

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Montgomery Union Church, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (preferred)  
and or common Pratt Hall

2. Location

street & number Vermont Route #118 N/A not for publication  
city, town Montgomery N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_  
state Vermont code 50 county Franklin code 011

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>Community Hall</u>

4. Owner of Property

name Montgomery Historical Society  
street & number N/A  
city, town Montgomery N/A vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Vermont

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Town Clerk  
street & number N/A  
city, town Montgomery state Vermont

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Vt. Historic Sites & Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1983 federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Vermont Division for Historic Preservation  
city, town Montpelier state Vermont 05602

## 7. Description

### Condition

\_\_\_ excellent  
 good  
\_\_\_ fair

\_\_\_ deteriorated  
\_\_\_ ruins  
\_\_\_ unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
\_\_\_ altered

### Check one

original site  
\_\_\_ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, a graceful, one story, woodframe, transitional Greek Revival-Gothic Revival structure, is the major architectural landmark of Montgomery village, an early nineteenth century rural hamlet. Built between 1832-35, its design reflects the transition in architectural taste of its day, combining the simple, rectangular, gable front temple form of the Greek Revival style with Gothic Revival style lancet arch windows and central three-stage bell tower with crenelated parapet roof. Recently acquired by the Montgomery Historical Society, the building essentially retains its original appearance.

The former church is situated on the north side of Vermont Route 118, just west of the Montgomery Village green and is surrounded by modest nineteenth century residences, an inn and a brick Methodist church dating from the 1840s. Its facade faces ~~the~~ major north-south thoroughfare, the bell tower rising above roof and treetops to become the dominant architectural feature of the hamlet.

Using the basic Greek Revival temple form, the unknown builders erected a simple, rectangular, one story post and beam frame structure with fieldstone foundation, clapboard sheathing and slate-clad gable roof. (Since that time, it has acquired a sheet metal roof and concrete reinforcement has been laid up against the original foundation.) Dominated by the three stage bell tower, the gable front facade is only one bay in width (22 feet), while the east and west side elevations are three bays deep (36 feet). Eaves are adorned with a delicately molded box cornice with gable end returns and a Doric frieze with triglyphs. Fenestration on both east and west side elevations consist of twenty-over-twenty sash capped by lancet arch screens with pointed arch lights. (Two of these sash are missing but are to be restored to the building in the near future.)

The church presents to the street a relatively austere gable front with Greek Revival detailing at eaves level, which is visually overwhelmed by the dominant three-stage crenelated bell tower. The tower's first stage contains the church's main entrance, whose heavy double doors together form a Gothic Revival style lancet arch. The doors are slightly recessed and are set into a lancet arch surround. Single lancet arch windows are set into each side of the tower (east and west) and light an interior vestibule. An oculus window above the entrance also aids in lighting the vestibule, as well as providing light for an interior stair which climbs to the second stage bell chamber. Wide clapboard sheathing (flushboard) at ground level was applied to imitate stonework. The tower's second stage contains the church's original bell, its four symmetrical faces displaying a pair of louvered lancet arch openings set into a single lancet arch surround. The third and final stage, which is capped by a crenelated parapet, houses the church's original clockworks--reputed to be one of a half dozen of its type left in the United States--and displays a clock face on each of its four sides. (Note that the clock faces have Roman numerals and that the number four is represented as "IIII" instead of "IV".)

(See Continuation sheet 1)

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Continuation sheet 1

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At the rear of the main block is a one-by-one bay, gable roof wing which was built to house the church's interior altar. Its exposed gable end features a tripartite arrangement of stained glass windows with lancet arch heads dating from the 1870s. A pair of shed roof structures lie off either side of the wing, housing the church's vestry and baptistry. At ground level of the wing is a basement entrance with double board and batten doors. Within the basement, evidence of the church's unique original heating system can be seen. Woodframe and plaster "walls" were constructed at forty-five degree angles to the fieldstone foundation to help retain heat generated from a wood burning furnace. Narrow hinged slots in the floors of the chancel and altar above allowed parishioners to channel heat to their cold feet in winter (and cool air during the hot summers.) In extreme cold weather, boxes with hot coals were placed directly under these vents to provide added warmth.

The interior of the church is unmistakably Gothic Revival in style and atmosphere. A vestibule in the first stage of the bell tower leads into the chancel through a pair of large doors set into a lancet arch surround. A central aisle flanked by eleven sets of original pews leads to a raised altar at the north end of the chancel, entered by passing through a large lancet arch bay. To the left (west) of the altar is a smaller lancet arch bay which leads to the vestry. Both chancel and altar ceilings are plastered and display exposed wooden beams which descend to a heavy cornice and visually rest upon large wall brackets. The chancel features lancet arch stained glass windows installed at various times between 1870 and 1912, one of which was manufactured by Tiffany's in New York. The windows are all dedicated to founding members of the parish or direct descendants thereof.

The floor space of the chancel is almost entirely occupied by sets of semi-box pews whose aisle bench ends are carved in a Gothic Revival motif. Eleven sets face the altar separated by a central aisle. Two sets of pews are placed on raised platforms, perpendicular to the rest, on either side in front of the altar entrance. An original Gothic Revival style dossel and carved episcopal chair and an Estey organ remain in the chancel. The altar has been redecorated with Victorian furniture by the historical society. Kerosene chandeliers and wall sconces (1880s) have been retained; those over the main aisle have been refitted for electric lighting while all others are still fueled with kerosene.

In 1974 the building was condemned, but was fortunately purchased by the newly-formed Montgomery Historical Society. The top two stages of the bell tower were removed for safety's sake and the first stage of the tower structurally reinforced. Both the bell and clockworks were saved and have just recently been returned to their respective positions in the tower, whose second and third stages have been reconstructed to their original appearances through the use of old photographs. One of the clock faces from the original date of construction was saved and was used to reproduce the four new faces.

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The Historical Society has also repainted the building's interior according to the original paint scheme. It hopes to replace the two missing exterior windows and to do work on the foundation.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1832-35 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The former St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church is a well-preserved representative example of the stylistic transition from the dominant Greek Revival to the emerging Gothic Revival that occurred in Vermont religious architecture during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Constructed between 1832-35, the building's basic form is a subtle expression of classical origin while most of its detailing derives from the medieval Gothic style. St. Bartholomew's is also important because it has essentially retained its original architectural integrity. The lack of any major alteration points also to the decline of the religious useage of the building in this century as well as to the general decline of the agricultural/small manufacturing community which it once served.

Located in north-central Vermont, not far south of the Canadian border, Montgomery township was sparsely settled until the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Between 1820 and 1850, the town's population jumped from 307 to 1,001. This was in part due to its location along the old Hazen's Notch Military Road(1776-79)which was used as an access route to Canada during the Revolutionary War. The route was developed as a major north-south toll road, connecting Boston to northern Vermont and Montreal, in the 1820s by the Boston and Montreal Turnpike Company. Local farm and manufactured goods were able to flow out of the community by means of this market route, and the town's economy continued to prosper until the end of the nineteenth century because of it. The town's population peaked in 1900 at 1,876 persons, three times the number of residents found in the town today.

The Episcopal parish was of the first generation of religious activity in the town of Montgomery, along with the Congregationalists and Methodists. The former St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church was the first religious edifice to be built in the town(1832-35) and was closely followed by the Congregationalists(1841) and the Methodists (1843). The land for the church was bought in 1829 from Rufus Hamilton. The actual construction did not commence until 1832; the church was completed three years later at a total cost of \$3,000.00.

The design of the church reflects a transition in architectural fashion which occurred in Vermont ecclesiastical architecture in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. The traditional Greek Revival temple form of the structure, coupled with Gothic Revival bell tower and lancet arch windows, credits the unknown builders with a knowledge of both traditional and newly-emergent architectural vocabularies. The appearance at Montgomery of Gothic Revival stylistic features followed close upon the heels of St. James Church in Arlington, Vermont which is Vermont's first substantial example of that style, completed in 1831.

(See Continuation Sheet 3)

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The Episcopal parish flourished during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. In 1850 it boasted of 100 parishioners. During this time many gifts were donated to the church, including a \$100.00 Estey organ, a mahogany dossal and a carved episcopal chair. Stained glass windows were installed in the 1870s and 1880s (and later) in memory of dedicated parishioners, many of whom--Clapp, Goodspeed, Hamilton and Head--were among the earliest settlers in the town of Montgomery. By the 1880s, however, the parish was declining and no longer could support a rector of its own. The parish had to look to nearby Richford and Enosburg Falls for supervision. In 1897 the name of the church was changed from Union Church to St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, an indication of the church's decline in use and community importance. Regular services were held until 1927 after which time only one summer service was held in order to justify the building's official use as a church. In 1974 the church was purchased by the newly-formed Montgomery Historical Society for \$1.00 from the Burlington Diocese of the Episcopal Church.

The declining usage and resources of the Episcopal parish played a major part in sparing the former church from alteration during the present century. Under the care of the Montgomery Historical Society the structure is slowly being stabilized and restored through volunteer efforts. Most recently, the second and third stages of the bell tower (which were "condemned" and removed soon after the building changed hands) have been replicated and restored to the building. The original clockworks and bell have been put back in working order. Through all these efforts, the structure has been largely restored to its original early nineteenth century appearance.

The Montgomery Historical Society is currently using the structure for occasional community activities, weddings and historical society functions. The name of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church has been changed to The Lawrence Pratt Memorial Hall in honor of Mr. Lawrence Pratt who was largely responsible for saving the building and, in the process, creating the Montgomery Historical Society. This change in name also marks a change in the building's use.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Branthoover, W.R. and Taylor, Sara. Montgomery, Vermont: The History of a Town. Montgomery Historical Society, 1976.

Herrin, Ralph. Bygone Churches of Franklin County, Vermont. Georgia Historical Society, 1979.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.50

Quadrangle name Jay Peak, Vt.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A 18 686200 4974500  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification

The former St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church occupies a small, rectangular half-acre lot, described in Book 1, Page 289 and Book 17, Page 467 of the Town of Montgomery Land Records.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lauren H. Murphy

organization Architectural Historian

date July 1, 1985

street & number 49 Congress Street

telephone (802) 527-0463

city or town St. Albans

state Vermont 05478

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration