

**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 MA 1 19

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

1. Name

historic THE MEETING HOUSE

and/or common MEETING HOUSE

2. Location

street & number Monument Square _____ not for publication

city, town Hollis _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Second

state New Hampshire code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

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 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 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 William E. Wehrle

street & number Monument Square

city, town Hollis _____ vicinity of _____ state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds

street & number 19 Temple Street

city, town Nashua _____ state New Hampshire

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 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 Meeting House in Hollis, New Hampshire.

The house has changed very little since its construction, despite its early date. At the present, the house is L-shaped, one side facing the Square to the west and another oriented to the south on a lane. It is apparent, from observations to be described throughout this section, that the house originally consisted of the portion facing the lane, while the ell facing the Square was added very shortly thereafter. Small additions, also quite old, were made to the east of the house.

The original portion of the house was evidently in the saltbox style with many of the features of this type. This portion is two and a half stories high and is one room deep, plus the one room depth in the rear portion. The plan is plainly symmetrical with a center entry and balanced facade. This portion is braced-frame with eight vertical posts forming the main structure. Typically, a saltbox had a center chimney, but this house has chimneys distributed symmetrically in the center of the rear wall of each of the front rooms. This may indicate a transition to the later center-hall colonial. The rear roof line slopes uniformly down to the one story height.

Other features identified with the saltbox and found in this house are the clapboard siding, the symmetrical windows placement and flush board mouldings around the doors and windows. The six-over-six windows are apparently original. The hood over the front door (and perhaps the mouldings around the door) is in the early Victorian mode and was probably added around 1860.

The east wing of the ell is of interest because it was apparently added not long after the original saltbox was built. This was probably due to the prolific expansion of Rev. Emerson's family to include 13 children, necessitating this major addition. The age of this addition helps to explain its consistency in style with the saltbox portion. Although the new facade is somewhat assymmetrical, all openings are identical in size and location, and mouldings, including eaves, are identical to the saltbox portion. There is little doubt that the increased importance of the Square encouraged the Reverend to reorient the house in this direction.

Evidence of the addition of the west wing is found in several places in the house. The most apparent is in the attic, where the different types of roof framing can be seen. The oldest portion has hewn beams and vertically laid boards, while the newer portion has sawn beams and horizontal boards. The cellar is similar, with hewn beams in the saltbox portion, while a completely separate cellar in the east wing has sawn beams. The porch on the Square facade is later and of indeterminable origin, as is the dormer on the rear slope of the saltbox.

Further evidence of the expansion of the house is found in the interior mouldings, which are largely original. The rooms facing on the south side have consistent door and window mouldings - a plain, banded surround - while some doors on the newer portion have a bullseye motif at the corners. The doors themselves may have been rearranged somewhat, but two distinct, though early, types are found. Both are thin, raised panel styles, four panels to a door, but some panels are beveled rather than squared. Other original interior features have been retained, including the fireplace surrounds and wide pine (16") floorboards.

The stair is located in the center of the saltbox and goes to the second floor in a straight run. It is difficult to say if this was the original location of the stair, but it certainly has a newell post and balustrade dating from about 1860, like the entrance hood. An additional feature of the interior is the cooking fireplace on the rear of the west chimney. It has a large opening and built in oven.

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 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 c 1746 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architectural: The Meeting House is of regional significance because it is exemplary of the saltbox style in this area. It is also unusual as an example of a very early modification of such a building in order to accommodate its importance as part of a group of structures in an urban setting. The addition of the west wing was in response to the increased importance of Monument Square at that time. The addition re-oriented the house to the focal point of the Town of Hollis. Very few other saltboxes of this age (1746) exist in this region. One other known example, "The Haunt", was moved from Hollis to Nashua, thereby losing a great deal of its virtue.

Architecturally, the Meeting House has changed very little since its construction, despite its early date. At present the house is L shaped, one side facing the Square to the west and another oriented to the south on a lane. It is apparent, from observations to be described throughout this section, that the house originally consisted of the portion facing the lane, while the ell facing the Square was added very shortly thereafter. Small additions, also quite old, were made to the east of the house.

The original saltbox portion of the house is two and a half stories high and is one room deep, plus the one room depth in the rear portion. The plan is plainly symmetrical with a centry and balanced facade. This portion is braced framed with eight vertical posts forming the main structure. Typically a saltbox had a center chimney, but this house has chimneys distributed symmetrically in the center of the rear wall of each of the front rooms. This may indicate a transition to the later center hall colonial. The rear roof line slopes uniformly down to the one story height.

Other significant architectural features identified with the saltbox and found in The Meeting House are the clapboard siding, the symmetrical windows placement and flush board mouldings around the doors and windows. The unique six over six windows are apparently original with some interesting glass panes one of which has the engraved initials of the glassmaker in script form. The hood over the front door (and perhaps the mouldings) is in the early victorian mode and was probably added around 1860.

The east wing of the ell is of architectural interest because it was apparently added not long after the original saltbox was built. This was probably due to the prolific expansion of Rev. Emerson's family to include 13 children, necessitating the major addition. The age of this addition helps explain its consistency in style with the saltbox portion. Although the new facade is somewhat assymmetrical, all openings are identical in size and location, and mouldings, including eaves, are identical to the saltbox portion. There is little doubt that the increased importance of the Square encouraged the Reverend to reorient the house in this direction.

Evidence of the addition of the west wing is found in several places in the house. The most important is in the attic, where the different types of roof framing can be seen. The oldest portion has hewn beams and vertically laid board, while the newer portion has sawn beams and horizontal boards. The cellar is similar, with hewn beams in the saltbox portion, while a completely separate cellar in the east wing has sawn beams. The porch on the Square facade is later and of indeterminable origin, as is the small dormer on the rear slope of the saltbox.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Hollis, N.H., 1730 to 1879 S.T. Worcester author.
Chapter III Pages 49 thru 56
Chapter XXII Page 235

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property $\frac{1}{2}$
Quadrangle name Pepperell, MA-NH

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map #7, Parcel #5

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title William E. Wehrle

organization N/A date September 25, 1980

street & number Monument Square telephone (603) 465-2355

city or town Hollis 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 & Economic Development
title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date November 6, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Brauham date 3.11.82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The interior mouldings are largely original. The rooms facing the south side have consistent door and window mouldings - a plain, banded surround - while some doors on the newer portion have a bullseye motif at the corners. The doors themselves may have been rearranged somewhat, but two distinct, though early, types are found. Both are thin raised panel styles, four panels to a door, but some panels are beveled rather than squared. Other interesting architectural features have been retained, such as the fireplace surrounds and wide pine (16") floor-boards.

The stair is located in the center of the saltbox and goes to the second floor in a straight run. It is difficult to say if this was the original location of the stair, but it certainly has a newell post and balustrade dating from about 1860, like the entrance hood. An additional feature of the interior is the cooking fireplace on the rear of the west chimney. It has a large opening and built in oven.

Almost all door and window locations have been retained as originally built, however for many years the structure housed a gift shop, for which bow display windows were added.