

ONE MONTH  
EXPIRES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 14 1984

date entered DEC 13 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic New Ipswich Academy or Town Hall

and/or common New Ipswich Town Hall (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Main Street n/a not for publication

city, town New Ipswich n/a vicinity of

state New Hampshire code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Town of New Ipswich

street & number Main Street

city, town New Ipswich n/a vicinity of state New Hampshire 03071

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds

street & number Hillsborough County Courthouse  
P.O. Box 370

city, town 19 Temple Street  
Nashua, New Hampshire 03060 state New Hampshire 03060

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved

date N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Old Town Hall in New Ipswich is a tall, clapboarded, one-and-a-half story rectangular building on a foundation of split granite blocks. The hall measures 36 by 61 feet. It has a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles, and the eastern gable end faces Main Street to provide the facade. This elevation has a central six-panel door flanked by pilasters decorated with recessed central panels and capped by a horizontal entablature. The doorway is flanked by two tall windows with flat casings and horizontal cornices; these windows have twelve-over-twelve sashes which light an interior staircase that ascends to a gallery at the second floor level. The corners of the facade are marked by wide pilasters which have recessed central panels and Doric capitals. These pilasters support a full entablature which extends along the facade and, in combination with the raking cornice, creates a triangular tympanum. Like the rest of the facade, this tympanum is clapboarded, and in its center is an arched twenty-four-light window sash which is set within a rectangular enframing with a horizontal cornice at its top and which provides the only light for the attic of the building.

Each side elevation of the building has three tall windows which illuminate the auditorium within. Each window holds twelve-over-twelve sashes set in an enframing of flat casings with a horizontal cornice as a cap. The side elevations have flat corner pilasters supporting the full entablature, which returns from the facade along the sides of the building.

The rear elevation of the building is clapboarded and has no windows. The cornice extends along the raking eaves of the roof, but the remainder of the entablature does not extend to the rear elevation.

A single-flue chimney pierces the south slope of the roof near the front of the building. In a similar location on the north slope of the roof is a scuttle which provides access to the roof.

The frame of the building is a heavy braced frame; the rafters are spruce logs sawn on their upper sides to provide a flat surface.

The front doorway leads to a small vestibule on each side of which are doors leading to closets (one of them formerly a privy). A pair of six-panel doors lead from the vestibule to the main hall. To the right of the front entrance is a curved stairway with bevelled wainscoting; this leads to a 12½ foot by 15½ foot balcony at the front (east) of the auditorium. A landing at the stairway exhibits the original wainscoting and flooring.

The auditorium has wainscoting which rises to a height of 3½ feet. The walls and ceiling are plastered over wooden lath, and there is a cove at their intersection. A small framed area on the wall exposes a section of the original stenciling.

Original appearance: The structure was built in 1817 as a combination town hall and private academy with funds provided by the town government and by the trustees of New Ipswich Academy. The building was constructed under the direction of Deacon Nathaniel Gould, Preceptor of the Academy, using materials salvaged from the disused meeting house of 1770. The arched gable window is reputed to have been taken from the meeting house, as are twisted balusters on the gallery stairway.

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As completed in 1817 the building had a full second floor which provided the academy with a lecture room, a small library, and a laboratory. The building then measured 36 by 45 feet, had a central two-leaf door and two windows on the first floor of the facade, and three windows above. The facade was capped by a closed pediment and had a two-stage tower with a domed octagonal belfry. Along the sides of the building were four windows on each floor. In its general appearance and character, the building reflected the style of a number of other Federal-period academy buildings in New Hampshire.

The changes which brought the building to its present size and gave it a distinctly Greek Revival character occurred in 1869. By that time, the building was solely used as a hall for town meetings, the academy having moved to a brick building provided by philanthropist Samuel Appleton and others in 1854. The remodelling of 1869 saw the removal of the cupola, the removal of the second floor to provide a high auditorium, and the construction of a sixteen-foot extension at the rear. The building has been little changed since 1869, and is now used infrequently.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1817; 1869 **Builder/Architect** Deacon Nathaniel Gould

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1817 as a town hall and academy, and remodelled in 1869 for use solely as an auditorium for town meetings, the New Ipswich Old Town Hall is a good example of a rural public building which has been altered to meet the changing needs of a prospering country town. Constructed with high architectural quality at a focal point in the town, the structure has evolved from a Federal style building incorporating elements from an eighteenth-century meeting house into an excellent example of rural Greek Revival architecture. The structure played an important role in the educational history of the state and in the political history of its community.

Significance, architecture: The New Ipswich Old Town Hall was built as a joint venture by the selectmen of the town and the trustees of a private academy which had been founded in 1787 as the second private seminary in New Hampshire and the first coeducational academy in the state (and the third in the United States). Since the primary requirements of the building called for two large rooms, the structure took the form adopted by many other rural New England academies of the early 1800s: it was a two story church-like structure with a belfry mounted at the front peak of the roof. It was a distinguished Federal-style building which shared its form with many academy structures built subsequently throughout New Hampshire.

The remodelling of the building to the Greek Revival style in 1869 followed a general tendency during that period to supplant the multi-purpose buildings that had housed town meetings (often meeting houses that also served religious needs) with structures intended solely as halls for town meetings. The conversion of the building followed an already well-established formula for the remodelling of two-story structures into one-story halls. As had already happened with a number of earlier New Hampshire meeting houses and churches, the town hall had its second floor removed to provide a spacious and impressive auditorium with large windows and a coved ceiling. The tall side windows and the still taller front windows added in 1869 made the structure an excellent specimen of the newer style, as did the well-detailed exterior trim added in the remodelling. The building emerged as a dignified counterpoint to the Greek Revival Congregational Church directly across the road. Yet, despite the many changes brought about by its evolution, the town hall retains vestiges of the eighteenth-century meeting house which provided material for its construction and of the Federal-style building which was erected from those materials in 1817. The building thus encapsulates the architectural evolution of its community and traces in its fabric the growth of New Ipswich from a sparsely settled New England village to one of the most prosperous inland towns of nineteenth-century New Hampshire.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gould, Augustus A. and Frederick K. Kidder;  
History of New Ipswich; Boston; Gould and Lincoln; 1852  
Chandler, Charles Henry and Sarah Fiske Lee;  
The History of New Ipswich, New Hampshire (1735-1914); Fitchburg, Mass;  
Sentinel Printing Co. 1914.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property .05 acres <sup>+</sup>/<sub>-</sub>  
Quadrangle name Ashby, Mass. - N.H.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	9	2	6	6	3	6	0	4	7	3	6	5	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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D 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Map 12, Lot 9 New Ipswich Tax Map. This small parcel basically includes only the land upon which the building sits. The parcel was purchased for the purpose of the building and is the only land historically associated with it. Boundaries of the nominated property have been highlighted in yellow on the attached sketch map (3-10-2).  
**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David M. Edkins, Regional Planner

organization Southwest Region Planning Commission

date March 2, 1984

street & number 28 Mechanic Street

telephone (603) 357-0557

city or town Keene,

state New Hampshire 03431

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title New Hampshire Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date

10/26/84

### For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

12-13-84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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NEW IPSWICH TOWN HALL  
NEW IPSWICH, N.H.

