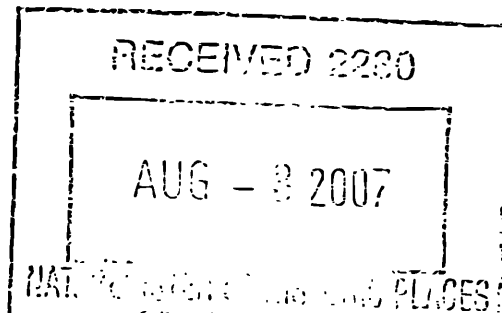


APR 06 2007

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 Carroll County Court House

other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 20 Courthouse Square NA  not for publication

city or town Ossipee NA  vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Carroll code 03 zip code 03864

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.)

Wanda Ray Walker DSHPO  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/30/2007  
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  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

9.12.07

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	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/ courthouse  
GOVERNMENT/ government office

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE / museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Slate

other Wood

Limestone

Narrative Description

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

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

1916

1916-1957

**Significant Dates**

1916

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Albert H. Dow, architect

Wallace Building Co., builders

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Ossipee Historical Society

Carroll County Court House  
Name of Property

Carroll County, New Hampshire  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	9	3	2	9	3	0	0	4	8	3	8	8	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

3 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

2 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

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 David Ruell

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date April 5, 2007

street & number 7 Hill Avenue PO Box 1254 telephone 603-968-7716

city or town Ashland state N.H. zip code 03217

### 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 Ossipee Historical Society

street & number 20 Courthouse Square PO Box 245 telephone 603-539-8669  
603-539-6784

city or town Ossipee state N.H. zip code 03864

**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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Carroll County, New Hampshire

## 7. DESCRIPTION

The Carroll County Court House is a Colonial Revival style courthouse that stands on the southwest side of Courthouse Square (part of Route 171) in the center of Ossipee village. The three major sections of the building, all of the same height and covered by intersecting hip roofs, are arranged in a I-shaped plan. The front section, which contained county offices, is set with its broad lateral northeast side facing the street. To its rear (southwest) is the slightly narrower central section, containing the courtroom, with a roof set perpendicular to the front section roof. On the rear of the central section, is the slightly wider rear section, which housed the judge's chamber and jury rooms, with a roof paralleling the front section roof. Although the three major sections, all built of brick, are the same height, they have different numbers of stories above the partly exposed basement level they share. The rear and front sections are two and half stories high above the basement, each with two stories of rooms and an unfinished attic lit by a single window. The central courtroom section is one and a half stories high, as it contains a tall courtroom that is the same height as the two stories of rooms in the other two sections, as well as an unfinished windowless attic. Four entrances of the brick sections are sheltered by wooden additions. The two story high, gable roofed monumental portico sheltering the main entrance in the center of the front section's northeast façade, is an original feature. The other three additions, all one story high, were added later to shelter lesser entrances. A shed roofed enclosed addition set in the west corner of the front and central sections covers the former exterior stairs to a basement entrance in the central section. Two entrances on the rear section, a main level door on the northwest side and a basement entrance on the rear southwest side, are now sheltered by open porches the former with a shed roof, the latter with a gable roof.

The brick walls of the three major sections are all laid in Flemish bond. The basement levels of the three sections are topped by a continuous simply beveled water table of

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Carroll County, New Hampshire

## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

limestone. The corners of the more public front section are also embellished by limestone quoins. The limestone blocks are all of the same width in the corners of the basement level, but are laid in in and out bond at the corners of the main level and the upper story. The three main sections and the front portico all share the same wooden cornice, that is embellished with moldings, dentils, and carved scroll modillions. The slate covered hip roofs of the three sections are trimmed by copper ridge roll moldings on the ridges, by slate courses along the hips, and by metal flashing along the eaves. The roof of the front section is flared at the eaves.

In the center of the three bay wide northeast façade of the front section is the main entrance. The original double doors have been replaced by modern vinyl double doors, each with a large panel beneath an eight pane built-in window. The doors are set in a simple narrow vinyl frame. But the rest of the original entrance remains intact. The wooden doorway is set in a wide opening with a limestone sill and a semi-elliptical brick arch. Flanking the modern double doors are half sidelights, while above the doors and sidelights is a broad semi-elliptical arched window. The sidelights each have sixteen triangular panes as they are divided by sash bars into four rectangles, which are further subdivided into four panes each by diagonal muntins connecting the corners of the rectangles. Beneath the molded sill of each sidelight is a panel with molded frame. The sidelight and panel are set in a slight recess with moldings on the sides, bottom and top. The doors and sidelights are flanked by four slender colonettes with molded bases and capitals. The colonettes support a cornice with architrave and frieze that projects above the colonettes and spans the arched opening. The architrave and frieze were omitted above the doors. The semi elliptical window has twenty two panes in a quite elaborate pattern. In the center of the bottom of the window is a small semi-elliptical pane. From this small window, six diagonal muntins radiate, creating seven triangles, which are each further subdivided into three panes by a semi-

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

elliptical sash bar and swag shaped sash bars along the upper edge. The innermost panes have rounded upper ends, leaving small spherical triangular panels between the panes and the semi-elliptical sash bar. The brick arch has limestone impostes and keystone. A wooden panel is now mounted on the keystone to support two modern light fixtures, an entrance light and a spotlight aimed at the flagpole on the lawn.

Directly above the main entrance is a limestone block engraved with the building's date "A.D. 1916". In the second story of the central bay is a triple window, with a central 6/6 sash window and narrower flanking 2/2 sash windows. The triple window has a limestone sill and a molded frame which butts up against the frieze of the cornice above.

The central bay is framed by the monumental portico. The base and floor of the portico have been altered and enlarged. The original base of limestone blocks can still be seen on the northwest and southeast sides, where it occupies the innermost (southwestern) four feet of the current base. The limestone floor also survives underneath the pairs of columns at each end of the portico. But, the base has been extended four and a half feet to the northeast by a poured concrete addition that stretches the full street side width of the portico. Between the columns, the innermost section of the floor has been replaced by a concrete floor that slopes gently up to the main entrance. In the center of the northeast street side of the extended base, directly in front of the main entrance, are three wide poured concrete steps. A concrete handicapped ramp on an earthen bank that rises to the southeast end of the base extension will be described more fully as part of the grounds. The base extension, the steps and the southwest side of the upper section of the ramp all share similar metal pipe railings with metal pipe posts, three metal pipe horizontal rails and numerous narrower metal pipe balusters. A simpler metal pipe hand rail bisects the front steps.

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

The four two story tall wooden columns are essentially Roman Doric in design. They are coupled in pairs at each end of the portico. Behind each pair, a pilaster of the same design is found attached to the brick wall. Both columns and pilasters have obvious entasis. The columns and pilasters support a large pediment. The pediment uses the same cornice with moldings, dentils and modillions, as the hip roofs of the building, with the addition of an architrave and frieze on the horizontal cornice. The building's name "CARROLL COUNTY COURT HOUSE" is spelled out in raised letters on the frieze. In the center of the flush boarded tympanum is a six pane circular window, with a central round pane from which radiate muntins to create five curved outer panes. The window has a molded round frame ornamented by raised projecting blocks at the four cardinal points. The portico is wide but shallow, being only four feet deep. The narrow wooden ceiling is trimmed by moldings like those of the pediment's horizontal frieze. The portico's gable roof is sheathed with slate and topped by a copper ridge roll molding.

The two side bays of the northeast façade are identical in design. Each has a six pane basement window in a simply molded wooden frame, with a limestone sill. The basement window is topped by the limestone water table. In the first story is a large 6/6 sash window whose upper sash, and therefore the upper panes, have curved tops. The first story window has a molded frame, a limestone sill, and a segmental brick arch with a limestone keystone. In the second story is a large 6/6 sash window, also with molded frame and limestone sill, but topped by a limestone flat arch ornamented by a keystone and radiating end blocks. The first and second story windows in the eastern bay are each flanked by vertical rows of bolts that penetrate the brick wall to hold the framework for an interior flexible metal fire shutter that can be lowered to cover the window in a fire.

The two bays of both the northwest and southeast ends of the front section are treated almost identically to the two



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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

side bays of the northeast façade. The basement windows have limestone sills and molded frames that are topped by the limestone water table. The basement windows all have six pane sash, with the exception of the southernmost window on the southeast end whose lower half has been filled with a louvered metal vent, leaving three upper panes, one of which has been filled by sheet metal around a projecting metal pipe. The southernmost basement window on the northwest end has been sealed off on the interior. The first story windows have limestone sills, 6/6 sash, curved upper sash and panes, molded frames and segmental brick arches with limestone keystones, like the northeastern first story windows. The second story windows have 6/6 sash, limestone sills, molded frames, and limestone flat arches with keystones and radiating end blocks, like the second story façade windows. The southern northwestern second story window still retains the simple wooden brackets that once supported an exterior air conditioner. The two southeastern second story windows now appear dark, as they have been sealed off on the inside.

The short eastern and western parts of the front section's rear southwest wall not covered by the central courtroom section and the basement entrance addition are windowless.

The front section's roof is topped by the building's only chimneys. The two wide brick chimneys with corbelled caps straddle the roof ridge and are set symmetrically on each side of the portico.

The southeast and northwest lateral sides of the central courtroom section differ slightly in the basement level. The southeast side has two basement windows, a six pane window with metal bars at the north end, and a solid hinged panel at the south end. Both windows have limestone sills, molded wooden frames and flat brick arches. The northwest side has two pairs of six pane windows, in plain wooden frames set in plain concrete outer frames, with concrete sills. The courtroom in the main level is lit by three large tall and wide windows in each lateral side. These six windows all

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

have the same design, with limestone sills, simply molded wooden frames, and semicircular arched brick arches with limestone imposts and keystones. Each window features a tall 12/12/12 sash window, flanked on each side by equally tall fixed nine pane windows, that are only one pane wide. These three windows rise to the molded lintel stretching between the two imposts. In the tympanum of the arch is found a semicircular arched six pane window directly above the central 12/12/12 sash window and four two pane curved windows along the curve of the arch. The semicircular arched window is divided by a semicircular sash bar, a vertical muntin, and two diagonal muntins, which, like the muntins of the curved outer windows, appear to radiate from the center point of the arch.

In the west corner of the front and central sections is found the wooden addition built over the steps to the basement entrance of the central section. The L-shaped addition uses the concrete walls of the original steps as its foundation. The walls are sheathed with vertically grooved plywood and trimmed with corner boards. The asphalt shingled shed roof is trimmed by close wooden verges and plain lateral box cornices. The only opening is a plain metal door with a small single pane built-in window and a plain metal frame in the northwest side.

The small areas of the rear section's northeast wall to the east and west of the central courtroom section are windowless. The northwest and southeast ends of the rear section are virtually mirror images of each other. In the first story, each has a 6/6 sash window with a wooden sill, molded wooden frame, and a flat brick arch towards the rear (south). To the north of the window in each first story is a wooden door with a large panel beneath a large louvered built-in window in a molded wooden frame. Above each door is a semicircular window similar in design to the semicircular window above the 12/12/12 sash windows in the central section's large windows, with six panes separated by a semicircular sash bar and vertical and radiating muntins.

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

The window is set in a brick semicircular arch with stone imposts and keystones. The southeastern door is reached by a short set of limestone steps on a brick base, with one metal pipe handrail and is lit by a modern light fixture on the arch's keystone. Because of the fall of the land to the northwest, the northwestern door is served by a longer set of limestone and concrete steps. The lower portion of the steps is cut into the earth bank, so it is flanked by concrete sidewalls. The upper portion of the steps are set on a brick base. The northwestern steps are now sheltered by a wooden porch supported by four substantial plain posts with braces. The posts are connected on the sides by a horizontal beam, also with braces, and metal pipe handrails. The steeply sloping, asphalt shingled, shed roof has a plywood ceiling with a light fixture, close verges on the sides, and a plain cornice with a sloping soffit on the northwest end. A small asphalt shingled gable roof with a clapboarded gable trimmed with close verges has been built on the northwest end of the main roof to divert rain and snow from the porch entrance. Another light fixture is mounted on the apex of the gable. In the center of the second story of both the northwest and southeast ends of the rear section is a triple window with a central 6/6 sash window, flanking 2/2 sash windows, wooden sill, molded wooden frame, and a flat brick arch with a limestone keystone and radiating limestone end blocks.

The rear southwest side of the rear section departs from the strict symmetry seen in the exterior walls of the front and central sections. Save for the end windows of the first and second stories, there are no discernable bays in the elevation. At the west end of the basement level is a basement entrance, double plain metal doors in a molded wooden frame, set in a concrete trimmed recess. This entrance is reached by a concrete walkway between concrete sidewalls with sloping tops, set in the earth bank. A wooden porch has been built on the sidewalls to shelter the walk. The porch is supported by six plain wooden posts with braces. The asphalt shingled gable roof has a plywood

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

ceiling, a clapboarded gable, close verges, and lateral box cornices. Light fixtures are mounted on the ceiling and the apex of the gable. In the center of the basement level is a window opening with a flat brick arch and a brick sill. The upper portion of this opening has been bricked in, while the bottom portion now contains a louvered window, with a plain metal frame. Mounted over the window is a metal cylinder containing a flexible metal fire shutter, which can be rolled down along metal side rails to seal the window. The first and second story windows have wooden sills, molded wooden frames and flat brick arches. The first story has from west to east, one 6/6 sash window, two 4/4 sash windows, a bricked up window, and another 6/6 sash window. Between the first and second stories, to the west of the center, is a 4/4 sash window, which lights the rear section's stairhall. The second story has, from west to east, one 6/6 sash window, two 4/4 sash windows of different sizes, and two 6/6 sash windows. In the center of the southwest slope of the roof is a hip roofed dormer, containing a 6/6 sash window with molded wooden frame. Slates cover the rest of the dormer front, its sides and its roof. The dormer roof is trimmed by a box cornice with moldings and frieze.

The interior is best described by levels, first the public spaces and offices in the first and second stories of all three sections, then the unfinished attics, and finally the basement rooms, as these three levels have distinctive characteristics that are consistent throughout the entire building.

The first and second stories of the front section once had the same general plan. In the center of each story was a wide hall with the stairs. To each side of the hall, northwest and southeast, there was one large office room.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Albert H. Dow "Carroll County Court House" plans (manuscript, Ossipee Historical Society, Ossipee, N.H.)

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

The offices on the first story have since been subdivided into a suite of three rooms in the northwestern office, and a suite of two rooms in the southeastern office. The second story hall has been divided by a new wall inserted at the northeastern edge of the stairway opening to create another office room. And a small restroom has been inserted into the northwestern second story office. The front section is also distinguished by its fireproof construction, with the interior walls, floors and ceilings made of concrete, the doors, the windows and their frames of metal.

The entrance hall in the first story of the front section connects the main exterior entrance with the main entrance to the courtroom. The floor is paved with red ceramic tiles. The plastered walls are ornamented by wooden wainscoting, with a molded baseboard, two levels of panels, a tall lower panel and a short upper panel, and a heavy molded chair rail. The plastered ceiling is trimmed by a heavy molded wooden cornice on the northeast, southeast and northwest. Two modern light fixtures are mounted on the ceiling near the front entrance.

In the center of the entrance hall's northeast street side is the main entrance. As noted, it has double modern vinyl doors with a large panel beneath an eight pane vinyl window in each leaf, with a limestone sill and a plain modern vinyl frame. Mounted above the doors is the boxed mechanism for the automatic opening of the doors by the handicapped. The doors are flanked by the already described 16 pane sidelights in molded frames. Above each sidelight is a short panel, while beneath it are two panels, a taller lower panel and a short upper panel. Above the doors and sidelights is the already described semi-elliptical window in a simply molded frame. The entire entrance is set in a molded rectangular wooden frame that rises to the hall's cornice, with plain spandrels in the upper corners and molded base blocks. At the other end of the hall, in the center of the southwestern wall, are the double doors to the courtroom, six panel metal doors set in a molded metal frame with

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DESCRIPTION (cont.)

molded base blocks.

The northwestern wall of the hall has one opening, a door to the northwestern office suite near the north corner. The large six panel metal door is set in a deep molded metal frame, which is crowned by a wooden entablature with cornice, architrave, and pulvinated frieze. A bulletin board with molded frame is mounted on the wall to the south of the door. In the southeastern wall, a doorway, with a metal frame and a wooden entablature like those of the northwestern door, is found in the corresponding position near the north end of the wall. This door to the southeastern offices has been altered, the original door replaced by a shorter and narrower door that is now missing, leaving only its plain metal frame set inside a narrow concrete surround within the larger original doorway. Much of the southeast wall is covered by the stairway. The stairs rise along the southeast wall to a long landing along the southwest wall above the courtroom door. A short flight of three steps from the southwest landing along the northwest wall brings the stairway to the second story level. The wainscoting continues along the sides of the lower stairs, landing and upper steps into the second story level, with the panels becoming parallelograms to follow the angle of the stairs, and the baseboards and the chair rails curving at the top and bottom of the flights. The steps and landing are paved with marble. The outer strings of the steps and landing are closed metal strings ornamented with moldings. The metal balustrades have thin simple balusters and molded handrails with ramps at their upper ends. The lowest newel post at the foot of the stairs is a turned metal post with round molded base and square molded cap. The upper newel posts of the landings and flights above are square metal posts with paneled sides, square molded pendants, and square molded caps. A modern light fixture is mounted on the plastered underside of the landing to light the entrance to the courtroom. The area beneath the lower flight on the southeast wall is enclosed with plaster walls trimmed by molded wooden baseboards. At the southwest end of this

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

enclosed space is the door to the basement stairs under the main stairs, a six panel metal door in a molded metal frame. A modern metal water fountain is mounted on the northwest side of this enclosed stairway.

The entrance hall's northwestern door opens into the main room of the three room suite at the northwest end of the first story. The main room occupies over half of the suite, all of its street front (northeast) side. To the rear (southwest) are a restroom in the south corner and a small kitchen in the west corner. The main room has a carpeted floor, plaster walls with molded wooden baseboards, and a plaster ceiling with a heavy molded cornice and three suspended fluorescent light fixtures. A chimney base which projects into the room from the south corner has the same wall and trim treatment as the other walls. (On the outside of the chimney base is a vertical painted wooden box containing the pipes serving the restroom directly above in the second story.) The room has three six panel doors in molded frames, the southeastern metal door in a metal frame to the entrance hall, and the two southwestern wooden doors in wooden frames to the other rooms of the suite. (The door to the western kitchen has a narrower frame than the two other doors.) The northeast and northwest walls each contain a 6/6 sash window with the upper sash curved at the top. The windows have metal sash, molded metal sills and molded metal frames.

The kitchen in the western corner of the suite has a carpeted floor and plaster ceiling with florescent light fixtures. The walls are plastered or plasterboard with molded wooden baseboards. The cornice seen in the main room tops three walls, but the newer southeastern wall shared with the restroom is trimmed with a simple ceiling molding. The only door is the northeastern door with a molded frame to the main room. The only window is the northwestern 6/6 sash window, which is of the same design, with metal sash, sill and frame, as the two windows in the main room. Along the southeastern inner wall is a modern wooden counter with

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

a built-in sink, formica top, plain wooden drawers and doors. Mounted above part of the counter is a wooden wall cabinet of similar design with two plain wooden doors.

The restroom has a linoleum floor, plaster or plasterboard walls with molded baseboards and a plaster ceiling with a modern light fixture. Again the heavy cornice found in the main room trims three walls, while the northwestern wall shared with the small western kitchen is trimmed by a simple ceiling molding. On the lower portions of the southwest and southeast walls is a forty inch high wooden projection which contains the plumbing for the toilet and sink that are mounted on it. The projection has wooden sides and tops and is trimmed by molded baseboards and crown moldings. A molded frame trims the only door, the northeastern six panel door to the main room.

The office to the southeast of the entrance hall was subdivided by building a small office in the south corner, so the suite now consists of an L-shaped outer office and a rectangular inner office. Both rooms have carpeted floors and walls of plaster or plasterboard. The original walls have molded wooden baseboards and heavy molded cornices. The two new walls built for the subdivision are trimmed on both sides with simple and narrow moldings at the bases and tops. The plaster ceilings have three suspended fluorescent light fixtures. When the new inner wall was built, it would have bisected one of the light fixtures, so an opening was left at the top of the inner office's northwest wall, so that the light fixture could be left undisturbed. This opening is mostly filled with metal screening and is trimmed with molded frames on both sides.

The outer office is served by a now doorless and untrimmed opening to the entrance hall in the northwest wall. It is lit by two 6/6 sash metal windows whose upper sash have curved tops. The northeastern window has a molded metal sill and molded metal frame like those seen on the windows of the northwestern suite. Mounted over the frame is a rolled



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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

flexible metal fire shutter which is stored in a metal cylinder above the window and can be lowered on metal rails mounted on the sides of the window frame to seal the window. By contrast, the southeastern window has a very plain, unornamented wooden frame and sill. A chimney base which projects from the northwestern wall is treated like the rest of the wall. Simple wooden moldings trim both sides of the openings in the newer inner wall, a six panel wooden door on the northwest side of the inner office, and a large clerk's window on the northeast side of the inner office. The clerk's window is a large plate glass window with two holes cut into it, a lower rectangular hole for passing documents, and a smaller round upper hole for speaking. A large deep and wide wooden shelf supported by simple wooden brackets is found on each side of the clerk's window. In the southeast wall of the inner office is another 6/6 metal sash window with a curved upper sash and a plain wooden frame, like the southeastern window of the outer office.

The stairs in the central stairhall end at a second story landing in the north corner of the stairway opening. The landing has a carpeted floor and is protected from the opening to its southeast by a continuation of the stairs balustrade. The northwest wall of the landing is the original plastered wall with wainscoting and ceiling cornice like those seen in the entrance hall below. The northeast wall is interrupted by a deep recess, untrimmed save for continuations of the wainscoting's baseboard and chair rail, for a door to the clerk of court's office. The door is a modern plate glass door with a plain wooden framework, set in a plain metal door frame. The northeast wall of the landing is the plain plastered wall that stretches across the second story hall and replaces the balustrade at the northeast end of the stairway opening. It is topped by a cornice like that seen on the northwest wall. In the northeast wall of the landing, a plain metal door in a plain metal frame opens into the office now occupying the second story hall.

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

The former second story hallway retains three original walls with the wooden wainscoting seen in the first story hall. But, the southwest wall is a plaster wall with a simple plastic baseboard. All four walls share the same heavy molded cornice seen in the entrance hall below. The room now has a carpeted floor and three suspended fluorescent light fixtures on the plaster ceiling. In the center of the northeast street wall is the large triple window, with central 6/6 metal sash, flanking 2/2 metal sash, a molded metal sill and a molded metal frame. The six panel metal door to the clerk of court's office in the northwest wall is set in a molded metal frame with base blocks. A similar molded metal frame can still be seen in the southeast wall, but the original door to the southeast office has given way to a shorter and narrower opening set in a narrow concrete surround inside the original frame. This opening once had two doors, an outer door, now missing, in a plain metal frame, and a still extant inner door, a plain wooden door in a simply molded wooden frame. At each end of the new southwest wall is a plain metal door in a plain metal frame serving the stairs to the first story and the attic respectively.

The clerk of court's office in the northwest end of the second story is now U-shaped around a small restroom that was added to the chimney projecting from the center of the southeast wall. The main room has a carpeted floor, plaster and plasterboard walls with molded baseboards, and a plaster ceiling with a heavy molded cornice and three suspended fluorescent light fixtures.. The room is lit by large 6/6 metal sash windows with molded metal sills and molded metal frames, one in the northeast wall and two in the northwest wall. There are two doorways in the southeast wall. To the north of the chimney projection and restroom is the six panel metal door with its original molded metal frame to the former hallway. To the south of the projection and restroom is the modern plate glass and wood door with a plain metal frame to the stair landing. A counter with a formica top now runs from the restroom to the southwest wall to create a

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

small public space entered by the stair landing door. Vertically grooved plywood covers all of the counter's southeast front side and those sections of the northwest rear side not filled by metal file drawers. The restroom is served by a plain metal door in a plain metal frame on its northeast side. The restroom's linoleum floor is raised one step above the office floor. The windowless restroom has plasterboard and plastered walls with simple plastic baseboards and a plaster ceiling with a modern light fixture. The small room contains a toilet as well as a sink built into a plain wooden cabinet with a plain, untrimmed door on the front.

The office at the southeast end of the second story also has a carpeted floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards, and a plaster ceiling with a heavy molded cornice and six fluorescent light fixtures. The chimney projection in the northwest wall is treated like the rest of the walls. The only door is the plain wood door with simply molded wood frame to the former hallway in the northwest wall. The only window is a 6/6 metal sash window with curved upper sash, molded metal sill and molded metal frame in the northeast wall. It has a flexible metal fire shutter kept in a metal cylinder above the window until it descends on flanking metal rails to cover the window. (The two exterior second story windows on the southeast end of the front section do not now penetrate the wall.) The room is partly divided by a wooden counter with a composition board front and formica top, and open wooden shelves on the rear.

From the easterly door in the former second story hallway's southwest wall, a flight of steps rises along the southeast wall of the stairway opening to a landing that stretches along the entire southwest side of the opening. From the landing's northwest end, a short flight of four steps rises along the northwest wall to a small upper landing at the attic level. These flights and landings have the same balustrades with newel posts seen in the lower levels of the stairway. The wainscoting found in the first

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

and second story halls also continues along the southeast flight and the southwest landing. But, the northwest upper wall has only a molded baseboard. The steps are metal with a textured surface on the treads. The southwest landing has a concrete floor, while the upper northwest landing has a hardwood floor. The plaster third story (attic level) ceiling of the upper stairhall has no ceiling trim, although a short section of heavy molded cornice is found on the southeast side of the second story ceiling, near the lower door. A light fixture is mounted on the ceiling above the southwest landing. At the northeast end of the upper landing a plain metal door with a molded wooden frame opens into the attic.

The courtroom that occupies the central section is the largest and most impressive room in the building. It is as tall as both the first and second stories of the front and rear sections. The walls are plastered above wainscoting similar to that in the entrance hall, with molded baseboards and chair rails and two levels of panels, but almost a foot taller with more elaborate baseboards and chair rails. The walls are each divided into three bays by monumental pilasters set on paneled pedestals. The pedestals are the same height as the wainscoting, from which they project. The wainscoting's molded baseboard and chair rail are continued on the pedestals as their bases and cornices. The pedestals do differ from the wainscoting in having only single panels, instead of two panels, on their fronts. The tall wide pilasters have obvious entasis, molded bases and capitals. The pilasters are topped by narrow sections of entablature, with architrave and frieze, and with projections of the heavy molded cornice that encircles the ceiling serving as the cornice of the entablature. There are two full pilasters flanking the central bay in each wall. In the corners of the room, half pilasters butt up against each other. The ceiling is divided into a grid of nine large rectangles by boxed beams that run between the corresponding pilasters on the opposite walls. The boxed beams are ornamented by moldings and by long panels on their undersides. In each rectangular

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

section of the ceiling is found a large rectangle of painted canvas with molded border. Hanging from the intersections of the boxed beams are four metal chandeliers. Each chandelier has a central metal sphere from which radiate four curved brackets that carry hemispherical glass lamps. These chandeliers are now supplemented by modern inset light fixtures, one in the center of each ceiling panel.

In the central bay of the three bay northeast wall is the doorway from the entrance hall. The double six paneled metal doors are set in a molded metal frame with molded base blocks. The doorway is topped by a wooden segmental pediment with architrave and pulvinated frieze. Above the doorway is a large rectangular panel of painted canvas with a molded frame. Mounted on the panel is a wall clock in a wooden case. The side bays of the northeast wall each contain a larger rectangular panel of painted canvas with molded frame. The three bay southeast and northwest walls are virtually identical in appearance. Each bay is dominated by a tall and wide semicircular arched window. Each window has a central 12/12/12 triple hung sash window, and flanking nine pane sidelights. The upper arched window is subdivided into a lower semicircular arched six pane window and four outer two pane windows on the curve of the arch. The inner frames, separating the components of the large window, are relatively simple with beaded edges. The outer window frame is heavily molded with a keystone and a molded sill.

Each of the three bays of the southwest wall contains an entrance from the corridor in the rear section, beneath a large rectangular panel of painted canvas with molded frame, like the panels of the northeast wall. The central bay is dominated by the large doorway for the judge, directly behind the judge's bench. The door has a large lower panel beneath a large plate glass built-in window of rippled red glass. The door is flanked by half sidelights of the same rippled red plate glass. Below each sidelight is a tall vertical panel with molded baseboard, while above each sidelight is a small horizontal panel. Above the molded

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

cornice topping the door and sidelights is a semicircular arched window, composed, like the arched windows of the southeast and northwest walls, of a lower semicircular arched window and four outer windows following the curve of the arch. These windows are also filled with red rippled plate glass. The molded arch rises from molded imposts and is topped by an elaborate keystone, a carved vertical scroll. The doorway is flanked by fluted pilasters set on paneled pedestals like those supporting the main wall pilasters. The pilasters support a large triangular pediment with dentils, architrave and frieze. The judge's entrance is an impressive focal point for the courtroom. The side bays of the southwest wall each contain a smaller door to the corridor, a six panel metal door set in a frame similar to those in the entrance hall, a molded metal frame with molded base blocks, topped by a wooden entablature with a pulvinated frieze.

The courtroom floor is carpeted. The audience, seated in the northeast third of the courtroom, is separated from the rest of the room by a railing that stretches between the pilaster pedestals marking off the northernmost bay of each side wall. The waist high railing has a molded baseboard, square posts with molded bases and tops, and a molded top rail. It is interrupted by two gates, short single panel doors. The stiles of the two short doors project above and below the door rails, and are ornamented by sawn edges. A similar railing, without gates, separates the jury area, with its two rows of seats along the northwest wall, from the main floor area. The back row of jury seats along the wall is raised one step above the main floor level, as is an area for the bailiff's desk at the northeast (street) end of the jury area. The raised floor is carpeted, with the wood riser topped by a molded nosing.

In the center of the southwest wall is the dais for the judge's desk, raised two steps above the main floor. Directly in front of the judge's desk is the narrower clerk's desk, on a platform raised just one step above the

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

main floor. The three desks of the judge, bailiff and clerk are all of similar design, with molded baseboards and cornices, and paneled fronts and sides, with two rows of rectangular panels. To the northwest of the judge's area is another platform, raised one step above the main floor, for the witness's chair. The witness area is protected on its northeast front by a short railing with molded baseboard and rail, square end posts and turned balusters. A short bookcase with a paneled front and a molded cornice separates the judge and the witness. The platforms for the judge, clerk, and witness are carpeted with molded nosings on the wooden risers.

The first story of the rear section of the building has a corridor running along its northeast side between small vestibules at the entrances in the northwest and southeast ends. The corridor serves a series of rooms to its southwest. In the south corner of the first story is the spacious judge's office. Off the judge's office, to its northwest, a small hall provides access to the judge's small restroom and a closet. Between this small hall and the main corridor is another small restroom, reached via the stairhall to its northwest. Finally in the west corner, northwest of the stairhall, is the library.

The two vestibules at the northwest and southeast entrances are treated similarly. Both have a carpeted floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards, and a high plaster ceiling with molded cornice and a modern light fixture. The outer door in each vestibule has a large lower panel, and a large louvered built-in window. Above each door is a six pane semicircular window. The door and window share a molded frame with base blocks. A similar molded frame graces the inner door to the corridor, which has a large lower panel, a nine pane built-in window and a rectangular three pane transom window.

The corridor has a carpeted floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards and chair rails, and a plaster ceiling

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

with heavy molded cornice and three modern light fixtures. Molded frames with base blocks trim all but one of the doors. The northwest and southeast ends feature the already described doors with built-in windows and transom windows to the vestibules. The northeast wall has three doors to the courtroom. The central judge's door, served by a carpeted step, has a large panel beneath a built-in window of red rippled glass. The door is flanked by half sidelights of red rippled glass with panels above and below them. Above the door and sidelights is the already described semicircular arched window with red rippled glass. The central doorway has a relatively plain frame ornamented only by simple moldings around the door and windows and by heavier vertical moldings flanking the entire doorway. The other two courtroom doors are six panel metal doors. The southwest wall has three doors. The door to the stairhall is another six panel door. The other two doors, to the judge's office and the library, have large lower panels and large built-in windows of frosted plate glass. Subtle breaks in the plaster, baseboards and chair rails indicate the location of two southwestern doorways that have been removed.

The judge's office has a carpeted floor and plaster walls with molded baseboards and chair rails. The acoustic tile ceiling has a simple ceiling molding and three suspended fluorescent light fixtures. Most of the walls are covered by wooden bookshelves with plain framework, molded cornices, and both fixed and adjustable wooden shelves. The office is lit by 6/6 sash windows with molded sills and molded frames, one in the southeast wall and two in the southwest wall. Molded frames with base blocks trim the two doorways, the already described door with built-in window to the corridor in the northeast wall and the doorless opening to the small hall in the northwest wall. The small hall is just large enough to provide access to the closet to its northwest and the restroom to its southwest. The hall, closet and restroom all have carpeted floors, plaster walls with molded baseboards, and acoustic tile ceilings with simple ceiling moldings. Simple moldings trim the frames of the three panel



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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

doors serving the closet and the restroom. The restroom is lit by a southwestern 6/6 sash window with molded sill and molded frame. The restroom is equipped with a toilet and a cabinet with built-in sink and paneled doors. The restroom and the hall have simple round light fixtures mounted on their ceilings.

The library at the other end of the first story has a carpeted floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards, and a plaster ceiling with ceiling molding and two suspended fluorescent light fixtures. The only door is the northeastern door to the corridor, with its lower panel, frosted glass built-in window and molded frame with base blocks. The southwest and northwest walls each have one 6/6 sash window with molded sill and molded frame. Most of the southeast wall is covered by a wooden bookcase with movable wooden shelves, and a plain framework unornamented save for a crowning molding.

The first story landing of the stairhall is located at its northeast end. A central wall separates the flights of stairs. From the first story landing one flight descends along the southeast side of the stairhall to a landing at the southwest end, from which another flight descends along the northwest side to the basement level. From the first story landing a flight ascends along the northwest side of the stairhall to a landing at the southwest end, where another flight ascends along the southeast side to the second story. The wooden steps have rubber mats on the treads. The first story landing is carpeted, while the intermediate landings on the ascent and descent have hardwood floors. Molded baseboards trim the walls, which are plastered save for the concrete block wall on the northwest side of the lowest descending flight. Hand rails are mounted on the walls of the stairs. The plaster ceilings have no trim. Molded frames with base blocks trim the two doors at the first story landing, a six panel door to the corridor on the northwest and a door, with two panels and a built-in window of frosted plate glass, to the restroom on the

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DESCRIPTION (cont.)

southeast. (The small restroom has a carpeted floor, plaster walls with baseboards, a molded frame with base blocks on its door, an acoustic tile ceiling with ceiling molding and a modern light fixture. It is equipped with a toilet and a cabinet with built-in sink and two paneled doors.) Light fixtures are mounted on the ceilings of all three stairhall landings. The stairs from the first story to the second story are also lit by a 4/4 sash window with molded sill and molded frame at the intermediate landing. The lower landing on the stairs from the first story to the basement is divided by a partition that does not reach to the ceiling. A plain framed six panel door in the partition connects the two halves of the landing.

The stairs end on the second story in a small hall. To the northwest of the stairhall is the smaller jury room with one restroom, while to the southeast is the vestibule to the larger jury room with its two restrooms. The six panel doors from the small hall to the jury rooms have molded frames with base blocks.

The smaller northwestern jury room has a small restroom set in its southern corner. The jury room has a carpeted floor and plaster walls with molded baseboards and chair rails. The plaster ceiling has a simple ceiling molding and two fluorescent light fixtures. The room is lit by a 6/6 sash window on the southwest and a triple window with central 6/6 sash and flanking 2/2 sash on the northwest. Both windows have molded sills and frames. Molded frames with base blocks trim the two doors in the southeastern walls, the six panel door to the hall and the three panel door to the restroom. (The restroom has a linoleum floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards, and a plaster ceiling with a central light fixture. Plain frames trim the northwestern door and the southwestern 4/4 sash window. The restroom is equipped with a toilet and a sink.)

The small vestibule to the larger jury room to the southeast has a hardwood floor, plaster walls with molded

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baseboards and chair rails, and a plaster ceiling with a central light fixture. Molded frames with base blocks trim the six panel outer door to the hall and the inner door to the jury room with its large lower panel beneath a built-in window of frosted plate glass.

The southeastern jury room proper has a carpeted floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards and chair rails, and a plaster ceiling with ceiling molding and four fluorescent light fixtures. In plan, the main jury room is a rectangle with a short passageway to the vestibule. To the northwest of the main room are three rooms, a northerly men's restroom entered from the passageway, and a two room suite for the women, a southerly anteroom entered from the main jury room and a restroom served from the anteroom. Molded frames with base blocks trim all the doors in the jury room, the three panel door to the men's restroom, the vestibule door with its large lower panel and frosted plate glass built-in window, and the plain modern wooden door to the women's anteroom. In the southeast wall is a triple window of the same design as the corresponding triple window in the smaller northwestern jury room. Two 6/6 sash windows with molded sills and frames are found in the southeast wall.

The men's restroom has a linoleum floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards, a plain frame on the northeastern door, and a plaster ceiling with central light fixture. The restroom is equipped with a wall mounted sink, a urinal, and a toilet, the latter protected by a metal stall partition with a metal door.

The anteroom to the women's restroom has a linoleum floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards, and an acoustic tile ceiling with ceiling molding and a central light fixture. Plain frames surround the southwestern 4/4 sash window and the two plain wooden doors to the main room and the restroom. The small restroom to the northeast of the anteroom has a linoleum floor, plaster walls with molded baseboards, a plain frame on the southwestern door to the

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

anteroom, and a plaster ceiling with a central light fixture. The restroom is dominated by the toilet and the wall mounted sink at opposite ends of the narrow space.

The three sections of the building each have a large unfinished attic. The three attics are separated by brick walls with a single door in each wall to connect them. All three attics have short sections of exposed brick outer wall below the sloping ceilings, the unfinished undersides of the broad hip roofs with exposed rafters and roof boards. Only the front section's attic is accessible from the lower levels, from the already described stairhall.

The front section attic has a poured concrete floor. Part of this attic's space, the rearmost (southwestern) third of the section between the two plain but massive brick chimneys, is occupied by the uppermost part of the stairhall. These plastered stairhall walls are a little over eight feet high, and do not reach to the attic ceiling above them. The plain metal door to the upper stairhall has a plain wooden frame. An untrimmed rectangular opening in the northeastern brick wall opens into the unfinished pedimented section of the entrance portico. This narrow space has a board floor, a brick inner southwestern wall, three outer unfinished board walls with exposed studs, and an unfinished double pitched board ceiling with exposed rafters. The only natural light in the front section attic is provided by the pediment's untrimmed six pane circular window. In the southwest wall, to the west of the stairhall, is the six panel metal door in a plain metal frame to the central attic.

The central section's attic "floor" is the exposed joists of the courtroom ceiling with insulation stuffed between them. A walkway of boards laid across the joists connects the doors to the adjoining attics in the northeast and southwest end brick walls. The principal features of the central section attic are two large trusses that carry the courtroom ceiling. Each is composed of five vertical metal

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

rods and of heavy wooden beams serving as the tie beam, two principal rafters and four diagonal braces. Simple ceiling lights provide the only illumination in the windowless attic. A six panel metal door in a plain metal frame in the southwest wall opens into the rear section's attic.

The rear section attic floor is, like the central attic section floor, the exposed joists of the ceilings below, with insulation placed between them. A walkway of boards laid over the joists leads to the dormer in the center of the southwestern roof. The dormer has unfinished board walls and an unfinished hip roofed ceiling with exposed studs and rafters. It contains an untrimmed 6/6 sash window, the only window in the rear section attic.

The front stairs to the basement are located under the first flight of stairs up to the second story, in the front section's entrance hall. The upper level of the basement stairs, corresponding to the first story, has plaster walls and a plaster ceiling. The lower level of the stairway, in the basement hall, shares its poured concrete southeastern wall. The metal steps have textured treads. The stairs are flanked on the southeast by a wooden hand rail and on the northwest by a metal balustrade with simple balusters, molded handrail, and a lower newel post with paneled sides and molded square cap.

The basement level has seen more change than the upper levels, particularly in the arrangement of its rooms, so that it now has a somewhat complex layout. The front section's basement had a wide central hall, corresponding to the central hall in the two stories above it. Part of the central hall, on its northwestern side, has been enclosed to create a storage room, leaving the central hall with an U-shaped floor plan. To the southeast of the central hall are two rooms, the large furnace room in the south corner and a smaller office in a former coal bin in the east corner. To the northwest of the central hall are three rooms. A two room office suite consists of a large room in the north

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DESCRIPTION (cont.)

corner, connecting to a smaller room in the west corner. Between this smaller room and the central hall is a holding cell, opening off the central hall.

The central hall has a carpeted floor and a plaster ceiling. Its walls, all with plastic baseboards, are painted concrete, save for the three concrete block walls of the added storage room. Plain metal frames trim all the doorways. The two southeastern doorways include the now doorless opening to the small office in the east corner and the plain metal door to the furnace room. On the northwest side are three openings, the now doorless opening to the room in the north corner, the plain metal door to the new storage room, and the plain metal door with a small barred and screened opening to the holding cell. In the southwest wall is the doorless opening to the central section basement.

The newer storage room created out of part of the central hall has concrete floor and ceiling, a poured concrete northwest wall, three other walls of concrete block, and a plain metal frame around the plain metal door in its southeast wall. Wooden shelves line its walls.

In the furnace room in the south corner, poured concrete forms the floor, the ceiling, and three walls. The northeastern wall is brick. The north corner is filled by the brick chimney base. The northwestern metal door to the hall with its plain metal frame is now the only door. A former doorway in the southwest wall is now filled with concrete blocks. Another opening with a flat brick arch in the northeast wall has been bricked up. The only window is a plain framed three pane window high in the southeast wall. One pane has been filled with a metal plate surrounding a vent from the furnace. The lower half of the window opening is now filled by a broad metal duct. The furnace and the hot water tank fill much of the room.

The room in the east corner, a coal bin later converted to

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

an office, has a carpeted floor, painted concrete walls with plastic baseboards, and an acoustic tile ceiling with a ceiling molding and a fluorescent light fixture. The now doorless opening to the hall in the northwest wall has a plain metal frame. The room is lit by two high windows, one each in the northeast and southeast walls. Each six pane window is hinged from the top and is set in a plain frame in a recess with a sloping sill.

The room in the north corner, the larger room of the two-room office suite, has a carpeted floor, poured concrete walls with plastic baseboards, and an acoustic tile ceiling with a ceiling molding and a suspended fluorescent light fixture. The room is also lit by two six pane windows set high in recesses with sloping sills, one each in the northeast and northwest walls. The windows have plain frames and are hinged at the top. Plain frames surround the two doorless openings, a metal frame on the opening to the hall in the southeast wall, and a wooden frame on the doorway to the inner room in the southwest wall.

The room in the west corner, the smaller inner room of the two room suite, has a carpeted floor. Plastic baseboards trim the three poured concrete walls, while the southeastern plasterboard wall has a plain wooden baseboard. The plaster ceiling is trimmed with a ceiling molding only on the southeast side. The windowless room is lit by a fluorescent light fixture mounted on the ceiling. The northeastern doorless opening to the outer room has a plain wooden frame.

The holding cell has a concrete floor and a plywood ceiling with two light fixtures. The walls are concrete save for the northwest wall and part of the northeast wall which are plywood. The only opening is the plain metal door with a small screened and barred opening and plain metal frame to the hall in the southeast wall. A urinal is mounted in a niche at the west end of the northeast wall. A bench is built against the northwest wall.

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

The central section's basement now has no less than fourteen rooms, not counting the covered basement entrance, which was originally open, but was later enclosed. The door from the front section hall opens into an L-shaped corridor, with a short section along the northeast-southwest axis of the building and a longer section set perpendicular to that short section, which connects to the enclosed basement entrance on the northwest side of the basement. To the northeast of the long section of the corridor are a storage room and a gentlemen's restroom. To the southwest of the same long section are a janitor's closet and a ladies' restroom. To the southeast of the corridor's short section is a suite of three conference rooms, a large room to the northwest connecting to two smaller rooms to the southeast along the outer wall. To the southwest of the corridor's short section is the vestibule of the marital courtroom, the largest of the central basement's rooms, which is essentially a rectangle in the west corner of the central basement with a short passageway connecting it to the vestibule. To the northeast of the courtroom are found a closet and a storage room. To the southeast of the courtroom are two large rooms along the southeast wall, the custodian's office and a probate records room.

The L-shaped corridor has a carpeted floor, concrete block walls, and a concrete ceiling with two light fixtures. The doors and openings have plain metal frames. The short section of corridor has two doorless openings, to the front basement hall at the northeast end and to the larger conference room in the southeast wall, as well as a metal door with built-in louvered vents to the storage room in its northwest wall. The southwest side of the L-shaped corridor has three doors. At the east end is a metal door with a small single pane built-in window that opens into the marital courtroom vestibule. Proceeding west, we find the doors to the janitor's closet and the ladies' restroom, both plain metal doors. The janitor's closet door also has built-in louvered vents. Another plain metal door in the northeast wall of the long corridor serves the gentlemen's restroom.



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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

At the northwest end of the long corridor, a metal door with a small single pane built-in window opens into the enclosed basement entrance.

The enclosed basement entrance, although not part of the central section basement, is best described here with the corridor it serves. Once an open exterior stairway, the area was later enclosed by building a wooden structure over it. The stairway, with its concrete steps and landings, determined the L-shape of the space. From a landing at the lower door into the central basement corridor, the stairs rise to the northeast along the central section wall, then turn to the northwest along the front section wall to the upper outer door. The lower level of the basement entrance has poured concrete walls. In the upper level, we find the original brick exterior walls with the limestone water table and quoins on the northeast and southeast, and plywood walls with exposed studs on the northwest and southwest and part of the northeast. The sloping plywood ceiling has exposed rafters. The basement entrance is windowless, but does have a wall mounted light fixture. The only openings are the two doors, each a metal door with a small single pane built-in window and a plain metal frame. The lower door is set in a recess topped by a flat brick arch.

Returning to the L-shaped corridor, we find the small storage room opening off its short section. The storage room has a concrete floor, a poured concrete northeastern wall, and three walls of concrete block. Three walls are lined with wooden shelves. In the fourth wall on the southeast is the metal door with louvered vents and plain metal frame to the corridor. A light fixture is mounted on the concrete ceiling.

The gentlemen's restroom has a linoleum floor and a concrete ceiling with a modern light fixture. The older northwest and northeast walls are poured concrete, while the newer southwest and southeast walls are concrete block. A former opening in the northeast wall has been filled with

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

concrete block. The only door, a metal door in the southwest wall, has a plain metal frame. The restroom is equipped with a wall mounted sink, a urinal and two toilets in stalls with metal partitions and doors.

The ladies' restroom also has a linoleum floor and a concrete ceiling with a modern light fixture. The southwest and northwest walls are poured concrete, while the northeast and southeast walls are concrete block. The plain metal door in the northeast wall has a plain frame. Each end of the restroom has a toilet behind a metal stall door in a metal stall partition. A wall mounted sink completes the equipment.

The small janitor's closet has a linoleum tile floor, three concrete block walls, a poured concrete southwestern wall, and a concrete ceiling with a light fixture. The northeastern metal door with louvered vents has a plain metal frame. A large janitor's sink is mounted on the northwest wall.

The rooms of the three room conference room suite all have carpeted floors, plastic baseboards on their walls, and acoustic tile ceilings with ceiling moldings and suspended fluorescent light fixtures. The larger outer room of the three room suite has poured concrete walls on the northeast and southwest, a concrete block wall on the northwest, and a plasterboard wall on the southeast. A plain metal frame is found on the northwestern doorless opening to the L-shaped corridor. The two southeastern doors to the inner rooms are plain modern wooden doors in simply molded frames.

The northern room of the two inner rooms has poured concrete walls on the northeast and southeast, plasterboard walls on the northwest and southwest. The southern inner room has poured concrete walls on the southeast and southwest, plasterboard walls on the northwest and northeast. Simply molded frames trim their northwestern doors. The two inner rooms share a high southeastern window,

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

as the wall that separates them bisects the window. The plain framed six pane window is set in a recess with sloping concrete sill, metal bars, and a plexiglass inner window with a molded frame. The northern room has plain framed wooden shelves built into a recess in its northeastern wall, the former opening into the furnace room. The southern room has a built-in wooden bench stretching along its southwest wall.

The vestibule connecting the L-shaped corridor to the marital courtroom is a small space with a carpeted floor and plastic baseboards on its walls, three concrete block walls and the southwestern poured concrete wall. A light fixture is mounted on the concrete ceiling. A plain frame trims the metal door with single pane built-in window to the L-shaped corridor at the northeast end of the corridor. The large doorless opening to the courtroom at the southwest end has no frame.

As noted, the marital courtroom is a large rectangular room with a short passageway from its east corner to the northeast to the vestibule. The floors of the marital courtroom and the other rooms in this section of the basement are one foot lower than the floors of the rooms already discussed. Therefore the floor is ramped up to the northeast in the passageway from the main part of the room. The main floor and the ramp are carpeted. The courtroom's southwest wall, its outer northwest wall, and the northeast end wall of the passageway are poured concrete. The rest of the northeast wall, the southeast wall, and the northwest side wall of the ramped passageway are all concrete block. The acoustic tile ceiling is trimmed with a ceiling molding. The ceiling is supported by a steel beam held up by two round steel posts. The courtroom is lit by three suspended fluorescent light fixtures and by three windows set high in the northwest wall. The plain framed six pane windows are hinged at the bottom in recesses with sloping concrete sills. Two of the windows share the same recess. At the northeast end of the ramped passageway is the untrimmed

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

doorless opening to the vestibule. On the northwest side of the passageway is the plain metal framed plain metal door to the closet. (The small closet has a linoleum tile floor, concrete block and poured concrete walls, a plain metal door frame, and an acoustic tile ceiling with ceiling molding.) In the northeast wall, to the west of the passageway, are found two plain metal doors in plain metal frames to the storage room. The southeast wall also has two doors, a plain metal door with plain wooden and metal frame for the custodian's office to the north and a two panel metal door with plain metal frame to the probate records room. Plain metal frames also trim the two doors in the southwest wall, the easterly plain metal door to the deeds vault and the westerly metal door with a small built-in single pane window to the rear section's basement hallway.

The storage room found northeast of the courtroom has a linoleum tile floor, poured concrete walls on the northwest and northeast, concrete block walls on the southeast and southwest, and an acoustic tile ceiling with ceiling molding and a suspended fluorescent light fixture. The two plain metal doors to the courtroom in the southwest wall have plain metal frames. High in the northwest wall is a six pane window, hinged at the bottom, with a plain frame and a sloping concrete sill.

The custodian's office has a concrete floor, poured concrete walls on the northeast and southeast, and concrete block walls on the southwest and northwest. The concrete ceiling is supported by a wooden beam, which is itself supported by a round metal post. The windowless room is lit by a suspended fluorescent light fixture. The only door is the plain metal door in a plain wooden and metal frame in the northwest wall opening into the courtroom.

The probate records room's concrete floor is partly covered with rubber matting. The walls are poured concrete on the southeast and southwest, concrete block on the northeast and northwest. As in the custodian's office, the

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

concrete ceiling is supported by a wooden beam, supported in turn by a round metal post. Two fluorescent light fixtures provide the only light, as the former window high in the southeast wall is now covered by a large wooden panel hinged at the bottom. The two panel metal door in the northwest wall has a plain metal frame. Built along the southwest wall is a large but low wooden cabinet with a formica top and doors of vertical beaded boarding on the front.

Over half of the rear section's basement level is occupied by the deeds vault at the southeastern end. To its northwest is the stairhall and the lower hallway to the marital courtroom. To the northwest of the stairhall and hallway is the rear basement entrance hall. (Parts of this entrance hall are set off by plywood partitions to create two storage areas along the northwest wall.)

The deeds vault floor is set at a lower level than the marital courtroom, requiring a flight of three concrete steps, topped by linoleum and metal treads, at the only door, the plain metal door in a plain metal frame in the northeast wall. The vault has a linoleum tile floor, a northwestern concrete block wall, and three walls of poured concrete. The acoustic tile ceiling is supported by four deep concrete beams and two round metal posts. Light is provided by four suspended fluorescent light fixtures and one plain framed, louvered window with sloping concrete sill set high in the southwest wall.

The lower hallway is L-shaped, as it stretches southwest from the door in the marital courtroom, then turns northwest to end at the bottom of the already described stairs from the first story. The lower hallway has a linoleum tile floor and an acoustic tile ceiling with ceiling molding and one light fixture. Its walls are concrete block, save for the poured concrete wall at its northeast end and the plasterboard southwest wall. The northeast end features a metal door with a single pane built-in window in a plain metal frame into the marital courtroom. On the southwest

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

side of the northwest end of the hall is the opening to the stairhall, while on the northeast side is a plain metal door in a plain metal frame to the rear basement entrance hall.

The rear basement entrance hall is basically rectangular with a small southeastern extension at its east corner to connect to the lower hallway. The hall has a concrete floor. The plasterboard ceiling with four fluorescent light fixtures is supported by a steel beam supported in turn by a round metal post.. The southeasterly walls are concrete block, while the three other walls are poured concrete. The metal door to the lower hallway in the southwestern side of the small extension is trimmed by a metal frame and served by two concrete steps with metal treads, as the rear basement entrance hall floor is set below the lower hallway floor. In the southwest wall of the main area of the room is the rear basement entrance, double metal doors in a plain metal frame. The room is divided into four spaces by simple partitions of plywood on plain frameworks that do not reach to the ceiling. Two such spaces along the northwestern wall are storage areas reached by large plywood doors. The two spaces to the southeast are connected by a plain framed doorless opening in the plywood partition and are used as the passageway from the exterior doors to the inner hallway door. A doorless half height opening in the southeast wall opens into a storage area under the stairhall. This storage area has a concrete floor, three concrete block walls, a poured concrete southwestern wall, and an unfinished board ceiling with the exposed joists and stair stringers of the stairway and landing above.

The nominated property, the historic courthouse lot, rises a little from the street to the building, but descends again to a lower level to the rear (southwest) of the building. So, the rear section is surrounded by steeper banks. The grounds immediately around the building are mostly grassed. Crushed stone has been laid next to the foundation on all sides of the original brick portions of the building and is also found in the concrete curbed window wells found at all

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

but one of the basement windows on the northeast, southeast and northwest sides. From the sidewalk along the street, a wide concrete walk runs to the portico steps along the central axis of the building. Near the sidewalk, this walk is interrupted by a flight of two poured concrete steps with a central metal pipe hand rail. Beyond these steps, the central walk is crossed by the concrete handicapped walk and ramp. To the northwest of the central walk, the handicapped walk runs in a straight line to the handicapped parking area. To the southeast of the central walk, the handicapped ramp rises gently on an earthen bank and sweeps around in a semicircular curve to the southeast end of the portico base. The upper portion of the handicapped ramp is flanked on the southwest side by the already mentioned metal pipe railing it shares with the portico, with metal pipe posts, three metal pipe horizontal rails and numerous narrow metal pipe balusters. The rest of the ramp is flanked by similar metal pipe railings that are shorter and more open with much fewer balusters. The outer curve of the bank on which the ramp rests is grassed, save at its upper end near the building, where a short poured concrete retaining wall supports the bank. The inner curve of the bank is divided by granite blocks into planting beds with shrubs. Set within the curve of the ramp and bordering the central walk is a semicircular concrete paved patio with two granite benches. To the northwest of the central walk, opposite the patio, stands a fiberglass flagpole surrounded by shrubs and flowers.

Along the southeast side of the building is a concrete walkway that still leads to the steps of the rear section's southeastern door, but, since the construction of the ramp, no longer connects to the central walk. An asphalt paved driveway is found on the northwest side of the building running from the street to the parking area to the southwest (rear) of the building. On the southeast side of the driveway near the street is the concrete paved handicapped parking area and the handicapped walk. A short asphalt paved walk connects the driveway and the steps to the rear section's northwestern entrance. The rear parking lot is a

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

mixture of dirt and pavement, with the pavement completely intact only near the entrance of the driveway. (The parking lot continues from the nominated property into the adjoining land that was acquired in 1965 and is not part of the nomination.) Three utility poles stand on the property, one on the street near the east corner of the lot, another near the south corner of the building, and the third, equipped with a street light, on the northwest side of the parking lot, near the driveway entrance. Shrubs flank the junction of the central walk and the street sidewalk. Two trees are found on the street side of the property, one at each front corner of the lot. Two more trees are found at the west corner of the building. Another grows on the northwest side of the parking lot. A line of trees marks the southeastern property boundary, to the rear (southwest) of the building.

To the south of the courthouse, set on the edge of the parking lot and near the southeastern property boundary, is the other building on the property, a wooden shed built the late 1980's or early 1990's<sup>2</sup> and therefore considered non-contributing. The one story, gable roofed structure is set on concrete blocks. Latticework covers the open area beneath the shed. The walls of vertically grooved plywood are trimmed by corner boards. The asphalt shingled roof is trimmed by close verges and plain lateral box cornices. The only entrance is plain framed double doors of vertical boards in the center of the southwest gable end. The doors are served by a wide board floored ramp. The northwest and southeast lateral sides each feature one plain framed 1/1 sash window. Each gable contains a small louvered metal vent.

The interior of the shed is one large room with a plywood floor. Three and a half walls are covered by plasterboard, but the northern half of the southeast wall is still only covered by insulation. The double pitched ceiling is mostly

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<sup>2</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007



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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

covered with insulation and is supported by seventeen simple wooden trusses, each consisting of two rafters and a tie beam. Wooden and metal brackets for storage hang from the trusses. The openings are all untrimmed. The vertical boards of the double doors in the southwest end are held together by horizontal and diagonal boards. The northwest and southeast sides each have one 1/1 sash window. The southeast wall also features two sets of wooden shelves and a plywood box used to hold sand. A small electric heater with metal front is built into the northeast end wall.

Most of the changes to the nominated property can be described and often dated, at least approximately. The original architect's plans for the construction of the courthouse are still available,<sup>3</sup> but the plans for a major renovation in 1960 could not be located. So, some changes are still the subject of speculation.

The exterior has seen relatively little change. Early postcards show drainpipes that served the gutters on the eaves.<sup>4</sup> Because of ice backup caused by the gutters, the gutters and drainpipes were removed and replaced by metal flashing on the eaves in 1948.<sup>5</sup> The front entrance was substantially remodeled in 1994 to provide handicapped access to the courthouse.<sup>6</sup> The original wooden double doors were similar to the surviving sidelights, each with a molded panel beneath a window with horizontal, vertical and diagonal muntins.<sup>7</sup> By 1994, they were beginning to rot.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

<sup>4</sup> Postcards of Carroll County Courthouse (collections of Cynthia Spencer and Ossipee Historical Society, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>5</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1947 (1948), p. 9; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1948 (1949), pp. 12-13

<sup>6</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>7</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF CARROLL COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1983 (Springfield, Vt.: 1984), cover

<sup>8</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 26, 2007

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

They were replaced by the present vinyl double doors. The brick capped front steps were demolished in June of 1994.<sup>9</sup> The portico base and floor was extended towards the street by a concrete addition. The brick floor of the original portico was replaced by a sloping concrete floor. New concrete front steps, the long handicapped ramp and metal pipe railings were all added in this 1994 project.<sup>10</sup> The wooden panel and lights were placed on the keystone of the entrance arch in the mid 1990's.<sup>11</sup> The louvered vent in the front section's southeastern basement window was probably added after the 1960 conversion of the heating system from coal to oil.<sup>12</sup> It is not known when the northwestern basement window was sealed off on the interior, although it had been done by 1987.<sup>13</sup> But, the sealing off of the two second story southeastern windows must date from the 1960 conversion of the registry of probate office they served to a fireproof probate records vault.<sup>14</sup> The brackets remain for an air conditioner at a northwestern second story window that was in place by the 1980's.<sup>15</sup>

The basement windows on the southeast side of the central section are original features.<sup>16</sup> It appears however that they were modified when the areas they serve changed functions. Metal bars were added to the northern window when the former storage area became a holding cell in the

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<sup>9</sup> Photograph of steps demolition, dated June 1994 (collection of David Conner, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>10</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>11</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 26, 2007

<sup>12</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1960, (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1961) p. 17

<sup>13</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>14</sup> Carroll County Independent (Center Ossipee, N.H.), September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>15</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 26, 2007, interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>16</sup> Albert H Dow, op. cit.

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

1970's.<sup>17</sup> And the panel on the southern window probably dates from the conversion of part of the Photostat room to records storage, most likely in the 1970's when the room was subdivided.<sup>18</sup> The basement windows on the northwest side do not appear in the original building plans, and most likely were added in the 1960 renovations to light the new register of deeds office.<sup>19</sup> The northwestern basement entrance and its steps were originally unprotected from the elements.<sup>20</sup> In 1993, the present enclosed basement entrance was built to protect users from snow and ice sliding off the roof.<sup>21</sup>

The northwestern and southeastern doors of the rear section originally had multi-pane built-in windows.<sup>22</sup> Sometime prior to 1987, those windows were replaced by the present louvered windows,<sup>23</sup> presumably to improve ventilation in the long corridor they serve. Because of snow and ice falling off the roofs, the northwestern and southwestern entrances were provided with porch roofs and the steps of the northwestern entrance were extended towards the driveway by the addition of lower concrete steps circa 1991.<sup>24</sup> The small gable roof was added to the northwestern porch roof soon after its construction.<sup>25</sup> The southwestern basement entrance does not appear on the original plans.<sup>26</sup> A newspaper report on the 1960 renovations refers to "an

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<sup>17</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>18</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>19</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>20</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.; postcard (collection of Cynthia Spencer, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>21</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007; photograph of construction dated September 1993 (collection of David Conner, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>22</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.; postcard (collection of Cynthia Spencer, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>23</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.; Memo, dated July 26, 1991, from F. M. [Frank Monahan] to Jim T. (manuscript, N.H. Bureau of Court Facilities, Concord, N.H.)

<sup>25</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>26</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

outdoor entrance" connected to the new "stairwell at the rear of the building", which could well be the present basement entrance.<sup>27</sup> It was certainly there by 1969.<sup>28</sup> The single rear basement window does appear on the original plans,<sup>29</sup> but was probably rebuilt with a metal fire shutter and perhaps the louvered window, when this section of the basement was converted to a fireproof vault for the registry of deeds in 1960.<sup>30</sup> A first story window in the rear wall once lit a small restroom.<sup>31</sup> But, that restroom was apparently eliminated in the 1960 enlargement of the judge's chambers.<sup>32</sup> So, the window must have been bricked in then.

Some interior changes are building wide. The 1960 renovations included an "entirely new lighting...system"<sup>33</sup>, with "overhead diffused light fixtures...installed throughout the building".<sup>34</sup> However, some of the light fixtures have clearly been replaced since 1960. Carpeting was replaced or installed in much the building during the 1990's, with the first and second story rooms being carpeted in the early 1990's and the basement rooms being carpeted in the mid 1990's.<sup>35</sup>

The entrance hall has seen three significant changes, including the already noted replacement of the main entrance doors in 1994. The doorway to the southeastern offices was altered when the room was converted to a fireproof vault during the 1960 renovation.<sup>36</sup> The heavy fireproof door was

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<sup>27</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>28</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>29</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

<sup>30</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>31</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

<sup>32</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p.2

<sup>33</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1960, p. 17

<sup>34</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>35</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>36</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

removed between 1987 and 2004,<sup>37</sup> but its metal frame and concrete surround still remain inside the original door frame. In 1999, a modern water fountain was installed.<sup>38</sup>

The northwestern section of the first story contained just one room according to the original plans.<sup>39</sup> By 1969, it had been subdivided into two long rooms by the main outer room's southwest wall.<sup>40</sup> In the early 1990's, the rear room was further subdivided to provide a handicapped accessible restroom, with toilet, sink and boxed projection for the plumbing. Another door was added to access the remaining space which was subsequently converted into a small kitchen, with counter and cabinet, also in the early 1990's.<sup>41</sup> The only other significant addition to the main room was the boxed projection for the plumbing of the restroom installed directly above in the second story, probably during the 1960's.<sup>42</sup>

The southeastern office, which served as the registry of deeds office prior to 1960, was converted into a fireproof vault for the clerk of court during the 1960 renovation.<sup>43</sup> This conversion would have included the installation of the fire shutter over the front northeastern window, as well as the removal of the original door frame trim and the placement of a new fireproof door in a concrete surround in the doorway to the entrance hall. (As already noted, the door itself was later removed.) By analogy to the probate

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<sup>37</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 26, 2007

<sup>38</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>39</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

<sup>40</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>41</sup> Letter from David Conner to Frank Monahan, dated October 26, 1992, requesting a small kitchen (manuscript, N.H. Bureau of Court Facilities, Concord, N.H.); interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 26, 2007

<sup>42</sup> Interview of Cynthia Spencer by David Ruell, March 23, 2007

<sup>43</sup> Carroll County Independent, January 15, 1960, p. 1; ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1960, p.

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

court vault in the second story directly above this room, the 1960 conversion would presumably have included the sealing off of the two southeastern windows on the interior. If this presumption is correct, the southeastern windows were subsequently unsealed and provided with their present simple wooden frames, which are now anomalies among the interior window frames of the front section. The windows were open again and trimmed with their present frames by 1969. The change of the windows probably followed the removal of the records from the vault to the basement and the conversion of the room back to office space.<sup>44</sup> When the building was retrofitted for handicapped access in the early to mid 1990's, the main clerk of court's office was then located in the second story, which could only be reached by long flights of stairs. So, a handicapped accessible branch office was established in the southeastern first story office, by subdividing the room, thus creating the present inner office.<sup>45</sup>

Prior to 1960, the second story of the front section apparently had just three major spaces, the central hallway, the county commissioner's office to the northwest and the registry of probate office to the southeast. During the 1960 renovation, the entire floor was converted to use by the registry of probate, with the office moved to the northwestern office, the former registry office converted to a fireproof vault for probate records, and the hallway subdivided to create a "small but adequate" probate courtroom at its northeast street end.<sup>46</sup> The subdivision of the once open hallway was accomplished by erecting a new wall where the railing protecting the second story hallway from the stairwell opening had stood, a wall that would have included the two new doors for the stairs to the first story and the attic. The 1960 conversion presumably required the

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<sup>44</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>45</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>46</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

creation of the present doorway from what is now the upper stair landing to the northwestern office. No such door appears on the original plans,<sup>47</sup> but it was in place by 1972.<sup>48</sup> The door was then a solid door.<sup>49</sup> It was replaced by the present glass door during the state's occupancy of the building from 1987 to 2004.<sup>50</sup> The door opens into a public area set off by a counter, probably the counter described in the 1961 county report as built in the registry of probate office the prior year, i.e., in 1960.<sup>51</sup> The other major change in the northwestern office was the addition of the restroom, said to have been built for Estella White, longtime Registrar of Probate, probably in the mid to late 1960's. The restroom was in place by 1969.<sup>52</sup> The southeastern office's conversion to a fireproof vault must have included the replacement of the door by the set of doors inserted in a concrete surround in the original door frame, the removal of the inner door frame trim, the installation of the flexible metal fire shutter, and the sealing of the two southeastern windows. The outer door was later removed. The counter was installed in the late 1990's or early 2000's.<sup>53</sup>

The only noticeable change to the courtroom, besides the carpeting, has been the installation of the inset lights in the ceiling. Otherwise, the courtroom appears virtually as it did in the original plans.<sup>54</sup> There has been more significant change in the first story of the rear section, which saw a major rearrangement of space in the 1960

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<sup>47</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

<sup>48</sup> Interview of Cynthia Spencer by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>51</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1961 (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1962) p. 9

<sup>52</sup> Interviews of Cynthia Spencer by David Ruell, March 20 and 23, 2007; interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>53</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 26, 2007

<sup>54</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

renovation. The original plans show that the space now occupied by the judge's office, its subsidiary rooms (the small hall, closet and restroom) and the restroom reached via the stairhall, were then largely devoted to two rooms, for lawyers to the southeast and for the judge to the northwest. These two rooms were separated by a narrow hall from the main corridor, which ended at a small restroom, lit by its own outside window in the rear southwest wall. The judge's office was served by a closet, located on what is now the southeastern portion of the stairhall landing. The stairway only rose from the first to the second story and did not descend into the basement.<sup>55</sup> In the 1960 renovation, the judge's chambers were enlarged,<sup>56</sup> apparently to the southeast to take in the hall, the restroom and the lawyers' room. It was described at the time as "the newly arranged judge's quarters, with clothes closet, lavatory and ample room and furnishings for pre-trial conferences...One of the presiding judges recently declared that these are the finest judge's quarters in any court house in the state."<sup>57</sup> The local newspaper also noted "the opening of a stairwell at the rear of the building", connecting the first story to the basement.<sup>58</sup> No specific mention was made of the restroom opening off the stairhall landing, but it probably dates from the same 1960 remodeling. That restroom, the judge's office and its subsidiary rooms all have similar acoustic tile ceilings, which appear to be of 1960 vintage. The former restroom's window and the doorways from the old judge's office and the eliminated small hall were all sealed off, although their ghosts can still be seen in the walls.

The larger jury room in the second story was also partly remodeled in the 1960 renovations. The original plans show it as one large jury room with one small restroom in its

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<sup>55</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

<sup>56</sup> Carroll County Independent, February 12, 1960, p. 1

<sup>57</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.



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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

west corner. In 1960, the jury room had "additional facilities installed adapting it for the use of a mixed jury".<sup>59</sup> These presumably included the present men's and ladies' restrooms and perhaps the small vestibule.

The attics have probably seen little change save for the installation of more insulation.

The basement level has, by contrast, seen more change than any other part of the building. The sequence of those changes is sometimes obscure, but the general outline is known. In the original plans, only the basements of the front section and the northeastern (streetside) portion of the central section were used. The rest of the central section basement and all of the rear section basement were left unfinished. The front section basement had a central hall, as wide as the entrance hall above. To the hall's southeast were the furnace room and the adjoining coal bin. To the hall's northwest were two large restrooms, one for each gender. In the central section basement, there were just two finished rooms, a large entrance hall, served by the northwestern basement entrance, and to its southeast, a storage room, in the area now occupied by the three room suite once used for conferences.<sup>60</sup> The county reports mention only one change before the 1960 renovations. In 1948, a basement space was remodeled to house a new photostat machine for copying records.<sup>61</sup> This room has been identified as a long room along the southeast side of the central basement, occupying what is now two rooms, the custodian's office and the probate records room.<sup>62</sup>

The most significant change occurred in the 1960

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<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

<sup>61</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1948, pp. 7, 12 and 19

<sup>62</sup> Interview of Cynthia Spencer by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

renovations, when the basement provided the space needed to relieve the overcrowding of county offices in the upper levels. We learn from the newspaper reports that the county commissioners' office, the Registry of Deeds, and the sheriff's office were moved to the basement, which also housed two rooms for attorneys, as well storage space "in every nook and cranny". The entire building project also included the installation of "three new lavatories".<sup>63</sup> But, save for the Registry of Deeds, which occupied the marital courtroom in the central section and a new fireproof vault in the rear section, it was not made clear in the newspaper where these various new spaces were located.

The former Photostat machine room was divided into the two present rooms, probably in the 1970's.<sup>64</sup> The only changes in the basic layout made by the state during its occupancy occurred in the mid 1990's, when the present holding cell was created in a room in the front section basement, and the former holding cell was converted into the present three room conference suite in the central section basement.<sup>65</sup>

Looking at specific changes in the basement, it is probable that the acoustic tile ceilings date from the 1960 renovations. It is not clear when doors were removed from several doorways in the basement. The carpeting and the plastic baseboards were installed in the mid 1990's.<sup>66</sup> Moving through the basement room by room, we begin in the central hall of the front section, where the major change was the building of the storage room at some unknown date, although it could well be part of the 1960 renovation. It was in place by 1969.<sup>67</sup> The 1960 project did include the

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<sup>63</sup> Carroll County Independent, February 12, 1960, p. 1, September 9, 1960, pp. 1 and 2

<sup>64</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>65</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>66</sup> Interviews of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20 and 26, 2007

<sup>67</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 30, 2007

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

conversion of the heating system from coal to oil and the installation of an underground fuel tank.<sup>68</sup> The oil furnace, hot water tank, and duct to the window in the furnace room must date from this conversion. The closing of the former doorways in the northeast and southwest walls are less easily dated, but might also be attributed to the 1960 conversion. The heating system conversion would have freed up the former coal bin in the east corner, and allowed its conversion to an office, probably as part of the 1960 renovation. When the two restrooms on the northwest side of the front section basement were converted to offices is not recorded in any documents so far located, but it seems likely that the work was part of the 1960 renovation, which included the installation of three new lavatories,<sup>69</sup> presumably including those now in the central section. By 1969, the two former restrooms were three offices occupied by the sheriff's department.<sup>70</sup> By 1987, the window lighting the inner office of the present two room office suite had been sealed off. In the mid 1990's, one of the two rear (southwestern) rooms was converted into the present holding cell, a renovation which included the plywood walls and ceiling, the door, urinal and bench.<sup>71</sup>

The rooms created by subdividing the former basement entrance hall, that is to say, the L-shaped corridor, the small storage room, the two restrooms, the janitor's closet and the vestibule to the marital courtroom, probably date from the 1960 renovation, although they are not mentioned in the newspaper report describing the renovation, save for a reference to "three new lavatories".<sup>72</sup> (These two restrooms with the restroom off the stairhall in the rear section, would make three new public restrooms.) The door from what

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<sup>68</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>69</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>70</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>71</sup> Interviews of David Connor by David Ruell, March 20 and 26, 2007

<sup>72</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

is now the gentlemen's restroom to the front section basement was probably closed at the same time. As noted above, the wooden walls and ceiling of the enclosed basement entrance were built in 1993.<sup>73</sup> The storage room to the southeast of the original basement entrance hall was converted to a holding cell in the 1970's.<sup>74</sup> The mid 1990's conversion of the space into three conference rooms included the building of the interior walls with their doors.<sup>75</sup>

The marital courtroom was finished off for the Registry of Deeds in the 1960 renovation.<sup>76</sup> This probably included the high windows in the northwest wall to provide some light to what had been a windowless space. It is less clear if the storage room and the small closet to the northeast of the marital courtroom were part of the 1960 renovation or added later, but the former theory seems more likely, as the storage room was there by 1969.<sup>77</sup> The former Photostat room was subdivided by a concrete block wall erected by county farm and jail inmates probably in the 1970's, to create the custodian's office and the probate records room.<sup>78</sup>

The construction of the deeds vault, the extension of the rear stairway to the basement, and the new rear basement entrance were all described as part of the 1960 renovation in the newspaper report of the time.<sup>79</sup> The only likely change in the rear section basement since then would be the installation of the plywood partitions in the rear basement entrance hall. These partitions were in place by 1969.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>73</sup> Interview of David Connor by David Ruell, March 20, 2007; photograph of construction dated September 1993 (collection of David Connor, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>74</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>75</sup> Interviews of David Connor by David Ruell, March 20 and 26, 2007

<sup>76</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>77</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>78</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>79</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>80</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

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## DESCRIPTION (cont.)

The grounds have seen changes as well. The original plans show a walk from the street to the front steps on the main axis of the building, and two walks that branched off the front walk and ran along the sides of the building to the northwest and southeast entrances in the rear section.<sup>81</sup> The present front walk and steps, handicapped ramp, patio, flagpole and handicapped parking space on the front lawn were all part of the 1994 project to provide handicapped access to the courthouse.<sup>82</sup> The new ramp cut off the walk on the southeasterly side of the building. The walk on the northwestern side was removed around 1990 because snow and ice falling off the roof posed a threat to pedestrians on the walk.<sup>83</sup> The driveway and parking area do not appear on the original plans or in early postcards.<sup>84</sup> It is not clear when they were built, but they were certainly in place by 1965, when additional land was brought to the rear of the lot to enlarge the parking lot.<sup>85</sup> In the late 1980's or early 1990's, the shed to the rear of the courthouse was built by students at the New Hampshire Vocational Technical College in Concord, then hauled to the site on a flatbed trailer. It has not changed since its arrival.<sup>86</sup>

Despite the numerous but relatively minor changes, the Carroll County Court House retains its basic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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<sup>81</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.

<sup>82</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Albert H. Dow, op. cit.; postcards (collections of Cynthia Spencer and Ossipee Historical Society, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>85</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 1965 (Center Ossipee, N.H.: 1966), p. 24; ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 1966 (North Conway, N.H.: 1967), p. 12

<sup>86</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

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## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carroll County Court House is significant under Criterion A in the area of politics and government as the oldest surviving and longest used courthouse and county office building in Carroll County. The building is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as the best example of Colonial Revival style architecture in Ossipee. It retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association for the date of its construction in 1916 and for its period of use as a courthouse and the county office building from 1916 through 1957, the end of the period of significance.

Politics and Government

New Hampshire counties may not have as many governmental functions as counties in other states. Nevertheless, they play a significant role, particularly in the legal system. The state's primary courts are the county based Superior Courts, which handle most major criminal and civil cases, including all trials by jury. The more local District Courts can only adjudicate lesser offenses and disputes. Above the Superior Courts in the judicial hierarchy is found only the Supreme Court, the sole appellate court in the state's judicial system. So, the Superior Courts are the basic courts for all important cases in New Hampshire. The county attorneys and sheriffs, who serve the Superior Courts, therefore play important roles in the administration of justice. The county is the basis for the probate system, providing the registry of probate and the probate court. Counties also operate the jails, record all deeds, and provide important welfare services, such as county nursing homes. Many of these county functions are housed in the county courthouse and the county office building, which have often been the same building, as was the case with the building under consideration in this nomination.

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Four courthouses have been erected in Carroll County.<sup>1</sup> The first was actually built before the county was created. In 1839, the state legislature authorized additional court terms in the northern part of Strafford County. Thanks to the initiative of Ossipee's state representative, the new courthouse was built in Ossipee village. It was first used for the April 1840 spring court term. By the end of 1840, Carroll County was carved out of Strafford County and the Ossipee courthouse became the seat of county government, housing the courts and the county offices.<sup>2</sup> The first courthouse served for 75 years until June of 1915, when it was destroyed in a fire that swept through much of Ossipee village.<sup>3</sup>

Construction of the second courthouse, the building considered in this nomination, began in the fall of 1915.<sup>4</sup> The building was ready for use by the courts and the county offices in May of 1916.<sup>5</sup> It remained in continuous use as a courthouse for almost 88 years until March of 2004, when the courts were moved to a new courthouse erected nearby by the State of New Hampshire.<sup>6</sup>

The third and present county courthouse was erected in 2002-2004<sup>7</sup> to provide more space for the courts.<sup>8</sup> It now houses the Carroll County Superior Court, the Carroll County

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<sup>1</sup> David Ruell, "Carroll County Courthouses and County Office Buildings" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.)

<sup>2</sup> Georgia D. Merrill, ed., HISTORY OF CARROLL COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE (Boston: 1889) p. 240; Edward M. Cook, Jr., OSSIPEE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1785-1985: A HISTORY (Ossipee, N.H.: 1989), pp. 196-197

<sup>3</sup> Cook, p. 199; Granite State News (Wolfeboro, N.H.) June 26, 1915, p. 1

<sup>4</sup> Granite State News, September 18, 1915, p. 1, October 16, 1915, p. 4

<sup>5</sup> Granite State News, May 27, 1916, pp. 1 and 4

<sup>6</sup> Carroll County Independent (Ossipee, N.H.) March 11, 2004, p. A15, March 18, 2004, p. A16

<sup>7</sup> Granite State News, January 1, 2004, p. A6, January 8, 2004, p. A9; interview of David Conner by David Ruell, April 4, 2007

<sup>8</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 26, 2007

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Probate Court, and the Southern Carroll County District Court.

The only other building erected in the county specifically for use as a courthouse is the Northern Carroll County District Courthouse in Conway, first occupied in 1989.<sup>9</sup> (Other buildings in Carroll County, such as the Conway town hall before 1989,<sup>10</sup> have housed district courtrooms, but that use was incidental to the primary uses of the buildings.)

The history of the county offices is similar. The first courthouse housed the county offices, such as the registry of deeds and probate, from the beginnings of Carroll County government until the building was destroyed in the fire of 1915.<sup>11</sup> The nominated building took over those functions when it opened in the spring of 1916.<sup>12</sup> By the 1950's the county offices were becoming overcrowded. Therefore, in 1960, the building was renovated and some offices were moved to the basement to provide more room in the upper levels.<sup>13</sup> But, as the county government and its records collections grew, the courthouse again became overcrowded. So, in 1978-1979, a new separate county administration building was constructed, to which the registry of probate, registry of deeds, sheriff's department, and county commissioners moved in early 1979.<sup>14</sup> The former courthouse was the home of the

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<sup>9</sup> Janet M. Hounsell and Ruth B.D. Horne CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1765-1997 (Portsmouth, N.H.: 1998), p. 139

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Cook, pp. 196-197 and 199

<sup>12</sup> Granite State News, May 27, 1916, pp. 1 and 4

<sup>13</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, pp. 1 and 2

<sup>14</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1976, (1977) pp. 6, 7, 29-31, 118, 126-128, and 131; REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, 1977 (Center Conway, N.H.: 1978) pp. 17 and 55; REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, 1978 (1979) pp. 6, 32-33; REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL



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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

county administration for nearly 63 years, a record not yet matched by the later administrative building.

In Carroll County, there are now three surviving buildings that have served as courthouses and two that have served as county office buildings. In either category, the nominated property is clearly the most historically significant. It is not only the oldest such building, but is also the building with the longest service, approaching 88 years as a courthouse and 63 years as a county office building.

The building retains its basic historic integrity for its period of significance from its completion in 1916 to 1957, the 50 year cutoff date. The rooms devoted to the court are largely intact. The most important of these spaces, the courtroom, is virtually unchanged. The same can be said of the library and the smaller jury room in the rear section. The larger jury room was given expanded restroom facilities in the 1960 renovation, but otherwise seems little changed. The original clerk of court's office, the northwestern office in the first story of the front section, has been subdivided, but retains its original architectural features—doors, windows and walls. The original judge's and lawyers' rooms were the most altered, when the judge's office was enlarged and remodeled in the 1960 renovation. But, overall, the space devoted to the court functions still appears largely as it did during the period of significance.

The original county offices in the front section of the building have seen some alterations, mostly during the 1960 renovation. The old registry of deed's office, the

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

southeastern office on the first story, was later subdivided and has lost some original window and door trim. The old registry of probate office, the southeastern office on the second floor, has lost two windows and the original door and its frame. The former county commissioners' office, the northwestern office on the second story, has gained a small restroom and an additional door, but is otherwise intact. For the most part, the original appearance of these old county offices remains clear to the careful observer.

The second Carroll County Court House is unique in the history of Carroll County as its oldest courthouse and county office building, and as the building that played the most important role in county law enforcement and county government for much of the twentieth century, as the home of the county's major court and the county administration.

Architecture

When the design of Boston architect Albert H. Dow was chosen over the plans of two other architects for the new courthouse in July of 1915, the Wolfeboro newspaper was pleased with the choice. "Mr. Dow had a very well arranged plan having many admirable features for a court building...The building as designed by Mr. Dow is to be of the Colonial style of architecture, built of brick, heated with steam, and supplied with modern conveniences."<sup>15</sup>

Relatively little information has been published on Dow's architectural career. Albert H. Dow (1887-1962) was born in the neighboring town of Tuftonboro and educated at Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro and Northeastern University in Boston. He practiced for years in Boston, but in his later life returned to Tuftonboro where he died.<sup>16</sup> One news article

<sup>15</sup> Granite State News, July 31, 1915, p. 4

<sup>16</sup> Obituary of Albert H. Dow, Carroll County Independent, June 8, 1962, p. 1

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

credits him with "many churches and residences in the Boston area", "as well as an addition to the chapel of St. Paul's School in Concord", a Gothic Revival style building.<sup>17</sup> His brief obituary only mentions four local buildings that he designed, including the Carroll County Court House.<sup>18</sup> Interestingly enough, all four buildings were built in the Colonial Revival style.<sup>19</sup>

By 1915, the Colonial Revival style was well established, a popular style for residences and for public buildings, particularly in the eastern United States, where it harked back to the most historic buildings of the area. It was considered a very appropriate choice for public buildings in New Hampshire towns during a large part of the twentieth century. Indeed, the style remains popular for New England residences to this day.

The popularity of the Colonial Revival style is very clear in the town of Ossipee, where a recent windshield survey found 86 buildings that could be assigned to the style.<sup>20</sup> Eighty of these buildings are residences, 75 of them one story or one and a half story buildings, five two story or two and a half story buildings. The vast majority of the one to one and a half story houses are variants of the cape, the vernacular building type still regarded as the typical New England house. These simple buildings generally have little architectural interest. Three gambrel roofed one and a half story houses, (14 Covered Bridge Road, 63 Main Street and 5

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<sup>17</sup> Weirs Times (Weirs, N.H.) February 22, 2007, p. 1

<sup>18</sup> Obituary of Albert H. Dow, Carroll County Independent, June 8, 1962, p. 1

<sup>19</sup> The other three buildings are the Tuftonboro Central School and two Wolfeboro buildings, Brown Hall at Brewster Academy and the main building of Huggins Hospital. Ibid.; Q. David Bowers THE HISTORY OF WOLFEBORO, N.H. 1770-1994 (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1996) vol.1, p. 210, vol. 2, p. 291

<sup>20</sup> David Ruell, "Colonial Revival Style Buildings in Ossipee" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.)

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Granite Road) do stand out among the smaller houses. But, the most important Colonial Revival style residence is one of the five larger houses, Long look (40 Main Street in Center Ossipee village) an early 20<sup>th</sup> century mansion with an impressive two story monumental portico.

The half dozen Colonial Revival style non-residential buildings include two commercial buildings, a telephone exchange and a modern office building, both of little architectural interest. The four public buildings are of more interest, although the altered Ossipee Town Hall now has little architectural merit. The wooden Moultonville United Methodist Church of 1932<sup>21</sup> is a simple but pleasant traditional church. Of greater merit are the two architect designed buildings. The Ossipee Public Library was built in 1938-1939 to the design of Ervin W. Hersey of the firm of Huddleston & Hersey.<sup>22</sup> The one story brick library is distinguished by its fine entrance, topped by a broken segmental pediment, and other ornamental features, such as a modillioned cornice and brick corner quoins.

The Carroll County Courthouse is more impressive than the other Colonial Revival style buildings in Ossipee, not only for its size, but also for its monumentality and dignity. The three sides of the exterior originally visible to the public were designed with strict symmetry. (Before the construction of the rear basement entrance, the driveway and parking lot, almost no one would have seen the asymmetrical rear elevation.) The main axis was emphasized by the main entrance with its double doors, sidelights and fanlight; the triple window in the second story, and the monumental portico with its two story tall paired columns supporting an entablature and pediment. The end bays of the façade, the end walls of the front and rear sections and the sides of

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<sup>21</sup> Cook, p. 297

<sup>22</sup> David Ruell, PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE LAKES REGION, AN ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY (Meredith, N.H.: 1986) p. 72

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

the central section were given the same compositions, save for a few differences in the central section basement. The monumentality of the building was further promoted by the high basement, the large windows, particularly the two story high windows of the courtroom, the high hip roofs, and the matching large chimneys on the front section. Ornament was judiciously used to emphasize the importance of the building, as can be seen in the limestone water table and the elaborate cornice of all three sections, the limestone quoins and the already noted elaborate central bay of the front section, and in the varied treatment of the public windows and the rear section's side entrances trimmed with brick arches with keystones and sometimes impost blocks or with ornate lintels of stone and brick. The front section received the most ornament, but the central section, with its impressive and ornate courtroom windows and even the rear section with its arched side entrances and triple second story windows were given the ornament suitable for a major public building. The exterior is well designed with good proportions and fine compositions of the elevations.

The building retains its basic architectural integrity. The exterior's greatest loss may be the double doors of the front entrance. Other exterior changes also seem to be focused at the entrances, the enlarged portico base, the new steps and ramp at the front entrance, the louvered windows of the side entrances, the addition of the northwestern porch on the rear section and the enclosure over the central section's basement entrance. The changes to the basement level windows and on the rear wall are of little architectural significance. Basically, the exterior appears today almost as it did in 1916. (The architecturally most important interiors were the most public spaces, the entrance hall and the courtroom. They have seen little change, one missing door in the entrance hall and inset lights in the courtroom ceiling. The county offices in the front section, of less architectural importance, still retain many original features, such as window and door frames, despite changes of use and subdivisions of their

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spaces. The rear section rooms, seldom seen by the public, have also kept many original features, despite changes to the judge's office and the large jury room. The much altered basement never had any architectural significance, being devoted in the original plan to storage, restrooms and the heating system.)

The Carroll County Court House, with its well preserved architecture, must be regarded as the best example of the popular Colonial Revival style in the town of Ossipee.

Historical Background

Ossipee owes its position as the county seat to the quick action of its state representative. According to the county history, "In 1839, the northern part of the Strafford county had so much importance and had so much business in the courts that the county delegation of that year decided to build a court-house in that section and hold regular terms of court there."<sup>23</sup> (Under New Hampshire law, the state representatives from a county form the county delegation, the legislative body for the county government that decides budgetary and policy matters for the county. County commissioners are the executive officers who administer the day to day operations of the county government.) The county delegation made its initial decision on a Saturday afternoon at a meeting during the legislative session in the state capital, Concord. The delegation adjourned to discuss the matter further, including the location of the new courthouse, on Monday afternoon. Asa Beacham, Ossipee's representative, realized that the town that made the best offer of financial help would probably get the prize of the courthouse. He rode by carriage all night to Ossipee (a long journey in the pre-railroad era). Beacham secured pledges from local businessmen for the courthouse construction,

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<sup>23</sup> Merrill, p. 240

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provided that it was built in Ossipee village, which eventually totaled \$850. The representative rode back to Concord with his subscription paper and arrived on Monday afternoon, in time to join the other county delegation members as they going up the steps to the meeting. No other town had any such offer to make, so the delegation decided to place the courthouse in Ossipee.<sup>24</sup>

The state legislature authorized the new court in July of 1839.<sup>25</sup> The new courthouse was built in time for the April 1840 court session.<sup>26</sup> In December of that same year, the state legislature voted to divide Strafford County, a large area with a growing population, into three counties, creating two new counties in its northern reaches, Belknap County to the southwest of Lake Winnepesaukee and Carroll County to the northeast of that large lake.<sup>27</sup> Ossipee, centrally located in the new county, and already possessing the only courthouse in the area, became the Carroll County seat.<sup>28</sup>

The first courthouse was a two and a half story building, with an entrance tower topped by a belfry in the center of its street gable end.<sup>29</sup> It was predominantly of wooden construction, but two small fireproof brick wings were added in 1856 and 1887 to store county records.<sup>30</sup> The additions

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid.; Cook, pp. 196-197

<sup>25</sup> "An Act to Establish an additional term of the Court of Common Pleas in the County of Strafford", LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, PASSED JUNE SESSION 1839 (Concord, N.H.: 1839) pp. 401-402

<sup>26</sup> Merrill, p. 240; Cook, p. 196

<sup>27</sup> "An Act to establish the Counties of Belknap and Carroll", LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, PASSED NOVEMBER SESSION, 1840 (Concord, N.H.: 1840) pp. 455-463

<sup>28</sup> Merrill, p. 240

<sup>29</sup> Cook, p. 199; Ossipee Bicentennial Committee EARLY OSSIPEE, A PICTORIAL VIEW (Ossipee, N.H.: 1976), unpagged, Ossipee village photographs No. 6 and No. 7

<sup>30</sup> Merrill, p. 241

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proved their value on June 23, 1915, when Ossipee village was swept by a fire. The fire began in a blacksmith shop and quickly spread to other buildings.<sup>31</sup> (The blacksmith was later tried for arson, but he was acquitted.<sup>32</sup>) Firefighters responded from surrounding towns and fire engines were sent from Dover and Rochester, but the lack of a suitable water supply hampered the firefighting. In desperation, the barn of the Allen house just northwest of the courthouse was dynamited, but the explosion only spread the flames further. In the end, seven buildings were destroyed, including most of the courthouse and the buildings on each side of the courthouse, the Allen house and the Carter store.<sup>33</sup> "All that was left standing" in "a mass of smoldering ruins" were the courthouse's two brick wings, containing the county records.<sup>34</sup> After 75 years of service, the first courthouse was gone.

The location of the new courthouse quickly became an issue. At least three county newspapers soon reported that building at a different site, notably in Conway, was being promoted over rebuilding in Ossipee.<sup>35</sup> How successful these efforts to relocate the courthouse might have been is unclear, particularly as the other county facilities, such as the jail and county farm, were sited near Ossipee village. However, the threat did prompt the villagers of Ossipee to offer to donate land to enlarge the courthouse lot and to provide a suitable public water supply for fire protection. The county delegation voted on July 6 to send a

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<sup>31</sup> Manchester Union, June 24, 1915, p. 1

<sup>32</sup> Sandwich Reporter, July 15, 1915, p.3; March 16, 1916, p.1; April 6, 1916, p.3

<sup>33</sup> Granite State News (Wolfeboro, N.H.), June 26, 1915, p. 1; Concord Evening Monitor, June 24, 1915, p. 8; Manchester Union, June 24, 1915, pp. 1 and 5; Sandwich Reporter, June 24, 1915, p. 1; Carroll County Pioneer (Sanbornville, N.H.), June 25, 1915, p. 3

<sup>34</sup> Granite State News, June 26, 1915, p. 1

<sup>35</sup> Carroll County Pioneer, June 25, 1915, p. 3; Granite State News, July 10, 1915, p. 1; Sandwich Reporter, July 15, 1915, p. 4



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committee to meet with the citizens. The committee reported back to the delegation on July 26 that the citizens had promised, if the courthouse was rebuilt on its old site, to enlarge the lot to 160 feet wide by 300 feet deep and to install "a suitable water system which shall furnish ample amount for the Court House and for protection in case of fire." On the basis of these promises, the county delegation voted 16 to 1 to build the new court house on the old but enlarged site.<sup>36</sup>

The villagers did keep their promise to enlarge the lot. The owners of the Allen house lot to the northwest of the courthouse deeded a thirty foot wide strip to the county.<sup>37</sup> Seven Ossipee citizens donated to the county the entire Carter store lot that bordered the old courthouse lot on the southeast and the rear.<sup>38</sup> But the public water system was never built by the villagers. In 1929, the county built its own water line from the county farm to the courthouse for fire protection.<sup>39</sup> And, in 1940, the county began supplying some village homes with water from that line,<sup>40</sup> a practice that still continues.<sup>41</sup>

After deciding to rebuild in Ossipee at their July 26

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<sup>36</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TREASURER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY FARM, SOLICITOR, AUDITOR, CLERK OF COURT, SHERIFF AND JAILER OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1915 (North Conway, N.H.: 1916) pp. 6-9 ; Granite State News, July 31, 1915, pp.1 and 4

<sup>37</sup> Deed, Eunice Allen and Annie Beacham to County of Carroll, October 15, 1915, Book 150, page 521 (manuscript, Carroll County Registry of Deeds, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>38</sup> Deed, D.J. Brown, E.F. Brown, A.C. Moulton, L.O. Moulton, W.C. Sinclair, C.S. Miles and A.F. Kenison to County of Carroll, May 22, 1916, Book 150, Page 523 (manuscript, Carroll County Registry of Deeds, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>39</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1929 (North Conway, N.H.: 1930) pp. 5, 7, 9, 10, 30 and 44

<sup>40</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1940 (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1941) p. 10

<sup>41</sup> Interview of Cynthia Spencer by David Ruell, March 20, 2007

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meeting, the county delegation examined the plans for a new courthouse presented by three architects, and voted unanimously to accept the plans of architect Albert H. Dow, and to put the building out to bid.<sup>42</sup> At a September 11 county delegation meeting, the four bids were opened and the lowest was found to be the \$31,950 bid of Wallace Building Company of Laconia. The delegation then voted to authorize the county commissioners to erect the courthouse, sign the necessary contracts, and borrow up to \$35,000 for the project.<sup>43</sup> The building contract with the Laconia firm was signed three days later, with the construction "to begin immediately".<sup>44</sup>

Newspaper reports of the construction were sporadic and short items. In mid October, work was "progressing very rapidly" and the bricklayers were "expected within a few days".<sup>45</sup> By mid January, 1916, the masons had completed their work.<sup>46</sup> In February, "the interior work" was underway.<sup>47</sup> In March, the exterior was complete, save for the portico, the utilities were installed, the furnishings ordered, and the carpenters had completed several rooms and were at work on the courtroom.<sup>48</sup> In early May, it was reported that the judge had moved into his new office.<sup>49</sup> The building was apparently ready for most uses by late May when the spring term of the Superior Court began there on May 23,

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<sup>42</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TREASURER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY FARM, SOLICITOR, AUDITOR, CLERK OF COURT, SHERIFF AND JAILER OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1915, p. 10, Granite State News, July 31, 1915, p. 4

<sup>43</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TREASURER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY FARM, SOLICITOR, AUDITOR, CLERK OF COURT, SHERIFF AND JAILER OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1915, pp.10-12

<sup>44</sup> Granite State News, September 18, 1915, p. 1

<sup>45</sup> Granite State News, October 16, 1915, p. 4

<sup>46</sup> Granite State News, January 15, 1916, p. 3

<sup>47</sup> Granite State News, February 12, 1916, p. 1

<sup>48</sup> Granite State News, March 11, 1916, p. 1

<sup>49</sup> Granite State News, May 13, 1916, p. 4

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and the Registrar of Deeds and Registrar of Probate were reported as occupying their new offices.<sup>50</sup> But, work on installing furniture, electrical fixtures, walks and other items continued as late as the fall.<sup>51</sup> The 1916 county report tallies the cost of the courthouse at \$43,457.30.<sup>52</sup>

The courthouse apparently saw little change, for the next four decades, save for the addition of a new basement room for the Photostatic machine installed in 1948.<sup>53</sup> But, by 1950, the courthouse was becoming overcrowded, with the clerk of court, probate judge, registry of probate, county solicitor, sheriff, and registry of deeds all needing more space. A committee was established to study an addition, but no action was taken.<sup>54</sup> Another study committee, established in 1956, presented plans by Laconia architect Douglas Prescott for two two-story wings, which were approved by the county delegation in June and July of that year.<sup>55</sup> But, in 1957, the county delegation seemed unable to make up its collective mind. They reconsidered Prescott's plans, looked at plans for an addition by another architect, voted to have Prescott design an addition on the rear, and in the end, were unable to agree on a plan.<sup>56</sup> In June of 1959, the

<sup>50</sup> Granite State News, May 27, 1916, pp. 1 and 4

<sup>51</sup> Granite State News, June 17, 1916, p. 4; July 15, 1916, p. 4; September 16, 1916, p. 4; December 16, 1916, p. 1

<sup>52</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, TREASURER, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE COUNTY FARM, SOLICITOR, AUDITOR, CLERK OF COURT, SHERIFF AND JAILER OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1916 (North Conway, N.H.: 1917), p. 8

<sup>53</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1948 (1949), pp. 7, 12 and 19

<sup>54</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1950 (1951) p. 10; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1951 (1952), p. 8

<sup>55</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1956 (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1957) pp.8-13

<sup>56</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1957 (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1958), pp. 9, 11, 12, 15 and 17

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county commissioners proposed using the half empty basement to relieve the overcrowding in the county offices.<sup>57</sup> The county delegation approved plans for such a renovation by Laconia architect Norman Randlett on June 22 and a \$75,000 bond for the project on August 21.<sup>58</sup> The contract was awarded to Gordon Burke of North Conway, who began work on February 8, 1960.<sup>59</sup> By late September, all of the county departments had moved into their new quarters.<sup>60</sup> The project included moving the county commissioner's offices, the registry of deeds, and the sheriff's offices into the basement, constructing three fireproof vaults for deeds, court and probate records, expanding the registry of probate in the second story and the judge's office in the rear section, adding new restrooms and storage space, replacing the lighting and wiring, and converting the heating system from coal to oil.<sup>61</sup>

In 1961, the county commissioners reported that the county department heads were all happy with their new quarters.<sup>62</sup> The newspaper report on the 1960 renovation optimistically estimated that "based on filings since 1950", the spacious new registry of deeds vault "should hold recordings of all deeds for the next hundred years!"<sup>63</sup>

However, the space needs of the county government

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<sup>57</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

<sup>58</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1959 (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1960) pp. 13-21

<sup>59</sup> Carroll County Independent, February 12, 1960, p. 1

<sup>60</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 2, 1960, p. 1, September 9, 1960. pp. 1 and 2, September 30, 1960, p. 1

<sup>61</sup> Carroll County Independent, January 15, 1960, p. 1, February 12, 1960. p.1, September 9, 1960. pp. 1 and 2; January 6, 1961, p. 1; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1959, p. 21; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1960 (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1961), pp. 16-17

<sup>62</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1961 (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1962) p. 16

<sup>63</sup> Carroll County Independent, September 9, 1960, p. 2

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continued to increase. The need for more parking spaces at the courthouse was addressed by the purchase of a two acre parcel behind the courthouse lot in 1965,<sup>64</sup> and the enlarging of the parking area in 1967.<sup>65</sup> But, as early as 1967, the county commissioners noted, in their annual report, the need for an addition to the courthouse.<sup>66</sup> A preliminary study was prepared in 1968 for an addition on the rear of the building to house a new records vault.<sup>67</sup> In November of 1972, the county delegation established a building study committee.<sup>68</sup> The committee reported in 1974 on the need to relieve overcrowding in the basement offices and to provide more storage space for the registry of deeds and registry of probate.<sup>69</sup> By 1975, the study committee was recommending the construction of a new separate administration building to house the county commissioners, registry of deeds, probate offices, and the sheriff's department.<sup>70</sup> There was general agreement about the need for more space. The Registry of Deeds, for example, reported that it would run out of shelf space for deeds by the end of 1977,<sup>71</sup> a sharp contrast to the optimistic 1960 prediction

<sup>64</sup> Deed, Leon and Gertrude Jones to County of Carroll, December 28, 1965, Book 397, Page 540 (manuscript, Carroll County Registry of Deeds, Ossipee, N.H.); ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 1965 (Center Ossipee, N.H.: 1966), p. 24; ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 1966 (North Conway, N.H.: 1967) p. 12

<sup>65</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>, 1967 (Center Ossipee, N.H.: 1968) p. 21

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Irving W. Hersey Associates "Study of Vault for Carroll County Court House, Ossipee, N.H." plan dated December 27, 1968 (manuscript, collection of Ossipee Historical Society, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>68</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1972 (Center Conway, N.H.: 1973), p. 13

<sup>69</sup> ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1974 (North Conway, N.H.: 1975), pp. 5-6

<sup>70</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, 1975 (Wolfeboro, N.H.: 1976) p. 65

<sup>71</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING

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of the registry's storage capacity. But, it took some time to agree on a course of action. The alternative to a new building, an addition to rear of the courthouse, was being promoted by the county commissioners as late as October of 1976.<sup>72</sup> However, objections were raised to the concept, as the land behind the courthouse was considered low, wet and unsuitable, requiring much fill for an addition to be built there.<sup>73</sup> These arguments were apparently successful. In November of 1976, the county delegation voted to erect a new administrative building on nearby county owned land on Route 171 in Ossipee.<sup>74</sup> Ground was broken for the new building on December 15, 1977<sup>75</sup> and construction continued through 1978. Early in 1979, the county departments moved into the new building, the registry of deed, the registry of probate, and the probate court in February, the sheriff's department in April.<sup>76</sup> The courthouse was now devoted entirely to the use of the courts and the legal system.

Some physical changes were made to the courthouse during the 1960's and 1970's. The 1960's saw a restroom installed in the second story registry of probate office.<sup>77</sup> In the same decade, the clerk of court's office needed more space, so the records from the first story vault were moved into the basement and the vault turned into an office again.<sup>78</sup> In the basement during the 1970's, the Photostat room was

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DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, 1976 (1977) p. 29

<sup>72</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, 1976, pp. 116-118

<sup>73</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, 1976, p. 127

<sup>74</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, 1976, P. 131

<sup>75</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, 1977 (Center Conway, N.H.: 1978) p.7

<sup>76</sup> REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF CARROLL COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST, 1979 (1980) pp. 6, 8, 36 and 37

<sup>77</sup> Interviews of Cynthia Spencer by David Ruell, March 20 and 23, 2007; interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>78</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

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divided into two rooms, and the former storage room was converted into a holding cell.<sup>79</sup> There were some functional changes following the removal of the county offices. The county clerk's offices, for example, moved into the second story of the front section formerly occupied by the probate registry and court.<sup>80</sup> But, there do not seem to have been any significant physical changes resulting from the move.

In 1985, the state legislature decided that the state government would take over the responsibility of providing and paying for the facilities for all courts in New Hampshire, and therefore relieved the counties of their duty to provide courthouses. The new law allowed the state to lease or purchase existing court facilities.<sup>81</sup> So, that year the state leased the Superior Court space in the courthouse from the county.<sup>82</sup> In 1986, the county commissioners reported that the state was interested in buying the courthouse.<sup>83</sup> The sale of the courthouse to the state for \$1 was approved by the county delegation on March 23, 1987.<sup>84</sup> The county commissioners signed the deed on November 12 of the same year. The deed required the state to respect the architectural integrity of the exterior. And, it stated, that if the building ceased to be used as a courthouse for three consecutive years, the property would revert to the county.<sup>85</sup> The sale was reported to be "the first time the

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<sup>79</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>80</sup> Interview of Wesley Scolaro by David Ruell, March 27, 2007

<sup>81</sup> "An Act Transferring Costs of Court Facilities to the State and Making An Appropriation Therefore", Chapter 404, LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1985 REGULAR SESSION (Concord, N.H.: 1986) pp. 916-919

<sup>82</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF CARROLL COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1987 (Rochester, N.H.: 1988) p. 7

<sup>83</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF CARROLL COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1986 (Berlin, N.H.: 1987), p. 6

<sup>84</sup> ANNUAL REPORT OF CARROLL COUNTY, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1987 (Rochester, N.H.: 1988), p. 61; Granite State News, March 25, 1987, p. 2

<sup>85</sup> Deed, Carroll County Board of Commissioners to the State of New Hampshire, November 12, 1987, Book 1286, Pages 402-406 (manuscript,

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state ... acquired a superior court" facility.<sup>86</sup>

During the seventeen years the State owned the courthouse, some physical changes were made. The most obvious were those required to meet modern codes for handicapped access. In 1994, new front doors were installed, the old front steps removed, the portico base extended, new front steps and a handicapped ramp built, and a handicapped parking space paved to provide wheelchair access to the building. The early 1990's also saw the creation of a handicapped accessible restroom and the subdivision of the southeastern office to provide a handicapped accessible office for the clerk of the court, both in the first story of the front section. The problem of snow and ice sliding off the roofs was met by removing the sidewalk along the northwest side of the building, enclosing the basement entrance in the central section, and building porches over two entrances of the rear section. A new holding cell was created and the old one turned into a suite of conference rooms. In the early 1980's or late 1990's, a wooden shed built by N.H. Technical Vocational College students was trucked from Concord and installed on the eastern edge of the parking lot.<sup>87</sup>

By the early 21st century, the State was planning to consolidate the three courts then housed in Ossipee, the Superior Court in the old courthouse, the Probate Court and the Southern Carroll County District Court in the county administration building, in a new and larger building. The county donated land for the new courthouse on Route 171 near the county administration building.<sup>88</sup> The new building was begun in the fall of 2004.<sup>89</sup> Construction was slated to be

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Carroll County Registry of Deeds, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>86</sup> Granite State News, November 18, 1987, p. 2

<sup>87</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, March 20 and 26, 2007

<sup>88</sup> CARROLL COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2002 (2003) p. 6

<sup>89</sup> Interview of David Conner by David Ruell, April 4, 2007



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finished in October 2003, but its completion and acceptance by the state was delayed until early 2004.<sup>90</sup> The courts moved into the new building in March of 2004. The local newspaper reported that Superior Court would close for the week of March 15 for the move from the old courthouse and reopen in the new courthouse on March 22.<sup>91</sup> So, after nearly 88 years of continuous use, the older building ceased its career as a courthouse.

Since the courthouse would revert to the county after the courts moved out, its future became a matter of concern to county officials and local citizens. In 2001, the Ossipee Historical Society began considering the possibility of acquiring the courthouse for a museum, research center and meeting place. In September of 2002, the Society formally voted to proceed with the purchase of the building.<sup>92</sup> On October 11, 2002, the Ossipee Historical Society presented its proposal to buy the courthouse to the county delegation, which held a public hearing on the question in December.<sup>93</sup> In February of 2003, the delegation authorized the county commissioners to negotiate the sale of the courthouse to the historical society for \$1.<sup>94</sup> Subsequently, it was learned that the sale had be put out for competitive bids. However, even though a higher bid for \$100,000 was received, the county commissioners and the county delegation voted unanimously to sell the courthouse to the Ossipee Historical Society for \$1, citing the need to preserve the historic building.<sup>95</sup> The deed conveying the courthouse to the Society

<sup>90</sup> Granite State News, January 1, 2004, p. A6, January 8, 2004, p. A9, Carroll County Independent, January 15, 2004, pp. A1 and A12

<sup>91</sup> Carroll County Independent, March 11, 2004, p. A15, March 18, 2004, p. A16

<sup>92</sup> Interview of Arletta Paul by David Ruell, April 4, 2007

<sup>93</sup> CARROLL COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2002, pp. 58 and 64

<sup>94</sup> CARROLL COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003 (2004) pp. 35-36, Granite State News, February 6, 2003, p. 1

<sup>95</sup> CARROLL COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003,

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was signed by the county commissioners on May 5, 2004, but the deed was not actually recorded until March 2, 2005.<sup>96</sup> The transfer was delayed because the state did not actually deed the property back to the county until November of 2004,<sup>97</sup> and a state inspection found a problem with the underground oil tanks that had to be fixed before the transfer could be completed.<sup>98</sup> The deed from the county requires that the building be used for a meeting place for all Carroll County historical societies and as an historical museum and research center for the entire county, that it be kept open for public use and properly insured, and that its architectural integrity be preserved. If these conditions are not met, the property will revert to the county.<sup>99</sup> The Ossipee Historical Society is now working to make the courthouse an active museum, historical research and cultural center, that will continue to play a significant role in the life of the area.

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pp. 48 and 50; Manchester Union Leader, June 17, 2003, pp. B1 and B2

<sup>96</sup> Deed, Carroll County Board of Commissioners to Ossipee Historical Society, May 5, 2004 Book 2393, Pages 584-588 (manuscript, Carroll County Registry of Deeds, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>97</sup> Deed, State of New Hampshire to County of Carroll, November 3, 2004, Book 2367, Pages 396-398 (manuscript, Carroll County Registry of Deeds, Ossipee, N.H.)

<sup>98</sup> CARROLL COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2005 (2006) p. 40; interview of Cynthia Spencer by David Ruell, April 3, 2007

<sup>99</sup> Deed, Carroll County Board of Commissioners to Ossipee Historical Society; Carroll County Independent, April 22, 2004, p. A2

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## 10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated portion of the courthouse property is described as follows. Beginning at the east corner of the courthouse property on the edge of the public highway (Courthouse Square, part of Route 171), the boundary proceeds southwest approximately 240 feet along the courthouse property boundary to a corner where the property boundary turns to the southeast. Here the boundary of the nominated portion turns northwest and crosses the courthouse property to a point on the courthouse property's northwestern boundary approximately 230 feet from the public highway. The nomination boundary then continues northeast along the courthouse property boundary approximately 230 feet to the public highway, and then proceeds southeast along the highway right of way approximately 150 feet to the point of beginning. The nominated property includes the three parcels of land described in the following deeds: Brackett Wiggin to County of Strafford, April 27, 1840, Book 185, Page 510, Strafford County Registry of Deeds; Eunice Allen and Annie Beacham to County of Carroll, October 15, 1915, Book 150, Page 521, Carroll County Registry of Deeds; and D.J. Brown, E.F. Brown, A.C. Moulton, L.O. Moulton, W.C. Sinclair, C.S. Miles and A.F. Kenison to County of Carroll, May 22, 1916, Book 150, Page 523, Carroll County Registry of Deeds. The entire courthouse property and the location of these three parcels is shown on a plan by the White Mountain Survey Company titled "Plan of Lands of County of Carroll Courthouse Site", dated November 1987 and recorded in Plan Book 107, Page 57 at the Carroll County Registry of Deeds.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property has been drawn to include the three parcels of land associated with the Carroll County Courthouse at the time of its construction in 1916 and during its period of significance from 1916 to 1957, the original 1840 courthouse lot and the two lots donated to the county in 1915 and 1916. The boundary has been drawn to exclude a large portion of the courthouse property to the southwest of these three lots, that was purchased by the county in 1965 and was therefore not historically associated with the Courthouse during its period of significance.

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