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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Granite Store in Sullivan is an unusual commercial structure which probably dates from between 1835 and 1850. A fascinating design tension exists between the store's formal Greek Revival lines and their embodiment in rough, irregular slabs of stone.

Like many Greek Revival buildings of the period, the Granite Store has one of its gable ends facing the street as the facade. The store is rectangular in shape and stands two and a half stories high. The foundation and first two stories are completely granite, while the half story is of frame construction.

The facade or north wall is symmetrically designed. On the first story is a doorway with a window at either side. The doorway is approached by large flat granite slabs which serve as steps. The double door is enframed by a horizontal granite sill and lintel as well as two verticle granite pieces. The two first story windows each have six-over-six sash. They are flanked by vertical pieces of granite which are thicker than those on the doorway and give the appearance of shutters. The second story facade contains two windows which are located directly above the first story ones. These are slightly smaller but of the same design as those on the first story. The half story is strongly outlined in wooden cornice molding to give the appearance of a Grecian triangular pediment. At the center of the gable is a square twelve paned window.

The east and west walls of the Granite Store are devoid of any doors and windows. However, the south or rear wall does have openings. The first story possesses two windows with eight over eight panes. As on the facade, these windows have a shutter-like vertical slab on either side. An identical window is found near the southeast corner of the second story. Near the southwest corner of the same story is a door which was probably used in loading merchandise on to the second floor. The rear half story is again forcefully outlined in wooden cornice molding to give the effect of a classical triangular pediment. At the center of the gable is another square twelve-paned window.

On the interior, the two and a half stories of the Granite Store are large open areas. Presumably, the first story was used to sell goods, while the second and half stories were devoted to storage. Currently being restored by its owners, the Store ranks as one of Maine's most distinctive Greek Revival commercial buildings.



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The Granite Store or, as it was once called, The Old Salt Store was built probably in the 1840's or 50's by John Paul Gordon of locally quarried granite. In its early years its principal function was to supply salt for preserving the catches of the Grand Banks cod fishermen. It also supplied heavy winter clothing to protect these dorymen from the rigors of North Atlantic winters.

In the late fifties it became the headquarters for the Sullivan Falls Shipyard which built fishing schooners between 1855 and 1874. In this capacity it served as a ship chandlery stocking nautical supplies and ship's provisions of all kinds.

Since the 1870's the building has experienced long periods of disuse but recently has functioned as a gallery, a gift shop and currently an antique shop for which it has been refurbished by the present owner.

This building, solidly constructed of native granite, with its ties to the maritime heritage of the coast whose rugged character it mirrors is profoundly appropriate as representing the character of the area.

NATIONAL REGISTER

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