Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John J. Morrill Store

AND/OR COMMON

Mount Belknap Grange No. 52 Grange Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Belknap Mountain Road ___NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Gilford	__ VICINITY OF	First

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
New Hampshire	33	Belknap	001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	X BEING CONSIDERED	__ YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	X OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mount Belknap Grange Corporation

STREET & NUMBER

Belknap Mountain Road

CITY, TOWN		STATE
Gilford	__ VICINITY OF	New Hampshire, 03246

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.   Belknap County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

64 Court Street

CITY, TOWN	STATE
Laconia	New Hampshire, 03246

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN   STATE

⊞ DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mount Belknap Grange building is a 2-1/2 story clapboarded structure with a gable roof and a low stone foundation, standing at the intersection of two roads within the Gilford Village Historic District. Attached to the north elevation of the main structure is a wooden gable-roofed wing which is 2-1/2 stories high at its intersection with the main building and 1-1/2 stories high at its northern end. The west gable end of the main building, facing Belknap Mountain Road, is treated as the facade. It has two doors and two store windows on the first floor beneath a porch roof (the door on the left opening onto a stairway to the second floor), three symmetrically placed windows on the second story, and a single window in the attic. The southern (side) elevation, facing Potter Hill Road, has two windows on the first floor and three above. The east (rear) elevation has two windows on each floor, offset toward the south to accommodate a stairhall which rises inside the north wall of the building; there is a single attic window in the gable. The exterior detailing of the main building is characteristic of the Greek Revival style. Corner boards are widened and provided with moulded capitals to form pilasters. The sides of the building have deep wooden entablatures above the pilasters, while the gable ends have wide frieze boards beneath boldly projecting raking cornices. Window sash (except for the two large 2/2 store windows) are 6/6 and have square-edged casings and slightly projecting ovolo caps. A single-flue brick chimney rises through the ridge near the east (rear) wall of the building.

The 2-1/2 story wing assumed its present form in 1928 and was designed to harmonize with the style of the main building, having square-edged window casings, 6/6 sash, and a strongly projecting cornice. The 1-1/2 story extension of the wing has simpler detailing, yet is coherent with the other portions of the structure.

Original Appearance: Except for such minor changes as the addition of the porch roof (which appears to date from the late nineteenth century), the Mount Belknap Grange building seems to have retained its original appearance until after 1909. Grange records indicate that in that year, when the Grange purchased the structure from John B. Morrill, son of the builder, the lower floor of the building remained a store, the second floor was an open storeroom, and the wing on the north was a one-story wood shed and horse shed. A photograph of the structure in this condition was published in the Granite Monthly magazine in 1898. After purchasing the building, the Grange divided the first floor into two rooms, using the front as a dining room and the back as a kitchen. In 1916, they installed a furnace in the back room. In 1928 the north wing was enlarged to two stories to provide new kitchen space on the first floor and an anteroom and regalia room above. At the same time the furnace was moved to the building's cellar and the dining room and kitchen were again made into a single room.

In the early 1950s the one-story wing at the far north was converted from a shed into a room for the Junior Grange, the kitchen was modernized, a fire escape was provided from the second-fllor anteroom, and all exterior doors were rehung to open outward.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLUGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	_X_ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
_X_1800-1899	_X_COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
_X_1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857-8   BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mount Belknap Grange building is a well-preserved example of a mid-nineteenth century country store with good Greek Revival detailing. As store and post office, and later as Grange hall, the building has played an important role in the life of a typical small New Hampshire village.

Architecture: The Mount Belknap Grange building is a well-preserved example of a rural commercial structure in the Greek Revival style. It is contemporary with many of the nearby structures of the small village of Gilford, and its architectural features relate closely to those of many of its neighbors.

Commerce: The Mount Belknap Grange building was constructed in the late 1850s as a store. According to the unpublished reminiscences of Alvah Folsom Hunter of Gilford,

> about 1857 or '58 a third store building was erected in the
> village, on the edge of the millyard and directly opposite
> Mr. Munsey's store; it was built by Mr. [John J.] Morrill for
> a Levi B. Thompson & Son, who had been keeping a general
> store in Topsham, Maine, but being New Hampshire men they
> longed to get back to New Hampshire. This store never became
> very popular and wasn't profitable from the start,--it was
> discontinued soon after the close of the Civil War and the
> remaining stock auctioned off. The building is now [1926]
> owned and occupied by the local Grange. 1

Although the building had a short history as a store, it retained its original form throughout the nineteenth century and later served for many years as the Gilford post office.

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[1]Alvah Folsom Hunter, "A New Hampshire Boyhood," unpublished typescript in the New
   Hampshire Historical Society library, Chapter 3, pp. 9-10. Cf. Chapter 4, p. 5.
   The story that the structure was originally the store of Capt. Benjamin Weeks, Jr.,
   seems to have appeared first about 1962 in Hector L. Bolduc, The Gilford Story (n.p.,
   n.d.), p. 33. Bolduc writes, "Benjamin Weeks' emporium was in the present-day Grange
   Hall and when he went out of business, his stock was auctioned. Later, Levi Thompson
   had a market at the same site."

⑨ MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fisher, C. Howard, "Gilford," Granite Monthly, XXV, 1 (July, 1898), pp. 28-39.
Hunter, Alvah Folsom, "A New Hampshire Boyhood," unpublished typescript, 1926,
   New Hampshire Historical Society library.

⑩ GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY   .24 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A |1,9| |3|0,5|6,0,0| |4,8|2,4|2,5,0| B |_| |_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_|
   ZONE   EASTING   NORTHING   ZONE   EASTING   NORTHING

C |_| |_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_| D |_| |_,_,_,_| |_,_,_,_|

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Town of Gilford, New Hampshire, Tax Assessor's Map 22, lot 2-159.

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

Ruth S. Pratt, Librarian

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Gilford Library	January 30, 1979
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
R.F.D. #5, Box 134	(603) 524-6042
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Laconia	New Hampshire, 03246

⑫ STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

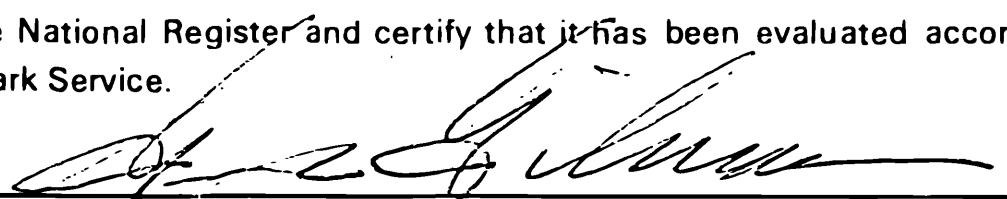THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE _____

TITLE Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development DATE
      NH State Historic Preservation Officer   May 23, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

_____   DATE 8/29/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION   KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: _____   DATE 8-26-80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER