

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
New Hampshire
COUNTY:
Hillsborough
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE:
JUN 28 1978

1. NAME

COMMON:
Manchester City Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Manchester City Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
908 Elm Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Manchester
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First
STATE:
New Hampshire 03101
CODE:
33
COUNTY:
Hillsborough
CODE:
011

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Manchester, New Hampshire
STREET AND NUMBER:
908 Elm Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Manchester
STATE:
New Hampshire 03101
CODE:
33

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER:
Hillsborough County Courthouse
P.O. Box 370 19 Temple Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Nashua
STATE:
New Hampshire 03060
CODE:
011

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
To be included in "Historic Survey of Manchester"
DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
The Manchester Historic Association
STREET AND NUMBER:
129 Amherst Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Manchester
STATE:
New Hampshire
CODE:
33

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present Physical Appearance: The Manchester City Hall is a three-story brick and granite structure of five bays (fronting on Elm Street) by three bays (facing Market Street). The second five bay side faces a small parking lot and an alley that runs perpendicular to Market Street, while the fourth side of the building is attached to a business building, as it has always been. The Market Street end has a center extension tower which rises several stories above the main block of the building.

The bays of the main block and the corners of the tower are marked off by granite engaged column/sham buttress arrangements. Except for the tower corners where this arrangement is elongated, columns begin as squares at street level rising to a point midway up the second floor at which point they are capped with crenellations; they rise from this point to just below the roof line as engaged half octagonal columns which receive a moulded capital. With the exception of the tower, the first floor is currently made up of non-descript wood and glass store fronts marked off by the bays of the building, and painted black. Separating the first and upper floors of the building is a crenellated granite coursing which runs around the building at the top of the store fronts. The upper two floors are of red brick with each bay containing one two-story window made up of three pointed arch windows capped under one granite label. The arches are separated at the top by trefoils and divided mid-way by wood panels to mark the third floor line. The tower contains a two-story center pointed window, slightly larger than any of the other windows, which is capped by a granite cap with foliate crockets and a finial. The window itself is made up of a pattern of pointed arches, elongated for the two-story height. Around the entire building (including tower) runs a band of wood pierced with a quatrefoil pattern; only the tower has a second wood band of slightly lighter scale at the level of the top of the tower window.

Above the roofline of the main body there exists a parapet with a balustrade. It consists of a wooden balustrade of squat round columns supporting straight sided pointed arches. On top of each column/buttress sits a squat octagonal granite column with a pointed arch in each face and topped by crenellations which serves to divide the balustrade along the bays of the building.

The tower has the column/buttress arrangement in granite at each of its front corners while the back two corners have the same arrangement in brick with granite trim. Above the body of the building, the tower contains a clock (one face in each side). At its roofline the tower has granite crenellations, concealing a low sloping roof that supports a wooden octagonal lantern with a pointed arch in each face, and containing a bell inside.

Continued on Continuation Sheet 1

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(Continuation Sheet) 1.

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7. DESCRIPTION, continued

Original Physical Appearance: Originally, the city offices entered through the base of the tower instead of through the middle bay of the Elm Street side as they have since the 1895 renovation, which also took the stores for city offices. The entrance on the tower has since been bricked in and has small double hung windows.

The brick parts of the exterior were stuccoed and incised to give the appearance of ashlar work; however, this layer has since been removed during the twentieth century. Most recently, the pinnacles were removed from the top of the lantern due both to their weakened state and the fear of fire by lightning. All of the physical changes can be documented from the post card views and prints of the City Hall, held at the Manchester Historical Association.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1844

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture: Built in 1844-1845 the Manchester City Hall more or less duplicated the space of the previous Town Hall which had been completed in 1841 in the Greek Revival style and burned in 1844. Both buildings contained space for five stores on the street floor with two stories above for the municipal government. The combination of governmental and commercial space appears to be an adaptation of a market house tradition whose relative might be found in buildings such as Faneuil Hall in Boston.

From contemporaneous histories and accounts, it seems clear that the Manchester City Hall is the result of designs by Edward Shaw, a Boston architect who was born and raised in New Hampshire, established himself as a housewright in Boston in 1822-23 and later as an architect. During his career he produced five publications, four of which were builders' guides that enjoyed wide circulation, remaining in print from 1831 to 1876 (some editions were published in Philadelphia and Cleveland). Talbot Hamlin places Shaw in the tradition of Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever and feels that Shaw's influence on rural building must have been widespread.² Despite his publications and private practice, few of Shaw's buildings are known; the City Hall represents the best documented of his Gothic designs (perhaps the only one). Further, John Coolidge feels that the City Hall may be one of the earliest public buildings in the gothic style.³ Except for minor alterations which are easily documented, the building's exterior and decorative details are essentially intact and in good condition; many of the details can be seen in Shaw's Modern Architect; or Every Carpenter His Own Master.⁴

Political: Built early in Manchester's history, the City Hall has served as the seat of government continuously throughout Manchester's major periods of growth and development. It currently continues to serve this function, housing the Mayor's Office and other important city functions.

Continued on Continuation Sheet 2

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coolidge, John. Mill and Mansion. New York: Russell & Russell, 1967.

Hamlin, Talbot. Greek Revival Architecture in America. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1964.

Potter, C. E. The History of Manchester, Formerly Derryfield in New Hampshire. Manchester: C. E. Potter, 1856.

Continued on Continuation Sheet 3

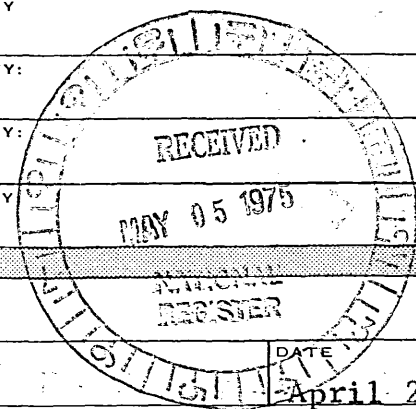
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42° 58' 37"	71° 27' 53"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/11 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Brian R. Pfeiffer

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: April 29, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
135 Ivy Street

CITY OR TOWN: Brookline STATE: Massachusetts 02146 CODE: 23

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
Title: Commissioner, DRED State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: April 30, 1975

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/13/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date: _____

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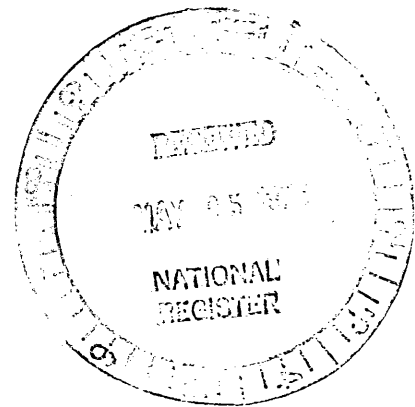
(Continuation Sheet) 2.

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Hillsborough	
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ENTRY NUMBER 50018	DATE 18 1975

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

- 1 C.E.Potter, The History of Manchester, Formerly Derryfield in New Hampshire (Manchester: C.E.Potter, 1856), pp. 615-617.
- 2 Talbot Hamlin, Greek Revival Architecture in America (New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1964), pp. 164-165.
- 3 John Coolidge, Mill and Mansion (New York: Russell & Russell, 1967), pp. 97, 210, & 250.
- 4 Edward Shaw, The Modern Architect; or Every Carpenter His Own Master (Boston: Wentworth, Hewes & Co., 1859), plates 41-43 & 51.



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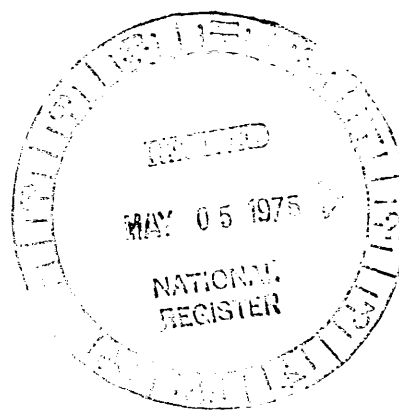
(Continuation Sheet) 3

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Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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18	1 8 1975

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

Shaw, Edward. The Modern Architect; or Every Carpenter His Own Master. Boston: Wentworth, Hewes, & Co., 1859.



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(Continuation Sheet) 4

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued

10.2 UTM References

Zone 19

Easting 2-99-140

Northing 47-62-240 550

UTM
OK
HA

