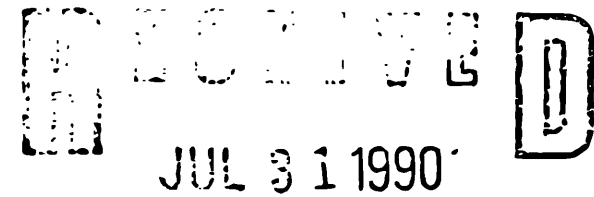


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Grasmere Schoolhouse #9 and Town Hall

other names/site number Grasmere Grange Hall

### 2. Location

street & number 87 Center Street N/A  not for publication

city, town Goffstown N/A  vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Hillsborough code NH011 zip code 03045

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

### 4. 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.  See continuation sheet.

R. Street Waller  
Signature of certifying official

July 26, 1990  
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.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

### 5. 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

Melrose Byrum

9/5/90

for  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

GOVERNMENT/town hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

SOCIAL/meeting hall

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Weatherboard

roof Slate

other Shingle

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Grasmere school and town hall was built in 1889 to serve the needs of a local school district, the town of Goffstown, and several community organizations in the village of Goffstown Center, later named Grasmere. The building stands as a focal point in the hamlet of Grasmere (one of several villages within the township), and retains a setting little changed from that of a century ago. The nominated property retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Grasmere school and town hall is a two-and-a-half story wood-framed building which stands on a foundation of local field stone and split granite. The building has a T-shaped floor plan, and is composed of a rectangular main block, oriented with a long elevation facing Center Street, and a projecting central pavilion and tower. The building stands over a shallow basement, and has balloon-framed walls reinforced at intervals by diagonal braces let into the faces of the studs. The structure is entirely framed with two-inch rough-sawn scantlings, the joists beneath the first and second floors being placed fourteen inches on center, with bridging for increased rigidity. The roof is framed with 2"x7" rafters, each of them reinforced at midpoint by collar beams which act as ceiling joists for a banquet room built within the original attic. The ceiling of the second floor hall or auditorium is supported from above by three large wood-and-iron trusses, each of them being independent of, and slightly below, the rafters and collar beams. The exterior of the building is covered by a combination of clapboards, wooden shingles, and patterned boards which create a rich contrast of textures. These varied surfaces, together with the imaginative design and detailing of the pavilion and tower, give the structure a pronounced Queen Anne character despite its formal symmetry.

The rectangular body of the structure measures about forty feet deep by fifty-five feet wide. On the first floor, the building is divided from front to back by a partition which separates the floor area into two equal halves. Each half originally provided a large schoolroom at the front of the building, and the windows lighting these rooms on the south or road side are doubled for good illumination. Windows on the east and west ends of the building are single openings with six-over-six sashes, placed in a symmetrical arrangement of four on each floor. Windows on the rear elevation are arranged irregularly.

 See continuation sheet

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The fenestration of the second floor generally reflects that of the first. The doubled windows of the facade provide good illumination for the auditorium on this floor, as do the several windows on the west end. The main block of the building has simple exterior detailing, with plain window casings and corner boards, and a deeply projecting cornice supported by small sawn brackets at each corner. The gable roof is given added visual interest by jerkin-headed ends. The roof is covered with grey slate, and has copper crestings at its ridge and at the hips at its ends.

The pavilion, and the tower that rises from its roof, provide the building's principal expression of architectural character on the exterior. The pavilion is three bays wide, and on the first floor has three doors. The central doorway, fitted with two sash doors, provides access to a stairway that fills a broad hall and rises in three runs to the foyer of the auditorium on the second floor. Each of the two central doors has a large light of clear glass to illuminate the stairway, and a surrounding margin of small colored and patterned panes to add color and visual interest to the lower hallway.

The flanking doors of the pavilion were originally matching five-panel units with flat panels and applied Grecian ogee mouldings; that on the left (west) has been replaced by a modern door with an integral fanlight. The corridors which extend from these two outer doors to the inner doors of the first-floor schoolrooms were originally used as cloak rooms, and are lighted by single six-over-six windows on their outer side walls. All three entrance doors are sheltered by a gable-roofed portico pierced by a triple arcade supported on square, fluted wooden columns. The spandrels and tympanum above this arcade are textured by an infilling of beaded boards laid in a basketweave pattern.

The second floor of the pavilion has three front windows. These light the upper run of the stairway (which rises on the west wall of the pavilion), the central lobby outside the second-floor auditorium, and a coat room and ticket booth on the east side of the pavilion. Second-floor windows on each of the side elevations of the pavilion provide additional light to the stairs and the coat room. All second-story pavilion windows have six-over-six sashes except the central window; this has arched sashes set within a rectangular framework, and reflects the central arch of the portico below.

The pavilion has a hipped roof, covered by slates. From this surface rises a three-part tower. The lowest stage has slated walls which flare outward at the base to merge with the roof planes. Piercing the front wall of this stage is a three-part rectangular window which lights an upper lobby and the adjoining part of a banquet room built within the original attic of the structure. Above the first stage of the tower is an open belfry with a wide semicircular arched opening in each face. The walls of this stage are clad in wooden shingles which have staggered butts and provide a textured covering for the otherwise unornamented walls. The third stage of the tower is a tall pyramidal roof, covered with slate, which rises from a moulded cornice to a copper finial and weathervane.

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The first and second stories of the building were at first the only floors finished for occupancy; the dining hall in the attic was finished in two stages in 1894 and 1915. Both main floors have identical wood trim. All rooms are finished with high wainscoting composed of vertical, triple-beaded ceiling board, probably planed from white ash and finished with varnish. The wainscoting has two applied rails; the lower, placed at window-stool height, has an ogee-and-cove profile, while the upper or cap moulding has a beaded face which reflects the detailing of the ceiling boards.

Doors throughout the building are mostly of a five-panel design that reflects the eastern exterior door in the pavilion. Doors on the second floor retain painted graining, which was probably the original treatment of those below as well. Door and window casings are symmetrically moulded, with double ogee mouldings set between fillets, and have square corner blocks bearing recessed circular bosses. Projecting corners of wainscoted or plastered walls are protected by three-quarter dowels which rise from the floor and terminate in acorn finials.

Where not hidden by later wall covering, plaster throughout the building is painted with cream-colored calcimine and is ornamented with a variety of contrasting bands or friezes. The stairhall leading to the upper lobby has a tan band bordered by a red stripe just above the wainscoting, which the second-floor hall has stenciled friezes above the chair rail and below the cornice.

The first floor of the building, originally intended for the use of Goffstown School District #9, is symmetrically subdivided by two cross partitions. One of these runs from front to back (south to north), creating two well-lighted schoolrooms at the front of the building. The other runs across the building from east to west, dividing off a rear room, twelve feet deep, at the rear of each schoolroom. The two rear rooms, in turn, have subsequently been divided for modern uses, including (from west to east) a small schoolroom, a kitchen, a toilet room, and a kitchen/toilet. An exterior entrance vestibule on the east side of the building provides access to this rear range of rooms and also provides an entrance to the cellar below.

The two main schoolrooms in the lower story have undergone some alteration, yet essentially retain all their original features. Their woodwork is intact, even to the dais on the north wall of each room. The blackboard on the inner (west) wall of the east schoolroom remains exposed to view, although the plastered walls of this room have been covered with plywood paneling and the ceiling has been covered with battened composition board. The west schoolroom, now used as a kindergarten, likewise has its walls and ceiling covered with modern materials. Its floor is overlaid with linoleum tiles, while that of the eastern schoolroom retains maple flooring.

The second floor of the building has changed little since its last renovation in 1911. The staircase leading upward from the central doorway of the building

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retains its well-turned balusters and heavy angle and newel posts. The foyer on the second floor occupies the center of the pavilion. To the east is a coat room, from which is subdivided a small ticket booth and a steep enclosed staircase that once led to the attic above. The coat room has its own door opening into the auditorium; both the door leading into the room and the door leading to the auditorium have sliding observation ports used in fraternal rituals. The foyer also contains a large firewood box constructed of the ceiling board used elsewhere for wainscoting. Hardwood trim in the foyer is varnished, while the pine doors are grained.

The second-floor auditorium, entered through double doors leading from the foyer, runs the full forty-foot depth of the building. Its floor extends forty feet from east to west, with a small stage occupying another fifteen feet at the east end. In the northeast corner of the building, to the left of the stage, is a corridor providing access to two toilet rooms and to the side of the stage.

The auditorium is well lighted by windows on the front, west end, and north. These are shuttered by inside louvered blinds hinged to the casings. Emergency egress is provided by fire escape doors on the west and north. The room has no fixed seats, but is provided by a number of Windsor chairs.

Detailing of the millwork in the hall is identical to that of the rooms below. The floor is of face-nailed hard pine. Above the wainscoting, the plaster walls are decorated with a stenciled frieze of foliate patterns. At the top of the room, below a moulded wooden cornice, is a second frieze of Grecian palmettes. The perimeter of the ceiling is outlined by a stenciled border of laurel leaves. The ceiling has two wooden rosettes which probably once supported kerosene chandeliers.

The attic of the building, lighted by a pair of windows at each end, has been plastered to the level of the collar ties of the rafters. At the east end, separated from the main hall by a partition of beaded ceiling board, is a kitchen. In the original attic of the building were placed three wood-and-iron trusses, running from front to back, to support the ceiling framing of the auditorium below. These trusses were retained when the attic was remodeled into a banquet room, and simple dining tables were built between and within the trusses. The banquet room is reached by a triple-run staircase built in 1894 above the stairs to the second floor. The room originally extended only to the western attic truss, where a plastered wall was constructed. In 1915, the room was extended westward to the full length of the building by removing this partition, plastering the remainder of the attic, and laying a new floor in the western end.

**Historic Physical Appearance:** The building has changed little since its construction in 1889. The only major stylistic change occurred in the second-floor foyer when the attic was finished as a dining room in 1894. The stairs leading upward to this foyer were originally treated with an open stairwell on the second story,

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and had a tall turned newel post running to the foyer ceiling at the corner of this opening. Overhead, in the ceiling of the foyer, was a light well which provided illumination from the three windows in the base of the tower. When the attic became a dining room, a new staircase, enclosed with plastered walls, was built above the original stairs, necessitating the removal of some of the balustrade. The original steep and narrow staircase to the attic was sealed off at this time, and the light well in the floor above was covered over to provide more floor area in the newly-created third-floor foyer. These changes were made sympathetically, only a few years after the building was constructed, and so display the same detailing as the original work.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1889

Education

1889-1940

Politics/Government

1889-1940

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. W. Ireland

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Grasmere school and town hall is significant under National Register Criterion C, embodying the distinctive characteristics of a building type, period, and method of construction, and possessing high artistic value. The structure is an attractive community building, designed by a local architect to provide for the needs of a school district, for public meetings, and for meetings of local fraternal organizations. Architecturally, the structure is a good example of the Queen Anne style. It stands as the most ambitious building in its village, its features symbolizing its status as a public structure and a center of community life. Its period of significance under Criterion C is the construction date of 1889.

The structure also represents two major social phenomena of nineteenth-century New Hampshire. First, it stands as an architectural reflection of the movement to consolidate and eventually to grade district schools, a movement which eventually resulted in the disappearance of the one-room district schoolhouses. Second, it represents the replacement of the traditional New England meeting house, serving both town and church, with a new type of structure devoted solely to the need for political meetings. As a building which embodies two major social changes of the nineteenth century, the Grasmere school and town hall is also significant under National Register Criterion A. Under Criterion A, both periods of significance are from the building's construction in 1889 to 1940, the arbitrary fifty-year cut-off date.

Architecture: The Grasmere building was designed by William W. Ireland, a carpenter and builder from the nearby city of Manchester, N.H., in 1889. It was intended to return to the village of Goffstown Center (later Grasmere) some of the status it had when the Goffstown meeting house was located on the same lot. Although the political and economic center of the township had moved to another village within the township with the coming of the railroad, the people of Goffstown Center were eager to reassert the importance they had once enjoyed. For this reason, the Grasmere town hall was designed in the same fashionable Queen Anne style as was seen on the principal town hall in Goffstown's main village, rebuilt the same year. The building was constructed with excellent materials and detailing, and with a flexible and ingenious plan which has ensured its serviceableness ever since.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- [Goffstown, Town of.] Annual Reports of the Selectmen and Treasurer of the Town of Goffstown (1889-1890).
- Hadley, George Plummer. History of the Town of Goffstown, 1733-1820, 2 vols. (Goffstown, N.H.: by the town, 1924)
- Hillis, Mary Carroll, comp. Goffstown's One Room Schoolhouses Remembered (Goffstown, N.H.: Goffstown Historical Society, 1989)
- Manchester Union Leader, Manchester, N.H., September 23, 1913, September 26, 1913 (obituaries of William W. Ireland)
- Report of the Commissioner of Common Schools to the Legislature of New-Hampshire, June Session, 1847
- Stackpole, Everett S. History of New Hampshire, 5 vols. (New York: American Historical Society, 1916-1917)

See continuation sheet

**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

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one (approximately .14 acre)

**UTM References**

A 

1	9
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2	9	2	5	4	0
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4	7	6	6	1	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies Lot 28, map 28 in the local tax assessors records with a frontage of 80 ft. and depth of 65 feet along Center Street, Grasmere village. Boundaries of the nominated property are noted on the attached sketch map.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire parcel upon which the building was constructed.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title James L. Garvin  
organization NH Division of Historical Resources date April 1990  
street & number Box 2043 telephone (603) 271-3558  
city or town Concord state NH zip code 03302-2043



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The designer of the building was William W. Ireland (1853-1913), a carpenter and builder then living in the nearby city of Manchester. Ireland was a respected builder at the time he designed the building, continuing a tradition established by his father in the preceding decades. The pleasing and competent design of the Grasmere school and town hall is an illustration of the persistence of the older tradition of the carpenter-architect, in which a builder instead of a professional architect would be employed to provide the design for a private or public structure. The employment of a carpenter-architect to design the Grasmere building is in contrast to the design of the main Goffstown town hall, which was completely remodelled in the Queen Anne style during the same year. In the case of the larger building, the town employed the professional Manchester architect William M. Butterfield to provide the plans, apparently feeling that the principal public building (which burned in 1937) demanded greater sophistication in plan and detailing.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the greater emphasis given to the other town hall, the Grasmere building stands not only as a worthy companion to the now-lost hall in the main village, but also as an excellent reflection of the prevailing style of the period. Though smaller than the main town hall, the Grasmere building shared with it a richness in texture and detailing, an impressive tower, and a scale which proclaimed it an important public edifice. Moreover, the Grasmere town hall remains as an important example of the Queen Anne style within a broader context. The nearby city of Manchester, one of the world's largest textile manufacturing centers in the 1880s, was a community of rapidly expanding residential neighborhoods during the period when Ireland and his father, Wilberforce Ireland, earned reputations as leading builders there. Major residences in Manchester had been designed largely in the Italian Villa style in the 1850s and 1860s, reflecting the strong influence of the books of Andrew Jackson Downing. By the 1880s, however, preference had shifted to the Queen Anne style for houses and small public buildings. Manchester retains one of the best concentrations of Queen Anne housing in New Hampshire, many city blocks having been filled with such structures, designed by professional architects, mail-order architects, and local carpenters and builders. Manchester's Ward 2, where Ireland lived on Prospect Street, remains especially rich in Queen Anne houses, many of them undoubtedly the work of Ireland and his father. The Grasmere town hall therefore stands both as an important public building in the small community of Goffstown, and also as a reflection of a much larger regional evolution of style.

The Grasmere school and town hall was undoubtedly given much of its character during its construction by a local contractor, William U. Carlton (1849-1920). Like William Ireland, the building's designer, Carlton had learned the trade of carpenter and builder from his father. He later worked for the contracting firm of Head and Dowst, one of the largest in central New Hampshire, and subsequently carried on his own business. His careful workmanship is evident throughout the Grasmere building, which represents the skill of local builders both in design and execution.<sup>2</sup>

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Education: The Grasmere school and town hall was designed from the first to serve an educational function. The \$4,498 cost of the building was evidently too much to be borne by a town which was simultaneously spending nearly \$6,600 to remodel its main town hall. Goffstown voters therefore agreed at the town meeting of March, 1889, to build the Grasmere building only if the school district (which was a separate political entity) would pay two-thirds of the cost. They specified that "if the town school district shall erect a school building at the Center, the town shall finish a hall in said building at an expense not to exceed one-third of the whole cost of said building, and not to exceed in any case the sum of \$1,500, said hall to be the property of the town and under its control."<sup>3</sup>

The contribution of two-thirds of the cost of the Grasmere building by the local school district was the result of an evolution in local school architecture which had begun in the 1840s. In 1846, a new state law established the office of State Commissioner of Common Schools. The first annual report of the Commissioner in 1847 placed particular emphasis on schoolhouse architecture, stimulating a reform movement which was felt almost immediately in Goffstown. The Commissioner lamented the "multitudes of [school]houses, in the State, not only inconveniently located, and awkwardly planned, but absolutely dangerous to health and morals . . . and this, in places, where private taste is adorning the town with the ornaments of architecture. . . . It is, however, encouraging to find, that a better feeling is coming to prevail on this subject. Many districts are rebuilding, and, in most instances, upon an improved plan."<sup>4</sup> This report and others that followed it recommended care in the location of schoolhouses and liberality in the financing of their construction. Subsequent reports illustrated model school buildings selected from throughout New Hampshire, or reproduced illustrations and text from Henry Barnard's School Architecture (1848).

Goffstown was quick to act on the Commissioner's recommendations. In 1850, the local school district erected two new schoolhouses within the village of Goffstown Center (later Grasmere). Both were simple and neat structures with attractive Greek Revival detailing.<sup>5</sup>

Twenty years later, however, both Grasmere schoolhouses were overcrowded. By 1873, the local school board recommended that the two schools be consolidated, that a new schoolhouse be built, and that the united school be graded rather than having all ages taught in a single room. In 1877, the two district schools of Grasmere were joined under one teacher, but were housed in the one-room schoolhouse in the middle of Grasmere and were not graded.<sup>6</sup> The Grasmere district thus became the largest in Goffstown, and virtually every school report thereafter urged that the children be divided into grades under more than one teacher.

The construction of the Grasmere building in 1889 solved this problem. The structure provided two well-lighted and well-ventilated schoolrooms, with other rooms at the rear of the building. The old United School District No. 9 (which incorporated the students of former District No. 6) was divided into a primary and a grammar

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school, which were housed in the two rooms provided by the new building. The old one-room District No. 9 schoolhouse, which stood on a lot that adjoined the new Grasmere building, was moved a short distance and converted to a Baptist chapel.

The Grasmere building therefore represents an intermediate step between the one-room district schoolhouses that preceded it and the multi-room elementary schools that would follow it at the turn of the century in Goffstown and elsewhere. The building continued in use as a public schoolhouse until 1956, and today continues its educational function by housing a kindergarten.

Politics/Government: The Grasmere school and town hall stands upon the site occupied between 1769 and 1869 by the Goffstown meeting house. For nearly a century, this was the location of the town's political meetings, and some measure of political activity was returned to the site when the Grasmere building, one of two town halls in Goffstown, was constructed on the old meeting house lot in 1889. Since that time, the building has continued to serve some of the functions of local politics and government.

During the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the traditional New England meeting house served the needs of both politics and religion in most New Hampshire communities. Such buildings were used as meeting places for the adherents of one or more religious societies in most towns; in New Hampshire, the "standing order" or "orthodox" church in most towns, supported by taxation, was the Congregational Church. Meeting houses stood on town land, and were used as needed for annual and special town meetings. Until the early 1800s, there was no clear division between the town and the church in the ownership of the meeting house, and so a single building could serve both entities without a problem.

As other denominations began to multiply in the late 1700s and early 1800s, however, their adherents objected to paying taxes to support an "orthodox" minister with whose tenets they did not agree. Many also wished to build separate meeting houses of their own, and had no interest in maintaining a building that principally served another religious society. The eventual result was passage of the "Toleration Act" in 1819. This act severed the connection between church and town, and made support of a religious organization a voluntary act.<sup>7</sup>

As a result, many town meeting houses began to be supplanted by church buildings constructed by individual denominations. In some cases, old meeting houses continued to serve the political needs of towns. State laws of 1848, 1858, 1865, and 1871 provided legal means by which religious groups or pew owners could sell their interests in meeting houses, thus relinquishing them to the towns which had always held joint ownership of them.

Often, however, the large and drafty meeting houses of the eighteenth century proved inappropriate for town meetings. Beginning in the 1840s, New Hampshire saw a movement toward the construction of separate town halls, easily heated

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and containing an office for the selectmen. Such a building was constructed at Goffstown West Village (now the main village) by a vote of a special town meeting in 1869. The same meeting not only transferred the town's political center from Grasmere to the West Village, but also authorized the selectmen to sell the old meeting house at Grasmere.<sup>8</sup>

After a century as the town's political center, Grasmere was thus left without a publicly-owned meeting hall from 1869 until the Grasmere school and town hall was constructed in 1889. Construction of that building returned some measure of political activity to Grasmere after a twenty-year hiatus. Provision of the hall or auditorium also opened the way for a renewed social life in the village. Although owned by the town, the second-floor hall has been used from its completion by several local groups. First among these was Junior Grange, the second Grange to be organized in Goffstown; it was established in the Grasmere building in 1890 and has continuously met there since, sometimes using the hall for agricultural fairs.<sup>9</sup> A second organization whose founding followed upon completion of the hall was a local lodge of the Order of United Mechanics. The Knights of Pythias, whose local lodge was organized at Grasmere in 1896, may also have used the hall. More recent organizations to use the building have been the Grasmere Extension Homemakers, the Goffstown Garden Club, and the Knights of Columbus. Among the public agencies which have used the building are the Goffstown District Court, the Grasmere Water Precinct, and the Goffstown Historic District Commission. The second floor hall has often been used for plays and musical recitals as well as for graduation exercises for the schools housed on the first floor. Though constructed as a second town hall, the auditorium of the Grasmere building has in fact served largely as a publicly-supported hall for a wide range of community activities.

Since 1937, when the town hall at Goffstown West Village burned, the Grasmere school and town hall is the only surviving town hall in Goffstown.

## Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup>George Plummer Hadley, History of the Town of Goffstown, 1733-1820, 2 vols., I, p. 364; Manchester Union Leader, September 23, 1913, September 26, 1913 (obituaries of William W. Ireland); New Hampshire Vital Records (William W. Ireland).

<sup>2</sup>Hadley, History of the Town of Goffstown, II, p. 75.

<sup>3</sup>Annual Reports of the Selectmen and Treasurer of the Town of Goffstown, 1889; Hadley, History of the Town of Goffstown, I, p. 364.

<sup>4</sup>Report of the Commissioner of Common Schools to the Legislature of New-Hampshire, June Session, 1847, pp. 13-14.

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Footnotes, continued:

<sup>5</sup>Mary Carroll Hillis, comp., Goffstown's One Room Schoolhouses Remembered, pp. 32-37.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 35.

<sup>7</sup>Everett S. Stackpole, History of New Hampshire, 5 vols., IV, p. 230.

<sup>8</sup>Hadley, History of the Town of Goffstown, I, pp. 362-363.

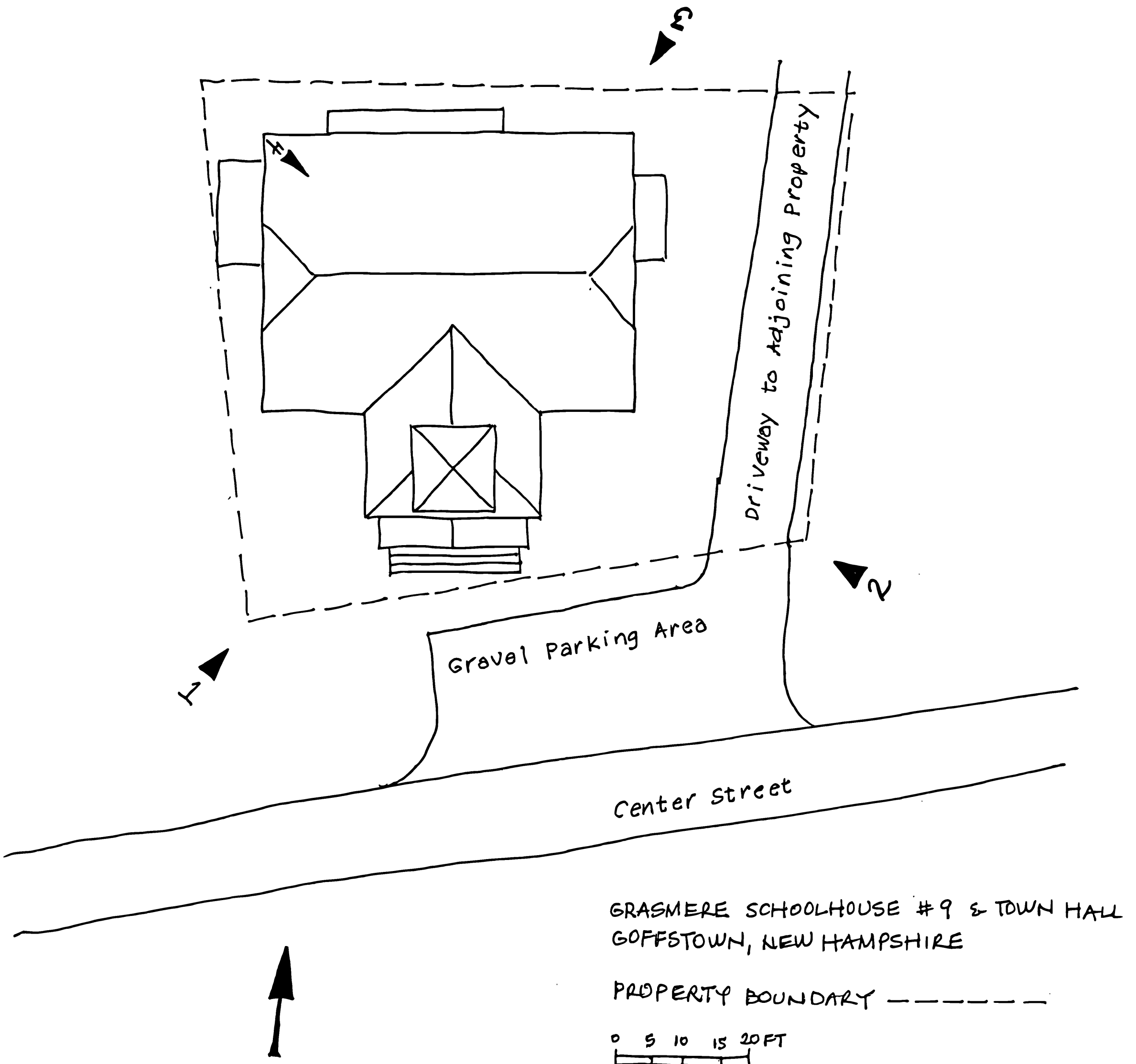
<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 472.

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Grasmere Schoolhouse #9 and Town Hall



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Accompanying Documentation

Grasmere Schoolhouse #9 and Town Hall

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PROPERTY OWNER:

Town of Goffstown  
16 Main Street  
Goffstown, New Hampshire 03045

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Photographs 1

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Grasmere Schoolhouse #9 and Town Hall

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This information is the same for all the photographs listed:

- 1) Grasmere Schoolhouse #9 and Town Hall
- 2) Goffstown, NH
- 3) James L. Garvin
- 4) April 1990
- 5) NH Division of Historical Resources

PHOTO #1:

- 6) Side (west) and Front (south) elevations looking northeast
- 7) Photo #1

PHOTO #2:

- 6) Front (south) and Side(east) elevations looking northwest
- 7) Photo #2

PHOTO #3:

- 6) Side (east) and Rear (north) elevations looking southwest
- 7) Photo #3

PHOTO #4:

- 6) Auditorium on second floor looking southeast
- 7) Photo #4