

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

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AUG 14 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Somersworth High School

Other names/site number: Hilltop School

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 17 Grand Street

City or town: Somersworth State: NH County: Strafford

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

<u>E. J. Muzzey</u>	<u>7/20/15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Director and SHPO, NH Division of Historical Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

*For Edson H. Beall*      *9.29.15*  
Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NOT IN USE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival/Georgian Revival

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Limestone

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Hilltop School was built at 17 Grand Street in 1927 to replace an earlier high school building that occupied the same site. It is a three story Georgian Revival high school building. The school is constructed of concrete brick that has been faced with water-struck red brick with Indiana limestone and cast concrete trim. The symmetrical main block of the school faces southeast onto Grand Street and is fifteen bays wide by three bays deep. A large block off the back of the building accommodates a large gymnasium/auditorium with a small shed off of the northwest for coal storage. In 1939, an addition was constructed off of the northwest corner of the structure to accommodate three additional classrooms. The Hilltop School is located on the crest of a hill in the center of a Victorian residential neighborhood. The structure retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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### **Narrative Description**

When it was constructed in 1927, the Somersworth High School consisted of three blocks arranged in roughly a T plan. At this time the building consisted of: a main block that housed the majority of the academic classrooms, a large block off of the rear of the building to house a large multi-story auditorium over a manual training classroom, and a coal-storage shed. In 1939, an addition was constructed to the northwest, creating the current building shape.

### **Location and Setting**

Hilltop School sits at the crest of Prospect Hill, in the center of a Victorian residential neighborhood. The school stands on its own city block and is surrounded by mature maple trees and a large grass lawn. This lawn provides green space in this densely populated portion of Somersworth. The surrounding houses are mostly Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne styles and were built as single dwellings or duplexes.

### **Exterior**

The symmetrical façade of the Somersworth High School or Hilltop School faces southeast onto Grand Street and is fifteen bays wide by three stories with a slightly projecting two-story by three-bay entrance pavilion at the center. The roof is flat. A high concrete foundation stretches from the ground to the base of the first floor windows. A decorative cornice is located just above the third floor windows, below a brick parapet that is crowned with copper flashing. At the center of this parapet is a cut granite block which reads "High School." At the floor level, between the second and third floor windows is a repeated pattern of limestone blocks that are roughly the same width and height as the lintels above the windows.

At the center of the façade is an elaborate classical revival entrance. The entrance is flanked by blind arcaded windows with keystones above. All other windows have limestone sills with limestone lintels. The exterior windows are all modern vinyl replacements, mostly simulated 8/8 with solid infill between the window head and the historic lintel. The date of the replacement windows is unknown. The original windows were 12/12 wooden windows. The entrance door is a modern double metal door with an historic six-light transom window. The transom lites are surmounted by a series of stylized arches. The doorway is set into a recess that has paneled walls and ceiling. The door is surrounded by an elaborate limestone surround with an open pediment above with pineapple finial. There are four brick pilasters along the front of this projected entrance. A wide frieze at the top of the projecting bays reads: "Dedicated to Good Citizenship."

Side elevations of this main block are very similar to the façade. The high foundation runs around the structure, as does the decorative cornice and brick parapet. The pattern of limestone blocks between the second and third floor windows also continues along these elevations. Many of the windows on the north and south sides have been bricked in. Each side entrance is located in the middle of the side elevation. Evidence suggests that these side doors were originally nearly identical, with open pediment above and flanking limestone pilasters. Each pilaster contains oval paterae within the column capital.

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The doors were double wooden panel with fanlight above. The panel doors have been replaced with modern glass and aluminum doors. At the south side the fanlight has been replaced with plywood. The northern side door retains sections of the original door between the shorter modern door, and the fan window.

The gymnasium block is 8 bays wide, 3 bays deep and 3 stories. The ground floor of this section of the building is approximately ½ story below the ground floor of the main block, creating an offset in floor heights between the two sections of the structure. Stylistically this section of the structure is very similar to the main block, with the decorative cornice replaced with a narrow band of limestone between the third floor and a brick parapet.

There is a single-story block off of the west side of the gymnasium block to accommodate coal storage for the original boilers. A brick chimney is located between this and the gymnasium. The coal storage room has a high concrete block foundation and is sheathed in clapboards. This room has no windows and is accessed via a large mid-20<sup>th</sup> century overhead garage door on the south side.

In 1939 an addition was built off of the northwest corner of the school to add classroom space for the expanding Somersworth population. Stylistically, this portion of the building almost exactly matches that of the 1927 building and appears to be constructed of the exact same materials. Historically, there were three large folding panel doors at the west side of the building, creating an entrance to the manual training room on the ground floor. This exterior entrance has been bricked up (however the doors are still in situ and visible from the interior of the space). There is a metal fire-escape at the east side of the addition.

### **Interior**

The interior plan of the main block of the Hilltop School is roughly symmetrical in nature. Offices for the Principal and school Nurse flank either side of the entrance and a long corridor runs parallel to the front of the building with stairs to the upper floors on either end. Surviving gas light fixtures have been retained on either end of the first floor, just inside the side exit doors. Bathrooms are located at the end of the hallways on each floor, adjacent to the stairs. Boys' bathrooms are at the south end of the hall and girls' rooms are at the north end. The front of the building has two large classrooms and there are smaller classrooms/offices/storage spaces along the back of the block, abutting the gymnasium and 1939 addition. One of these storage spaces was previously used as a vault.

The general interior treatments of both the 1927 structure and the 1939 addition remain consistent throughout the building with slight variations in some purpose-built rooms. Dropped ceilings have been installed throughout the building. The hallways have linoleum tile floors with concrete brick walls. The lower portion of the walls is made of glazed brick with unglazed painted concrete bricks above. **(See Photo 0005)** Each hallway has several niches that have been inset into the walls for water fountains. The bricks around the water fountain niches and door surrounds have rounded corners. The water fountain niches are framed in glazed brick and have segmental arched tops. **(See Photo 0006)**

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Typical Hilltop School classrooms have plastered walls and wooden trim with either linoleum or carpeted floors and drop ceilings. (See **Photo 0007**) Classrooms are entered via five-panel doors. Large windows occupy the exterior walls. Coat closets are located along one of the short interior walls and built-in blackboards are located on at least one of the remaining wall surfaces. Interior trim is generally simple, consisting of narrow boards with quarter rounds as accent trim. In most of the classrooms, a long narrow band of trim runs below the window sills along the entire exterior wall, creating a contiguous chair-rail. Below this rail, in many of the classrooms, the wooden brackets for former cast-iron radiators are still extant despite the removal of the cast iron heating system which has been replaced by modern combination heating and cooling units below the central windows. Most of the coat closets retain evidence of coat hooks beneath one or two shelves that are supported by cast iron brackets. Though many of the blackboards have been replaced with green boards, almost all classrooms retain the original built-in chalk trays beneath the boards. Like the windows, the black boards are surrounded with narrow board trim that is accented on either side by quarter-rounds.

Originally, there were two classrooms on the first floor, three on the second, and three on the third. As built, these rooms served as classrooms for general studies as well as bookkeeping, typewriting, study & recitation. A library was located in one room on the second floor, with floor to ceiling shelving along the interior walls. A laboratory for physics and chemistry was located in the center classroom on the third floor. The original cabinets and fume hood are still extant in this room. .

The ground floor of the gymnasium/auditorium block contains a large room that was originally constructed as a manual training room. Originally the floor of this room was a “two inch wooden brick floor, set in tar and treated with pitch.” This floor was designed to minimize the noise from the machinery. Whether this floor survives beneath modern linoleum tiles is unknown. Interior walls in this space are painted brick.<sup>1</sup>

Above the manual training room is the multi-story gymnasium/auditorium. This room was constructed with a capacity of 250. The floor is made of narrow tongue and groove wood that has rippled up as the result of a former water infiltration problem. The wall along the interior is covered over by backboard material. Basketball hoops hang at opposing ends of the space. Stairs lead from the floor to a balcony along the north and south sides of the room. There is seating in a balcony along the west wall. Below the seating are the boy’s and girl’s locker/dressing rooms. These rooms once contained toilets and showers. There were once windows between the second floor hallway and the second story of the gymnasium, allowing light borrowed from the gymnasium into the hall. There were also once windows along the north and south walls of the gymnasium. These have all been bricked in.

### **1939 Addition:**

In 1939 an addition was built off of the northwest corner of the school. This addition is very similar in design to the 1927 building and is composed of the same materials. Like the main

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<sup>1</sup> Clipping from the Somersworth Free Press, 1927 on file at the NH Division of Historical Resources, Concord, NH.

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block, the addition is three floors. The ground floor was constructed as an addition to the manual training room. The ground floor room had three large panel doors at the west side that opened directly to the exterior. These doors are still in place but have been bricked over at the exterior. There are two classrooms above the manual training room. The classroom on the top (third) floor was designed for biology with a sink in the southwest corner, and windows extending along the entire west wall with built-in work table below. The north elevation of the addition was designed with solid walls on the second and third stories, punctuated by blind recesses that suggest window openings and articulate the wall surfaces.

### **Integrity**

The Hilltop School displays a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The relationship between the school property and the surrounding neighborhood at Prospect Hill has changed little since the school was built in 1927. The overall design of the structure has not been altered and the form, plan and space have remained. Despite changes to windows and the addition of dropped ceilings, the Hilltop School displays a high degree of integrity of materials. The dropped ceilings would be relatively easy to remove, as would be the brick infill to many of the doors and windows. Some of the former interior windows allowing light to pass from exterior classrooms to the interior hall are still extant and are covered by the modern dropped ceilings. Many of these changes could be easily reversed. Much of the original interior architectural details remain, including original trim around chalk boards and some windows. The glazed brick and fountain niches have also survived, as have some of the original light fixtures.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

Criterion A: 1927-1956

Criterion C: 1927, 1939

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1927

1939

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Loring, Charles Greely (1927 architect)

F. A. Rumery & Co. (1927 builder)

J. Edward Richardson (1939 architect)

W. M. March (1939 builder)

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hilltop School, constructed in 1927, is significant under National Register criteria A and C. The Hilltop School is significant for Criterion A of the National Register for the important role it played in the development of modern high school education on a local level. The school was constructed as a cutting-edge high school at an important moment in the development of the modern high school. The building's period of significance under Criterion A is from when it was constructed in 1927 until 1956, when it ceased to serve as a High School and became Hilltop Elementary School. The Hilltop School is significant under Criterion C as an example of a 1920s school building that was designed by a well-known area architect in the Colonial Revival/Georgian Revival style. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association for both of these criteria, despite minor changes to the building such as additional interior fire doors, dropped ceilings, and replacement windows.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### **Criterion A: Significant for History of Education in Somersworth**

Hilltop School was constructed as Somersworth High School in 1927 on the location of the former Great Falls High School. By 1927, Somersworth, New Hampshire had already made a name for itself as a city dedicated to secondary education. In 1848, the "Somersworth Act" was passed, permitting the city to have a system of graded schools that included one or more high schools, purchase lots for these schools, and erect school houses.<sup>2</sup> At this time, the population of the city was 5,000.<sup>3</sup> In 1849, the city purchased a lot on the top of Prospect Hill and constructed the Great Falls High School upon it for \$10,000.<sup>4</sup>

Though other high schools existed in New Hampshire in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Great Falls High School was the first public high school to be established in the state. Private secondary educational institutions such as Philips Exeter Academy were incorporated as early as April 3, 1781.<sup>5</sup> These private academies were funded by tuition with the goal of providing the preparatory education necessary to bridge the gap between an elementary education and college. They offered upper-class children the classical curriculum that was required prior to admission by many colleges. This included classes in "Latin, possibly Greek, often French or German,

<sup>2</sup> Hon. William D. Knapp, *Somersworth: An Historical Sketch* (Somersworth, NH: unknown publisher, 1894), lxii and John Scales, *History of Strafford County New Hampshire and Representative Citizens* (Chicago, IL: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Co., 1914), 239.

<sup>3</sup> John Hayward, *A Gazetteer of New Hampshire, Containing Descriptions of All the Counties, Towns, and Districts in the State* (Boston, MA: John P. Jewett, 1849), 128.

<sup>4</sup> Knapp, lxii and Scales, 239.

<sup>5</sup> Hayward, 18-19.

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English, history, mathematics, and some science.”<sup>6</sup> Great Falls High School extended this educational opportunity to the rest of the community.

By the mid-1920s, the Great Falls High School had become dilapidated and the reasons behind wanting to get a high school education had shifted. In the 1925 City Report, the Head Master of the High School said:

If it were not for the patience shown by our boys and girls in enduring the many physical discomforts, the eagerness with which they look to the mental good rather than the material, the withholding of all claims to those comforts which are rightfully theirs, if it were not for these qualities, I repeat, the efficiency of the teachers and pupils, obliged as they are to work in such a somber atmosphere, would decline sharply.<sup>7</sup>

While children had been attending this original school building the population of Somersworth had expanded and secondary-school enrollment and graduation rates had increased. The modern American high school was born at the turn of the century as a standard format for structuring secondary education evolved and schools started offering targeted vocational training. In 1902, a standard format was established requiring fifteen educational units for graduation.<sup>8</sup> In 1907, Theodore Roosevelt said, “Our school system is gravely defective in so far as it puts a premium upon mere literacy training and tends therefore to train the boy away from the farm and the workshop.”<sup>9</sup> After World War I, vocational training programs were encouraged by the federal government to create a more specialized workforce of young people to usher in the modern age.

Also between 1850 and the 1920s there had been significant changes to the requirements for constructing public school buildings on a national level. With greater public access to education, and the increased importance of high school education, prominent architects were hired to design and build schools that reflected the educational and cultural values of the time. Many guidelines were published between 1900 and the mid-1920s with specifications to attain proper building siting, required building features, optimal light, heating/cooling, ventilation, and fireproofing in school buildings. These guidelines were extremely specific and served as a basis for many of our modern building codes. For example, one 1909 work put out by the University of Illinois states that the ventilation systems “should provide at least 30 cu. ft. of fresh air per minute to each student” and that “even temperatures of 68 to 70 degrees should be maintained.”<sup>10</sup>

In the spring of 1927 the Somersworth School board raised \$125,000 for the construction of a new High School building. Boston architect Charles Greely Loring and F. A. Rummery Co. (a

<sup>6</sup> Claudia Goldin, “America’s Graduation from High School: The Evolution and Spread of Secondary Schooling in the Twentieth Century” (*Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 58, No. 2, June 1998), 351.

<sup>7</sup> City of Somersworth, NH. 1925 City Report, 13.

<sup>8</sup> Goldin, 350.

<sup>9</sup> As quoted by Abby Anne Gengry, “1920’s North Carolina High Schools Adapting to Twenty-first Century Needs.” (Unpublished Master’s Thesis, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2012), 26.

<sup>10</sup> Horace A. Hollister, *Public School Buildings and their Equipment, with Special Reference to High Schools* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois, 1909), 21.

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construction company out of Portland, ME) were hired by the city of Somersworth. The old school building was demolished and ground was broken for the Somersworth High School on June 10, 1927. The modern fireproof building was completed in just 19 weeks on December 1, 1927<sup>11</sup> with 8 classrooms for 180 pupils.<sup>12</sup>

When the Somersworth High School was completed in December of 1927, it was a source of civic pride for the city. The school exemplified the coming of a modern educational age. When completed, an article was run in the Somersworth Free Press. The article emphasizes the advancements in the new building, its enlarged capacity, and the efficiency of its construction. In his 1927 Report of the Principal of the High School, John R. Uniack writes with a similar sense of satisfaction when describing the ways in which the new Somersworth High School has fulfilled all of his wishes as expressed in the previous years' reports.

On October 31, 1939, the Somersworth High School was found to be of inadequate size to accommodate the increasing enrollment of pupils and the School Board recommended an addition to the structure to accommodate additional classroom space.<sup>13</sup> Plans for an addition and a renovation of the gymnasium were submitted by John Edward Richardson of Dover, NH. The addition was accepted but the city chose not to remodel the gymnasium as it would "cost as much to build anew, especially if it should be enlarged to standard size."<sup>14</sup> W. M. March was hired as contractor for the project, which was completed in 1940 for a total cost of \$18,747.<sup>15</sup> This brought the capacity of the Somersworth High School to 265 students.

By 1948 a Special School Building Committee had been assembled to study the space needs of the school district. The city began to look forward to the community's needs in light of the current post-World War II high birth rate and the ensuing high construction rates in the City. A high school accommodating 265 students was no longer adequate for the growing population.

Possible future needs have been greatly stressed in all planning discussions for the committee realizes that should this school be built it could well be for fifty or a hundred years – the location and its relation to transportation, its nearness to the populated area, enough land for parking areas, play areas, athletic fields and roads leading in and out of these areas were all considered.<sup>16</sup>

In 1956, a new Somersworth High School, 0.6 mile distant, replaced the former Somersworth High School, having a new auditorium/gymnasium with seating for up to 1,800. At this time the former Somersworth High School became Hilltop Elementary School. Hilltop School served as an elementary school from 1956 until 2007, when the school was closed due to lack of compliance with modern building codes.

<sup>11</sup> City of Somersworth, N.H., "Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the School Board of the City of Somersworth" (July 1, 1927 to June 20, 1928.), 182.

<sup>12</sup> Clipping from the Somersworth Free Press, 1927 on file at the NH Division of Historical Resources, Concord, NH.

<sup>13</sup> City of Somersworth 1939 Municipal Report, 37.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, 151.

<sup>15</sup> City of Somersworth 1940 Municipal Report, 100.

<sup>16</sup> City of Somersworth 1948 Municipal Report, 102.

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**Criterion C: Significant for architecture:**

The Somersworth High School (Hilltop School) is significant under National Register Criterion C as an example of a 1920s Colonial Revival high school building. The Hilltop School has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The period of significance for Criterion C is 1927, when the building was constructed, and 1939 when an addition was added to the Hilltop School. The building is representative of a national trend of high school architecture that was being constructed all across the nation in response to changes in education and the development of building codes to create safe environments for school children. The Hilltop School displays many features characteristic of 1920s high school buildings including materials, general layout of interior spaces, types of interior spaces present, and overall building massing.

The Somersworth High School is a fine example of a Colonial Revival school building. After the 1876 Centennial Celebration, the Colonial Revival movement quickly spread across America as Americans looked to the Colonial period as an ideal world with clearer values, strong patriotism, and a simpler way of life. This style became particularly popular for civic buildings such as post offices, town halls, and schools. The more specific, Georgian Revival style was most popular between 1915 and 1935. The Somersworth High School retains many important features of this style, including a broken pediment over front door, pilasters, symmetrical façade, and double-hung windows. These features, along with the familiar brick and stone construction materials, are common in schools of this period across New Hampshire and New England.

**Charles Greely Loring, Architect**

Charles Greely Loring (1881-1966) was a prominent Boston, MA architect. He was born on October 23, 1881 in Pride's Crossing, MA to Gen. Charles G. Loring, II and Mary J. Hopkins.<sup>17</sup> He graduated from Harvard in 1903 and from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1906. After serving in the offices of Guy Lowell, he attended the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. After briefly opening an office on his own, he joined into partnership with Joseph Daniels Leland, III in July 1913. Loring & Leland operated as a partnership until April of 1919. Loring & Leland designed the Carter Memorial Hospital in Lancaster, MA.<sup>18</sup> They also designed the Waltham Public Library, which was dedicated on December 11, 1915. When asked about his planning process for this structure, Loring emphasized "(1) utility, (2) cost and (3) beauty as three important things which an architectural firm has in mind in planning a building."<sup>19</sup> Loring & Leland also designed the Carter Memorial Hospital in Lancaster, MA. These three principles of design were to follow Loring into his independent career as he designed other public spaces, including the Hilltop School.

From 1919 until his death in 1966, Charles Greely Loring entered into a prolific career as a sole practitioner in Boston. In addition to doing many domestic designs and remodels (particularly in the Back Bay of Boston), Loring designed several public spaces, including: Arlington Police

<sup>17</sup> Backbayhouses.org

<sup>18</sup> This building was published in *Architectural Record*, Volume 39.

<sup>19</sup> *Public Libraries: A Review of Library Matters and Methods* (Vol. 22, Chicago, IL: Library Bureau), 115.

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Station<sup>20</sup> and the Paramater School in Arlington, MA, Somersworth High School (Hilltop School) in Somersworth, NH, The Public Library and Masonic Lodge in Somerville, MA; and the Camden Public Library with Parker Morse Hooper in Camden, MA. He died September 3, 1966 in Concord, MA and is buried at the Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA.

Like the Hilltop School, Parameter School was designed in 1927. This Colonial Revival building is located at 17 Irving Street in Arlington, MA and shares several design elements with the Hilltop School. Like the Hilltop School, the Parameter School is constructed of concrete brick faced with clay brick with cast concrete trim. Parameter School is a smaller structure and is 2 stories with a slate shingle hip roof. Like the Hilltop School, Parameter has classical-revival details at the main entrance including a broken pediment with a pineapple above the front door, cast concrete pilasters and a prominent inscription across the frieze below the closed pediment which reads: "Dedicated to Good Citizenship."

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<sup>20</sup> This building is included in the Arlington Center National Register Historic District.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Clark, Frank E. & Mary Beth Faucher. *Images of America: Around Somersworth, From the Collection of the Somersworth Historical Society*. Dover, NH: Chalford Publishing Co., 1995.

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Hilltop School

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Name of Property

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Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2.080

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 43.262242 | Longitude: -70.868045 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

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Name of Property

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**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property occupies Map 11, Lot 49 in the local assessors' records. The total acreage of the property is 2.14 acres and it is bounded to the east by Grand Street, to the south by Grove Street, to the northwest by Prospect Street and to the north by Highland Street.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property consists of the current tax map of the property. This lot is also the lot historically associated with the Hilltop School and was once shared with a small fire department building located at the western tip of the lot (at the intersection of Grove and Prospect Streets).

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Mae H. Williams  
organization: Plymouth State University  
street & number: PO Box 941  
city or town: Meredith state: NH zip code: 03253  
e-mail mae@unlockinghistory.com  
telephone: (603) 707-0502  
date: November 2014

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Hilltop School  
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- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Hilltop School  
City or Vicinity: Somersworth  
County: Strafford State: New Hampshire  
Photographer: Mae H. Williams  
Date Photographed: November 15, 2014  
Photo 0001 Façade of Hilltop School with camera facing northwest.  
1 of 9

Name of Property: Hilltop School  
City or Vicinity: Somersworth  
County: Strafford State: New Hampshire  
Photographer: Mae H. Williams  
Date Photographed: November 5, 2014  
Photo 0002: North and west sides of Hilltop School with 1939 addition in foreground with camera facing south.  
2 of 9

Name of Property: Hilltop School  
City or Vicinity: Somersworth  
County: Strafford State: New Hampshire  
Photographer: Mae H. Williams  
Date Photographed: November 5, 2014  
Photo 0003: South and west sides of Hilltop School with coal storage room in foreground with camera facing northeast.  
3 of 9

Hilltop School

Strafford, NH  
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Name of Property

Name of Property: Hilltop School

City or Vicinity: Somersworth

County: Strafford

State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Mae H. Williams

Date Photographed: November 5, 2014

Photo 0004: Northeast entrance door photographed with camera facing southwest.

4 of 9

Name of Property: Hilltop School

City or Vicinity: Somersworth

County: Strafford

State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Mae H. Williams

Date Photographed: November 5, 2014

Photo 0005: Interior hallway facing main entrance, photographed with camera facing southeast.

5 of 9

Name of Property: Hilltop School

City or Vicinity: Somersworth

County: Strafford

State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Mae H. Williams

Date Photographed: November 5, 2014

Photo 0006: Water fountain niche in hallway, photographed with camera facing southeast.

6 of 9

Name of Property: Hilltop School

City or Vicinity: Somersworth

County: Strafford

State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Mae H. Williams

Date Photographed: November 5, 2014

Photo 0007: Typical Hilltop School classroom, photographed with camera facing north.

7 of 9

Name of Property: Hilltop School

City or Vicinity: Somersworth

County: Strafford

State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Mae H. Williams

Date Photographed: November 5, 2014

Photo 0008: Hilltop School Gymnasium/Auditorium, photographed with camera facing south.

8 of 9

Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
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Name of Property: Hilltop School

City or Vicinity: Somersworth

County: Strafford

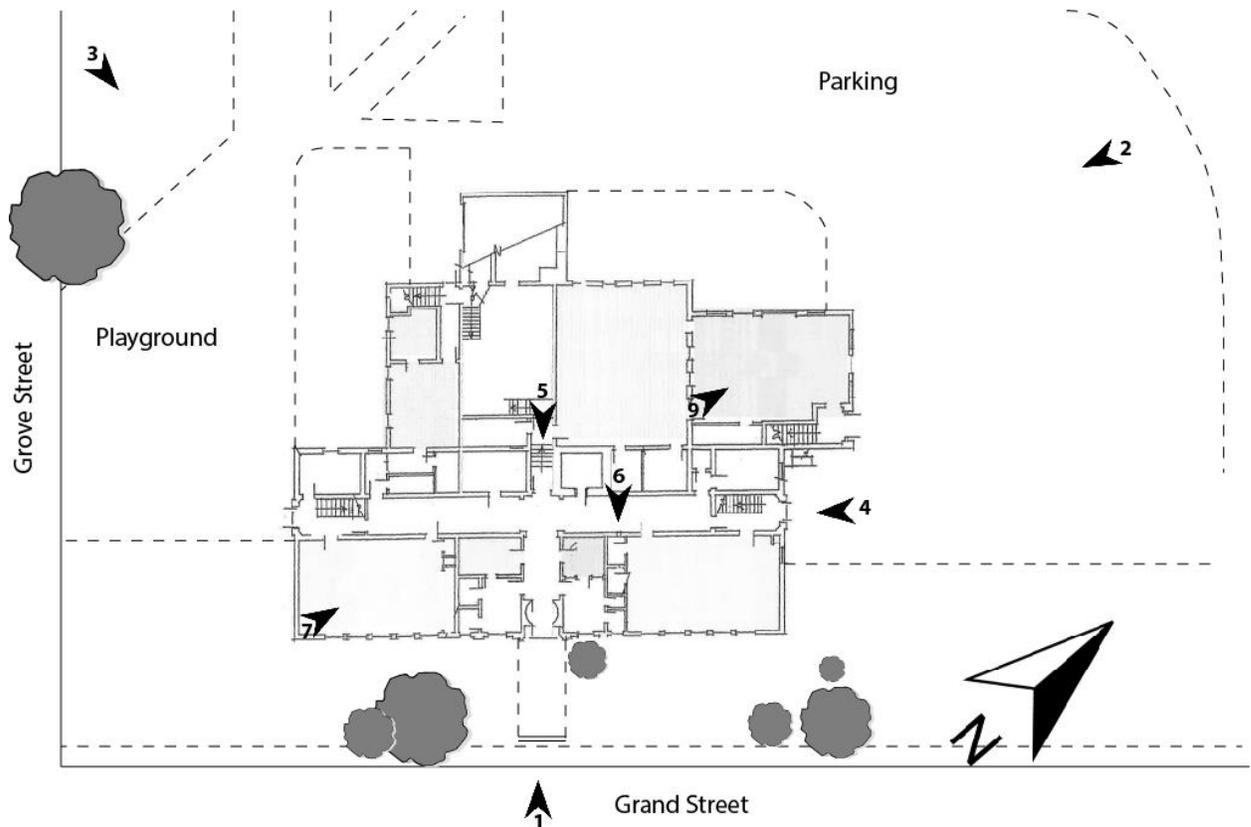
State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Mae H. Williams

Date Photographed: November 5, 2014

Photo 0009: 1939 Mechanical Training Room Addition, photographed facing north.

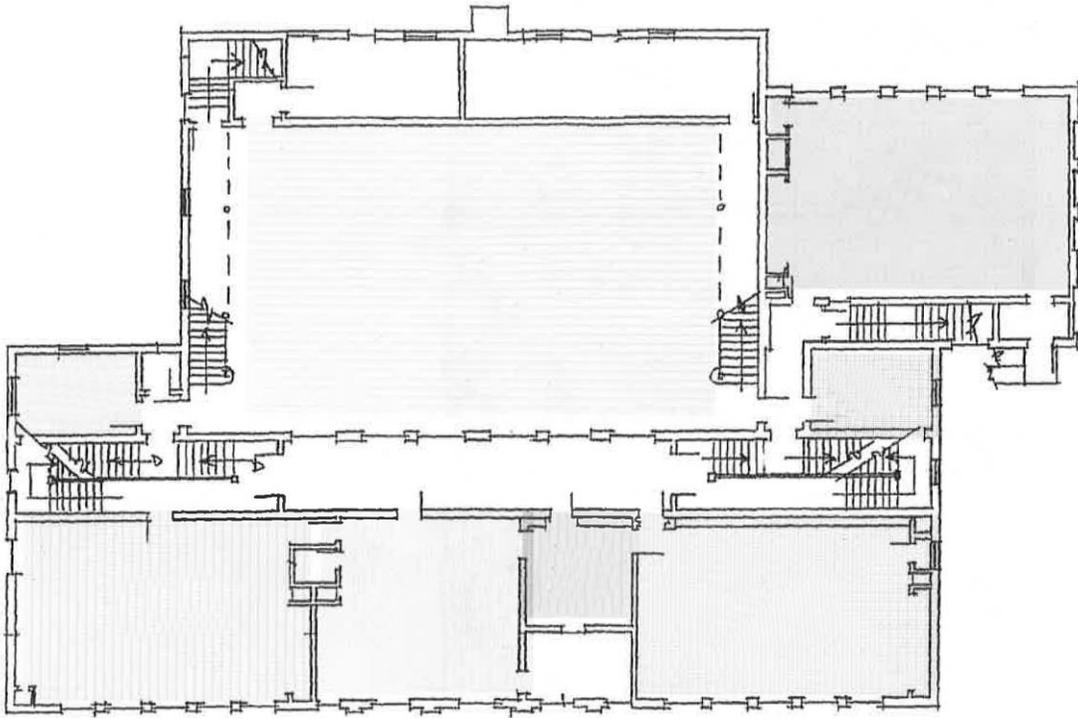
9 of 9



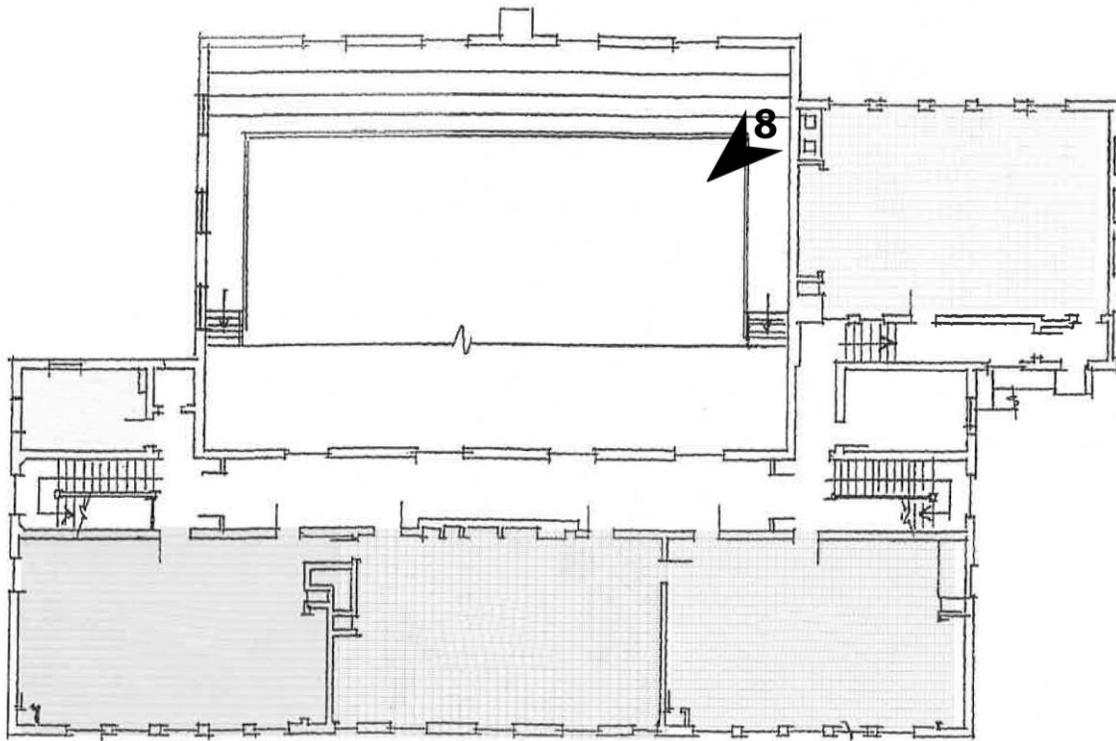
Site Plan & First Floor Photo Key

Hilltop School  
Name of Property

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Second Floor Photo Key



3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Photo Key

Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
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Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
County and State



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Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
County and State



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Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
County and State



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Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
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Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
County and State



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Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
County and State



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Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
County and State



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Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
County and State

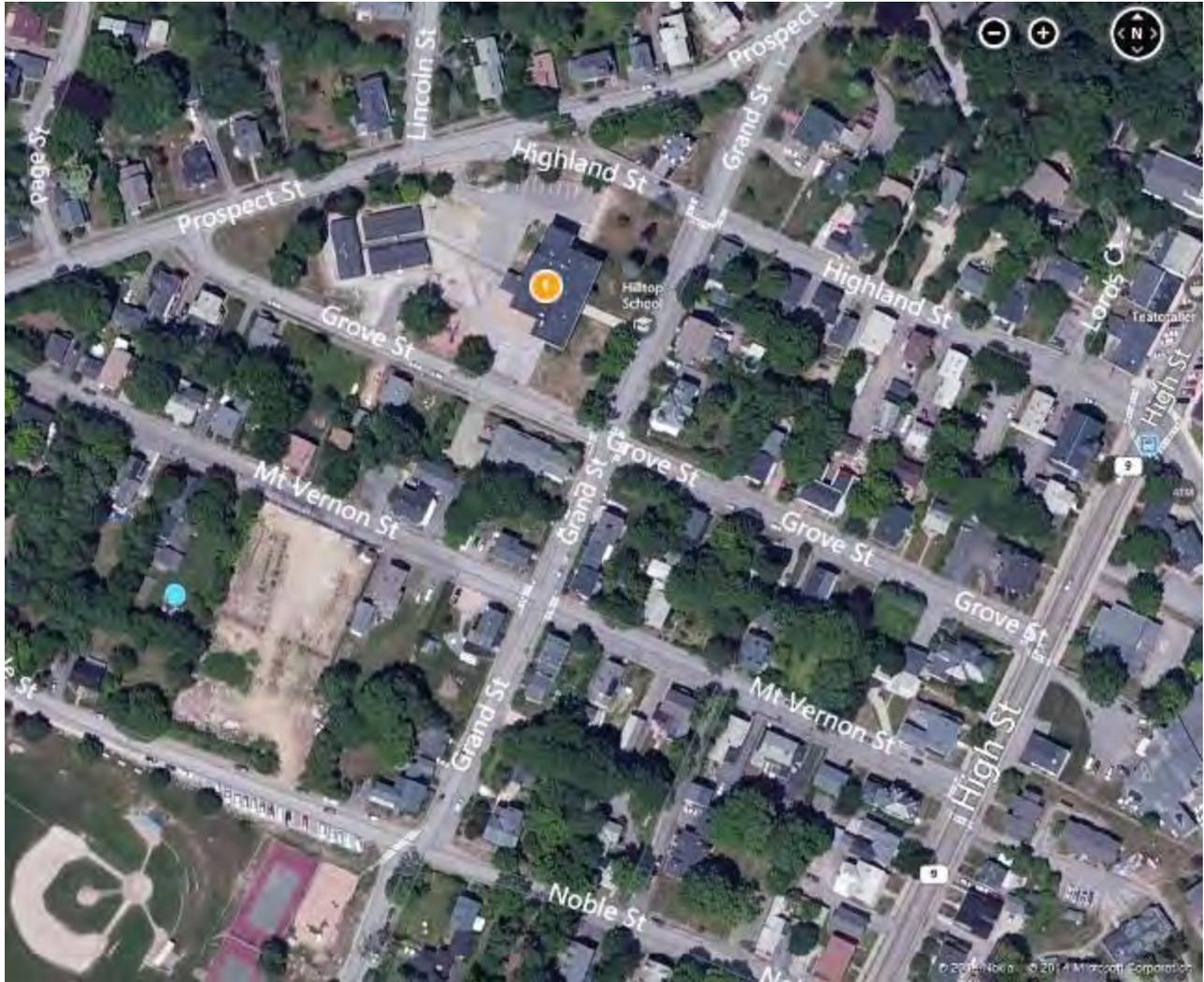


NH\_Strafford County\_Hilltop School\_0009.tif

Hilltop School  
Name of Property

Strafford, NH  
County and State

**1. Hilltop School, 17 Grand Street, Somersworth, NH**  
Latitude: 43.262242 Longitude: -70.868045





SCHOOL

• DEDICATED TO CITIZENSHIP •













For Hickey  
Mar 112  
Barwick MF 0166





EXIT



RECEIVED 2280

AUG 14 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
Park Service



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Lisa Deline  
**From:** Peter Michaud  
**Subject:** National Register Nominations  
**Date:** August 10, 2015

Dear Lisa,

Enclosed are five nominations for the National Register. The enclosed disks for Owls Head in Hebron, NH, The Bartlett Roundhouse in Bartlett, NH, Hilltop School in Somersworth, NH, Rollinsford Grade School in Rollinsford, NH, and Bristol Town Hall in Bristol, NH contain the true and correct copy of the nominations for these properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

On a side note, Rollinsford Grade School is my former elementary school and I did the nomination for them on my own time as a gift.

Peter Michaud  
National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives,  
& Easements Coordinator  
19 Pillsbury Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 271 3583 *fax* (603) 271 3433  
Peter.michaud@dcr.nh.gov