

Fenner church makes state, national historic registers

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Staff writer

The 200-year-old Fenner Community Church has been placed on the state and national registers of historic places, a state official said last week.

William Krattinger, a historic-preservation specialist with the state Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in Albany, said the listings will give the church trustees grant opportunities for upkeep of the church.

"And it's also honorific. It's important to the people themselves," he said. "The people recognize their own heritage and their own local and regional history."

The Fenner Community Church was organized in August 1801. From 1820 to 1821, the congregation built the white

church building that still stands majestically at Fenner Corners, keeping watch over the rural township. Construction cost: \$2,601.42.

For much of Fenner's history, the church was the centerpiece of the town, the place where people were christened when they were new and buried when their time on earth was through. Men went off to war from the church, and more than 100 elections were contested there.

Although the church is still used and has inspired a core group of supporters, it currently has no charter and no affiliation with a denomination. That makes it difficult to raise money for the building's upkeep.

The church trustees say they hope to have a celebration sometime this spring to commemorate the historic registers' listings.