

PH0356409

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 16 1977
DATE ENTERED FEB 14 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CORNISH NEW HAMPSHIRE
AND/OR COMMON
CHURCH AT CORNISH FLAT, --NEW HAMPSHIRE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Corner Meriden Stage Road & N.H. Rte. 120
CITY, TOWN
Cornish Flat
STATE
New Hampshire
VICINITY OF
Second
COUNTY
Sullivan
CODE
019

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Town of Cornish
STREET & NUMBER
c/o Board of Selectmen
CITY, TOWN
Cornish,
STATE
New Hampshire 03746

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Sullivan County Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER
PO Box 448, 24-A Main Street
CITY, TOWN
Newport, New Hampshire 03773

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
N/A
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 DATE <u>1818</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two-and-one-half story frame church building is rectangular in plan and rests on a cut stone foundation. The gable roof is slate covered; there is a decorative cornice molding. The facade has a semi-circular fan in the gable. The central door of nine panels is surmounted by a semi-circular fan, as are the two flanking six-panel doors. Over the center door at second floor level is a Palladian window, balanced by an arched window on either side, above the end doors. The archivolts above the fans of the doors and windows are decorated with thirty lozenge forms, alternately placed horizontally and vertically. Rising from the southeast end of the roof is a tower with clock faces on the south, east, and west sides; it is surmounted by a spire with scroll weathervane. The church is painted white, with green shutters and door trim.

Originally the church was located at the hillside between Harrington Road and Parsonage Hill Road. It was moved to its present location in 1818 and remained unchanged until 1845-1846 when the galleries, square pews, high pulpit and sounding board were removed. Flooring was inserted to divide the interior into two stories, with the auditorium above and vestry (Sunday School) below. Apparently it was at this time that seven double sash windows (twenty over twenty panes) were removed from the upper level of each side and replaced by three larger stained glass windows. The seven double sash windows on each side on the first floor were reduced in number to four, and a door was installed on the north side. The central Palladian window in the chancel end (back) and two flanking windows at the upper level were removed. Stained glass was inserted in the windows in the front (Main facade), but they were not otherwise altered.

A new bell was installed in the belfry on February 17, 1872. In 1883 the open belfry was changed to a closed tower and the roof and belfry were covered with slate. In 1916 a hot air furnace and ducts were installed in the church. In 1923 the remainder of the second floor gallery was enclosed, new foundation timbers were installed and cement wall facing was put on the cut stone base. A steel or tin ceiling was installed in the auditorium. In 1954 a kitchen was added.

A portion of the early painted ceiling of the upper gallery remains and there are some gallery pews in storage.

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 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 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 checked="" 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 1803, 1818, 1845-46, 1872, BUILDER/ARCHITECT
 1883, 1916, 1923, 1954.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Town of Cornish was incorporated in 1765 and the church congregation in 1787. The date of completion of the building is recorded in the Cornish town history as 1803, four years before Trinity Episcopal Church was finished. Therefore, it is the oldest building of its type in the town. The church was served by the Reverend Ariel Kendrick of Hanover, New Hampshire, from 1802 until 1822. This was an early Baptist society and the building is a significant remnant of this religious denomination in New Hampshire.

The architecture of the church, including such exterior details as the lozenge forms in the arched members above the doors and the facade windows, represents a rural New England interpretation of the Federal style. The architect/builder remains unknown at the present time. However, a study of the records of the congregation preserved in the manuscripts collection of the New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, might shed light on the subject. It may be that he was influenced in part by Asher Benjamin's Country Builder's Assistant (1797). Benjamin lived in the nearby community of Windsor, Vermont, from ~~1796-1800~~ and attempted to begin a school for architects and builders.

Although changes have occurred on both interior and exterior, these changes do not destroy the overall effect of the structure, and certainly occur in many other structures of this period. The church retains significance as a landmark in the quiet little village cross-roads, a focal point in an historic district surrounding the Town Common.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Child, William H. History of the Town of Cornish, N.H. 1763-1910
(Concord, New Hampshire: Rumford Press, 1911) 2 volumes.

Baptist Church Records (Cornish, N.H.) 1815-1854, manuscripts in the collection of the New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.0

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	711,992,0	4,811,915,5,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

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

John H. Dryfhout, Site Supervisor

August, 1975

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, National Park Service, Dept. of Interior

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

RR 2 (Cornish, New Hampshire)

603-675-2055

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

PO Windsor, Vermont 05089

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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]

TITLE Commissioner, NH Dept. Resources & Economic Development
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 11, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Robert B. Rettig

DATE 2/14/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE 2.9.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER