

Reverend William Morrison Meeting House

Rev. Morrison was the most respected and influential Minister to serve the Londonderry West Parish. His ministry lasted from 1783 until his death in 1818. The Meeting House was the third to be built that served the West Parish but it was the first that was used for an extended period of time.

Late in 1769 the Parish held a meeting to determine the location for a new Meeting House. Henry Campbell's tobacco yard was chosen. Henry was John Mack's son-in-law. John's first purchase, when he arrived in 1734, was fifty acres of land on Pillsbury Road. John built his home on that land at the southwesterly corner of the Hardy Road intersection. After John



died and his estate was divided, that land was acquired by Henry. In 1770 Henry donated an acre of the land “*out of Love & good will I bear to the Inhabitants of the New Parish in Londonderry afores^d for the use of said parishioners for to build a meeting house for a place of public Worship*”. That one acre was on the hill at the northeasterly side of Pillsbury Road. (The view is estimated to be northeasterly from 55 Pillsbury Road. The person in the foreground was walking on Pillsbury Road.)

The Meeting House was used for both religious and civil purposes from its construction in 1770 until 1837 when the congregation removed to the present Presbyterian Church. In 1845 the old Meeting House was moved to its present location by the Common where it became the Town Hall. (The small Session House was moved farther north and is believed to be one of the buildings located at 390 Mammoth Road.) Town Meetings were held here until 1968. The tall front attachment was added in the Victorian period and housed the Selectmen's offices, the Library and, for a short while, a school. Under threat of demolition, it was leased by the Lions Club in 1976 and used by them until recently.

The Meeting House is pre-Revolutionary War and is the oldest public building still standing.

David J. Ellis
September 16th, 2023