

1570

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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. 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 MERIDEN TOWN HALL

other names/site number 110 Main Street

2. Location

street & number 110 Main Street NA not for publication

city or town Plainfield vicinity Meriden Village

state New Hampshire code NH county Sullivan code 019 zip code 03770

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Nancy C. Dutton 11/18/98
Signature of certifying official Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Name of Property MERIDEN TOWN HALL County and State SULLIVAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

Signature of Keeper *Edson H. Beal* Date of Action 12/24/98

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
Cat: _____ Sub: _____	Cat: _____ Sub: _____
<u>GOVERNMENT/CITY HALL</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT/GOVERNMENT OFFICE</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT/GOVERNMENT OFFICE</u>	<u>GOVERNMENT/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY</u>
<u>SOCIAL/CIVIC</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
<u>Colonial Revival</u>	foundation <u>BRICK</u>
_____	roof <u>SLATE</u>
_____	walls <u>WEATHERBOARD</u>
	other <u>WOOD</u>

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

Name of Property MERIDEN TOWN HALL

County and State SULLIVAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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 significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory history.

Criteria Considerations

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

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1895 - 1948

Significant Dates

1895 - Original Construction

1896 - Rear Woodshed Added

1901 - Front Entrance Porch Added

1908 - Ell added to the Rear

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

1895 - George Taylor Stockwell

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 Vernon Hood Papers

Name of repository: **Meriden Town Hall**

Baker Library, Hanover, NH

Name of Property MERIDEN TOWN HALL

County and State SULLIVAN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>721235</u>	<u>4825110</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

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 Gardiner and Kathryn MacLeay
Christine Fonda *
Organization Meriden Town Hall date September, 1998
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources *
street & number 27 Main Street telephone 603-469-3365
Box 2043 *
city or town Meriden state NH zip code 03770-0157
Concord * NH * 03302-2043 *

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Plainfield
street & number 110 Main Street telephone 603-469-3201
city or town Meriden state NH zip code 03770

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 1

**Meriden Town Hall
Sullivan County**

Description

The Meriden Town Hall, constructed in 1895, is a two-story frame building, three bays by five, sheathed in clapboards. It measures 42 feet by 72 feet and is rectangular in plan with a small addition (approximately 12' x 16') to the rear. It rests on a brick foundation and is topped by a slate covered hip roof punctuated with two interior chimneys near the front (southwest) elevation.

The building's front (southwest) elevation is symmetrical. It is dominated by a wide one-bay central entry porch, added in 1901, which shelters recessed double leaf doors. The porch has a peaked roof with clapboarding in the gable; plain balustrades define the sides between the doors and a short flight of stairs. There are two windows on the ground floor and three on the upper. These are two-over-two double-hung wooden sash with molded window heads and flanking louvered blinds.

The side (northwest) elevation is lighted primarily by four tall six-over-six double hung wooden sash evenly spaced and in the center of the wall. However, adjacent to the front corner, there is a single two-over-two on the ground and upper floors which match those on the front elevation. The opposite side elevation matched the northwest prior to 1995, when the two-over-two window on the lower level was converted to a door accessed by a ramp.

A wood shed was built onto the rear in 1896. In 1908 a road machine shed was also added for the snow roller and town hearse. This portion of the building was renovated in 1995 to house the police department.

The 1995 renovation made few changes to the town hall. The building was repaired and upgraded in a manner respectful of its character and history. Exterior walls were scraped and painted and an accessible entrance was introduced on the southeast side elevation. On the interior, floors were sanded and refinished; water, sewer, and bathroom facilities added; the stage removed, and town offices installed. In the course of the work the original tin lamps were found; they were rehabilitated and electrified for use in the main office. This investment in the town hall will ensure its viability for years to come.

Behind the building is a parking area, with a stand of deciduous trees beyond it. The balance of the lot is lawn.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 2

**Meriden Town Hall
Sullivan County**

Statement of Significance

The Meriden Town Hall is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for significance in Politics/Government. It has been the seat of government in the Meriden section of Plainfield since its construction in 1895. In a town that has been served by two centers of government for most of its history, this is the only building constructed exclusively as a town hall. It retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the year of its construction, 1895.

The town of Plainfield, in which Meriden is located, is unusual in New Hampshire for having two town halls. The source of this may be that each was preceded by a meeting house.

As was the custom in the settlement of early New Hampshire towns, a meeting house was to be constructed and a minister settled early on. In Plainfield it took a number of years to determine the site for the meeting house. In the meantime, the East Parish (Meriden Parish) was established for ecclesiastical purposes. The first meeting house of 1780 was succeeded by that of 1797. Town meetings began to be held there beginning in 1797. As was typical, the meeting house was used for town purposes and religious worship, in this case the home of the Meriden Congregational Society.

Efforts to establish a meeting house "at the Center of Travel" resulted in the construction of the West Meeting House c1811, also home to the West Congregational Society. The first town meeting to be held there was in March 1812. Town meetings were held at each meeting house in alternating years.

In 1846 the town voted to acquire the former West Meeting House which had been vacated by the congregational society when it constructed its own brick church in 1839. The frame was moved and the building reconstructed into what is now the Plainfield Town Hall.

The 1797 East Meeting House in Meriden underwent some alterations at about the same time. As was common after the Act of Toleration (1819), which ended public support of meeting houses for religious purposes, traditional meeting houses were rotated a quarter turn and modified into church buildings. In instances where the structure was used for both government and religious purposes, a floor was added and the uses divided upstairs and down. In 1846 the town acquired rights to the lower level, thus giving Plainfield the distinction of having two town halls.

This relationship between the town and the congregational society continued until 1894, when the meeting house in Meriden burned. At this time the town and the church chose not to continue their partnership. A stone church was built by the Congregationalists and the Meriden Town Hall was erected by the town.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 3

**Meriden Town Hall
Sullivan County**

Bibliography

Norwalk, Nancy, and Zea, Philip, eds. Choice White Pines and Good Land. Portsmouth NH: Peter E. Randall, Publisher. 1991.

Vernon Hood Papers. Baker Library of Dartmouth College, Hanover NH.

Verbal Boundary Description

Town of Plainfield assessors records map 12, lot 100. Boundaries of the nominated property are indicated on the attached sketch map.

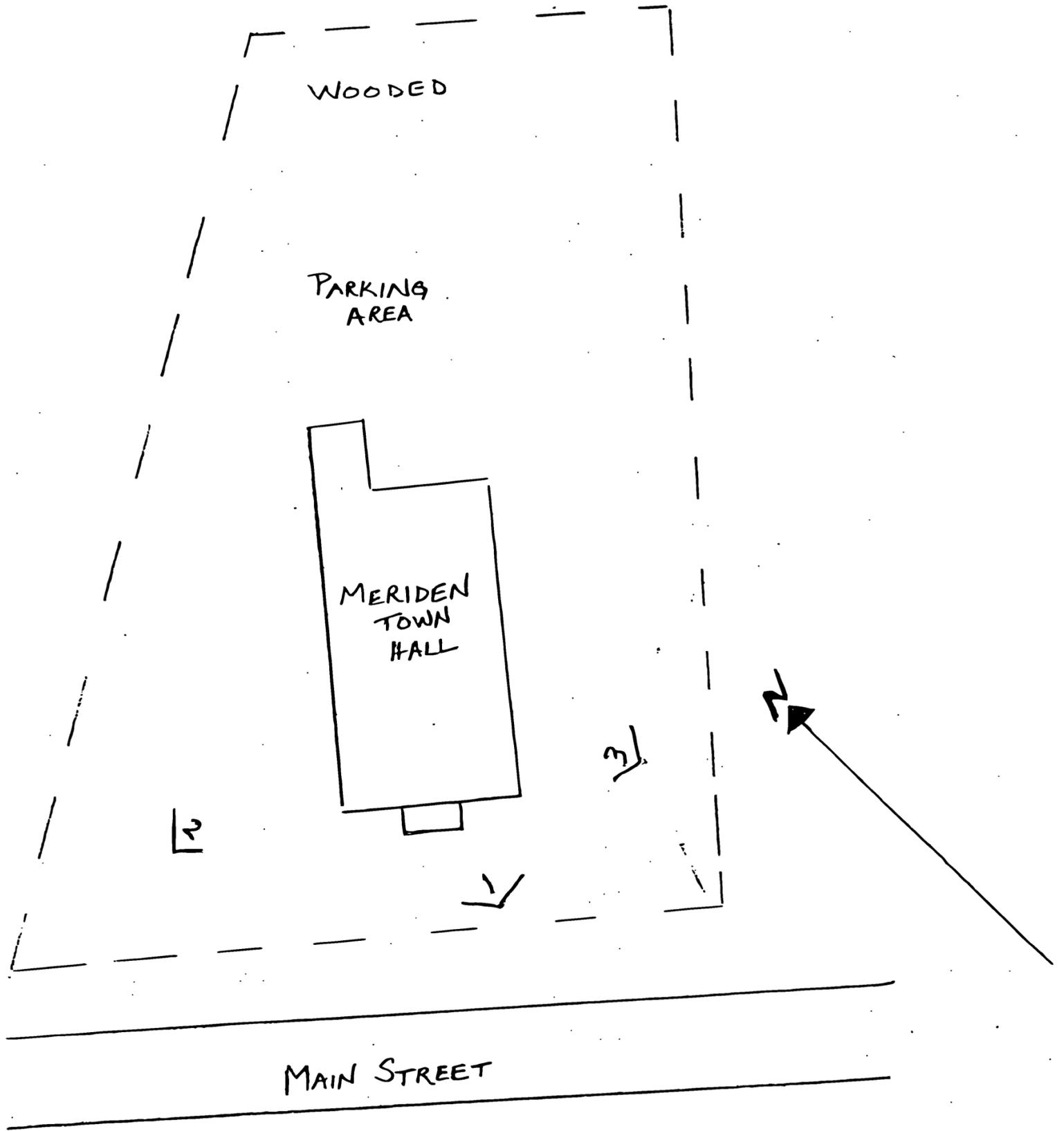
Boundary Justification

Boundaries of the nominated property are those currently associated with the Meriden Town Hall and represent the surviving portion of the original parcel upon which this structure was erected in 1895.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 4



MERIDEN TOWN HALL
PLAINFIELD NH

PHOTO KEY

