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

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In Area no.	Form no.
	35-14

West Farms (Northampton)

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	Other features ridge roof, end chimney;
	single story, balcony in chapel;
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ical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Methodist missionaries came into the West Farms area around 1800. They worshipped in homes, then in a barn, and built a chapel in 1814. Records of the Granville Circuit indicate a Class Meeting on West Farms Road in 1809. The Rev. Mr. Bigelow holds that the building was built in 1814, enlarged in 1832 and again in 1865. A deed registered in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds indicates that in 1832 the Methodist Society bought the property--5 rods by 8 rods--and organized a Methodist Society. The chapel was later abandoned by the Methodists though services were held by preachers and in 1868 a West Farms Union Society was organized. In 1914 they bought the Chapel from the Methodists and a deed is registered in Hampshire County Registry. An account of this history was printed in the Hampshire Gazette, September 25, 1950 It is the opinion of the Rev. John K. Montgomery, who has been writing a history of the Granville Circuit, that this edifice is one of the few edifices of the old Circuit now existing. Mr. Montgomery

is retired and living in Northampton, Mass.

The Chapel as one sees it from West Farms Road today is probably the product of the 1832 enlargement as it is Greek Revival in style. Corner pilasters and a pediment enclosed and boldly corniced frame the facade. The steeple is low, cubic, and detailed with small pilasters. Later arched entranceways appear in the front facade and a trio of louvered arches in the pediment echo these forms. These features probably date from an 1868 renovation mentioned in the Gazette.

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

Steward's Book beginning 1794 and ending 1823. Original in Boston University Theology Library.

Materials in Forbes Library, Northampton, Mass.

Deed information, 269.71, 698.508, Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

Hampshire Gazette, July 24, 1864, September 29, 1863.