

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUL 12 1977  
DATE ENTERED OCT 28 1977

**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**

HISTORIC  
~~1/2~~ Sudbury Congregational Church  
AND/OR COMMON  
Sudbury Meetinghouse

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 30  
CITY, TOWN  
Sudbury  
STATE  
Vermont  
VICINITY OF  
Vermont  
COUNTY  
Rutland  
CODE  
50  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Vermont  
CODE  
021

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 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 checked="" 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  
Town of Sudbury  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Sudbury  
STATE  
Vermont

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Office of the Town Clerk of Sudbury  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Sudbury  
STATE  
Vermont

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Vermont State Register of Historic Places  
DATE  
1975  
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Vermont Division for Historic Preservation  
CITY, TOWN  
Montpelier  
STATE  
Vermont

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Set back from the main road on a small knoll and approached by a curving dirt drive along the far edge of the village green, the Sudbury Meetinghouse stands on an imposing site remarkably unchanged in exterior appearance from the time of its construction in the early 1800's.

Erected in 1807, the Sudbury Meetinghouse is a large, rectangular-shaped, two-story frame structure, of post and beam construction, with a projecting and pedimented vestibule and a third story tower rising from the gabled roof. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingle. The exterior walls are covered with white-painted clapboards. The two-story projecting pavilion, or vestibule, contains two round-headed doors and a central doorway, now clapboarded shut decorated with wooden pilasters and a simple doric entablature. Above is a large palladian window with 20/20 sash and 6/8 sidelights. In the square tower is a semi-circular louver. The top of the tower is crowned by gothic embellishments, presumably added at the time the town took responsibility for the structure during the 1850's.

Both the western and eastern facades are devoid of ornamentation, with the exception of a modillion cornice which extends the entire perimeter of the eaves, including those of the central pedimented projecting pavilion, on the front elevation.

The windows of both the eastern and western elevations have 6/6 sash, with the exception of the lower story window of the southernmost bay on the western elevation, which is a 20/20 sash variation, found on the windows of the second-story of the southern elevation, including the palladian window, complemented by 6/6 sidelights.

On the rear elevation, lower story, are paired 20/20 windows with the exception of the northwesternmost window which has 6/6 panes. A central palladian window in the second story dominates the rear elevation, and is flanked by two side windows of 6/6 sash. A small lunette now painted, is directly above the rear palladian in the gable end.

Although an Asher Benjamin plate, from which the Sudbury Meetinghouse was built, illustrates a building with a steeple, the current meetinghouse contains only the previously mentioned gothic embellishments. A reminiscence contains the following observation: "the interesting letter of Mr. Cheney's further states: 'there was a large steeple on the front end of the house, and when I was a small boy six or seven years old, they began to feel afraid that the wind might blow it over onto the house, and that they had better take it down, so they hitched a rope to it, and I think they had a yoke of oxen to help pull it off.'"<sup>1</sup> I remember well hearing the terrible crash when it struck the ground." the description notes further, "when the house was made it was with square pews with seats on three sides. The pulpit was on the north end high enough for stairs to go into it, and a place under it to

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

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keep the Sabbath School Library. The gallery at the south end was occupied by the singers and musicians."<sup>2</sup>

The original interior has been altered extensively, dating from 1849 when the town received the "priviledge" of occupying the first floor of the meetinghouse for town meetings. During the 1850's the second floor was completely renovated to house the religious congregation, while the lower story was altered for town meetings. In October, 1854, the pews were removed and the box pews replaced by the current scroll pews, grained to imitate maple. The centennial anniversary (1907) of the church notes further change: "a complete record calls for some notice of change made in recent years. The pipe organ and choir gallery which once were in the front of the house have been removed. The straight stairway has taken the place of the former winding stairs, the pulpit platform has been lowered and extended. The window back of the pulpit has been closed. The present windows (6/6) are comparatively new. One row of side seats has been removed, considerable plastering has been done, the wood work painted, and new carpeting put on the floor. With the exception of the "new" carpeting, the interior has remained intact since the above renovation."

In 1976, a new one story kitchen wing was added to the eastern side of the building, constructed in wood, and clapboarded. The wing constitutes an intrusion, although its location on the least exposed side, tends to minimize its effect on the 1807 structure.

1. Centennial Anniversary of the Sudbury Meetinghouse, 1807-1907. Brandon: Woodruff Print Shop, 1908. n.p.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.

## 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 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		

SPECIFIC DATES **1807: 1851-54**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Charles C. Stewart**

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sudbury Meetinghouse is architecturally significant because its builder, Charles C. Stewart replicated exactly, Asher Benjamins Country Builders Assistant, Plate 33, "A Design For a Meetinghouse", originally published in 1805 in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The Congregational Church of Sudbury was first organized in 1803 and the church building was erected in 1807.

It is not surprising that a Vermont carpenter builder would have turned to Benjamin, since Benjamin had worked in Windsor, Vermont, designing the old South Congregational Church in that town in 1798. With the printing of the Country Builders Assistant in Greenfield in 1805. The federal style, promulgated in New England by Charles Bulfinch, was assured of a wide dissemination, to which the Sudbury Meetinghouse was to prove a noteworthy example, with its virtually unaltered exterior facade.

Although the gothic spires date from an 1850's alteration, it is noteworthy that the alteration was made by the town, at a time when the building was being renovated to serve its dual function as a religious meetinghouse and a town hall, a partnership still retained to this date. Thus, the historic concept, known since colonial times, of church and state functioning within the same edifice is preserved within the Sudbury Meetinghouse.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Centennial Celebration of the Sudbury Meetinghouse, 1807-1907.  
 Brandon: Woodruff Print Shop, 1908.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	64,446,0	4,850,95,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is co-extensive with the Sudbury Congregational Church property lines.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard C. Cote, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

June 17, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier,

STATE

Vermont

# 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

*William B. Pinney*

TITLE

William B. Pinney  
Director/ State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

7-5-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Ronald M. Grunberg, Actg.*

DATE 10-28-77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

*Acting* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

