United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 2 9 1980
date entered MAY 1 5 1980

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

- <b>7</b> F						
1. Nam	ie		- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
historic	Parker's Store ("Ne	eighborly Club")				
and/or common	Parker Building of	the Goffstown, New	w Hampshire Historical Society			
2. Loca	ation Wat Att	Materia - Ra	NH 114			
street & number	Easterly side of in and Gorham Pond Ros (DunbartonNew Bos Goffstown	ntersection of Normad/Howe Bridge Roadston Road)	th Mast Road (01d NH Route 114)  d not for publication  congressional district First (01).			
state	(Parker's Station) New Hampshire code	33 county	Hillsborough code 011			
3. Clas	sification		rich (g			
Category  district _XX_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _XX_ private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status  XX occupied  unoccupied  work in progress  Accessible  XX yes: restricted  yes: unrestricted  no	Present Use  agriculture			
4. Own	er of Proper	ty				
name	Goffstown Historica	al Society				
street & number	N/A NEW TOWN		- , 1, : <del></del> 1 (, ) - , : 1 ( 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			
city, town	Goffstown	vicinity of	state New Hampshire 03045			
5. Loca	ation of Lega	l Descripți	on			
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6. Rep	resentation	n Existing	Surveys			
Location	ns of HomesteadsSud Occupation of Farms	ccession of Reside				
date 1922			federal state county XX loca			
depository for su			stown, by George Plummer Hadley item #9 for full citation)			
city, town	Goffstown		New Hampshire state			

### 7. Description

Condition _XX_ excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one XX original s	ite
good fair	ruins unexposed	_XX_ altered	moved	date

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

The Parker Store building is rectangular in plan (36' wide x 43' in depth), two stories in height, with an attic, and having a gabled roof of moderate pitch. The southwest gable end (facade) faces the North Mast Road--Old New Hampshire Route 114--formerly a principal thoroughfare.

A one-story open porch extends across the front of the building; its slightly-pitched hipped roof is supported by four, equally-spaced cylindrical wooden columns with pronounced entasis and freely-interpreted Roman Doric capitals; they rise directly from a wooden plank floor. There are no column bases, although the bottoms of the columns appear to have been replaced, or pieced to extend their length.

The facade is divided into three asymmetrical bays consisting—from west to east—of a door, space, door, and double—hung 8/8 window of very large scale, larger than any other window in the building. The two doors are identical and have bi-parting screened doors. A simple plank bench extends from the easterly door to the eastern corner, below the large window.

At the second floor level the rhythm is repeated by three double-hung 12/8 windows, each located approximately above a corresponding door and window below. A smaller double-hung 12/8 window is centered high in the gable. At the first floor level on the southeast elevation, two large 8/8 double-hung windows are located near the center of the wall; at the second floor level the rhythm is syncopated by doubled 12/8 sash at the southern end, contrasted with a single 12/8 double-hung window at the northern end. A similar arrangement is repeated, opposite hand, on the western elevation, except that there is only one first floor window, a 12/12 double hung sash. All windows have louvered shutters of varying designs and sizes; plain flush casings, and simple projecting block sills.

Foundations are of large, undressed granite blocks with mortar joints. Siding is of clapboards, painted white, with a watertable and cornerboards. The eaves have a projecting boxed cornice with crown and bed moulding, flush gable returns with projecting crown mouldings, and a two-stage flat rake trim. The clapboards on the front of the building are somewhat wider than those on the sides. Clapboards extend down over a ten-foot section of the watertable at the southern end of the southeast wall, for no apparent reason.

The main building is flanked by two attached sheds, the long axes of which are perpendicular to the store. The southeastern extension is a one-story, two-bay shed (24' wide x 13' in depth) with a gabled roof covered with corrugated metal sheeting. The shed has a recessed hinged single door and a double rolling barn door, both of vertical plank battens. The eastern end of the building has a single 6/6 double-hung window with moulded backband trim. The western extension, also one-storied and gabled (but with lesser slope) originally consisted of four open bays, of which the two end bays remain open. The other two bays nearest the store building have been closed in with vertical flush boarding below the portal; a horizontal double-light rectangular window has been inserted below the fascia, and centered on each of the two closed bays. The roof of the open bays is of plain asphalt tab shingles; the roof over the closed bays is of the same corrugated metal as at the eastern extension. Both western and eastern sheds have cornerboards, plain board fascias and rakes; the southwestern (front) walls and the southeastern side of the eastern shed are clapboarded, but the northwestern end of the western shed and the back of the entire building (main block and both extensions) are covered with grey wood-patterned asphalt shingles.

(continued on Continuation Sheet #1)

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

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#### 7. DESCRIPTION, continued:

The roof of the store building is covered with metal sheets joined by vertical standing seams and flat (soldered?) horizontal joints. A brick chimney (approximately 20" x 24") rises just below the ridge and immediately behind the facade on the western slope of the roof; another, of similar proportion, is attached to the rear of the main building, approximately midway between the ridge and the eastern exterior wall.

The variations of date and kind within similar components of the building (windows, for example), patch-marks in the clapboarding (particularly on the southeast wall), and evidence of structural changes (locations of chimneys and stairs; placement of walls) on the interior suggest modifications to the external appearance, and internal disposition of space, over time. In addition, the sheds appear to have been later additions, possibly utilizing portions of earlier structures; and the juxtaposition of certain woodwork details raises the possibility that the porch was a later 19th or early 20th century addition, constructed from salvaged materials.

Such alterations—if indeed they were alterations—enhance rather than diminish the architectural significance of the Parker Store; they raise questions that are not only historical and architectural, but psychological, sociological, and archaeological as well.

### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 _XX 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art _XX commerce communications		landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy _XX politics/government	re religion science sculpture XX social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	Built prior to 1804	Builder/Architect Not k		

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

The Parker Store is significant for its associations with a prominent pioneer family whose members have contributed to the civic life as well as the commercial development and prosperity of their community for over two centuries, and who have gained statewide distinction for their economic and political achievements. The Parker Store is also significant in representing patterns of entrepreneurship, links to abandoned interstate transportation networks, and as a reminder of intense commercial and industrial activity in an area which has now reverted to a more pastoral character. In addition, the Parker Store reflects a philanthropic concern by the Parker family for their town, most recently manifested by the gift of the property to the Goffstown Historical Society for preservation through active public-oriented use.

The Parker Store is architecturally significant as one of only a very few inland commercial buildings of its period in New Hampshire which survive; it is all the more unusual for its comparatively rural location, and its union of mercantile function with domestic scale in a wood-framed structure. The possible evolution of the form and appearance of the Parker Store adds to, rather than detracts from, its importance: architectural/archaeological investigations could yield information about stylistic, functional, and structural succession; the relationships (if any) between the style and scale of town and village commercial buildings, as compared to public buildings (town halls, meetinghouses, churches) and to residential and agricultural buildings. In addition, it is possible that detailed research could discover and explicate relationships between the architectural taste and technology of Essex County, Massachusetts, and that of the Merrimack Valley of New Hampshire in the early 19th century: water-based (river and canal) transportation systems engendered links between the two areas which were critically important in the economic, social and cultural development of central New Hampshire, but which--made obsolete by the railroad and, later, the superhighway--are now virtually unrecognizable. For example, could parts of the Parker Store have been prefabricated in the Newburyport, Massachusetts, area and shipped to New Hampshire, or were all the materials readily available from the Parker's lumber enterprises? Or could the pattern have worked in the opposite direction? To what extent were building components salvaged and reused in early 19th century New Hampshire? Was such recycling a local expedient, or an element of interstate traffic? These and other questions await a more detailed investigation--perhaps in concert with a scholarly study of the Parker papers, now under the care of the Goffstown Historical Society.

EXPLICATION OF SIGNIFICANCE: On December 3, 1748, Narragansett Grant #4 was given by the Masonian Proprietors to a group of petitioners, the first-named of which was the Rev. Thomas Parker of Dracut, Massachusetts. The grant became known as Goffes Town, in honor of Col. John Goffe, another petitioner; it included the present Goffstown, as well as parts of Hooksett and Manchester, New Hampshire.

Although Rev. Thomas Parker drew three lots when the tract was divided in 1749, it appears that he never lived in the town. William Parker (b.1775), grandson of Rev. Parker, settled in Goffstown in the late 18th century, evidently at what is now known as Parker's Station; the biography of his son, George W. Parker, notes that George "always lived in the house where he was born, which was his father's first location, at the intersection of the

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Hadley, George Plummer. History of the Town of Goffstown 1733-1920. Concord, N.H.: The Rumford Press (Published by the Town of Goffstown) c.1922. Volume I: Narrative; Volume II: Genealogy.

10. Geo	graphical	Data		I MAT I			
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organization	Goffstown Histori	cal Society	y, Inc.	date	Septem	ber 21, 1975	
street & number				telephor	ne 603-49	7-2665	
city or town	Goffstown, New Ha	ampshire	• ,	state	New Ha	mpshire 03045	
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### 8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

Dunbarton and Mast Roads in Parker's Village."

The Mast Road was the route by which masts for the Royal Navy were drawn from the extensive white pine forests of the Goffstown-New Boston areall to the Merrimack River for transport to Newburyport, Massachusetts. 12 Although not officially laid out by the town until 1761, 13 it was known as the Mast Road as early as 1756, 14 and was the most heavily travelled route in the vicinity. 15 Parker's Village was located at a principal intersection, which occurred at the New Boston - Dunbarton Road, "the Leading Road through New Boston, to the Western Part of the State--"; 16 it crossed the north branch of the Piscataquog River just south of its intersection with the Mast Road. The crossing was of such importance that the town constructed a bridge there; the bridge, voted in 1766, 17 was built between 1766 and 1770 and remained in use until replaced in 1852.18

William Parker, recognizing the opportunity inherent in his location, kept a tavern in his residence: "Here with his ample accommodations for people and teams he entertained the travelling public..." From town records it appears that he engaged in the hostelry business from 1804 to 1813, in 1816, from 1825 to 1828, and from 1829 until 1833: sometimes alone, sometimes in partnership with William Whipple, and sometimes in partnership with his cousin, 20 William Parker, Jr., of Bedford. William's son, Isaac Parker, 22 lived just over the town line in New Boston; in 1836, Isaac successfully petitioned the New Hampshire General Court (the legislature) to annex his farm to Goffstown, thereby enlarging Parker's Village. Sevidently William and William, Jr. shared in other ventures as well; the Parker Store building first came into possession of the Parker family in 1804, when Theophilus Dinsmore of Goffstown conveyed it to William Parker, Jr., of Bedford. A

Innkeeping was only one of William Parker's activities; the town history notes that "Mr. Parker soon after he settled in Goffstown became largely identified with the lumbering and mercantile trade, and was also an extensive farmer; one of the prominent and successful men of the town."25 He was married twice; of his five sons, William H. died in infancy, Rodney moved to Minnesota, George W. remained at Parker's Village and became a farmer, while John M. and David A. carried on the family business, farming, and lumber interests. 26 In addition to his family business activities, John M. Parker was active in the formation of the Republican Party in New Hampshire; he was a member of the state legislature, the state senate, the New Hampshire Executive Council, and the State Board of Equalization; he also served as Goffstown's local postmaster. He was first president of the Guaranty Savings Bank of Manchester, a director of the Merchant's National Bank, organizer of the New Boston Railroad, and an extremely successful auctioneer. 27

(continued on Continuation Sheet #3)

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### 8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

John M. Parker's three sons, all of whom were associated with the family business, each represented Goffstown in the legislature. 28 Charles S. Parker was the town's postmaster; 29 Frank A. Parker donated land for the public library; 30 and Henry W. Parker gave the town a monument honoring its soldiers and sailors. 31

The firm of John M. and David A. Parker was considered one of the largest lumber operations in southern New Hampshire; it also carried on a mercantile trade in the store at Parker Village from 1843 to 1872, when the business was relocated to Goffstown Village.32

The building remained in Parker ownership and eventually became property of John E. Parker, great-grandson of William Parker.<sup>33</sup> For about thirty years the Neighborly Club, a local women's group, held an unrecorded deed to the building. When the group disbanded in 1963, a reverter clause returned the property to John E. Parker. The building was then used for local affairs and meetings of civic groups until June 1973, when Mr. Parker donated it to the Goffstown Historical Society. Income from a fund administered by the town's Trustees of Trust Funds provides maintenance and operating expenses for the building.

The Parker Store was located about two miles from the center of Goffstown Village, and supplied the separated community of Parker's Village (also known as Parker's, and as Parker's Station) with a general line of goods. Parker Village was a distinct entity; it was a separate school district34 and had its own schoolhouse, built in 1829.35 At times the area supported several sawmills36 and blacksmith shops,37 a wheelwright and carriage-maker,38 a harness-maker,40 a marble worker,41 a small furniture factory,42 and a potash factory. (As a result, the nearby bridge became known as Potash Bridge.)43 When the railroad was extended to Goffstown in 1850, Parker Village was important enought to have one of the three original stations; the depot was built by John M. and David A. Parker.44 The station was also the terminus for a branch line, the New Boston Railroad, organized in 1891 by John M. Parker and others.45 All of these enterprises have long since disappeared, except for the store building which is still flanked by homes of the descendants of the original Parkers.

In 1973 the adjacent state highway, Route 114--the modern continuation of the Mast Road--was relocated about one-eighth mile from the building; as there have been no commercial developments in the area, the setting of the Parker Store is approximately the same (except for dimunition of numbers of buildings and kinds of activity) as it was a hundred years ago.

George Plummer Hadley, <u>History of the Town of Goffstown 1733-1920</u>. (Concord, N.H.: The Rumford Press, Published by the Town, c.1922). Volume I, Narrative, p.58. (All successive references are to Volume I, unless cited otherwise.)

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### 8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., pp.69-70, <u>passim</u>; Elmer Munson Hunt, <u>New Hampshire Town Names and Whence</u> They Came. (Peterborough, N.H.: Noone House, William L. Bauhan, c.1970), pp.100-101.

<sup>3</sup>Hadley, op. cit., p.184 ff.

41bid., p.276 ff.

Federal Writers! Project of the Works Progress Administration..., New Hampshire, A Guide to the Granite State. American Guide Series. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1938), p.476.

Hadley, op. cit., pp.67-68; map opposite p.68; Vol.II., p.371. Perhaps due to confusion over usage of Old Style and New Style date notation, Hadley cites 1749 in the text (67-68) but 1748 in the genealogy (Vol.II., p.371).

<sup>7</sup>Hadley, op. cit., Vol.II., p.371.

8 Idem.

Hadley, op. cit., p.162, although it is possible that the "William Parker" cited was actually William Parker, Jr., of Bedford, N.H. (b.1755), the cousin of William Parker of Goffstown. See ibid., passim; Vol. II., p.374.

10 Hadley, op. cit., Vol II., p.372.

11 <u>Ibid.</u>, pp.2-3: "In 'Hillsborough County History,' Dr. A. F. Carr speaks of the growth of pine on Parker's interval as follows: Old Captain Eliphalet Richards said 'that he bought the timber on Parker's interval for one hundred dollars, and the masts and timber were so thick upon it that he was obliged to haul a large portion away before felling the whole. There was not room enough for them all to lay without lying upon each other which would make it inconvenient to get them off.'

"A mast was once cut upon the farm of George A. Bell that exceeded in size and length any other ever cut in this region. It was so large that a yoke of 'seven-feet oxen' could be turned with ease upon its stump. The pine stumps used as a fence beside the road a part of the way from Parker's to the Howe Bridge, being the last witnesses of the primeval forest, speak in truthful terms of the gigantic trees they once supported. The writer has often heard one who helped pull these, and clear the ground for William Parker, father of the late J.M. and D.A. Parker, relate how thick the stumps stood on the interval and plain." Hadley also states, p.323: "As early as 1772..., among the causes that led to the Revolution was the seizure of white pine logs by order of the surveyor-general at several sawmills in town..." This seizure culminated in the 1772 "White Pine Riot" in nearby Weare, New Hampshire.

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#### 8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

- 12 Ibid., pp.220, 305, passim; Ella Shannon Bowles, Let Me Show You New Hampshire (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1938), pp.167-168.
- <sup>13</sup>Hadley, <u>op</u>. <u>cit</u>., p.203.
- <sup>14</sup><u>Ibid., pp. 220, 305.</u>
- <sup>15</sup> Ibid., p.220.
- 16 Ibid., p.217.
- <sup>17</sup>Ibid. p.109.
- 18
  Ibid., pp.217, 219. There appears to be some confusion concerning the date of construction, as a petition, ca. 1768, is quoted as follows: "The Third Bridge is on the North Branch of said River (Piscataquog), Near the Division line, of New Boston & Goffston on the Leading Road through N. Boston, to the Western Part of the State--..." (p.217), indicating a bridge existed at the site by that date. However, Hadley states, p.219, that "In the fall of 1770 a bridge was constructed across the northerly branch of the Piscataquog River on the road leading from Parker's to New Boston near where the present bridge is now located. This bridge was repaired and reconstructed from time to time until 1852..."
- 19 <a href="Ibid.">Ibid.</a>, p. 307; the house appears in the background of photographs opposite pp. 156 and 314.
- <sup>20</sup>Ibid. Vol II., p.374.
- <sup>21</sup> <u>Ibid.</u>, pp.309-312.
- <sup>22</sup> <u>Ibid.</u>, Vol. II., p.374.
- <sup>23</sup><u>Ibid.</u>, pp. 191, 522; Vol. II., p.374.
- 24 <u>Ibid.</u>, p.523; also see p.420.
- <sup>25</sup>Ibid., Vol. II., p.371.
- <sup>26</sup><u>Ibid.</u>, p.336; Vol. II., pp.371-372.

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### 8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

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<sup>27</sup>Ibid., pp. 316, 446; Vol. II., pp. 371-372.
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<sup>151</sup> Jbid., pp. 336, 420, 523, passim; map opposite p. 522; a photograph of the store, with the William Parker house in the background, appears opposite p. 156; Vol. II., p. 372.

<sup>35 &</sup>lt;u>Ibid.</u>, p. 522; photograph opposite p. 242.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., p. 336.

<sup>1</sup>bid., pp. 314-316; photograph opposite p. 314.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., pp. 316-317.