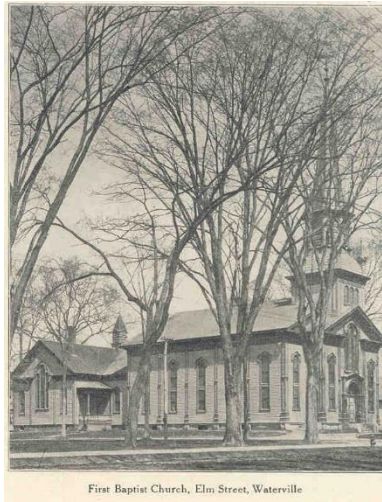


FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Elm and Park Streets ~ Map #41

Rev. Jeremiah Chaplin, the first formed this church in 1818. religious group to own property, was formed. By selling pews they House was erected in 1826. It city for large assemblies and union building and was the first church to

The architecture is Late Victorian was added to the National Historic



president of Colby College, Because it was illegal for a an organization of pew holders raised money and the Meeting served the church, college, and meetings. It is the oldest public be built in Waterville.

Classical Revival, and the church Register in 1976.

It was here that Samuel Francis Smith was ordained and preached from 1832 to 1842.

While a student at Andover Theological Seminary, a friend asked him to translate a German poem for him. He liked the music (God Save the King) that had been set to that poem so much he wrote new English words and this became the national patriotic hymn, "America". He also wrote the hymns "The Morning Light is Breaking" and "Rock of Ages".