

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	ALF.2
Historic Name:	Alford Union Church
Common Name:	Union Meeting House
Address:	4 Alford Center Rd
City/Town:	Alford
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	C 1817
Architectural Style(s):	Federal;
Use(s):	Church;
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Religion;
Area(s):	ALF.A, ALF.B
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (02/02/1975);
Building Materials:	Wall: Copper; Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard;
Demolished	No



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 11:15 AM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

LHD 2/2/75

Area	Form no.
B+ A.	X 2

Town AlfordAddress Main Street, Alford VillageHistoric Name Alford Union ChurchUse: Original "Union Meeting House"Present Same

Ownership: ☐ Private individual
☒ Private organization Alford Union Church

Public _____

Original owner cooperators of Alford
Union Church.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1817

Source History of Alford, History of
Berkshire County

Style 2 1/2 story Federal Meeting House

Architect _____

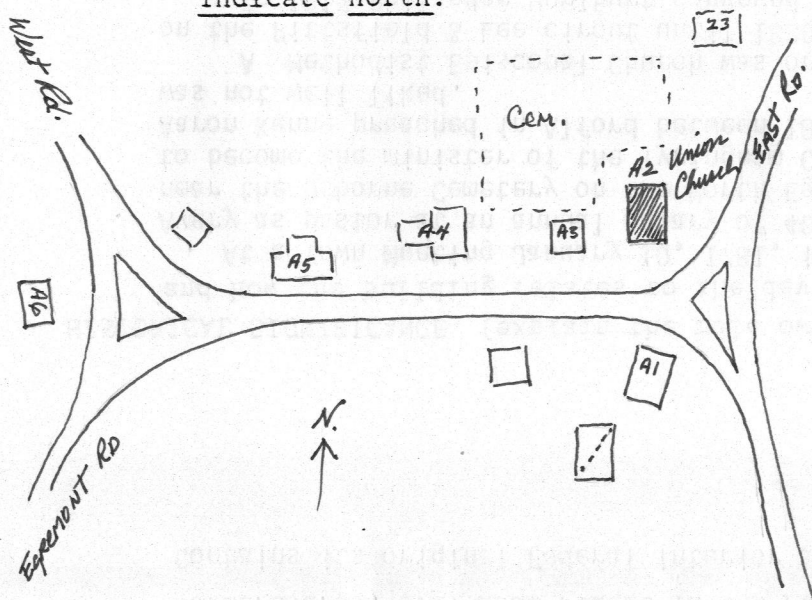
Exterior wall fabric ClapboardOutbuildings noneMajor alterations (with dates) noneMoved N/A

Date _____

Approx. acreage _____

Setting slight rise, North side of the
Village Center

location in relation to nearest
cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.

Recorded by re-recorded JNPOrganization BCRPCDate June 29, 1973/ 10/23/81

1858: Union Church

1876: Church

1904: Church

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

2½ story Federal Meeting House, with Steeple, lantern and louvered belfry. Copper Dome and wind vane. Wood Quoins on the steeple. Pediment, Cornices and Cornerboards. Oval Wood Plaque in the Pediment. 12/12 window lights

Contains its original Federal interior and Gallery

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

At a Town Meeting January 10, 1781, it was voted to settle Reverend Joseph Avery as pastor at an annual salary of 40~~x~~ per year. A log Church was built near the Osborne Cemetery on the North Egremont Road. Rev. Avery later removed to become the minister of the Tyringham Congregational Church. The Reverend Aaron Kenne preached in Alford between 1805 and 1824 as well, as Rev. Avery was not well liked.

A Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1794 and was for many years on the Pittsfield & Lee circuit until 1830 and 1831 respectively.

In 1817 Philander Hurlburt conveyed a ,one quarter acre orchard lot in the center of the Village to the following corporators: Nathaniel Wooster, Philo Sperry, Chester Foote, Christopher Miner, Elihu Lester, Samual Stoddard, Elisha Kenne, Forward Barnum, Jabez Prindle, Mason Church, Jonathan Hill, Jonathan P. Tobey Enoch Sperry, Elisha Tobey, Daniel Barrett, John Williams, Ansel Sperry, Nathaniel Husted, John Scripture, King Williams, Cornelius Williams, Jabez Davis, William Hollenbeck, Daniel Ticknor, Moses Fairchild, Reuben Wilcox and Daniel Fenn.

The Union Meeting House was built in 1817 on this ¼ acre lot .The interior was not completed until 1825, benches being previously used. The Methodists were to occupy it every second Sunday with the Congregationalists and Baptists dividing the remaining Sabbath days between them. The deed also states that, "Every person who shall contribute to the building of said house shall have free liberty & good right to invite any preacher professing the Christain Religion of any sect or demonination to preach in said house and may hold their meetings accordingly with out molestation".

It wasnt until 1832 that a stove was installed and the church remained intact and unaltered to the present time.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

H. C. Warner, History of Berkshire County, J. W. Beers & Company N.Y. 1885

A Short History of the Town of Alford, by Charles Elliott 1973

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

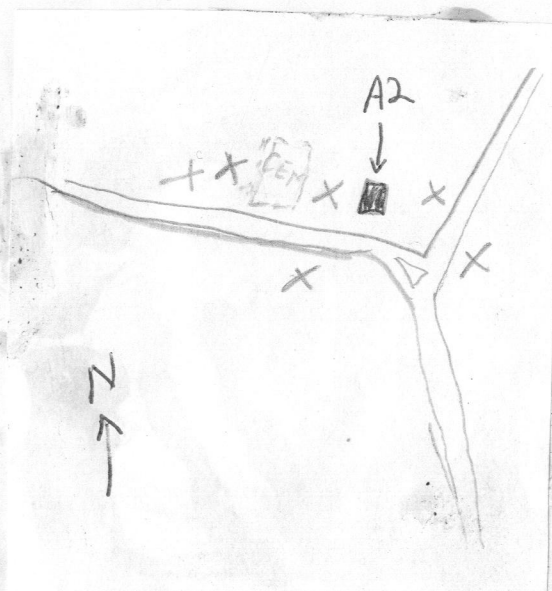
A

Form no.

A2

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant Segment (40)

MHC Photo no. _____

1. Town ALFord

Address _____

Name ALFord Union MethodistPresent use Church

Present owner _____

3. Description:

Date 1817Source History of ALFord by C ElliottStyle Federal

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features Tower, with quoins -
wood.
oval window in the pediment
F&L,Altered No Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less _____ Over one acre ☒

Approximate frontage _____

Approximate distance of building from street

150 ft

6. Recorded by _____

Organization _____

Date _____

(over)

JUN 29 1973

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use Church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	☒
Architectural	☒	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Been in use since 1817, interior not finished until 1825.
the stove was installed in 1832, ~~and in still in use.~~ Stoves
replaced by gas furnaces in late 1960's.

1896: Church

1904

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)