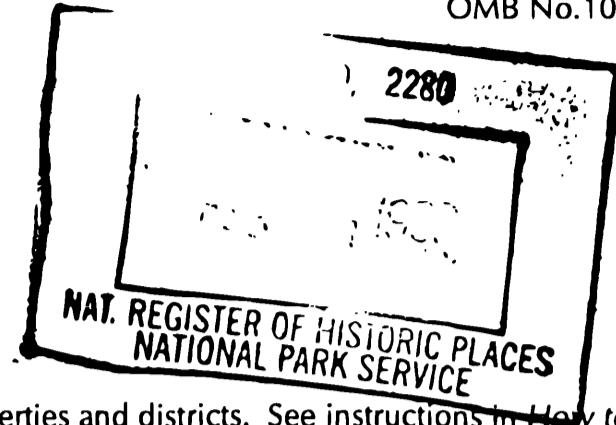


**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



268

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 Rollinsford Town Hall

other names/site number NA

**2. Location**

street & number 667 Main Street NA not for publication

city or town Rollinsford NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Strafford code 017 zip code 03869

**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.)

Nancy C. Dutton 1/28/99  
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

Name of Property Rollinsford Town Hall

County and State Strafford, New Hampshire

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper *Bob Savage* Date of Action 3/5/99

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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: GOVERNMENT/CITY HALL  
GOVERNMENT/GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
SOCIAL/CIVIC  
EDUCATION/SCHOOL

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

Cat: GOVERNMENT/GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
GOVERNMENT/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

**7. Description**

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

Queen Anne

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asphalt

walls vinyl

other wood

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

Name of Property Rollinsford Town Hall County and State Strafford, New Hampshire

**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 (A)

Architecture (C)

**Period of Significance**

1893-1949 (A)

1894 (C)

**Significant Dates**

1894

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

Alvah Thurston Ramsdell

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Property Rollinsford Town Hall

County and State Strafford, New Hampshire

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of Property less than one (0.17 acre)

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>19</u>	<u>352095</u>	<u>4788370</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Nelson Henry Lawry, resident of Rollinsford  
James L. Garvin, State Architectural Historian \*

organization NH Division of Historical Resources \* date 29 December 1998

street & number 327 Rollins Road (603) 742-0543  
Box 2043 \* telephone (603) 271-6436 \*

city or town Rollinsford, NH 03869-5109  
Concord state NH \* zip code 03302-2043 \*

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name Town of Rollinsford

street & number 667 Main Street telephone (603) 742-2510

city or town Rollinsford state NH zip code 03869

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**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

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**Rollinsford Town Hall  
Rollinsford, NH**

**Description**

The Rollinsford Town Hall is a large, two-story wood-framed building that stands on a high brick foundation. The main body of the building measures 80'-2" feet wide by 46'-3" feet deep, and the main axis of the structure runs east-and-west. The building is covered with vinyl siding, and has a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. At the northeast corner of the structure rises a tall, square tower with a steep hipped roof. The volume of this tower is mostly contained within that of the main building, but the tower's walls project eighteen inches beyond the plane of the main walls to create a contrast between the vertical lines of the tower and the horizontal proportions of the main building. Broad, gable-roofed dormers punctuate the roof of the building on the north (front), east, and south slopes.

Because the town hall is asymmetrical, with a single tower at one corner, each elevation of the building differs from the others. The fenestration of each elevation also reflects the presence of a large hall that fills the entire second story and extends upward beyond the height of the building's eaves.

The front (north) elevation is dominated by the tall tower at its left (east) corner. Apart from the vertical accent provided by the tower, the fenestration of this side of the building is generally symmetrical within the center of the elevation. At the right-hand (northwest) corner of the building, doubled windows on the basement, first, and second stories provide a visual counterbalance to the tower on the opposite corner.

Projecting eighteen inches beyond the wall plane of the front elevation, the tower is the most striking architectural feature of the façade and provides the principal entrance to the building. This entrance is sheltered by a gable-roofed porch at the first floor level, supported on high brick plinths at each side. These plinths embrace a set of six granite steps that rise to the level of the porch floor and provide a base for a pair of stylized Ionic columns and a pair of antae that support the porch roof. The entrance door to the building is placed within a paneled recess that extends into the body of the tower. The sheltering roof of the porch is steeply pitched, and its boarded ceiling is affixed to the undersides of the rafters. The clapboarded tympanum at the front of the porch is pierced by a semicircular lunette that is filled with turned spindles of graduated lengths. A wooden ramp, supported on steel and wood posts, now rises to the front door above the original steps.

Above the porch, the tower walls are pierced by a pair of windows at the second-story or auditorium level, and by an identical pair at the level of the balcony at the eastern end of the auditorium. These windows are filled with eight-over-one sashes, in which the upper sashes have small lights around the periphery and a double-length light at the center. On the wall between these two levels is a wooden tablet bearing the date "1893." Above its third story, the tower rises above the intersecting hipped roof of the main building and its design is identical on all four faces. This stage of the tower is adapted as a belfry with louvered shutters that are bordered by reeded Ionic pilasters. Above the louvers, surrounded by a bolection-moulded bezel that is

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Rollinsford Town Hall  
Rollinsford, NH**

**Description (continued)**

supported by the pilasters, the tower includes round panels for the dials of a tower clock that was never installed. Wide corner pilasters (now covered with vinyl "clapboards") embrace the four faces of the tower. These pilasters terminate in paired wooden brackets that support a deeply-projecting cornice. Above the cornice rises a steeply-pitched pyramidal roof which terminates in a metal finial at its apex.

Though asymmetrical, the north elevation is balanced about a central axis which is defined by a broad-gabled dormer in the center of the expanse of the roof. A single-flue brick chimney rises through the building and emerges at the ridge of this dormer. Below, the face of the building has single windows on the first and second stories, with doubled windows, separated by mullions, at the western end of the elevation. All first-story windows are filled with eight-over-one sashes of the type seen in the tower. All second-story or auditorium windows are filled with one-over-one sashes having smaller transom lights above the two main sashes.

Although windows are, in general, evenly spaced on the north elevation, an extra window has been inserted on the first story between two others, creating a closely-spaced group of three. This arrangement is echoed on the southern elevation of the building and reflects a twentieth-century remodeling of the interior of the building.

A second brick chimney pierces the roof of the building just above the cornice near the northwestern corner of the structure.

The eastern elevation of the building, like the façade, is dominated by the tall tower at the northeast corner of the structure. The eastern elevation of the tower is identical with the northern elevation except that a large doubled window with a central mullion replaces the entrance door seen on the north. All windows on this elevation of the tower have eight-over-one sashes like those described under the north elevation.

As on the north, the eastern elevation of the building is given a central axis by the presence of a broad gabled dormer in the center of the roof. This dormer houses three windows, separated by mullions. Together with the windows on the third story of the tower, these windows provide natural light to a balcony that extends across the eastern end of the building's auditorium. Below this dormer, a set of three stepped windows illuminate a staircase that rises from the first story to a hall outside the auditorium on the second story.

As on the north, the eastern elevation is given visual balance by doubled windows near its southern corner. These windows match those near the western corner of the façade, and serve the same purpose with respect to the dominant tower on the opposite corner of the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

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**Rollinsford Town Hall  
Rollinsford, NH**

**Description (continued)**

The architect's original rendering of 1893 discloses that the building has always had wagon doors in the high brick foundation beneath these doubled windows; originally, these doors provided egress for a fire engine. A lifting overhead garage door has replaced the original hinged doors. An entrance door to the basement is placed beneath the central axis of this elevation within a segmental-arched opening in the brick basement wall. Both of these doors originally served both a fire company and the town police department, which maintained its office and "lobby" or cell block in the basement from 1894. A small fixed sash to the right of the basement door illuminates a staircase that rises from the cellar to the first story of the building. A second basement window lights the cellar beneath the tower.

The fenestration of the southern or rear elevation of the building is generally balanced around a central axis which is defined by a broad gabled dormer in the roof. Containing two windows like its counterpart on the north, this dormer illuminates the upper zone of the side wall of the auditorium, at the ceiling level. Evidence within the building reveals that a third chimney once penetrated the roof near the eastern end of this elevation, but this feature has been dismantled to a point below the roof.

The rear elevation has six windows at the second-story or auditorium level, and seven windows on the first story. As on the north, an added window has been inserted on the first story, creating a single, tightly-spaced, asymmetrical group of three openings opposite the identical arrangement on the façade. All second-story windows have one-over-one sashes; all first-story windows have eight-over-one sashes, as elsewhere on the building. The brick basement wall originally had an opening beneath each of the six original windows on the floors above. The two windows nearest the eastern end of the building have been bricked up. The third opening from the western end is a door which is set within a segmental-arched opening in the brick basement wall and provides another means of access to the cellar.

The western elevation of the building has an unbroken hipped roof. The second-story elevation has two windows at the stage level, with two others below them on the first-story level. An interior stairway leads from the first-floor corridor up to a small hallway placed to the south (left) of the second-floor stage, thus providing a second means of egress from the auditorium on the second story. An exit door in the center of the western elevation provides egress from the bottom of this stairway and from the central corridor of the first story.

The interior of the town hall is finished with woodwork that is characteristic of the late nineteenth century. All original millwork is longleaf southern yellow pine, which is varnished to display its dark coloration, and perhaps was further darkened by staining as well. Door and window casings are symmetrically moulded and have corner blocks with circular central bosses. Doors are five-panel. Wainscoting is beaded "ceiling board," applied vertically and capped by a moulded chair rail.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 4

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**Rollinsford Town Hall  
Rollinsford, NH**

**Description (continued)**

The first story of the building has a series of rooms and offices arranged along the north and south sides of the building. These rooms lie on each side of a double-loaded corridor that extends westward from the building's principal entrance at the base of the tower to the second doorway on the western end of the first story. The most public of these spaces is a relatively large meeting and voting room that fills the southeast corner of this story, adjacent to the entrance hallway at the eastern end of the building. Most of the original plastered walls, wainscoting, and door and window casings on the first story have been covered with plywood panels having a cherry veneer. Flush doors have replaced most original doors on the first floor.

The auditorium on the second story remains largely in original condition. The auditorium is reached by a balustraded staircase that rises from double doors in a lobby at the entrance of the building and continues upward to the balcony at the eastern end of the building. Wainscoted in ceiling board, the stairway has an open stringer and balusters of an elongated vasiform pattern. Newel and angle posts are heavy, turned members with multiple ring, ball, and conical sections. The staircase leads to a hallway that extends across the eastern end of the building at the second floor level. A wide, double doorway enters the auditorium from the center of this hallway, at the top of the stairs. A second door opens into the auditorium from a cloak room that occupies the area within the tower.

The axis of the auditorium runs east and west, with the stage at the western end and a balcony at the east. The room is lighted by four windows on each side at the level of the main floor, with two additional windows, set within the north and south dormers, at the ceiling level on each side. The walls of the auditorium are wainscoted to the level of the window stools, and the wainscoting, of beaded ceiling board, extends across the swelling proscenium of the stage. The proscenium arch is provided with wide wooden casings with projecting ears near the top of each side. A door to the left of the stage communicates with an enclosed staircase that descends to the first floor along the western wall of the building. The westernmost windows on the north and south elevations of the building light the backstage area.

The walls above the wainscoting are plastered and painted. Since the volume of the auditorium extends upward into the roof area of the building, the auditorium has slanted ceilings at each side, reflecting the lower slope of the roof and rising to a level ceiling above the center of the room. The balcony also has a slanted ceiling on the east except where the tower rises through the structure. The ceiling above the stage is likewise slanted beneath the western slope of the building's hipped roof. The flat ceiling in the center of the room is equipped with four electric light fixtures that occupy locations where original electroliers were hung in 1893.

The floor of the auditorium is level and is covered with painted boards. The room was originally furnished with 413 chairs and 38 settees; some three-part chair-back settees remain in the room.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 5

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**Rollinsford Town Hall  
Rollinsford, NH**

**Description (continued)**

The breastwork of the balcony swells forward at each side of the auditorium, and each of these curved projections is supported by a steel tie rod that extends downward from the roof framing. The front of the gallery is sheathed in varnished southern yellow pine, and the balcony has a wooden balustrade with turned vasiform balusters of a heavier pattern than those in the staircase. The floor of the balcony is level near the front, but gently rises from a point about five feet behind the balustrade toward the eastern wall of the building. Three arched openings provide visibility from the rear area of the balcony through a partition that transmits support from the lower hallway walls to the roof structure above the balcony.

**Original appearance:** The exterior appearance of the building has been altered somewhat by the application of vinyl siding over the original wooden cladding. Comparison of the present appearance of the building with early photographs and with the architect's original rendering, published in the Rollinsford town report for the year ending on February 15, 1894, reveals the extent of this alteration. The cornice of the building is deep and bracketed. The existing vinyl "clapboarding" covers a patterned frieze that extends down the side walls of the structure to the level of the bottoms of the transom sashes in the three-part second-story windows. Near the tops of the first-story windows, a continuous horizontal band, likewise hidden beneath the vinyl siding, extends around the building, providing a strong horizontal emphasis near the top of the first story. Similarly, the walls of the tower were originally subdivided into a number of rectangular panels by horizontal and vertical bands that defined window openings and offered opportunities for the display of patterned shingle work and contrasting areas of flush sheathing. Much of the original articulation of the tower has been hidden under vinyl "clapboarding."

As noted above, a single window has been added on both the north and south locations between two of the original windows.

On the interior, the application of plywood sheathing over original wall surfaces on the first floor has hidden the original character of the building, which is fully revealed in the unaltered auditorium and balcony above.

Despite the fact that some of the exterior and interior millwork of the Rollinsford Town Hall has been covered with modern materials, the structure survives with only insignificant alterations from the architect's original design of 1893.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 6

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**Rollinsford Town Hall  
Rollinsford, NH**

**Statement of Significance**

The Rollinsford Town Hall is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for significance in Politics/Government. It has been the seat of town government since its dedication in 1894. It is also eligible under Criterion C for importance in Architecture, as the work of noted New Hampshire architect Alvah T. Ramsdell. The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the time period 1894 to 1949, the Register's arbitrary 50-year cut-off date.

**Politics/Government:**

The Rollinsford Town Hall was dedicated in March, 1894, as the headquarters for town government in Rollinsford, an important textile manufacturing and farming town then holding a population of 2,000, in southeastern New Hampshire. It has continued to be the sole seat of town government since that time. The building combines town offices and meeting rooms with a spacious auditorium for local and traveling musical theatrical groups, providing an area of cultural and civic center.

This is the only structure ever built in the town of Rollinsford for use as a town hall. Prior to 1849, Rollinsford had been a part of Somersworth, initially a parish of Old Dover. During the time town meetings were held at a succession of meeting houses. The first town meeting under the name of Rollinsford was held at the Sullivan School in 1849. Subsequent to that town meetings were held in the village of Salmon Falls in a hall on Front Street, until the construction of the present town hall.

**Architecture:**

Rollinsford Town Hall was designed by one of the most successful and prolific New Hampshire architects of any period. The building was the first of four comparable town halls designed by Dover architect Alvah Thurston Ramsdell between 1893 and 1908. The building therefore represents not only a design by an important architect, but also the prototype for the largest grouping of town halls designed by a single architect in the state of New Hampshire.

Alvah Thurston Ramsdell (1852-1928) was one of New Hampshire's most prolific and successful architects at any period. Specializing in public buildings, Ramsdell nevertheless designed scores of homes and other private structures. Well grounded in the building trades through his early experience and employment, Ramsdell designed well-engineered structures in both masonry and wood. Most of his schools, town halls, and business blocks have remained in use and have become recognized as monuments in their respective communities; all these structures have proven to be of enduring construction and workmanship.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 7

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**Rollinsford Town Hall  
Rollinsford, NH**

**Statement of Significance (Architecture continued)**

In contrast to many other nineteenth-century architects who also entered their profession through earlier experience as builders, Ramsdell possessed a keen sense of design and architectural expression in addition to his knowledge of sound construction. Working in the Romanesque revival, Gothic revival, Queen Anne, or colonial revival styles, Ramsdell always employed his architectural vocabulary with fluency and discipline, clothing his buildings in detailing that expressed the character of the structure but remained subservient to the building's function. These characteristics have earned many of Ramsdell's public buildings recognition as important local landmarks that often symbolize the identity of their communities.

Ramsdell was born in York, Maine in 1852. His father was a carpenter and farmer. Like his father, Ramsdell worked as a journeyman carpenter for about three years after serving an apprenticeship with William A. McIntire, a noted builder, contractor, and millwork manufacturer of South Berwick, Maine.

Seeking broader experience and opportunity, Ramsdell moved to Boston about 1873 to work as a building contractor. Ramsdell's competence as a builder earned him employment with some of Boston's leading contractors of the period, including William McKenzey, Whidden, Hill and Company, and B. D. Whitcomb and Company. Ramsdell's employment with these firms brought him responsibility for superintendence over construction of some of Boston's most notable structures during the 1870s and 1880s. Ramsdell directed the construction of one of the Ames Buildings, designed by Henry Hobson Richardson, the Cyclorama in Boston, designed by C. A. Cummings and W. T. Sears, and the Boston Storage Warehouse, designed by William E. Chamberlin and W. M. Whidden—all monumental masonry structures.

During this period, wishing to move from construction toward design, Ramsdell began to study architecture and drawing in Boston evening schools. Boston architect William G. Preston, who maintained an active office between 1862 and 1910, employed Ramsdell for a time.

In 1889, Ramsdell moved to Dover, adjacent to his earlier homes in Maine, opening an office that he maintained until his death in 1928. Within a short time, he began to receive important commissions in Dover and vicinity.

Of these designs, perhaps the most monumental was the Strafford Bank Building of 1895, a massive, Romanesque structure of granite that strongly reflects the design of H. H. Richardson's Ames-Pray Building of 1886-7 in Boston. The Strafford Bank Building still dominates Central Square in Dover.

One of Ramsdell's specialties was the design of schools, especially large high school buildings. Among his commissions were Chandler School in Somersworth (1898-9), the Dover High School (1904-5), North Berwick (Maine) High School (1904-5), Plymouth High School (1904), York (Maine) High School (1905), Eliot

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 8

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**Rollinsford Town Hall  
Rollinsford, NH**

**Statement of Significance (Architecture continued)**

(Maine) High School (c. 1906), School Street School in Rochester (1910), Ashland High School (1911), Woodsville High School (1913), Hamlin Grammar School in Springvale, Maine (1913), Salisbury (Massachusetts) Grammar School (c. 1917). Many of these buildings are two or three stories in height above the basement, have projecting front pavilions that are articulated by tall arcades filled with expansive windows, and have the stairhalls on each end, also lighted by broad, arched window openings.

Ramsdell also received commissions for the design of a number of town halls in southeastern New Hampshire, some for commercially active rail centers and some for more rural communities. The wealthier towns, including Alton (1894) and Wakefield (Sanbornville Village) (1895) built their halls in brick; other towns like Rollinsford (Salmon Falls Village) (1895) and New Durham (1908) built similar designs in wood.

All of these town buildings are characterized by tall corner belltowers intended for town clocks and bells, by first-floor ranges of offices, and by second-floor auditoriums with balconies adjacent to the towers. All of them utilize roof dormers that throw added light into the ceiling level of the auditoriums to supplement the main windows nearer the floor.

Ramsdell also designed a number of specialty buildings. One such structure is the Hiram Roberts Grange hall in Somersworth, a wooden structure that shares several characteristics, on a smaller scale, with the town hall plans described above. Other specialized buildings include the Wentworth Home for the Aged (1897) and the Dover Children's Home (1898), both in Dover. Ramsdell's skill in the Gothic style is displayed in his Ricker Memorial Chapel (1912) in Dover's Pine Hill Cemetery.

Ramsdell's skill and popularity as a domestic architect is shown by the fact that he had been commissioned to design over seventy-five private dwellings by the time his practice was profiled in a local newspaper in 1916.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Rollinsford Town Hall  
Rollinsford, NH**

**Bibliography**

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Catalfo, Alfred, Jr. The History of the Town of Rollinsford, New Hampshire, 1623-1973. Somersworth: New Hampshire Printers, 1973.

Emerson, Ruth and Greenaway, Florence, Rollinsford's Heritage II. Privately published, 1995.

Fosters Daily Democrat, August 10, 1916, and May 29, 1928.

Rollinsford Town Report, February 15, 1894 and February 15, 1895.

Scales, John. History of Strafford County, New Hampshire. Chicago: Richard-Arnold Publishing Company, 1914.

Strafford Regional Planning Commission, Salmon Falls: The Mill Village, Historic District Study for the Town of Rollinsford, New Hampshire, Technical Assistance Project CPA-NH-01-36-1011, May 1974.

**Verbal boundary description**

Boundaries of the nominated property are shown on the attached sketch map, and correspond to those of Rollinsford Tax Map 10, Lot 103.

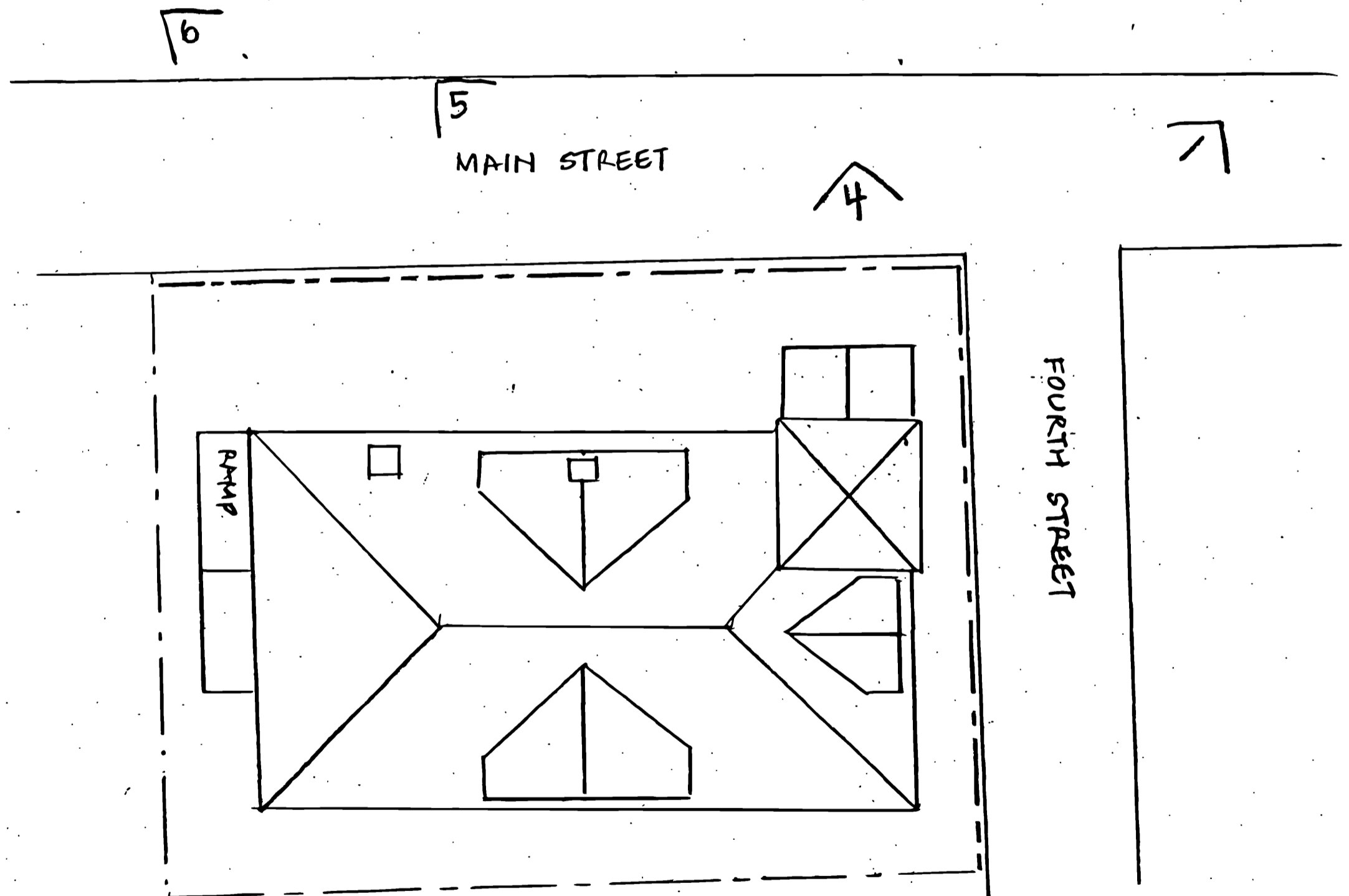
**Boundary justification**

The nominated property is the site upon which the building was originally constructed.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

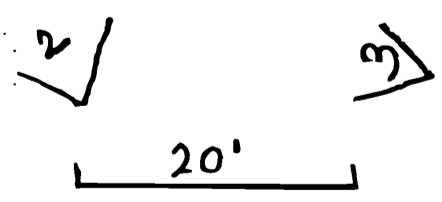
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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ROLLINSFORD TOWN HALL  
ROLLINSFORD NH

PHOTO KEY  
&  
SKETCH MAP



BOUNDARY