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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Danville Town House

other names/site number Danville Town Hall - (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 210 Main St. State Route 111A NA  not for publication

city or town Danville NA  vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Rockingham code 015 zip code 03819

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Wally C. Dutton 10/26/00  
Signature of certifying official Date

New Hampshire  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Don Edson H. Beal 12/1/00  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	1	0
			Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

Government/City Hall

Social - meeting hall

- club house

- civic

Education - Library

Recreation and Culture - theatre

-Auditorium

-Music Facility

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: \_\_\_\_\_ Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

Government/City Hall

Social - meeting hall

- club house

- civic

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian - Gothic

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

roof asphalt

walls Weatherboard

other Brick

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

See Continuation Sheets

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Danville Town Hall  
Danville NH  
Rockingham County

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DESCRIPTION

The Danville Town Hall, constructed in 1886, is situated on a moderately traveled rural state highway. The building faces west on Route 111A (Main Street) with a circular asphalt drive providing access. There is grass on the north and east sides, to the south is paved parking area.

The building is oriented gable front, facing west. It rests on a granite foundation and is comprised of a two story main block with one story projecting front pavilion and a shallow rear addition. Sheathing is vinyl in imitation of clapboards, though original clapboards survive on the pavilion and main block. All three masses have gable roofs sheathed in asphalt. The pavilion and block roofs are steeply pitched and have shallow parapets articulating their gable walls. Brick interior end stove chimneys punctuate the roof mid-slope at the front gable of the main block. A weathervane rises from the peak. The peak originally terminated in a six foot square ventilator with steep pyramidal roof and weathervane which was removed in the 1930s.

The pavilion is accessed by a pair of double doors occupying half the north side of the front (west) elevation. The entrance is sheltered by an open porch with hipped roof supported by square posts and pilasters spanning the façade. The porch was introduced in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, replacing the original one-bay entry porch occupying the north half of the pavilion's façade. That had a gable roof and shallow parapet like those on the other gable walls. Turned posts supported the porch and were spanned by a valance of turned spindles; the gable wall was clapboarded. In 1990 a ramp was added on the porch's south side to address accessibility needs. An original three part window dominates the wall area above the porch. The upper sashes contain five rows of four small panes of randomly placed colored glass – clear (opaque), amber, pink, rose, and ruby. Centered is a sign reading, "TOWN HALL HOME OF DANVILLE GRANGE No.137. P. of H.". A rectangular opening with louvers occupies the peak. Although there is no fenestration on the south side of the pavilion, the north elevation is lighted by a vinyl clad triple window consisting of three two over two sashes topped by a single-light transom, installed in 1990. This triple window replaced the original wooden three-part window.

The main block is two stories high. The front (west) façade visible above the pavilion is clapboarded and has a central one over one window lighting the attic. The north and south side elevations are identical in appearance. Each of the two levels is lighted by four evenly spaced one over one vinyl clad windows installed in 1990; those on the second story are topped by original transom lights consisting of two rows of eight small panes of randomly placed colored glass in shades of clear (opaque), amber, pink, rose, and ruby. Extending from the rear of the main block is a 1990 addition replacing the original rear staircase and privies. It is 10-feet deep and spans the rear (east) elevation of the main block. A door on the south elevation provides egress. On the east elevation a two over two window is situated in the gable. There is no fenestration on the north elevation.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Danville Town Hall  
Danville NH  
Rockingham County**

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**DESCRIPTION CONTINUED:**

The paired entry doors give way to a foyer with original wainscoting below plaster wall surfaces. The floor is the original hardwood maple. The south side of the foyer accommodates the original staircase to the second floor. The treads and risers are pine with mahogany newels and rails. In the 1970s the upper landing stairwell was closed off to conserve energy.

Two doors framed separately and centered at the east end of the foyer provide access to the anteroom. The original paneled doors and hardware remain as do the wainscoting and plaster wall surfaces. Doors to the left and right give access to the Town Clerk and Tax Collector's offices respectively. The Town Clerk's office originally was the town lock-up or jail. (The heavy wooden door with the barred window is stored in the basement.) It was infrequently used and was converted to a library soon after the building was constructed; it later became a kitchen. The kitchen was remodeled several times over the years, and finally removed in 1990 and converted to its current use. The Tax Collector's office originally was the "Selectmen's Room". A small room partitioned off from the main meeting hall immediately to the rear of the Selectmen's Room with an access door on the east wall that served as the town library (when it was relocated from across the hall) until the current Colby Library was built in 1972.

The original doors on the east wall of the anteroom have been replaced with a vinyl folding enclosure accessing the meeting space that occupies much of the first floor interior. Beyond the meeting space is the 10-foot deep addition containing bathrooms, closets, kitchenette, stairwell to the second floor, and rear exit.

The ballroom on the second floor still has its original maple flooring; it is access through the original double doors with bronze hardware. This space contains the original stage flanked by two stage rooms on the east end of the building.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

**A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

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

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or a grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

1886-1950

**Significant Dates**

1886 - construction

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

Albert A. Collins, Agent for Construction

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

Name of repository: Hawke Hist. Soc., Town Reports - Colby Mem. Library, Danville, NH

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1.04 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 <u>19</u>	<u>326680</u>	<u>4753360</u>	3 _____	_____	_____
2 _____	_____	_____	4 _____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundaries are indicated on accompanying base map

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

name/title \_\_\_\_\_

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Danville, NH

street & number 210 Main Street telephone 603-382-8253

city or town Danville state NH zip code 03819

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Danville Town Hall  
Danville, NH  
Rockingham County**

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Danville Town Hall is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for significance in politics and government. The Town Hall was constructed in 1886 as the new seat of town government when the 18<sup>th</sup> century meeting house had become infeasible for that purpose. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the period 1886 to 1950, initial construction to the 50-year cut-off date. . The building has been the focus of town government as well as civic and social activity throughout the period of significance. Changes to the building are limited to the removal of the ventilator and expansion of the porch, (both during the period of significance), replacement of the rear stair, some window replacements, and the introduction of impervious siding imitating the clapboards beneath; these changes do not interfere with the building's significance or its ability to convey that significance.

The Danville Town Hall (House) has served as the headquarters for all of the functions of town government, the site of most of its political, civic and social functions, and many of its recreational and entertainment events from its dedication in 1887 to 1950. As the new "Town House", it picked up the mantle from its predecessor, the Old Meeting House, which was named to the National Register in 1982. It gave birth to the town's first public library, which it housed from 1892 throughout the remainder of the period of significance. It was the undisputed social and cultural center for this tiny rural town of four to six hundred residents, and provided a common place for the residents of South Danville and North Danville to meet and resolve their perceived differences. It was and remains a primary visual symbol, perhaps even the soul, of a town with intense pride in its history.

The prior town meeting house (Old Meeting House), with its lack of water and proper heating, and its inflexible seating became increasingly difficult to use, and in 1886 the Town voted to appropriate \$4200 to build a new "Town House." The location was decided upon, and approximately an acre of land was to be purchased from Almira Dimond and Walter and Cora Collins for the sum of \$200. This site proved to be very controversial, for the prosperous farmers of North Danville were loathe to tax themselves for a hall that, because of its location in South Danville, would be of more immediate benefit to the people of the south. They presented a vigorous opposition, but in the end were outvoted by the more populous south with its strong contingent of shoe factory employees.

The outrage continued culminating in an aborted attempt to burn down the new "House" the night before it was to be formally dedicated. There also was controversy over the design of the new building, which could be described as Victorian with a gothic leaning, considered too radical by some townsfolk.

Colonel Alfred A. Collins was appointed Agent for Construction, and construction began in July of 1886. A \$500 building loan was obtained from a Haverhill, MA bank, but true to Yankee tradition the townsfolk looked to themselves for the resources to build the new structure. Five individuals plus the Free Will Baptist Society accepted the Town's notes for the remainder. The structure was completed in the late Fall of 1886, and the formal dedication was held on January 13, 1887.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Danville Town Hall  
Danville, NH  
Rockingham County

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SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED:

The new "House" was well adapted for its intended use, and provided the site for all of Danville's town business and civic affairs, and most of its social functions throughout the entire period of significance. In addition to housing the Town offices and being the site for Town Meetings and such gatherings, it was the home of the Danville Grange and its public library, both since their inceptions in 1892. Also, for a short period of time, it was the site of the town jail or lock-up. That was infrequently used, however, and the space was converted to a library in 1892, and then to a kitchen when the library was moved across the hall. The Boy Scouts, the VFW, the Women's Relief Corps and the Danville Civil Defense all held their meetings there. Memorial Day dinners and Fourth of July celebrations were held there for years. The upstairs "ballroom" was used for public and private functions, such as recitals, plays and minstrel shows, school dances and graduation ceremonies, and all types of receptions. The ballroom could be rented to non-Danville residents for public events for 25% of the proceeds.

*From an article of a Staff Correspondent to the Union, Danville, Jan. 16, 1887.*

"A large company gathered at the dedication coming from adjoining towns, and the hall filled to overflowing. Col. Collins called the meeting to order and introduced Chas. Bradley as president of the meeting. An overture was rendered by Webster's Orchestra of Kingston, followed by a song by the Danville Glee Club, and a prayer by Rev. J. A. Lowell. The president then, with appropriate remarks, introduced Hon. J. Warren Brown of Hampton Falls, who made the principal address of the evening and was warmly received. He was followed by Dr. Eastman of Hampstead, Dr. Clark of Derry, George W March and others, in bright and pithy remarks, the exercises being freely interspersed with music. At the close a bountiful turkey supper was furnished by the ladies in the lower hall, after which promenades and interchange of congratulations occupied the time until a late hour, the new hall and its dedication being alike declared an unqualified success."



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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**Danville Town Hall  
Danville, NH  
Rockingham County**

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

1. Danville Town Reports – 1886 & 1887
2. Staff Correspondent to the “Union”, January 16, 1887
3. “The Exeter News-Letter”, January 21, 1887; January 28, 1887; June 4, 1886
4. Thomas, Matthew E. Rockingham County Alan Sutton, 1994
5. Rich, Ruth J. The History of Danville, New Hampshire Ruth J. Rich, 1975
6. Hawke Historical Society Records and Archives, and Volume 2, #3 of “Reminiscences” (An occasional publication by the Hawke Historical Society) Copies available at Colby Memorial Library, Danville, NH
7. Conversations with Paul Collins, lifelong Danville resident and contractor for the 1990 revisions. Interviews on Oct 5 & 16, 1999. Transcript available at Danville Town Hall- Danville Heritage Commission files

1. NPS Form 10-900-a  
OMB No. 1024-0018

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Danville Town Hall  
Danville, NH  
Rockingham County**

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Boundaries of the nominated property are indicated on the attached sketch map.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nomination parcel is that which has historically been associated with the Town Hall since its construction.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Danville Town Hall  
Danville NH  
Rockingham County**

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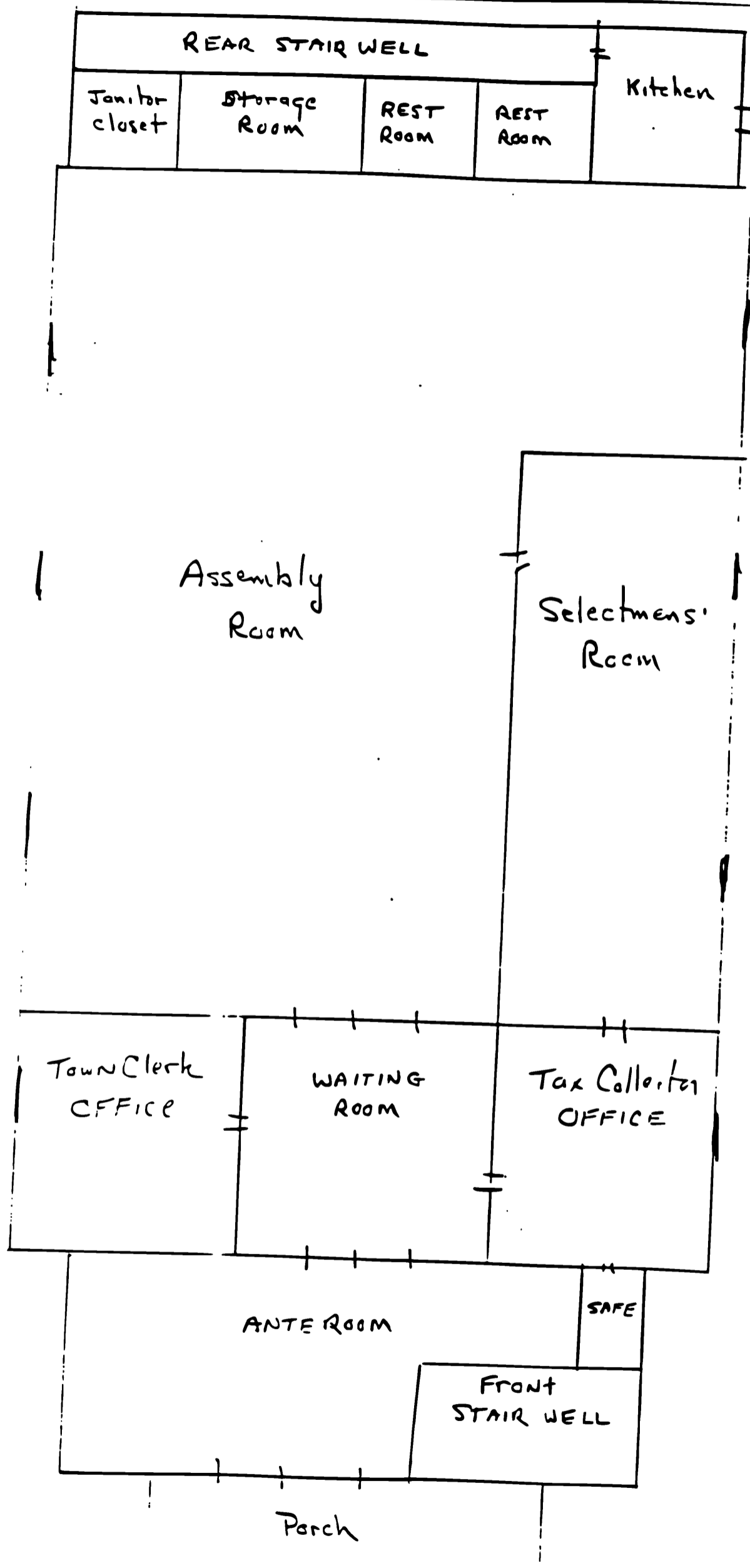
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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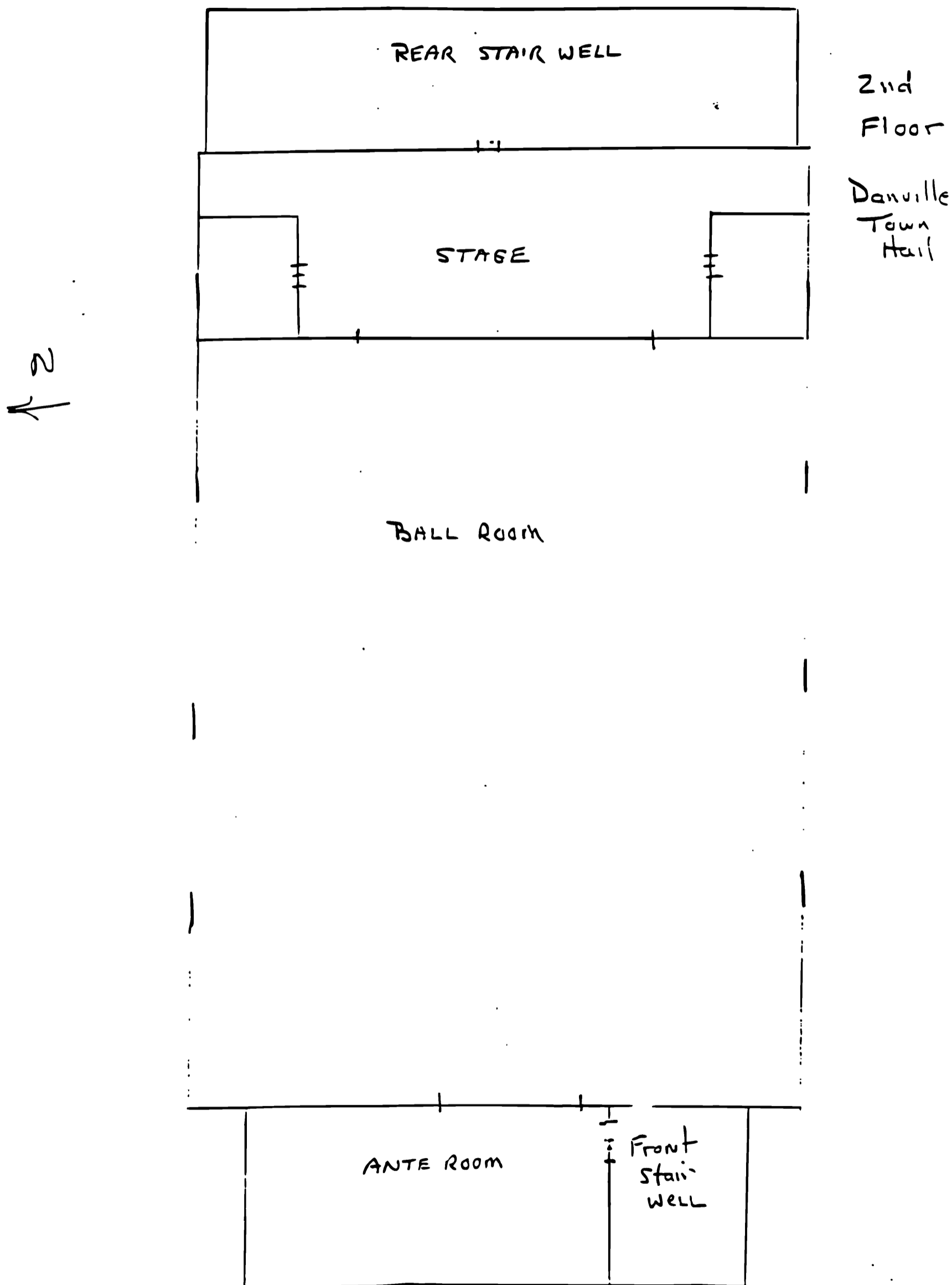


1st Floor  
Danville  
Town Hall



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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