

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	GRN.50
Historic Name:	First Congregational Church
Common Name:	First Church of Christ Congregational
Address:	683 Main Rd
City/Town:	Granville
Village/Neighborhood:	Granville Center
Local No:	26-23
Year Constructed:	1802
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Greek Revival
Use(s):	Church; Church Hall; Other Governmental or Civic
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Religion
Area(s):	GRN.C: Granville Center GRN.E: Granville Center Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (11/05/1991); Preservation Restriction (11/01/1996)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Concrete Unspecified



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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NEDIS-1115771
FR-111196
GRN.50

FORM B - BUILDING

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
Map 26	M-28	C, E	50

Lot 23

Town Granville

Place (neighborhood or village) Neighborhood -
Granville Center

Address 683 Main Road

Historic Name Old Meeting House

Uses: Present Social, Cultural, Private

Original Church

Date of Construction 1802

Source _____

Style/Form Church/Meeting House

Architect/Builder Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete

Wall/Trim Wood

Roof Asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures None

Major Alterations (with dates) addition off back
which includes kitchen, restrooms,
furnace room -- built in 1979

Condition Good - Excellent

Moved no yes Date 1862

Acreage 1/4 Acre

Setting Rural/Residential



toried building. indicate location

Recorded by L. Wackert

Organization Granville Historical Commission

Date (month/year) 9/97

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Old Meeting House is a two-story, gable-front, clapboard-sided structure with symmetrical fenestration. The interior consists of a large meeting hall on the first floor with a high pulpit located opposite the entrance. A balcony is located above, being supported from three sides; the fourth side is open above the pulpit and about one-fourth of the floor space in front of the pulpit. A graceful arch balcony railing connects the three sides; original pews remain on the two opposite sides.

The Old Meeting House is located in what is known as Granville Center and is surrounded by many early 19th century dwellings of the two-story, center chimney or salt box design.

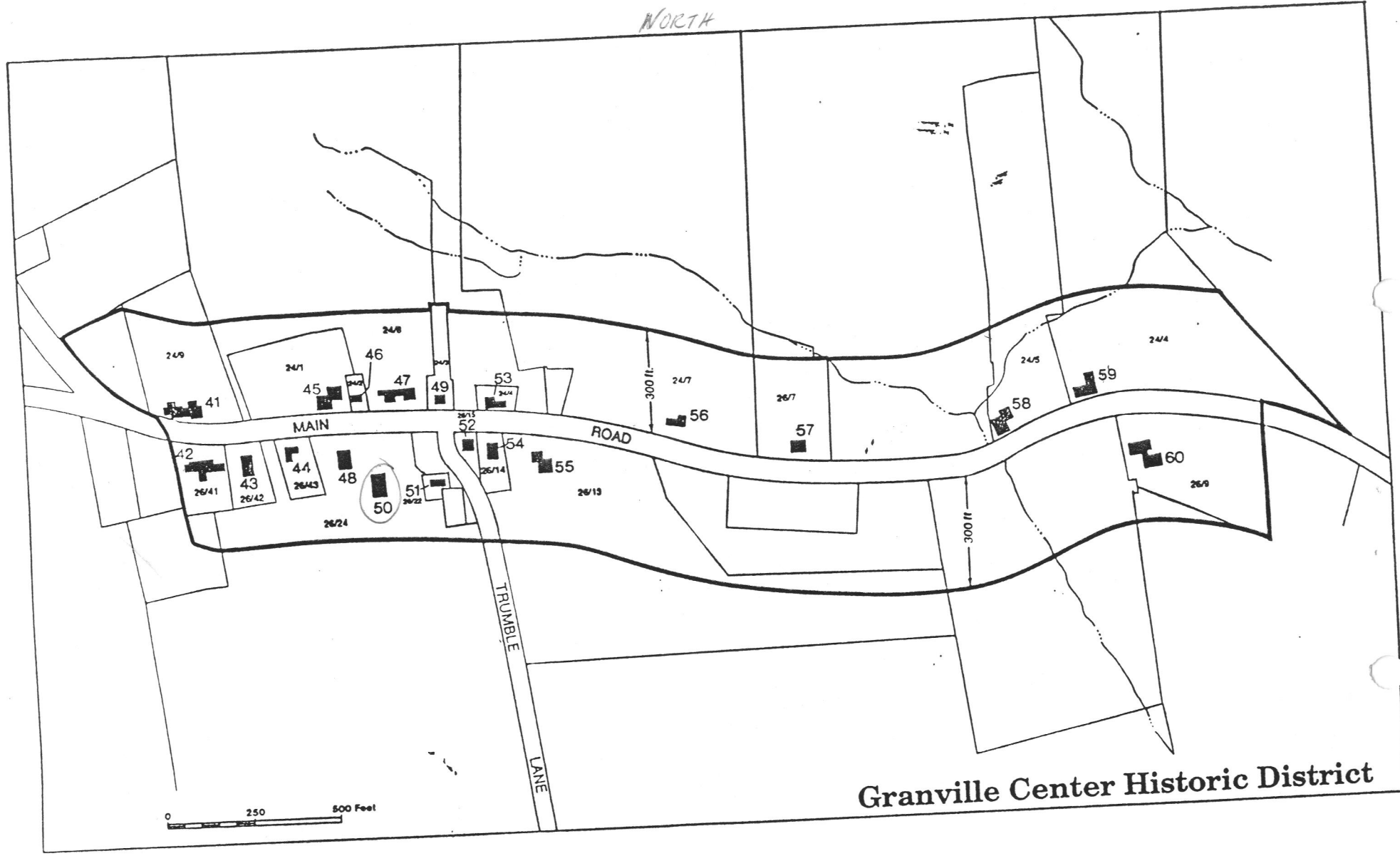
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The property for the Old Meeting House was purchased in 1802 by local townspeople and the first church in Granville Center (First Congregational Church) was constructed on the site. The original pulpit was constructed in England in 1750 and was recently restored to its original configuration and condition. A Jewitt Wooden pipe organ was installed in 1837 and remains in place today.

R.W. Timothy Mather Cooley was the first minister of the church, preaching for 50 years. To commemorate his service to the community, a Jubilee was conducted in 1845 and has been repeated every 50 years.

The Old Meeting House was the home of the First Congregational Church until the 1940's when the church joined the Baptist congregation in the village. In 1974 the town purchased the property to save it from destruction and a number of interested townspeople formed the Granville Historical Society with the purpose of raising funds to restore the Old Meeting House to its 1802 prominence.

NORTH



FORM B - BUILDING

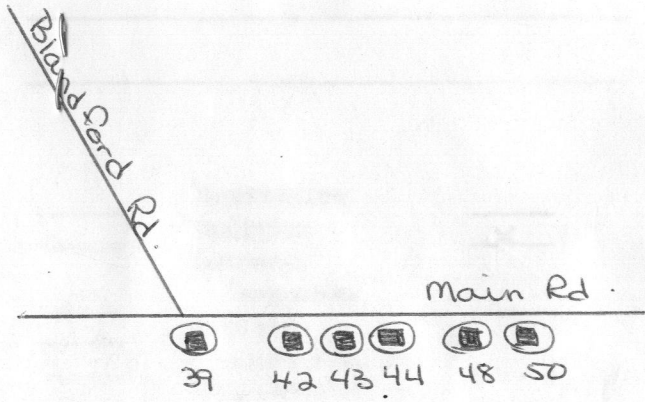
USGS W. Granville
NRDIS 115191 GRN.50

AREA	FORM NO.
C/E	50



location
or
findings

Indicate north



Town Granville
 Address Main Road
 Historic Name First Church of Christ Congregational

Use: Present Meeting House
 Original Church

DESCRIPTION
 Date 1802
 Source Assessor's Records
 Style Federal
 Architect Unknown
 Exterior Wall Fabric _____
 Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) 1862
remodeled 1890
 Removal of tower and construction of portico and columns.
 Condition Good

Moved Yes Date 1862

Acreage Less than 1 acre

Setting Village

UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE West Granville

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Joanne Keim - PVPC

Organization Granville Historic Commission

Date August 1897

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

This was the original Meeting House of Granville built as a 2-story structure with gable roof and entry tower with steeple. In 1862, the building saw extensive change as well as a move away from the road to its present site. The belfry was taken down and the portico and columns added.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

The present First Church of Christ Congregational Church was built in 1802 during the ministry of Dr. Timothy M. Cooley. This was the original congregation of the First Church of Christ Congregational in Granville. The first site of the church was at the intersection of Regan and Main Roads. In 1778, a second congregation was found and a church was built in West Granville when the members broke away from the original church. (See #16)

The building is being restored presently by the Granville Historical Commission.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Registry of Deeds - 56/597 (1802)

