

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	New Hampshire
COUNTY:	Sullivan
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 25 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Sullivan County Courthouse (Grange Hall)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Sullivan County Court House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33      COUNTY: Sullivan      CODE: 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Storage</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Town of Newport, New Hampshire

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Newport Town Hall  
35 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Sullivan County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 448      Sullivan County Records Building  
24-A Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Newport

STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal       State       County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present: The Sullivan County Courthouse (Grange Hall) situated within a triangular block of buildings is built on a knoll at the head of Court Square. It now is in back of and dominates other later civic buildings which front directly upon the east side of Main Street.

Begun in 1825 and certified as complete February 11, 1826, it is a brick rectangular building, two and one-half storeys in height with a rectangular two-storey wing with bell-tower centered on the long side facade which faces west. On the north side, off-center toward the west is a two-storey wing. The building has a high gable roof and a plain boxed cornice with returns. The bell-tower and north wings are low gabled: the bell-tower with monumental pediment, the north wing with returns. Noteworthy is the main door on the bell-tower wing with a recessed fan architrave and side panels with lights two thirds of the door in length from the top. A flat Palladian window is above.

The windows of the building are broken and the interior is in poor condition and probably much altered from the original appearance.

Original: Although detailed verbal descriptions or views of the building contemporary to its erection have not been found, the exterior of the main building appears little altered. Histories of 1879 and 1886, however, state the building was modified before 1873: "after several modifications" and with "desirable additions and improvements" it was occupied as a courthouse and townhall until 1873. A view of 1834 shows the building without its northern wing.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

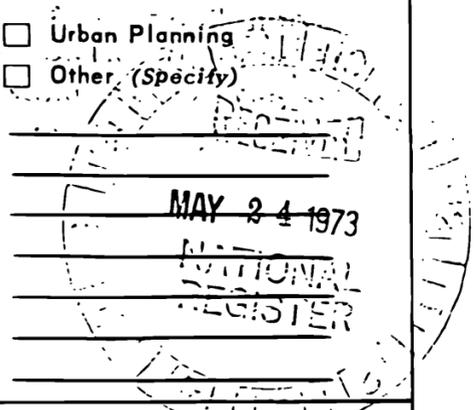
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1825

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Architecture:** The Sullivan County Courthouse (Grange Hall) begun in 1825 and certified as complete February 11, 1826, was built as a result of a building committee, consisting of William Cheney, James Breck, and James D. Walcott, who were appointed to superintend the work.

Of local brick, the building in proportion and stylistic detail closely resembles other examples of Northern New England public and academy buildings with the common use of a central pedimented pavilion. The flat-headed Palladian window and front door with sidelights and fan architrave are added features which lend some sophistication to what otherwise is a basic design. The tower, which more frequently is found centered on the roof of the building, adds dignity to the simple yet forceful Federal style building.

**Political:** For over fifty years the Sullivan County Courthouse was important in the history of town and county government. Its erection played a part in having Newport favored as the seat of "shire-town" of Sullivan County and incorporation was being decided.

In December 26, 1824, a law was passed by the Legislature removing the May term of the Supreme Court of Judicature from Charlestown, N.H. to Newport. At a meeting held January 13, 1825 the town voted to raise \$2,000.00 to assist in building a courthouse and town hall, the remaining \$1,500.00 to be supplied by individual subscriptions. The building was certified as ready for occupation (courthouse on the second floor, town hall on the first) February 11, 1826, just as by an act of the Legislature June 23, 1826, the question of dividing the county of Cheshire was submitted to the people of the County Towns and decided in favor of division. On July 5, 1827 an act incorporating Sullivan County was passed to take effect the following September, and the question of Newport or Claremont, N.H. as seat was submitted to popular vote. Newport won. Yet even then it was not without a struggle on the part of the Courthouse Building committee, especially William Cheney, that the Courts were formally established in Newport.

The building continued to be used for court as well as social purposes until July 22, 1872 when it was deeded to the Town of Newport. On May 18, 1874 it was deeded to the Union School District and became the Central School building until 1896 when it was rented by the Grange. On June 30, 1971 the Newport School District deeded it back to the Town at which time the question over the future of the building arose, as yet unsolved.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Marcia J. Edes and Samuel H. Edes, The Book of Old Newport (Newport, N.H.: Press of the Argus and Spectator, 1909), np.  
 D. Hamilton Hurd (ed.), History of Cheshire & Sullivan Counties, New Hampshire (Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1886), 220-221.  
Spectator, 1:2 (January 19, 1825), 3.  
Town Records 1:2 (January 13, 1825), np.  
 Edmund Wheeler, The History of Newport, New Hampshire from 1766 to 1878 with a Genealogical Register (Concord, N.H.: Printed by the Republican Press Association, 1879), 69-70.

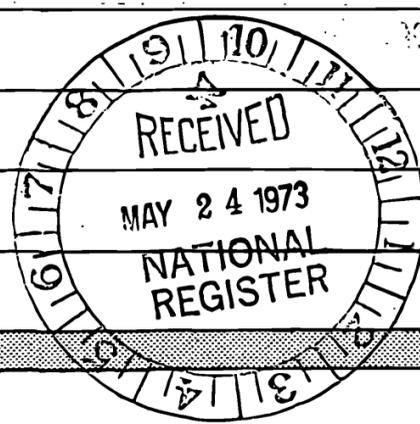
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	THO
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 21' 52"	72° 10' 05"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "			18"	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6/10 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM  
18/72910

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Robert S. Bristol  
 ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: March 1, 1973  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Harvey Road  
 CITY OR TOWN: North Sutton STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:  
 National  State  Local   
 Name: George Gilman  
 Title: Commissioner  
 Department of Resources and Economic Development  
 Date: May 19, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.  
Ernest A. Connally  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Professional Services  
 Date: JUN 25 1973  
 ATTEST: W. W. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date: 6/20/73