Form 10-300 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
New Hampshire	
COUNTY:	
Rockingham	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
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	PRESENT USE (Check One or M	lore as Appropriate)					
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CONDITION	(Che	ck One)		(Check One)		JUN 37
		Unaltere	q	☐ Moved	⊠ Original Site	· TIMNAL
DESCRIBE THE PR	RESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSIC	AL APPEARANCE		100	NATION
The pre	esent and original (esent Congregation)	onal Church	is the fif	th meetingh	nouse built	by REGIL
the townspec	ple, the third	on this sit	e. Ļt was	started in	1798 and to	øk
three years	to complete at	a cosť exce	eding 10,00	0 pounds.	Eberezer Cl	ifford
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Except for a two-story addition to the rear of the church in 1930 and the addition of an elevator in 1961, the exterior of the church remains much the same. It probably was not painted at first except around the windows. Later it received a coat of white paint in the 1830's, followed by two shades of tan. It was not until 1940 that it again became white.

Mr. Clifford, independent of others, began to change the meetinghouse design to that of a church. The long axis is parallel to the street, as in a typical meetinghouse. The entrance, still on the long side, is much more elaborate than that of the earlier ones. There is a projecting two-story bay with three doors below and three windows above, and windows on either side. Over this rises the tower, with an octagonal belfry, lantern and dome.

Another unusual feature is the hip roof, which dates back to the days of the square meetinghouse. There is a cornice between the upper and lower tiers of windows like that at the eaves, across the front and rear of the building. Pilasters adorn the porch and corners of the building. The one Palladian window is the pulpit window at the rear of the building--still opposite the main entrance as it used to be, but now raised to the second floor of the addition.

The town placed a clock with four faces in the tower in 1848. The face of this clock was large and was changed in 1950 when William Dudley redesigned it. In 1956 a new electric clock was installed. In 1962 the false face of the clock on the rear of the tower was removed.

Dr. William G. Perry's Exeter in 1830 gives a vivid picture of the interior of the building. 'The outside entrance of the building was the same as now. Two doors led from the vestibule directly into the audience room. From each door an aisle ran to the side of the pulpit, which faces the double row of slips that occupied the middle of the room. From the main aisle two other aisles branched off at right angles, then turned parallel, running between the square wall pews and an inner row. These square pews (of the inner row) were extra large.... Square pews often had extra chairs in them. A good, broad gallery extended along three sides. It was reached by flights of stairs leading from the vestibule. The pulpit was high. The room was very high, and consequently cold, and the windows rattled well on windy days. There were two not very large cast iron box-stoves near the pulpit; the funnels ran above the aisle, turned near the singer's gallery, and united in a large smokepipe that connected with the outside air.... The pews in the meetinghouse were made of perfectly clear pine and panelled. I think they were unpainted. The gallery, pulpit

Continuation Sheet

7. Description (cont.)

and the window casings were painted white. The room with its correct proportions, its fine panelling, and its lofty ceiling was worth seeing...."

In 1838, the parishioners decided to remodel. All the square box pews were removed and the room was partitioned into two floors. The upper floor became the sanctuary with the pulpit at the west end. The original pulpit window was covered over on the inside. The lower floor was to be used as "lecture rooms." Today you may still note on the panelling on the first floor where the pews were attached. The sounding board which hung over the pulpit now hangs in the first floor hallway. The pulpit window was carefully raised to the second floor level when the addition was built to the rear of the church in 1930. This serves as a kitchen downstairs and a small meeting room above. In 1961 an elevator was installed on the eastern side of this addition.

☐ Pre-Columbian	—		
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☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☐ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known)		
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12.	STATE LIAISON OFFICER CE	RTIFICATION		1	NATIONAL	REGIST	ER VERI	FICATION				
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	tional Historic Preservation Ac		I hereby certify that this property is included in the									
	89-665), I hereby nominate this		National Register.									
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