

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received MAY - 8 1984

date entered

JUN 7 1984

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

1. Name

historic The Meetinghouse (at Marlow Hill) also The Christian Church

and/or common Jones Hall (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Church Street not for publication

city, town Marlow n/a vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 033 county Cheshire code 005

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Library

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Marlow

street & number Forest Road

city, town Marlow n/a vicinity of state New Hampshire 03431

5. Location of Legal Description

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

Cheshire County Courthouse

street & number 12 Court Street

city, town Keene state New Hampshire 03431

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Surveys of Southwestern New Hampshire has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Summer 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Southwest Region Planning Commission

city, town Keene state New Hampshire 03431

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>1845</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Present appearance: Jones Hall is a two and a half story rectangular structure which is situated in the "Y" shape intersection of Church and Main (N.H. Route 123) Streets near the Marlow Village Center. The building measures 42' x 48', is sheathed in white clapboards and sits on a foundation of granite block. The facade consists of three bays and exhibits such Greek Revival stylistic details as doric pilasters at the corners and a fully pedimented gable. The central entry is characterized by double doors, each with two vertical panels and framed in plain trim. A three step concrete stoop gives access to the door which is sheltered by a gable roofed hood, supported by brackets. Diagonally oriented iron railings rise from each corner of the stoop towards the doorway. A double hung, 8/8 sash window is located on each side of the doorway at the ground floor. On the second story a pair of closely spaced tall, narrow, almost slot-like windows occurs directly above each of the ground floor windows. These second story windows are each double hung, vertically oriented 2/2 sash and framed with plain trim. A 6" x 6" granite post, approximately three and a half feet high leans against each of the front corners of the building.

The 12' x 12' square base of a once taller steeple sits atop the gable roof, slightly inset from the facade. These remnants of the steeple tower rise to a height of roughly 12' above the ridge. A simple entablature tops the clapboard base upon which sits a two stage platform surmounted by a simple railing with square pedestals at each corner and a single pair of diagonally crossing members supporting the rail on each side.

The north and south elevations of the building each consist of three bays. Fenestration on the north side consists of three double hung 8/8 sash windows at the ground floor and three pairs of tall, narrow, 2/2 sash, slot-like windows on the second story. The south side is similar except that an entrance replaces the ground floor window in the center bay. This entrance is at grade and consists of a double door, each leaf of which is characterized by a nine pane window in the upper half underlined by a horizontal panel with two vertical panels below. A gable roofed hood supported by 4" x 4" posts shelters this entry way to the town library which occupies the ground floor of the building. Immediately to the left (west or rear) of this side entryway stands an iron, single flight fire escape which leads to the second story fire exit consisting of a 3 tiered six panel door framed in plain trim. The eaves on each side of the building are treated with a full but simple entablature.

The rear (west elevation) of the building has three double hung 8/8 windows at the ground floor level and a double hung 16/16 sash window in each of the outer bays on the second story. A double hung 16/12 sash window is located in the gable. A single stack, exterior, brick chimney rises the entire height of the building immediately to the left of the ridge.

Original appearance and alterations: According to town records, the construction of the building was authorized and begun in 1792, however it took at least eight years to complete due to difficulty in raising money.

There is no published documentation concerning the original appearance of the building. However, in his notes which were compiled in anticipation of writing a History of Marlow, Elgin Jones, who later came to own the building, provided the following description

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based on the verbal testimony of local residents. "The building was of the type of the first meeting houses built in country towns. Two stories with large entrance porches at either end and where stairs were placed to reach the galleries on the three sides; from these porches was also a side entrance to the first floor. Anyone wishing to see its duplicate can do so by visiting the old Rockingham, Vermont Meeting House, it being identical except for the pulpit. In the one on the hill these porches were on the east and west ends, the main entrance to the north side." (1)

This Rockingham, Vermont Meeting House still stands in that community, is in virtually original condition and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The building was moved to its present location (which had developed as the main village of the community) in 1845. At that time extensive alterations were made. Elgin Jones' notes partially describe these changes as follows, " In the reconstruction the galleries and box pews were eliminated, a second floor put in making a basement with church auditorium on the 2nd floor upstairs. The lower front was recessed, perhaps 8 ft., with entrances on either side of the stairs, entrance to the lower floor being at the middle back. A spire was added to the front or easterly end. The open porches of the old house were sold." (2) It was probably also at this time that the Greek Revival stylistic elements were added.

In 1890 the building was acquired by Elgin Jones and his father. Again, Mr. Jones' notes describe the renovations which took place at that time.

"Entire reconstruction of the interior was made, the spire taken off to the bell deck, the recess in front enclosed, gallery enlarged, stage and scenery and heating arrangements installed, making it one of the neatest and most commodious public halls in the state." (3)

The building was conveyed to the town in 1897 and a photograph, dated 1900, depicts the building in essentially its present form even to the granite posts which lean against the front corners.

The final alterations have occurred relatively recently when the side doors and the fire escape from the second story were installed.

(1) Jones, Elgin A.; Unpublished Notes on the History of Marlow (see item #9) Chapter 4, Page 2.

(2) Ibid. Chapter 4, Page 3.

(3) Ibid. Chapter 4, Page 4.

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 1792 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Architecture: Jones Hall is an eighteenth-century meeting house which, like the majority of surviving meeting houses in New England, has undergone a series of changes as its functions and the nature of the community have changed. Today the building incorporates traces of all periods of its evolution, retaining a record of the changing taste of the community.

> Jones Hall began its existence as a typical two story meeting house of the form that was almost universal in eighteenth-century New Hampshire. Like most such structures in its region of the state, the structure had a central entrance on one of the long elevations, a pulpit opposite, and two "porches" or stairwell enclosures on the ends to provide access to the galleries at the second floor level. (1) The town records show that the building served the dual function of a center for religious and secular meetings alike. Like many such buildings in New Hampshire, the structure was built by private subscription and was owned not by the town but rather by a group of individual pew holders. (2) Thus, the structure was typical of its time and locale in form, use and ownership. It retains elements of its original design in its wall and roof framing.

When the building was moved from its original site in 1845, it was transformed into a good example of a Greek Revival church. In keeping with the trends of the period, the eighteenth-century meeting house plan was altered in favor of the fashionable "church" plan, with an entrance in one of the narrow gables ends of the building beneath a newly-constructed steeple, and with an aisle extending from the newly-created front doorway and interior staircases along the longitudinal axis of the structure. The galleries were removed from the building and supplanted by a full second floor which was treated as a main auditorium, leaving the first story for vestry and other uses. (3) At this time, too, the exterior was given a strong Greek Revival character which survives largely intact to the present day. This remodelling brought the structure into the dominant style of the ecclesiastical buildings of New Hampshire and reflected the style of other nearby buildings in Marlow, including the Academy (now Odd Fellows' Hall, 1841) and the Methodist Church (1845; enlarged 1866). Jones Hall preserves a clear record of its transformation into the Greek Revival style and thus reflects the period of construction of the most ambitious public buildings of its village.

The old meeting house had never been public property, and during the nineteenth century it passed through various stages of private ownership. About 1827, the pew holders voted to sell the structure at auction, and it fell into the hands of an individual who represented the local Christian church. (4) Eventually most of the proprietary rights fell into the hands of members of the locally prominent Jones family, and in 1891 John Quincey Jones and his son Elgin acquired full title to the land and structure. They, in turn, carried out an entire remodelling of the interior, removed the spire to diminish the ecclesiastical appearance of the building, and added a stage. In October, 1891, the Joneses dedicated the building as "one of the neatest and most commodious public halls in the state" with a free entertainment for the townspeople, and in 1897 they conveyed title of the building > to the town of Marlow and officially named it Jones Hall. (5) The building has since been used for town meetings and drama, with the town library housed on the first floor.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see continuation sheet 3-9-1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .5 acres [±]

Quadrangle name Lovewell Mountain, New Hampshire

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(see continuation sheet 4-10-1)

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 David Edkins, Regional Planner

organization Southwest Region Planning Commission date September 1983

street & number 28 Mechanic Street telephone (603) 357-0557

city or town Keene, 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

[Signature]
for Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
Deputy New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer

date MAY 2 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

6-7-84

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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This alteration of 1891, and the transformation of the building to a public hall in 1897, were characteristic of the times. The late 1800s saw a proliferation of public halls and small "opera houses" throughout New Hampshire.(6) The remodelling of the church into Jones Hall gave the old building additional stylistic features which it retains today, including the stick style entrance hood visible on the exterior. Although other changes have been made since, the remodellings of the 1890s essentially completed the evolution of the old meeting house as a reflection of the changing needs and taste of its community.

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- (1) Elgin A. Jones, unpublished notes on the history of Marlow, "Meeting Houses", pp. 2-3; Peter Benes, "Twin-Porch versus Single-Porch Stairwells: Two examples of Cluster Diffusion in Rural Meetinghouse Architecture", Old -Time New England LXIX (1979), pp.44-68.
 - (2) Jones, unpublished notes on the history of Marlow, "Meeting Houses," pp.1-4
 - (3) Ibid., p. 3.
 - (4) Ibid.,
 - (5) Ibid.
 - (6) Gerald Gatz, "The Construction of the Claremont Opera House," Historical New Hampshire XXXVII (1982), pp. 1-29

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- Jones, Elgin A.; Unpublished Notes on the History of Marlow (Typed Manuscript); available at the Historical Society of Cheshire County Research Center at Keene State College and Keene Public Library.
- Cameron, Cal; Marlow, N.H., 1761-1961, (commemorative Pamphlet); Marlow, New Hampshire; self published; 1961.
- McClintock, John N.; History of New Hampshire; Boston; B.B. Russell, Cornhill; 1889.

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Eastern portion of Lot 36, Map 71, Marlow Property Tax Map. Nominated property has frontage of approximately 100 feet on the unnamed street facing the town square, and a depth of approximately 100', bounded on the north by N.H. Route 123A and on the south by Church Street. The nominated property includes that portion of the lot which has always been directly associated with the building since its placement there in 1845. Boundaries are highlighted in yellow on the attached sketch map.

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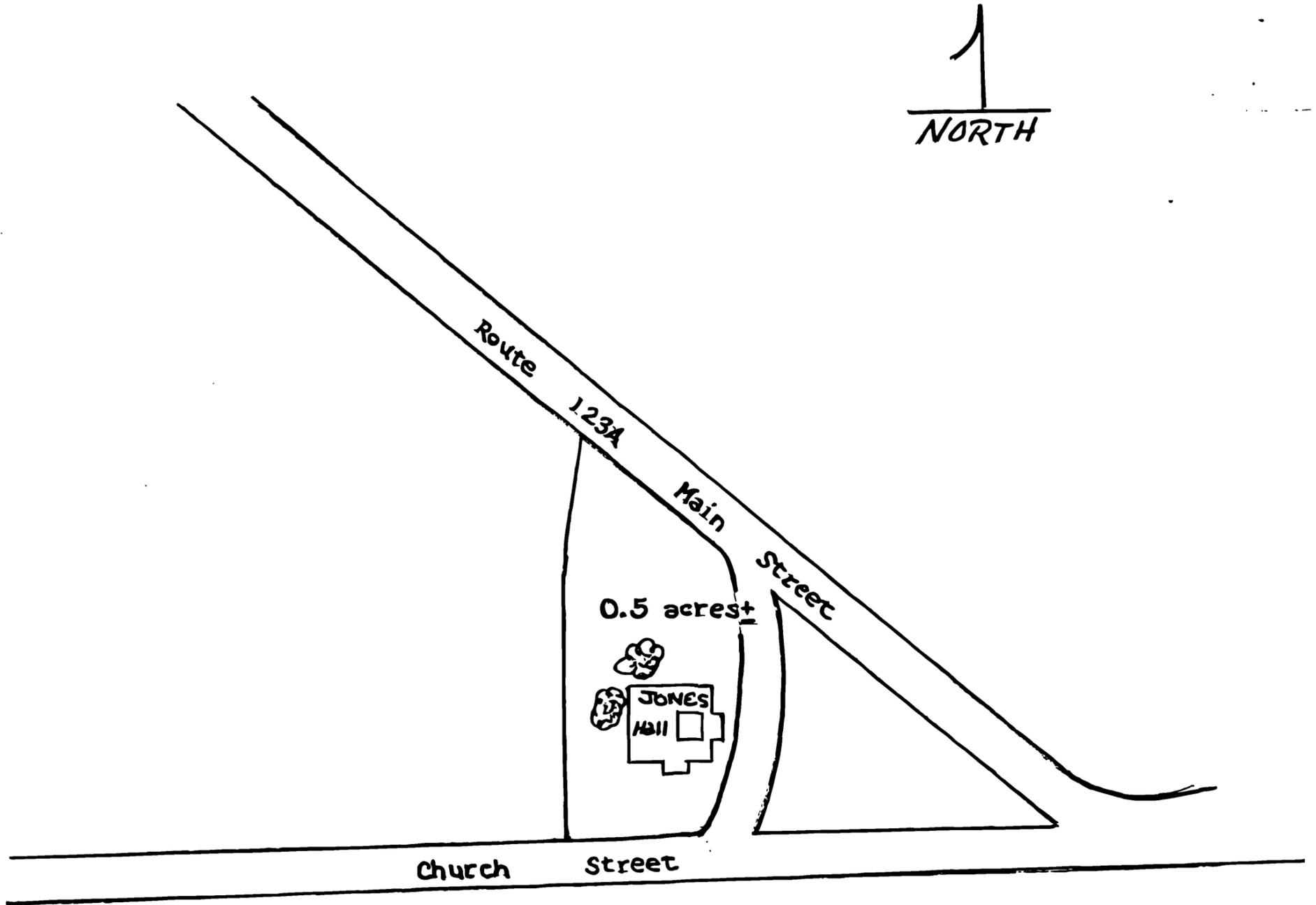
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MARLOW, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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This certifies that the appearance of the photographs has not changed.