

6 Advent/Pond Road Chapel

634 Pond Road, Vernon, Vermont



Pond Road Chapel, located within the rural farm lands and nearby Connecticut River of Vernon, Vermont, is a simplistic building holding the roots of a faith by community members steeped in the doctrine of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

By 1860 the number of people gathering in homes and schoolhouses to conduct faith services had grown to such a level that the Second Advent Society was formed, and land was leased to build a 150-seat chapel, at a cost of \$1,000. The one story, gable roofed chapel of 3 x 3 bays featured a post and beam frame, set on a brick foundation. Over the years, the interior has maintained its 19th century feel with original oil lamps and brackets; a jacquard ingrain woven floral carpet; deacon's benches or pews in three sections with curved armrests, plain spindles, bookracks underneath and creamy yellow paint with a pinstripe; and three captain's chairs at the rear of the pulpit to match the pews. The chapel organ, #18,501, was crafted by J. Estey & Co. of nearby Brattleboro, Vermont. A drop leaf altar table with turned legs sits in front of a bible stand, displaying a "Hardings Medium Edition" Bible of 1860. The "Champion #7" cast iron box woodstove sits in the southeast corner of the chapel, with its stovepipe also heating the interior by running down the center aisle and into the chimney above the pulpit. Electric light fixtures, dated around 1920, are on chains hanging from the ceiling and have white molded glass globes.

The list of speakers who made their way to the Chapel's pulpit throughout its active life was quite remarkable for a small rural area, hosting outstanding speakers such as D. L. Moody, Ira Sankey, Goerge [sic] Sederquest, Dr. J. William Denton, Reverend I. M. Blanchard, and Joshua Himes.

In 1909 the Adventists built a larger church for its growing membership, shifting its use of the Chapel for mid-week services during the summer months. In 1969 the Vernon Historians, who were interested in preserving the building, leased the building from the Advent Christian Church and the land from the Streeters. In 1984, title to the building and land was transferred to the Vernon Historians in order to continue its preservation, with the stipulation that the Advent Christians Church could conduct services when desired.

SOURCES:

<http://www.vernonadventchristianchurch.com/>

<http://www.cric.org/heritage/V01-5.htm>

