

PH0673048

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 21 1978
DATE ENTERED	AUG 1 1978

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

FIRST FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH

AND/OR COMMON

FIRST FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

GILMAN'S CORNER (East side of Drew Hill Rd.)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

EAST ALTON

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

NEW HAMPSHIRE 03809

CODE
33

COUNTY
BELKNAP

CODE
001

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Heirs & Assigns of Original Pew Deed Holders & Others

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Belknap County Registry of Deeds

Town of Alton

STREET & NUMBER

Belknap County Courthouse

Alton, NH 03809

CITY, TOWN

Laconia, New Hampshire 03246

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Freewill Baptist Church is a clapboarded structure supported on a cut stone foundation. It is gable-front and has corner pilasters carrying a partial entablature terminating in abbreviated returns on gable ends.

The front (west) elevation has two four-panel doors with wide architraves and simple corner blocks. Between them is a central 8/8 sash window with molded casing exactly like the three second story windows above which light the cantilevered gallery. There are four 16/12 windows with molded casings on each side elevation. On the rear (east) face are two first story windows and a gable light.

The belfry, located forward on the ridge, dominates the church's design. It rests on a clapboarded tower with corner pilasters supporting an entablature. The belfry itself is square in plan and sided with flushboarding. Rectangular openings are louvered. Corner pilasters carry an entablature and cross gable roof crowned by a weathervane. It contains the original church bell.

This structure's overall simplicity of design is reflected in its interior fittings as well. There is a vestibule in the front of the building which includes a set of gallery stairs in each corner. The straight pews are arranged in a manner creating two side aisles. Only a molded chair rail adorns the planed plank wainscoting. A low pulpit of simple design is located against the rear (east) wall. Old gas lighting fixtures hang from the ceiling in the center of the room and from either side of the pulpit. There are also wall sconces to either side of the pulpit and a lamp on the reading surface. The graining on pew railings and pulpit railings dates from the first half of the 19th century.

In 1847 the pew doors were removed and it is believed that the present pulpit may date from this time. Few changes have been made since the mid-19th century.

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 checked="" 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 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 circa 1826

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Freewill Baptist Church is typical of early 19th century ecclesiastical architecture of New England and also serves as a fundamental visual anchor at Gilman's Corner. Additionally, it is one of the surviving structures at what was the original town center. Located in the geographical center of the town, the church's steeple was visible for many miles and was used as a navigational aid by steamships on Lake Winnepesaukee. After 1860 many parishoners left to worship at the Baptist church in Alton. Since at least 1885 the building has been maintained by non-demoninational efforts as the advent of the railroad reinforced the shift of the village center to the valley. There has been no regular minister since about the turn of the century. The church had fallen into disrepair when the East Alton Community Association organized in the late 1920's to raise funds for the structure's maintenance. The building is now in an excellent state of preservation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Records of the First Freewill Baptist Church," available through E. Alton Meeting House Society.

Barton M. Griffin, The History of Alton, (Somersworth, NH: New Hampshire Publishing Co., 1960).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/3 acre approximately

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	322200	4820600	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

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

J.E.E. Peverley, Secretary

ORGANIZATION

East Alton Meeting House Society

DATE

June, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 50, RFD 1

TELEPHONE

(603) 875-7232

CITY OR TOWN

Alton

STATE

New Hampshire 03809

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

TITLE Commissioner, NH Department of Resources & Economic Dev DATE DEC 16 1977
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

8.1.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

7-31-78