

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|---------------------------|
| STATE: New Hampshire |
| COUNTY: Rockingham |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE JUN 29 1973 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Governor Meshech Weare House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Exeter Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Hampton Falls

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| STATE New Hampshire | CODE 33 | COUNTY: Rockingham | CODE 015 |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

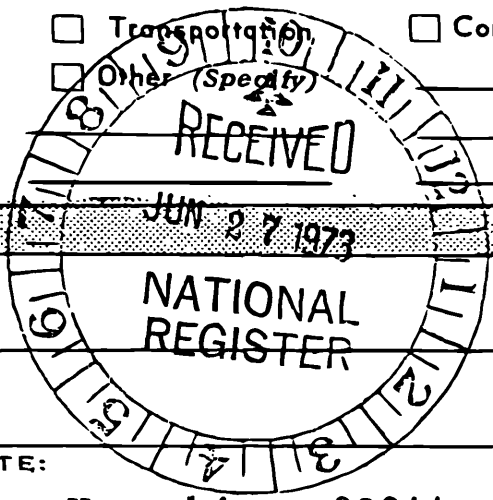
OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Eugene B. Whittemore

STREET AND NUMBER:
Exeter Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Hampton Falls

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
03844



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rockingham County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rockingham County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:
Hampton Road

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
03833

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: November 30, 1970
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State of New Hampshire
Department of Resources and Economic Development

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 856

CITY OR TOWN:
Concord

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
03301

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| |
|-------------------------|
| STATE: New Hampshire |
| COUNTY: Rockingham |
| ENTRY NUMBER 1000 |
| DATE JUN 29 1973 |

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present and Original Physical Appearance: Built in 1723, the Governor Meshech Weare house is a rectangular two-story frame house with gable roof, two interior chimneys, and clapboarded walls. The structure is five-bays wide and was originally two bays deep. Following a fire in 1957, the rear (or east) wall of the house was moved outward to double the original size of the rear tier of rooms. An old rear two-story service wing was destroyed by fire in 1923 and the present rear wing was built in 1924-25.

The center door in the front, or west, facade is topped by a segmental pediment and opens into a center hall that extends through the house. The stair is set against the left or north wall, the wainscotting of the hall is original but the hall was widened to the south in the 1957 remodelling. To the right or south, are the dining room, where the wainscotting is modern, and the kitchen. To the left of the hall are a parlor and a rear sitting room. The parlor has its original panelling on the fireplace wall in place and also retains its original wainscotting. All rooms have exposed corner posts. A fire in 1957 seriously damaged the rear sitting room. The 18th century panelling on the fireplace wall there is a replacement of the original and a modern picture window was inserted in the rear wall at that time, when the rear wall was moved outward.

The center hall plan is repeated on the second floor and the four bedrooms are divided into pairs. The northwest bedroom has a finely panelled fireplace wall. Although considerably altered in the rear, the house retains its original exterior appearance in the front and much of the interior is still original. The Governor Weare House is used as a private residence and is not open to visitors.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1776-1785**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Political: The home of Meshech Weare, President (or Governor) of New Hampshire (1776-1785) during the War for Independence, George Washington visited this house in 1775, James Monroe was a guest in 1817, and Lafayette in 1824.

Meshech Weare was born in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, in 1713 and was graduated from Harvard College in 1735. He was married twice, in 1738 and 1746, having two children by his first wife and 8 by his second. Weare had expected to enter the ministry but abandoned his intention not long after graduation. For some years he devoted himself to the development and management of his extensive farm property at Hampton Falls. He also studied law and after 1745 gave steadily increasing attention to public affairs. From 1745 to 1755 he represented Hampton in the New Hampshire legislature, and with occasional interruptions this service continued until the overturn of the royal government in 1775. This legislative experience was reinforced by a wide variety of committee service, by three years as speaker, eight as clerk, and by attendance at the Albany Congress in 1754. He was also a justice in the superior court from 1747 to 1775 and a colonel in the militia.

Sixty-two years old when the Revolution began, Weare had many associations with the royalist element and was naturally conservative. He viewed the revolutionary movement with caution, and certainly with no pre-possession in favor of measures the colonies were adopting. His temperate advice at the early provincial congresses aroused some opposition among the more radical leaders, but when the break with Great Britain was irreparable his accession to the Revolutionary cause made him the outstanding civilian figure in his state for the ensuing decade. Between 1776 and 1784 he served as president of the Council which was charged with the executive functions of the state, and in addition was chairman of the important committee of safety. He was, as a result, in contact with both the continental and other state authorities and much more than a local leader.

In addition to his executive duties he was chief justice from 1776 to 1782, participated in many constitutional discussions, and exercised widespread influence as a leader of public opinion. In 1784 he was elected as the first president of New Hampshire (the title of governor did not come into use for several years). A year later he resigned all offices because of failing health. He was known for his equable temper, fairness, shrewdness, and honesty. He died at Hampton on January 14, 1786 and was buried there.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. XIX, 566-567.
 Charles W. Snell, "National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form" (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Division of History, February 15, 1972).

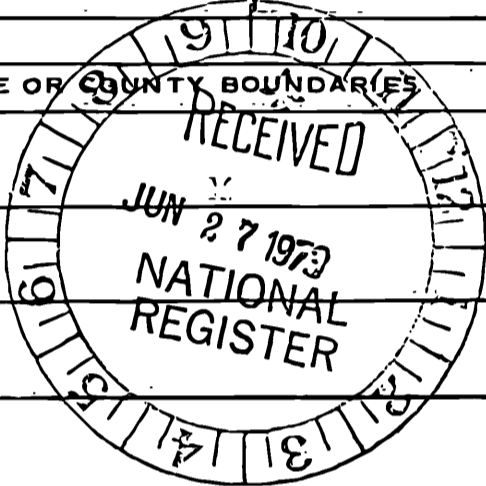
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 42° 55' 03" | 70° 52' 00" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 acres**

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |



19/34707

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Stanley A. Hamel, Treasurer

ORGANIZATION: N.H. American Revolution Bicentennial Commission DATE: June 13, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
Walton Road

CITY OR TOWN: Seabrook STATE: New Hampshire 03874 CODE: 33

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: George Gilman

Title: Commissioner
Department of Resources and Economic Development

Date: June 14, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Edward A. Connally
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Associate Director
 Professional Services

Date: JUN 29 1973

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6 28 73