

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire	
COUNTY: Grafton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
1000	MAR 24 1972

**1. NAME**

COMMON: (Canaan Town Hall)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
 Canaan Meeting House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Canaan Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Canaan

STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33      COUNTY: Grafton      CODE: 009

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Town of Canaan

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Canaan      STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Grafton County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Woodsville      STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

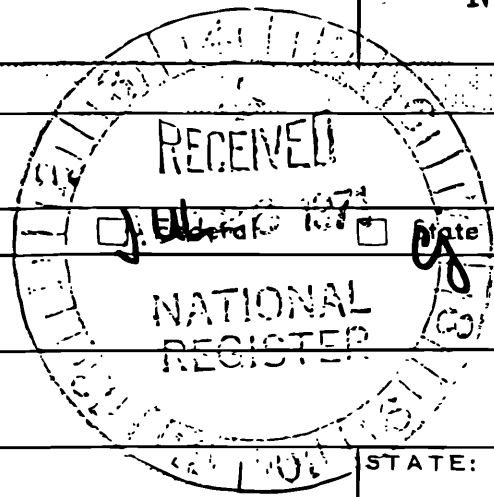
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

In the late 18th century Broad Street (now Canaan Street) was famous for its great two-porched Meeting House built opposite Hart's Pond (now Canaan Street Lake) and facing an open common for baptismal occasions. William Parkhurst of Canaan Street was the builder and received the sum of £ 561 for his work. The plans called for a building without steeple or bell, 42' wide by 52' long, with a porch at each end to be twelve feet square. The posts were 23' long. The steps were hewn stone. The windows each had 40 lights of 7x9 glass. The sills and plate were 20 inches square. The pulpit and canopy were to be built like the Chelmsford Meeting House and were to be equal to the work done in the Salisbury Upper Meeting House. Major Levi George of Salisbury was hired to do the pulpit and panel work. The timbers were cut on the Common nearby. There were three entrances, one on each end under porticoes, and one on the south side. The pews were square boxes; those in the center were squares of four, and a row around the walls was raised one step. Ten steps led to the pulpit. A large picturesque sounding board was suspended over the desk. Original clapboards were split and sawed as were the shingles. The nails were of wrought iron. The building was completed in 1794 and it was voted to "paint it stone-color, the roof Spanish brown, and doors sky blue." In 1812 it was painted white with a red roof.

On July 9, 1829 the Town of Canaan accepted a deed to the Meeting House, which was already being used for town meetings. The building was clapboarded and shingled and the western porch placed upon the eastern one, forming the present tower 53' high. The sounding board was removed. In 1832 a 1200/bell replaced the old one.

In 1841 the pews were removed and the present settles installed. Relic hunters carried off the old pew doors and wide panels. The Baptists were given permission to put a floor across the gallery thus fitting up an upper hall as a place of worship, but their wishes were never realized. Although the floor was laid the upper part of the building was left in delapidated condition.

In 1884 the Canaan Lyceum Hall Association was founded. A hardwood floor for roller-skating was laid four feet above the floor laid by the Baptists, and a stairway was added from the outside. In 1894 a clock was added.

The building is presently in need of paint, roofing, and interior restoration.

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**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) 1794

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input 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"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a well-preserved Federal meeting house with a tower entrance and federal bell cupola. It presents an important facade to the Town and is one of the focal points of the Canaan Street Historic District.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Speare, Eva A., Historic Bells of New Hampshire  
 -----, New Hampshire Meeting Houses  
 Wallace, William Allen, History of Canaan, New Hampshire,  
 Rumford Press, Concord, N. H., 1910

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	0 ' "	0 ' "		43° 39 ' 53"	72 ° 2' 35 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Mrs. Goodhue Crocker, Mrs. Norman Wakely

ORGANIZATION: Canaan Street Historic District Commission      DATE: 1/22/71

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Canaan Street

CITY OR TOWN: Canaan      STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33

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

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/>    State <input type="checkbox"/>    Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>George Gilman</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Commissioner, Department of Resources and Economic Development</u></p> <p>Date: <u>July 21, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connally</u>                  Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>MAR 24 1972</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>William M. Mautz</u>                  Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>JAN 18 1972</u></p>
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