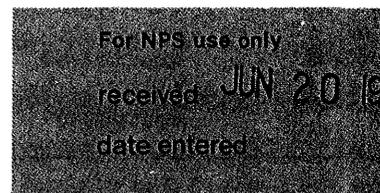


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Properties Relating to Rufus Jones in and around South China, Maine  
and/or common

2. Location

street & number (N/A) N/A not for publication  
city, town China  vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~  
state Maine code 23 county Kennebec code 011

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 type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Group	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: civic

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)  
street & number  
city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description

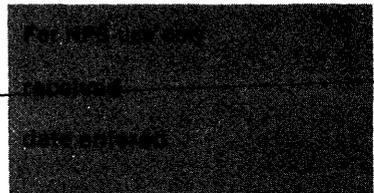
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kennebec County Courthouse  
street & number State Street  
city, town Augusta, state Maine 04330

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

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Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

ME, Lincoln County, China, Me.  
(Rufus Jones TR)

1. Abe Jones House off ME 202

Mrs. Miriam Jones Brown  
727 Panmure Road  
Haverford, PA 19041

2. Pond Meeting House (R.J. TR)  
on ME 202

Pond Meeting  
c/o Mrs. Evelyn Wicke  
South China, ME 04358

3. South China Meeting House South China Village

South China Meeting  
c/o Mrs. Evelyn Wicke  
South China, ME 04358

4. South China Public Library " " "

South China Library Association  
South China, ME 04358

5. "Pendle Hill" off ME 202

Pine Rock Corporation  
c/o Richard Schade, Esq.  
Sanborn, Moreshead, Schade & Dawson  
341 Water Street  
Augusta, ME 04330

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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

Rufus Jones was one of the principle American Quakers, and was born, brought up, and spent a good amount of his productive life in China, Maine. Properties closely associated with Rufus Jones in and around the village of South China include the Abel Jones House, The Pond Meeting House, the South China Meeting House, the South China Public Library, and "Pendle Hill". A description of each follows:

#### 1. Abel Jones House, located just off Route 202 in the village of South China proper.

The Jones homestead is a typical Maine Federal farmhouse - two-and-one-half stories with pitched roof, five bays long, two bays deep, with a long one-and-one-half story ell projecting from the rear wall. The main section is perpendicular to the road. That wall of the ell which is masked from the road is shingled; all other elevations are clapboarded.

Sometime in the late 19th century the house was re-oriented toward the dooryard and road. The front door, surround, and central hall staircase were removed, and the hall made into a bedroom. The entrance hall was relocated in the left-hand bay of that gable end facing the road. A narrow room or hall already in existence here was widened by moving the partition deeper into the parlor, and a new stairway built to the second floor. The new door was given a simple Queen Anne canopy. The windows may also have been moved, as their slightly off-center position is more typical of the late 19th century. All windows in the main section were replaced with 2/2 sash, although the ell windows retain the 6/6 arrangement, and a blown-glass transom stands over the ell's entrance.

Another bedroom was fashioned from the second-story hall, so that the present hall consists only of a long corridor running along the rear of the main section.

All rooms are very simply decorated, with wallpaper applied over plaster. A few rooms retain simple Federal mantelpieces.

One of the mantels is an exact copy of the original, which was somehow destroyed.

All floors are of highly-polished pumpkin pine.

A large barn and small shed of late 19th-early 20th century construction stand behind and to one side of the ell.

#### 2. Pond Meeting House, on Route 202 about three miles north of South China Village.

The meeting house is a modest but pleasing post and beam structure, devoid of all ornament or stylistic claim, save for the concern with regularity and proportion characteristic of Federal buildings. The main portion is a one-and-one-half story rectangle with a high pitched roof. A double vestibule (with two doors flanking a single window) adjoins a long side. A smaller window stands on the vestibule's gable.

The main portion is presently one large room with exposed beams and plastered walls, but was originally divided into equally-sized rooms by a shutter-door attached to the ceiling with iron hooks. One corner of the room was enclosed by temporary partitions in 1930 to form a kitchen. The original pews have been removed. The building is now used as part of a religious summer camp.

The floor-boards as well as the roofing timbers are hand-hewn. Pine is used throughout. All windows are 6/6 with original lights. A small chimney in the center of the roof ridge no longer connects with a fireplace. The roof is asphalt-shingled.

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RUFUS JONES THEMATIC GROUP

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

3. South China Meeting House, in the center of the Village of South China.

This meeting house was originally a one-room, one-and-one-half story pitched roof structure with gable end to the street. Although constructed in 1884, the building retained the simple, almost Federal detailing that characterized South China's buildings well into the Victorian period. It was fronted by a small enclosed vestibule, and had three doubled rectangular windows on each long side. The whole was clapboarded and had a cedar-shingled roof.

Around 1900 the vestibule was enlarged to cover the length of the gable end, and a modest tower with hipped roof, simple finial, and doubled, arched louvres was raised at its west end. Doors were placed at the east end of the vestibule and base of the tower, and a series of four diamond-pane windows affixed to the vestibule's south face. The cornerboards and entablature of the additions mimicked the neo-Federal detail of the original portion, but the upper portion of the tower was shingled and painted a darker color than the rest of the church.

At some later date a small pitched-roofed addition was added behind the tower and adjoining the original section, whose west windows were removed. Later still, an even smaller pent-roofed shed was added to the addition, which acts as a service room and kitchen. The exterior has lately been enclosed by vinyl siding, and the roof asphalt-shingled. A canopy has been added above the main entrance in the tower's base, and the casement windows have been replaced by single weatherized panes.

The interior of the original section, which still serves as the meeting room, has been remodeled with time. An interesting addition of the late 1970's is a stained glass window purchased from Whittimore Associates of Needham Heights, Massachusetts.

4. South China Public Library, in the center of South China Village.

The building is a simple frame square, one-and-one-half stories with hipped roof and shingled walls. The door is centrally located in the facade and flanked by large 10/2 windows. A portico surrounds the entrance, and is supported by two large, turned spindles. Small 3/3 windows punctuate the sides and rear, and a small vestibule fronts the dooryard.

The interior has a large main room and a smaller office room adjoining the rear wall. All woodwork is simply finished, unornament pine. A large brick fireplace with pink mortar-ing stands at the rear wall of the main room. All wall surface is hidden by bookshelves. The roof beams are exposed.

5. "Pendle Hill", Rufus Jones' summer cottage and cabin (including grounds), off Route 202 overlooking China Lake.

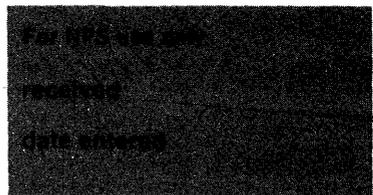
"Pendle Hill" consists of two buildings and a multi-acre tract of land extending from the main cottage to the shore of China Lake. The grounds include the hill's crest (offering a dramatic view of the lake), a long row of mature pines which separate the property from an adjoining piece owned by the same family, a downward sloping expanse of mown meadow, and a wooded slope at the foot of the meadows and along the shore of China Lake.

The cottage is a one-and-one-half story shingle-style building whose pitched main roof and porch roof adjoin. The porch is a broad deck defined by thin shingled posts. The entrance is in the center bay of the long facade adjoining the porch, and is raised slightly in front of the wall plane. The left-hand bay is pushed slightly behind it.

077 12/31/84-018  
EXP. 12/31/84

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RUFUS JONES THEMATIC GROUP

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A central hall runs through the cabin from this entrance, wide enough to constitute the main living space. A large stone fireplace stands along the left-hand wall, and furniture is arranged about the hall's center. All wall surfaces are stained pine boards, and the roofing beams are exposed. Bedrooms and ancillary rooms are arranged to the right and left. The only obviously decorative feature of the house is the front door, which has an oval light and beaded courses about the panels.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1863-1948 **Builder/Architect** See individual descriptions

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The described properties in and around the village of South China, Maine (town of China), are closely associated with the life of Rufus Jones, one of the most important figures in the history of the Society of Friends (the Quakers). Jones was born and raised in South China, formed his religious faith there, remained a member of the local meeting and president of the village library until his death, and returned every summer to "Pendle Hill", his summer cottage overlooking China Lake. Although an extremely well-travelled man and for most of his life a professor at Haverford College in Pennsylvania (1898-1934), Jones was and is inseparable from the village of South China.

Rufus Matthew Jones is generally recognized as one of the triad of individuals most influential in the development of Quakerism (the others being George Fox, founder of the religion, and William Penn, founder of the Quaker colony of Pennsylvania). As the editor of the Friend's Review (later American Friend) 1893-1912, author of fifty-six books and hundreds of articles on Quakerism and related topics (including a major historical series, religious autobiographies, and tracts on mysticism), and buoyant, omnipresent personality within the major Quaker meetings, Jones was instrumental in re-uniting what had become a fragmented and internally combative religion by the turn-of-the-century. Jones led the diverse Quaker groups back to a common and stronger expression of faith, and consecrated the body's new sense of philanthropic purpose in the American Friend's Service Committee, which he helped found in 1917 and chaired until his death. The A. F. S. C. was the first organized attempt to carry the pacifistic principles of Quakerism to the secular world through selfless good deeds, and decisively invigorated the centuries-old Society of Friends. Jones is both the major thinker yet produced by American Quakerism, and, with William Penn, the religion's major steward in this country.

To the non-Quaker world in the first half of the 20th century, Rufus Jones was Quakerism. Visiting and speaking at hundreds of places around the world, and associating with national leaders from Herbert Hoover (a life-long intimate) to Gandhi, Jones' unusually warm, humorous, and optimistic personality ("He emanated goodness" in the words of a biographer) gave Quakerism a highly visible human face. The relief efforts of the A. F. S. C. in both World Wars, as well as the singular relief brought to German Jews after the Nazi pogrom of 1936, were personally and energetically supervised by Jones, and brought the organization the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947.

Jones was born in South China, Maine in 1863 to a large Quaker farming family. The previous generation of Jones's included three distinguished mystics, Eli, Sybil, and Peace Jones, each of whom directly influenced the young boy. Although Jones viewed religious faith as a constantly unfolding experience, he admits in the autobiography A Small Town Boy, that his early years in South China, characterized by a loving and secure family relationship, exposure to mystic relatives, and itinerant preachers, and a strong sense of identity with the village community, were central to the formation of his personality and faith. Jones also reveals an intimacy with nature, the physical village, and the surrounding landscape. The first thing he remembered finding beautiful was China Lake, over which he later built "Pendle Hill": "... if this glorious lake had not been there my earthly story would have been quite different". From his birth to his last Quaker Meeting at the South China Meeting House, the small world of the village, the lake, and the surrounding hills were where Jones found his greatest security and most intimate sense of community. It was the idea of South China that Jones sought to convey to the troubled world beyond its bounds.

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The following buildings are most closely associated with the life of Rufus Jones:

Abel Jones House. This Federal farmhouse was built by Rufus' grandfather in 1815 and is still in the Jones family, a remarkable achievement in itself. Jones was born here and lived in the house until leaving for school in Providence in 1879 (sixteen years). This period was the subject of the afore-mentioned autobiography. Jones' parents lived the rest of their lives here and he made frequent and prolonged visits throughout his productive career.

Pond Meeting House. The Meeting House was constructed in 1807, and is one of the earliest and most important historic buildings in the town of China. The extreme simplicity and clarity of the structure mirrors well Quaker religious philosophy. Jones attended meeting here in his early years and was exposed to important itinerant preachers.

South China Meeting House. This Queen Anne structure replaced the Pond Meeting House as the Jones family meeting house when it was constructed in 1884. Jones attended meeting here during his summer residency, and "spoke" nearly every Sunday. His last meeting took place here shortly before his death.

South China Public Library. The South China Library Association, founded in 1830, is among the oldest libraries in Maine. The present building was constructed in 1900, with lumber and labor provided by the townspeople. The Association incorporated in 1912 under the name "South China Public Library". Rufus Jones served as library president 1919-1948, the only civic activity with which he was associated.

"Pendle Hill". This acreage was Rufus Jones' summer home from 1916 until his death. It includes a shingle-style cottage and a one-room log cabin, the later built by Jones himself. The cottage was designed by Jones and constructed 1909-1916 by local builder George Marr, who reportedly made a bad job of it. Jones and his brother Herbert cut the lumber themselves and made extensive repairs in Marr's wake. The structure is airy and clear. The porch and wide central room are spacious, and large windows reaching nearly to the floor (or ground), bring the outdoors into the bedrooms. The interior furnishings are as Jones left them.

A small one-room cabin is located within sight of the cottage against the south property line. The structure is entirely of small logs and cut boughs. The walls are half-sawn logs arranged vertically and the roof is a simple pitch. The small porch is of stripped, knotty boughs. The facade consists of a simple door and double casement window. The interior is exactly as Jones left it, with his writing desk and chair beneath the window, his cot against the rear wall, and a single light bulb hanging from the ceiling.

This survey was conducted by Gregory K. Clancey of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission with the assistance of Mrs. Evelyn Wicke of South China, a friend and relative of the late Rufus Jones.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Jones, Rufus M., Small Town Boy. New York, 1941

David Hinshaw, Rufus Jones: Master Quaker. New York, 1951

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1. 1/4; 2. 1/2; 3. 1/4; 4. 1/4; 5. 1 1/2.

Quadrangle name Vassalboro

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

1 

1	9
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4	5	4	5	7	5
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4	9	1	6	0	2	5
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5 

1	9
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4	5	5	1	5	0
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4	9	1	7	3	7	5
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2 

1	9
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4	5	8	3	5	0
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4	9	2	1	3	7	5
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3 

1	9
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4	5	4	2	8	0
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4	9	1	5	7	7	5
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F 

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4 

1	9
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4	5	4	3	2	5
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4	9	1	5	7	2	5
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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The following are assessor's map and lot numbers for each property: 1. 24, 7; 2. 16, 44; 3. 24, 17, 4. 24, 21; 5. 22, 30.

### 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 Gregory K. Clancey, Architectural Historian

organization Me. Historic Preservation Comm. date April, 1983

street & number 55 Capitol Street telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

## 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 *Eileen S. Feltz*

title S.H.P.O. date 6/14/83

For NPS use only

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

*Eileen S. Feltz* date 6/14/83  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Rufus Jones Thematic Resources  
State Maine

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- |     |                            |                               |            |                              |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| 1.  | Jones, Abel, House         | Substantive Review            | for Keeper | accept Patrick Andrus 8/4/83 |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |
| 2.  | Pendle Hill                | Substantive Review            | for Keeper | accept Patrick Andrus 8/4/83 |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |
| 3.  | Pond Meeting House         | Substantive Review            | for Keeper | accept Patrick Andrus 8/4/83 |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |
| 4.  | South China Meeting House  | <del>Substantive Review</del> | for Keeper | accept Patrick Andrus 8/4/83 |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |
| 5.  | South China Public Library | Substantive Review            | Keeper     | Return PWA 8/4/83            |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |
| 6.  |                            |                               | Keeper     | _____                        |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |
| 7.  |                            |                               | Keeper     | _____                        |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |
| 8.  |                            |                               | Keeper     | _____                        |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |
| 9.  |                            |                               | Keeper     | _____                        |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |
| 10. |                            |                               | Keeper     | _____                        |
|     |                            |                               | Attest     | _____                        |