The Peterborough Transcript*, February 11, 1993), 16.

<sup>79</sup> "Cutler Memorial Restoration Timeline" (Jaffrey Woman's Club), 1; "Club takes action to stabilize steeple" (Unattributed newspaper clipping, collection of Jaffrey Woman's club).

<sup>80</sup> *Inherit New Hampshire Quarterly* (Winter 1995), 5 and "Cutler Restoration Fund receives award" (newspaper clipping in Jaffrey Woman's Club collection, January 18, 1995).

<sup>81</sup> Jaffrey History Committee, 210.

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The project also included a new hand-crafted gold-leafed pineapple finial to the spire, which was added on June 30, 1995.<sup>82</sup> The final club match was raised thanks to the help of over 300 local citizens, businesses and local organizations.<sup>83</sup>

Since the early 1990s, the Woman's Club has worked hard to maintain the historic building. In 1994, while the steeple restoration was ongoing, the club invested in laying plastic sheeting across the dirt floor of the building to mitigate moisture and painted and scraped the decorative triangular fan in the tympanum of the building. The entire sub-structure was treated with Borate in 1995 to keep insects at bay. The interior was repainted in 1997.

Despite dwindling membership in the early 2000s (down to about 60-70 from over 130 by 2000)<sup>84</sup>, the group still remained very active in the community, hosting "weddings, dinners, Community League meetings, interim church services, district court sessions, Andy's Summer Playhouse productions, bridge groups, hearing clinics, flea markets, rummage sales, and craft fairs".<sup>85</sup>

On June 14, 2002, the Cutler Memorial Building was listed to the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource (#111) to the "Downtown Jaffrey National Register Historic District" (NRHP#02000642).

In 2003, the windows were re-glazed and painted, and several broken shutters were replaced.

In 2004 lightning struck the building, *again*, causing \$30,000 in damages to the steeple, water, and water lines and resulting in a new lightning protection system that was covered by the groups insurance. While the steeple rigging was up, the steeple was repainted and the clock cleaned. The Club had a new roof installed in 2005 and the windows were repainted and fit with new storm panels in 2010. A granite ramp was added to the rear entrance in 2014 to create a barrier-free interior.

The Jaffrey Woman's Club continues to hold regular public meetings in the Cutler Memorial Building while also renting the building to the Jaffrey Presbyterian Church, which holds weekly worship services in the building. The Woman's Club sponsors guest lectures, rummage sales and other events, shares their hall with other local non-profit organizations, and rents the space to members of the community for celebrations such as wedding receptions and memorial services, continuing the 180-year communal use of the building.

**Applicable NHDHR Historic Contexts** (please list names from appendix C):

1202. Women's organizations and the suffrage movement in New Hampshire.

1203. Social organizations in New Hampshire.

1300. Religion in New Hampshire, 1623-present.

**Architectural Description and Comparative Evaluation:**

The 1844 First Universalist Church/Cutler Memorial Building is a single-story three-by-three wood-framed rural village church that faces northeast, overlooking the former Turnpike Road (now Main Street/Route 124). The large main block is surmounted by a belfry with spire, the Greek Revival style square base of which dates to 1844 and the Italianate bell platform and spire date to the 1880s (photo 1). The building is situated at the center of the village of Jaffrey (formerly Factory Village/East Jaffrey), directly across the street from the large open common in front of the Jaffrey Public Library (Clay Memorial Building/JAF0284) and within the boundaries of the 2002 Downtown Jaffrey National Register Historic District.

The primary façade of the former church faces northeast, overlooking the principal road through the village (photo 2). The building sits on a low grassy knoll at the corner of School Street and Main Street. The building rests on plug-split granite underpinning and is sheathed in vinyl siding (1977). The roof is covered in modern asphalt shingles. The eaves are boxed and the primary façade is fully pedimented.

As is typical of Greek Revival architecture, the façade is symmetrical, with the primary entrance at the center of the building. A set of granite and asphalt steps leads to the entry from the sidewalk and is flanked by hand-wrought railings that were installed in the 1950s. The paired entrance doors are located within a Greek Revival surround with heavy pediment

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<sup>82</sup> Jaffrey History Committee, 210.

<sup>83</sup> Jaffrey History Committee, 210.

<sup>84</sup> Jaffrey History Committee, 209.

<sup>85</sup> Jaffrey History Committee, 210.

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supported by fluted pilasters. The doors have four recessed panels each, and are also typically Greek Revival in style. The doorway is flanked by fifteen-over-fifteen wooden windows. These replica sashes were replaced following a fire in 1971. Each window is flanked by a narrow, fixed vinyl shutter (added 1986). A painted sign hangs above the entrance door, proclaiming "Cutler Memorial / 1844". A second sign is located below the west façade window, indicating that the building is the meeting place of the Jaffrey Presbyterian Church. A triangular louvered fan is applied in the center of the tympanum, on top of the modern siding, and above a modern rectangular attic vent.

Centered at the front of the gable roof is a two-stage tower that is capped by an octagonal spire (photos 1-5). The square base of the tower houses the workings of the town clock and is sheathed in vinyl siding. The bell-platform above has two rectangular openings on each side that are framed by squat Tuscan columns on tall bases with a low rail with turned balusters between them. A large round black clockface with gold Roman numerals and hands is located above the openings in each side of the tower. Each flushboard clock face is capped with a projecting cornice with a central anthemion topped with a cross. The heavy wooden corner posts that support the elaborate octagonal spire are decorated on the exterior as square fluted columns with a band of roundels and dentils in their capitals. The octagonal spire is sheathed with three different shades of slates that have been arranged to create a decorative pattern. A gilded pineapple finial was installed atop the spire in 1995, after a long restoration project, next to a very important lightning rod (the building has been struck at least twice).

There are three evenly-spaced fifteen-over-fifteen windows along either side of the building, each of which is flanked on either side by a narrow vinyl shutter (photo 3). Several of these windows, as well as those at the façade of the building, are fitted with modern interior storm panels to conserve energy. A secondary entrance at the northwest corner of the building was added in 2014 to create an accessible entry (photos 1 & 2). The entrance has a simple gable-hood above it and wooden handrail on either side. The door has a flat surround and is a modern hollow-core unit with handle.

The rear elevation (southwest) has a single twelve-over-twelve attic window near the peak (below a modern louvered vent). This sash was not inspected closely as there is no solid flooring at this end of the attic and likely pre-dates the 1971 fire. A metal bulkhead door at the center of the rear elevation allows exterior access to the building's basement (photos 3 & 6).

The interior of the Cutler Memorial Building was heavily renovated following the July 1971 fire, which led to the destruction of the original interior fabric. The interior of the northeast corner room (kitchen) was burned, and the rest of the interior seriously damaged by water and smoke. The general historic interior layout was preserved, with a small entrance vestibule flanked on the east by a kitchen space, and on the west by restrooms. The south two bays of the building are entirely devoted to a large open meeting hall (photo 8). The interior walls and ceilings are covered in gypsum board, and the floors of the ancillary rooms are covered in vinyl tile with exposed wood in the meeting room. Interior trim is narrow and flat wood, and there is an applied chair rail in the meeting hall.

The original building frame is fully visible in the basement, attic, and bell tower. The original wooden framing is all manufactured using a reciprocating (up-and-down) water-powered saw. The common rafter roof is supported by a queen post truss at each structural bay (photo 9). The back of the original ceiling plaster is all visible in the attic level, and one can see that the original plaster was set onto split-board lath that was affixed with cut nails as is typical for the mid-1840s when the building was constructed. Evidence in the basement also shows that the sub-floor was also manufactured on a reciprocating saw and affixed with cut nails.

A modern plywood floor is laid across the north end of the attic floor, creating a small platform. This was likely added in ca. 1994, when the belfry was restored and much of the original framing beneath it replaced (photo 10). There are very clear scorch marks along the northeast corner post of the belfry and adjacent sheathing boards, above the northeast window of the kitchen, indicating the path of the 1971 fire. In 1994, steel beams were added above this point at the lower level of the tower that houses the clock workings to provide additional structural support for the considerable weight of the tower and slate-sheathed spire.

The 1884 Town Clock is located within a small whitewashed room at the lower level of the tower, and accessed up a series of ladders. A third ladder connects the clock level with the bell-platform, which is accessed through a small hatch in the floor. The floor of the bell platform is covered in rolled asphalt to create a water-resistant coating, and the majority of the space is taken up by the 1775 bell (photo 11). This cast bell is cast with the words "William Blake & Co. formerly H. N. Hooper Co. Boston Mass. AD 1875" near the top of the bell. The openings on each side of the belfry are covered in landscape cloth to keep birds out of the inviting space while preserving the exterior appearance.

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The lot on which the Cutler Memorial Building stands has remained unchanged in size since 1845, when the building was finished and deeded to the First Universalist Church. There is a low retaining wall along the Main Street sidewalk at the front (northeast) side of the building (Photos 1 & 4). A set of granite steps along an asphalt path lead up to the primary entrance to the building and were installed in the 1950s. There is a crabapple tree and shrub adjacent to the northeast corner of the building, near the utility pole that supplies electricity to the building through overhead wires (photo 4). The northwest side of the property runs right up to the neighboring driveway, which provides shared access to the accessible rear entry to the Cutler Memorial Building. There is a mature maple tree next to the secondary entrance, and a row of historic plug-split granite posts illustrate the southwest corner and southwest side of the Cutler Memorial Building lot (photo 6).

The Cutler Memorial Building was the fourth meeting house constructed in the Town of Jaffrey, and one of three remaining churches in Jaffrey Village (formerly Factory Village/East Jaffrey). The original **Jaffrey Meetinghouse** (15 Laban Ainsworth Way/JAF0713/1975 NRHD #16) was constructed at the geographical center of the Town in 1775 as a twin-porch second-period meetinghouse in the Georgian style. The first purpose-built religious structure in Jaffrey to be constructed was the **First Baptist Church** in Factory Village/East Jaffrey in 1830. Like the Cutler Memorial Building, this structure had many typically Greek Revival features, such as a fully-pedimented gable end with louvered vent in the tympanum, however, the First Baptist Church was demolished in 1968 to make space for the Jaffrey Post Office.<sup>86</sup> The brick **First Congregational Church** (14 Laban Ainsworth Way/1975 NRHD #19) is the earliest extant church and was constructed in Jaffrey Center in 1831. This building is a combination of Greek and Gothic Revival.

The **East Congregational Church** (54 Main Street/2002 NRHD #4, **photo 12**), which was constructed to the northwest of the First Universalist Church/Cutler Memorial Building in 1850, is likely the most comparable structure in Jaffrey. Also located within the 2002 National Register Historic District, this building is also located on a low knoll and constructed with a wood frame. A Colonial Revival pedimented portico supported by monumental Doric columns was added to the façade in 1961, and the original church entrance was also reconfigured at this time. Like the Cutler Memorial Building, the East Congregational Church has vinyl siding and shutters, leading to some loss of integrity of materials and workmanship.

A third church is also located within the 2002 National Register Historic District, but is a much more recent structure that is markedly different from the Cutler Memorial Building: **St. Patrick's Church** (70 Main Street/2002 NRHD#124, **photo 13**). This Catholic church was the second structure built to serve the influx of Irish and French-Canadian mill workers that flocked to the community after the Civil War. The present Gothic Revival fieldstone structure was constructed in 1916-1917 to replace the 1886-1887 First Catholic Church after the congregation outgrew the original building.

**National or State Register Criteria Statement of Significance:**

The Cutler Memorial Building (former First Universalist Church) at 33 Main Street in Jaffrey is individually eligible for the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places for Social History and for Architecture.

The Cutler Memorial Building is eligible for listing for the role it has played in the religious and social life of the community of Jaffrey Village/East Jaffrey/Factory Village. From 1845 until 1939, the building served as an important space for Sunday worship and as a center for communal life as the meeting place for the varied social outreach groups of the Universalist Church. This communal role has continued after the Church was closed and the building was transferred for use by the Jaffrey Women's Club, as the club has continued to host educational lectures, community dinners, and rummage sales to support the betterment of the Town of Jaffrey.

The Cutler Memorial Building/First Universalist Church is also qualified for listing to the NH State Register of Historic Places for architecture as an example of a parish Greek Revival style church that was updated in the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with a new Italianate bell tower. Despite the loss of the original exterior wooden clapboard siding, the building retains Greek Revival character-defining features such as gable-front orientation with fully-pedimented gable-end, complete with louvered decoration in the tympanum; centered entrance with paired four-panel doors within heavy Greek surround, and multi-light wooden window sash. The belfry above the steeple was updated in the Italianate style to reflect the changing tastes of the community at about the same time as the town clock was installed in 1884. The Italianate-style belfry and spire retain character-defining features such as elaborate ornamentation with use of classical elements such as Tuscan and composite columns, wooden anthemion decorations, and decorative slate work (similar to that used in high-style Queen Anne architecture).

<sup>86</sup> Mausolf, 43.

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The Church is contributing resource #111 of the “Downtown Jaffrey National Register Historic District” (NRHP#02000642, listed June 14, 2002).

**Period of Significance:**

- A. 1845-1974 (arbitrary 50-year cut-off date for eligibility)
- C. 1845, ca. 1884

**Statement of Integrity:**

The Cutler Memorial Building (former First Universalist Church) retains strong integrity of location and setting just outside of the heart of downtown Jaffrey (formerly East Jaffrey) and across from the large open square of the Clay Memorial Library Building across the street. Although the building has lost some integrity of workmanship and materials as the result of the 1971 fire and subsequent vinyl siding of the exterior, the building retains strong integrity of design that represents two major periods of construction: that of the original 1844 Greek Revival Church and the Italianate 1884 steeple. The building retains strong integrity of feeling and association as a community meeting place (first as a parish church and later as the headquarters for the Jaffrey Woman’s Club).

**Boundary Description and Justification:**

The survey and eligible boundary is the current tax parcel associated with the Cutler Memorial Building (Map 238-Lot 36/2002 NRN#111), which is approximately equivalent to the historic parcel, the boundaries of which have remained unchanged since when the Church was finished in 1845. Starting at the northeast corner of the lot and traveling clockwise, the property is bounded on the east by School Street, on the south by the 1872 James Lacy House (8 School Street/Map 238-314/2002 NRN #110), to the west by the ca. 1850 Lacy House (35 Main Street/Map 238-Lot 315/2002 NRN#112) and to the north by Main Street with the 1892 Cutler Memorial Building/Jaffrey Public Library (JAF0284/38 Main Street/Map 238-Lot 163/2002 NRN #7) beyond.

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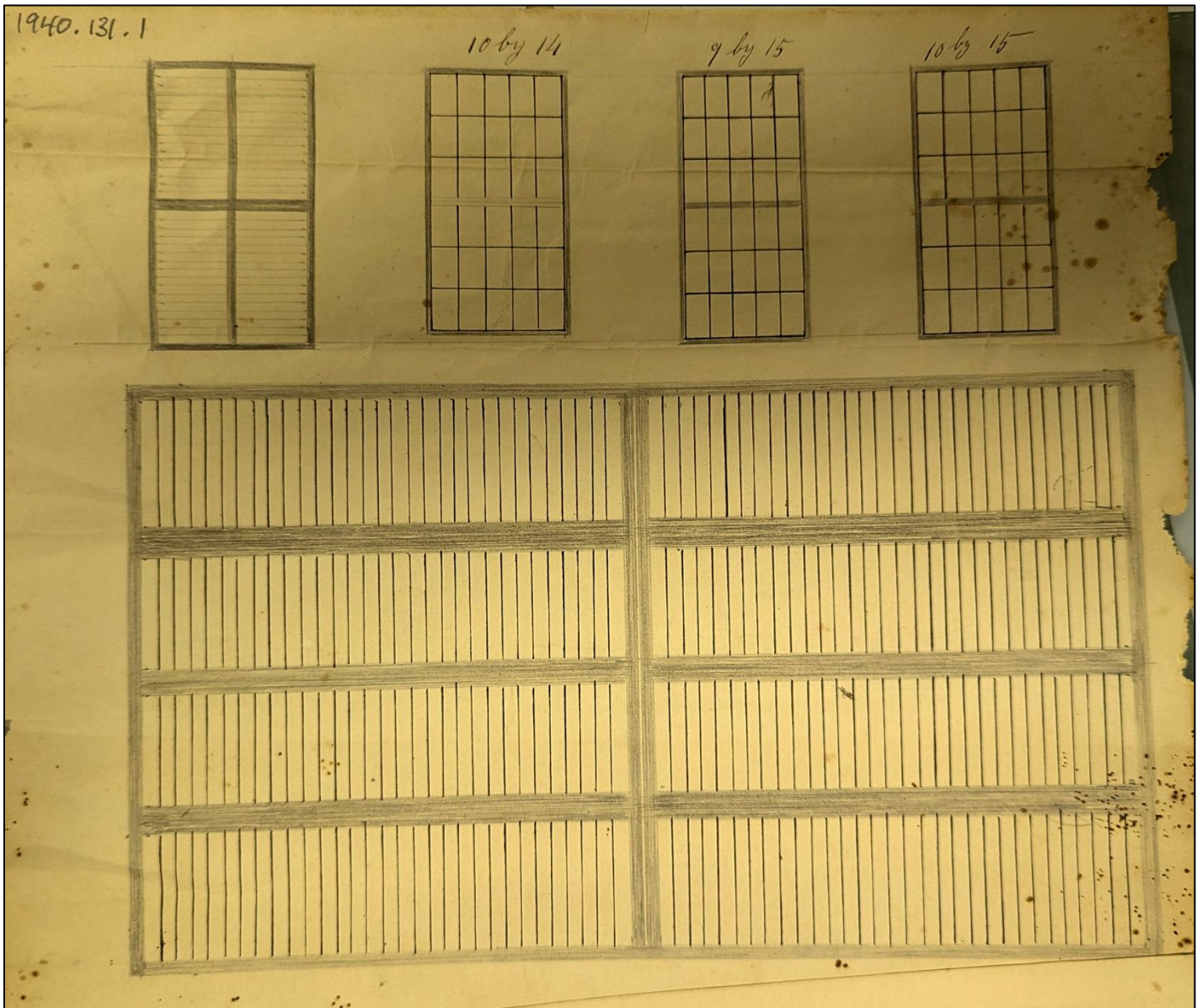
**Surveyor's Evaluation:**

NR listed:	individual _____	NR eligible:	individual _____	NR Criteria:	A _____
	within district _____		within district _____		B _____
Integrity:	yes _____		not eligible _____		C _____
	no _____		more info needed _____		D _____
					E _____



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*Figure 1: Drawing of windows and shutters from original 1844 Union Church specifications (Jaffrey Historical Society Collections)*

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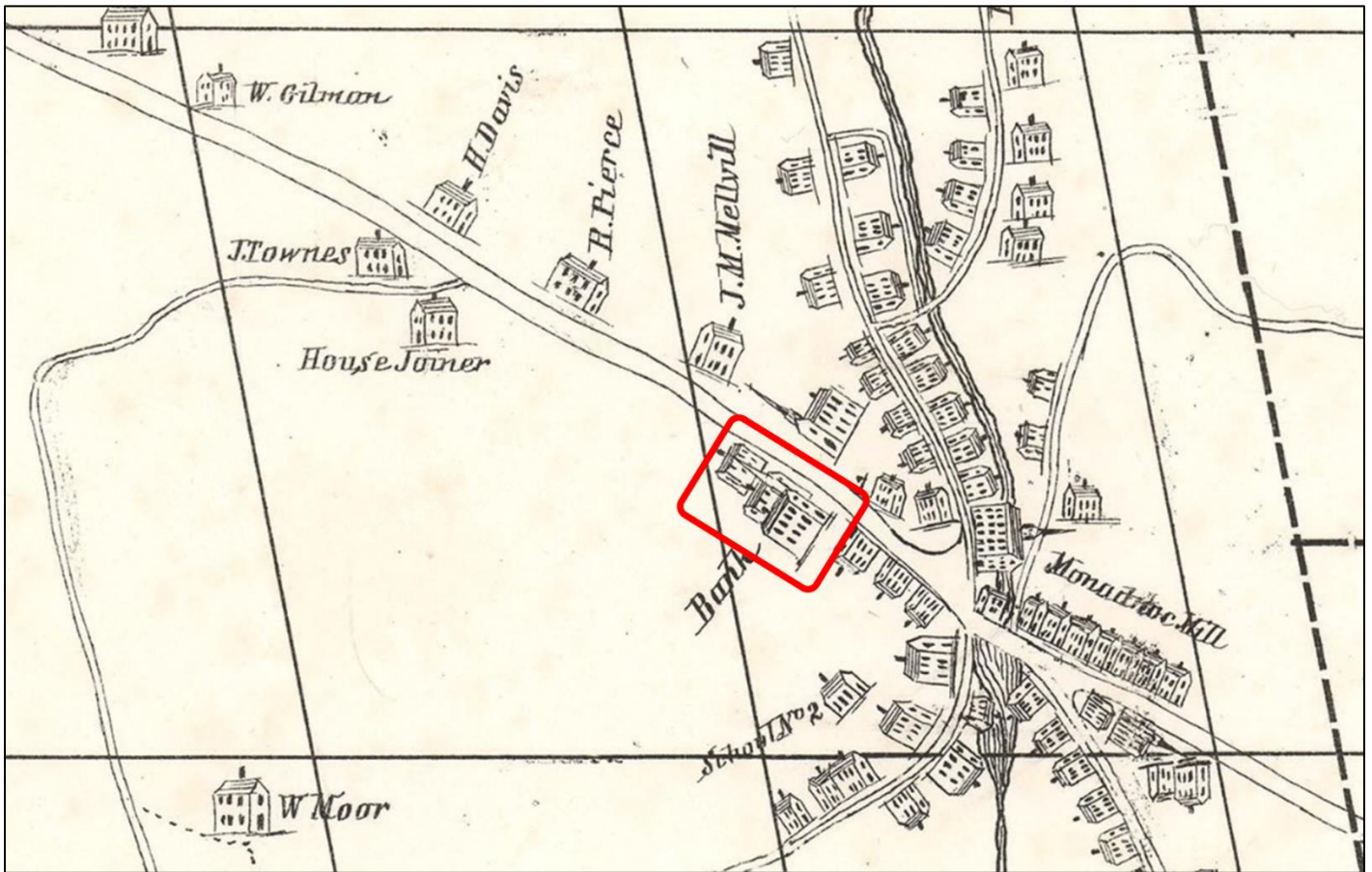


Figure 2: Excerpt from J. D. Gibbs "Map of Jaffrey, N.H." published by B. W. Thayer & Co. in 1850 showing newly-built First Universalist Church at south side of Turnpike Road (now Main Street/Route 124)

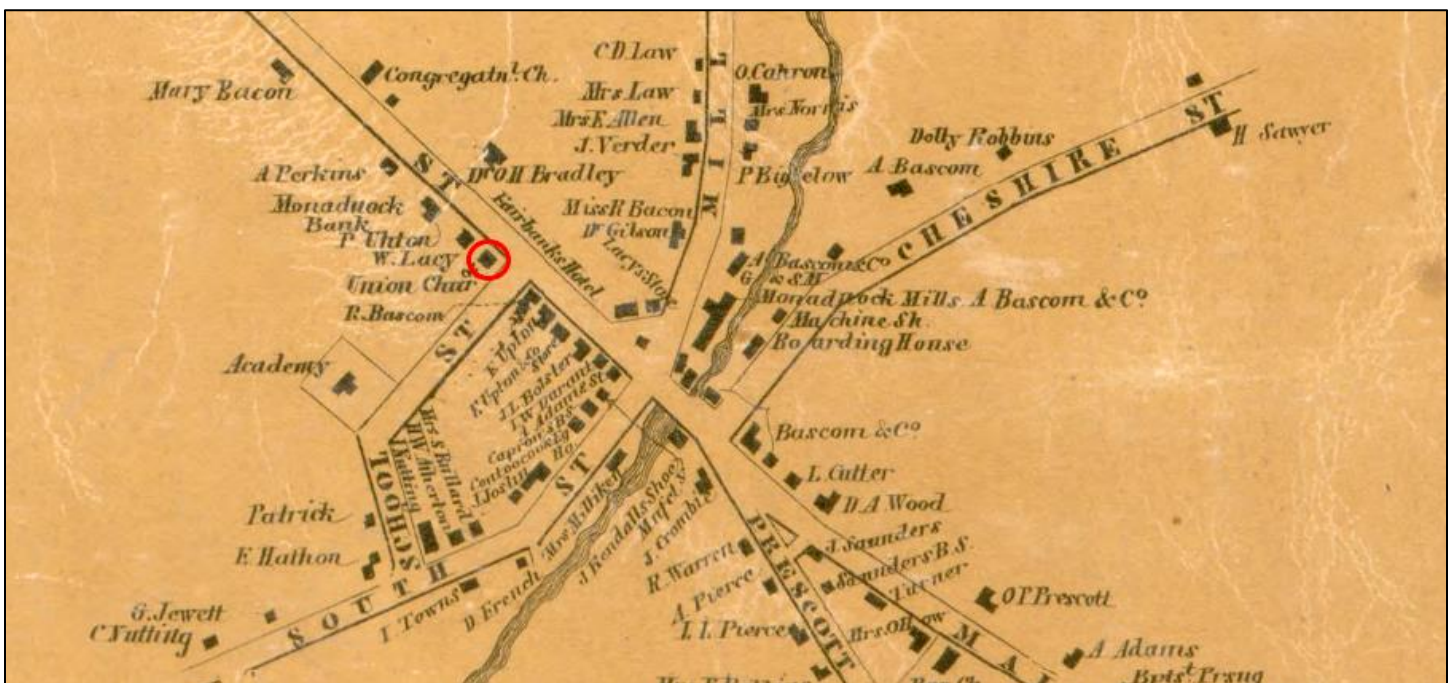


Figure 3: Excerpt from 1858 "Map of Cheshire Co., New Hampshire" showing "Union Church" at East Jaffrey Village

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*Figure 4: Stereographic view of the First Universalist Church by D. S. Rice, ca. 1870 (New York Public Library)*



*Figure 5: Stereographic view of the First Universalist Church by D. S. Rice, 1873 or 1876 (Jaffrey Historical Society)*

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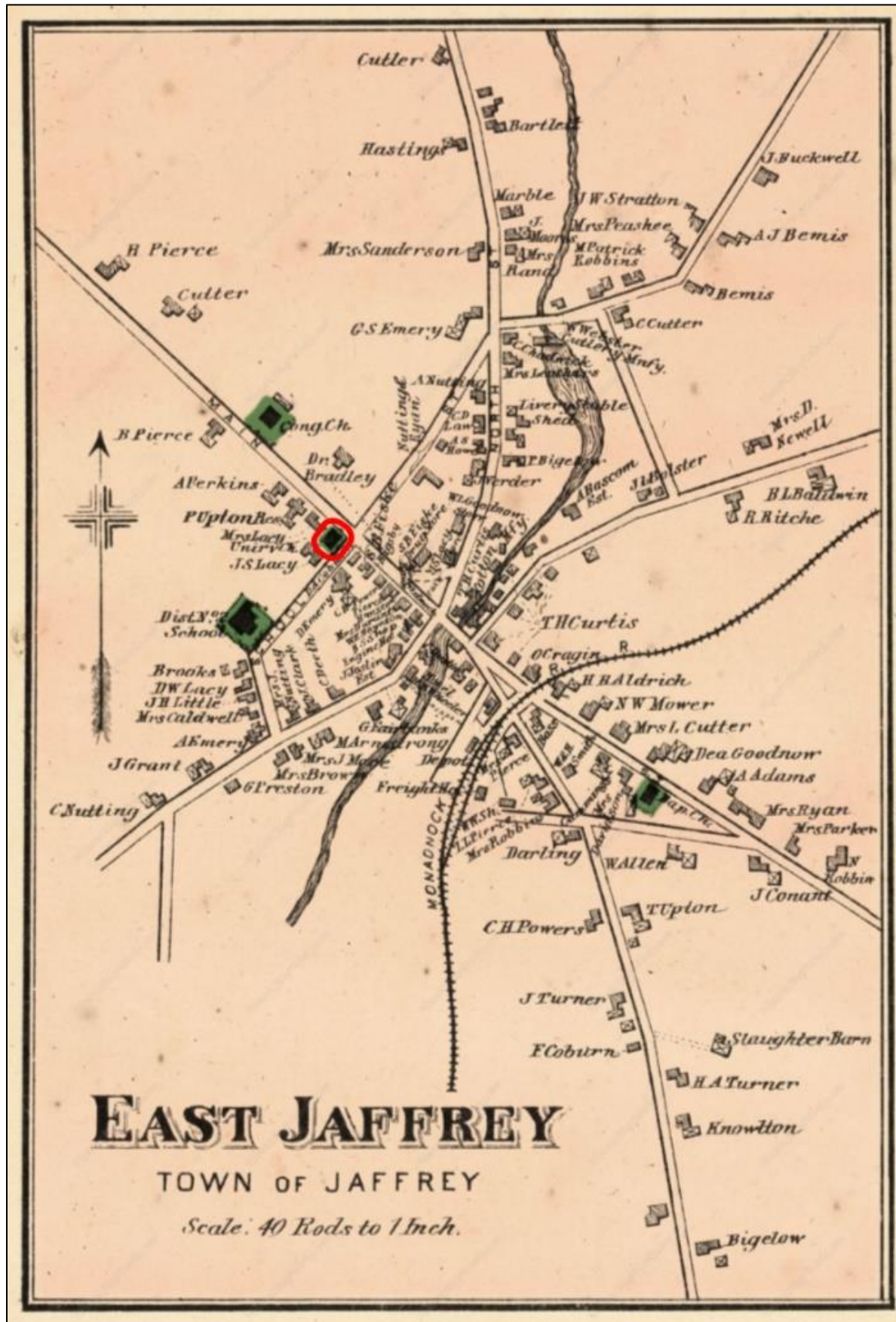


Figure 6: Map of East Jaffrey, 1877 (C. H. Rockwood, Atlas of Cheshire County, New Hampshire)

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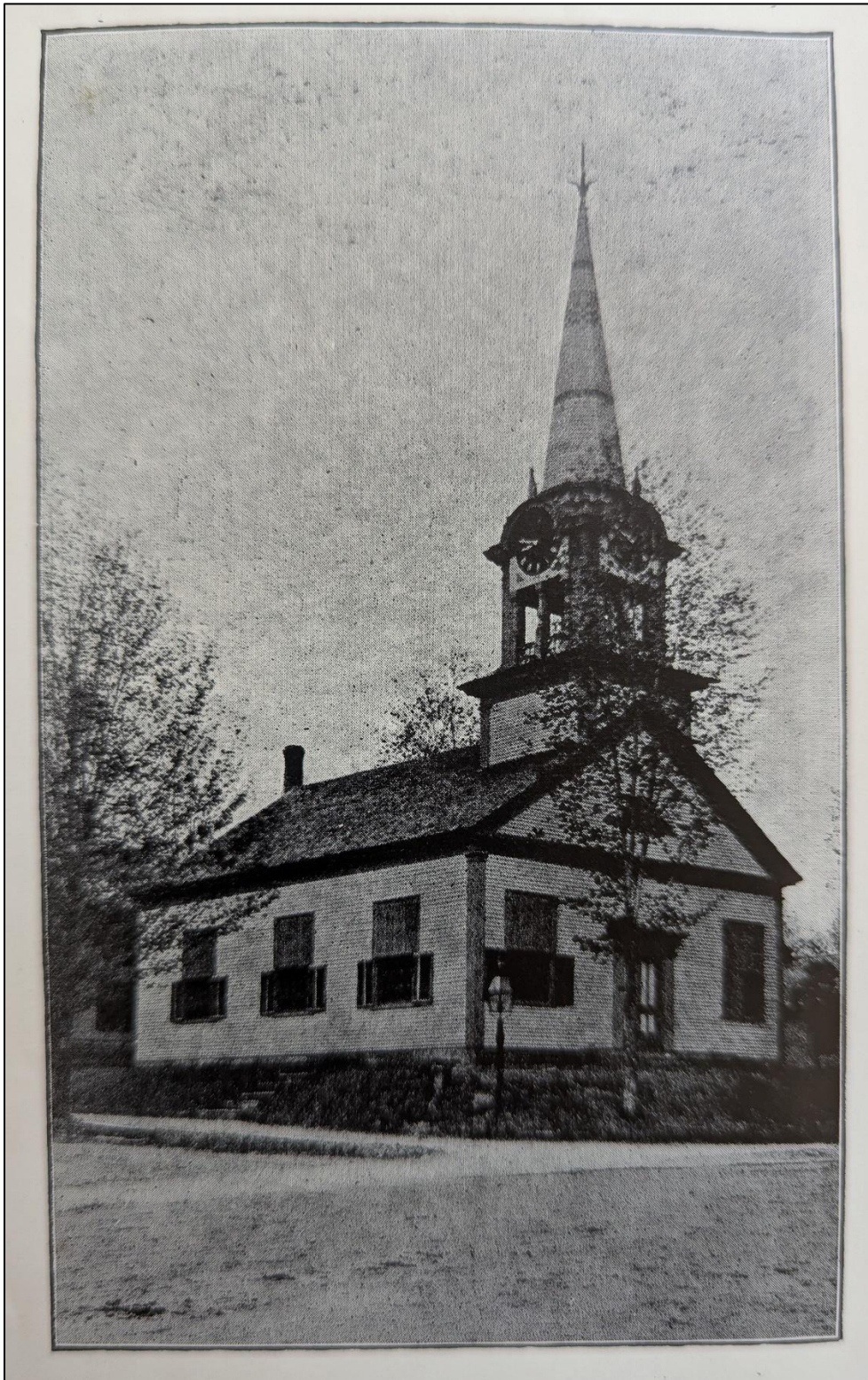
**NHDHR INVENTORY # JAF0518**



*Figure 7: Stereographic view of First Universalist Church with new belfry and spire but no clock, and polychrome exterior paint scheme, bet. 1876-1884 (Jaffrey Historical Society). Note the two small fir trees at the corner of the building that have grown very little since the 1773 or 1776 photograph (figure 5).*

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

**NHDHR INVENTORY # JAF0518**



*Figure 8: Print made a copper photographic plate, showing the polychrome painted First Unitarian Church with newly planted saplings (elms?), streetlight on corner, reconfigured chimney cap, and newly-installed clock in tower, ca. 1884 (Jaffrey Woman's Club)*

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

**NHDHR INVENTORY # JAF0518**



Figure 9: Mrs. Georgia Eaves, former Universalist Church soloist, standing next to the newly-restored Estes organ in 1969 (Jaffrey Woman's Club)



Figures 10 & 11: Belfry and spire restoration, 1994 (Jaffrey Woman's Club)

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

**NHDHR INVENTORY # JAF0518**



Photo # 2 Description (with direction): Driveway (side) and primary elevations of Cutler Memorial Building, facing south



Photo # 3 Description (with direction): Rear and School Street (side) elevations of Cutler Memorial Building, facing north



**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

**NHDHR INVENTORY # JAF0518**



Photo # 4 Description (with direction): Primary and School Street elevations of Cutler Memorial Building from across Main Street



Photo # 5 Description (with direction): Detail of belfry, clock, and steeple, facing north

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

**NHDHR INVENTORY # JAF0518**



Photo # 6 Description (with direction): Rear yard of Cutler Memorial Building with granite posts along property boundary at left, facing northwest

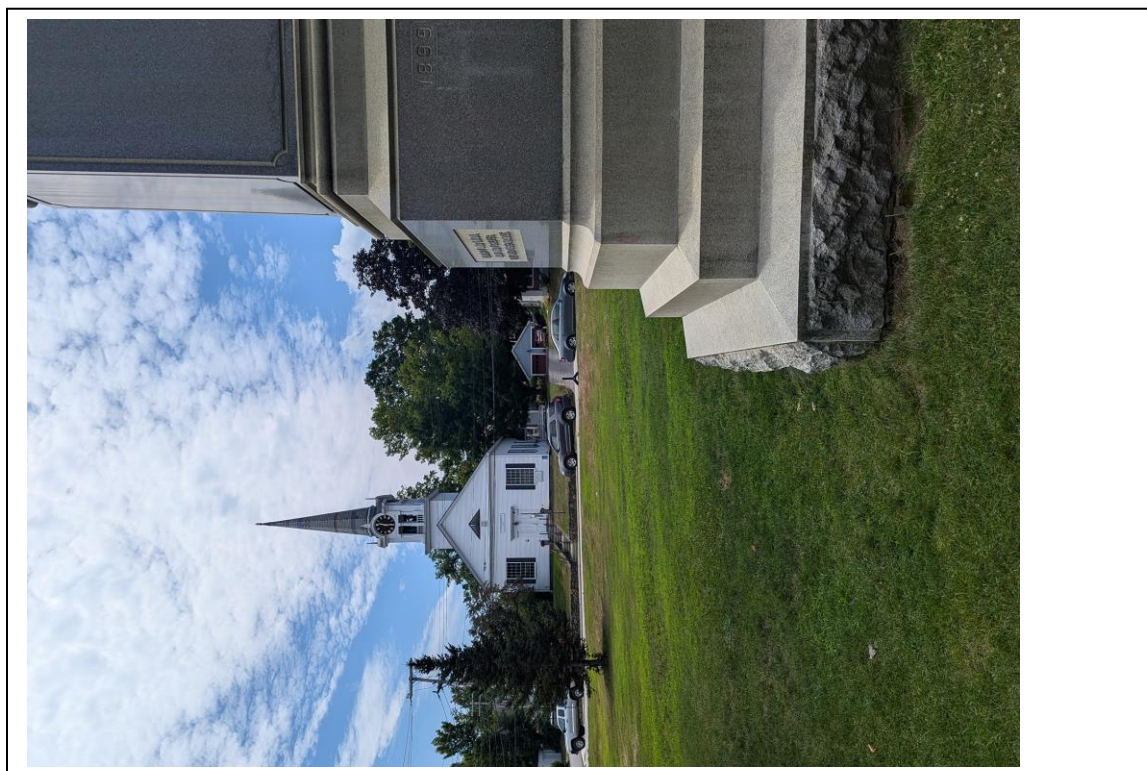


Photo # 7 Description (with direction): Cutler Memorial Building from across Library Green, facing south

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

**NHDHR INVENTORY # JAF0518**

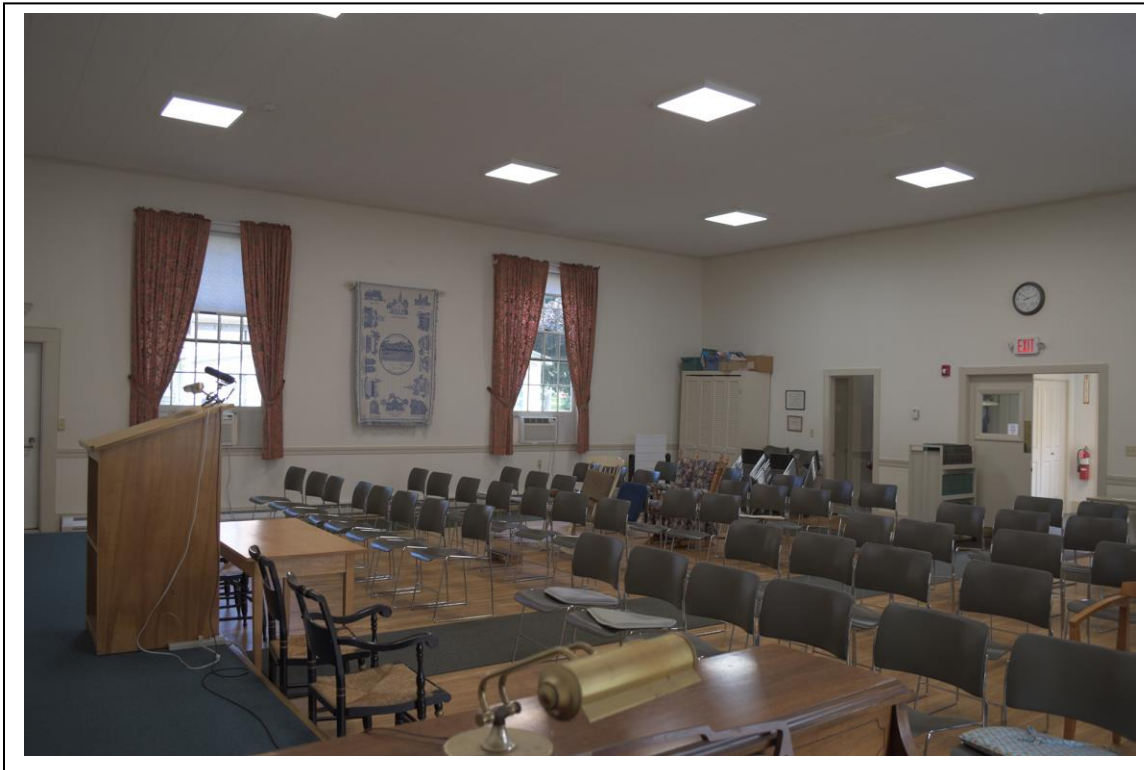


Photo # 8 Description (with direction): Interior of sanctuary, facing north



Photo # 9 Description (with direction): Exposed 1844 frame in attic, facing southwest

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

**NHDHR INVENTORY # JAF0518**



Photo # 10 Description (with direction): Belfry framing with ca. 1994 metal sub-structure, facing northeast

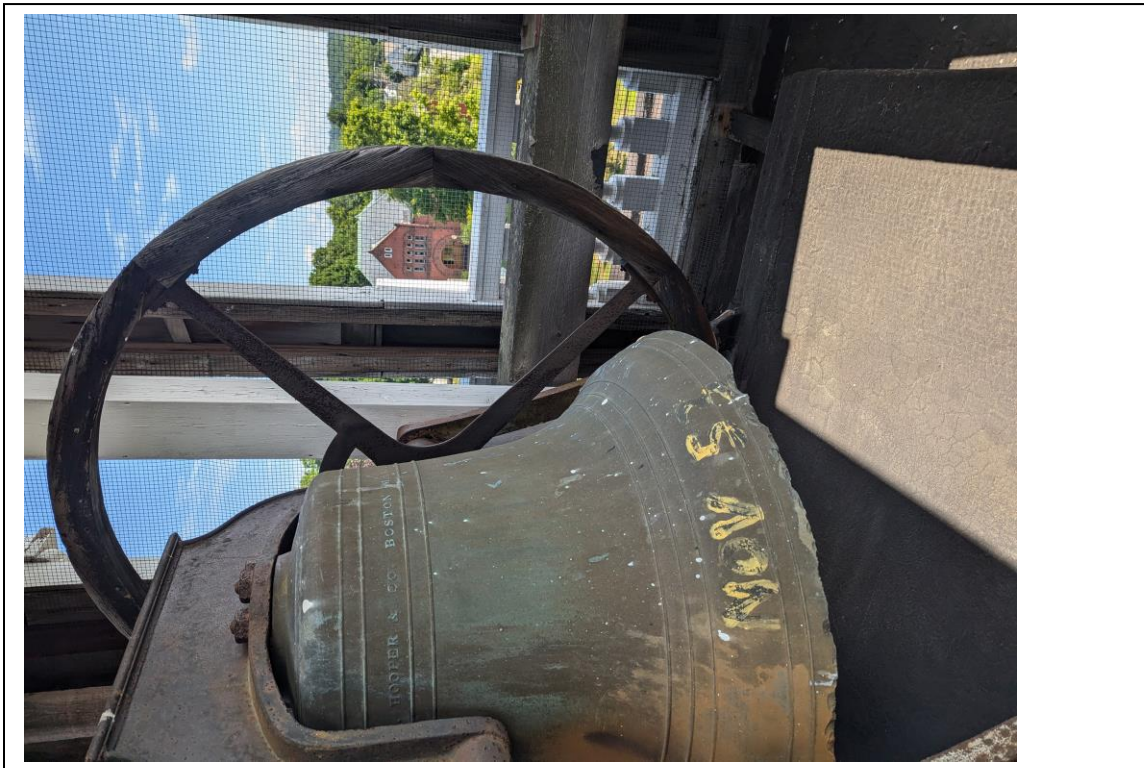


Photo # 11 Description (with direction): View from bell platform northeast toward Clay Memorial Building (Library)

**INDIVIDUAL INVENTORY FORM**

**NHDHR INVENTORY # JAF0518**

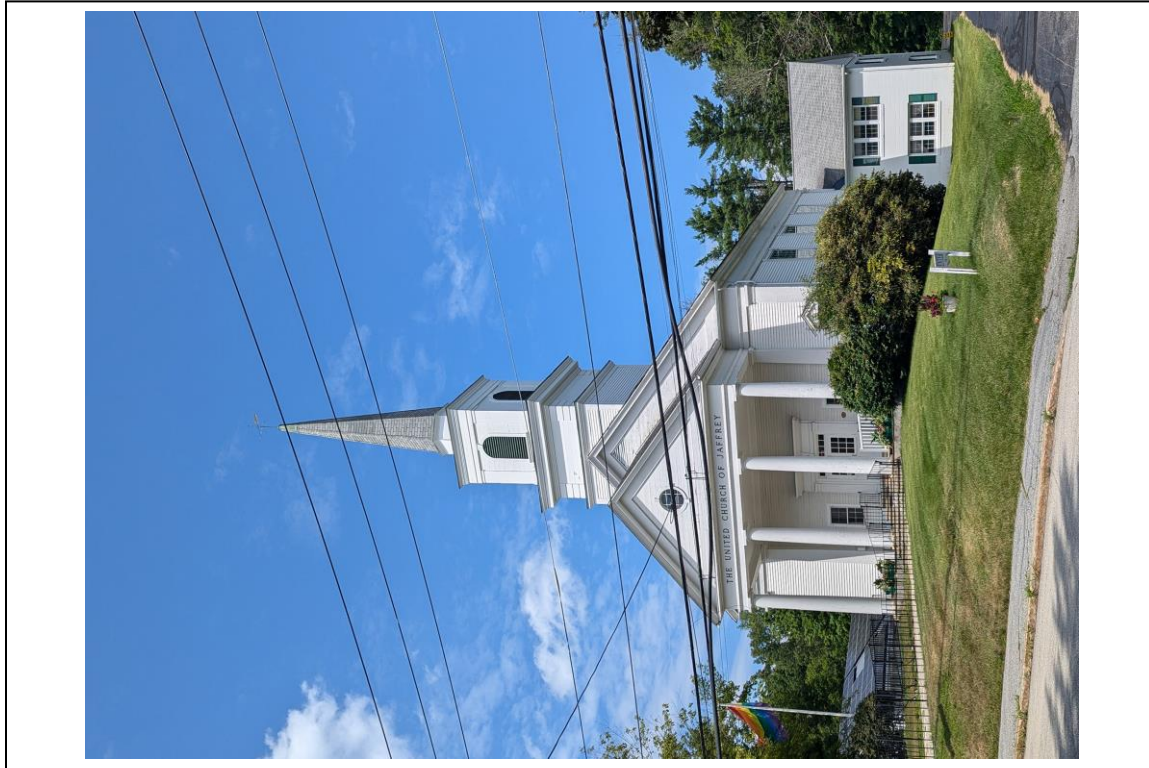


Photo # 12 Description (with direction): The First Congregational Church in East Jaffrey was built at what is now 54 Main Street in 1831. This Greek Revival Church was heavily altered in 1961, when the present portico was added to the façade. Photograph facing north.



Photo # 13 Description (with direction): The Gothic Revival field-stone St. Patrick's Catholic Church in East Jaffrey was built at what is now 87 Main Street in 1916-1917. Photograph facing southwest.