

670

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

RECEIVED 2280

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Rollinsford Grade School

AUG 14 2015

Other names/site number: _____

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 487 Locust Street

City or town: Rollinsford State: NH County: Strafford

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national x statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B x C ___ D

<u>EJL Murphy</u>	<u>8/3/15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Director, SHPO, New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Jon Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

9.29.15
Date of Action

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

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>	objects
<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

School

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Wood, Copper, Aluminum

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Rollinsford Grade School, built in 1936, is a large T-shaped two story gabled roof building in the Colonial Revival style. The school has a rear addition built in 1965 that extends perpendicular to the original building's back wing. The addition was extended in 1999 with a small one story kindergarten classroom. Built on a foundation of reinforced concrete, the school has a metal frame with concrete floors. The school and original gymnasium's exterior walls are constructed with terracotta tiles faced with water clad American brick. The annex and kindergarten additions are built on concrete slabs with concrete block walls clad with matching water struck brick. The main building's roof hosts a distinctive copper roofed cupola that is part of the school's ventilation system. The roof, originally shingled with slate, has recently been reroofed with asphalt shingles. Rollinsford Grade School is located on a residential street corner on the south end of Locust Street, a residential road on the edge of the town's village center with houses that range from c.1850 to c.1950. The school faces Locust Street and has frontage on that street and on Willey Street which runs perpendicular to Locust. The school sits on a four acre lot and is set back from the road with a large front lawn that is landscaped with walking paths, shrubs and trees, benches, and a flag pole. The back of the school has a paved area with game courts and a large field with playground equipment, a soccer field and a baseball diamond. The property is enclosed by a chain link fence along its north and west, and partially on its southern borders. The south side of the school has two driveways that open onto Willy Street. Both side yards of

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

the school are paved for parking. The school was built on active pasture which continued to abut part of the school property's western boundary (separated by a barbed wire fence) up to the 1980s. The fields behind the school have since been subdivided into housing lots and have been taken over by trees and vegetation.

Narrative Description

Rollinsford Grade School (1936, Annex Addition 1965, Kindergarten Addition 1998)
Contributing Building

Rollinsford Grade School is a rectangular east facing building with a gabled roof topped with a square cupola with a copper domed roof and weathervane. The cupola's base has flared corners each built to support a classical urn. The urns were removed before or by 1967. The building and all its additions are clad with water struck American bricks. Centered on the east facing façade of the building is a classical styled main entrance. It is reached by a set of modern brick and concrete stairs that replaced the original severely deteriorated concrete stairs. The door is framed with an ornate surround with fluted pilasters framed with rusticated wood siding and capped with Corinthian capitals that support an entablature capped with a decorative wood arch. Inside the arch is a curved painted sign with the school name, under it is painted the date the school was constructed. A large carriage light originally was centered on the entablature over the door. This was removed by 1967 and replaced with a small modern light. In the 1970s aluminum and glass doors replaced the original wood double doors that had glazed multi-pane upper panel over a solid paneled bottom. The original wood transom spans over the doors with a geometric muntin pattern of diamonds and circles. A metal snow rake, installed in the 1950s, is mounted on the roof over the front door. The snow rake used to span the full width of the front roof with additional rakes on the back roofs and gymnasium roof. These were removed when the building's original slate roof was replaced with asphalt shingles. The windows for the upper and lower floors on all elevations of the building are arranged symmetrically on the building. In 1997 and 1998, the original twelve over twelve wood window sash were replaced with vinyl replacements with interior space bars that replicated the original window muntin patterns. These replacement sash are installed in the original windows frames. A wood cornice with gutter runs along the front and back eaves of the main building and gymnasium. These details have been recently covered with aluminum.

The north and south elevations each have an entrance two stairs above grade with identical classical door surrounds. Both surrounds have fluted pilasters supporting a wide entablature capped by a simple wood pediment. Both doors had carriage lights that were removed by 1967. Both entrances have aluminum and glass doors from the 1970s that replaced original wooden doors identical to the front doors. Both doors are spanned by original wood transoms with rectangular glass panes. The south facing elevation has one window in its gabled roof flanked by two large louvered openings for the building's ventilation system. The north facing wall has an identical gable as well as window openings on the lower floor. The gables have corner returns and are trimmed with a wood fascia covered with aluminum.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

The west elevation has windows symmetrically arranged on the lower and upper stories. A two-story high gabled roof auditorium addition is centered on and extends back from the rear or western elevation. A concrete stairwell along the north wall provides access to the gymnasium's basement and the school boiler room. Above the stairwell a tall square chimney rises from the gymnasium roof near the roof valley it shares with the main school building. The gymnasium's north and south walls have four large windows on each side. The windows are replacement windows with interior spacer bars that mimic the nine over nine glazing pattern of the original windows. Like the main building, these window sashes are set in the original window frames. The gymnasium was extended to be approximately a third larger than its original size in 1965. The western gable of the gymnasium is covered with white vinyl siding. The remainder of the exposed external western wall is clad with water struck brick. The auditorium was originally two thirds its current length and terminated with a one and a half story vestibule with two entrance doors and a gabled roof stepped down from the ridgepole of the gymnasium roof. This vestibule was demolished in 1965 for the gym extension and construction of the annex addition.

The annex projects out from and covers the full width of the gymnasium's lower wall. Built in 1965, the annex is a one story flat roofed rectangular shaped addition that extends beyond the main school building to the north. It has a separate main entrance on the west façade with a modern aluminum and glass storefront style door that replaced an original door of similar style. It is flanked by high set rectangular windows. The annex's east and west facades have long large bands of windows that light the interior classrooms. The current windows are modern replacement with opaque brown panels that replace original transparent openings. The north facing wall had a recessed secondary door. This wall and entrance remain but have been partially covered with the kindergarten addition built in 1998.

The rectangular shaped kindergarten addition was constructed without any demolition to the annex's wall. Its south wall extends beyond the west facing wall of the annex with a recessed door that provides entrance to both the annex and the school. The west facing wall is dominated by a metal door with a glazed upper panel and glazed fixed side light flanked by two large windows that provide natural light into the classroom. The north facing wall is decorated with a mural. The east facing wall has a metal door with glazed upper panel. Both the annex and kindergarten roofs are trimmed with a bronze colored metal fascia.

The interior of the main building is a split level with an upper and lower floor. The lower floor's interior walls are constructed of terracotta tile and the upper floor of gypsum block. The main entrance opens to a short hallway that runs east to west with a short set of stairs that rise up to the upper floor. A door to the school office opens on the northern wall at the top of the stair. The office has been divided into two rooms, connected by a door, with a wall sheathed in Masonite. The entrance hallway opens to a longer north to south hallway that runs the full width of the school. Both hallways have dropped ceilings (installed in the 1970s) with modern recessed fluorescent lights. The upper floor is divided into four identical classrooms that retain their original moldings, storage cabinets, coat closets and plaster walls. All classrooms have modern green and white boards but retain their original chalkboard frames and troughs. One of the classrooms on this floor has painted woodwork, the other three have woodwork that retains its original stained finish. The upper floor also has an office space, boys and girls bathrooms, and a

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

utility closet. Like the hallways, the classrooms and office have drop ceilings with recessed fluorescent lights. With the exception of the stage's double doors, all doors are original to the construction of the building. Classroom doors have nine glazed panels that sit above four wood panels. All but the center two glass panes are frosted. All other doors are solid six panel doors. A recessed niche holds a modern water bubbler. Across the hall from the front door hallway is a set of aluminum and glass modern doors that provide access to the gymnasium stage. These replaced a double set of wood panel doors. Small stair halls on either side of this door flank the stage and descend to the gymnasium level with two small flights. Each hall has a door at the landing between the two stairs that provides access to the stage. These two stair halls do not have dropped ceilings and each retains two schoolhouse style light fixtures original to the school's construction. All hallways and stairs on this and the floor below have dados of glazed tile with plaster above. The hall and many of the classrooms on this floor retain the speakers for the original intercom system.

The end of each hallway terminates at a metal and concrete stair and metal balustrade with a wooden handrail supported by simple metal newel posts and balusters. The exposed stair rails are decorated with a floret located at each tread. The identical stairs mirror each other. Both descend to a landing that provides access to the building's side exit doors. A second set of stairs descends from the landing into the lower level. The lower level has a hall with dropped ceilings and fluorescent lights that runs north to south between the two stairs. A door on the western side of the hall opens to a small hall and access to the boiler room under the basement. A recessed niche holds a modern water bubbler. Closets with short paneled wood doors are located under each stair landing. The downstairs is divided into four classrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, and storage room. These classrooms have modern green and white boards and wood trim but are generally less ornate than the classrooms above. The classrooms on the lower floors were developed in the 1950s to accommodate the school's growing population. The two classrooms located on the south side of the building were originally built as playrooms. The classroom on the northwest corner of the building was originally an industrial arts room. The classroom on the northeast side of the building was originally the lunch room and home economics room. This room's wood molding is original to the building's construction and is more ornate than the other three classrooms on this floor. This room also retains its original long counter on its southern wall. A large framed opening on this counter, now filled in, provided access from this room to the adjacent kitchen. The kitchen is a smaller room with modern cooking and serving equipment. The bathrooms on this and the upper floor have vestibules. The interior finishes in all bathrooms were modernized in the 1970s but some historic plumbing fixtures may survive. The boiler, coal room, and storage rooms are unfinished. Modern fireproof doors provide access to the boiler room from the hall and the exterior stairwell. A small 1970s aluminum and glass door provides access to the crawl space under the gymnasium from the boiler room.

The stage opens onto the gymnasium and has a simple wood trimmed proscenium. The stage is a rectangular space with limited fly space above. The stage walls are decorated with tall wood panels that are now painted with plaster walls above. Two back panels open as doors providing access to the fly space on either side of the stage. The northern fly space provides access to the main building's attic through an original metal clad wood door with a painted faux wood grain finish. The building's wooden rafters are supported by a frame of I-beams and metal columns

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

that descend to the basement. The attic space has a network of sheet metal duct work that connects to the cupola and the gable vents. This original ventilation system connects to every room in the original school and is in working order. The "Rockwall" gypsum blocks used for interior partitions in the school is visible along the wall separating the attic from the stage. The terracotta tiles that form the exterior walls of the school are visible in the stage fly space above the proscenium.

The gymnasium was originally approximately two thirds its current length. The original section of the gym was constructed with terracotta tiles completely covered with glazed tiles that match the dado in the hall. The gym is accessed from the school by sets of wood paneled double doors on either side of the stage. Originally, two sets of double doors opened on the west or back wall of the gym into a vestibule with small restrooms and a stair that accessed a projector room above. An additional set of double doors provided access to the outside. When the gym was expanded in 1956, the walls were constructed of concrete block and paint was applied to both the concrete block and glazed tiles. The two sets of double doors between the gym and the vestibule were saved and reused to provide access from the gym to the annex. The expansion of the gym was part of the construction of the annex addition that included an equipment closet with plain metal doors that is accessed from the gym's west facing wall. The gym floor was replaced in kind in 1965 and again in kind in 2000.

The annex has exterior and interior walls of concrete block. The hall is T-shaped with a shorter east-west hall at the annex's southern end. The hall has an aluminum and glass storefront style door that provides access to the outside. The hall also has a small flight of steps that provide access to the gymnasium. The southern end of the annex has a utility closet and teachers' lounge. A window with one way glass between the closet and the lounge allows the room to be used for unobserved study. A long hallway runs north-south through the center of the addition. The annex has bathrooms, a supply closet, a narrow office, and four classrooms (two on each side.) Each classroom has a large picture window that opens to the hallway and provides borrowed light. A wood strip with coat hooks runs down the length of both sides of the hall. A recessed niche at the southern end of the hall contains a modern water bubbler. The historic classroom doors in the annex are blonde wood veneer with a glazed upper panel of shatterproof glass. All other doors match the classroom doors but do not have glazing. The classrooms are simple unadorned spaces lit by large bands of windows. The classrooms, hall, office, bathrooms, and lounge have modern drop ceilings and fluorescent lights. The interior of the main school building, gymnasium, and annex have a high level of integrity with all its woodwork and architectural features intact with the exception of the set of double doors that open onto the back of the stage.

The kindergarten addition was built in 1998. It is entered from the interior of the building by what was originally an exterior doorway on the northern end of the annex. A hallway runs between the annex and the new addition with exterior doors on the eastern and western ends. The original exterior annex wall is visible in this hallway. From this hallway, a door opens into a second hall that brings you to the back of the kindergarten classroom. The kindergarten classroom has one large classroom with its own bathrooms and storage closets. Like the annex, the space is simply decorated.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Front Lawn (1936), Contributing Site with Flagpole (1936), Contributing Object

Rollinsford Grade School is set back from Locust Street with a large front lawn that contributes to the school's integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The lawn is fronted by a sidewalk lined with young trees that have replaced historic maple trees that have succumbed to age. The lawn is planted with a variety of non-historic decorative trees and shrubs. The lawn is bordered to the south by the school's driveway and on the north by a driveway created in 1965 that replaced a pedestrian walkway. An historic central walkway, paved with asphalt, leads from the sidewalk to the front door. By the 1960s, this walkway was connected with new walkways to the driveways on either side. On the lawn's southwest corner is the school's historic flagpole, donated to the property in 1936 in memory of a former Rollinsford teacher. The lawn's noncontributing objects include two granite benches that flank the central walk near the sidewalk and a memorial stone that notes a tree as a gift from the class of 2002.

Chain Link Fence (1936) Contributing Structure.

A chain link fence purchased from the Chain Link Fence, Company in 1936 survives on the northern border of the property. The fence begins at Locust Street and travels west to the first property corner. There it turns north, following the property line before turning east with that line. The historic fence terminates at the ball field in the northwest corner of the property. From that point a modern chain link fence follows the property line along the north, west, and part of the southern border of the property. The modern fence is a non-contributing structure.

Playground (1936, c.1950, 1966), Contributing Site with Vertical Ladder (c.1950), Swing Set (c.1950), and Basket Ball Hoops (c.1966) Contributing Objects.

The playground at Rollinsford Grade School represents decades of improvements including the addition of playground equipment, grading of the field, and paving for areas of play. The playground received significant attention c.1950, 1966, c.1985, and in 1998. The playground encompasses the open lands in the west and northwest areas of the school grounds. These grounds are divided into an asphalt paved area and a larger area of open mowed grass. This configuration of pavement and graded lawns was created in 1966 with the completion of the annex. The paved area, which is adjacent to the annex building and connects with driveways to both sides of the school property, has dodge ball and basketball courts as well as areas for hopscotch and other games. The southwest side of the playground lawn has swings, a vertical ladder, and other playground equipment. The northwest side of the playground has a modern soccer field and a baseball diamond built c.1966 with a modern chain link fence behind home plate and modern bleachers. The playground also has four modern prefabricated sheds in poor condition. Originally an open farm field, the playground has been graded several times in the school's history. The first playground equipment was purchased for the grounds c.1950 and included a vertical ladder or monkey bars, a swing set, and two sets of teeter-totters. The swing set and monkey bars are still extant. In 1966, the construction of the annex included a re-grading of the property that included a paved area for game courts. Two basketball hoops were added at this time and the swing set, monkey bars, and teeter-totter were placed on the asphalt. Around

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

1985, the playground was substantially added to with new equipment including a slide, tire climbing structures, balance beams, log steps, and a geodesic dome. Soon after, the swing set and monkey bars were moved off the asphalt and the frames for the teeter-totters were discarded. In 1998, the galaxy play structure was added and the playground was rearranged to its current configuration. The swing set, monkey bars, and basketball hoops are contributing objects in the playground. Noncontributing objects include the galaxy play set, baseball diamond fence, bleachers, two soccer net stands, parallel bars, stump walk, chin-up bars, merry-go-round, balance beams, sand pit tire border, and ball game pole. The four sheds are noncontributing buildings.

Obo II Gravestone (1895), Contributing Object.

The gravesite of Obo II, (1882-1895) is a rectangular marble block set on a granite plinth with a beveled top. The original engraving on the stone once faced east and reads:

*Obo II
A.K.C. Number 4911
Died January 2, 1895*

In c.1990, Dorothy Green of Rollinsford paid to have the marble stone turned 180 degrees and engraved. The original inscription, severely eroded, now faces west. On the east side of the stone, the original text was reproduced in a larger and deeper font. Cocker Spaniel Obo II was imported from England in 1882 by James P. Willey who once owned part of the land now occupied by Rollinsford Grade School. Obo II, who had a glossy black coat, was shown at several important dog shows, and won many prizes becoming well known in dog showing circles. Today he is credited as the father of the American Cocker Spaniel. Although the grave marker predates the construction of Rollinsford Grade School the stone, which sits on the southwestern edge of the playground, has been and continues to serve as a traditional gathering spot for school children during recess and after school, even when this practice was discouraged by the school faculty. Originally backed by a barbed wire fence and open active cow pasture with views of Willey's barns, today the stone is backed by a modern chain link fence. The view to the barns, which are still partially standing and were converted to rental housing in the late 1980s, is completely blocked by vegetation.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Education

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1936-1966

Significant Dates

1936

1965-66

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Huddleston & Hersey

Irving Hersey Assoc.

Camillo Profenno Company

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Rollinsford Grade School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places with statewide significance under Criterion C as an early and well-preserved commission of the New Hampshire architectural firm of Huddleston & Hersey. Rollinsford Grade School was the prototype of the firm's Colonial Revival design school that was used on at least 14 other schools in New Hampshire and Maine and modified for a town hall in Berwick, Maine. Rollinsford Grade School is also eligible with local significance under Criterion A for its associations with education and with politics & government. Constructed in 1936 to consolidate the town's two surviving one room schoolhouses and a four room village school, Rollinsford Grade School continues to serve as the town's only active school building.¹ The school was constructed with funding from the Public Works Administration or PWA. Rollinsford Grade School, one of only two substantial structures built in Rollinsford using PWA money, is the only extant example in the town of a building that utilized "New Deal" programs in its construction.²

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The town of Rollinsford is approximately 7.5 square miles with a population of 2,527 people. The town is located in the seacoast region of New Hampshire in the southeast corner of Strafford County. It is bounded on the north by the city of Somersworth and on the west and south by the city of Dover. Its eastern boundary is formed by the Salmon Falls River, both fresh water and tidal portions, which also serves as the border between the states of New Hampshire and Maine. The town is located in what is known as the Piscataqua region which encompasses the watershed of coastal New Hampshire and the southwest tip of Maine. Settled by 1630, Rollinsford was originally part of the town of Dover, one of the four original townships of New Hampshire.³ In 1729, the areas of present day Rollinsford and Somersworth formed as the parish of "Summersworth" and in 1754 the area was incorporated as the town of Somersworth⁴. In the early 19th century, two waterfalls on the Salmon Falls River were developed as textile mills. The northern falls, home of the Great Falls Manufacturing Company, developed larger and quicker

¹ By 1936, Rollinsford had four standing one room school houses as well as the Franklin School building in Salmon Falls Village. The village school was demolished in the 1930s. Of the four rural schools, one has been lost, two have been substantially rehabilitated into residences, and one survives but suffers from significant neglect.

² In 1940, the Public Works Administration funded the construction of a bridge at Rollinsford Junction that eliminated a dangerous five way intersection and was part of a larger plan to provide grade separation over the Boston and Maine Railroad in New Hampshire. The bridge was replaced in 2000.

³ The four original townships in provincial New Hampshire were Dover, Portsmouth, Exeter, and Hampton. The original boundaries of Dover included the present towns of Somersworth, Rollinsford, Madbury, Lee, and Durham as well as parts of Newington, Greenland, and Newmarket.

⁴ The change in name is attributed to a clerical error.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

than the Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company at the southern falls. By the 1840s, the population shift between the northern and what was once the more populated southern sections of town created political tension. In 1849, the southern section of Somersworth seceded and became the town of Rollinsford.

Education in Somersworth 1642-1840

In 1642, the Massachusetts Bay Colony required parents and masters to teach children reading, religion, and citizenship.⁵ Five years later, the colony passed the Great School Act of 1647 which required towns of fifty households or more to provide a school at the cost of parents and the inhabitants in general. When New Hampshire briefly separated from Massachusetts Bay in 1679, it enacted a similar law that obligated towns of fifty households or more to provide a school. In 1693, a year after New Hampshire was chartered as the Province of New Hampshire, a new law required town selectmen to raise money for a schoolhouse by an equal tax rate. In the early 18th century the law was expanded to require towns and parishes to provide grammar schools, hire school masters, and allow selectmen in noncompliant towns to be fined. Within six years after forming as a parish, the first documented support for education and compliance with provincial law appears in Summersworth's public record. In 1733, the parish voted to raise 194 pounds for the support of its minister, school, and other expenses. The next year, a teacher was hired to hold classes for one month. Between 1735 and 1792, the parish and later town continued to hire school teachers and increased the time and locations in town where education was provided.

In 1784, the State of New Hampshire adopted its first constitution which encouraged the support of public and private education.⁶ Five years later the state passed a new education reform act under its new state constitution. "An Act for the Better Regulation of Schools Within this State; and for Repealing the Laws Now in Force Respecting Them" repealed all prior education laws, required all towns regardless of population size to keep a school that taught writing, reading, and arithmetic, and developed the first statewide tax for education. It enabled the State of New Hampshire to determine budgets and taxes in individual towns for the sole purpose of keeping schools, required the hiring of teachers that met the law's qualification standards, and mandate the selectmen to raise these funds or be personally fined. It has been suggested that with this law "New Hampshire's tax payers became the first in the nation to be denied the freedom of raising only as much money for their schools as they felt inclined to spend."⁷

In 1793, the town of Somersworth responded to the new financial challenges of educating its children by voting to divide the town into four school districts with each district responsible for

⁵ Originally separate from the Massachusetts Bay Colony, New Hampshire fell under its jurisdiction from 1641 to 1679 and again from 1689 until 1692 when New Hampshire was issued a Royal provincial charter.

⁶ Article 83 of the New Hampshire State Constitution still supports education and currently states "Knowledge and learning, generally diffused through a community, being essential to the preservation of a free government; and spreading the opportunities and advantages of education through the various parts of the country, being highly conducive to promote this end; it shall be the duty of the legislators and magistrates, in all future periods of this government, to cherish the interest of literature and the sciences..."

⁷ Backofen, 2002

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

establishing and maintaining a schoolhouse. The article also gave the districts the responsibility of hiring a school master and absolved the selectmen of any fines the district incurred for failing to do so. District 1 spanned across the northern section of town, encompassing most of the land of modern day Somersworth, District 2 ran along the western side of the town including areas of present day Rollinsford and Somersworth, Districts 3 and 4 in the south end of town were mostly located in present day Rollinsford.⁸ Districting occurred in other towns in the state and in 1805 New Hampshire passed a law allowing towns to create school districts as well as operational standards for their management. In 1824, the town reorganized its districts from four to nine. This was in response to the increased population in the village centers that developed adjacent to the textile mills at Salmon Falls and Great Falls. In New Hampshire, districting was ordered by statute in 1826 and later required by law in 1843 with penalties for towns that failed to comply.⁹

Creation of Rollinsford 1840-1849

In the 1840s, responding to the increased population in the industrial village of Great Falls, the town began holding annual town meetings in the town meeting house in present day Rollinsford and special meetings in the village of Great Falls in present day Somersworth. Tensions between the southern and northern ends of town grew as the town contemplated constructing a town house in Great Falls. In 1845, the town voted to build a new town house (town hall) in the village of Great Falls¹⁰ which was finished in time to host its first town meeting in 1846. In 1848, the town voted to clean and close its old meeting house. Before action was taken, a fire destroyed the building. At the 1849 town meeting, the voters postponed indefinitely articles requesting the construction of a new town house at the site of the old meeting house and to hold all town meetings at this new town house. At that meeting, the voters defeated an article to allow the town to divide into two municipalities. That same year, the residents of the southern end of town petitioned the legislature to secede. The town of Rollinsford was created on July 3, 1849, by legislative action.

History of Rollinsford Education 1849-1927

Issues involving school management were not covered at Rollinsford's first official town meeting at the school house "near the site of the old parish house"¹¹ but were addressed at town meeting on March 12, 1850, where the article "to see if the town will vote to divide the town into School Districts according to law"¹² was postponed indefinitely. Members for a superintending school committee were sworn in on April of that year.¹³ On May 11, 1850, 17 legal voters in the town petitioned the selectmen to divide Rollinsford into school districts as required by law

⁸ Knapp, 1894

⁹ The New Hampshire Register, Farmer's Almanac, and Business Directory for 1873

¹⁰ A successful vote in 1843 to construct a new town house in Great Falls and give the old meeting house to the Boston & Maine Rail Road was rescinded later that year. Two attempts to reverse the 1845 vote failed.

¹¹ Rollinsford Records, Vol I Subsequent town meetings were held in the hall owned by the Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company in their commercial block on corner of Front and Cross Streets. The company hall was converted to housing after the construction of the National Register listed Rollinsford Town Hall in 1893.

¹² Rollinsford Records, Vol I

¹³ Such committees were required by New Hampshire law passed in 1827.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

and a plan for six districts was developed by the selectmen and recorded into the town record that December. When voted on by the town at the April 28, 1851 meeting, the town approved a modified plan of only four districts. Attempts to repeal the four district plan failed in May but were ultimately successful on June 28, 1852, at a meeting that also adopted the six district plan originally proposed by the selectmen.

During this time, a new four room school building known as the Franklin School was erected in the village in 1850,¹⁴ a new school was constructed in District 3 in 1852, later known as the Sullivan School House¹⁵, and a new school was erected in District 4 in 1854 later known as the Pear Yard School. In 1859, the town voted to expend \$300.00 for a high school to be held in the Franklin School in Salmon Falls village.¹⁶

In 1870, the State of New Hampshire passed legislation that allowed towns to abolish multiple school districts for single town districts. Rollinsford did not abolish its districts but did reduce their number from six to five in 1872 when the two most southern and rural districts in the town were united into one.¹⁷ The new district, which inherited the town's oldest school buildings, constructed a new school house.¹⁸ In 1885, with more than 2,200 school districts,¹⁹ the State of New Hampshire abolished the division of towns into sub-town school districts and mandated the creation of town-wide school boards. In 1887, Rollinsford consolidated its schools into two districts. District 1 encompassed the Franklin School in the village which also housed the still active high school. District 2 encompassed the four rural one room school houses. Rollinsford did not fully comply with the 1887 law until 1903 when the town merged its two districts under the management of one school board. In 1910, the State of New Hampshire required children to attend school until the age of 14, increasing the age to 16 three years later. In the early 20th century, the number of children in the Salmon Falls village school continued to grow, resulting

¹⁴ Emerson & Philpott, 1976. Other town histories have stated incorrectly that this building was constructed in 1859. The brick school building appears both in foot print and image on the 1856 wall map of Strafford County. It has also been suggested that it had only been used as a high school until it was converted for lower grade use in 1905. The school was built to serve all grades in district one. It was preceded by and replaced a small wooden school that stood in or adjacent to what is present day Main Street approximately in front of today's post office and town hall. Dover, NH architect Alva T. Ramsdell III was hired to design a two classroom addition to the Franklin School, an improved ventilation system, and modern bathrooms in the addition's basement. The project was never initiated but its undated blueprints survive in the Rollinsford town vault. Ramsdell also designed the Grange Hall in town and Rollinsford Town Hall.

¹⁵ This building replaced the school that hosted the town's first town meeting.

¹⁶ In 1848, the NH State Legislature passed the "Somersworth Law" that allowed towns to raise and expend funds for public high schools and a high school was constructed in Somersworth's village of Great Falls in 1849/50. High school education was offered in Rollinsford from 1859 to 1905 but was limited in its program in comparison to what was offered in adjacent towns. Children who attended high school in Rollinsford often continued their studies in other towns. After 1905, children pursuing a high school education went to the Dover, NH high school or Berwick Academy in South Berwick, Maine.

¹⁷ Local historian Annie Wentworth Baer (1850-1932) briefly describes this contentious merger in her c.1922 manuscript "Schools of Early Somersworth" interestingly blaming the decline of population in these two rural districts on "birth control."

¹⁸ According to Catalfo's "History of Rollinsford" the District 6 building was moved, converted to a residence, and later lost to fire. The District 5 building was appended to a barn, converted to agrarian use, and referred to by its new owner as the "Cow College."

¹⁹ Wallace & Hall, 2000

Rollinsford Grade School

Strafford, NH

Name of Property

County and State

in the need to open classrooms in the adjacent town hall building. Meanwhile, the enrollment in the district's rural schools declined, resulting in the closing of one rural school house in the early 1920s.

New Hampshire's education reform bill of 1919 created a NH State Board of Education, created the Commissioner of Education, gave the state administrative responsibilities over the state's school systems, required regional superintendents who served as state employees, revised how tax rates were set for the support of schools, and established a state aid program based on property wealth.²⁰ In 1919, Rollinsford's first regional superintendent submitted his report to the town. In January of 1920, the superintendent reported that the town's schools did not comply with state law that mandated suitable and sanitary buildings. All schools suffered from insufficient lighting, insufficient and/or inappropriate heating systems, and a lack of proper ventilation. The Franklin School also suffered from overcrowding and excessive noise from the rail line that formed the northern border of the school property. The superintendent concluded that the only solution was a new consolidated school building, centrally located away from the railroad. Instead, the town installed grades 1, 2, and 3 later that year in rooms in the town hall and invested in improvements to its existing school buildings throughout the 1920s, including new coal stoves for the rural schools, the investment of playground swings for all schools, major improvements to the town hall classrooms, and the addition of basketball equipment in the town hall. Walter H. Young, the regional superintendent hired in 1920, continually reported on the positive impact these improvements made on the quality of the schools and reported in 1927 that all schools were in excellent condition.

Planning Towards a New School 1928-1936

In 1927, the Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company closed and liquidated its assets.²¹ That same year, St. Mary, the local Catholic Church, opened the Ecole Paroissiale Saint-Joseph (St. Joseph's Parochial School).²² The effect on enrollment in the public school system was substantial and immediate. The three still active rural schools were consolidated to the Sullivan and Pear Yard school buildings and the classrooms in the town hall were abandoned with grades 1-8 combined in the four rooms of the Franklin School. The next year, "Architect Richardson"²³ inspected the Franklin School over summer vacation and declared the building unsafe due to severe rot on the east side of the roof framing causing the roof to sink five inches.²⁴ The roof was repaired before school resumed in the fall. The school board also questioned the overall

²⁰ Limits on state aid were set when the law was revised in 1921.

²¹ Further information on the history of the mills can be found in the Salmon Falls National Register Historic District nomination. After the Salmon Falls Manufacturing Company closed, new industries opened in its former mill buildings but the village never achieved its former levels of prosperity.

²² The school opened in a former wholesale liquor store that closed with the passing of prohibition. It provided a Catholic education to children grades 1-8. Later renamed St. Mary Academy, the school closed in 1967. The building was purchased by the Boretti family in 1973 and slowly razed over a period of years. A part of its foundation and its connector to the adjacent convent survive today.

²³ This is likely Dover architect J. Edward Richardson who oversaw the renovation of the Woodman Institute (National Register listed), design of the Dover, NH City Hall, an addition on the Ramsdell designed Dover High School, and the design of several private homes including 34 Fisher Street, Dover, NH.

²⁴ The superintendent report for 1928 hints to past issues with this roof.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

condition of the Sullivan school house and the feasibility of repair or replacement.

Superintendent Howard L. Winslow, in one of his first reports to the town, commented on the difficulty of heating the building and recommended one-side lighting and new desks and chairs if the building were to be rehabilitated.

In 1929, the school district discussed the need to provide domestic and manual arts classes and Superintendent Winslow briefly mentioned that a new consolidated school was needed. In 1931, the suggested substantial repairs to the Sullivan School were made at considerable expense and it was noted that the building was a model rural school. The superintendent also added that a new floor was needed for the Pear Yard school building, and that all schools needed new interior paint. Major and minor repairs and improvements continued in the Franklin and rural schools throughout the early 1930s including new paint, new shades, water bubblers, and new desks in some classrooms. When purchasing new furniture during this time the school board invested in movable seating that could be easily transferred if a new school were to be built. In 1932, it was reported that the school buildings were as “sanitary as old buildings and floors permit” however in 1934 the superintendent reported that “Rollinsford needs a new school building in a proper location.” The schools also struggled with the economy of the Great Depression and while the superintendent reported in 1933 that “our schools are bearing up well under the depression,” he also noted that he and the teachers took a voluntary 10% salary cut.²⁵

In 1935, the school board began planning for a new school building and no maintenance projects for the existing schools were budgeted for the coming year. A building committee was established and the financing of a new building and Rollinsford’s current and future population needs were taken into consideration. In January of 1936, the school board purchased a total of 4 acres comprised from two lots on or near the corner of Locust and Willey streets.²⁶ The land purchased for the school was walking distance from Salmon Falls village, away from the railroad, faced a residential neighborhood, and backed onto active farmland. In the town report for 1935, published after the January land purchases, Superintendent Winslow reported that “every year I have urged the erection of a new school building and this year it gives me great pleasure to write that our urging is about to achieve results... It is hoped that when facilities have been provided for Manual Training and Home Economics that these subjects may be added to those already taught. I recommend that a Junior High School be established consisting of grades 7, 8, and 9. That is, that the schools be re-organized on the so-called six-three-three plan, which means 6 years Elementary, 3 years Junior High School, and 3 years Senior High School. Pupils entering high at Dover and Berwick Academy would do so in the second year or 10th grade. This plan, if adopted, would save money for the district in high school tuition and transportation. This year's eighth grades number 9, so a ninth grade next year would probably be a little larger because of pupils from the Parochial Schools. If this new program cannot be adopted for use in

²⁵ Rollinsford Town Reports, 1933-1935

²⁶ The total cost of the property was \$2,000.00. The larger parcel of land was purchased for \$1,500.00 from John and Mary Berube, part of the farm previously owned by James P. Willey. The remainder of the property was purchased for \$500.00 from Charles and Florence Stevens. Locust Street was laid out in the mid-19th century. Willey Street was laid out in 1898 through pasture land owned by James P. Willey. The street connects Locust Street with Pleasant Street that runs parallel to the west. The original plans to have Willey Street continue east past Locust Street to Foundry Street was never completely realized.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

September 1936 this plan should be given serious consideration with a possibility of putting it into effect in 1937. We feel that the schools have gone forward but that the time is opportune for a re-organization.”²⁷

Early in 1936, the school building committee contracted with the newly formed architectural firm of Huddleston & Hersey of Durham, NH and work towards the planning and construction of a new consolidated school began immediately.²⁸ After hiring their architect and in anticipation of town approval for a new school, the building committee toured a number of schools built in the last decade. Plans were developed for an eight room school building with auditorium in the Colonial Revival style with architectural services totaling \$3,889.77 for the project.

Construction on the school began later that year and did not raise the town tax rate. Funding for the \$73,850.00 design and construction costs was provided with two ¾% bonds to the amount of \$40,000, payable at the rate of \$2,000.00 per year, beginning November 1, 1936, with the remainder covered by a Public Works Administration grant that funded 45% of the total construction costs.

Public Works Administration 1933-1943

After World War I, concerns grew over the nation’s aging educational facilities. Like Rollinsford many communities had aging schools, built before the advent of modern heating and plumbing, considered insanitary by modern standards. In the years preceding the Stock Market crash of 1929, there were efforts throughout the nation to modernize public schools but the economic difficulties of the Great Depression brought a substantial drop in school construction efforts and other public projects. The Public Works Administration or PWA was created by the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933. Originally named the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, it was renamed the Public Works Administration in 1935. The PWA was one of several “New Deal” programs instituted during Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidency. The PWA provided public money for infrastructure projects that strived to invigorate private construction and revive the economy. Unlike the better known Works Progress Administration or WPA, the PWA did not provide direct employment to unskilled workers. Instead, the PWA between 1933 and 1943 provided over \$6,000,000,000.00 of public money to private construction companies to hire local labor and construct needed infrastructure projects. In addition to schools, the PWA funded roads and bridges, town halls and municipal buildings, state buildings, auditoriums and libraries, armories, memorials, museums, college buildings, recreational buildings, hospitals, jails, warehouses and docks, waste water treatment and garbage facilities, waterworks, power plants, dams, and post offices. While street and highways were the most funded projects by the PWA, school funding became the second most popular program. Between 1933 and 1938, the PWA’s first round of funding, the agency gave grants and loans that totaled approximately \$452,667,064.00 to fund 5,406 public school buildings and additions in 48 states. Almost half of these buildings were in smaller communities like Rollinsford with populations under 25,000. One of the goals of the program was to address

²⁷ Rollinsford Town Report, 1935 . The plan for nine grades was never adopted.

²⁸ It is not clear when the building committee began conversation with Huddleston & Hersey. It is possible that the architects were part of the discussion as early as 1935 (The town reports for that year show \$150 for preliminary expenses in September) but payment marked explicitly for their services first appears in 1936.

Rollinsford Grade School

Strafford, NH

Name of Property

County and State

the need to modernize a town's education system by providing the lacking funding needed to replace smaller one room school houses with larger centralized schools with modern heat and restrooms. These new schools also provided room for art, music, drama, home economics, and industrial arts programs and by 1939 the program gave suggested sizes for classrooms and gym/auditorium locations. The program was terminated in 1943 with the United States involvement with World War II.

Between 1933 and 1939, the PWA provided funding in New Hampshire for seven schools including the towns of Rollinsford, Belmont and Barrington. The second wave of funding in 1938 allowed for additional projects including several Huddleston and Hersey schools built in the early 1940s. With its tax base crippled by the Great Depression, Rollinsford's ability to construct a consolidated school was reliant on PWA funding. Even with the promise of money to cover 45% of the total costs of the school's construction, the residents of Rollinsford were hesitant to commit to the project until it was proven that the school could be built without an increase in the town's tax rate.

Huddleston & Hersey Architects 1935-1942/ Hersey Associates 1946-c.1982

In 1933, architects Eric Huddleston and Irving Hersey began working with the Historic American Buildings Survey in New Hampshire, another program created as part of the New Deal legislation. In 1935 the architects partnered in the private sector as the firm of Huddleston & Hersey. Eric T. Huddleston or "Hud" as he was known to his students was born in Winchester, Indiana on February 5, 1888. He attended Cornell University, graduated from their School of Architecture in 1910, followed by an internship with the firm Schenk and Williams and Dayton, Ohio. In 1914, with promise of his internship turning into a permanent position, Huddleston was approached by college president Edward Thompson Fairchild and offered the position of supervising architect for the fledgling campus of what would become the University of New Hampshire or UNH.²⁹ Fairchild, who served as the college president from 1912 to 1916, wanted to grow the Durham campus and Huddleston was recommended to him by the Cornell School of Architecture. Huddleston turned down the initial offer of residential architect for the campus with a pay of \$1000.00 a year. Lacking interest in the job, he ambitiously countered the offer "asking for \$2000.00 a year, a professorship, and department to go with the position."³⁰ Fairchild considered and later accepted the counteroffer creating a school of architecture at UNH led by a man who was then the college's youngest and best paid professor.

When Huddleston came to UNH in 1914, several buildings had already been built and construction was about to begin on a new dormitory (Fairchild Hall.) Huddleston supervised the construction of Fairchild and began work in 1917 on designing a dining hall called "The

²⁹The University of New Hampshire was founded in 1866 as the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts. It was land grant college that shared its campus with Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH until a bequest of land and money from Durham, NH resident Benjamin Thompson moved the college to his property in Durham in 1893. In 1923, the college became the University of New Hampshire.

³⁰ Mac Leod, 1966

Rollinsford Grade School

Strafford, NH

Name of Property

County and State

Commons” next door to the new dormitory.³¹ Work on The Commons was troubled by a lack of steel and resistance from the New Hampshire legislature to finance the project due to the economic pressures of World War I.³² After the war, Huddleston oversaw the planning, design and construction of over 22 buildings at UNH. He also worked on the development of sidewalks and walking paths through the college grounds and developed a master plan for the UNH campus that is still used today as a principal planning document for campus development. Huddleston worked almost exclusively in the Colonial Revival style and was adept at utilizing the language of classical architecture in an academic setting. The buildings he planned in the core of UNH’s campus provide a cohesive design with complementary form and massing, the successful utilization of classical detailing, and water struck brick exteriors. Huddleston was also responsible for the renovations of and new additions to the buildings constructed before his arrival to UNH and often transformed earlier buildings with Colonial Revival details. Huddleston connected his active building projects with his role as Professor of Architecture at UNH, often involving his students in the design and construction oversight of new campus buildings. Between 1918 when he opened the department of architecture until it closed due to World War II in 1944, 138 men and women studied under Huddleston and earned their degrees in architecture from UNH.³³

Huddleston contributed to the field of architecture both in New Hampshire and beyond with his contributions to professional journals including an article in *The American Architect* in 1920 that outlined the need for and proposed duties of state departments of architecture and his efforts to reform contract and bidding procedures with his publication of the Huddleston Plan in 1933. The Huddleston Plan “received national recognition (and) was used as the basis for pertinent state law in Massachusetts.”³⁴ In 1928, Huddleston founded the New Hampshire Society of Architects. In 1948, he was instrumental in the charter of the American Institute of Architects in New Hampshire and served as the first president for both organizations. In 1953, at their convention in Seattle, Huddleston was the first architect in New Hampshire and in Northern New England to be elected to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows. At his retirement, he was lauded by his colleagues in the publication *Granite State Architect* as being unequaled in his contributions to the “growth of the state or to the numbers of its architects.”³⁵

Irving William Hersey, was born in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire on July 4, 1902. Hersey studied under Huddleston and attended UNH for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees (as well as taking summer classes at Columbia and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.) He received his Bachelors in Science, Architecture in 1925 and his Masters in Science, Architecture in 1927. While working on his master’s degree Hersey also served as an instructor at UNH, a role he continued until he was appointed head of the Chicago Technical College’s Department of

³¹ Huddleston claimed this building, rededicated in 1963 as Huddleston Hall in his honor, was his favorite building on the University campus in the Mac Leod article of 1966.

³² The project, originally budgeted for \$100,000.00, was eventually funded with the help of NH Governor Henry W. Keyes with a \$20,000.00 budget cut.

³³ MacLeod, 1966 The program was discontinued due to a drop in enrollment during the war. The program was not covered under the GI Bill after the war and was never reinstated.

³⁴ MacLeod, 1966

³⁵ MacLeod, 1966

Rollinsford Grade School

Strafford, NH

Name of Property

County and State

Architecture in 1928. In 1933 Hersey returned to New Hampshire and worked with his former professor as Huddleston oversaw implementation of the newly formed Historic American Buildings Survey in New Hampshire.

In 1935, the architects created the firm Huddleston & Hersey, renting office space in Durham's town hall in 1936.³⁶ While working in his private practice Huddleston continued his roles at UNH as supervising architect and professor of architecture as well as his administrative role with the Historic American Buildings Survey. The firm's work during this time is poorly documented.³⁷ At least one commercial block in Durham's downtown is attributed to the firm which also designed a town hall for Berwick, Maine and an auditorium addition to York High School in York, Maine. The partnership designed at least nine public schools, including Rollinsford Grade School, between 1936 and 1942. When America entered into World War II, Huddleston & Hersey ended their partnership. Huddleston continued to serve as supervising architect and professor at UNH, while Hersey joined the 923 Aviation Engineers and served in the Pacific theater.

After the war, Hersey returned to Durham and reopened the firm initially without Huddleston, briefly partnering with other architects and working under the names Hersey & Phaneuf and Hersey & Spaulding before and sometimes concurrently with its eventual name of Irving W. Hersey & Associates in the late 1940s. Huddleston continued his work as an associated professor at UNH and architect at UNH, completing three new dormitories in 1946. Huddleston also worked as a consultant for practicing architects. In 1947, the University hired an outside architect to design a new building for the College of Technology. When completed in 1950, Kingsbury Hall's combination of the International and Stripped Classical styles marked the university's first step into the Mid-Century Modern era of architecture as well as a first departure from Huddleston's campus plan and the Colonial Revival architecture that dominated campus construction since 1914. In 1948, Huddleston joined Hersey's firm and retired as supervising architect at UNH in 1949. With failing eyesight, he retired from his administrative duties in June of 1953 but remained a member of the teaching faculty until he retired as Professor Emeritus in 1958. Huddleston maintained his office in Kingsbury Hall until he and his wife moved to Lancaster, NH in 1966.

Irving W. Hersey Associates or Hersey Associates grew to be one of the largest architectural firms in New Hampshire, growing in conjunction with the state's economy and population in the post war era of the 1950s and 1960s. While the firm continued to design at least another six Colonial Revival schools up into the 1950s, they began to design in more modern styles as early as the 1940s becoming adept at modern flat roofed buildings that combined traditional brick with

³⁶ 1937 Durham Town Report. After World War II, Hersey claimed the firm was established in 1933 (the year he returned to NH) and a c.1980 brochure for the firm claims it was founded in 1934. These dates are refuted by senior partner Huddleston who gave the date of 1935 in paperwork he filed for AIA. The firm did not rent office space from the town of Durham until 1936. According to architectural historian Lisa Mausolf, the firm returned to Durham Town Hall in the 1940s and operated there until it moved to 19 Ballard Street, Durham, NH in 1961. The firm later had offices at 17r Madbury Road and Durham Point Road in Durham, NH.

³⁷ While Huddleston's work for UNH survives in their archive, the location of the archives for both Huddleston & Hersey and Hersey Associates is unknown or lost.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

modern detailing and new materials including decorative concrete block curtain walls and translucent Kalwall windows. Many aspects associated with their modern designs, especially interior details, were incorporated into the firm's later Colonial Revival schools. Hersey Associates became known throughout New Hampshire and New England for their public buildings as well as their military commissions including National Guard armories and readiness centers as well as commissions for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Pease Air Force Base in Newington. The firm returned to UNH for projects that included the rehabilitation of a former boiler house into a book store and the design of the school's new library in 1958. The firm became best known for their work in designing new schools. The firm also designed new additions to existing schools, including the 1965 addition to Rollinsford Grade School as well as other schools designed by the architects in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. The firm brought new technologies into their buildings and in the early 1960s designed the first school in New Hampshire to use electric heat.³⁸ At Hersey's death in 1982, it was reported that the firm designed over 200 schools in New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont. This number likely includes the early schools of Huddleston & Hersey.³⁹ The schools of both Huddleston & Hersey and Hersey Associates were noted in 1966 as "recognizable by the colonial cupola atop them—one of their trademarks."⁴⁰ As noted above, Eric Huddleston retired in 1966. In 1973, Irving Hersey sold the practice to 20-year employee Donald M. Sumner who continued working under the Hersey Associates name until 1981. The firm estimated it had completed over 535 projects from the 1930s to the 1980s.⁴¹

Colonial Revival Architecture

The Colonial Revival, which became one of the more popular and prevalent designs for New Hampshire schools in the first half of the 20th century, is more than an architectural style: it was a social movement that influenced architecture, landscape design, interior design, decorative arts, historic preservation, fine art, literature, photography, tourism, and social reforms. The Centennial International Exhibition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1876 with its highly successful "Colonial Kitchen" exhibit is credited with the origin of the movement although its antecedents extend to the decades preceding the Civil War. The movement combined a national desire to celebrate its 100-year milestone coupled with a reaction to the sweeping social and economic changes brought on by the Industrial Revolution. It was also a reaction to the immigration of Catholics and ethnic minorities that provided a labor source for America's factories. A romanticized fascination with America's pre-industrial past developed in popular culture and was manifested in the preservation and emulation of Americana and early architecture from settlement to approximately 1840, the dawn of the Victorian and industrial eras. In the disciplines of architecture and interior design, the Colonial Revival often combined architectural details and furnishings from or inspired by the Colonial/Georgian, Federal, and

³⁸ Somersworth Jr. High School was featured in a Granite State Architect November 1961 advertisement by Public Service Company of New Hampshire as not needing a boiler room and stack to manufacture heat for the building.

³⁹ Articles about Huddleston in the 50s and 60s do not differentiate between the work of Huddleston & Hersey and Hersey Associates. A brochure produced by the company from c.1980 claimed the firm's work back to the 1930s.

⁴⁰ MacLeod, 1966 The article also notes "had it not been for lack of funds, Huddleston Hall would have a cupola."

⁴¹ Hersey Brochure, c.1980

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

Greek Revival periods in ways that focused more on the sentiment and aesthetics than historic accuracy.

Huddleston's previous work on the UNH campus proved him a proficient designer in the Colonial Revival style with buildings that combined elements inspired more by Georgian and Federal than Greek Revival architecture. When Huddleston arrived in Durham in 1914, he moved to an area that was established as an important region to the Colonial Revival movement. In 1877, architect Charles McKim, later with McKim, Mead, and White, came to Portsmouth as part of a larger study of New England colonial architecture. This tour helped to inform the architect as he merged details of Colonial and Queen Anne architecture to create the Shingle style. That same year, architects Arthur Little and Robert Peabody came to the region to study and sketch the Piscataqua's historic homes. Little featured the Piscataqua's Wentworth Coolidge Mansion on the cover of his book *Early New England Interiors* published in 1878. Between 1878 and 1900, the historic architecture of the Piscataqua was featured in five books on colonial architecture, a trend that continued with the publication of books, surveys and portfolios in the first three decades of the 20th century. Houses of the Piscataqua restored as summer homes by rich Bostonians and New Yorkers were featured in national publications.⁴² The early architecture of the Piscataqua was influential in the overall development of the Colonial Revival style.

The colonial architecture and landscape of the Piscataqua was also celebrated and preserved by writers like Sarah Orne Jewett, who continued to summer in her family's Georgian style home across the river from Rollinsford in South Berwick, Maine. Other writers, artists, and publishers who were influential to the movement summered or visited the region and romanticized the history of the Piscataqua in their work. The work of publisher James T. Fields, poet Celia Thaxter, writers William Dean Howells, Sarah Orne Jewett, and Thomas Baily Aldrich, painters Charles and Marcia Oaks Woodbury, Childe Hassam, Edmund Tarbell, and Winslow Homer, and photographers Emma Coleman and Wallace Nutting drew from and romanticized the Piscataqua's architecture and history and presented it to a national audience. As a result, "the Piscataqua region provided imagery of the past far out of proportion to its geographic size."⁴³

When Huddleston and Hersey designed Rollinsford Grade School, the Colonial Revival was an established style of national prominence with examples of public schools in New Hampshire dating as early as 1883 with Conway Elementary School. The Rollinsford school committee visited several recently constructed schools as they discussed the future design of Rollinsford Grade School. These schools may have included buildings that share similar details to Rollinsford's like the 1920s Carpenter School in Wolfeboro, NH and the 1932 Spaulding Memorial School in Townsend, Massachusetts that was designed by former NH State Architect Chase Roy Whitcher. With the exception of Huddleston's early works at UNH, the majority of the region's Colonial Revival schools were built between 1920 and 1955, some using money in the 30s and 40s from the PWA to consolidate one room school houses or to replace aging infrastructure with a new building with modern amenities.

⁴² As example, Rollinsford's only center hall Georgian was purchased in the 1920s by Boston based Dr. Robert Morris and his wife. It was restored and featured in *House Beautiful* in the 1930s

⁴³ Griffen & Murphy, 1992

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

Rollinsford Grade School is the first of sixteen Colonial Revival buildings identified as the work of Eric Huddleston and Irving Hersey that share a unity of design elements. These buildings in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts represent fifteen schools and one town hall that share similar form and massing, materials, architectural details, and a substantial cupola used for ventilation. The fifteen schools include Huddleston & Hersey designed Rollinsford, NH Grade School (1936), Barrington, NH Elementary School (1938), Gilford, NH Elementary School (1939), Eliot, ME High School (1939), Hudson, NH Jr. High School (1939), Hampton, NH Academy (1940), Kingston, NH Bakie Elementary School (1941), New London, NH Central School (1941), and the Pittsfield, NH High School (1942). The use of the same basic design was continued after World War II. Under the name Hersey & Phaneuf, the firm designed a high school for Bristol, NH (1946) that was never constructed and the Rindge, NH Memorial School (1951). As Irving W. Hersey Associates, the firm utilized the design for the Hudson, NH Alvirne High School (1950), Derry, NH Hood Memorial School (1951/52), Derry, NH Grinnell Elementary School (1951/52), and the Wenham, MA Buker Elementary School (1953). The firm also used the design for the Berwick, Maine Town Hall (1938) that was highlighted in a publication celebrating the accomplishments of the PWA program in 1939.

The Colonial Revival schools by Eric Huddleston and Irving Hersey share rectangular massing, brick exteriors, symmetrical facades, and a distinctive cupola centered on the building's roof. The buildings also share similar designed exterior doors, windows, and other interior and exterior architectural details. As the earliest known example of the design, Rollinsford Grade School has some attributes that are not shared with other schools. Rollinsford is the only school with a gabled roof (the others are hipped) and does not share the centered cross gables over the front door found on all other schools. Rollinsford is also the only school where the still working ventilation system uses two pairs of large louvered vents on each gabled end as well as the cupola for air circulation. The first five schools, including Rollinsford, are split level two story schools. The cupola on Rollinsford was designed to be flanked by four urns. The urns were included in the construction of Barrington's school in 1938, but are removed from all but two future designs with the unbuilt Bristol High School in 1946 and the Kingston, NH Bakie School (1941).⁴⁴ By the 1940s, the design included traditional two story buildings and in 1941 it was modified into a one story example that was used on three different schools. The design is most refined with the 1940 Hampton Academy which stands out with band courses, corbeled brick quoins, and window lintels with articulated keystones.⁴⁵ The cupola on the Hampton school is the first known example where glazed windows were added as a decorative detail above the cupola's louvered vents. This detail appears on at least six other schools built after Hampton Academy. The 1938 Berwick, Maine Town Hall also represents a refined example of the design with corbeled brick quoins and band courses and a cupola with windows, urns, a balustrade, and floral swags. While the buildings mentioned above have variations and marked differences, they share an overall unity of design and materials that make them easily identifiable as the work of the same architectural firm. Huddleston & Hersey's Colonial Revival school design, piloted

⁴⁴ The cupola for the proposed Bristol High School deviated from the other schools' rectangular design with hexagonal louvered sides topped with a typical domed roof. The Bakie School urns have not survived.

⁴⁵ The same lintels were used on select windows on the Pittsfield school.

Rollinsford Grade School

Strafford, NH

Name of Property

County and State

early in their career with the construction of Rollinsford Grade School, was provided to communities covering seven of ten New Hampshire counties with additional examples in southern Maine and northern Massachusetts.⁴⁶ In spite of some loss to integrity with replacement windows, exterior doors, and the loss of the cupola urns, Rollinsford stands with strong exterior integrity, a high level of interior integrity, and is one of the few schools where both the modern and historic additions are subservient, discernable, and compatible to the original Colonial Revival design.

Construction of Rollinsford Grade School 1936-37

In 1936, construction began on Rollinsford Grade School from plans approved by the New Hampshire Department of Education. Although its Colonial Revival design looked back to architectural precedents of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the construction details of the school utilized modern materials including fireproof construction with reinforced concrete, steel framing, terracotta tile and gypsum block. The school was outfitted with modern plumbing, modern lighting, modern electrical systems, interior and exterior electric bell systems, a ventilation system that connected to every room, and a coal fired heating plant that used a vacuum-vapor system. Construction of the school was completed by the Camillo Profenno Company, 25 Free Street, Portland, Maine at a cost of \$60,959.37. Founded in 1905 by Italian immigrant Camillo Profenno, the company (later known as the Profenno Company) was responsible for the construction of several Maine buildings including the Bangor, Maine State Hospital, the New England Rehabilitation Center in Portland, Maine, and the SD Warren Research Lab in Westbrook, Maine. The company constructed armories in Sanford, Auburn and Gardner, Maine as well as a number of schools including high schools in York and Waterboro, Maine. In New Hampshire, the company constructed Huddleston and/or Hersey designed schools in Rollinsford and Derry as well as the 1965 Hersey Associates designed Somersworth-Rollinsford Banks building in Somersworth, NH.⁴⁷

Detailed financial records related to the school's construction costs and vendors were printed in the town reports for 1936 and 1937, including the donation of the school flag and flag pole by John Tighe in memory of his sister Miss Helen Tighe who taught in Rollinsford from 1905 to 1920. The Rollinsford Garden Club donated shrubs for the school and fittings for the stage and the Parents Club donated an American Flag for the stage. Construction of the building was completed in less than a year with light fixtures purchased from the J.P. Keenan Company in Dover, NH and additional furniture purchased from Edward E. Babb & Company of Boston, MA, the Henry S. Wolkins Company, and Gledhill Brothers.

In December of 1936, the teaching staff at Rollinsford's schools gave up their holiday vacation to move classroom furniture and materials into the new building and to prepare the new school

⁴⁶ The architects' work may have been influential in the plans for the National Register listed Frank C. Frisbee Elementary School (1943) in Kittery, Maine by the NH architectural firm of Wells, Hudson, & Granger. The Frisbee school shares many similar design elements to the schools listed above. The cupola for the Frisbee School may have been the inspiration for the cupola of the proposed high school for Bristol, NH which deviated from Huddleston and Hersey's typical design.

⁴⁷ Now Somersworth's City Hall.

Rollinsford Grade School

Strafford, NH

Name of Property

County and State

for its first class of students. On January 4, 1937, Rollinsford Grade School opened its doors to the students of Rollinsford with 127 children in grades 1 through 8. Students from the Salmon Falls village area walked to school while the children in the more rural areas of town arrived on bus.

On Tuesday, January 26, 1937, Rollinsford celebrated the construction of its new school with a community open house. At the end of the normal school day the building was open to tours, given by students in the upper classes, drawing people from the town, neighboring communities, and officials from other school districts curious to see the new facility. At 8 pm a presentation and concert was given to a standing room only crowd in the school's auditorium with remarks made by PWA state director Howard W. Lockwood, Superintendent Howard L. Winslow, and building architect Eric T. Huddleston. The final address was given by New Hampshire Education Commissioner Dr. James N. Pringle who remarked that "the school of today not only serves to give the pupils text book instruction but that its purpose was also to fit them to learn to live with their fellow men and that the school of today did not only serve as a place of instruction but that it was fast becoming the community center because of its many sided activities."⁴⁸ After the presentation, guided tours of the building continued while the Blue Revelers Orchestra from Dover, NH played popular songs for the public who danced in the auditorium until midnight.

In December of 1937, the *American School Board Journal*, a national publication still in print out of Alexandria, VA, published a feature on Rollinsford Grade School written by Superintendent Howard L. Winslow in collaboration with the architects.⁴⁹ Titled "A New England Community Grade School," the article provided images, floor plans, and text that described the planning and development of the school, highlighted the role of the PWA in its construction, and provided details on the building's materials, use, and function. The article stated, "The simple program of reading, writing, and arithmetic offered since the establishment of the first school within the town limits, has given way to the far completer program required under the state curriculum. All of the children from the outlying sections are transported to Salmons Falls, where the new building not only houses the eight grades, but makes the enriched program a reality."⁵⁰

Education in Rollinsford 1937-1965

When Rollinsford Grade School opened, it had four classrooms on the upper floor. The lower grades utilized the rooms on the north side of the school and the upper grades the rooms to the south. The upper floor also had an office near the front door that was used by the principal and nurse. It was furnished with shelves allowing it and its adjacent supply closet to also serve as the school's library. A door connecting the office to the adjacent classroom allowed that teacher to supervise the library if needed. In addition to the standard curriculum of language arts, social

⁴⁸ Fosters Daily Democrat, 1935

⁴⁹ The American School Board Journal is a monthly journal first published in 1891. It is a publication of the National School Boards Association and is still in print today. The 1937 article on Rollinsford Grade School as published is attributed to Winslow only. In his report to the town for 1937, Harold Winslow states that the article was written with the building's architect.

⁵⁰ Winslow 1937

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

studies, and math, the lower level provided space for an expanded curriculum with two rooms dedicated as a lunch room and kitchen that doubled as a domestic/home economics room and a separate room for instruction in manual/industrial arts. However, implementation of these programs was delayed because the construction budget for the school did not supply money for furnishing these rooms. The building's auditorium was designed to function as a gymnasium for physical education. The lower floor also had two play rooms that could be converted to classroom space as the population of the school expanded. Although music education was provided somewhat haphazardly before the construction of Rollinsford Grade School, the budget did not include an educator for that program and music was taught by the classroom teachers as time allowed. The school budget did not contain provisions for playground equipment and in the school's early years recess was held at Sandy Bank, a public park located just down the road on the northeast side of Locust Street.⁵¹ After hours, one of the basement rooms of the school was used for adult evening classes to help naturalize foreign born residents. These classes were previously given in the Franklin School. In 1939, the adult school added an arts and crafts class that attracted 22 students its first year. Funded with New Deal money, this program continued until funding was revoked in 1943.

The building's auditorium was used daily and its first show, an operetta, was produced in the winter of 1938. With its separate entrance and restrooms, the auditorium/gymnasium, could be used by the town as a community center without disturbing classes. A fireproof projector room was included above the vestibule and it was noted that visual educational aids could be used with the purchase of a projector. Once a 16mm projector and screen were purchased in 1947 it was put into constant use. Due to a lack of interior metal window screens in the auditorium, the space could not initially be used for basketball. Screens were eventually added in 1944 and intramural basketball and volleyball teams were created. In 1938, it was noted that the school went through three gallons of soap a day and that the teachers started furnishing at cost a hot lunch each noon served on cups and dishes donated by the local chapter of the Improved Order of Odd Fellows (who also loaned the school a Victrola). Drinking fountains and a new bell system were purchased that same year.

The curriculum of industrial and domestic arts, a goal for the town since 1929, was finally realized in 1938. Girls began bringing materials from home and were taught how to sew and prepare afternoon tea and money was provided through private funds for the purchase of tools for the industrial or manual arts classroom. Superintendent Winslow took a personal interest in this program and helped the boys order the tools and came to the school when they were delivered to help the boys unpack them. In 1939, a school newspaper titled "School News" was founded. 1939 also saw the addition of a domestic arts teacher and the hiring of a new principal who also taught a manual arts course. That year the boys built a work bench, new screens for the lower floor windows, a book case for a classroom, and a screen door for the general supply room on the lower floor. Investment in domestic and industrial arts continued in the 1940s with the purchase of a Singer sewing machine an electric range, refrigerator, kitchen sinks, a dinner set, a

⁵¹ The earliest reference to the use of this space as park or public lands is on an 1856 map of Salmon Falls Village where it is referenced as "Mulbury Green." The land was developed as a public park in the early 20th century but was later abandoned.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

bench saw and motor, a motor planer, jig saw, grinder, additional tools, lumber and leather. The boys used their new tools to construct a cooking table for the kitchen in 1940 and the next year the hot lunch program began using government surplus food, with lunches later subsidized by the Red Cross for students in financial need. The WPA also assisted with hot lunch for students who lived too far away from the school to go home. When funding for the WPA was terminated, surplus from the Agricultural Marketing Administration supplied the program. Part of the domestic arts program for the 7th and 8th graders included serving hot lunch at the school. The program continued to grow in the 1940s and an industrial gas range was purchased for the kitchen in 1950.

The United States' entry into World War II provided new challenges and educational opportunities for the Rollinsford Grade School community. With activity at the nearby Portsmouth Naval Shipyard invigorated with the war effort, the school population of Rollinsford increased from 128 in 1942 to 151 pupils in 1944. During the war years, Rollinsford hired an extra teacher and was successful in 1942 with its application for federal funds made available by the Lenham Act that provided money to communities for the development of school, housing, water, and sewer projects related to industry and growth during World War II. Funding under the Lenham Act continued in 1943 with a \$1000 grant. The federal government also provided milk to sell to the students. The hot lunch program continued through the generous donation of fresh produce by the citizens of Rollinsford. Transportation became an issue and many of the students beyond walking distance to the school became habitually tardy. A shortage of teachers was one of the effects of the war on the home front. As a result both the manual and domestic arts programs were suspended during these years. Lacking a male teacher to serve as principal, long time teacher Anne Brown served as the school's first woman principal from 1943 until Principal Robert Bragg was hired in 1946.⁵² Safety measures instituted by the school included finger printing students who also received training for air raids and evacuations. The students formed an active Jr. Red Cross chapter at the school, sold bonds and stamps, held scrap collections, and collected milk weed pods for "Mae West" or life preserver jackets for the Navy.

After the war, there was a small decrease in the student population but that number started to grow again in 1948. The school invested money in a duplicating machine and hired a part time music teacher in 1947 as well as a part time (fall season only) art teacher. The school instituted a glee club and a harmonica band⁵³ and began performing Christmas pageants in the auditorium. The first documentation in the public records of standardized tests appear in 1947 and the principal, who taught classes on top of his administrative duties, supervised an athletic program that included regular gym periods and games of football, basketball, and baseball. Physical improvements to the school building in the post war years included the replacement of the coal fired furnace with an oil burner, the introduction of new fluorescent lights in areas of the school, the expansion of bulletin board space in the classroom, and the introduction of new green chalkboards. The increased enrollment in 1948 resulted in the transformation of one of the downstairs playrooms into a new classroom for the 7th and 8th grades. The room was furnished

⁵² When Anne Brown retired in 1956, she had given 45 years of service to Rollinsford education. Her colleague Bernice Doherty served 50 years in the Rollinsford school system when she retired in 1960.

⁵³ Later efforts in 1951 to establish a school band failed when parents complained that the costs of instruments were too high.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

with modern fluorescent lights, green chalkboards, asphalt floor tiles, and desks borrowed from the city of Somersworth.

1948 also saw the reinstallation of the manual and domestic arts programs for the school's 7th and 8th graders and planning began for improvements to the stage, auditorium, and playground. An assembly program was created that brought in outside speakers and knowledgeable professionals in the community. The 16mm film projector was augmented with strip projectors increasing the opportunities for the school's audio-visual program. The school library collection continued to grow with the donation of books. In 1949, the school hosted its first Education Week night for parents that gave teachers and parents an opportunity to meet and see student work on display. By 1950, part time music and arts education were established at Rollinsford Grade School as well as intramural and interscholastic sports.

Efforts to improve the basic curriculum continued in the 1950s with the development of a new reading program and efforts to comply with State Department of Education standards for instruction. The school invested in routine maintenance of the building and grounds, continued to paint the classrooms in "cheerful colors," purchased new playground equipment, and purchased new equipment for the lunch program including a new dishwasher that responded to concerns from the Department of Health as well as parents who complained that their children were washing dishes during school hours. By 1952, the school was offering hot lunch at a nominal cost to any student that wanted it. Overall the school was reported to be in excellent condition. The school purchased its first television in 1959 allowing it to utilize educational programming provided by WENH TV in Durham, NH later known as NH Public Television. Efforts were also made to improve the use of the school by the general community. In 1954, the school board adopted a policy that would permit greater use of the school facilities by the community. In response, the Salmon Falls Garden Club, Salmon Falls Extension Group, the Rollinsford March of Dimes, and the St. Mary CYO Basketball Team began using the school building on a regular basis. The Rollinsford Planning Board, Water District, and Civil Defense Group also began using the school in the 1950s. In 1962, the school board invested in an emergency generator so the building could be used by the town in the event of a disaster.

The 1950s brought new concerns for Rollinsford Grade School. Investment in the nation's defense industry during the Cold War saw increased activity at the neighboring Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the construction of Pease Air Force Base in nearby Newington, NH. This influx of government spending along with the Baby Boom and trends towards suburban living in the Post World War II era brought a substantial and rapid population increase to Rollinsford and its school between 1955 and 1970. During the early years of the 1950s, activity at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the construction of Pease Air Force Base qualified Rollinsford for aid for approximately \$2,000 each year as part of the Education Public Law Bill 874. By 1954, both playrooms in the lower level of the school were converted to classrooms. In 1956, the school population increased to 187 students. As a result, the industrial arts program was discontinued and its room converted into a regular classroom. In 1957, the school population grew to 211 students. In response, the school expanded to eight classroom teachers, the bathrooms in the lower level of the school were expanded, and the home economics program was canceled allowing kitchen to be converted into a classroom for the upper grades and the lunch

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

room to also serve as a kitchen.⁵⁴ By 1958, the school board contacted Irving Hersey Associates to begin exploratory discussions with the building's original architect on expanding the school with an addition.

As plans to add additional classroom space to the school slowly moved forward, the town was quick to note that the original building committee should be commended for providing a building that allowed for continued growth without major expansion of the building. The school board continued to provide routine maintenance on the building with painting on the interior and exterior. In 1961, Rollinsford expanded its science program and purchased new books to replace outdated materials following a national trend to improve science education that responded to the successful launch of Sputnik, the world's first man-made satellite. A science specialist from the State Department of Education came to the school to provide an introduction of the new state guidelines for science education. The town report for that year enthused that "science has become a daily part of our lives and our children must be prepared to understand at least in some small way, that the unheard of future miracles will become commonplace occurrences in their future daily lives." The school also encouraged the study of American heritage as an objective for the school and introduced modern arithmetic or "modern math" to the curriculum.

Construction of the Annex 1964-1966

In 1963, the population of the school grew from 204 to 239 students. The number increased substantially again in 1964 to 256. That year the school board invited the town selectmen to join them in planning for a school addition. Hersey Associates was hired after interviewing several architects. The original addition proposal included four classrooms, an expansion of the gymnasium/auditorium to accommodate the full school population and a full size basketball court, a new centrally located kitchen with storage, new toilets, a nurse's and first aid room separate and more private than the shared office with the principal, a teacher's break room as required by the State Department of Education, and additional storage areas. In 1965, the addition called the Annex was completed on a reduced construction budget with several modifications. The kitchen was eliminated and the gym/auditorium expansion was reduced by 20' allowing room only for a basketball court with no additional room for spectators. The addition did provide four new classrooms, a teacher's room, new bathrooms, a small office, a storage room, an equipment storage room for the gym, and a utility closet. Due to project budget cuts, the addition opened its first year with unpainted walls and equipment for the addition had to be purchased through the general fund. The new work on the annex was completed in 1966 when the interior was painted, school grounds were graded, new areas paved for parking and play, and playground equipment installed.

The Annex building is an interesting modest example of the mid-century modern work that dominated the schools designed by Hersey Associates from the 1950s to the 1970s. The building is concrete block construction clad with water struck brick. The annex had its own storefront

⁵⁴ From 1957 to 1962 the shared kitchen/lunch room occupied what was originally the lunch room for the school. In 1962, children began eating in their classroom, which they still do today. This allowed for the kitchen to move back to the smaller room designed for that use and for the larger lunch room to be used as a classroom for the expanding student population.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

style entrance that provided access to its classrooms and to the gymnasium/auditorium. The classrooms are lit with large bands of windows. The interior hall has borrowed natural light from large picture windows that opened into each classroom.

Rollinsford Education 1966 to 2014

Between 1965 and 1966, the number of students enrolled in the school increased on average by 22.04 pupils per year. The closing of the local parochial school in 1967 created a jump in enrollment at Rollinsford Grade School from 269 students to 325. The school required 14 faculty members and the use of the stage and gymnasium to be used as additional classroom space every period of the day. 1967 was also the first year where the school principal did not carry full classroom duties on top of their administrative role. In 1968, enrollment reached 341 students. That year the gym was used as the 7th and 8th grade classroom and the stage as the school library. Encouraged by state legislation in 1952 and 1963 that authorized area school districts, Rollinsford entered into a 20 year area school district agreement with Somersworth, NH. The agreement sent grades 7 and 8 to the newly built Somersworth Middle School and grades 9-10 to Somersworth High School.⁵⁵ Rollinsford Grade School continued to serve grades 1-6. By removing the 7th and 8th graders, the enrollment at the grade school dropped to 263 students. Although the overall student population in Rollinsford continued to grow until its peak in 1973, the number of students attending Rollinsford Grade School continued to stay under 260 students allowing for smaller classes and returning the gym and stage to their original use. In the 1960s, the school continued to refine its basic curriculum and began adding guidance services, speech therapy, and provided tuition at the Great Bay School for the Retarded in Newington, NH for children with special needs. The school also revamped its pay schedule for teachers to be more competitive and began sharing the costs of the staff's health insurance.

The 1970s saw additional options added to the school's curriculum including musical instrument instruction, an expansion of the music education program, the expansion of library services with the hiring of a part time librarian, investment in educational television, and developments in a reading and tutoring program. In 1974, enrollment at the school began to decrease. The school responded by reducing the number of classroom teachers from 11 to 10 and adding a part time physical education instructor. The school added a part time nurse, eventually combining her duties with the librarian in 1976. The town also instituted a successful and still active summer recreation program for the children in 1972 and used the school buildings as the program's home base.

Between 1976 and 1981, the school building received updates, maintenance, and improvements. Ceiling tiles or drop ceilings were installed in the main building, storm windows and thermal shades added, a new fire alarm installed, new classroom floor tiles were installed, and repairs were made to the electric, plumbing and heating systems. The exterior doors on the original building were replaced with glazed aluminum doors at this time. The school entered into the 1980s reexamining its current curriculum, highlighting areas of concern, and developing a plan

⁵⁵ Both the Middle and High Schools were designed by Hersey Associates.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

for improvement. These actions appear to be the result from a visit by the State Department of Education that cited the school as deficient in its library, art instruction, and guidance services.

The 1980s saw continued improvements on the building. Routine maintenance needs were examined and a plan for improvements was developed in 1984. New equipment was added to the playground and stage, asbestos remediation work was completed on the heating system and energy efficiency improvements were made on the annex with new windows and roof insulation. Remediation work of hazardous materials continued throughout the 1990s as did work to provide barrier free access throughout the school. Technology became a focus for the staff and administration at Rollinsford Grade School. New computers and internet access was provided by matching public funds with private grants. In 1993, Rollinsford Grade School became the first networked school in New Hampshire's seacoast region. The 1990s also saw work done in a failed effort to provide energy efficiency savings and lower maintenance costs. The original windows on the building were replaced in two phases with the upper floor windows replaced in 1997 and the lower floor windows replaced in 1998. The wood cornice and fascia on the main building and auditorium were wrapped in aluminum a year later.⁵⁶ The school also made safety improvements with a new sprinkler system installed in 1998. That same year, the school installed a new "Galaxy Landing" playground set, erected by volunteers in October. The largest improvement to the school was the completion of a one story addition in 1998 at the north end of the Annex built to host a newly formed public kindergarten program. The building was built in proportion to the Annex and was designed by New Hampshire architect Dan Bisson.

The 1990s saw a moderate climb in the student population. This trend peaked in 2002 and since that time there have been moderate decreases. During the last fifteen years, Rollinsford Grade School has continued to make improvements in how it implements its core curriculum, has delivered new technology as part of its student's education, and has provided extracurricular activities and opportunities. The school building continues to be used by the community and has been the location of the annual town meeting since the 1970s. After decades of discussion, the town chose not to renew its area agreement contract with the town of Somersworth. In 2015, the town's students from 7th to 12th grade will be educated in the Marshwood School District in South Berwick and Eliot, Maine. The town is also exploring options related to the future of Rollinsford Grade School and the possibility of its continued use as the community's school or the option of sending all students to the Marshwood School District. As part of this planning process, the Rollinsford School Board agreed to a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the school.

⁵⁶ As of 2015, these replacement vinyl windows have started to leak and have been noted as needing replacement. The installed wrapping is starting to fail in places.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Backofen, Walter A., "Claremont's Achilles' Heel: The Unrecognized Mandatory School-Tax Law of 1789" *New Hampshire Bar Association Bar Journal* (March 1, 2002): Accessed March 14, 2015 <https://www.nhbar.org/publications/archives/display-journal-issue.asp?id+160>

Baer, Annie Wentworth c.1922 *A Continuation of Early Somersworth Schools* Unpublished Manuscript, Woodman Institute, Dover, NH Collection

Baer, Annie Wentworth c.1922 *Schools of Early Somersworth* Unpublished Manuscript, Woodman Institute, Dover, NH Collection

Catalfo, Alfred Jr. *The History of the Town of Rollinsford New Hampshire 1623-1973*. Somersworth, NH: New Hampshire Printers, Inc. (1973)

Driemeyer, Laura B. 2008 *Chase Roy Whitcher, A Monograph* Unpublished Manuscript, NHDHR Collection

The New Hampshire Register, Farmer's Almanac, and Business Directory for 1873. Claremont, NH: The Claremont Manufacturing Company Printers & Publishers (1873)

Emerson, Ruth and Greenaway, Florence Philpott. *Rollinsford's Heritage 1623-1976*. South Berwick, ME: The Chronicle Print Shop (1976)

Griffen, Sarah L. and Murphy, Kevin D. "*A Noble and Dignified Stream*" *the Piscataqua Region in the Colonial Revival, 1860-1930*. York, Maine: Old York Historical Society (1992)

Hurd, D. Hamilton. *History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties*. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Company (1882)

"Inspect New Rollinsford School House" *Foster's Daily Democrat*, Dover, NH Thursday, January 28, 1937

J. Chance, Jr. "Map of Strafford County, New Hampshire." Philadelphia (1856)

Knapp, William D. *Somersworth, an Historical Sketch*. Unknown Publisher, February 10, 1894.

MacLeod, Christopher D., "Portrait of Eric T. Huddleston, F.A.I.A" *Granite State Architect* (November-December, 1966) 24-31

Metcalf, Henry (editor), *Laws of New Hampshire Including Public and Private Acts, Resolves, Votes, Etc. Vol V First Constitutional Period 1784-1792*. Concord, NH: Rumford Press (1916)

Rollinsford Grade School

Strafford, NH

Name of Property

County and State

Mausolf, Lisa c.2010 *Irving W. Hersey (1902-1982)* Unpublished Manuscript, DHR Collection

Mausolf, Lisa December 2012 *Mid Century Modern Architecture in New Hampshire: 1945-1975* Unpublished Manuscript, NHDHR Collection

Miller, Joan DeVries 1989 *Alvah Thurston Ramsdell a Collection of Historical Materials and Newly Crated Exhibits Pertaining to His Life and Work.* Unpublished Manuscript, NHDHR Collection

Milne, John, "One Man's Vision" *UNH Magazine*, Winter 2001. Accessed March 3, 2015
<http://unhmagazine.unh.edu/w02/huddlestontextw02.html>

Polito, Nancy Jo. "*Nobody Washes Me, I'm Italian*" *From Italy to America the Life Story of Armando Polito his way.* Outskirts Press, Inc. (2011)

Program Souvenir Reunion Paroissiale Eglise du Saint-Nom-de-Marie, Salmon Falls, New Hampshire 27-28 Juin 1929. (1929)

"Rollinsford's New School to Open on Jan.26" *Foster's Daily Democrat*, Dover, NH
Wednesday, January 22, 1937

Rollinsford Town Records Records, Vol I. Bound Book of Unpublished Town Records, Town of Rollinsford Collection.

Rollinsford Town Reports (1850-2015)

Short, C.W. and Stanley-Brown, R, *Public Buildings, a Survey of Architecture of Projects Constructed by Federal and Other Governmental Bodies Between the Years 1933 and 1939 with the Assistance of the Public Works Administration.* Washington, DC: United States Government Printing Office (1939)

Sumner, Donald M. (c.1980) *IWH, Irving W. Hersey Associates, PA-Architects-Durham, New Hampshire*, Undated Brochure, NHDHR Collection.

Thomas, George A.I.A., "Eric T. Huddleston, F.A.I.A" *New Hampshire Architect* (July 1953): 8-14

Wallace, Stuart R. and Hall, Douglas, E. *A New Hampshire Education Timeline.* Concord, NH: New Hampshire Historical Society (2000) Unpublished Document, NHDHR Collection.

Wilson, Richard Guy. *The Colonial Revival House.* New York, NY: Harry N. Abrams, Inc. Publishers (2004)

Winslow, Howard L, "A New England Community Grade School," *The American School Board Journal* Vol 95, No.6 (December 1937): 41-43

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the property follows the boundary of the property's tax map parcel. Southern boundary follows Willey Street. The eastern boundary runs along Locust Street from the corner of Willey Street to a chain link fence post. The northern boundary follows the chain link fence that separates school property from the private property next door. Western boundary runs from the chain link fence corner post to Willey Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the 4 acres of land purchased for and historically associated with the school.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Peter J. Michaud
organization: New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources
street & number: 19 Pillsbury Street
city or town: Concord state: NH zip code: 03301
e-mail peter.michaud@dcr.nh.gov
telephone: (603) 271 3583
date: June 22, 2015

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Rollinsford Grade School

City or Vicinity: Rollinsford

County: Strafford

State: New Hampshire

Photographer: Peter Michaud

Date Photographed: May 15, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: Photo 0001 view of school and front lawn including flag pole looking north west.

1 of 11.

Photo 0002 view of school and front lawn looking south west.

2 of 11.

Photo 0003 view of school showing the kindergarten and annex additions facing south east.

3 of 11.

Rollinsford Grade School

Name of Property

Strafford, NH

County and State

Photo 0004 view of back of the school showing the annex addition, paved playground area, and the contributing swing set and monkey bars.

4 of 11.

Photo 0005 view of Obo II's grave facing west.

5 of 11.

Photo 0006 interior of the gymnasium facing west.

6 of 11.

Photo 0007 view of the south stair of the main building looking south.

7 of 11.

Photo 0008 interior of the upper floor south west classroom facing north showing the front of the room, varnished woodwork, and original intercom speaker.

8 of 11.

Photo 0009 interior of the upper floor south west classroom facing south showing the coat closet and built in storage.

9 of 11.

Photo 0010 interior of the annex hallway facing north.

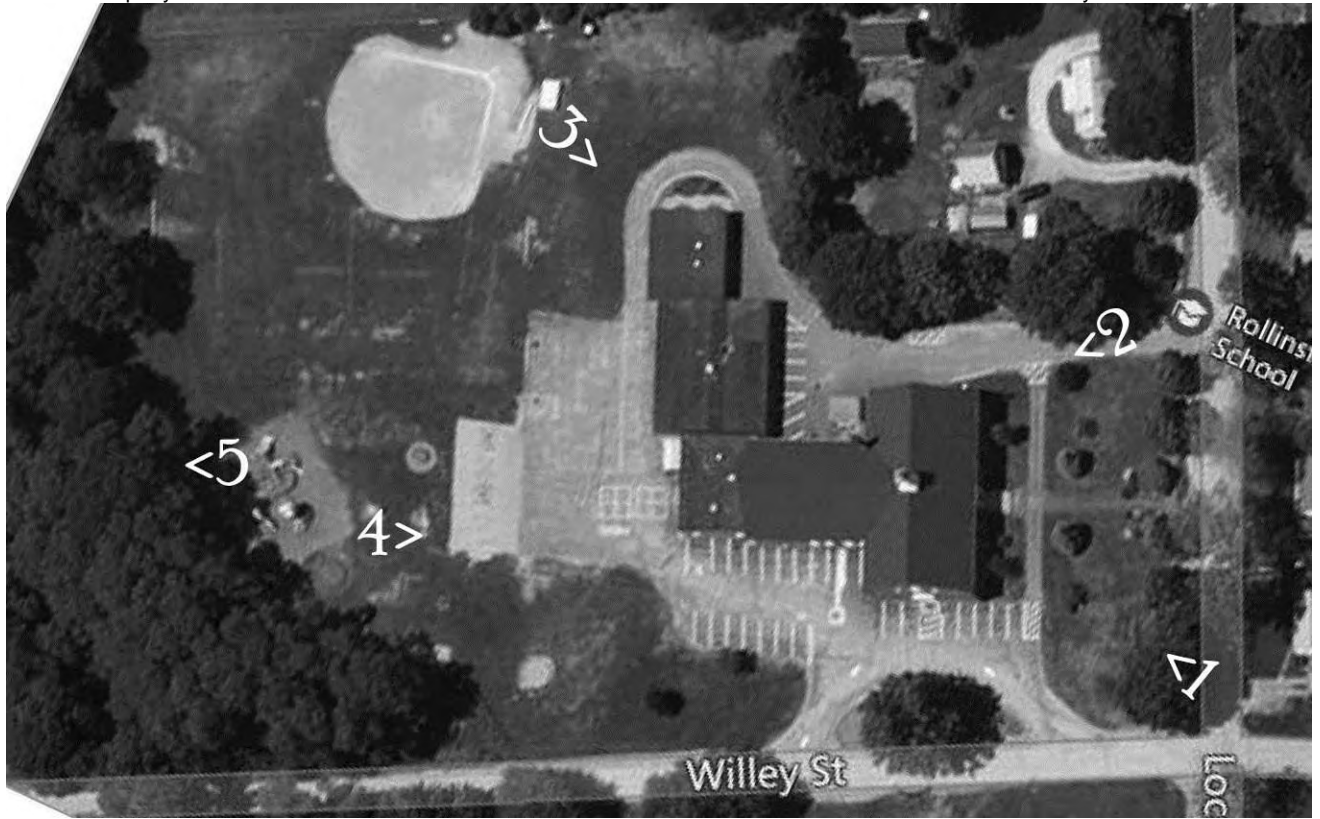
10 of 11.

Photo 0011 interior of the attic facing north showing the school's metal framing and ventilation system ductwork.

11 of 11.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

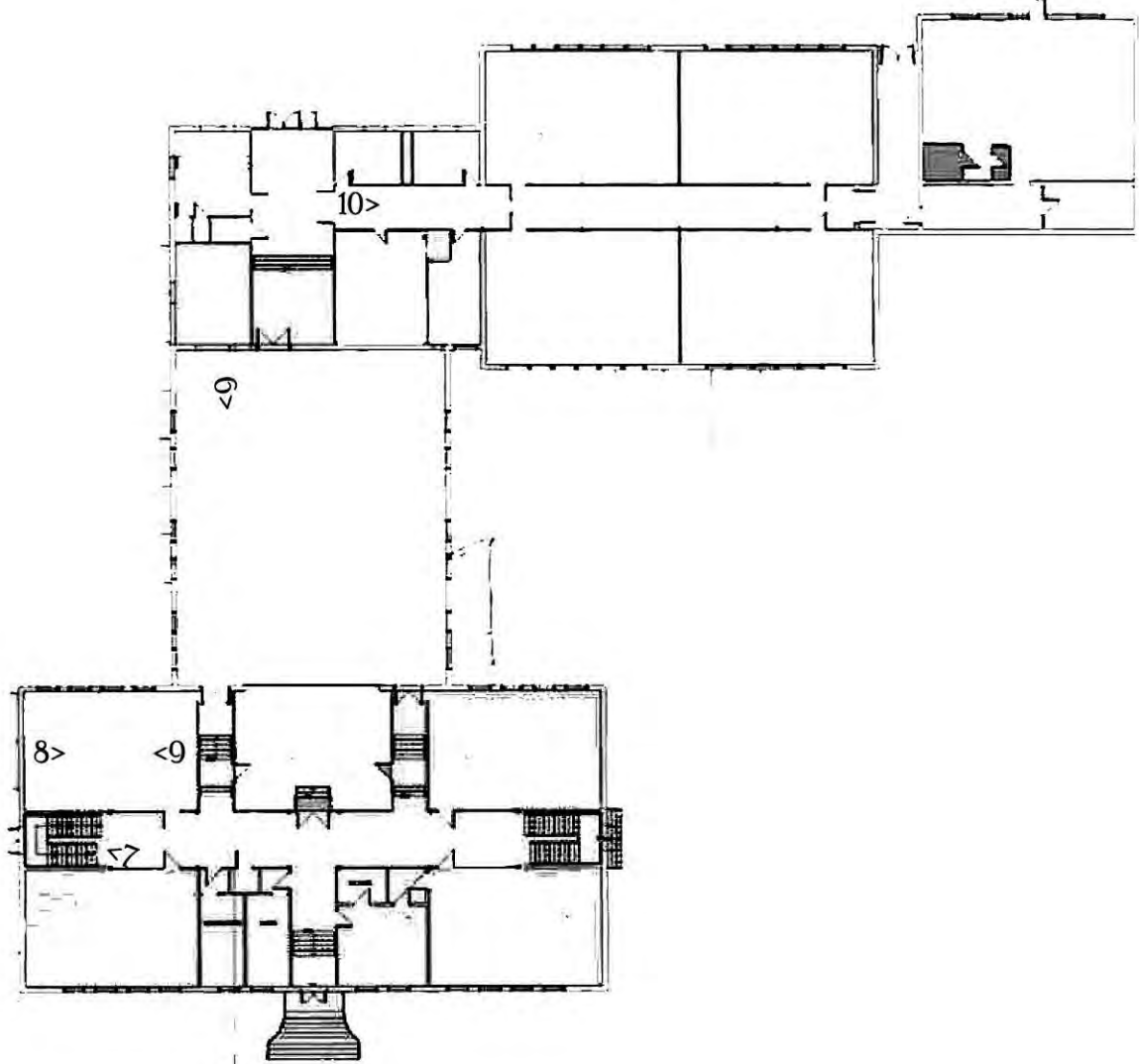
Strafford, NH
County and State



Rollinsford Grade School Exterior Photo Key

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

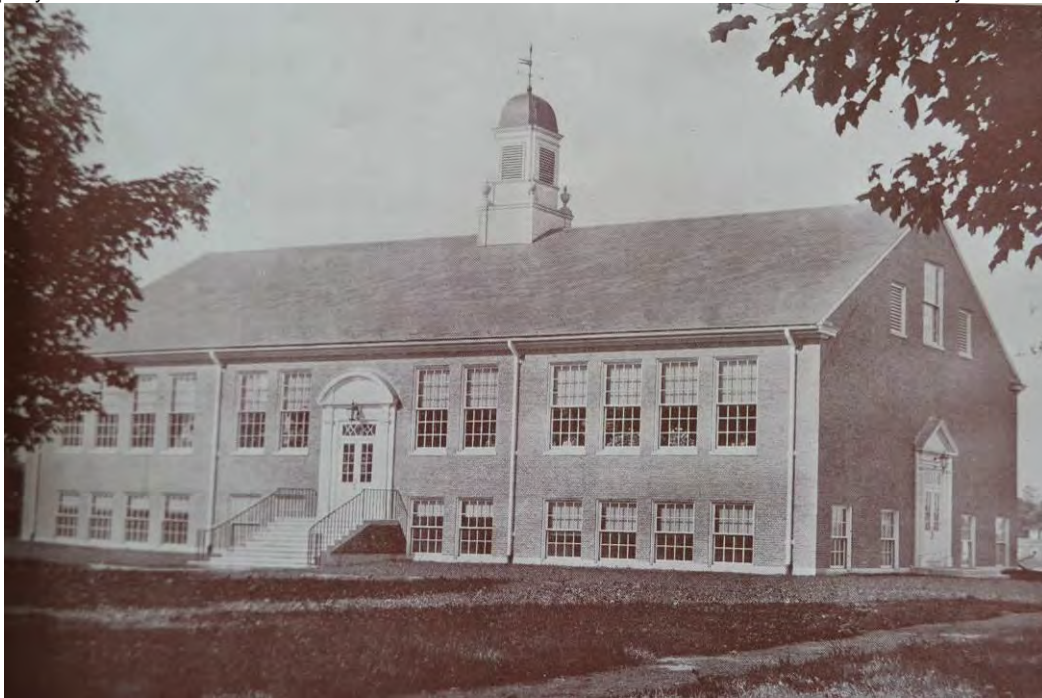
Strafford, NH
County and State



Rollinsford Grade School Interior Photo Key
Photo 11 of the Attic is Not Shown on this Key

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State



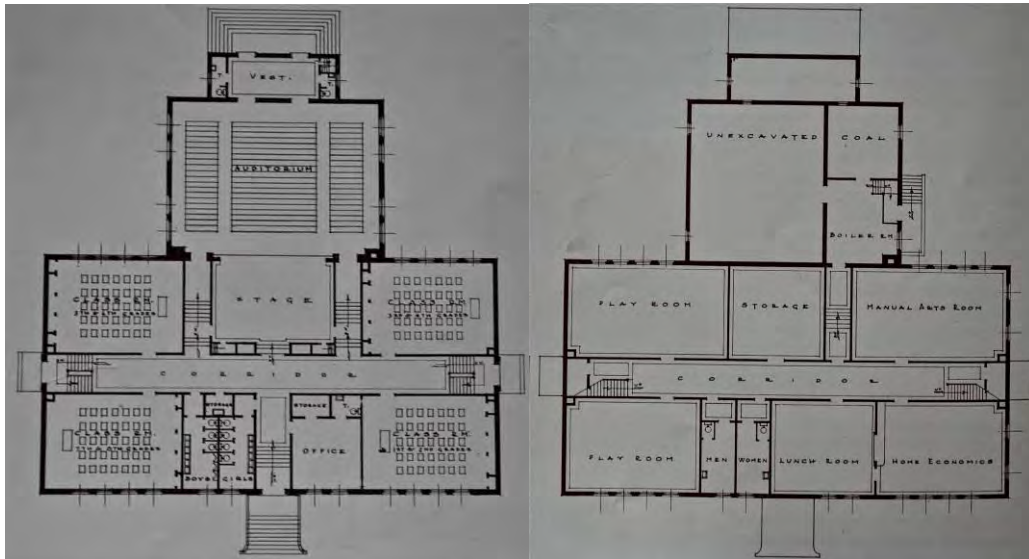
Rollinsford Grade School in 1937 from the American School Board Journal, November/December 1937.



Rollinsford Grade School in 1937 from the American School Board Journal, November/December 1937 showing the back of the auditorium that was removed as part of the school's expansion in 1965.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State



Rollinsford Grade School original floor plans (upper and lower floors) from the American School Board Journal, November/December 1937



The upper floor northeast classroom in Rollinsford Grade School from the American School Board Journal, November/December 1937.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State



Rollinsford Grade School in 1937 showing the original exterior doors. Image from the American School Board Journal, November/December 1937.



Postcard of Rollinsford Grade School c.1955, Peter Michaud collection.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State



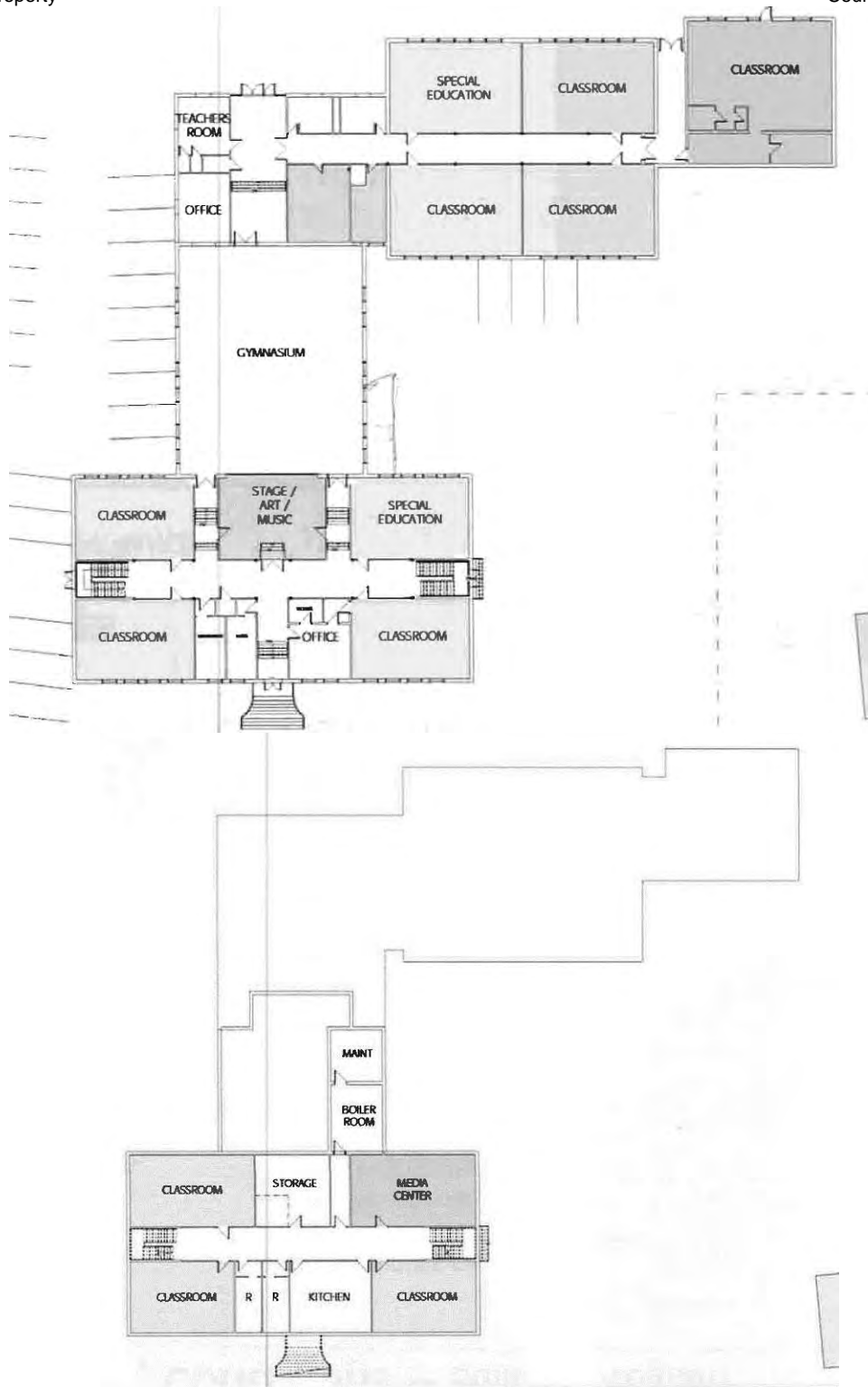
Class photograph taken in the industrial arts classroom after its conversion to a regular classroom in 1956, John Lesniak collection.



Photograph of Rollinsford Grade School in 1967 from the Rollinsford 1967 Town Report showing the newly built Annex to the right of the photo. Note the missing urns at the cupola, Town of Rollinsford collection.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State



Rollinsford Grade School's current floor plans, 2014 by Banwell Architects, Lebanon, NH.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State



July 2015 image of 1940 Hampton Academy, Hampton, NH, the most architectural ambitious of the Huddleston & Hersey Colonial Revival schools.



July 2015 image of the 1941 Daniel J. Bakie School, Kingston, NH. An example of Huddleston & Hersey's one story school building.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 1



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 2



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 3



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 4



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 5



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 6



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 7



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 8



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 9



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

Photo 10



Rollinsford Grade School
Name of Property

Strafford, NH
County and State

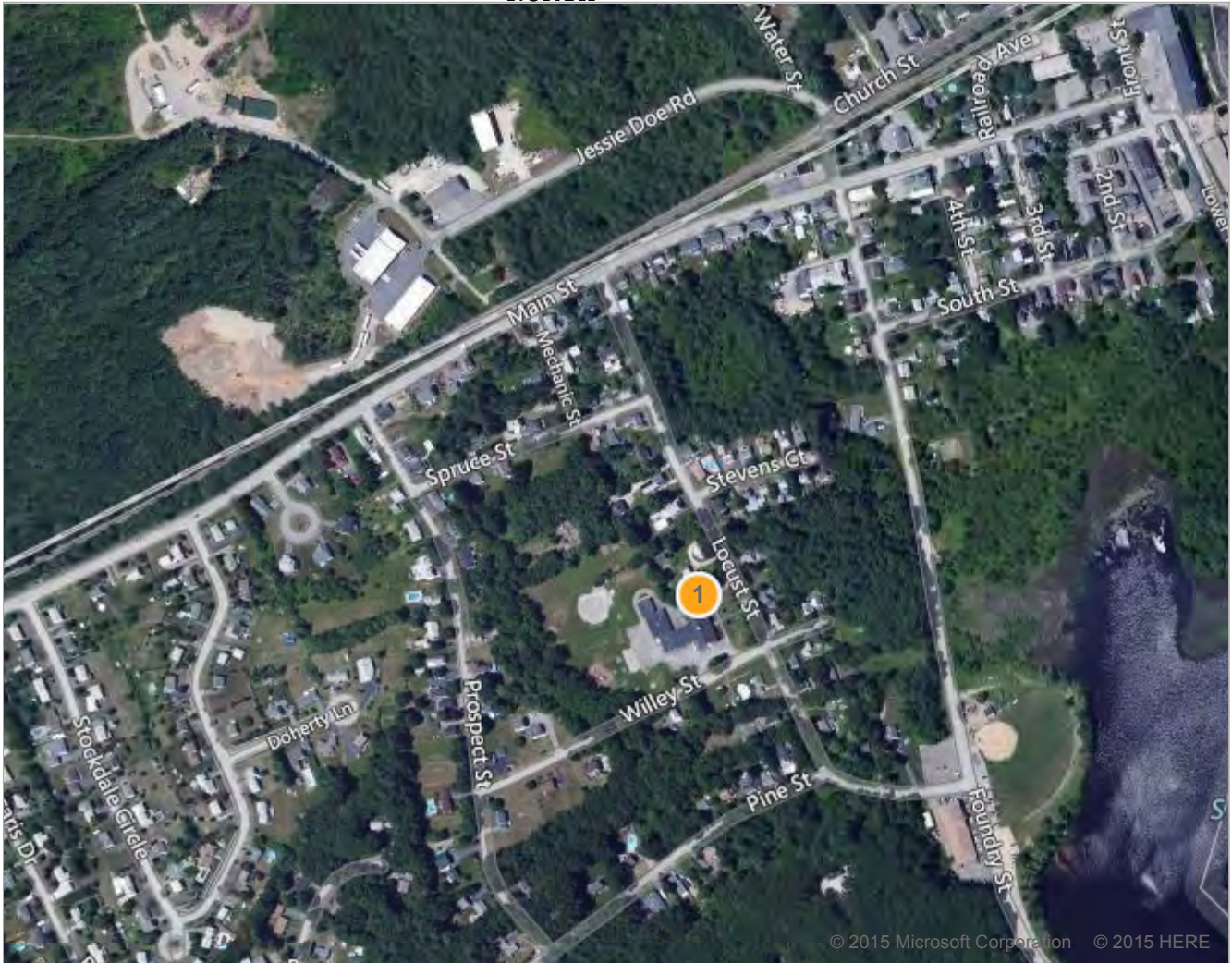
Photo 11





Unsaved places

- 1. **Rollinsford Grade School 487 Locust Street, Rollinsford NH**
43.23190 -70.823617 NORTH





Bell tower with a green dome and a weather vane on top.

Archway above the entrance with the text "Waltham Grade School" and the year "1900".







ΑΒΟΟ Π
A.K.C. NUMBER 4911
DIED JAN. 2, 1895



EXIT





THESE QUESTIONS HELP FOCUS OUR LEARNING!

- What happened?
- Why did it happen?
- What were the characters like?
- What was the setting?
- What was the problem?
- How was the problem solved?
- What was the outcome?

Read to Partner

Read to Partner

- Read to a partner.
- Take turns reading and listening.
- Use a book bag to carry books.
- Use a book bag to carry books.
- Use a book bag to carry books.

Check in with groups

Learning Objectives

- Learning Objectives
- Learning Objectives
- Learning Objectives

May

Our Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Monday



Today is a great day to **Learn** something **New!**



How to Multiply
$$\begin{array}{r} 173 \\ \times 26 \\ \hline 1038 \\ 3460 \\ \hline 4518 \end{array}$$

1,460
1,898





FIRE
EXTINGUISHER
↓

Guidance

RGS Promise

Make a Difference in
The Life of a Child



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Rollinsford Grade School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW HAMPSHIRE, Strafford

DATE RECEIVED: 8/14/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/09/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/24/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/29/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000670

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9.29.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 14 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
Park Service



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa Deline
From: Peter Michaud
Subject: National Register Nominations
Date: August 10, 2015

Dear Lisa,

Enclosed are five nominations for the National Register. The enclosed disks for Owls Head in Hebron, NH, The Bartlett Roundhouse in Bartlett, NH, Hilltop School in Somersworth, NH, Rollinsford Grade School in Rollinsford, NH, and Bristol Town Hall in Bristol, NH contain the true and correct copy of the nominations for these properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

On a side note, Rollinsford Grade School is my former elementary school and I did the nomination for them on my own time as a gift.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Michaud'.

Peter Michaud
National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives,
& Easements Coordinator
19 Pillsbury Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271 3583 fax (603) 271 3433
Peter.michaud@dcr.nh.gov