Becket Federated Church First Baptist Church of North Becket 3381 Main Street

42º 19'53.04"N 73º 05'02.66"W elevation 1222 feet

The Baptist Church [was formed in 1764, with the first building built between 1818-19 at Becket Center. In 1843, anticipating the population shift to the North Village, the shareholders of the Evangelical Society of North Becket decided to build their third building, the Evangelical Meeting House. Built in the Greek Revival style in 1844 by architect and builder Lansford White. White designed and built many of the buildings in North Becket Village, in the mid 1800's. The Becket Federated Church has a gable front with matching entries and a square tower including a belfry on the roof ridge above. The total expenses for the clapboard building was \$1648.12, including a bill for \$500 to White for construction, and \$6.05 to N.W. Harris for the bell. In the late 1890's the church was remodeled with new pews, carpets, and frescoed walls; while the gallery was removed. In 1906 a Baptistry was installed. The building also had horse sheds like those that can still be seen at the First Congregational Church in Becket Center. The sheds were enclosed in 1940, creating "The Annex" or church Vestry, adding three Sunday School classrooms and indoor toilets. This area was used by the newly formed Becket Arts Center for the Hilltowns in 1970; it has since been removed.

In 1926, after decreased attendance, the Baptist and <u>Congregational Churches</u> in <u>North Becket Village</u> joined together forming the **Becket Federated Church**. It was decided to use the Baptist meeting house for its sanctuary. In 1944, the stained-glass windows and bell were moved from the former <u>North Becket Congregational Church</u> to the **Becket Federated Church**. Today the **Becket Federated Church** in North Becket and the <u>First Congregational Church</u> in Becket Center form the Yoked Parish of Becket, which serves nearby communities in addition to Becket and Washington.





For further information email the Becket Historical Commission:

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