

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received **MAY 5 1986**

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Springfield Union Meeting House

and/or common SPRINGFIELD TOWN HALL & HOWARD MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Four Corners Road, approximately 200 feet
southeast of New London Road. n/a not for publication

city, town Springfield n/a vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Sullivan code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Springfield

street & number Box 22 - Main Street

city, town Springfield, n/a vicinity of state New Hampshire 03284

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sullivan County Registry of Deeds

street & number Sullivan County Courthouse
P.O. Box 448

city, town Main Street
Newport, state New Hampshire 03773

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date n/a federal state county local

depository for survey records n/a

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>1851</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

As viewed today, the Springfield Town Hall/Howard Methodist Church is a two story frame and clapboard structure combining some original material dating to 1797 with subsequent major alterations, including its two stage tower, apparently made after the building was moved to its present location in 1851. Facing southward and set above a granite block foundation the Town Hall is oriented gable end to the street and measures approximately 40' x 60'. An asphalt semicircular area fronts the building while a backdrop of white pine trees flanks the rear.

The first floor of the facade is four bays wide consisting of two individual central doorways flanked by a single doublehung window with 12/12 sash on each side. Each entrance contains a wooden door with two long vertical panels. That to the right is flush with the surround and has a hinge on the outside, changed in 1938 to conform to fire regulations. The other door opens inward and is recessed slightly. Each is flanked by recessed panel pilaster strips, set on bases, supporting a two part frieze and low pediment. A concrete flight of steps with wrought iron railings fronts each entrance. Centered between the entrances is a cast iron World War I honor roll supported by two thin fluted columns capped by flames with an eagle in flight atop the curved top. Silver raised letters on a black background list the names of ten local residents who served in World War I between 1914 and 1918. The sign was manufactured by the Lebanon Machine Company in 1920 at a cost of \$175. Each of the outer bays of the first floor facade contain a doublehung window with 12/12 sash and mullions painted black. A simple lipped lintel caps each window and appears to date this repeating window form to the period after the structure was moved in 1851. A bulletin board is mounted on the right molding of the right door and left side of the adjacent window. Above the doors is a rectangular sign with low peaked top constructed of wide horizontal boards with black letters reading "Union Church & Town Hall/Beaver Grange 283/Protectworth Lodge/No. 69 K of P." It is lit by a suspended bulb and reflector.

The second story of the facade features two doublehung 12/12 windows with a lighted cross donated by Elmer Butcher in 1960. A projecting boxed cornice with cyma recta molding and a two part frieze surrounds the structure above this level, supported by recessed panel corner pilasters. The numerals '1797' are centered below the front clapboarded pediment. A single smaller 6/6 window lights the attic of the facade.

Centered on the front of the asphalt sheathed gable roof is a two stage tower, square in plan. The clapboarded base is outlined by corner pilasters, a two part frieze and boxed cornice, echoing the detailing of the main building. Resting above the flat roof of the first stage and outlining the second stage are four corner pinnacles resting on rectangular bases and spanned by a solid wall of vertical flushboard with recessed panels on the side and capped by a low pediment. The second belfry stage constructed of horizontal flushboard is also outlined by recessed panelled pilasters. A rectangular louvered opening is located on each side of this stage, again flanked by recessed panels supporting a low pediment. Here too, another projecting boxed cornice acts as a base for the final level consisting of a low wall with corner pinnacles, slightly smaller than those of the first stage as the tower diminishes in size as it rises in height. The bell inside dates to 1904, presented to the Springfield Union Meeting House Society by the bequest of Lydia J. Heath and the gifts of Benjamin F. Hill, Joseph Hill, and Emily G. H. Taylor. It is imprinted with the following inscription: "Let him that heareth say, come." The bell was manufactured by Meneely Bell Company, Troy, N.Y., and is so marked. At the rear, two small brick chimneys with corbel caps project from the interior of the roof, dating to 1872.

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DESCRIPTION (continued):

With the exception of the facade, the remaining three elevations display contrasting first and second floor window treatments indicative of the two periods of building construction, in 1797 and 1851. On the first floor the doublehung windows contain 20/15 sash with a surround that recesses in three stages and are capped by ornate entablature lintels consisting of a cavetto molding capped by a cyma recta and fillet moldings. In contrast, the larger second floor windows, like those on the facade, contain a later 12/12 sash, with window casings flush with the outside wall and are capped by lipped lintels. While the east (side) elevation measures five bays wide, the west side contains seven bays on the first floor and five above.

On the north (rear) elevation there are four of the older 20/15 windows on the first floor with a later (c.1900?) horizontally panelled wooden door with upper glass window occupying the westernmost bay. On the second floor is a 12/12 window with similar door located at the top of a metal fire escape. A 4 x 3 window caps the doorway. Lighting the attic is a single 12/12 window with the earlier ornate entablature lintel. The eaves on this elevation cling to the side wall and the foundation on this side has been partially replaced with concrete.

On the interior, the front vestibule is dominated by an oil forced hot air furnace with a staircase and storage room located in the southeast corner and a ticket window and lavatories (added in 1923) in the southwest. A World War II memorial plaque is also located in the entryway. Two wide four panel doors approximately four feet wide and eight feet tall with peaked lintels provide access to the town hall. The open assembly room is sheathed in diagonal beadboards above vertical beadboard wainscoting with beadboard also covering the ceiling. A raised stage is located at the rear of the room with a kitchen in the northwest corner. A series of four evenly spaced piers project from the side elevations, handhewn posts occupy the corners. Two large metal columns are located about a third of the way from the west wall. Significant interior furnishings include a number of wooden settees and a large clock manufactured by E. Howard & Company of Boston in 1895 and presented to the Town by Clarence Collins. To the left of the stage is a gilt and wood memorial "in honor of Springfield Veterans of the Revolutionary, War of 1812, Civil War, War with Spain, World War I, World War II, Korean and Vietnamese Wars" funded by the Harland N. Heath War Memorial and Bicentennial Funds and featuring painted flags of the United States and State of New Hampshire. The early 20th century flavor of the room is diminished slightly by the presence of metal vents and pipes cutting through the room.

Alterations to the first floor of the building over the years have kept pace with the Town's changing needs and improved technology. In 1877 pews were removed from the Town Hall and seats substituted. The northwest corner of the floor was renovated for use as a Selectmen's Office including plaster, pine lumber and a new stove. Additional settees were added in 1905 and 1923 marked the introduction of chemical closets and cloak rooms. The following year the cement work in front of the building was repaired, forming an

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DESCRIPTION (continued):

appropriate setting for the cast iron World War I Honor Roll added in 1920. The stage at the rear of the hall appears to have been added in 1929. An unsuccessful warrant article at town meeting in 1931 proposed to build a dining room for the Hall, however substantial alterations were made two years later at a cost of \$800, perhaps including the installation of the bead board sheathing. Electricity was introduced to the building in 1936. Modernization was completed with a new heating furnace in 1957 replacing previous wood stoves. Water was piped to the building in 1966.

Atop a wooden staircase, entry to the second floor, housing the Howard Memorial Methodist Church is gained through a double leaf set of doors; each containing three panels. The curved ceiling is covered in approximately a half dozen different pressed metal designs with acroterial-like ornament marking the seams. At the rear of the sanctuary are two large (apparently original) bulging columns approximately 15 to 18 feet high with two thin metal supports located about a third of the way from the eastern wall. A large copper chandelier with six frosted globes descends near the center of the sanctuary. Approximately 38 natural white pine pews are arranged around two central aisles. According to numerals on the sides of the pews, at least 45 apparently existed at one time. Those on the sides are raised slightly above the aisle level. Above the natural varnished floor is wide board wainscotting. Varnished interior blinds flank the recessed window openings. Queen Anne/Eastlake style furnishings in the front of the sanctuary date to the late 19th century and include three chairs, an altar, a marble top table and smaller tables.

According to church records, alterations to the second floor include the purchase of new pews in 1864, the addition of varnished interior blinds in 1866 and undescribed renovations in 1899, 1923 and 1945. Over the years a choir loft was made in the front of the church by removing pews. Within recent recollection the back choir loft was removed to make room for a Sunday School room in the back of the church, demarcated by a movable partition.

A gently sloping hillside with white pine trees extends nearly to the rear elevation of the building. To the west of the Town Hall is the single story gablefronted Town garage constructed in 1964. A mortared stone retaining wall is located east of the Town Hall and separates this building from the former schoolhouse which since 1955 has housed the Libbie A. Cass Memorial Library.

Note: The nominated property consists of one (1) contributing building.

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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1797–1851 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Springfield Town Hall, constructed between 1795 and 1797 with subsequent alterations in 1851, is significant as a unique example of vernacular New Hampshire architecture. Originally constructed as a simple meetinghouse serving both public and religious purposes, the structure was moved and embellished by a combination of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival details in 1851, at which time public and religious uses were given separate floors. Unpretentious in design and execution, the building illustrates the work of local builders and the simplification of contemporary design vocabularies into vernacular forms. Vestiges of the architectural styles prevalent in both periods of building activity survive.

As early as 1788 it was voted to build a meetinghouse in what is now Springfield (known as Protectworth until 1794). Set high in the burying ground about a half mile east of its current location the meetinghouse was constructed according to the plans of the Salisbury Meetinghouse secured by Philip Colby of Springfield in 1795 and accepted in September of that year. A building committee consisting of Israel Clifford, Captain Reuben Hoyt, Timothy Quimby, Ensign Nathaniel Little and Samuel Robie was established, with construction scheduled to begin the first of November and timber to be cut by the first of the next January. The simple two story structure was probably the product of a local designer and builder. As was customary, pews were sold to the highest bidder, ranging in price from 9–30 pounds with those in the gallery sold for 3–7 pounds. Although the first meeting in the new townhouse was held in 1797 and the Meetinghouse was dedicated in 1799, as late as 1801 the Town was still seeking to raise money to defray the extra expense of building the meetinghouse. Though fenestration has been changed over the years, first floor windows on all but the facade retain ornate entablature lintels and 20/15 doublehung sash in keeping with the Georgian style, popular when the meetinghouse was constructed.

It is not clear which of two meetinghouses in Salisbury may have provided the inspiration for the design of the Springfield Meetinghouse. The South Road Congregational Church was constructed in 1788 using much material from the old Searle's Hill Meetinghouse. It was given to the Town of Salisbury for town use in 1791. According to the Town History the building measured 60 feet by 44 feet with two tiers of windows. An entrance porch was located at each end of the house with a high tower or steeple above the porch on the west side. In each porch a flight of stairs led to a three sided gallery. A single door at each end and a double door on the south provided entry to the church.¹

A second meetinghouse in Salisbury Heights was constructed by the Baptists between 1791 and 1794. As originally constructed, it appears to have been very similar to the other Salisbury Meetinghouse, a two story structure with a three sided gallery. The main entrance was located on the east side. An entrance porch on each end supported a small steeple, that on the north side housed a bell. Both meetinghouses were extensively remodeled in the 1830's.²

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4 acre +/-

Quadrangle name Sunapee, New Hampshire

Quadrangle scale 1:625 000

UTM References

A	1 8	7 3 8 6 2 5	4 8 1 9 8 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
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D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>n/a</u>	code	county	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------

state	<u>n/a</u>	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa B. Mausolf, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Council date November 15, 1985

street & number 314 National Bank Building telephone (603) 448-1680

city or town Lebanon state New Hampshire 03766

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 *[Signature]* D.S.H.P.O.

title New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/29/86

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

[Signature] 6-5-86
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

While it is not clear which of these two meetinghouses acted as the actual source for the Springfield Meetinghouse, the similarity between the two Salisbury meetinghouses does allow for certain assumptions. It would appear that as built, the Springfield Town Hall was also a two story structure with two tiers of doublehung windows, a three sided gallery and main entrance on the broad elevation. It is not known whether the Town Hall was constructed with end towers though certainly these may have been items easily omitted from a building plan if the town lacked funds.

In 1851 it was voted at town meeting to move the meetinghouse from its site near the cemetery to a more central location at the grove near the grist mill about a half mile away. Joseph Nichols of Springfield was appointed town agent for moving and repairing the building and fitting the lower story for a town house. A civic effort, without expense to the town, prepared the site for the relocated structure with the move commencing May 15, 1851. Set on logs, the meetinghouse was moved down the hill with the aid of forty yoke of oxen. While the lower level was finished for a Town Hall, a floor was added on the upper level, which originally served the gallery, for religious services. Each body was to pay half of the expense of repairing and maintaining the outside of the house and each was to care for their respective interior. During the coming years, the costs of exterior improvements continued to be halved while interior improvements were completed at the discretion of each group. Stylistically, the Gothic Revival style steeple with corner pinnacles appears to have been added following the moving of the building, though neither Church nor Town records make any mention of the addition. The pilasters of the main building, echoed in the pilasters articulating the tower, display a rather late Greek Revival influence and were probably also added at this time to further embellish the structure on its new site.

Architectural detailing on the Springfield Town Hall is limited to corner pilasters and the two-stage Gothic Revival inspired steeple, features common to many religious structures in the area and often, as was the case in Springfield, the result of attempts to enrich earlier and simpler meetinghouses. While a direct inspiration for the Springfield steeple, if any, is not known, there are numerous similarly detailed structures in the area.

Like the Springfield structure, the First Congregational Church in East Andover, 10 miles away, is a Greek and Gothic Revival remodeling (1841) of a meetinghouse constructed in the 1790s. Similar features include the paneled corner pilasters and pilastered two-stage square tower adorned by corner pinnacles on both levels, though the East Andover building is further elaborated by a front pavilion. It is interesting to note that the Salisbury Congregational Church and Salisbury Baptist Meetinghouse, discussed previously as possible sources for the original Springfield meetinghouse design, received two-stage pinnacled steeple additions in 1835 and 1839 respectively. Unlike the Springfield Town Hall, however, both buildings feature front pavilions and are elaborated by more extensive Gothic detailing including pointed arch openings on the Congregational Church and a taller steeple and pinnacled entrances on the Baptist Meetinghouse. Comparing the Springfield steeple with that on the Good Shepherd Methodist Church in nearby Newport yields more specific and

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued):

numerous similarities. Constructed in 1851, the two-stage steeple echoes many of the Springfield building details including the paneled pilasters, low peak walls and corner pinnacles. The only differences between the two steeples are the louvered panels which fill the belfry openings in the Springfield building and the octagonal spire which caps that in Newport. However, the body of the Newport church displays a greater Gothic influence including paired lancet windows. Gothic inspired detailing continued to be used by local builders for a number of years as evidenced in the two-stage pinnacled tower added to the Grantham Methodist Church after it was moved in 1860.

The Town Hall remains a visible symbol of the local government and has played a central role in community life throughout its history. The building has been continuously used for Town Meeting since its construction. The Selectmen's office was here for many years though municipal offices are now housed in the former Springfield Memorial School. Over the years a variety of organizations have used the hall including the Beaver Grange 283 (organized in 1899) and the Protectworth Lodge No. 69 of the Knights of Pythias.

During summer months church services are still held in the upper floor. Organized in 1853, Springfield Union Meeting House Society cared for the physical needs of the church until it dissolved in 1922. A men's organization consisting of pew holders, the group found an early counterpart in the Ladies Social Benevolent Society, active from 1859 to 1867. Initially the Meetinghouse Society met on the first Monday of each year to determine the worship occupancy of the Church for the coming year. In 1894 the Methodist Society was organized and has taken charge of worship in the structure since that time.

To today's viewer, the Springfield Town Hall is a relatively unique example of the reconciliation of civic and religious meeting areas in a single structure. Built at town expense in 1795, the Springfield Meetinghouse served joint ecclesiastical and secular functions, within a single meeting area, as was customary until the legal separation of church and state. By the mid 19th century the separation of church and state across the country was responsible for the construction of individual buildings for each and in some cases the sale of existing buildings to either a religious or governmental body. In Springfield local residents found a unique, sensible and economical answer to a potential conflict by dividing respective functions by floors. The Springfield Town Hall remains today an excellent index to the tastes and skills of a rural New Hampshire town.

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FOOTNOTES

¹John J. Dearborn, History of Salisbury, New Hampshire. Manchester: William E. Moore, 1890: 137, 142-3.

²Ibid, p.175.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Terry & Edna Howard. "History of the Howard Memorial Church", unpublished, 1982. Springfield Town Office.

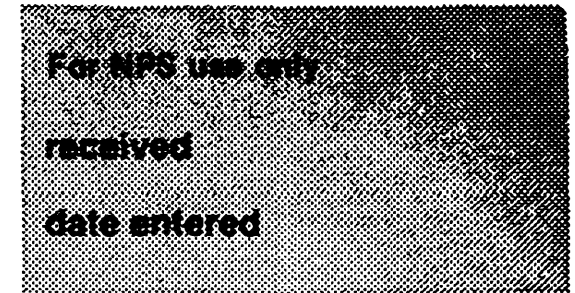
Springfield History Committee. Springfield, New Hampshire Bicentennial, 1769-1969. New London: The Country Press, 1969.

Springfield Town Records, 1790 to present, Springfield Town Office.

Dearborn, John J. History of Salisbury, New Hampshire. Manchester: William E. Moore, 1890.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is the central portion of Map 29 Lot 304-108 on the local tax assessor's map which is bounded on the east by a stone retaining wall separating the Town Hall from the neighboring library. Boundaries of the property are indicated by a dashed line and are highlighted in yellow on the attached sketch map. Boundaries as drawn, are sufficient to convey the historic context and also sufficient to protect it.

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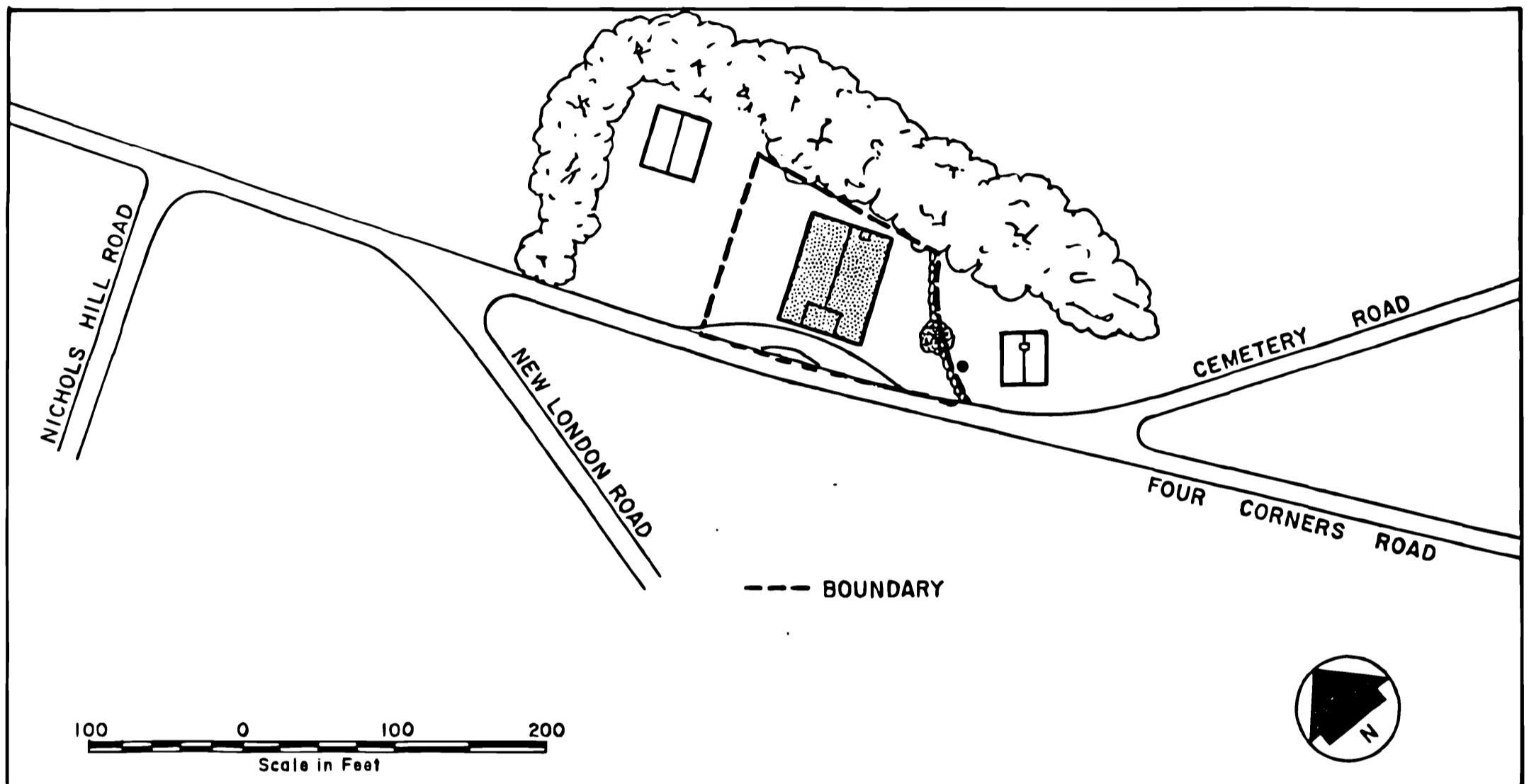
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HOWARD MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH
SPRINGFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE