

**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 **APR 19 1982**

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

**1. Name**

historic

THE HAWKE MEETING HOUSE

and/or common

DANVILLE MEETING HOUSE (preferred)

**2. Location**

street &amp; number

State Highway Route 111A (North Main Street)

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town

Danville

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district

First

state

N.H.

code

33

county

Rockingham

code

015

**3. Classification****Category**

\_\_\_ district

 building(s)

\_\_\_ structure

\_\_\_ site

\_\_\_ object

**Ownership** public

\_\_\_ private

\_\_\_ both

**Public Acquisition**

\_\_\_ in process

\_\_\_ being considered

**Status** occupied

\_\_\_ unoccupied

\_\_\_ work in progress

**Accessible** yes: restricted

\_\_\_ yes: unrestricted

\_\_\_ no

**Present Use**

\_\_\_ agriculture

\_\_\_ commercial

 educational

\_\_\_ entertainment

\_\_\_ government

\_\_\_ industrial

\_\_\_ military

\_\_\_ museum

\_\_\_ park

\_\_\_ private residence

 religious

\_\_\_ scientific

\_\_\_ transportation

 other: special events**4. Owner of Property**

name

Town of Danville

street &amp; number

c/o Town Offices

city, town

Danville

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state

N.H. 03819

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Rockingham County Courthouse

Rockingham County Registry of Deeds

street &amp; number

Hampton Road

city, town

Exeter

state

N.H. 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

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Danville meeting house is a two-and-a-half story framed structure with an asphalt-shingled gable roof and a foundation of mortared fieldstone. The walls are covered with riven clapboards which are slightly graduated in their exposure to the weather from the water table to the eaves and are applied with lapped butts. The building measures 37 by 49 feet, and has entrances in the centers of the east, south, and west elevations. The south elevation is treated as the facade, and has a doorway with a flat entablature supported on two pilasters. The entrance has a pair of three-panelled doors fastened with an early lock. On each side of the doorway are two first-floor windows with narrow casings, simple flat caps, and 12/12 sashes. At the second story level, the gallery windows have similar casings, heavy moulded caps, and 12/8 sashes. The cornice of the building is a simple crown moulding without end returns.

The western elevation of the structure, facing the adjacent road, has a doorway with a moulded architrave, a thin horizontal entablature, and a pair of three-panel doors. Flanking the doorway are two windows identical to those on the front (south) elevation. At the gallery level are three windows with flat caps and 12/12 sashes, while a single window with 9/6 sashes lights the attic. The raking eaves of the roof are treated with simple, tapered, two-piece boards.

The eastern elevation of the building is similar to the opposite end, except that all windows (which have 12/12 sashes) have thin casings without any caps, there is no gable window, and the two-leaved doorway lacks an entablature, having only a flat casing surmounted by a backband moulding.

The north (rear) elevation of the building has four first-floor windows with 12/12 sashes and a tall central pulpit window which is halfway between the first floor and gallery levels and has 16/16 sashes.

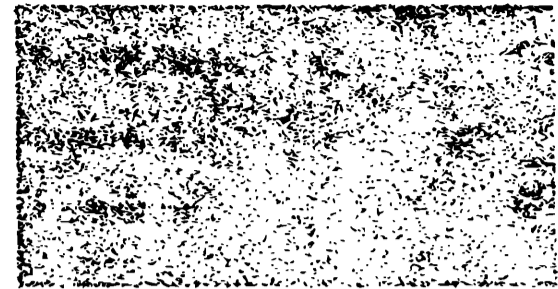
The building has a heavy braced frame which projects beyond the plastered walls of the interior. Its roof frame is the lightest of those in the several related meeting houses in the region, consisting only of six pairs of rafters reinforced by two relatively light diagonal struts extending from each rafter to the rafter tie below. The rafters are spanned by purlins, and the roof boards are laid from ridge to eaves.

On the north wall of the interior, opposite the main doorway and facing a broad aisle between ranges of pews, is the pulpit. The reading desk is elevated well above the floor pews and projects forward above an ogee-moulded base. The front and the two splayed sides of the desk have single raised panels of tablet-shaped outlines, with semicircular arched tops. On each side of the desk are wide rectangular raised panels with down-curved tops, flanked by thin pilasters with fluting and cabling. All pulpit panels are painted with mahogany or rosewood graining, while the stiles and rails are painted off-white. Surmounting all panels and supported by the pilasters is a moulded cornice.

The pulpit is reached by a stairway on the left (west) side, with seven gray-painted risers and treads and with a ramped balustrade on each side. The well-turned balusters, of a doubled vase profile, are painted off-white and support a heavy moulded handrail. The newel posts are square and fluted; other posts are unfluted. Behind the pulpit is a rectangular

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Continuation sheet #1 - DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

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deacon's pew entered through a door on the left, adjacent to the pulpit stairs. Above the three front wall panels of the pew is a semi-elliptical hinged table supported by a curved and hinged wooden brace. The faces of the pew panels and door are painted off-white.

The floor pews of the meeting house have rectangular raised panels and doors. Most of these are unpainted and their tops are ornamented with miniature balustrades bearing tiny vasiform balusters.

The galleries, supported by heavy, turned wooden columns, have panelled fronts which have been painted off-white and contain a number of slip pews and benches in original condition. Facing the pulpit are a group of benches used as a choir loft.

Original appearance: The Danville meeting house remains close to its original appearance. Stylistic evidence suggests that various changes occurred to the doorways during the Federal period. At about the same time, most windows appear to have been enlarged by the height of one pane of glass; only the gallery windows on the front, being limited in height by the plate of the frame, remained the original size and retained their earlier caps. Most of the present window sashes bear the relatively thin muntins of about 1800 or later.

After 1832, when a Free-Will Baptist meeting house was constructed in Danville (then still named Hawke), the old meeting house was used less frequently for religious meetings, though regular town meetings continued to be held there until 1887. In the 1860s, most of the pews on the main floor were removed and stored in the galleries so that dances could be held in the building. In 1911 the Old Meeting House Association was formed to ensure the preservation of the structure. In 1936 a gift of funds by a local citizen, Lester Colby, permitted the replacement of the pews on the main floor; the restoration was done by Arthur Tuck of Danville and a Mr. Greenwood of the neighboring town of Kensington. Subsequent maintenance has included termite control in 1968, sill replacement in 1973, and exterior painting in 1981.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" 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** 1759 - 1761 **Builder/Architect** Built by unnamed parish group.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Danville meeting house is one of the oldest such structures in New England to survive relatively unchanged. It is the oldest of a small group of related meeting houses remaining in Rockingham County, New Hampshire, and adjacent Essex County, Massachusetts. Together, the buildings in this group are the largest assemblage of early meeting houses in New England, preserving within a radius of ten miles a rare picture of the typical public building of the eighteenth-century New England town. The Danville structure, as the earliest of the group, is crucial to an understanding of the entire collection.

**Architecture:** The Danville meeting house was built in 1759–1760 in the western parish of the township of Kingston, New Hampshire. This parish was formally set off and incorporated as the township of Hawke in 1760, and this structure thereafter became the chief public building of the town, used both for public meetings and religious services. Because the township of Hawke (renamed Danville in 1836) never attained a large population (the maximum until recent times being 666 inhabitants in 1890), and because the growing success of the Free-Will Baptist religion drew parishioners to a private meeting house some two miles distant, the old meeting house was left relatively unchanged over the years. As early as 1817, gazetteer writers Eliphalet and Phinehas Merrill were impressed with the antique aspect of the "ancient meeting-house." After the Old Meeting House Association was formed in 1911, the preservation of the building in its unspoiled form was ensured. Today the building stands as the earliest member of an important group of related structures of the early steepleless type.

Although the Danville building appears unusual in a modern context, and although the only related examples of its type are now found in country towns, the Danville meeting house was actually a rural copy of a building type which had first appeared in such larger coastal communities as Portsmouth, New Hampshire's eighteenth-century metropolis. The Portsmouth meeting house of 1712 was also built as a simple gable roofed structure without steeple, although it had two galleries and was thus three stories in height. Another steepleless three-story meeting house was built in 1732 in Kingston, the parent town from which Danville was eventually set off. The Danville structure was therefore a smaller replica of a long-established type. Its early features, especially the pulpit, today provide the only available hint of the interior detailing of the long-destroyed prototypes which existed in all surrounding New Hampshire and Massachusetts towns.

In the same fashion, the Danville meeting house, as the earliest survivor of a nearby group of similar buildings, provides a prototype for these structures. Among these are the meeting houses in Sandown, N.H. (1773), the Rocky Hill parish of Amesbury, Massachusetts (1785), and Fremont, New Hampshire (1800). The building thus stands as an important bridge between the lost examples of earlier New Hampshire and Massachusetts towns and the later survivors of this now-rare type.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

HAWKE TOWN ACCOUNTS & HAWKE TOWN RECORDS-(Available @ NH Historical Society, Concord, NH)  
 KINGSTON TOWN ACCOUNT & RECORD BOOKS -( " " " " " " )  
 CHARTER RECORDS; N.H. PROVINCIAL RECORDS; N.H. PROVINCIAL ACTS & PETITIONS-NH Legislative Accts.  
 N.H. PROVINCE DEEDS-(Available @ Registry of Deeds/Rockingham County, Exeter, NH - Volume 0062)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4 of an acre  
 Quadrangle name Haverhill, NH - MA Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A	1 9	3 2 7 1 1 0	4 7 5 5 8 0 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification :** the nominated property, encompassing 1/4 acre of land runs for 240' on east side of State Hgwy. Rt. 111A. It's northerly boundary of 100' follows property lines of Stafford residence while it's 44' south boundary borders Right-of-Way to cemetery immediately to the rear of the Meetinghouse on the east side of bldg. Map #2, lot #73.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state	N/A	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Ruth J. Rich  
 organization N/A date July 20, 1981  
 street & number Pleasant Street, PO Box #8 telephone 603-382-4471  
 city or town Danville state N.H. 03819

## 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 [Signature]  
 Commissioner, NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development  
 title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date February 24, 1982

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

William H. Broadway date 4.19.82  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

Winsted Green National Register Historic District  
 Winsted, Litchfield Co., CT  
 Sketch Map

- Pivotal Structures and Spaces**
- ① Winsted Green, c.1800
  - ② Gideon Hall Jr. House, c.1840
  - ③ Gilbert School, 1894-95
  - ④ Unusual mid 1940s house
  - ⑤ First Congregational Church, 1900-03
  - ⑥ George W Phelps House, Stick Style
  - ⑦ 19th century commercial buildings
  - ⑧ Strong Manufacturing Co. Building, 1873

--- Boundary of Historic District  
 [ ] Intrusion

- Architectural Periods**
- ▬ 1800-45
  - ▬ 1846-70
  - ▬ 1871-1899
  - ▬ 1900-1930
  - ▬ 1931-1976

- Building Uses in 1976**
- R Residential
  - C Commercial
  - I Industrial
  - E Ecclesiastical or Educational

The district contains 28 principle buildings.

