

*National Register of Historic Places
in the State of Maine*



This is to Certify that the

Elder Grep Meeting House

has been reviewed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and by the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C. and under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 has been entered upon the National Register of Historic Places on October 9, 19 79.

Be it further certified that by inclusion in the National Register the above named is recognized as a part of the Historical and Cultural Heritage of our nation and should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people.

Carle S. Shellfworth
State Historic Preservation Officer

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 7 1978
DATE ENTERED OCT 9 1979

**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

Elder Grey Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

N of North Waterboro

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

North Waterboro

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

VICINITY OF N. Waterboro

STATE

Maine

CODE
23

COUNTY
York

CODE
031

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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Elder Grey Meeting House - Cemetery Association

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Waterboro

VICINITY OF

STATE
Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

York County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Alfred

STATE
Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1832</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1806, the Elder Grey Meeting House in Waterboro is a very simple one-story frame building with gable roof, clapboard siding, and field-stone foundation.

Fenestration is 12/8 throughout, with four windows on each side wall.

The facade, which faces south-east, is five bays wide. Two symmetrically spaced entrances consist of single doors, each of four panels. Two windows flank these doors, while a third window is centrally positioned and located at a greater height than the other two. These three facade windows are each equipped with a single large wooden batten blind, mounted externally.

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 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 1806

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A simple structure eloquently reflecting the plain, straightforward approach to religion in early Maine, the Elder Grey Meeting House was erected in 1806 at the foot of Ossippee Pond in North Waterford. It was established as a union church with Baptist affiliations.

One of the early pastors was Elder James Grey, born in Lyman in 1784, who married Anna Woodard of Waterville. This universally loved and admired spiritual leader served the parish until his death in 1856. This affection was reflected in the most unusual fact that the meeting house was moved in 1832 to its present location some four miles away, in order to be nearer the house of the aging pastor. Two brothers, Joseph and Samuel Bradeen, each gave a portion of their land on opposite sides of the road for the church site and the cemetery.

In 1834 Elder Buzzell of Parsonsfield became the active minister, and under him a great religious revival took place. Elder Grey, perhaps somewhat snappishly, is recorded as saying, "I cut and piled and cut and piled, and Brother Buzzell came along and touched the match to it."

By the 1880's the organization as a functioning church gradually disappeared and the building began to decay. In the '90's, however, there was renewed interest in the structure as a historic as well as spiritual site. A summer pastor, usually a theological student, was retained for a number of years, and the meeting house was repaired, including restoration of the interior.

Again the building fell into neglect and was by some considered hopeless. But again interest arose, an organization to restore and maintain the church formed, and a trust fund established. Now the Elder Grey Meeting House is carefully preserved and a yearly anniversary service held therein each summer.

Thus, through the efforts of those interested in preserving their heritage, this worthy local landmark has twice been saved from decay and ruin.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Shapleigh, Eva D., The Elder Grey Meeting House, unpublished ms., 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/2

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	9	3	6	1	7	4	0	4	8	3	2	6	7	5
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Assessor's Map #14, Lot 14

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 Frank A. Beard, Historian
Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Maine Historic Preservation Commission

DATE October 1978

STREET & NUMBER 242 State Street

TELEPHONE 207/289-2133

CITY OR TOWN Augusta

STATE Maine

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

Carol S. Fredenburgh

TITLE S.H.P.O.

DATE 11/2/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Carol Skell

DATE 10-9-79

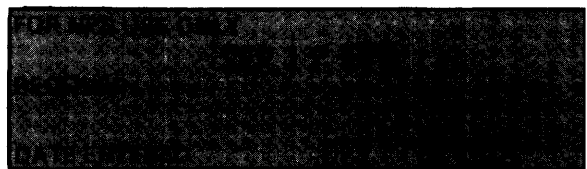
ATTEST: *Bruce McDaniel*
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 10/6/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

This simple single gable unadorned hall is typical of early rural meeting houses dating well back into the 18th century almost none of which remain. These buildings provide a direct link with the prevailing Puritan traditions of eastern New England which emphasized simplicity in worship and the material manifestations of religion.

The small paned windows, the single board and batten shutters and the paired entrances are all typical of these rustic meeting houses.