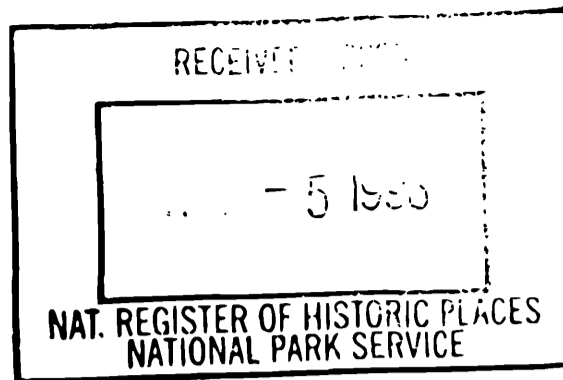


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating 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 an 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 Thompson Hall

other name/site number T.Hall

2. Location

street & number University of New Hampshire campus, off Main Street NA not for publication

city or town Durham NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Strafford code 017 zip code 03824

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 A. Muller 10/31/96
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered into 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:) _____

Edson A. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12-6-96
Entered in the
National Register

Thompson Hall
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH
County and State

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

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: college

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: college

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls brick

roof slate

other N/A

Narrative Description

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

Thompson Hall
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH
County and State

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 a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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 last 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Biographical 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 Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Education

Period of Significance

1892-93 (architecture)
1892-1946 (education)

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Edward Dow and James E. Randlett

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Thompson Hall
Name of Property

Strafford County, NH
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	9
---	---

3	4	2	7	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	7	7	7	5	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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.)

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Lynne Emerson Monroe and Kari Ann Laprey
organization Preservation Company date September 1996
street & number 5 Hobbs Road telephone (603) 778-1799
city or town Kensington state NH zip code 03833

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name University of New Hampshire, Victor Azzi, Campus Planner
street & number 17 Leavitt Lane telephone (603) 862-4452
city or town Durham state NH zip code 03824

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 time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing for 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 Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Description

Thompson Hall is a large brick and stone building in the Romanesque style, erected in 1892-1893 according to plans by prominent Concord architects Dow and Randlett. It is the focal point of the Durham campus of the University of New Hampshire, emphasized by its tall clock and bell tower, elevated site on the crest of a knoll above the south side of Main Street, and broad expanse of lawn.

The brick structure has characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style including the hip roof form, heavy massing, masonry structure, granite trim, slate roofs, prominent central tower, corner turrets, strips of windows, and round, Romanesque arches. The building has essentially a cruciform plan, made up of a rectangular block with the narrow end oriented to Main Street. The bay is expanded or crossed with rounded, two-story bays on each side and the entry port cochère forms the top of the cross. It is 2¹/₂ stories in height with a raised basement, and dormers on the high roof slopes, creating four full usable stories. The front block has a hip roof with its ridge oriented parallel to the street. The square, five story tower with high pyramidal roof projects from the center of the facade, with the entry at its base recessed under a one-story porte cochère that extends to the front. Half-round, two story bays with conical roofs project from each side of the front block. The long, rectangular, rear block of the building has a flat-topped hip roof. The overall measurements are as follows (from 1892 Plans). The front section of the building is 52' high, 70' wide and 40' deep. The rear section is 52' high, 62' wide and 88' deep. The tower is 40' tall from the base to the roof of the main block, and projects 44' above the roof, with an area of 21' X 21'.

The structure is supported by a mortared rubble stone foundation below grade. The walls of the building are brick laid in a common bond with narrow mortar joints tinted pink; the bricks were manufactured nearby in Epping and Hookset, New Hampshire. The specifications called for exterior walls of hard burnt brick, one foot thick, with mortar colored deep red "so as to make the building one solid mass." To further this affect, the front of the building was painted red in 1902 (Trojan 1995). Under the eaves are simple brick frieze and cornice. The trim and basement level are rock faced pink granite laid in regular courses with mortar finished with a bead; it was quarried at the Redstone Quarry in Conway (original specifications called for granite either from Durham or red granite from Conway).

Round turrets project from each corner of main block and the tower. They have conical copper corbels (or cul-de-lampe) and spires with ball finials, and are constructed in bands of contrasting patterned and textured brick. According to the original specifications, the turrets were to be of brick made by pattern to conform to the radius of the turrets, and colored to imitate the stone trimmings. This was to be similar to brick made by Fiske, Coleman and Co. of Boston (Building Committee, New Hampshire College 1892).

The basement level is four even courses of rectangular, rock faced, granite blocks, each course varying in height, with a continuous granite course above the tops of the windows. Reveals at basement window openings are "six-cut work" according to the specifications (Building Committee, New Hampshire College 1892). The basement windows contain small windows with double-hung 1/1,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Description (continued)

wooden sash of varying heights. Metal date plaques commemorating each graduating class are set into the granite at the basement level.

The primary round arch openings have granite voissours, and rise from granite imposts. Upper story windows have granite sills, and continuous granite lintels, creating horizontal bands across each elevation. The tall, narrow, rectangular windows are grouped in strips or ribbons of two to five windows. Most contain double-hung 1/1 sash, with a wooden transom separating a single fixed pane. Some groups of windows on the rear of the building have two smaller square panes over two, which are also original according to old photographs. All window and door frames are pine (Building Committee, New Hampshire College 1892). The exterior woodwork, which is presently white, was originally painted a dark color according to historic photographs.

The roofs are wood frame construction, sheathed in 10" X 16" slates from the Munson (Maine) Quarry. Weathered copper trim includes gutters, flashing, valleys, ridge rolls and copings. The ridges are trimmed with crests and finials, and the fascias on the gables are sheathed in copper with volutes at the ends. Flat roof surfaces are sheathed in roofing tin (Building Committee, New Hampshire College 1892). Chimneys are intact on the ridge of the front section.

The focal point of the building is the square tower on the center of the facade. At the base of the tower, the entrance is located under a one story rectangular porte cochère with a flat roof. The brick structure is supported on a granite block base, buttressed at the front corners. Short turrets, like those on the main block, but of polished pink granite blocks define the front corners of the porte cochère. There are large round arch openings with granite voissours on front and sides, with small arches on each side leading up the sides of the front steps. The porte cochère has a brick tile floor. Granite steps lead through a brick segmental arch opening in the base of the tower to the recessed front entry. The entry is also a round arch, with brick voissours. The original double doors have two horizontal wood panels below large rectangular lights. The doors are surrounded by wooden side panels and lights and a round arch transom.

The front of the tower projects slightly from the facade of the main block and the third, fourth and fifth stories of the tower rise above the roof. The corners of the tower are defined by tall turrets, which rise from the top of the porte cochère to the base of the roof. The tall pyramidal hip roof has slightly flared eaves, and is topped by an original weathervane. The open belfry in the upper level has an arcade of three round arches supported on granite columns. The original bell made by Meneeley and Company of Troy, New York (Trojan 1995) was replaced by the present carillon in 1952. Round clock faces flanked by vertical sidelights are located on the front and sides of the tower. The clock itself, made by the Howard Clock Company, was donated by the architects Dow and Randlett (Trojan 1995). The second and third story levels of the tower have pairs of windows, the upper ones with round arched tops, framed by granite quoins.

On the facade, flanking the tower, are large windows also framed by granite quoins. The large, three-part first story windows have granite lintels. These are flanked by granite quoins, which

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Description (continued)

rise to frame the second story windows, which are round arches with granite voissours and large fan sash.

The bow sections at the front of each side elevation feature arcades of round arch windows below the conical roofs. Prominent on the side elevations are the three dormers. All have gable roofs, slate side walls and roofs, horizontal granite bands, and copper trim with volutes at the gable ends. The large central gable wall dormer projects slightly from the wall surface of the main block, with brick corbels across its base. Above the strip of three second story windows is a recessed brick panel. Above this, the round arch dormer window has brick voissours rising from granite impostes. Chimneys at the corners of each central gable were removed in 1940 (plans 1892; plans 1940). A similar large gable wall dormer with strip of five windows is centered on the rear elevation.

The principal alterations to the exterior of the building involved the entries. The original entrances had double four-panel oak doors (Building Committee, New Hampshire College 1892). The front doors were either replaced or the upper panels of the original doors removed and glass installed. Originally a second entrance was centered on the rear of the main block at the first story level, with a high set of steps leading up to it. This contained double four-panel wooden doors, topped by a fanlight, surrounded by brick voissours (Plans 1892). The date when this entrance was removed and a back door installed at the basement level has not been identified, but it may have been during the 1940 renovations. The present entrance contains modern double wooden doors glazed with six pane lights. The side entry into the stairhall on the east elevation was installed in 1940. At that time, a column of stained glass windows lighting the stairway was removed, window locations changed and the present pairs of large pane sash with granite sills and lintels installed. The metal door hood, transom light, concrete stoop, and wooden door with square panel and six lights all date from 1940 (Plans 1892; Plans 1940). The plywood portico is a modern and temporary structure. At the eastern side of the facade is a basement entry recessed below grade. The date of this opening has not been identified. It was not shown on the plans for the 1940 renovations, but was in place prior to 1986 (Plans 1986). It contains a wooden door glazed with large square light, topped by a transom light. Flanking the steps are mortared stone retaining walls.

The original interior layout of the lower three levels consisted of a continuous corridor front to back, with rooms of varying sizes along each side. The main entrance was centered on the front of the first story and a back door was located on the rear. The stairs were in their present location in the middle of the eastern side of the building, but had no access from outside (Plans 1892). The interior originally had plaster walls, with plaster on porous terra cotta linings inside the brick walls, and lathe and plaster on stud partition walls and ceilings. Blackboards were painted on the walls in the recitation rooms. The floors were birch, with oak and spruce in the stairhall. Other details included wooden wainscotting, fireplaces lined with brick with pressed brick facings and wood mantels. The staircase had oak newel posts, rails and balusters.

The interior of Thompson Hall was remodelled in 1940 and again in 1986. The 1940 remodelling

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8 Page 4

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Description (continued)

was relatively minor, involving staircases and bathrooms. The 1986 remodelling was more extensive, involving the creation of modern office spaces to meet expanded administrative needs. These interior changes do not detract from the building's solid Romanesque exterior.

Thompson Hall is prominent in the composition of the campus buildings and landscape, but its southwest elevation is engaged in an irregular row of buildings connected by a recent plaza. Immediately west of Thompson Hall is Murkland Hall (built 1926), which faces a courtyard between the two buildings. To the rear is the large Dimond Library built in 1958. Two other original campus buildings, Conant Hall and Hewitt Hall, are located west of the library. East of Thompson Hall, on the far side of the access drive, is Hamilton Smith Hall, built in 1907 as the college library.

In front of Thompson Hall and the adjacent buildings a broad lawn slopes gently down to Main Street. The lawn has various ledge outcroppings and a variety of trees from different periods. Concrete walkways radiate out from a hub located under the porte cochère at the front of Thompson Hall. The main path runs straight down the lawn to Main Street directly in front of the building, others lead diagonally across the lawn toward Main Street above and below Thompson Hall. Another main walkway runs across in front of this and adjacent buildings. Directly in front of the porte cochère is a boulder marker with bronze plaque, installed in 1933 as a memorial to Benjamin Thompson. The diagonal paths are remnants of the original semicircular access drive that passed under the porte cochère during the earliest period. The concrete sidewalks were installed in 1918 by a soldiers training corps, under longtime University architect E.T. Huddleston (Plans 1918). The concrete walks have been replaced, most recently in 1990, but the original steps, curbing and parapet walls are intact. Immediately in front of Thompson Hall, halfway down the path to Main Street, is a circular plaza around the base of a flagpole. The existing flagpole is the fourth on this spot, installed in 1955; the first was erected in 1897. The plaza has a low concrete parapet wall with modern lamp posts above it. The steps have concrete parapets and the front steps, at street level, feature concrete pedestals with short iron lamp posts topped by globe lights, which date from the mid-20th century.

Statement of Significance

Thompson Hall of the University of New Hampshire is individually eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C.

It is historically significant for the period from 1893 to 1946 in the area of education, as the first structure erected on the Durham campus of the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, and from the beginning, the focal point of University life. Thompson Hall and its surroundings reflect the national trend in campus planning in the early 20th century. This was the Frederick Law Olmstead picturesque park-like setting favored by most land-grant colleges, which surrounded "Old Main," usually the first building constructed as the entire physical plant. This building became the focal point of the campus as other structures were built (Schlereth 1985).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

The building is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the use of the Romanesque Revival Style in a late 19th century academic building type, prominently placed on the campus and highly visible with its clock tower. Thompson Hall is also eligible for the National Register as the work of the architectural firm of Dow and Randlett who were among the most prominent architects in New Hampshire in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Thompson Hall retains a high degree of integrity of design, clearly displaying the importance of its original design. Thompson Hall retains its original design, materials, workmanship, and feeling; there have been few changes to the exterior of the building since its original construction. Thompson Hall retains its original location and setting on the crest of a knoll, set apart from later buildings on a broad open lawn. The building, which was original multipurpose, with offices, classrooms, labs, and halls, is now almost entirely administrative in function. However, it still serves a visual focus for the campus, and as a hub through which students pass on a daily basis.

Historical Background and Significance:

Thompson Hall was erected in 1892, upon the school's relocation from Hanover to Durham, as the main building of the New Hampshire College campus. The building, commonly known as "T-Hall," was named for the College's benefactor Benjamin Thompson, who bequeathed his estate in Durham to the State.

The origins of the University of New Hampshire date to the passing of the Morrill Act by the United States Congress in 1862, allotting public land to each state to be sold and the proceeds used to establish and support agricultural colleges. New Hampshire received \$80,000, the income of which was to be used for this purpose. The New Hampshire legislature accepted the terms of this act the following year, and in 1866 the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts was established in Hanover in connection with Dartmouth College (Sackett 1974:3).

After the death of Benjamin Thompson in January of 1890, the State of New Hampshire was bequeathed Thompson's entire estate for the establishment of an agricultural school in Durham. The terms of the will had been kept secret since the original will was written in 1856, predating the Morrill Act by six years. Thompson, who never married, was a wealthy Durham farmer and investor. His homestead was located at the corner of Main Street and Madbury Road (site of the present U.S. Post Office), and the farm, totalling 253 acres, was located west of the downtown along both sides of Main Street, in the vicinity of the Boston and Maine Railroad crossing (Hubbard 1891). Thompson's devotion to the theory and practice of agriculture, and belief in the use of scientific practices for agricultural improvements, is reflected in his will which provided for the establishment of an agricultural college in Durham. The total value of the estate was about \$400,000. This was to be held intact by the state for a period of twenty years and compounded at four percent each day. After 1910, the total would be available for all college purposes, except building and repairs, supporting the college by the State. The will required the State to pay \$3,000 a year for twenty years, compounded at four percent, to create a building fund (Petee 1891:23; Valena n.d.; Anonymous 1941).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

The bequest coincided with difficulties with the administration of Dartmouth College, and with limited enrollment due to Hanover's remote location in the state. In April of 1891, the Trustees of New Hampshire College voted to accept the terms of the will, but to move the campus to Durham immediately, rather than waiting for the twenty years to expire. A sum of \$100,000 to be raised by bond issue was appropriated for construction of buildings on the Thompson land (Anonymous 1941:96).

The relocation was supervised by the small faculty under Dean Pettee. Plans of the Thompson land showing preliminary building locations were prepared in June 1891 by landscape architect Charles Eliot of Boston, the son of the President of Harvard. A building committee of the board of trustees included Lyman Stevens, Benjamin Prescott and Charles McDaniel (Anonymous 1941:102).

Five buildings were planned for the new campus: Thompson Hall was to be the main classroom and administration building; Conant Hall was the science building; labs were located in the "experiment station" (remodelled as Nesmith Hall); workshops for the mechanics arts were in the "shop building" (Hewitt hall); and agricultural activities were centered around a massive barn. The buildings had steam heating systems and steam-generated electricity. Thompson Hall was to be the largest building, with \$50,000 appropriated for its construction. Architects were offered a hundred dollars to submit plans and cost estimates. Four sets of plans were submitted for Thompson Hall. Two were submitted for Conant Hall. The winning plans in both cases were by the architectural firm of Dow and Randlett of Concord, who also designed the shop building. Mr. Randlett, the junior partner of the firm, supervised the construction. The contracts for building both Thompson and Conant Halls were awarded to Lewis Killam of Haverhill, Massachusetts. The corner stone of Thompson Hall was laid in June of 1892. The final cost of the building, completed in 1893, totalled \$67,000 (Sackett 1974:28; Anonymous 1941:98).

The students of New Hampshire College were enthusiastic about the move from Hanover to Durham, and the Class of 1892, desiring a connection to the new campus, held its graduation there in the new College barn. Thompson Hall was the site of graduation in the spring of 1893, but it was still unfinished and planks had to be laid across the skeleton of the staircase to provide access to the upstairs hall. The faculty moved from Hanover to Durham in the summer of 1893 and the new campus opened for classes that fall, with an enormous increase in enrollment (Valena n.d.; Anonymous 1941:100).

Thompson Hall was the college's main building. The President's office was located to the left of the entrance. To the rear on the same side of the corridor were Mathematics and English classrooms. The library, with reading room, reference room, small office, and stacks, occupied the right hand side of the first floor. The front section of the second story had two large rooms, the zoology laboratory and agricultural class room. To the rear on the left side of the corridor were a recitation room and a class room, and a smaller recitation room was located on the opposite side. A large room in the right rear corner was intended to house museum displays, but was instead used as the original gymnasium. The third story had two meeting rooms at the front and a large assembly hall to the rear (Plans 1892). The bell in the tower was rung on the hour and as an alarm in emergencies (Anonymous 1941:142).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

The gymnasium was moved c.1899 and the second story space divided into classrooms and offices (Sackett 1974:45). The library was moved to the Hamilton Smith Library upon its construction in 1907. By 1912 there were fifteen buildings on the campus (Sackett 1974:64). Around this time, the basement level of Thompson Hall contained the campus bookstore, the entomology lab, the home economics lab, a stock room and furnace room. At the front of the first story were the offices of the president, dean, and registrar, and executive secretaries. To the rear were the office of The New Hampshire newspaper, an English classroom, the home economics classroom, and other offices. On the second floor were the offices and classrooms of the entomology and zoology departments (see corrections on original 1892 Plans). Beginning in 1915, the third floor hall was used as the women's gymnasium.

In 1918, Student Army Training Corps were established on the campus to provide courses to train technicians for military service. The New Hampshire College Training Detachment was responsible for many physical improvements to the campus. The Concrete Division laid a total of 2,742 square yards of sidewalk and poured 443 cubic yards of foundation. This work included the construction of sidewalks and steps leading up to Thompson Hall from Main Street, with a new plaza and flagpole in front of the building (Sackett 1974:81).

New Hampshire College officially became the University of New Hampshire in 1923. Thompson Hall served increasingly as an administration building as classrooms and laboratories were moved to new buildings on the campus. From 1927 to 1951, the alumni office was located in Thompson Hall. Extensive renovations were made to the building in 1940 under Eric T. Huddleston who designed numerous buildings on the campus. The work was done by Davidson Construction of Manchester. The work was primarily on the interior. It included a new forced hot water heating system, new bathrooms, and a new staircase. The staircase had bluestone treads, linoleum floors and oak hand rails; the corridor doors were replaced. A new side entrance was installed and the stained glass windows in the stairhall were removed. On the interior, the rear portion of the third floor was remodelled and rooms for musical organizations and a radio station installed following the relocation of the women's gym. Along the left side of the building were an auditorium and band storage room. On the right side were four offices, which retained the old wood floors and had new plaster walls with metal lath. The main exterior change was the removal of the numerous chimneys and patching in of the roof. Trusses and additional rafters were added to the roof frame to reinforce it (Plans 1940; Anonymous 1941:286). In 1952, a carillon was installed in place of the bell, in memory of longtime University employee Oren V. Henderson. This electronic instrument has sixty-four bells, with a range of thirty-two notes and three octaves. It was originally played by music students, but was later programmed electronically (Leland and Smith 1994:24).

In 1986, the interior of Thompson Hall was entirely remodelled by Perry, Dean, Rogers & Partners of Boston. Work involved the complete removal of most of the interior walls and reconfiguration of rooms and corridors on all floors. New systems were installed and bathroom fixtures replaced. The exterior metal fire escape was removed from the rear of the building and an interior fire stair built. The main staircase received new wainscoting. Doors along the corridors were replaced (Plans 1986). In 1990 new landscaping included a plaza on the west side

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

number 8 Page 8

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

of Thompson Hall.

Presently the office of the Dean of Students is located in a cluster of rooms to the left of the entrance, while on the opposite side of the entry hall is the trustees room. On the left side of the corridor to the rear are seminar rooms and offices. On the right are offices of the Executive Director and secretaries. The second story has conference rooms and offices on one side of the front corridor, and the Office of the President on the other. A large open room is located at the rear with offices of the Research and Finance departments opening off of it (Plans 1986). The third floor contains offices of the Planning department at the rear. In the front, the only intact original rooms, house the University Museum.

Architectural Significance:

The Romanesque Revival Style architecture of which Thompson Hall is an excellent example was popular during the period for many types of public buildings, including city halls, courthouses, railroad stations, university buildings and libraries (Tolles 1979). The style, which was a revival of 11th century European architecture based on Roman and Byzantine elements, was characterized by its heavy massing, masonry construction and round headed arches (Whiffen 1969:610). Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) was largely responsible for the development and popularity of the style. So firmly identified with this one style, was Richardson that his work was not emulated by other architects during his lifetime, but after his death in 1886, many "Richardson Romanesque" buildings were designed (Whiffen 1969:137).

Thompson Hall clearly embodies all of the characteristic elements of the Romanesque Revival, beginning with its heavy massing, broad hip roof and masonry construction. Stone was the most common material for buildings of this style, but some examples like Thompson Hall were brick with stone trim. The stone was always rough faced, squared masonry. Contrasting color and texture of the masonry, as in this case the brick and granite, and textured brick of the turrets, was a common element. Thompson Hall displays the defining broad round arches over windows and entries. Its square tower with pyramidal roof is also typical, as are the corner turrets, deep entry porch and the projecting bays with conical roofs. Steep gabled wall dormers were prominent elements in the design, and smaller roof dormers were also used. The horizontal emphasis was created by the rectangular windows in pairs or ribbons, and the continuous sills and lintels creating belt courses (see Whiffen 1969:133).

Thompson Hall was designed in 1892 by the prominent Concord architectural firm of Dow and Randlett. The partnership was formed in 1890 and continued until Dow's death in 1894 (Ruell n.d.). Edward Dow, the senior partner, had been born in Vermont in 1820, moving to New Hampshire as a child. He learned carpentry from his father, and studied architecture in Boston for a time. He moved to Concord in the 1840's and worked as a carpenter, becoming a professional architect in the mid-1850's. His early work included several Italianate style residences in Concord, including his own. His many public buildings throughout the state include, in Concord, the State House addition in the 1860's, St. Paul's Episcopal Church (c.1860) on Park Street, which later burned, Penacook Academy (1866), and the Goodwill Hose

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8, 9 Page 9

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Statement of Significance (continued)

House on South State Street (1873) (Tolles 1979:195). During the 1870's and 1880's, he worked in partnership with Giles Wheeler and A.E. Bodwell (Ruell n.d.).

Dow's connection with New Hampshire College dated back to its inception in Hanover, where he designed Culver Hall, c.1870, and probably also Conant Hall, built in 1874. The former was demolished in 1929, the latter in 1925 (Sackett 1974:10; Bardwell and Bergeron 1984:12).

James E. Randlett became Edward Dow's partner in 1890, when he was forty-four years old and Dow was seventy. Randlett had learned the trade of carpenter and cabinetmaker in Lowell before moving to Concord about 1870. For four years before joining Dow, he worked as janitor or keeper of the State House and many improvements were made to the building according to his designs (Ruell n.d.).

Together, Dow and Randlett designed buildings at the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts and the Y.M.C.A. building in Concord, which was Dow's last project (Concord Monitor, August 11, 1894).

After Edward Dow died in August of 1894, Randlett continued in the office alone and then in partnership with George B. Howe, then with George W. Griffin. He designed another University of New Hampshire building, Morrill Hall, in 1902, and in 1905 the firm of Randlett and Griffin drew plans for New Hampshire Hall (Sackett 1974:43, 51). The latter firm built the City Stable on Pleasant Street in Concord (1905) and the Garrison School (1905). Other Randlett projects in Concord included the Dewey School (1900), the Rumford School (1902), his own residence at 84 School Street (c.1890), the Capitol Fire Insurance Building, and the Phoenix Block. Elsewhere he designed town halls for Epping and Antrim, the Orphan's Home in Franklin, and the Merrimack County Hospital in North Boscawen, as well as other private residences in Concord and business blocks in Exeter and Newport (Ruell n.d.). James E. Randlett drowned in Lake Winnepesaukee in August of 1909 (Ruell n.d.).

Thompson Hall was considered the most significant design of both Dow's and Randlett's careers. Edward Dow's obituary stated "The college buildings at Durham mark perhaps the summit of his achievements, but all of his work was worthy and much of it artistic" (Concord Monitor 1894). According to Randlett's obituary, "The firm was eminently successful in designing and erecting many public buildings in this state and Vermont, the most notable being the group of buildings housing the departments of the College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts in Durham" (Concord Monitor 1909).

Bibliography

Anonymous

1941 The University of New Hampshire: A History. Rochester, NH: The Record Press.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 10

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Bibliography (continued)

Bardwell, John D. and Ronald P. Bergeron

1984 Images of a University: A Photographic History of the University of New Hampshire.
Durham, NH: University of New Hampshire.

Building Committee, New Hampshire College

1892 Specifications for Proposed Main Building of the College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts to be Erected in Durham, N.H. Concord, NH: Ira C. Evans, Public Printer. From vertical files of University of New Hampshire Archives and Special Collections.

Concord Monitor. August 1, 1894 and August 27, 1909. Microfilm collection of the University of New Hampshire Library, Durham.

Granite Monthly, September 1894, page 218. Collection of the University of New Hampshire Library, Durham.

Leland, Rosamond and Gerald Smith (Committee Co-Chairs)

1994 Thy Sons and Daughters Ever: A History of the University of New Hampshire Alumni Association. Portsmouth, NH: Peter E. Randall Publisher.

Maddex, Diane

1985 Built in the U.S.A.: American Buildings from Airports to Zoos. Washington, DC: The Preservation Press.

Pettee, Prof. C.H.

1891 "The New Hampshire College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts," in Granite Monthly.

Ruell, David

n.d. "Architects Listed in Nineteenth Century New Hampshire Directories." Collection of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, Concord.

Sackett, Everett B.

1974 New Hampshire's University. Somersworth, NH: New Hampshire Publishing Company.

Schlereth, Thomas J.

1985 "Colleges and Universities" in Built in the U.S.A.: American Buildings from Airports to Zoos. Washington, DC: Preservation Press.

Tolles, Bryant E. Jr.

1979 New Hampshire Architecture: An Illustrated Guide. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England.

Trojan, George A. Jr.

1995 "Thompson Hall," NHDHR Inventory form. On file at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR), Concord.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 11

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Bibliography (continued)

Velana, Dale

n.d. "Thompson Hall," text for exhibit in University Museum.

Whiffen, Marcus

1969 American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Maps and Plans

Anonymous

n.d. "Thompson Hall Floor Plans" (original), from vertical files of University of New Hampshire Archives and Special Collections.

Hubbard, C.L.

1891 "Map of the Thompson Farm, Durham, New Hampshire," from University of New Hampshire Archives and Special Collections.

Plans for original construction of and renovations to Thompson Hall, on file in University of New Hampshire Architectural Services Department, Leavitt Service Center.

Historic Photographs

University of New Hampshire Archives and Special Collections, Dimond Library.

University of New Hampshire Media Services, Dimond Library.

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Thompson Hall is part of the University of New Hampshire campus, in the town of Durham, New Hampshire. The building is located near the center of the campus, set back from the south side of Main Street, which runs through the campus and downtown Durham.

The National Register eligible property encompasses a rectangular area, measuring approximately 120' X 355' area, with all sides parallel to the walls of the building. Thompson Hall is located at the southern end of the rectangular area. The southern boundary is defined by the inner edge of the sidewalk that runs parallel to the south elevation of Thompson Hall, approximately three feet from it. The eastern bound is defined by the western edge of the paved parking lot, which is approximately thirty feet from the east elevation of the building and parallel to it. The western bound is an arbitrary line thirty feet from the east elevation of Thompson Hall, parallel to it, along the edge of a modern concrete-paved plaza. Both east and west bounds extend north along arbitrary lines across the lawn in front of Thompson Hall to Main Street. The northern National Register boundary is defined by the southern edge of the sidewalk along Main Street which forms the edge of the lawn.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 12

Thompson Hall
Strafford County, NH

Geographical Data (continued)

Boundary Justification

Thompson Hall is part of the large University of New Hampshire campus, which is comprised of numerous large, state-owned tracts of land, with no internal legal property boundaries. Only that portion of the campus that contributes to the significance of Thompson Hall is included in the National Register boundary. The boundary is defined to include the historic structure and immediate setting. Thompson Hall's historical significance is strongly related to its location, set back from the road, overlooking a sloping lawn. This setting contributes to the building's historic associations as a focal point of the campus, as well as to the aesthetic qualities of the architecture. The National Register boundary encompasses the front lawn, with its concrete sidewalks, which are part of the building's historic setting and its visual relationship to Main Street. The boundary is defined to exclude the modern landscape elements on either side of Thompson Hall, and the edges of the plaza and parking lot form clear visual and physical boundaries on either side of the building.

