

Apartment Building -38 Church Street- Right corner of Church and Franklin.



The Freewill Baptist Church was situated on the corner of Church and Franklin Streets. The church was created in 1869. It had no meeting place and united with the Methodists who also had no place to meet. They stayed together until 1871 when the Methodists purchased the building. In 1871, with their share of the proceeds from the sale of the union church as a nucleus, the Freewill Baptists soon purchased a lot on Church Street²⁴ for \$1,200 and sold a house lot from this for \$400. Then they built a church which cost approximately \$6,500. It was erected by Daniel Page of Tilton. Deacon Ela Calley made the pews and pulpit, then finished the interior of the auditorium. John Bailey finished the rooms below. The church was formally dedicated with fitting ceremony on, June 23 to 25, 1872, under the leadership of the first settled pastor of the church, Reverend James Rand. In 1874 the local schools were overcrowded and 59 smaller children were housed in its vestry. The church was finally incorporated as the First Freewill Baptist Church of Franklin, N.H., in 1879.

After its religious use terminated, its street level became the home for furniture stores—that of H.E. Rainville (also an undertaker) and then the first location for Grevior's Furniture. Many other stores occupied that lower level over time. The building today is a privately owned multi-family.