

35 Weathersfield Historic District

Town of Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

The Weathersfield Historic District sits atop a small hill of maple trees within the Connecticut River Valley of Vermont. Although comprised of only the Meeting House, and the Reverend Daniel Foster House and Old Stone Pound across the street, they are all in the geographical center of Weathersfield and reflect the early history of the town.

Until Reverend Daniel Foster agreed to settle in Weathersfield in 1785, early settlers had to rely upon traveling ministers or journey across the Connecticut River to Claremont, New Hampshire for church services. Town residents agreed to pay Reverend Foster in money and staple goods and levied a town tax of 60 pounds to build the parsonage.

The Foster House encompasses the original house built in 1785, with an addition built in 1825 in a Federal-style "I" section. On the southeast corner of the house sits The Old Stone Pound, built after a 1799 State law required all towns to impound stray animals. The Old Pound was built of randomly laid native stone without mortar and is one of the few structures of its kind left in Vermont.

With a minister and his housing in place, the town levied a land tax to procure funds for a meeting house. In 1787 a wooden, twin-porch meeting building was constructed across from Foster's house and served as the assembly place for town meetings and religious services. However, a fire destroyed the first meeting house in 1821.

That same year, the Congregational Society erected the present day building at a cost of \$3,500, serving as the town hall, meeting house and church. Distinguishing this new building from other meeting house styles was its 1861 remodeled interior, dividing the first floor for use in town meetings while the Congregational Church utilized the second floor, suggesting a definite physical separation of church and state

The Meeting House is a large 2 ½ story brick structure topped by a bell tower, which is placed like a large ornament on top of the building, and is said to be one of the finest of its kind in Vermont.

The Weathersfield Center Historic District was included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

Sources:

<http://www.crjc.org/heritage/V08-3.htm>