

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received DEC 6 1981

date entered JAN 11 1982

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

1. Name

historic ADAMS MEMORIAL BUILDING

and/or common ADAMS MEMORIAL BUILDING

2. Location

street & number West Broadway _____ not for publication

city, town Derry _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state New Hampshire code 33 county Rockingham code 015

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Town of Derry

street & number 48 East Broadway

city, town Derry _____ vicinity of _____ state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Registry of Deeds
Rockingham County Courthouse

street & number Hampton Road

city, town Exeter _____ state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NONE has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> interior only	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Adams Memorial Building is a flat-roofed brick structure of two stories above an architectural basement. Its walls are laid in common bond, with granite and wood detailing. The facade (south elevation) is composed of three wide bays. The central bay is a projecting pavilion with an arched opening at the level of the main floor, reached by a twelve-foot-wide flight of granite steps. This opening, a stilted arch with brickwork laid to simulate rusticated voussoirs, shelters a recessed doorway. The arch is embraced by paired Tuscan columns which rise from panelled pedestals. Above each pair of columns is a short architrave with a recessed central panel and an acanthus-carved console at its inner end. These support a frieze and a denticulated cornice; the former extends around three sides of the building to form a belt course between the two principal stories. Above the entablature, the second story of the pavilion is pierced by two rectangular 2/2 windows with deep flat brick arches and, above these, two bull's eye windows. These features are flanked by brick pilasters which support a full entablature having a moulded wooden architrave, a brick frieze, and a modillioned cornice with egg and dart bed mouldings. Above this entablature rises a panelled brick parapet which creates an architectural attic and screens the building's roof. At the top of the pavilion, rising to the full height of the parapet, is a triangular pediment with a modillioned cornice.

The bays that flank the central pavilion are both defined by single brick pilasters which extend to the building's main entablature at each corner. Each bay has two rectangular 2/2 windows, topped by deep flat brick arches, on the first story and a single broad arched window on the second. These windows each have two 6/6 sashes, separated by a mullion, below the level of the springline, and three curved sashes, separated by two mullions, above.

The basement story of the facade has two square windows to the west (left) of the central pavilion and a single doorway to the east.

The east elevation of the building, like the front, is divided into three bays which are defined by wide brick pilasters that rise to the building's main entablature. Fenestration is somewhat irregular on the first story, consisting of rectangular windows with deep flat brick arches. The second floor has a single arched window in each bay, with bull's eye windows piercing the spandrels of the front and rear arches. At the front (southeast) corner of the building is an enclosed brick vestibule which encloses a ticket booth and provides access to the stairway leading to a second-floor auditorium. This vestibule has an arched doorway on the front, flanked by paired Tuscan columns which support a wooden entablature. The vestibule was originally an open porte cochere which sheltered the doorway at the base of the auditorium stairs.

The west elevation is similar to the east, having somewhat irregular first-story fenestration and three arched windows on the second floor. The central bay is marked by a semicircular brick projection on the first story. The second floor has a fire escape with an exit door piercing part of the front arched window.

The rear (north) elevation has pilasters at its two corners and a wide chimney at its middle. There are three rectangular first-floor windows and, east of the chimney, a tall stage door which formerly had a beam projecting above it for hoisting large objects to the stage area.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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JAN 12 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET #1-DESCRIPTION

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The interior includes rooms which were originally designed for a public library, selectmen's offices, water board offices, police, town clerk, and banquet hall, as well as the "opera house" or theater on the second floor. Several municipal functions are still carried out in the building, though town meetings are now held elsewhere, the town library has moved to a separate building, and the "opera house" has fallen into disuse. The latter is currently the subject of an architectural survey to determine what renovations are necessary to restore it to its formerly impressive condition.

Original appearance: The Adams Memorial Building has changed relatively little in exterior appearance since its completion in 1904. The principal change has been the enclosure of the porte cochere on the east to create a vestibule and ticket booth.

The interior of the building has undergone a number of changes due to fire. On January 13, 1914, flames did some \$40,000 worth of damage to the structure, destroying the basement and consuming the theater and the building's roof. Again in 1927, fire damaged the structure. In both cases, fire was followed by interior rebuilding or remodelling, and interior detailing dates from several periods, including recent years.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1891

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Adams Memorial Building is a good example of a New England municipal structure of the late nineteenth century. Like many of its type in New Hampshire, the structure was intended to serve several purposes, providing facilities for town offices, a library, town meetings, and the plays and shows which constituted an important element of entertainment in small towns during that era.

Though designed for a town with a population of only 3,600, the building was the work of an architect with wide experience in planning such structures. George Gilman Adams (born 1850) began his architectural practice in Lawrence, Massachusetts, at least as early as 1883. In 1891, he designed the imposing Dover, N.H. city hall, which burned in 1933. This structure, an elaborate Romanesque design with a monumental clock tower, suggested many of the facilities later included, at smaller scale, in the Derry building. It included police rooms, board rooms, a banquet hall, and one of the finest theaters north of Boston. In 1892, Adams designed a library for the city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, using a Romanesque plan which closely resembled those of H.H. Richardson's libraries. In 1900, turning to an elaborate Beaux Arts classicism, Adams designed the Essex County Court House in Lawrence. Although this structure was far larger and more elaborate than the Derry building, it provided some precedents for the latter, including the use of an architectural basement and a panelled roof parapet, an arched front doorway with rusticated voussoirs and a classical enframing, and large arched second-floor windows. Adams also designed notable dwellings in the Lawrence area, some of which utilized colonial revival design elements that recall features of the Adams Memorial Building.

The Adams Memorial Building, then, is in one sense a typical turn-of-the-century New Hampshire municipal structure. At the same time, it represents a distillation of planning concepts and stylistic ideas perfected by its architect in far larger communities. The building translates these ideas into simple terms and basic materials which are appropriate to a small New Hampshire town.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

UTM NOT VERIFIED
NAD 83 NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Derry, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	0	9	8	0	0	4	7	4	9	9	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Map #29, lot #189

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donald B. Young, Town Manager & Ralph Bonner*
Derry Historical Society*

organization Town of Derry date May 1981

street & number Town of Derry*
48 East Broadway telephone (603) 432-7724

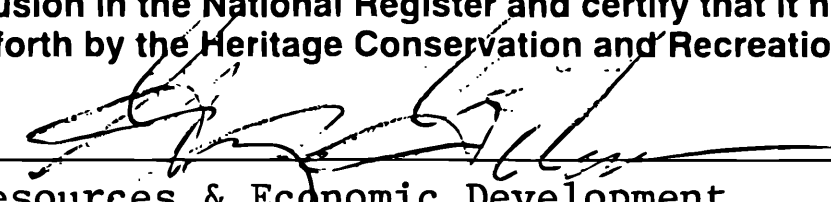
city or town Derry* state New Hampshire*
Derry state New Hampshire

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, NH Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date December 2, 1981

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

 date 1/11/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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RECEIVED	SEP 8 1981
DATE ENTERED	JAN 21 1982

MAJOR
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

CONTINUATION SHEET #2-REFERENCES ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Benjamin Adams Will dated Dec. 13, 1889 - Report in Derry News, Mar. 19, 1981.

Derry Enterprise, Vol. I, No. 5.

From Turnpike to Interstate - town history, pub. 1977 (ISBN0-914016-47-4) - pages 56,
140.

Glimpses of Derry - booklet, pub. 1969 - p. 38.

Derry News, Fri., Jan. 16, 1914 - p. 1.