

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 28 1980  
DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1980

**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

Weathersfield Center Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Center Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Weathersfield Center VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Vermont

STATE

Vermont

CODE  
50

COUNTY  
Windsor

CODE  
027

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

See Continuation Sheet 4-1

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Town Clerk

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Weathersfield

STATE  
Vermont

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey

DATE

1973

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier

STATE  
Vermont

# 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 Weathersfield Meeting House and the Reverend Daniel Foster House are located in Weathersfield Center, Vermont in the Connecticut River Valley. The buildings, while situated in a somewhat secluded area, are in the geographical center of the town where several roads converge. The meeting house stands on a low hill and faces a maple grove and the town pound. The parsonage is downhill about 200 yards away on the opposite side of the road and faces the backside of the meeting house.

1. The meeting house is an imposing 2½-story brick structure topped by a bell tower. The building has long been appreciated by generations of Vermonters and tourists because it is part of the genre reverently, though incorrectly, referred to as "Colonial." Built in 1821, it is a relatively late execution of the Federal style. Three by six bays, the gable facade stresses verticality by means of the bell tower, gable pediment, Palladian window, and round-headed doors.

The bell tower, placed like a large ornament on top of the building, begins with a square clapboarded stage which has a keystone window and is topped by a molded cornice and balustrade. The second stage is an octagonal, open belfry while the third stage, also octagonal, has louvres enclosing the bell chamber. The tower is topped by an inflected dome.

The facade has three entrances, each having a round-arch fanlight. The center entrance is slightly larger which corresponds proportionally to the Palladian window directly overhead which in turn, is flanked on each side by double-hung windows with 12/12 lights and molded cornices. The gable pediment has an elliptical fanlight with a keystone like the facade's other windows and doors. The raking and horizontal cornice has dentils and is continued along the side elevations and ending in cornice returns on the rear elevation.

Other windows are also double-hung sash with 12/12 lights yet, unlike the two on the facade which have splayed stone lintels, jack arches have been painted white to simulate stone. The second story windows appear somewhat refined because each has four louvred shutters.

The interior of the first floor is very plain and undistinguished and essentially a large open space convenient for meetings. Upstairs the church is similarly plain. A central pulpit faces the pews which are divided by two aisles. While the pews are simple in design, their white pine is camouflaged with decorative graining.

2. The Reverend Daniel Foster House is actually two houses combined. The ell is the original house built in 1785. It is a plain 1½-story structure with clapboard siding, a steeply pitched roof, windows with 9/9 sash, and a door with a transom overhead. Attached to the rear of the ell is a kitchen and woodshed.

The newer house is more refined. Built in 1825 and attached in front of the ell, this portion is 2½ stories and 5 x 2 bays. The central doorway has a fanlight and is enframed by a pilaster supporting an entablature. The windows are original with 12/12 lights. The molded cornice has short returns at the gable ends and louvred vents are in the gable peaks. The south side has a transomed entrance which is a slightly larger version of the ell's entrance.

## 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Weathersfield Center Historic District encompasses two structures which reflect the early history of the town: the Weathersfield Meeting House and the Reverend Dan Foster House. The Meeting House, built in 1821 and one of the finest of its kind in Vermont, exemplifies an excellent vernacular translation of the Federal style. The Reverend Dan Foster House, essentially two houses built in 1785 and 1825, was the dwelling for Weathersfield's first settled minister. Also significant is an old stone-walled pound in the southwest corner of the town land which was built after a state law of 1779 required all towns to impound stray animals.

A charter establishing the town of Weathersfield was granted by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth in 1761 yet the town did not flourish until the end of the 18th century. There were 20 residents in 1771; by 1791, the population had jumped to 1,146. Attracted by rich farmland along the Connecticut River and abundant grazing land, settlers continued arriving until the town was saturated in 1820 with 2,301 people.

Until Reverend Dan Foster agreed to settle in Weathersfield in 1785, early settlers traveled across the river to attend church services in Claremont or relied upon itinerant ministers. The town promised to pay Foster an annual income paid in money and staple goods and levied a town tax of 60 pounds to build a parsonage.

The next step was to build a meeting house and a land tax procured funds for the building. Two years later in 1787, a wooden twin-porch meeting house was constructed near Foster's house and served as the assembly place for town meetings and religious services.

When the meeting house was destroyed by fire in 1821, the present brick building was erected by the Congregational Society at a cost of \$3,500. While in ways characteristic of the common New England town hall-meeting house-church, this structure is unusually distinguished in design as well as by the use of brick as the building material. The interior was remodelled in 1861 and divided into two district spaces: the first floor was designated for town meetings while the Congregational Church used the second floor. This division was somewhat unusual because more often a new town hall or church was built which suggested a definite, physical separation of church and state.

The Foster House lacks the sophistication of the Meeting House yet is interesting for illustrating two stages of construction. The original portion (1787), the ell, is a simple 1½-story building in which structure is emphasized over style. The 2½-story, Federal-style "I" section (1825) reflects the prosperity which later years allowed.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hurd, John L., Weathersfield - Century One, Weathersfield Historical Society, 1975.  
 Aldrich, Lewis C. & Holmes, F. R., eds., History of Windsor County, Vermont (Syracuse: D. Mason & Co., 1891.  
 Child, Hamilton, comp., Gazetteer & Business Directory of Windsor County, Vermont (Syracuse: H. Child) 1884.  
 Fisher, Courtney, Weathersfield Town, Vermont Historic Sites & Structures Survey, 1973.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 20 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Claremont N.H. - VT

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 | 7 | 0,5 | 1,3 | 7 | 4,8 | 0,6 | 2,0 | 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1,8 | 7 | 0,5 | 5,5 | 0 | 4,8 | 0,5 | 7,5 | 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 | 7 | 0,5 | 1,0 | 0 | 4,8 | 0,5 | 3,2 | 5  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 1,8 | 7 | 0,4 | 6,5 | 0 | 4,8 | 0,5 | 7,5 | 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

E    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

F    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

G    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

H    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet 10-1.

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

Margaret N. DeLaittre, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division for Historic Preservation

DATE

April 9, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

Pavilion Building

TELEPHONE

802-828-3226

CITY OR TOWN

Montpelier

STATE

Vermont

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

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 Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 4-25-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Sally G. Oldham*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/3/80

ATTEST: *Patrick Anderson*  
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6/2/80

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet 4-1

Item number 4

Page 1

1. First Congregational Church of Weathersfield  
Weathersfield, VT 05151
2. Weathersfield Historical Society, Inc.  
Weathersfield, VT 05151

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Page 2

Because the 1825 structure is a Federal-style I-house, the interior space is limited, though because of the ell, the entire area is large. Essentially, it is a respectable house with the simplicity one would expect in a parsonage.

Both buildings exhibit vernacular styles and decoration befitting the various stages of prosperity and development in Weathersfield and have been allowed to retain their architectural integrity.

3. The Old Stone Pound is a stone-walled enclosure once used for impounding stray animals. It is constructed of randomly-laid native rock without the use of mortar. Although all towns in Vermont were required to have this facility, very few remain today.

South of the Foster house is a modern 1-story structure (#4) of board and batten siding designed to serve as an interpretive blacksmith's shop. Because of the building's age and only recent association with the house, this structure does not contribute to the historic district.

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Continuation sheet 8-2

Item number 8

Page 2

While the Foster House and Meeting House are somewhat isolated now, they are important contributions to the historical character of Weathersfield and the Meeting House is especially significant in illustrating the architectural development of Vermont.

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Continuation sheet 10-1

Item number 10

Page 1

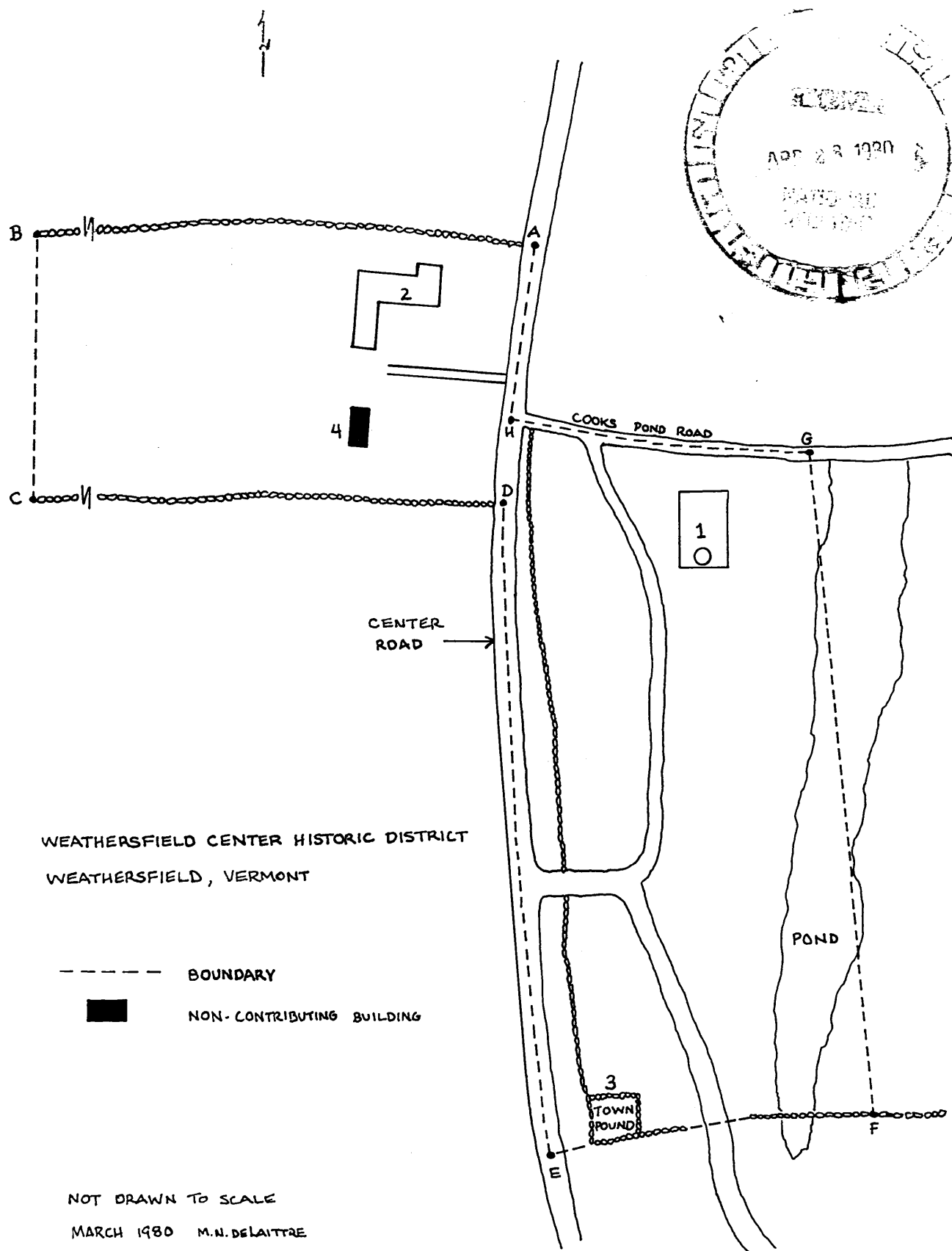
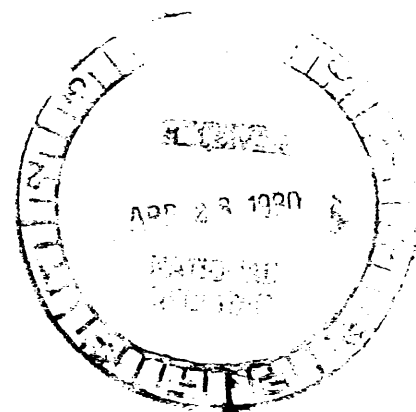
The boundaries of the Weathersfield Center Historic District incorporate the legal boundaries of the two properties.

The boundary of the Weathersfield Center Historic District is described as follows (reference is made to the enclosed sketchmap): beginning at Point A, a point at the intersection of an extension of the northern property line marked by a stone wall of the Reverend Dan Foster property with the center line of Center Road, the boundary thence proceeds generally west along this wall to Point B, the intersection of this line with the northwest corner of the rear property line of the Reverend Dan Foster property. The boundary thence proceeds south along the rear property line where it meets Point C, the southwest corner of the Foster property marked by another stone wall and thence proceeds easterly along said wall and its extension to the center line of Center Road and Point D. The line then proceeds generally south along said center line to Point E at an extension of the southerly property line of the Town Common and the center line of Center Road. The boundary thence proceeds generally east along the southern property line of the Town Common to Point F, the intersection of said line with the southeast corner of the common. The boundary thence proceeds north following the westerly property line of the Common to Point G, the intersection of said line with the center line of Cooks Pond Road; the boundary then proceeds generally west along said center line and crosses Center Road to Point H, a point on the center line of Center Road. The boundary then proceeds north along this line to Point A, the point of beginning.

The town land plot measures approximately 16 x 33 rods; the Foster property encompasses approximately 14 acres.

The Congregational Church owns the meeting house while the Town of Weathersfield owns the land.





WEATHERSFIELD CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT  
WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

- BOUNDARY
- NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE  
MARCH 1980 M.N. DELAITRE