

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

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

For HCRS use only

received FEB 13 1980

date entered FEB 13 1980

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

## 1. Name

historic BRADFORD TOWN HALL

and/or common BRADFORD TOWN HALL

## 2. Location

street & number West Main Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Bradford \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Second

state New Hampshire 03221 code 33 county Merrimack code 013

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Town of Bradford

street & number West Main Street

city, town Bradford \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state New Hampshire 03221

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number PO Box 248

city, town Concord \_\_\_\_\_ state New Hampshire 03301

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>1863</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Bradford Town Hall was constructed in 1863 using timbers from the dismantled 1797 Meeting House located in Bradford Center. The Town Hall is a two and one-half story frame building with five bays and three chimneys. The three central bays form a pavilion with 9/6 sash windows on the first story and 9/9 sash windows on the second. The pavilion cornice returns to suggest a pediment and the gable encompasses a bull's-eye window with four keystones intersecting its casing. The front entrance consists of two six-paneled doors flanked by pilasters and surmounted by a later applied pediment that conceals the original entablature.

Simplified Doric pilasters terminate each corner and the friezeband continues along the sides of the Town Hall. Window sash varies throughout the building and incorporates either a 12/12 sash or a 12/8 sash. Simple casings and architraves surround each window. Treatment similar to the pavilion cornice is seen on the gable ends.

Changes to the building include an addition that included a stage area in 1906, two exterior fire escapes added to the east and west ends in 1929, the addition of new windows throughout and the installation of rest rooms and kitchen facilities in 1965 and recent interior renovations to create improved office space.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates**

**Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Bradford Town Hall is an important element to town life. It has long been the focus of community and government activities, and continues as such in a time when many town halls in New Hampshire are passed over for active use. In Bradford the town hall still serves as a meeting place for municipal and volunteer boards and organizations of all kinds.

The town hall is a focal visually as well. It is a substantial structure which fits nicely with the character of the town. The structure blends well with the materials, scale, and massing of the surrounding neighborhoods, with their predominantly frame buildings.

In addition, it exemplifies vernacular public buildings in New Hampshire rural communities which combine institutional scale with domestic detail.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The official town history entitled "Two Hundred Plus" (Bradford, New Hampshire, in retrospect - 1771-1976) is the source of all information given here. This work was researched and written by the Bradford History Committee and the Bicentennial Committee. Publisher: Phoenix Publishing, Canaan, NH

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property — Approximately 1 acre.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Mt. Kearsarge, NH

Quadrangle scale 15'

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Bradford Tax Records; Map 33, Parcel 208, 160

### 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 Bradford Town Hall

organization Bradford Town Hall Restoration Com. date December, 1978

street & number West Main Street telephone (603) 938-5900

city or town Bradford state New Hampshire 03221

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, Dept. Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date October 9, 1979

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

 date 11/13/80  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Architecture: The Bradford Town Hall embodies elements from three periods and shows traces of three architectural styles. The proportioning of the main body of the structure is reminiscent of that of the 1797 meeting house which supplied a major part of the frame for the present building. Much of the detailing of the structure is characteristic of the Greek Revival, a style still current in rural New Hampshire when the building was finished in 1863. The addition of 1906 reflects elements of the colonial revival style, and the remodellings of this date probably also contributed a few details to other parts of the building, such as the bull's eye window in the gable of the pavilion. Because of the classical basis of each of these three styles, their combination resulted in a harmonious final design.

The building is also coherent with nearby structures in Bradford, many of which date from the Greek Revival era, the Civil War period, and later. The Town Hall blends well with the materials, scale and detailing of the surrounding neighborhood. It also exemplifies the typical vernacular public building in rural New Hampshire, combining institutional scale with domestic detail.