National Register of Historic Places in the State of Maine

This is to Certify that the

Elder Grey 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, 1979.

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.

[Signature]
State Historic Preservation Officer
DATA SHEET
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
Elder Grey Meeting House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
North Waterboro, Maine

CITY, TOWN
Waterboro

CITY, TOWN
Waterboro

CITY, TOWN
Waterboro

CITY, TOWN
Waterboro

STATE
Maine

STATE
Maine

STATE
Maine

STATE
Maine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st

CODE
23

CODE
23

CODE
23

CODE
23

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
DISTRICT

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC

STATUS
UNOCCUPIED

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE

CATEGORY
BUILDING(S)

OWNERSHIP
PRIVATE

STATUS
UNOCCUPIED

PRESENT USE
COMMERCIAL

CATEGORY
STRUCTURE

OWNERSHIP
BOTH

STATUS
WORK IN PROGRESS

PRESENT USE
EDUCATIONAL

CATEGORY
SITE

OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS
ACCESSIBLE

PRESENT USE
PRIVATE RESIDENCE

CATEGORY
OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
IN PROCESS

STATUS
YES: RESTRICTED

PRESENT USE
ENTERTAINMENT

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP
BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
YES: UNRESTRICTED

PRESENT USE
RELIGIOUS

PRESENT USE
GOVERNMENT

PRESENT USE
INDUSTRIAL

PRESENT USE
TRANSPORTATION

PRESENT USE
MILITARY

PRESENT USE
OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Elder Grey Meeting House - Cemetery Association

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Waterboro

CITY, TOWN
Waterboro

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
York County Registry of Deeds

CITY, TOWN

CITY, TOWN
Alfred

STATE
Maine

STATE
Maine

STATE
Maine

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
York County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Alfred

STATE
Maine

STATE
Maine

STATE
Maine

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

CITY, TOWN

CITY, TOWN
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.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD
_ PREHISTORIC
_ 1400-1499
_ 1500-1599
_ 1600-1699
_ 1700-1799
X1800-1899
_ 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
_ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
_ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
_ COMMUNITY PLANNING
_ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
_ RELIGION
_ SCIENCE
_ LAW
_ LITERATURE
_ MILITARY
_ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_ SCULPTURE
_ THEATER
_ TRANSPORTATION
_ OTHER (SPECIFY)

_ AGRICULTURE
_ ARCHITECTURE
_ ART
_ COMMERCIAL
_ COMMUNICATIONS
_ INVENTION
_ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
_ PHILOSOPHY
_ POLITICAL/GOVERNMENT

SPECIFIC DATES

1806

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.
**Major Bibliographical References**


**Geographical Data**

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Assessor's Map #14, Lot 14

**List All States and Counties for Properties Overlapping State or County Boundaries**

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<th>State</th>
<th>Code</th>
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**Form Prepared By**

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<tr>
<th>Name / Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frank A. Beard, Historian</td>
<td>Maine Historic Preservation Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert L. Bradley, Architectural Historian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Date**

October 1978

**State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

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. Friswold

**Date**

11/2/78

**For NPS Use Only**

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

**Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation**

Carol N. Shell

**Date**

10-9-79

**Keeper of the National Register**

Bruce McIver

**Date**

10-7-79
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.