

PH0673145

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	JUN 27 1978
DATE ENTERED	AUG 2 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 SANDOWN OLD MEETING HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HOUSE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Fremont Road

CITY, TOWN Sandown VICINITY OF _____ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT first

STATE New Hampshire CODE 33 COUNTY Rockingham CODE 015

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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
Town of Sandown, New Hampshire

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Sandown VICINITY OF _____ STATE New Hampshire

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rockingham County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Exeter STATE New Hampshire

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic American Buildings Survey, Survey No. NH-17

DATE 1935 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service, US Department of the Interior

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE District of Columbia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The meeting house stands atop a hill in the geographical center of the town and is located across the road from the town pound, not an uncommon combination. The two-story structure rests on an uncoursed stone foundation and is sheathed in feathered clapboards secured by wrought nails. Its gable roof is embellished at the eaves by a modillioned cornice terminating in returns on gable ends. Each elevation is five bays across and three include doors. The 16/12 sash windows have molded casings and, except for those on the second story of front and rear faces, cap-molded heads.

The front (south) elevation faces down the hill toward the village of Sandown. Its paired ten-panel doors are in a molded architrave and flanked by fluted pilasters supporting a beautifully molded triangular pediment with modillions. The date "1773" is painted in the center of the pediment. The west elevation, facing the road, has a slightly off-center entry whose double-leaf eight-panel doors are crowned by a five-pane rectangular transom light. Its fluted pilasters and triangular pediment are like those on the front, except that here the pediment is inscribed with the date, "1774." The third doorway is on the east elevation. Like that on the street facade, it is an off-center, eight-panel, double-leaf door with rectangular transom light above. The triangular pediment carried on fluted pilasters lacks modillions, however. In the center of the rear face is a round-headed window between stories, which lights the pulpit within. Its molded casing includes a richly molded head.

Inside the meeting house has equally noteworthy features. The high goblet pulpit dominates the interior. It is reached by a steep open-string stair with graceful turned balusters and has a panelled sounding board suspended above it. The pulpit, box pews, Deacons' pew, and gallery parapet are all beautifully panelled. Woodwork is primarily of a natural finish, although the gallery wainscoting and pulpit are grained in imitation of red cedar and columns and plasters are marbled.

Some slight changes have occurred over the years. Apparently the gallery originally contained all family pews and in 1798 it was voted that a pew in the front be given over for use by the singers. In 1860, however, this was removed to make way for the organ and choir loft. Stoves were installed in 1835. The turned spindles which once ornamented the gallery balustrade have all disappeared.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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 1773-1774

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Congregational Meeting House in Sandown is believed to be the only meeting house in New Hampshire which is preserved as it was originally designed. It exemplifies the late 18th century meeting house, while, at the same time, it is more finely detailed than is usually found. Its graceful pulpit and sounding board and the elaborate detailing of the cornice and door surrounds are outstanding. The structure's uncompromised state of preservation makes it an invaluable resource in the study of 18th century building technology and design. Although the Congregational Society dissolved in 1834, town meetings were held in the building until 1929 when the Old Meeting House Historical Association was formed for its preservation.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Alice Winchester, "The Meeting House at Sandown," Antiques, vol. 48, no. 6, December, 1945.
- Park Pressey, "When Grandma Went to Meeting as a Little Girl," Old-Time New England, Vol. 35, no. 4, April, 1945.
- Eva Augusta Speare, Colonial Meeting Houses of New Hampshire, (Littleton, NH: Courier Printing Co, 1938).
- Edmund W. Sinnott, Meetinghouse and Church in Early New England (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1965)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one quarter acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Haverhill, NH-MA

QUADRANGLE SCALE: 15'

UTM REFERENCES

A 119 | 321600 | 475500

B | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Malcolm E. Cameron, Sr., Past President

ORGANIZATION

Old Meeting House Historical Association

DATE

September 27, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Fremont Road

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Sandown

STATE

New Hampshire 03873

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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 Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE DEC 20 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8.9.78

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE July 15, 1978