

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

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

received **SEP 27 1979**

date entered **11 30 1979**

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

1. Name

historic NORTHWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

and/or common NORTHWOOD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2. Location

street & number US Route 4 ___ not for publication

city, town Northwood ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state New Hampshire code 33 county Rockingham code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:very infrequent use

4. Owner of Property

name Northwood Congregational Society; c/o Perry Richardson

street & number RFD

city, town Northwood ___ vicinity of state New Hampshire 03261

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Registry of Deeds
Rockingham County Courthouse

street & number Hampton Road

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire 03833

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Present appearance: The Northwood Congregational Church is a rectangular clapboarded wooden structure in the Greek Revival style. The entire width of the front is treated as a tetra-style Greek Doric portico, with wooden columns supporting a full entablature (which extends along the two sides of the building) and a pediment with a flush-boarded tympanum. Behind each column, on the flush-boarded facade, is an anta or pilaster of a simplified Doric form. A similar pilaster terminates each rear corner of the building. The facade is pierced by two two-panel doors which enter a vestibule. Between the doors is a two-part window that lights the vestibule, while above each door is a small window that lights an interior gallery which extends across the front of the auditorium. The entablature is a simple Greek Revival type with a plain architrave and frieze separated by a fillet having round dowel guttae spaced every few inches along its bottom. The raking moulding of the pediment is of the characteristic Greek Revival "echinus" profile, and the same moulding continues along the sides of the building as a crown moulding (now somewhat obscured by a metal gutter).

Each side of the church has three windows that light the auditorium; each window is divided by a vertical mullion at its center and by a transom that separates the top sixth of the opening from the remaining part. The windows are now glazed with rolled stained glass of a purple tint (installed in 1901-1902), except in a few places where breakage has necessitated replacement with more modern embossed white-frosted glass.

A three-part tower rises from the roof of the church over the portico. The tower has two undecorated box-like stages, and a belfry stage in which paired Doric pilasters embrace rectangular louvered openings. Above the pilasters of the belfry stage is a full three-part entablature capped with a cornice of the profile used on the body of the church. This tower contains a bell by the William Blake Foundry of Boston, Massachusetts; the bell was presented to the church as a memorial in 1879, but was not cast until 1888.

The major elements of the frame church are of hewn white pine. The roof trusses are of the king-post type, with principal rafters that support purlins and common rafters. Diagonal struts extend from shoulders at the bottom of each king post to the midpoint of each principal rafter, and the roof frame is further reinforced by wind braces that extend from rafters to purlins and by a system of horizontal braces between the bottom chords of the trusses.

The interior of the church consists of a single large auditorium with a gallery across the front (north end), reached by winding stairs at each side of the vestibule. Opposite the gallery, at the south end of the room, is a low platform with a fixed balustrade enclosing a choir area on its eastern end. The platform is supplied with moveable lectern and chairs in place of a pulpit.

The walls of the auditorium are of painted plaster, while the ceiling is vaulted and is covered with pressed steel panels installed in 1901-02. This steel ceiling is divided into several decorative bands and areas which are impressed with a variety of interlaced floral, arabesque and fleur-de-lis designs. The ceiling retains its original coloring of white, blue, brown, red, green and gold. A wooden crown moulding (cyma recta above ovolo)

See Continuation Sheet #1

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED SEP 27 1979

DATE ENTERED

30 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

extends around the auditorium at the springline of the vaulted ceiling. Window casings in the auditorium differ from those in the gallery. The two doors leading from the vestibule into the auditorium each have two panels and retain their original mortise latches. Secondary doors in the building have original Norfolk thumb latches.

The floor of the auditorium is fitted with slip seats or pews, each with panelled ends and curved arms. The pews in the gallery are of simpler style.

The rear (south) part of the cellar of the church was divided into two vestry rooms at the turn of the century. These rooms have been used by the local women's club.

Original appearance: The exterior of the church has been altered slightly. In 1901-1902 the original clear window glazing was replaced by purple-tinted rolled glass. Original gutters on each side of the building have been replaced by suspended metal gutters. Wooden rainwater leaders have been replaced by metal pipes, although the wooden originals are stored in the church basement. An original wooden parapet which surmounted the cornice of the belfry was removed in the 1960's. This parapet, now stored in the basement, was decorated with acroteria at each corner and with a variety of anthemion ornaments and scrolls. The openings in the belfry, originally open, have been fitted with louvers.

The major change to the interior was the covering of the original coved plaster ceiling with pressed tin in 1901-1902; the original ceiling remains in place above the metal covering. At the same period, pews on the main floor of the auditorium were lightly grained and the balustrade around the choir area was grained in a good imitation of quartered oak.

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/ 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 1840

Builder/Architect Probably Jonathan Tasker family of Northwood

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architectural: The Northwood Congregational Church is one of the best-designed and least altered Greek Revival Churches in New Hampshire. Changes to the building have been few and are clearly discernible; with the exception of the removal of the tower parapets, they do not detract from the character of the structure. One similar, though simpler building, probably designed by the same architect or builder, stands at Lower Gilmanton, where it was built in 1842, two years after the Northwood Church. The Gilmanton church lacks the strong Grecian character of the Northwood building, and the latter stands as one of the finest examples of the Greek Revival in eastern New Hampshire or adjacent Maine.

An outstanding figure in the history of the town, Elliot C. Cogswell, became minister in 1842 and remained until 1848. He served several churches in the area, returning to Northwood in 1865 to become minister again until 1876. It was during this period that he was a driving force in establishing Northwood Academy (presently Coe Brown Northwood Academy) on property adjacent to the Church, becoming the first principal and later a member of the Board of Trustees. Cogswell was also the author of The History of Nottingham, Deerfield and Northwood, The History of New Boston, Memoirs of Rev. Samuel Hidden, and miscellaneous sermons. Regular church services were suspended after World War II, however Coe Brown Northwood Academy continues to hold its annual baccalaureate service in the building.

For many years the Harvey Lake Women's Club has used the vestry of the building for its meeting rooms and has contributed to its maintenance. With diminishing membership, a group of citizens, as an informal auxiliary of the Congregational Society, has assumed responsibility for the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cogswell, Elliot C. History of Nottingham, Deerfield and Northwood, Manchester, NH, John B. Clark, 1878 (reprint: NH Publishing Co., Somersworth, NH: 1972)
 Bailey, Joann W. A Guide to the History and Old Dwelling Places of Northwood, NH, Concord, NH, Town of Northwood, 1973.
 Tolles, Bryant F., Jr. NH Architecture: A Guide to Building in the Granite State, Hanover, NH Univ. Press of NE, 1978.

10. Geographical Data

DATA NOT VERIFIED
 DATA NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Mt. Pawtuckaway, NH

Quadrangle scale 15 min.

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

East by Harvey Lake Cemetery; South and west by Coe Brown Northwood Academy; North by US Route 4.

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 Jean G. Johnson & Joann W. Bailey, Northwood, NH

organization Northwood Congregational Society date February 17, 1978

street & number c/o Perry Richardson telephone (603) 942-5455

city or town Northwood state New Hampshire 03261

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Commissioner, Dept. Resources & Economic Development date 7-6-79
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only

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

 date 11-30-79
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 11/29/79
 Chief of Registration