

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 13 1980
DATE ENTERED NOV 13 1980

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

AND/OR COMMON

New Durham Town Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street and Ridge Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

New Durham

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

#1

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE

33

COUNTY

Strafford

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Town of New Durham

STREET & NUMBER

Town Hall

CITY, TOWN

New Durham

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire

03856

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Strafford County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Strafford County Justice & Administration Building, County Farm Road

CITY, TOWN

Dover

STATE

New Hampshire

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None
DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The New Durham Town Hall, completed in 1908, successfully combines elements of the Italianate and the Colonial Revival architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

It is a rectangular, wood frame, clapboarded structure, 38' x 63' (main block) with a hipped roof, bracketed eaves, and granite foundation. The entry on the main (north) facade consists of double leaf, three-panel doors deeply recessed into match-board reveals. Over the entry way is a four-paned transom light and a triangular-pedimented door hood supported by two large scroll brackets. (Due to deterioration, the original porch was removed c. 1965). On the wall directly above the door hood are paired windows with 1/1 sash. Under the cornices on all four elevations is a frieze articulated with a vertical, denticular molding.

The east and west elevations of the main block contain six windows. The windows on the second story are topped by single-paned transom lights, and the lintels of the first-story windows are connected by a simple string course. The roofs of the north, east and west elevations each have a gable dormer with triangular pediment, bracketed eaves and paired windows.

The northeast corner of the main block contains a 55', square, four-level clock and bell tower framed by pilasters rising to the top of the third level. The fourth level houses the bell, is louvered on all four sides and supports a hipped roof with two cross gables, each gable containing a circular clock face. The roof is topped by a 6' metal weathervane. The tower features tall, narrow windows on the three lower levels.

The first floor of the building houses town offices and a library. The second floor consists of an auditorium measuring 37' x 41' with an 18' x 20' stage. Recent alterations to the interior of the auditorium include the enclosing of a balcony and the dropping of the ceiling to increase heating efficiency. The original stamped metal remains intact above the new ceiling.

Connected to the rear of the building by a flat-roofed, woodsheathed ell is a one-story, hip-roofed cement block addition containing a vault for the storage of town records. Added in 1977 to replace a deteriorated extension designed to house horses, the addition is compatible with the design of the structure's main block.

Two non-contributing structures, a three-bay fire station and the town storage shed, are also on the nominated property.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY		
RECEIVED	SEP	8 1980
DATE ENTERED		NOV 13 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Fire Station: The New Durham Fire Station is a concrete block structure with a five-bay facade and a wood-framed gable roof. The central bay of the structure rises above the two side wings and extends rearward about 35 feet to give the building a T-shaped plan. The front gable end of this raised central bay creates a central pavilion on the facade. All gable ends of the structure are sheathed with matched boards laid vertically. The overall dimensions of the building are approximately 60 feet wide and 65 feet deep. The second bay from the northeast end has been closed with concrete blocks.

Town Shed: This barn-like structure is gable-roofed and is sheathed with clapboards over a balloon frame. A gable end, three bays wide, faces Ridge Road, and the side elevation that faces Main Street is fitted with three large sliding garage doors. The building measures approximately 35 by 60 feet.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Alvah T. Ramsdell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The New Durham Town Hall is significant as a fine example of turn of the century civic architecture, designed by one of northern New England's most prolific architects, and as the social and political center of the community since its erection in 1908.

Architecturally, the building is representative of a national trend toward the combination of characteristics of late nineteenth century styles, in this case Italianate, with those of the Colonial Revival style that emerged as a result of an awakened interest in colonial architecture following the American Bicentennial in 1876 and continued into the twentieth century.

It was designed by Alvah T. Ramsdell, a prominent Dover, New Hampshire, architect who specialized in institutional architecture and designed numerous public buildings in southern New Hampshire and eastern Maine. These include town halls in Alton, Rollinsford and Wakefield, New Hampshire, all similar in design to the nominated building, as well as school buildings in Dover, Ashland, Plymouth, Woodsville, Rochester and Somersworth in New Hampshire, North Berwick, York, Springvale and Eliot in Maine, and Salisbury, Massachusetts. Also in Dover, he was responsible for the Stafford Banks Building, the Wentworth Home for the Aged and the Ricker Memorial in the Pine Hill Cemetery.

A native of southern Maine who was trained as an architect in Boston, Ramsdell's work expressed a concern for adapting the urban fashions in public architecture to the needs of the small New England and design elements used in the New Durham Town Hall, which fitted in well with the small scale and wood frame construction that characterized the town's building stock at the time the town hall was built.

Stylistically, the results is a structure that combines such Victorian era elements as the vertical massing and off-center placement of the clock tower, steeply pitched gables, paired windows and brackets with Colonial Revival components such as the rectangular, massing of the main block, hipped roof, clapboard wall surface, pilasters and triangular pediments. Ramsdell thus provided the town with a facility that blended popular architectural features of the time with familiar designs from its distant past.

Until the town hall was built in 1908, local political affairs were conducted

(See Continuation Sheet #8-1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet #9-1).

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1
UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 9	3 2 4 7 8 8	4 8 1 1 0 7 5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Tax Map Reference Number: Map #9, Parcel #71) The property nominated is an irregularly shaped lot approximately 490' x 180' x 344' bounded on the north by Main Street, south by the Jacobus property, east by Ridge Road, and west by the Swett property.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>None</u>			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

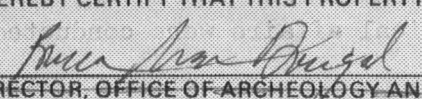
NAME / TITLE Bernard Hiatt, Preservation Advisor	DATE May 25, 1979
ORGANIZATION Strafford-Rockingham Regional Council	TELEPHONE (603) 778-0885
STREET & NUMBER 1 Water Street	STATE New Hampshire
CITY OR TOWN Exeter	

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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 
TITLE **Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development** DATE **January 4, 1980**
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST:	DATE 11/13/80 KEEPER ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 13 1980

DATE ENTERED

NOV 13 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

in the Old Meetinghouse at New Durham Corner, the original town center a few miles to the south. The location of the new town hall reflected the shift of the town's center as the population grew, as new roads were built, and as the railroad penetrated the area in the 1850's.

The building has been in continuous use since its construction as the seat of the town's government and social affairs. The first floor houses the town offices, police station and library, and the second floor auditorium continues to accommodate fraternal organization meetings, dances, plays and suppers, and makes an important contribution to the social fabric of the town.

In spite of the removal of the main entry porch due to deterioration, the building retains its basic integrity and is well maintained. Recent maintenance work has included the installation of a new heating system and new wiring in 1972.

Preservation activities have largely centered around the work of the Archives and Historical Collection Committee and the restoration by the New England Document Conservation Center of town records dating from 1759, the church records of the first Free Will Baptist Church in the United States, and one of only four original town charters in the state, all of which are stored in the vault added to the rear of the town hall in 1977.

The Town Hall occupies a pivotal location at the corner of Main Street and Ridge Road and provides a strong visual focus for the town center. Due to the fact that other historically and architecturally significant structures, such as the Old Meetinghouse (1770) and the Free Will Baptist Church (1819), are not within the sight lines of the town center, the building assumes added importance in defining the historic character of the community.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 13 1980
DATE ENTERED NOV 13 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

"Farmington News" (Farmington, New Hampshire), "Dedication at New Durham,"
February 14, 1908.

"Foster's Daily Democrat" (Dover, New Hampshire), "A. T. Ramsdell, a Well
Known Leading Architect of Dover," August 10, 1916

Jennings, Ellen Cloutman, The History of New Durham, New Hampshire. New
Durham, New Hampshire, 1962.

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 8 1980
DATE ENTERED NOV 13 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

UTM REFERENCES

(Correction of original nomination form - New Durham Town Hall - UTM)

A 19 324750 4811075
zone easting northing

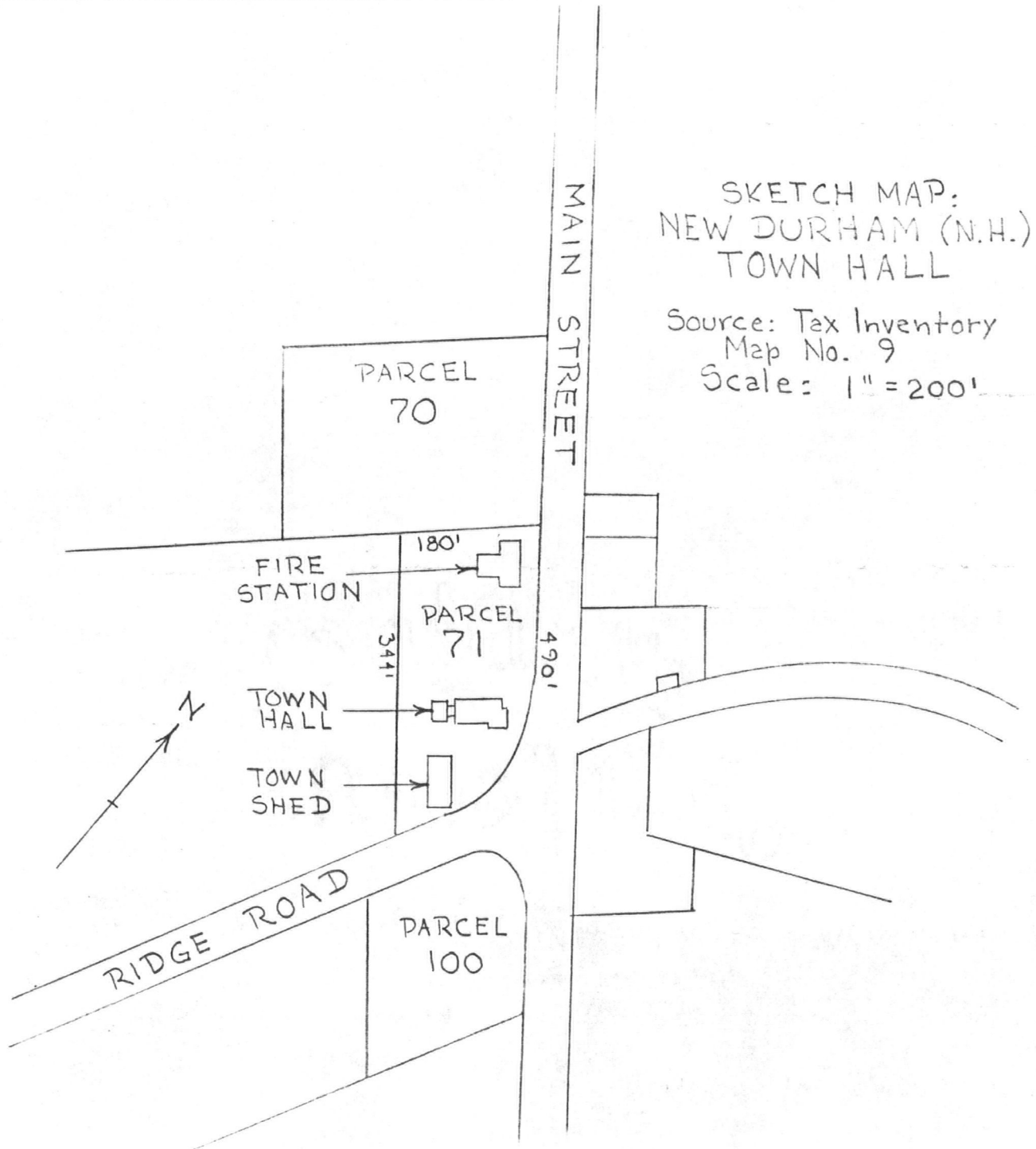
FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED **SEP 8 1980**
NOV 13 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE



Property New Durham Town Hall

State NH - Strafford Working Number 2-13-80 500

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 2
Maps 1

This building is eligible for architecture and government. Built in 1909 by a prominent New England architect the building is an example of Italianate architecture. Since 1908 the bldg. has been the center of the town government (police station, library, town offices) and social affairs. 2 non-contributing structures are on the grounds - we need a fuller description of these, a site map, and UTMs need to be corrected.

HISTORIAN

*Patrick Andrews
4/17/80*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

Information on the additional buildings on the parcel has been provided. Also the UTMs have been corrected.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Lisa Prugh
11/13/80*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered NOV 13 1980
Federal Register Entry 2-2-82 Re-submit _____



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

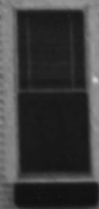
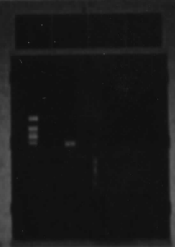
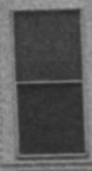
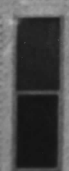
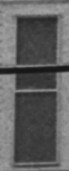
Historic Name: New Durham Town Hall
Common Name: New Durham Town Hall
NR District: N/A
Address: Main Street and Ridge Road
City/Town/State: New Durham, New Hampshire
Photographer: Gretchen Langheld

FEB 13 1980

Negative with: Strafford-Rockingham Regional Council
1 Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire
Description: Side (north) elevation

NOV 13 1980

Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW **Photo Date:** June 15, 1979 **Photo Number** 1 of 2



NEW DURHAM
TOWN HALL
ALL TOWN OFFICES
PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICE DEPT

NEW DURHAM
TOWN HALL

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM: NEW HAMPSHIRE

Historic Name: New Durham Town Hall
Common Name: New Durham Town Hall
NR District: N/A
Address: Main Street and Ridge Road
City/Town/State: New Durham, New Hampshire
Photographer: Gretchen Langheld

Negative with: Strafford-Rockingham Regional Council
1 Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire
Description: Front (northeast) elevation

Photographer facing N NE E SE S SW W NW Photo Date: June 15, 1979

Photo Number 2 of 2

FEB 13 1980

NOV 13 1980

6771 11 (WOLFEBORO)

3-24-000 E

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ALTON QUADRANGLE
NEW HAMPSHIRE
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

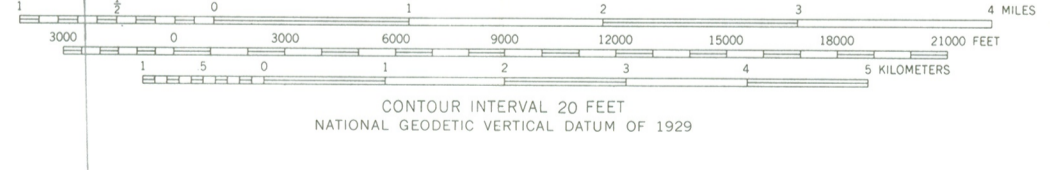


48-11-000N

UTM ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	19 3 24 750	48 11 075
B		
C		
D		

NAME: Town Hall
 NR DISTRICT: NA
 CITY/TOWN/STATE: NEW DURHAM, NH

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and New Hampshire Geodetic Survey
 Topography by planimetric surveys 1917. Revised 1957
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on New Hampshire coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 19, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty — Light duty
 Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
 U.S. Route — State Route

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ALTON, N. H.
 N 4315—W 7100/15
 1957
 AMS 6770 I—SERIES V712



NOV 13 1980



NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GEORGE GILMAN
COMMISSIONER

TELEPHONE 603 271-2411



February 7, 1980

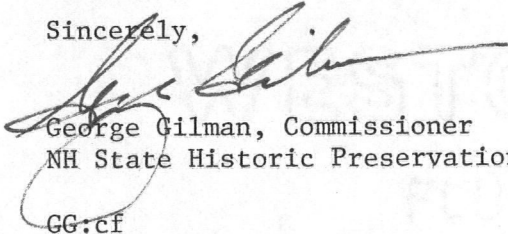
Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
440 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20243

Dear Ms. Shull;

As New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Officer, I am pleased to nominate to the National Register of Historic Places the New Durham Town Hall in New Durham, New Hampshire.

The National Register Inventory-Nomination form for the building, prepared on behalf of the owner, has been reviewed by the Preservation Advisory Council and the New Hampshire Historic Preservation Review Board, and approved by both. The Selectmen have been notified and comments are on file in the Preservation Office.

Sincerely,


George Gilman, Commissioner
NH State Historic Preservation Officer
GG:cf

enclosures

cc: Board of Selectmen
Bernard Hiatt



DATE

4/18/80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

Linda Wilson

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

N. H. 5HPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

New Durham Town Hall - Strafford co.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

I asked her to provide a fuller description of the two buildings that are located in the nominated area and to provide a site map showing the location of all the buildings.

also, the UTM's on the map & the nomination form do not agree - she will clarify.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Patrick Andrews

TITLE

OFFICE

**NEW HAMPSHIRE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

6 Loudon Road P. O. Box 856
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO Mr. Bruce MacDougal
D01
W434
Washington, DC 20243

DATE Sept. 3, 1980	JOB NO.
ATTENTION Bruce MacDougal	
RE: National Register Nominations	

GENTLEMEN:

WE ARE SENDING YOU Attached Under separate cover via _____ the following items:

- Shop drawings Prints Plans Samples Specifications
 Copy of letter Change order Other

COPIES	DATE	NO.	DESCRIPTION
1		1	Continuation Sheet for Bradford Town Hall (New Hampshire) nomination form/ Significance Item #8.
1		1	Continuation Sheet for Free Will Baptist Church in New Durham, NH, nomination form/ Significance Item #8.
		3	Continuation Sheets for the New Durham Town Hall, NH nomination form / UTM References, Description, and Sketch map.

THESE ARE TRANSMITTED as checked below:

- For approval Approved as submitted Resubmit _____ copies for approval
 For your use Approved as noted Submit _____ copies for distribution
 As requested Returned for corrections Return _____ corrected prints
 For review and comment To be part of original nominations.
 FOR BIDS DUE _____ 19 _____ PRINTS RETURNED AFTER LOAN TO US

REMARKS

COPY TO _____

SIGNED: *Christine*
**Christine E. Fonda/Architectural
Historian**

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Date Entered NOV 13 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Bradford Town Hall	Bradford Merrimack County
Free Will Baptist Church	New Durham vicinity Strafford County
New Durham Town Hall	New Durham Strafford County

Also Notified

Honorable John A. Durkin
Honorable Gordon J. Humphrey
Honorable James C. Cleveland
Honorable Norman E. D'Amours

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. George Gilman
Commissioner, Department of Resources
and Economic Development
Post Office Box 856
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

NR

Byers/lbg

11/20/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.