

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED FEB 29 1980

MAY 15 1980

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

*White Meetinghouse*

HISTORIC

First Freewill Baptist Society Meetinghouse

AND/OR COMMON

White Meetinghouse (PREFERRED NAME FOR NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING)

**2 LOCATION**

*S of Eaton Center*

STREET & NUMBER

Towle Hill Road via Horse Leg Hill from Rt. 153  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

South Eaton Center X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE

33

COUNTY

Carroll

CODE

003

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Old White Meetinghouse Parish Association (Rev. Raymond E. Stineford, representative)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

East Madison VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire, 03849

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Registry of Deeds  
Carroll County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 208

CITY, TOWN

Ossipee

STATE

New Hampshire, 03864

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## **7** DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The White Meetinghouse is a rectangular framed structure with a gable roof and an exterior chimney rising against the rear gable end. Set on a foundation of unmortared fieldstones, the structure has a braced frame with mortise-and-tenon construction and a rafter and purlin roof frame. The walls are clapboarded, each clapboard having a 4-1/2 inch exposure to the weather. The roof, once shingled, is now covered with corrugated sheet metal.

The detailing of the structure represents a simplified version of the Greek Revival style. The facade has two doorways, each with unmoulded casings, plain square corner blocks, and sidelights. Exterior doors have six panels and are fitted with Norfolk latches. Between the doorways is an elevated central window that lights a chancel inside the building. The gable of the facade is decorated with a diamond-shaped louver. The side elevations each have three windows with 16/12 sash, simple square-edged casings, and blinds. The rear elevation has two similar windows.

The interior consists of a single auditorium filled with slip pews that face the front of the structure. There is no gallery. Inside each doorway is a vestibule with rounded walls; between these vestibules is a shallow raised chancel lighted by the elevated central window in the facade. The pews are numbered and have curved and scrolled arm rests at the aisle ends. Two aisles extend from the front doorways to the rear of the auditorium, where they terminate at the two rear windows and provide access to a raised choir area set between the windows. The choir has two tiers of raised pews, and in front of each is a railing supported on turned posts with ball finials. Ceilings and walls are whitewashed plaster covered with paper. Pews, wainscoting and other woodwork are painted an olive green, which may be the original color. The floor is painted gray.

The meetinghouse has never been wired for electricity. Evening meetings are held by oil lamplight, with heat provided by a stove whose circuitous funnel vents into the rear chimney.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES 1844

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Stephen Allard

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The White Meetinghouse was built between February and November, 1844, by Stephen Allard, a South Eaton builder who is believed to have constructed other local structures including the parsonage, now privately owned. The structure is a representative rural version of the Greek Revival meetinghouse, very little altered since the date of its construction. Originally built for Free Will Baptists, the structure exemplifies the enthusiasm with which this New Hampshire-founded sect was supported in rural areas.

Architecture: The White Meetinghouse is an example of the type of small religious structure which was built in early nineteenth-century rural New England to house the diverse sects that multiplied in the region during that period. The building was constructed at a time when the population of Eaton was about 1,700. In its careful planning but simple detailing, the building reveals the means by which design elements from the Greek Revival style were accommodated to modest budgets in rural areas of relatively sparse population.

Religion: The Free Will Baptist sect was founded by Benjamin Randall (1749-1808), a native of New Castle, New Hampshire, in 1780. The first meetinghouse of the sect was in New Durham, N.H., some thirty miles south of South Eaton. By 1840, at about the time of the construction of the White Meetinghouse, the Free Will Baptist sect numbered some 42,000 adherents in 850 churches, published a weekly newspaper, a quarterly journal, a hymnal, and a number of other religious volumes. The White Meetinghouse is a well-preserved example of the type of structure built by New Hampshire Free Will Baptists in rural areas of the state. It was built by subscription, and a list of the original subscribers, listing their ownership of the numbered pews, is preserved. Membership in the South Eaton Free Will Baptist Church increased until about the time of the Civil War, but then began a slow decline which paralleled that of the town's population. Regular services ceased to be held in the structure about 1935. Since then, the South Eaton community has maintained the building and today opens the structure to the public during the summer and holds occasional meetings and services there.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Henney, Nella, and Keith Henney, The Early Days of Eaton. Eaton, N.H.: for the town, 1967.  
 -----, The Eaton Records. Eaton, N.H.: for the town, 1972.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/4 acre

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	333240	4858050	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet #1.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	N/A	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE		CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Bruce Acker and Raymond Stineford

ORGANIZATION

Old White Meetinghouse Parish Association

STREET & NUMBER

DATE

March, 1976

TELEPHONE

(603) 367-4678

CITY OR TOWN

East Madison

STATE

New Hampshire, 03849

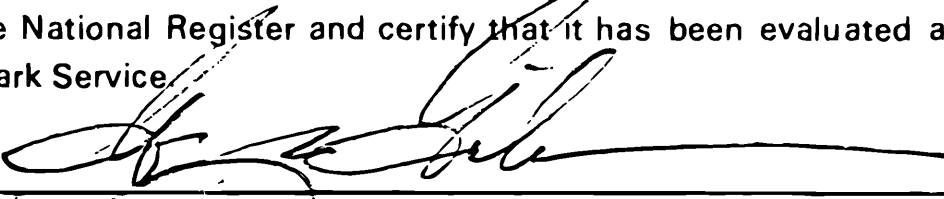
**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Commissioner, Dept. Resources & Economic Development  
 New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

October 9, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Sally G. Olden*

DATE

5/15/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *Patricia Amills*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/13/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FOR HCRS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 29 1980  
DATE ENTERED MAY 14 1980

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

WHITE MEETINGHOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The South Eaton White Meetinghouse stands on untaxed land, a corner lot of approximately one-quarter acre. The north and west boundaries are town roads, one leading from East Madison in an easterly direction, the second leading south toward Freedom. The east and south boundaries follow land owned by Elizabeth Towle of Madison, New Hampshire. A sketch map follows:

