

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Peterborough Town House

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number One Grove Street NA not for publication

city or town Peterborough NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Hillsborough code 011 zip code 03458

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Nancy C. Muller 01/25/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
NEW HAMPSHIRE

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 2/29/96
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

Peterborough Town House

Name of Property

Hillsborough NH

County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof Slate

other WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Peterborough Town House
Name of Property

Hillsborough NH
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT (A)

ARCHITECTURE (C)

Period of Significance

1918-1945 (A)

1918 (C)

Significant Dates

1918 (A & C)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Little and Russell

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Peterborough Historical Society

Peterborough Town House
Name of Property

Hillsborough NH
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one (.3 acre)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine E. Fonda
Craig Hicks *
organization NH Div. of Historical Resources date January 1996
Town of Peterborough *
street & number Box 2043 telephone (603) 271-6437
RR 2 Box 166B * (603) 924-8676 or 3201 *
city or town Concord state NH zip code 03302-2043
Peterborough * NH * 03458 *

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Peterborough
street & number One Grove Street telephone (603)924-3201
city or town Peterborough state NH zip code 03458

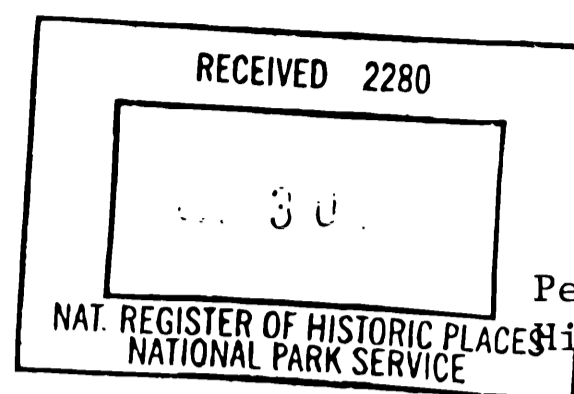
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1



Peterborough Town Hse
Hillsborough Cty. NH

DESCRIPTION

The Peterborough Town House, located at the corner of Grove and Main Streets, is an imposing Colonial Revival structure which dominates the downtown. It is a rectangular brick building with slate-sheathed gable roof. The ground floor, housing offices, has the exterior appearance of raised basement separated from the meeting hall above by a stone beltcourse. The sloping site allows for full-height entrance doors on the front (east) elevation, while the rear (west) elevation consists of only a couple of feet of exposed wall beneath the beltcourse.

The front (east) facade, facing Grove Street, is divided into five bays. On the ground floor these are expressed by five full-height round-headed openings. The three central bays are composed of recessed panelled double-leaf doors with semicircular fanlights above. The outer-most bays are multi-paned windows. Each of the five is adorned with a keystone. Pilasters carrying a full modillioned entablature dominate the upper level of the front elevation. These fluted pilasters with Corinthian caps are found between each bay and at the corners for a total of six. They serve to separate the five bays of the facade. The central three bays are characterized by an eight over twelve sash window above the beltcourse with a 28/28 sash window with fanlight window over that, lighting the upstairs auditorium. The corner bays include eight over twelve windows above the beltcourse with round-headed niches overhead. The triangular pediment with full entablature frames a brick tympanum with a round window in the center. Dentils and modillions elegantly embellish the pediment. The design culminates in an octagonal lantern on the ridge, resting on a square base with quoin motifs.

The beltcourse reads on the side (north) elevation, and indeed around the entire building. Beneath it, there are four 12/12 double hung windows along the eastern half of that elevation; a fifth such window located in the center has been converted to a door as part of the 1995 rehabilitation. Above the beltcourse the seven-bay elevation includes five 28 over 28 light sashes with fanlights in the center, each with a four over four rectangular window beneath it. Each of the end bays includes a blind recessed

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Peterborough Town Hse.
Hillsborough Cty. NH

round-headed brick panel over an eight over twelve light sash, flanked by brick pilasters. On the west end of this side of the building is an new secondary entrance addition constructed of brick with a gable roof. The south elevation is similar in design.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Peterborough Town House is eligible for the National Register under criterion A for significance in Politics/Government for the years 1918-1945, and under criterion C for significance in Architecture for the date of construction, 1918. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for that date. This elegant example of the Colonial Revival Style has been the seat of town government since its construction. A recent renovation will allow the building to continue to serve the town in that capacity.

This building replaced an earlier Town House constructed on the same site in 1860 and substantially modified in 1886-1887. A fire in 1916 badly damaged the structure, so much so that it was decided to clear the site and build anew.

This elegant brick structure is said to have been inspired by Faneuil Hall in Boston. Whether or not that is actually the case, the design's Colonial intentions are obvious. Typical of the Colonial Revival idiom, the building uses classical forms and details writ large compared to their previous applications during the early Republic. The building's massiveness and rectangular form fit the mold of this popular style of the early 20th century. Other features are also characteristic. For example, the use of arched openings, numerous large multi-paned windows, finely detailed cornices, and classical pilasters. Together these elements convey a dignified design well-suited to the seat of town government.

Benjamin F. W. Russell (1875-1943) was the building's designer. Originally from Boston, by 1914 Russell had become a resident of

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Peterborough Town Hse.
Hillborough Cty. NH

Peterborough as well as Brookline, Massachusetts. He was actively involved in the community life of Peterborough, belonging to various civic groups and serving as Fence Viewer. An 1898 graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Russell served as Guy Lowell's chief assistant for the planning and construction of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts seven years later. In 1915 he joined forces with Lovell Little, forming the Boston architectural firm of Russell and Little. (1) In addition to the Town House, the firm was responsible for designing two other noteworthy Peterborough buildings in the same idiom - The American Guernsey Cattle Club and the Historical Society building. Although Russell spent little time in Peterborough later in his life, he clearly left his mark on the community of which he was so fond. Due to Mrs. Russell's poor health, the couple divided their time between California in winter and Nantucket in summer. Benjamin Russell died in Santa Barbara, California, in 1943, at the age of 68.

(1) Grove Street Then and Now, an exhibit of the Peterborough Historical Society, June 1992. Prepared by James Crabtree with technical assistance from Anne Wardwell.

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Peterborough Town Hse.
Hillsborough Cty. NH

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries of the nominated property are shown by the dashed line on the attached sketch map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property is that site upon which the building was originally constructed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Morrison, George Abbott. History of Peterborough, New Hampshire - Book One. Rindge, New Hampshire: Richard R. Smith, 1954.

Smith, Albert, M.D., L.L.D. History of the Town of Peterborough, Hillsborough County, New Hampshire. Boston: Press of George H. Ellis, 1876.

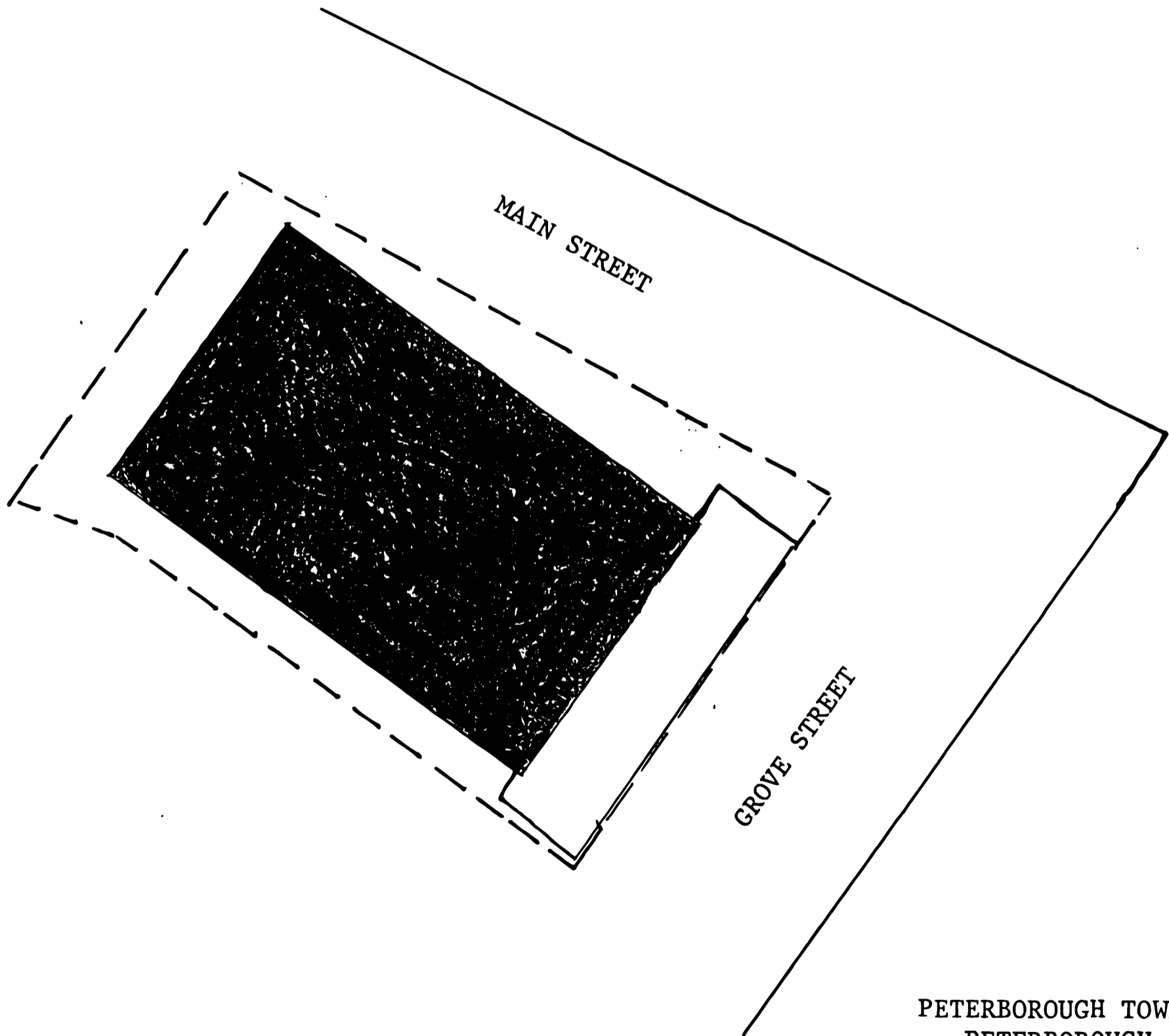
Peterborough, New Hampshire Bicentennial Commemoration. Peterborough, New Hampshire, 1939.

The Architectural Forum, November 1925.

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PETERBOROUGH TOWN HOUSE
PETERBOROUGH, NH

