

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

For HCRS use only

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

received 
date entered

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

1. Name

historic FREESE'S TAVERN
and/or common THE OLD COUNTRY STORE

2. Location

street & number Main Street, corner of Routes 25 & 109 not for publication
city, town Moultonborough vicinity of _____ congressional district first
state New Hampshire code 33 county Carroll code 003

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 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 Stephen A. and Cecile C. Holden
street & number Main Street, corner of Routes 25 & 109
city, town Moultonborough vicinity of _____ state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Registry of Deeds
Carroll County Courthouse
street & number PO Box #208, Route #171
city, town Ossipee state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date _____ federal state county local
depository for survey records _____
city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Freese's Tavern is a two-and-a-half story structure with a braced frame of hewn timber, a gable roof, and clapboarded walls. The main building has irregular fenestration on the main floor, where both the north and east (front) elevations are sheltered by one-story shed-roofed porches. On the second floor, both the east and north elevations have three windows with 9/6 sashes. The south elevation has no window or door openings below the attic, but is intersected by a shed-roofed stable wing. Each gable of the main building has two attic windows with 6/6 sashes. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles; its raking cornices have tapered trim boards, while the main cornice on the facade has both crown and bed moulding. The structure has two brick chimneys, one with a single flue rising through the front (east) slope of the roof near the ridge and the second, larger stack at the rear of the building near the north corner.

Attached to the south elevation of the main structure is a shed-roofed wing. Having three large doors (now glazed as store windows) on the first floor and three windows with 6/6 sashes on the floor above, this wing was originally a stable. It is believed to have been built to shelter horses used on the stage coaches which passed through Moultonborough until after 1900. It now serves as an extension of the store which is housed in the main building.

Attached to the north corner of the main building is a small but carefully detailed one-and-a-half story structure added as an office about 1870. This building has a door at its south-east corner, sheltered by the porch at the side of the main building. It has three windows with 2/2 sash on its east elevation and, like the main structure, is clapboarded. The roof, with a moulded cornice, is pierced by a single-flue chimney which rises through the ridge.

The main building is intersected by two other wings which were added during the 1950s. One, a long two-and-a-half story gable-roofed structure, is attached to the northwest corner of the main store and extends northwesterly. The second, attached to the rear of the old stable wing, is a wide, gable-roofed addition which also extends to the northwest.

Original appearance: The main building has not changed in size or proportions, and still reveals its origin as a late eighteenth century framed structure. Early town records describe the building as a dwelling house and tavern, and in addition reveal that it contained both a bar room and a meeting hall. It therefore appears that the structure, like many eighteenth-century New Hampshire taverns, contained a combination of semi-public rooms and chambers of the types common to domestic structures.

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates c. 1780 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

To a degree unusual even in a small New England town, Freese's Tavern has served as a social and political center of Moultonborough, New Hampshire, from the late eighteenth century to the present day. At first a dwelling house and tavern, the building eventually came to be used as a town meeting hall, post office, library and general store. It continues to serve the latter function. The building is a good example of an eighteenth-century building which has evolved to serve the changing social and economic needs of its community.

Architecture: Freeses's Tavern is a well-maintained though altered eighteenth-century structure which reveals in its additions and remodellings the several functions it has served at various periods. The main building retains its original heavy hewn frame and hence its basic form as an eighteenth-century dwelling. The interior, originally fitted for use as a house and tavern, now serves as a store; its second story retains some early detailing. The shed on the south, now an extension of the store area, clearly reveals its origin as a stable and carriage shed. The small semi-independent office at the northwest corner of the main building suggests the freestanding private offices frequently built by nineteenth-century business and professional men in New Hampshire country towns.

Political/Government-Sociál/Humanitarian: Freeses's Tavern became a social center in Moultonborough at least as early as 1793 when its owner, George Freese, was issued a taverner's and liquor retailer's license by the town selectmen. In 1805, the tavern's meeting room was the site of the formal constituting of Morning Star Masonic Lodge by the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire; after the ceremony the inn provided "a rich repast . . . in a style magnificent and splendid" for the Freemasons.¹ Freese was active in town affairs both before and after this date, and in 1816 the town voted to hold its annual meeting at Freese's inn rather than at the meeting house. This arrangement became commonplace during the 1830s, when the tavern was owned by David Bean (1778-1839). Bean, a licensed taverner since 1809, was even more active in public affairs than Freese and the tavern consequently became more of a focus for town business. In 1831 and almost every year thereafter until Bean's death, town meetings were held at the inn.² Bean's bar room served as a public meeting place, and legal notices were often posted there as well as at the town meeting house. The tavern also provided a convenient site for auctions, and began to assume its present-day role as a store. David Bean became Moultonborough's postmaster in 1837, and the building assumed the further role of post office--a function to which it would return in 1861.³

In 1851 James French (1811-1886), formerly a country merchant in the neighboring town of Tuftonborough, purchased the building and continued his mercantile business there on an enlarged scale until his retirement in 1869.⁴ In 1861, French was appointed postmaster of Moultonborough. The post office was first located to the left of the building's main entrance, but in the twentieth century was moved to the attached office at the north corner of the main building, where it remained until 1967.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet #2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3/4 of an acre

Quadrangle name Mt. Chocurua, N.H.

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

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

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification: Tax Map #71, parcel #36. Building is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of N.H. Rtes. 109 N and 25 east/west, on a lot 88' e. x 295' n. x 144' w. x 262' s.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen A. Holden, owner

organization N/A date March 22, 1981

street & number Main Street telephone (603) 476-5515

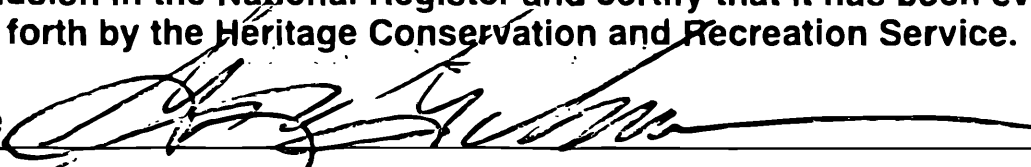
city or town Moultonborough state New Hampshire

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 

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources and Economic Development
title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date February 23, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

 date 4/29/82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 4/30/82
Chief of Registration

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

French's son, James E. French (1845-1919), carried on his father's business, adding the private office at the north corner of the main building. James E. French made the store a focus of political activity, serving as a railroad commissioner for New Hampshire, a member of the state house of representatives and senate, and as collector of internal revenue for the District of New Hampshire.⁵ The store continued in the ownership of the younger French until after 1900, though he retired from its management in 1884 and rented the building to other storekeepers. Mail and stage coaches continued to stop at the building until after the turn of the century.⁶

By the late 1890s the town library was located in a rented room on the second floor of the store; it remained there, with James E. French serving as library treasurer, until the period of World War I.⁷

¹Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New-Hampshire, from July 8, 1789 (1789 A.D.), to June 8, 1841 (1841 A.D.), inclusive. (Concord, N.H.: Printed by McFarland & Jenks, 1860), pp. 112-113.

²Moultonborough Town Records, Volume II, pp. 481, 487-190, 507-511, 532, 549-551, 581, 583-584, 587-588, 591, 649-650, 652-654, 665, 669.

³John Farmer, The New-Hampshire Annual Register and United States Calendar, No. XVI (Concord, N.H.: Marsh, Capen and Lyon, 1837), p. 69. Ibid., No. XVII (1838), P. 72. Ibid., No. XVIII (1839), p. 79.

⁴Georgia Drew Merrill, ed., History of Carroll County, N.H. (Boston: W.A. Fergusson & Co., 1889), pp. 413-414; Ezra S. Stearns, ed., Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire (4 vols.) (New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1908), Vol. IV, p. 1804.

⁵Georgia Drew Merrill, ed., History of Carroll County, N.H. (Boston: W.A. Fergusson & Co., 1889), pp. 415-416. George H. Moses, ed., New Hampshire Men (Concord, N.H.: The New Hampshire Publishing Company, 1893), p. 98.

⁶Helen Sturtevant Matthews, comp., Moultonborough to the 20th Century (Moultonborough, N.H.: Moultonborough Historical Society, ca. 1963), pp. 37-42.

⁷Annual Reports of the Town Officers of the Town of Moultonborough for the Financial Year, Ending Feb. 15, 1898 (Meredith, N.H.: for the Town of Moultonborough, 1898), pp. 29-30. Ibid., 1899-1918.

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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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Annual Reports of the Town Officers of the Town of Moultonborough for the years 1898 to 1918. Meredith, N.H.: for the Town of Moultonborough 1898-1918.

Farmer, John. The New-Hampshire Annual Register and United States Calendar, No. XVI-XVIII (1837-1839). Concord, N.H.: Marsh, Capen and Lyon, 1837-1839.

Matthews, Helen Sturtevant, comp. Moultonborough to the 20th Century. Moultonborough, N.H.: Moultonborough Historical Society, ca. 1963.

Merrill, Georgia Drew, ed. History of Carroll County, New Hampshire. Boston: W.A. Fergusson & Company, 1889.

Moses, George H., ed. New Hampshire Men. Concord, N.H.: The New Hampshire Publishing Company, 1893.

Moultonborough Town Records, 2 volumns. Volumn I: 1777-1869; Volume II: 1795- 1845. Microfilm copy at the New Hampshire State Library, Concord, N.H.

Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of New-Hampshire, from July 8, 5789 (1789 A.D.) to June 8, 5841 (1841 A.D.), inclusive. Concord, N.H.: Printed by McFarland & Jenks, 1860.

Stearns, Ezra S., ed. Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire (4 vols.) New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1908.