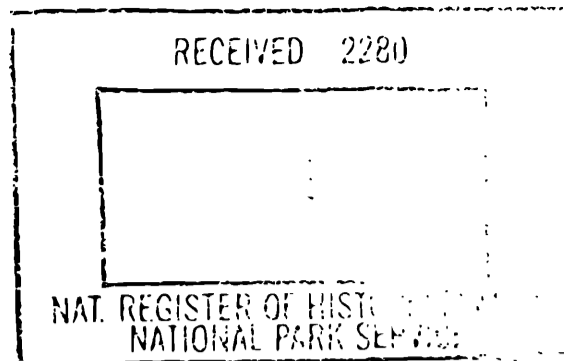


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting 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 Deerfield Genter Historic District

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 1 Candia Road, 1-14 Old Center Road South NA not for publication

city or town Deerfield NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Rockingham code 015 zip code 03037

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.)

James McAnaba 7/29/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

NEW HAMPSHIRE
State of 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 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:)

Edson H. Beall 9/14/02
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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	
12	4	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
12	4	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

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

EDUCATION: library

GOVERNMENT: city hall

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church-related residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

EDUCATION: library

GOVERNMENT: city hall

RELIGION: religious facility

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: fire station

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Classical Revival

Stick/Eastlake

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls weatherboard

shingle

roof asphalt

other brick

concrete

Narrative Description

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

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 past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1834-1949

Significant Dates

1834
1835
c. 1839

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Foster & Robinson
Chase R. Witcher

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical 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 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

Name of repository:

Deerfield Center Historic District
Name of Property

Rockingham County, NH
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 12.1 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	19	317640	4777640
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	19	317250	4777840

3	19	317280	4777980
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	19	317620	4778000

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 David Ruell

organization _____ date January 26, 2002

street & number 7 Hill Avenue telephone 603-968-7716

city or town Ashland state NH zip code 03217

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 SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 the form. 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 and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Architectural Classification (cont.)

Gothic Revival

Late Victorian

Other: mid 19th century gable front house

Other: early 19th century cape

Other: mid 19th century two-story central entry house

Other: mid 20th century cape

Materials (cont.)

foundation concrete
stone

walls wood

vinyl

brick

roof slate

steel

Description

The Deerfield Center Historic District is laid out along Old Center Road South in the village of Deerfield Center. Old Center Road South begins at the eastern end of the district at its intersection with three other roads. From this four corner intersection, Raymond Road runs southeast, Candia Road runs southwest, North Road runs somewhat east of north, and Old Center Road South runs northwest. About halfway through the district, between the Town Hall (#5) and the Baptist Church (#11), Old Center Road South curves to the south to a new course that is slightly north of due west. The road is fairly level through much of the district, although it rises slightly at its east end to the intersection and descends slightly at its west end into a shallow valley. The land included in the district is also relatively level, with only the properties at the east end and at the southwest corner of the district (#1, #6, and #7) having any significant slopes. Old Center Road South is paved with shoulders that are mostly grassed. The shoulders are paved in front of the Soldiers Memorial (#2) and the Baptist Church (#11). A row of typical wooden utility poles runs along the southerly side of the street. Otherwise

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Description (cont.)

street furniture is limited to mailboxes and a few traffic and parking signs.

The Deerfield Center Historic District includes seventeen buildings, fourteen major buildings and three outbuildings (one garage and two sheds), all fronting onto the street. The buildings are set on fairly spacious village lots. They all have front lawns of varying depths, save for the Fire Station (#3) which has a paved area on its street front. And they are set apart from each other by comfortable side yards. The buildings are all of wooden construction, save for the brick Soldiers Memorial (#2) and the Fire Station (#3), which is predominantly wood construction, but uses concrete block walls in the first story. Most of the buildings have wooden clapboarded walls. Two buildings (#3 and #4) now have vinyl "clapboarding". Wooden shingles appear on the gable ends of one house (#7) and as decorative bands on the former Freewill Baptist Church (#11). But, wooden and asphalt shingles, horizontal and vertical boards, and novelty siding appear primarily on outbuildings or on the walls of attached barns and garages. With the exception of the two buildings that are all or partly masonry (#2, #3), the district is predominantly clapboarded. White is the most common color, appearing on nine of the major buildings. With the exception of the hip roofed Soldiers Memorial (#2) and the gambrel roofed Fire Station (#3), the buildings all have gable roofs. They are all of roughly the same scale, one to two and a half stories high, although the three churches (#8, #11, #12) all have towers as well.

Ten of the major buildings were built in the 19th century. The four 20th century major buildings include two public buildings (#2, #3) and two houses built to replace 19th century houses that burned (#6, #9). Two of the three mid 20th century buildings (#3, #9) are considered non contributing because of their young age. The majority of the major buildings and all of the outbuildings were built in the vernacular of their day. The Greek Revival style is represented by the Town Hall (#5) and the Congregational

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Description (cont.)

Church (#8), the Stick Style by the former Freewill Baptist Church (#12), and the Classical Revival style by the Soldiers Memorial (#2). The First Baptist Church (#11) began as a building incorporating features of both the Federal and Gothic Revival styles, but later received significant Victorian additions. Classified by original function, the major buildings included seven houses, six public buildings (three churches, a town hall, a library, and a fire station), and one commercial building (a store). One church became the grange hall and now serves as the town's community center. The one commercial building was converted to residential use, becoming a single family home in the 19th century. One older building, the fire station (#3), has been so altered that it must now be considered non-contributing. But, the other older buildings and the District as a whole retains their basic architectural and historic integrity.

The description of the individual properties in the district will begin at the southeast corner of the district, proceed west along the south side of Old Center Road South, and then return to the east along the north side of the street.

#1 BALLOU HOUSE

PROBABLY LATE 1850's or 1860's

1 CANDIA ROAD

CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Ballou House is a mid 19th century vernacular wooden house on a corner lot at the intersection of Candia Road and Old Center Road. The two and a half story, gable roofed main block is set with its northeast gable end facing Old Center Road. The main entrance in the southeast Candia Road side is sheltered by a one story, hip roofed, enclosed porch that covers the entire facade. Attached to the southwest gable end of the main block is the narrower one story gable roofed rear wing which stretches to the large gable roofed attached barn. Because of the slope of the land to the west, the barn is one and a half stories high on the northeast and

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Description (cont.)

southeast, but is two and a half stories high on the southwest and northwest. On the barn's northwest side is a narrow two story, shed roofed addition. A two level open deck is attached to the northwest side of the wing and the barn.

The main block, set on a cut granite block foundation, has clapboarded walls trimmed by cornerboards with moulded caps. A deep box cornice, with mouldings, frieze and returns trims the asphalt shingled gable roof. A brick chimney with corbeled cap rises from the northwest slope of the roof near the ridge. The main entry, found in the southerly bay of the two bay southeast facade, is a four panel door with five pane full sidelights and a plain frame. The windows of the three public facades all have 6/6 sash and plain frames. All but one also have louvred wooden shutters. The two bay southeast facade has three such windows, one in the first story and two in the second. The two bay northeast gable end has two more such windows in all three stories, the two gable windows being smaller than the lower windows. The two bay northwest side also has two such windows in both stories, although the southerly first story window is smaller and lacks the customary shutters. The southwest gable end, partly covered by the wing, has just two windows, both with plain frames and louvred shutters, a narrow 4/4 sash window in the second story and a 6/6 sash window in the gable.

The enclosed porch on the southwest side of the main block was once an open veranda. It has granite and concrete posts, and a short latticework base topped by a sillboard with watertable. Four square posts with simple bases and moulded capitals divide the southeast side into three bays. These three bays and the single bay at the southwest end are each now filled by a low clapboarded wall beneath two modern 1/1 sash windows with plain trim. The northeast end of the porch contains the porch entry, a plain framed modern glass

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Description (cont.)

door. Above the door is the sign with the supposed date "c. 1830" in raised letters. East of the door is another modern 1/1 sash window above a low clapboarded wall. The low pitched hip roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles and trimmed by a box cornice with mouldings and frieze.

The rear wing's southeast wall is continuous with the main block's southeast wall. The rear wing's southwest end embraces the north corner of the attached barn, with a narrow section of the wing extending a short distance down the northwest side of the barn. The rear wing, set on a cut granite block foundation, is clapboarded on the southeast and northwest, but is sheathed with vertical boarding on the narrow southwest end of the extension. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed by a box cornice with mouldings and frieze on the more public southeast side, by close eaves with frieze on the northwest, and by close verges on the southwest. The roof ridge is broken by a brick chimney with corbeled cap. On the southeast side are found four 6/6 sash windows with plain frames that butt up against the eaves trim. (Two of them also have louvred shutters.) South of the windows is a paneled door with a nine pane builtin window, a plain frame, and two granite steps. The northwest side retains an older 6/6 sash window with plain frame and louvred shutters, but now also has a modern double casement window with single pane sash and a simply moulded frame, and double sliding glass doors with a plain frame, opening onto the new deck.

The barn has cut granite block foundations on the northwest and southeast sides and a poured concrete basement wall on the southwest gable end. (The foundation is not exposed on the northeast gable end.) The walls are clapboarded on the three sides visible to the public, but are sheathed with wooden shingles on the northwest side. A box cornice with mouldings, frieze and returns trims the asphalt shingled gable roof. Plain frames trim the openings. In the center of the northeast gable end is the main entry, tall, sliding, double doors made of vertical boards. Above

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Description (cont.)

the door is a long twenty-four pane transom window. A normal sized board door is found next to the east corner, while the gable contains two 6/6 sash windows. The southeast Candia Road side has three small four pane windows and another board door with two granite steps. The basement level of the southwest gable end features a wide central sliding door mounted on an exterior track. This sliding wooden door seems to be constructed from three manufactured leaves, each with an eight pane window above four vertical panels. In the main level above the basement door is a double door made of vertical boards, which is protected by a removable gate of wooden pickets. A 6/6 sash window appears in the gable. The northwest side is largely covered by the addition, so it has just two windows, a six pane window in the lower level opening into the lower level of the addition, and a 6/6 sash window in the main level between the wing and the addition.

The barn addition has two levels, with a lower storage area completely open to the outdoors at the southwest end, and an upper level that is completely enclosed. The addition has a fieldstone foundation, board and batten sheathing on the long northwest side, and modern vertically grooved plywood on the upper level of the northeast and southwest ends. Close eaves and verges trim the asphalt shingled shed roof. The lower level has just one window, an untrimmed six pane window in the northwest side. The upper level has an 8/12 sash window on the southwest, three six pane windows on the northwest, and another six pane window on the northeast, all with plain frames. The six pane windows in the upper level all appear to be older reused sash that were installed in new frames. The northeast end of the upper level also has a modern paneled metal door with a builtin nine pane window and simply moulded frame opens onto the deck.

The modern deck has wooden posts with concrete bases and sometimes braces, latticework bases, and simple wooden railings. Because of the steep slope of land to the west, it has two levels. The upper level, at the floor level of the

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Description (cont.)

rear wing, is L-shaped, with a large rectangular space in front of the rear wing and a narrow extension, the same width as the barn addition, along the side of the rear wing and the barn, to the barn addition. A short flight of steps descends to a smaller lower level, square in plan, to the southwest. On the southwest side of the lower level, a wooden stairway with two flights and a central landing, descends to the ground.

The grounds around the house are mostly grassed. A crushed stone driveway runs from Old Center Road, along the side of the enclosed porch and wing, to the barn's main doors, where it serves a crushed stone parking area set off from Candia Road by granite blocks. A crushed stone walkway runs from the main drive along the northeast side of the porch and main block. A short section of rail fence marks the west corner of the main drive and protects a large Colonial Revival style metal and glass light on a tall wooden post. A fieldstone retaining wall, topped by a chainlink fence, creates a terrace between the barn and Candia Road. Trees and shrubs, as well as a few metal and wooden posts, line the two roads. South of an opening behind the barn, the Candia Road frontage is marked by a fieldstone wall. Two large trees stand west of the main block. A lawn to the northwest of the house is set off by rows of cedars to the southwest and along the property boundary to the northwest. The land slopes down to the south and west to a large mostly level field at the rear of the property. Clumps of trees grow on the edges of the field.

According to the memories of Dyer S. Smith, as recorded in 1927, this house was "first settled [by] John Ballou who sold to John Rand." ¹ In April of 1859, John M. Ballou

¹ "Deerfield Houses" notes of the memories of Dyer S. Smith, taken in 1927 by Lottie Prescott Hersey and transcribed in 1954 by Joanne Wasson (manuscript, Philbrick-James Library, Deerfield N.H.) entry # 104

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Description (cont.)

purchased from James B. Edgerly one hundred acres that included the present house lot.² Ballou sold most of that land, including this piece at the west corner of the intersection of Candia Road and Old Center Road South, to John Rand in 1884.³ Other evidence seems to confirm that Ballou was the builder. The Rockingham County map of 1857 shows only one building, a wheelwright shop, on the southerly side of the road between the intersection and the Town Hall (#5). Edgerly then lived across the road, at the north corner of the intersection.⁴ So, there was probably no house here when Ballou bought the land two years later. Rand is described as purchasing "the farm of John M. Ballou at the Centre" in an 1884 newspaper item.⁵ This phrase would imply the existence of the house and the barn at the time of Ballou's sale to Rand. So, it is safe to assume that the house was built between 1859 and 1884.⁶ Unfortunately, a more precise date cannot be documented. Deerfield tax records give only the total value of an individual's real estate. As property values presumably changed over time and as Ballou did buy and sell other properties, it is difficult to correlate the frequent changes in his valuation with the construction of the house.⁷ The three largest increases in

² Deed, Book 381, Page 396, Rockingham Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

³ Deed, Book 492, Page 420, Rockingham Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁴ J.Chace, Jr., MAP OF ROCKINGHAM CO., NEW HAMPSHIRE (Philadelphia, 1857)

⁵ Exeter News Letter, May 16, 1884

⁶ Local historian Joanne Wasson also believes that Ballou was the builder of the house. (Interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27, 1999)

⁷ "Invoice Books, 1852-1864, Deerfield N.H." (microfilm, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.), 1856-1864, pp. 108, 166, 224, 280, 356, 428, 478; "Invoice Books, 1861-1875, Deerfield, N.H." (microfilm, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.), 1861-1872, pp. 262, 316, 370, 424, 476,

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Description (cont.)

Ballou's real estate assessment between 1858 and 1885 are a \$1000 increase between 1858 and 1859, a \$500 increase between 1866 and 1867, and an \$800 increase between 1879 and 1880.⁸ Since Ballou is reported to have purchased a store in January of 1880,⁹ the 1879-80 increase should probably be ignored, leaving 1858-59, the year of his land purchase, and 1866-67 as the most likely dates for the construction of the house. But, there are other lesser increases in Ballou's real estate assessment, in 1865-66, 1869-70, 1870-71, 1872-73, 1874-75, 1875-76, 1881-82, which may also be relevant.¹⁰ A date in the late 1850's or the 1860's would be consistent with the style of the house, which resembles the Baptist Parsonage (#10), built in 1859, and the Goodhue House (#14), built between 1859 and 1864.

The building, particularly the main block, seems to have seen relatively few changes. The only obvious change to the main block exterior is the smaller modern 6/6 sash window on the northwest side which now serves a bathroom.¹¹ The porch was obviously enclosed in the mid 20th century, sometime before 1967, according to one neighbor.¹² An undated

502, 1865-1875, pp. 393, 455, 521, 587, 669; "Invoice Books, 1876-1886, Deerfield, N.H." (microfilm, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.) pp. 31, 91, 151, 217, 281, 363, 425, 495, 571, 657

⁸ "Invoice Books, 1852-1864, Deerfield, N.H.", 1856-1864, pp. 108, 166; "Invoice Books, 1861-1875, Deerfield, N.H.", 1861-1872, pp. 316, 370; "Invoice Books, 1876-1886, Deerfield N.H." pp. 217, 281

⁹ Exeter News Letter, January 23, 1880

¹⁰ "Invoice Books, 1861-1875, Deerfield, N.H." 1861-72, pp. 262, 296, 476, 502, 1865-1875, pp. 393, 455, 521, 587, 669; "Invoice Books, 1876-1886, Deerfield, N.H.", pp. 31, 363, 425

¹¹ Interview of Scott Allen by David Ruell, November 2, 2001

¹² Interview of Sylvia Maley by David Ruell, January 3, 2000

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Description (cont.)

photograph of the house from the late 19th century or early 20th century shows that the rear wing's southeastern side once had a window approximately where the door is now and a door a few feet north of the present door.¹³ Sometime before 1967, the entrance was relocated and a more modern door installed.¹⁴ (The same photograph shows that the rear wing's chimney was once located further to the north.¹⁵) More extensive changes came when the kitchen in the rear wing was remodeled by Robert and Carolee Jones, soon after they purchased the house.¹⁶ (They owned the house from 1976 to 1984.¹⁷) This remodeling appears to have included the modern casement window and the sliding glass doors. The two-level deck can also be attributed to the same period of ownership between 1976 and 1984, as it was not there when the previous owners lived in the house,¹⁸ but does appear in an 1984 sketch plan of the building.¹⁹

The already noted old photograph of the house does not show the smaller door on the northeast gable end of the barn, proving it to be a later addition. The sliding door on the rear, serving the basement level of the barn, appears to be a 20th century door, and was in place by the 1970's. The concrete basement wall of the barn may have been built by

¹³ Photograph of Ballou house, undated and untitled (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

¹⁴ Interview of Sylvia Maley by David Ruell, January 3, 2000

¹⁵ Photograph of Ballou house (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

¹⁶ Interview of Sylvia Maley by David Ruell, January 3, 2000

¹⁷ Deeds, Book 2261, Page 411, and Book 2439, Page 360, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

¹⁸ Interview of Sylvia Maley by David Ruell, January 3, 2000

¹⁹ "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.) survey form #163 prepared by C. Tethers, 1984

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Description (cont.)

the Joneses.²⁰ The addition on the barn may have been built as early as the 19th century, but the addition was remodeled by the Joneses for the flower shop they operated in it.²¹ This remodeling must have included the modern door on the northeast, the 8/12 sash window on the southwest, the plywood sheathing on the two ends, and the recycled six pane windows.

Major changes to the Ballou House have been largely confined to the parts of the building seldom seen by the public, the northwest and southwest sides of the rear wing and the barn, as well as the barn addition. These changes would include the new windows and doors of the rear wing and barn addition, the open deck, the new door and wall on the rear gable end of the barn. From the streets, the only major change obvious to the passerby is the enclosure of the porch. But, while the original elements of the porch seem to survive. The Ballou House therefore retains its basic architectural integrity.

#2 SOLDIERS MEMORIAL
1913-1914

4 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Soldiers Memorial is a brick Classical Revival library. The one story hip roofed main block has a fully exposed basement level on the rear (southwest). In the center of the main block's northeast street facade is a large pedimented gable roofed portico supported by four columns between wide brick piers projecting from the main block.

The brick walls of both the main block and the portico are laid in stretcher bond above cast stone foundations made

²⁰ Interview of Sylvia Maley by David Ruell, January 3, 2000

²¹ Ibid.; interview of Elsie Brown and Joe Sears by David Ruell, December 17, 1999

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Description (cont.)

of fine grained concrete cast to look like stone blocks. The main block and the portico have different foundation designs. But they do share the same continuous eaves trim, an elaborate wide wooden entablature featuring a cornice with courses of dentils and egg and dart moulding, a deep frieze, and a moulded architrave. The entablature is pedimented on the portico's gable. The portico's gable roof is lower than the main block's hip roof, but both are sheathed with slates. The horizontal roof ridges are covered by metal mouldings ornamented at both ends on the hip roof and at the street end on the portico roof by small metal volutes decorated with rosettes.

The portico is set on a low base of three courses of cast stone concrete blocks, with the lower course and the upper course projecting slightly beyond the middle course. The lower course has a beveled top. Set on the base at the northwest and southeast sides of the portico are wide brick piers with no exterior openings. (Each contains a closet entered from the interior.) The walls of these piers are laid in a banded stretcher bond with projecting and receding courses that follow a regular pattern, with single recessed courses between projecting bands that are alternately four and two courses deep. Between the piers is a wide opening served by three cast stone concrete steps below the slightly projecting cast stone outer course of the portico floor. An ornate metal railing is now found in the center of the steps. The floor of the portico is (save for the cast stone blocks on the outer street edge) covered by small mosaic tiles, mostly white with some red tiles forming a border with a simple fret pattern. The portico ceiling is sheathed with beaded boarding and trimmed by a simple ceiling moulding. A modern electric light is now mounted on the ceiling.

Four cast stone concrete columns are set in pairs at the ends of the portico's opening on the floor's outer cast stone course. The classical columns have square plinths, round bases, and fluted shafts. Their elaborate capitals are

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a variant of the Ionic order, each with four angled volutes on the corners, an egg and dart moulding beneath the volutes, and a fleuron, a small floral ornament, on each side, between the volutes. The columns and the brick piers support the horizontal cornice of the pediment. On its frieze above the entry is the building's title "SOLDIERS MEMORIAL" in raised letters. In the flush boarded tympanum of the pediment is an ornate carved foliated ornament with flowing branches and leaves, whose roughly triangular shape echoes that of the pediment.

The rear brick wall of the portico opening is the north-east front wall of the main block. In its center is the main entry, with its simple rectangular concrete sill and lintel. The lintel which butts up against the ceiling bears the inscription "PHILBRICK-JAMES LIBRARY". The entry proper is slightly recessed. The wooden framed glass door is protected by an iron screen of vertical bars ornamented by scrollwork and decorative upper ends. The door is framed by wooden posts on which are found paneled pilasters with moulded bases and capitals. Flanking the door on each side are three-quarter sidelights, each above a moulded wooden panel. The sidelights are filled with leaded glass, in triangular panes forming three stacked rectangles. Metal bars protect the lower portions of the sidelights. A simple moulding trims the outer edge of the sidelights and panels. The sidelights and door are topped by a continuous wooden cornice with small dentils, frieze and architrave. Above the cornice are three transom windows, again of leaded glass with triangular panes. The two smaller end transom windows, above the sidelights, are each rectangles formed of four triangular panes. The central transom window above the door has a pattern of two squares, each made up of six triangular panes. The transom windows are topped by a simple wooden moulding.

Mounted on the main block wall to each side of the main entry is a large rectangular bronze plaque honoring those Deerfield residents who served in our country's wars. The

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names of those who served in the Revolution and the War of 1812 are found on the easterly plaque, while those who served in the Civil War and the Spanish American War are listed on the westerly plaque. Additional bronze plaques were later placed on the inner walls of the portico's piers. Two large bronze plaques for the Deerfield veterans of World War I and the Vietnamese war are mounted on the northwest portico wall. A large bronze plaque for the veterans of World War II and the Korean War is mounted on the southeast wall beneath a smaller plaque erected in honor of Lieut. Nathanael Meloon in 1923 by a descendant.

The three public facades of the main block, the north-east street facade and the northwest and southeast ends, share the same window design and the same cast stone base which is interrupted only by the portico. The cast stone base, which rises to the window sill level of the main story, consists of five courses of plain long cast stone concrete blocks beneath a projecting moulded concrete sillcourse. The lowest course, continuous with the lowest course of the portico foundation, also projects slightly like its portico counterpart. The two bays of each end wall and the end bays of the three bay northeast main facade, each have a basement window and a main level window, all of the same design. The low horizontal basement window, which has three panes and simply moulded wooden frame, interrupts the two lower courses of the cast stone base. The main level window, set on the stringcourse, is a large 1/1 sash window with simply moulded wooden frame, and a cast concrete lintel. The lintel has slanted ends and a central projecting keystone that rises into the brick wall above. The central bay of the northeast street facade is occupied by the already described entry and portico.

The rear wall is two stories high because of the fall of the land. The rear wall is entirely brick beneath the wooden entablature, save for the narrow ends of the main level cast stone base, complete with short returns of the stringcourse, at the two corners. The wall's openings are asymmetrical.

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The basement level has to the west a modern six paneled metal door and two 6/6 sash windows. These basement openings have simply moulded wooden frames, and plain rectangular concrete sills and lintels. The westerly portion of the main level features two large 1/1 sash windows like those on the three public facades, with concrete lintels with sloped ends and projecting keystones, but with plain concrete sills. The easterly portion of the main level features a group of four tall, narrow 1/1 sash windows, with simply moulded frames, plain concrete sills, and simple concrete lintels with sloped ends. In the center of the rear slope of the main block roof is the brick chimney with its corbeled cap.

The small library lot is mostly grassed. The lawn slopes up to the building from the street and the sides. The hedge along the street is broken only by the brick edged concrete walk that leads to the main entrance. Large tall shrubs now grace the two outer corners of the portico. Two more large but lower evergreen shrubs are found on the lawn in front of these plants. To the west of walkway is a metal flagpole and the sign announcing the library's hours. The painted wooden sign hangs on the ornate bracket of a metal post. To the east of the walkway is a bulletin board, a large wooden box with glass front door and gable roofed top, set on two metal posts. Two deteriorating concrete retaining walls extend the line of the rear wall to the northwest and southeast of the rear corners of the building. Trees and shrubs mark the rear boundary. An asphalt walk leads from the fire station parking lot (on property #3 to the west) to the rear basement door.

In 1880, Frederick P. James, acting though an intermediary, John D. Philbrick, offered the Town of Deerfield \$1000 to establish a public library.²² A special town meeting on

²² Joanne Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD (Concord, N.H., 1964) p.13

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September 8, 1880 voted unanimously to accept the gift and to establish the library.²³ The library opened to the public on December 18, 1880.²⁴ The following year, it was named the Philbrick-James Library for its two benefactors.²⁵ The library was at first housed in a small upstairs room in the Town Hall (#5).²⁶ But as early as 1883, a newspaper writer noted that "a library building is very much needed".²⁷

The Jere E. Chadwick Woman's Relief Corps No. 70 was organized in 1891 as the woman's auxiliary for Deerfield's Grand Army of the Republic post.²⁸ The WRC members were interested from the beginning of their organization in erecting a memorial to Deerfield's soldiers.²⁹ One plan discussed by the WRC members was a building that would house a meeting hall for the WRC and the GAR and the town library.³⁰

About 1910, Julia James Butterfield, the widow of Frederick P. James, and Laura Marston, president of the Jere E. Chadwick WRC, met at a DAR convention in Washington. They discussed the idea of a building and Mrs. Butterfield offered to give \$4000, half the estimated cost, for a building that would serve three purposes, a town library, a meeting place for the WRC and the GAR, and a soldiers

²³ Exeter News Letter, May 14, 1880; Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.13

²⁴ Exeter News Letter, December 24, 1880

²⁵ Exeter News Letter, March 18, 1881

²⁶ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.13

²⁷ Exeter News Letter, March 23, 1883

²⁸ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL (Deerfield, N.H.), p.48

²⁹ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p. 14

³⁰ Joanne Wasson, "Information on Soldiers Memorial" (manuscript, collection of Laura Guinan, Deerfield, N.H.), p.1

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memorial.³¹ So, the WRC presented an offer to the annual 1911 town meeting of such a building "to be known as Soldiers Memorial and to be kept forever as a Memorial to all soldiers or defenders of this country who claimed Deerfield as their home". The offer was, of course, accepted by the voters, and the WRC set to work raising funds through sales, dances, and appeal letters.³²

By 1913, the WRC was ready to proceed with the actual building. Laura A. Marston, Adah L. Clark, and Cora E. Wilson, served as the WRC building committee.³³ On April 14, the WRC voted to buy the lot offered by John C. Rand and authorized the committee to proceed with the work and specifically to consult with the architect on the plans.³⁴ At another special meeting on April 30, the WRC approved the plans drawn by architect Chase R. Whitcher of Manchester.³⁵ In July, the small lot was deeded to the WRC.³⁶ By July 23, the building committee could report to the WRC members that a contract had been awarded to the Manchester construction firm of J.H. Mendell Co. to erect the building for \$7595.³⁷

³¹ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p. 14; Wasson "Information on Soldiers Memorial"; p.1; interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27, 1999

³² Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, pp. 14-15

³³ Bronze plaque inside Soldiers Memorial building; Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.15

³⁴ "Journal, Jere E. Chadwick Corps No. 70, Woman's Relief Corps, 1912-1920", (manuscript, collection of Deerfield Historical Society, Deerfield, N.H.), minutes of April 14, 1913 meeting

³⁵ "Journal, Jere E. Chadwick Corps No. 70, Woman's Relief Corps, 1912-1920", minutes of April 30, 1913 meeting; bronze plaque inside Soldiers Memorial building

³⁶ Deed, Book 683, Page 460, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

³⁷ "Journal, Jere E. Chadwick Corps No. 70, Woman's Relief Corps, 1912-1920", minutes of July 23, 1913 meeting;

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Construction began in 1913 and was completed in 1914.³⁸ The building was dedicated on July 28, 1914³⁹ and was deeded by the WRC to the town on the same day.⁴⁰ The cost of the building has been described as both "a little over \$8000"⁴¹ and as "close to \$9000".⁴²

The building has seen some functional change. Originally, the library occupied the east end of the building, while the west end of the main level was used as a small hall for the WRC and the GAR.⁴³ Deerfield's GAR and WRC units eventually faded away, and the library now occupies the entire building, including the remodeled basement. But, the exterior is little changed. The two large bronze plaques honoring the soldiers from the Revolution through the Spanish American War are original features of the building.⁴⁴ But, even as the newspapers were describing the dedication of the library building and its plaques, they were also reporting preparations for a major war in Europe. That war and later conflicts have required the erection of more memorial plaques, the World War I plaque in 1922,⁴⁵

Manchester Daily Mirror & American, July 28, 1914

³⁸ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.15

³⁹ Exeter News Letter, July 31, 1914; Manchester Daily Mirror and American, July 28, 1914; Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.15

⁴⁰ Deed, Book 711, Page 426, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁴¹ Manchester Daily Mirror and American, July 28, 1914

⁴² Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.15

⁴³ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p. 49

⁴⁴ Photographs of Soldiers Memorial (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.); Manchester Daily Mirror and American, July 28, 1914

⁴⁵ "Journal, Jere E. Chadwick Corps No. 70, Woman's Relief Corps, 1920-1929", (manuscript, collection of Deerfield Historical Society, Deerfield, N.H.), minutes of meetings of May 10, July 12, August 9, September 12, 1922

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the World War II and Korean War plaque in 1959,⁴⁶ and the Vietnam War plaque in 1988.⁴⁷ A smaller bronze plaque for Lieut. Meloon was added in 1923.⁴⁸ The only other exterior architectural changes appear to be the replacement of the rear basement door in the mid 1990's⁴⁹, and the installation of a railing on the front steps. Basically, the library appears today virtually as it did in 1914.

#3 DEERFIELD FIRE STATION
1932-19334A OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Deerfield Fire Station is a 20th century vernacular structure of wooden and concrete block construction. Save for some lower level concrete block walls, the building is now sheathed with white vinyl "clapboard" siding. The building consists of no less than six sections. The one and three quarter story, gambrel roofed main block is set with its main facade, the northeast gable end, facing the street. Covering the rear southwest gable end of the main block is the rear addition, which consists of three sections, all of the same depth. The central rear addition is a two story gable roofed structure. It is flanked on each side, the northwest and the southeast, by a one story shed roofed rear addition. Covering the rear southwest end of the southeast rear addition and much of the rear southwest gable end of the central rear addition is a one story, shed roofed storage shed. In the corner created by the storage shed and the central rear addition is a tall three story, shed roofed

⁴⁶ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, pp. 49, 51

⁴⁷ Interview of Joe Sears by David Ruell, December 22, 1999; "Dedication of Vietnam Memorial Plaque, Memorial Day, May 30, 1988" (brochure)

⁴⁸ Inscription on Lieut. Meloon plaque

⁴⁹ Interview of librarian Evelyn Cronyn, by David Ruell, September 24, 1999

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hose tower, which covers parts of the southwest ends of the central and northwest rear additions.

The main block has concrete block walls on the southeast and northwest sides, which are only one story high. Vinyl siding now covers the northeast street gable end and all that is visible of the southwest gable. A vinyl covered box cornice trims the gambrel roof with its flared eaves and asphalt shingling. (The front gable cornice is red on the face and brown on the underside, but otherwise the cornice is white vinyl.) On top of the roof ridge is a large round metal siren with conical metal cap. The first story of the street facade is occupied by four large modern overhead garage doors. The vinyl covered doors each have three plexiglass windows, all horizontal fixed single pane windows with rounded corners and plain rubber trim. The plain garage door frames are covered with red vinyl. Small flags are mounted above the two end doors. The second story has six 2/2 sash windows with narrow white vinyl trim. Beneath the two central windows is a painted wooden sign with the title "DEERFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE ASS'N" in incised letters. Above the windows in the center, a modern electric light is mounted on a large metal bracket. In the gable is found a tall large rectangular louver with narrow white vinyl trim. At the apex of the gable is a smaller triangular louver. The rear southwest gable has no openings except for another tall rectangular louver and a triangular louver in the apex corresponding to the louvers on the front gable. The rear gable does have a tall metal antenna attached to it. Plain frames, now covered with white vinyl, trim the doors and the 2/2 sash windows of the northwest and southeast sides. The southeast side has two such windows and (towards the front) a six paneled metal door, while the northwest side has three windows and (towards the rear) a wooden paneled door with a large square window built into it.

The first story of the central rear addition is entirely hidden by other sections of the building. The visible walls are trimmed by narrow vinyl cornerboards. The asphalt

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shingled gable roof is trimmed by simple vinyl covered box cornices on the lateral sides and by close vinyl verges on the rear southwest gable. Only short sections of the lateral northwest and southeast walls are visible above the roofs of the flanking northwest and southeast additions. The northwest wall has no openings, while the southeast wall has three small horizontal windows, each with a hinged single pane sash and narrow vinyl trim. The rear southwest gable end has two openings in its upper level, a 6/6 sash window to the east and a plain metal door to the west, both with plain white vinyl frames. The door opens onto a landing on top of the rear storage shed roof. In the gable is a small rectangular louvred vent with narrow vinyl trim. Another metal antenna is attached to the gable.

The northwest and southeast rear additions are very similar. Both have concrete block walls up to the level of the lateral eaves and white vinyl siding in their southwestern half gables. White vinyl now covers the plain frames of their 2/2 sash windows. Their asphalt shingled shed roofs are trimmed by vinyl covered lateral box cornices with vinyl covered friezes, and by close vinyl verges on the half gables. The southeast rear addition has two 2/2 sash windows in its southeast wall. The northwest addition has two 2/2 sash windows in its northwest wall. Rising from the roof of the northwest addition is a tall concrete block chimney, which is strengthened by two metal tie rods attached to the roof.

The rear storage shed is set on a concrete foundation. Its walls are sheathed with vinyl clapboarding and trimmed by vinyl cornerboards. The low pitched metal sheathed shed roof is trimmed by a vinyl covered box cornice on the lateral southwest side and by close vinyl verges on the half gables. There are only two openings. In the southeast end is a large wooden overhead garage door with moulded panels, trimmed by a plain red vinyl covered frame. (The rest of the shed's vinyl is white.) On the southwest side is found a large rectangular louvred vent with narrow vinyl trim.

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The tall hose tower is almost square in plan. It has a concrete foundation and vinyl clapboard siding with vinyl cornerboards. A vinyl covered box cornice trims the shed roof, which is apparently sheathed with asphalt shingles. Built into the rear southwest wall is a large rectangular solar panel with a fiberglass outer face and narrow vinyl trim. At the top of both the southeast and northwest sides is found a single pane horizontal hinged window with narrow vinyl trim. Around the tower is wrapped an exterior wooden stairway, set on plain wooden posts, with board floors and steps and a simple wooden railing. The stairway starts on the northwest side of the tower, rises along the northwest side to a landing at the west corner of the tower, then rises along the southwest side of the tower to a landing on the roof of the rear storage shed. This upper landing stretches along the southeast side of the tower to the second story door in the central rear addition.

The fire station is set on a small lot. In front of the building, a paved area reaches to the street. To the southeast of the building is a small paved parking lot separated from the street by a narrow strip of grass and from the library lawn by a short timber retaining wall. From this parking lot, a driveway circles around the back of the building and out to the street again along its northwest side. This driveway is mostly gravel, with short paved sections at both ends. The land to the rear is partly grassed and partly exposed dirt. A short utility pole with a modern electric light fixture and an antenna stands next to the southeast rear addition.

The Deerfield Volunteer Fire Association was organized in January of 1932 to provide fire protection for the town.⁵⁰ A three man building committee for a fire station (George W. Clark, Henry P. Haynes and E. B. Hersey) was named in July

⁵⁰ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, pp. 46-47

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of 1932.⁵¹ In August, the Association purchased a small lot from John C. Rand for \$35.⁵² The original fire station was completed in 1933. It was a small building, twenty feet wide by forty feet deep, housing the one truck the Association then owned.⁵³ An early photograph shows that it was a two story, gable roofed wooden building, with the gable end facing the street. It had clapboarded walls, a plain cornice, simple window and door trim, and one large garage door in the streetside end.⁵⁴ The first story was the garage, the second story the meeting room which was reached by a stairway in the southern corner that was served by an outside door.⁵⁵

In 1947, the Association bought a second fire truck. The two trucks both used the single front door, until the door was damaged in a late 1948 accident, as the trucks tried to leave to go to a fire. Therefore, in 1949 or 1950, two doors replaced the original single door, giving the building two bays.⁵⁶ The need for more space soon prompted a more comprehensive remodeling of the building. In May of 1954, a five man building committee (Chief W. Rollins, L.E. Maynard, G.F. Clark, K. Nay, and R. Stevens) was named. The Association took out a \$4000 loan, and proceeded in 1954-55 to build the present gambrel roofed main block, fifty two feet wide by forty feet deep, with four bays for fire

⁵¹ George Clark "Fire Department Buildings at Deerfield Center" (manuscript, collection Deerfield Volunteer Fire Association, Deerfield, N.H.) unpagged

⁵² Deed, Book 1332, Page 245, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁵³ Clark, "Fire Department Buildings at Deerfield Center", unpagged

⁵⁴ Photograph "Deerfield Volunteer Fire Assoc. Inc." (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

⁵⁵ Interview of George Clark by David Ruell, November 9, 1999

⁵⁶ Interview of George Clark by David Ruell, November 9, 1999

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trucks.⁵⁷ The new main block was designed by Harold Wasson of Chester, who also built the outer shell with volunteer help from the firemen and some hired help. All of the interior finish work was done by the volunteer firemen. Materials used included lumber salvaged from the horsesheds at the First Baptist Church (#11), which were donated to the Association by the church society. To accommodate the increasing height of fire trucks, the second story floor level was set at a higher level than the original building. The new main block was built around and above the original fire station, which remained in use during construction. The front and rear gable end walls of the new main block incorporated the gable ends of the original building. But, after the construction was completed, the northwest and southeast side walls, the roof, and the second story floor of the original building were demolished and removed. All that remained of the original building were the concrete first story floor, and parts of the front and rear walls.⁵⁸ Photographs reveal that the original second story street front windows were also replaced.⁵⁹

As the Association's fleet of trucks and equipment grew, the building again became inadequate, particularly as fire trucks grew larger and higher. In 1963, the Association bought a new truck that could barely fit through the front doors. The firemen wanted to install taller doors, but were unable to do so because of the building's framework. The solution was to raise the height of the first story of the main block by jacking up the wooden upper story and adding three courses of concrete blocks to the side walls in 1967. New overhead doors on the street front were installed at

⁵⁷ Clark, "Fire Department Buildings at Deerfield Center", unpagged

⁵⁸ Interview of George Clark by David Ruell, November 9, 1999

⁵⁹ Photographs of construction of present main block of fire station, (collection of Keith Rollins, Deerfield, N.H.)

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that time.⁶⁰ 1967 also saw the beginning of the construction of the rear addition, which was the same width as the main block and 42 feet deep. The rear addition was completed in 1968 at a cost of \$4800.⁶¹ The shell was built by contractor Archie Fernald of Nottingham, with the cement work done by Albert Gooch of Nottingham. The volunteer firemen again did the interior finish work.⁶² The rear addition appears as three sections on the exterior, with a two story central section and flanking one story sections. But, the first story of all three sections of the rear addition and the first story of the main block are largely devoted to one large open room for fire trucks. So, in the process of adding the rear addition, most of the surviving rear wall of the original 1932-33 building was removed.

Further changes have included two more additions. In 1977-78, the storage shed was added on the rear at a cost of \$2981. The hose tower was erected in 1983 at a cost of \$3000.⁶³ The original exterior rear stairway, a recycled metal fire escape, was removed when the hose tower was constructed, and the present wooden stairway was built to replace it.⁶⁴ Other changes have included new siding. Dated photographs reveal that the original clapboard siding was still in place in 1963, but had been replaced by vinyl siding by 1979.⁶⁵ The eaves, window and door frames, were covered by vinyl c.1996.⁶⁶ The four present overhead doors on the main block's street front were installed in the late

⁶⁰ Interview of George Clark by David Ruell, November 9, 1999

⁶¹ Clark, "Fire Department Buildings at Deerfield Center"
unpaged

⁶² Interview of George Clark by David Ruell, November 9, 1999

⁶³ Clark, "Fire Department Buildings at Deerfield Center",
unpaged

⁶⁴ Interview of George Clark by David Ruell, November 9, 1999

⁶⁵ Photographs, (collection of Deerfield Volunteer Fire
Association, Deerfield, N.H.)

⁶⁶ Interview of George Clark by David Ruell, November 9, 1999

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1970's or early 1980's. ⁶⁷The southeastern door on the main block, which once looked like the northwestern door, ⁶⁸ has been replaced two or three times, most recently in the mid 1990's. ⁶⁹ Essentially, all of the construction, additions, and changes to the building over the years were funded by the Deerfield Volunteer Fire Association, ⁷⁰ which owned the property until April of 1999, when it was finally deeded to the Town of Deerfield. ⁷¹

Although the fire station was begun in 1932-33, very little remains of the original structure. The original roof, second story floor, northwest and southeast side walls, doors and windows are all gone. Only the first story concrete floor and fragments of the original gable end walls remain. And the remaining sections of the exterior walls are now covered by the rear addition and the vinyl siding. The present building essentially dates from 1954 and later. So, it must be considered non-contributing because of age for this nomination.

#4 BALLOU-HILL HOUSE
PROBABLY BEFORE 1875

6 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Ballou-Hill House is a 19th century vernacular wooden house. The one and a half story, gable roofed main block is set with its northeast gable end facing the street. The main entry, at the south end of the southeast side of the main block, is sheltered by a small, one story, shed roofed entry porch. To the rear (southwest) of the main block and the entry porch is the one story, gable roofed rear wing. Attached to the southwest gable end of the rear wing is the

⁶⁷ Interview of George Clark by David Ruell, January 4, 2000

⁶⁸ Photograph, (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

⁶⁹ Interview of George Clark by David Ruell, November 9, 1999

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Deed, Book 3385, Page 2506, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

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gable roofed barn, which is one and a half stories high on the northeast street gable end, but, due to the slope of the land to the south, is two and a half stories high on the other three sides. The northwest side of the barn is completely covered by a two and a half story, gable roofed addition.

All sections of the building, from the main block and its dormers to the barn and its addition, are now covered by blue vinyl "clapboard" siding. with narrow blue vinyl corner trim. The main block retains its cut granite block foundation and its original wooden box cornice with mouldings and returns on three sides. (The cornice presumably had a frieze, but it has been covered over by the vinyl siding.) The southwest gable has close wooden verges. A brick chimney with brick arched cap breaks the ridge of the asphalt shingled roof.

The main block windows now have narrow vinyl trim, like most of the building's windows. The northeast street gable end has two 2/2 sash windows with wooden louvred shutters in both the main level and the gable. The southwest side has three more 2/2 sash windows with wooden louvred shutters and, at its south end, the main entry. The entry is now a modern paneled wooden door with an upper builtin four pane semicircular window. The door has a simply moulded wooden frame and is sheltered by the small entry porch. The porch has a granite block foundation on the southeast and three granite steps on the northeast. It also has a board floor, a plain post at the east corner, a latticework covered southeast railing, and a beaded board ceiling. It is covered by a shed roofed extension of the main block's roof, which is trimmed by the same box cornice with mouldings and returns that is found on the main block. The porch's northeast half gable is sheathed with vinyl siding. The northeast side of the main block has one 2/2 sash window with plastic louvred shutters, and towards the north corner, an exterior brick chimney with metal cap, which rises through the cornice. The southwest gable end has one 6/6

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sash window each in both the first story and the gable. The main block roof now has three dormers, two wide gable roofed dormers that occupy most of the southeast slope and a shed roofed dormer that stretches almost the full length of the northwest slope. They all have vinyl siding on their walls and asphalt shingles on their roofs. The two southeastern dormers have wooden cornices with mouldings and returns. And each has one 2/2 sash window with wooden louvred shutters in the gable end. The northwestern dormer has close wooden verges, a plain lateral wooden box cornice, and two 1/1 sash windows with wooden louvred shutters.

The rear wing has a cut granite block foundation on the southeast and a fieldstone foundation on the northwest. The southeast side has the same box cornice with mouldings as the main block and the entry porch, but the northwest side has close eaves and the small part of the northeast gable that peeks above the entry porch roof has close verges. A brick chimney with corbeled cap interrupts the ridge of the asphalt shingled gable roof. The southeast side has two 6/6 sash windows with plastic louvred shutters. The northwest side has a 2/2 sash window with the typical narrow vinyl trim and a six pane casement window with a simply moulded wooden frame.

The barn is set on a fieldstone foundation. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed by a box cornice with mouldings and returns on the more public northeast gable and southeast side, and by close eaves and verges on the northwest and southwest. The one and a half story high northeast gable end features a wide overhead garage door with wooden panels, six builtin window panes, and a plain wooden frame. Directly above the garage door is an opening covered by plywood. A 6/6 sash window is found in the gable. The southeast side has a boarded up opening and a six pane window in the basement level, and a now glassless window in the main level. The southwest gable end has a six pane window in the basement, a four pane window and a six pane window in the main level and a 6/6 sash window in the gable.

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The northwest side is almost completely covered by the addition.

The two and a half story high barn addition has a fieldstone foundation, the typical vinyl siding and trim, close wooden eaves and verges, and an asphalt shingled gable roof. The only door, in the northwest gable end, is now covered by plywood. The windows all have 6/6 sash. The narrow northeast side has one window in the second story, which corresponds to the main level of the rear wing and barn. The southwest side has one window in each story. The northwest gable end has one first story window (with plastic louvred shutters), three second story windows, and one gable window.

The .83 acre lot is largely grassed, although shaded by many trees. A paved drive runs from the street to the southeast of the main block and the rear wing to the barn door. A short brick walk connects the drive and the entry porch steps. Because of the slope of the land to the south, fieldstone retaining walls have been built to create level areas to the northwest and southwest of the main block and to the southeast of the main block and the rear wing. An old stone lined well near the easterly boundary has been covered by a square wooden cap. Flowerbeds are planted along the northeast gable end of the main block and on a mound northwest of the main block. Shrubs and trees grow around the building, along parts of the street front and along the easterly, westerly and southerly boundaries. The rear southerly boundary is also marked by a stone wall.

The notes of the memories of Dyer S. Smith as recorded in 1927 describe the origins of this building as follows: "This house was built from Edmund Rand's store which sat in Rand's dooryard. Bought by John Ballou.... Bought by Mary Hill whose husband was Samuel Hill."⁷² The 1857 county map

⁷² "Deerfield Houses", entry #99

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shows no building at this location but does show the store just east of Rand's house, which stood on the site of the Johnston House (#9), not far away on the north side of the street.⁷³ An undated painting by Franklin Poole shows the store standing just east of the Rand house. In the painting, the store is depicted as a simple, one and a half story, gable roofed building, rectangular in plan. The building appears to be approximately the same size and shape as the present main block of the Ballou-Hill House. The store is shown with no windows on its lateral eastern side, while the south gable end facing the street had a central door with two flanking windows in the first story and two windows in the gable.⁷⁴ No date is known for the construction of the store, although one local historian believes it was probably built in the early 19th century.⁷⁵ Edmund Rand bought the property that is now the Johnston House lot in 1856. (The deed does not indicate whether or not the store was then standing.)⁷⁶ He conveyed the property to his son Albert in 1870,⁷⁷ the year of his death.⁷⁸

The somewhat ambiguous record of Dyer S. Smith's memories leaves some questions about the building's history. The phrase "built from" is open to two interpretations, firstly that the store was disassembled and the materials used to build a new house, or secondly and probably more likely,

⁷³ J. Chace, Jr., MAP OF ROCKINGHAM CO., NEW HAMPSHIRE (Philadelphia, 1857)

⁷⁴ Franklin Poole "Deerfield", undated (painting, collection of Elsie and Joseph Brown, Deerfield, N.H.)

⁷⁵ Interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27, 1999

⁷⁶ Deed, Book 375, Page 9, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁷⁷ Deed, Book 433, Page 208, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁷⁸ Elliott C. Cogswell, HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM, DEERFIELD, AND NORTHWOOD (Manchester: 1878) p. 445

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that the store was moved to a new location and remodeled into a house. The notes also do not make clear what role John Ballou played in the rebuilding, whether he bought the store on its old site and moved or rebuilt it, or bought the house after it was remodeled. Unfortunately, the deeds for the property are also open to two interpretations, although they favor a major role for Ballou. In 1859, Ballou bought 100 acres of land, included all of the road frontage east of the Town House lot (#5).⁷⁹ In 1864, Ballou sold for \$200 to William Carlton a lot of land just east of the Town House lot, with about nine rods (148.5 feet) of frontage on the street.⁸⁰ In 1871, Carlton sold this lot and another parcel to Mehitable and James Arnold.⁸¹ On March 11, 1875, the Arnolds sold a small portion of the lot, about six square rods, back to John Ballou for \$1. This parcel appears to be the east end of the lot, with 35 feet of frontage on the street. The boundary begins at a stake on the highway "opposite the dwelling house owned by said Ballou and occupied by George E. Knowlton" and then runs west 35 feet on the highway.⁸² A few days later, on March 15, the Arnolds sold the remainder of the lot, with about seven rods (115.5 feet) of frontage, to Henry and Mary Walker for \$300.⁸³ In 1882, the Walkers sold the remaining land back to Ballou for \$300,⁸⁴ giving him once again ownership of all the street frontage east of the Town House. What is confusing about

⁷⁹ Deed, Book 381, Page 396, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁸⁰ Deed, Book 403, Page 222, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁸¹ Deed, Book 431, Page 439, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁸² Deed, Book 449, Page 471, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁸³ Deed, Book 452, Page 484, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁸⁴ Deed, Book 485, Page 327, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

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these transactions is that a measurement of nine rods along the street from the Town House lot brings one to the middle of the Ballou-Hill house. That is to say, the house seems to straddle the original boundary line between the Carlton/Arnold lot and the property retained by Ballou, leaving open the question as to which owner was the original owner of the house on this site. The most likely explanation is that the present house is the house "owned by said Ballou and occupied by George E. Knowlton" in 1875 and that it was built either by design or by accident over the boundary line. Ballou therefore had to buy back from the Arnolds the land on which the house stood, before the rest of the lot was sold to the Walkers. The \$300 price for the Walker lot in 1875 and 1882 suggests that that portion of the property did not include any substantial buildings. If this interpretation is correct, the Rand store was moved or rebuilt by John Ballou sometime before 1875.

When John Ballou sold his house (#1) and most of his larger property in 1884, he retained the present house lot and this building, then described as "the small dwelling house of said Ballou".⁸⁵ He sold the house to Mary E. Hill in 1890.⁸⁶ Older photographs, including one taken at the 1914 dedication of the library, show that the house, at least as seen from the east, then had basically the same components as it does today. Only the southern dormer can be seen on the southeast slope of the main block roof.⁸⁷ The barn addition cannot be seen in these early views. We do know that it was added after the barn was built, as there is

⁸⁵ Deed, Book 492, Page 420, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁸⁶ Deed, Book 521, Page 361, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁸⁷ Photographs of Deerfield Center streetscapes (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

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internal evidence, including a window, that the northwest side of the barn was once an exterior wall.⁸⁸

There have been several 20th century changes to the building. Some modern elements, such as the new main entrance door and the exterior chimney on the main block, the kitchen casement window on the rear wing, and the overhead garage door on the barn, were in place when the present owner acquired the property in 1971.⁸⁹ The 1970's saw the removal of a chicken coop formerly attached to the barn. In the early 1970's, two dormers, the northwestern dormer and the northerly southeastern dormer, were built on the main block roof. The most significant change was the installation of vinyl siding on the entire building in the late 1970's. The installation included new window and corner trim. The friezes on the cornices and the former door to the chicken coop were all covered by the new vinyl siding.⁹⁰ The entry porch once had a turned cornerpost,⁹¹ but the porch was rebuilt with a new cornerpost and railing in the 1990's.⁹²

The Ballou-Hill House clearly does not have historical and architectural integrity for its early period of use as a store on another location. But, it does appear to have sufficient architectural integrity in its role as a house on its present site to be a contributing building in the

⁸⁸ Interview of Bonnie MacKinnon by David Ruell, October 28, 1999

⁸⁹ Ibid.; Deed, Book 2089, Page 46, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁹⁰ Interview of Bonnie MacKinnon by David Ruell, October 28, 1999

⁹¹ "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.) survey form #5 prepared by C. Tethers, 1984

⁹² Interview of Bonnie MacKinnon by David Ruell, October 28, 1999

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Historic District. There have been significant changes in the last half century, most notably the covering of the building with vinyl siding, the addition of two dormers, and the remodeling of the main entry and its porch. But, the house retains its basic form and composition, as well as many individual features, such as the windows and eaves trim. There seems to be enough of the original house design left to make the Ballou-Hill House a contributing building.

#5 DEERFIELD TOWN HALL
1856

8 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Deerfield Town Hall is a fine Greek Revival style wooden town hall. The tall large two and a half story main block is set with its northeast gable end facing the street. On its southwest gable end is a shallow three story gable roofed rear addition.

The main block is set on a granite block foundation which projects at the four corners under the corner pilasters. The walls are clapboarded above a deep sillboard topped by a simple beveled moulding. The corners are all graced by wide corner pilasters, with simple bases formed by projections of the sillboards, shafts of vertical boards, and moulded capitals. The heavy classical box cornice with mouldings, frieze and architrave is pedimented on both gables. The asphalt shingled gable roof features two brick chimneys with stepped bases and corbeled caps. The two chimneys are set symmetrically, one on each slope of the roof near the eaves and towards the front of the building.

The three public facades, the three bay northeast gable end, and the four bay southeast and northwest sides, are symmetrical in design. The first floor of the main facade, the street gable end, features three entries which are very similar in design. Although the central entry is wider, they are all the same height. All three are reached by three granite steps with solid block granite sidewalls. The slightly recessed double door in each entry has a wooden

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sill and moulded panels. The central entry has been modified so that it has two-paneled leaves beneath an overdoor panel with two panels of the same design. The narrower side entry doors each have tall three-paneled leaves. All three entries are framed by pilasters, again with bases formed by projections of the sillboards, shafts of vertical boards, and moulded capitals. The pilasters support a heavy classical cornice with mouldings, frieze, and architrave. The eastern entry now has a wheelchair ramp built on wooden posts, with board floors and wooden railings. From the ground in front of the entry, a ramp rises southeast to a landing, where another ramp rises northwest to a landing built over the granite steps in front of the entry. Mounted on the wall between the entries are two simple wooden bulletin board cases with glass doors. Above them are two Colonial Revival style metal and glass light fixtures. Above the central entry is a painted wooden sign with a moulded frame and the title "DEERFIELD TOWN HALL" in raised letters.

The windows of the three bay second story of the northeast gable end and of both four bay stories of the southeast and northwest sides are all of the same design, tall large 8/8 sash windows, with plain sills and moulded cornices. Their moulded jambs are largely hidden by tall louvred shutters. In the center of the clapboarded tympanum of the pediment is a large circular louver with a small circular hub from which the slats radiate. The circular louver has a simple round frame, but is set on a rectangular wooden panel which rests on the horizontal cornice of the pediment. This panel is topped by a moulding, which is interrupted by the louver's circular frame. Resting on this moulding and giving visual support to the circular louver are two sawn wooden scrolls.

As noted the southeast and northwest sides each have four regularly spaced 8/8 sash windows in each story. The only differences between the two sides are in the foundation, with the southeast side having a small single pane plain framed basement window, and the northwest side having a

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modern prefabricated metal basement entry, with double metal doors in a metal casing on a concrete base. The rear southwest gable end is mostly covered by the rear addition, which, although shorter and narrower, does project over the pediment's horizontal cornice, and leaves only narrow strips of main block wall visible to each side of the addition. The only opening is a plain framed 6/6 sash window set somewhat off center in the clapboarded tympanum of the gable.

The rear addition has clapboarded walls trimmed by wide corner pilasters with moulded capitals. A box cornice with mouldings, architrave, frieze and returns trims the asphalt shingled gable roof. Because of the slope of the land, the basement level of the rear addition is exposed on the southwest rear gable end, but not on the narrower southeast and northwest sides. The first story of the southeast side is filled by two doors, a double door to the south, and a single door to the north. They are reached by two rough granite steps which stretch the full length of the wall. The doors all have four paneled leaves with the same moulded panels. They share the same plain side trim and are all topped by a continuous simple moulded cornice. In the second story is a plain framed 6/6 sash window. The northwest side has a painted concrete block foundation, with a short concrete block basement entry topped by a sloping board door hinged at the top. The northwest side is trimmed by the same deep sillboard with beveled moulding seen on the main block. The only opening is a plain framed 6/6 sash window in the first story. The rear gable end has a low concrete foundation. The basement level has a large but low plywood door and a large louvered metal vent for a fan, both with plain frames. Plain frames also trim the two 6/6 sash windows, one in the second story and one in the third story.

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The original Town House lot was expanded in 2000 by the purchase of additional land on its west side.⁹³ The southern portion of the lot has been excluded from the historic district to leave out a parking lot and the modern town highway garage to the rear of the Town Hall. These are reached by paved drives along the original northwest and southeast lot boundaries. The two drives are connected in front of the Town Hall by another paved drive, which leaves a small lawn on the street front of the lot. This streetside lawn contains a granite bench, a young tree, and a tall fiberglass flagpole flanked by two large shrubs. The building is surrounded by lawns, quite narrow on the street front, wider to the sides and rear. Because of the fall of the land to the rear, a stone retaining wall with concrete cap has been built southwest from the southern corner of the rear addition extending the line of the addition's rear wall. The added land to the west of the original Town House lot is mostly grassed. A stone wall and a row of trees marks part of the former boundary line between the original lot and the added land.

The present Deerfield Town Hall is the third building erected by the town to house its town meetings. The first was the meetinghouse in the Old Center, erected in 1771 after a five year long dispute on its location.⁹⁴ The meetinghouse stood on Meetinghouse Hill, a low hill about one mile northeast of the present Deerfield Center village. It also housed the Congregational Church until the present church (#8) was erected in 1835.⁹⁵

⁹³ Deeds, Book 3476, Page 775; Book 3519, Page 606, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

⁹⁴ Elliott C. Cogswell, HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM, DEERFIELD, AND NORTHWOOD (Manchester, 1878) pp. 266-271

⁹⁵ Joanne Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH 1835-1985 (Deerfield, N.H., 1985) p. 1-2, 13

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In the 1840's, the old meetinghouse must have seemed quite obsolete in its remaining function as a town house. A warrant article to build a new town house was voted down by the March 1844 annual town meeting.⁹⁶ But the same meeting voted to establish a committee to draft a plan for a new town house, estimate the cost of the new building, and report back at the annual town meeting in 1845.⁹⁷ At the March 1845 annual meeting and at a special meeting in April, the town's voters decided to buy out the pew owners in the old meetinghouse, take the building down, and use the materials to erect a new town house. The selectmen were instructed to build the town house and "to fix upon the location for the same".⁹⁸ The chosen site, a 60 foot by 65 feet lot in the New Center village, was purchased in August of 1845.⁹⁹ The one story high building¹⁰⁰ was ready for use by the March 1846 annual town meeting.¹⁰¹

The new town house was, however, short lived. It burned to the ground on the night of January 24-25, 1856.¹⁰² Three days later, the selectmen called a special town meeting to meet on February 13, 1856 in Peter P. French's barn "to see what action the town will take in relation to building a Town House or purchasing or procuring a building to be used for town purposes".¹⁰³ The meeting established a five member committee to obtain a plan and a cost estimate for a new

⁹⁶ "Deerfield Records, Vol. 5, 1833 to 1851" (manuscript, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.) pp. 293, 302

⁹⁷ Ibid., p.309

⁹⁸ Ibid., pp. 328-329, 338-339

⁹⁹ Deed, Book 364, Page 184, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

¹⁰⁰ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.16

¹⁰¹ "Deerfield Records, Vol. 5, 1833 to 1851", p.353

¹⁰² The New Hampshire Patriot (Concord, N.H.) January 30, 1856; Dollar Weekly Mirror (Manchester, N.H.) February 2, 1856; Morning Chronicle (Portsmouth, N.H.) January 28, 1856

¹⁰³ "Deerfield Records, Vol. 6, 1852 to 1863", p. 120

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town house, not to exceed \$2500 in cost, and to report at the annual town meeting in March. The committee was also asked to consider the location of the new town house.¹⁰⁴ At the annual meeting on March 11, the committee presented its report for a building that would cost \$2500. The meeting voted to build a town house, 74 feet by 44 feet in size "to be located on or near the old spot", and appropriated \$2500 for the building. The annual meeting adjourned to March 13, when the borrowing of money for the construction was authorized and a three man committee chosen to supervise the building of the new town house.¹⁰⁵

The new Town House was designed by " J.L. Foster & F.S. Robinson, Architects, Concord, N.H.".¹⁰⁶ Joshua L. Foster and Fernando S. Robinson had an rather brief partnership, as their firm only appears in directories for the year 1856.¹⁰⁷ Their specifications for the building are recorded in the town records,¹⁰⁸ but the drawings referred to in those specifications have not been located. The specifications describe the building essentially as built, with one major exception. They contain numerous references to a cupola. But, when the building committee signed an agreement with contractor Peter O. Woodman on April 30, they instructed the builder to follow the architects' plans and specifications, "excepting...all that part...which relates to the cupola".¹⁰⁹ Presumably, the cupola was removed from the project to cut the expense, as the contract with Woodman called for a payment of \$3000,¹¹⁰ \$500 more than had been

¹⁰⁴ Ibid., p.121

¹⁰⁵ Ibid., pp.122,138

¹⁰⁶ Ibid., p.151

¹⁰⁷ David Ruell, "Architects Listed in Nineteenth Century New Hampshire Directories", (manuscript, N.H. Historical Society, Concord, N.H.) pp. 32, 34-35, 70

¹⁰⁸ "Deerfield Records, Vol. 6, 1852 to 1863", pp. 151-158

¹⁰⁹ Ibid., p.158

¹¹⁰ Ibid., p.159

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appropriated by the town meeting. The building committee also had to acquire more land, as the 74 foot long building was not going to fit on the 65 foot long lot. Accordingly, a special town meeting was called for September 15 to approve the contracts the committee had made for the building and the additional land. The committee reported that it needed \$100 to enlarge the lot, \$3000 for the builder's contract and another \$22 to raise the foundation by one foot. The special meeting approved the committee's actions and authorized the additional money.¹¹¹ The added land more than tripled the size of the lot.¹¹² The April 30 agreement with the contractor called for the building to be finished enough by November 1 so that it could be used for a town meeting, and to be entirely completed by December 1, 1856.¹¹³ Woodman, a Deerfield carpenter,¹¹⁴ subcontracted part of the work to True Washington Currier, another Deerfield carpenter. According to one local historian, Currier "did most of the building"¹¹⁵, while another historian says that Currier "framed, raised and put the cornice on the building".¹¹⁶ The builders met their first deadline, as the November 4 presidential election was warned for "the new Town House now being erected by Peter O. Woodman".¹¹⁷ A special town meeting was called for February 19, 1857 to accept the town house. The meeting began at the Freewill Baptist Church, but promptly adjourned to the Town Hall. The meeting "voted to accept the Town House when Mr. Woodman, the contractor, shall fulfill his agreement with the building committee", suggesting that there was some work still remaining to be done. The special meeting also voted

¹¹¹ Ibid., pp. 150-159

¹¹² Deed, Book 369, Page 294, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

¹¹³ "Deerfield Records, Vol. 6, 1852 to 1863", p. 159

¹¹⁴ Ibid., p. 158

¹¹⁵ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.9

¹¹⁶ Cogswell, p. 372

¹¹⁷ "Deerfield Records, Vol. 6, 1852 to 1863", p.162

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to insure the building, to buy stoves and other furniture, to appoint a committee to develop rules for the building's use, and to hold a "public levee" to dedicate the building.¹¹⁸

A lithograph of the Town Hall in the 1878 town history shows that the exterior of the building has changed little over the years.¹¹⁹ The one major change has been the rear addition. A petitioned article "to provide another ... means of escape from the Town Hall in case of fire when the Hall is full of human beings" appeared in the warrant for the March 1884 annual town meeting.¹²⁰ The local newspaper correspondent called the large hall that occupies most of the second story a "death trap" because the only exit was the circular stairway at the front of the building.¹²¹ The meeting voted \$200 for a fire escape, instructing the selectmen to act as they thought best in the matter.¹²² The newspaper reported in August that the rear addition had been built to provide the fire escape.¹²³ The addition included more space than was actually needed for just an exit stairway. And that increase was reflected in a cost overrun, as the final expense was reported as \$679.62.¹²⁴

Other exterior changes have been limited. Photographs reveal that some time between 1923 and 1966, the main street

¹¹⁸ Ibid., pp. 169-170

¹¹⁹ Cogswell, opp. p. 305

¹²⁰ "Records No. 10, Town of Deerfield, Clerk's Records, 1880 to 1904" (manuscript, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.) p. 145

¹²¹ Exeter News Letter, March 21, 1884

¹²² "Records No. 10, Town of Deerfield, Clerk's Records, 1880 to 1904", p. 160

¹²³ Exeter News Letter, August 29, 1884

¹²⁴ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE SELECTMEN AND TREASURER OF THE TOWN OF DEERFIELD... FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1885 (Manchester: 1885), p. 11

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facade received the present large sign and the electric lights flanking the main entry. In the same period, the central main entry doors were altered by being reduced in height by one panel, but the appearance of the entry was retained by reusing those panels in an overdoor transom.¹²⁵ Photographs also show that the present bulletin boards were installed between 1966 and 1980.¹²⁶ The wheelchair ramp was built in 1988.¹²⁷ Changes to the basement levels, the metal entry on the northwest side of the main block, the concrete block entry and foundation on the northwest side of the rear addition, the plywood door and the metal louvred vent on the southwest end of the rear addition, have not been documented, but all appear to be late 20th century in date.

The Deerfield Town Hall (or Town House) was entered as an individual building in the National Register of Historic Places on April 17, 1980, for its significance in the area of architecture. Aside from the wheelchair ramp, which does not hide any of the building's original features, and perhaps some of the minor changes to the basement levels, the building has changed little since it was placed on the National Register, so it must still be considered individually eligible for the National Register, and is certainly a contributing building in the Historic District.

#6 CONGREGATIONAL PARSONAGE
1948-1949

12 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Congregational Parsonage is a wooden house, a mid 20th century vernacular version of the traditional cape. The

¹²⁵ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, pp. 35, 43

¹²⁶ Ibid., p. 35; National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Deerfield Town Hall, (manuscript, 1980, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.)

¹²⁷ ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN AND SCHOOL DISTRICT, DEERFIELD, N.H., 1988 (1989), p.19: interview of Joe Sears by David Ruell, January 14, 2000

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one and a half story gable roofed main block is set with its main facade facing east and its north gable end facing the street. On the south gable end of the cape is a one story shed roofed rear addition, which overlaps the cape a few feet to the east to connect to the one story gable roofed garage.

The main block has a concrete block foundation, clapboarded walls and cornerboards. The asphalt shingled roof is trimmed by a box cornice with mouldings, frieze, and returns. Two chimneys rise from the roof, a small concrete block chimney with concrete cap in the center and a brick chimney with corbeled cap on the west slope. All of the windows and the door have plain frames. In the center of the east facade is the recessed main entry. The entry, served by two granite steps, has a board floor, clapboarded walls, a board ceiling, and a plain outer frame. The paneled door has four small builtin window panes near its top. The three 8/8 sash windows that complete the facade, one to the south of the entry and two to its north, have wooden flowerboxes and plastic louvred shutters. The three 8/8 sash windows in the north gable end, two in the first story and one in the gable, also have plastic shutters and, save for the gable window, flowerboxes. The west side has a three pane window in the foundation, two 8/8 sash windows, one 6/6 sash window, and a large single pane window in the main level. The south gable end has a single 8/8 sash window in each story, as well as a basement entry with a sloping, top hinged board door in a wooden casing on a concrete base.

The rear addition, set on a concrete block foundation, is sheathed with clapboards on the south and west, but with novelty siding, like the garage, on its narrow north side. The walls are trimmed by cornerboards, a plain box cornice on the south, close eaves and verges on the west and north. The asphalt shingled roof is mostly a shed roof, but the eastern extension beyond the main block to connect with the garage is gabled. The narrow exposed section of the north side contains a modern paneled door with a nine pane builtin

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window and a simply moulded frame. Plain frames surround the 8/8 sash windows, three in the south side and one in the west end. The six panel door, at the west end of the south side, has a plain frame and four granite steps.

The small garage is set on a concrete block foundation, sheathed with novelty siding, and trimmed by cornerboards. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed by close verges and plain lateral box cornices. Plain frames surround the two six pane windows in the east wall and the wooden paneled overhead garage door with six builtin panes in the north gable end.

The portion of the Parsonage lot included in the district is mostly grassed. An unpaved drive runs from the street past the cape to the garage and a parking space beside the garage. Shrubs grow around the house. A few trees grow near the house and on the lawn. A stone wall lined with trees marks part of the western property boundary. The northerly portion of the western boundary is also marked by the wooden fence of property #7. The land is relatively level, but does slope down to the southwest of the house. The southerly part of the lot is now forest, so the district boundary was drawn to roughly match the somewhat irregular southerly edge of the grassed area, although part of the included land to the southwest of the house along the west boundary is growing up to woods.

Ephraim N. Hidden served as pastor of the Congregational Church from September of 1841 through October of 1849.¹²⁸ In 1843, Rev. Hidden purchased land near the new Congregational church.¹²⁹ Here he built a house, which he sold in 1856 for \$1600 to the First Congregational Society "for use as a

¹²⁸ Joanne Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH 1835-1985 (Deerfield N.H., 1985) p.28; Cogswell, p. 284

¹²⁹ Deed, Book 311, Page 35, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

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Parsonage".¹³⁰ This building burned in March of 1927.¹³¹ From 1929 through 1948, the Congregational Church and the First Baptist Church were joined in a Federated Church, sharing a single minister.¹³² As the Baptist Parsonage (#10) was available, there was no need for a separate Congregational parsonage, so the lot remained vacant.

On January 6, 1948, the Congregational Society voted to build a new parsonage on the old parsonage lot, with construction to begin in the spring.¹³³ The building committee was studying plans by March.¹³⁴ The new parsonage, the main block of the present building, was designed by Howard C. Johnston of Deerfield.¹³⁵ His construction firm, Wares & Johnston, and another firm, James C. O'Neal Company, were described in the church bulletin, as the principal contractors.¹³⁶ The professional builders were helped by volunteer laborers.¹³⁷ O'Neal was at work on the foundation by late April of 1948.¹³⁸ The concrete was poured at the end of June.¹³⁹ By mid December, the parsonage was described as

¹³⁰ Deed, Book 366, Page 138, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

¹³¹ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.21

¹³² Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH 1835-1985, p.25

¹³³ "Society Account Records" (manuscript, Deerfield Community Church, Deerfield, N.H.), minutes of January 6, 1948 meeting; The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, January 11, 1948

¹³⁴ The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, March 21, 1948

¹³⁵ The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, September 12, December 19, 1948

¹³⁶ The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, September 12, 1948 (Johnston's partner was Peter B. Wares, according to The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, December 19, 1948)

¹³⁷ Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, p.29; interview of Joe Brown by David Ruell, October 28, 1999

¹³⁸ The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, April 25, 1948

¹³⁹ The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, July 4, 1948

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nearing completion, with the clapboarding nearly done and work on the interior finish about to begin.¹⁴⁰ The parsonage was apparently completed early in 1949.¹⁴¹ The building was then simply the present main block.¹⁴²

The garage and the rear addition were built c. 1954.¹⁴³ The rear addition was originally an open porch, which was enclosed to serve as the minister's study in 1957.¹⁴⁴ Later changes seem to have been limited. The shutters and flower-boxes were added in the summer of 1993.¹⁴⁵ The north front door on the rear addition was formerly a multipane glass door,¹⁴⁶ but it was replaced by the present door in 1993 or 1994.¹⁴⁷ The house remained in church ownership until May of 2000, when the property was purchased by the Town of Deerfield.¹⁴⁸ After subdividing the property and adding much of the land to the adjoining Town House and municipal garage lot, the Town resold the house on a smaller lot.¹⁴⁹ It is now a private residence.

¹⁴⁰ The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, December 19, 1948

¹⁴¹ "Society Account Records", minutes of January 1949 meeting

¹⁴² The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, January 2, 1949, illustration of new parsonage

¹⁴³ Interview of Fred Dodge by Irene Shores, June, 1999

¹⁴⁴ Interview of Elsie Brown by David Ruell, October 14, 1999; "Society Account Records", minutes of January 1957 meeting

¹⁴⁵ Interview of Rod Swanson by Irene Shores, 1999

¹⁴⁶ "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.) survey form #10 prepared by C. Tethers, 1984

¹⁴⁷ Interview of Rod Swanson by Irene Shores, 1999

¹⁴⁸ Deed, Book 3476, Page 775, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

¹⁴⁹ Deed, Book 3519, Page 606, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

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With the exception of the addition of the garage and rear addition on the rear, the Congregational Parsonage is little changed since 1949, so it retains its architectural and historical integrity.

#7 PULSIFER HOUSE
CIRCA 1834 (OR EARLIER)

14 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The main block of the wooden Pulsifer House is an early 19th century vernacular cape, a one and a half story, gable roofed structure. The cape has two small gable roofed additions, a one story entry porch in the center of the east gable end and a half story basement entry at the east end of its south side. A one and a half story gable roofed ell stretches south from the cape to the attached barn. Covering much of the east side of the ell is a one story shed roofed sunroom. A shed roofed screened porch is attached to the south end of the ell. The gable roofed barn is one and a half stories high on the north gable end, but, because of the slope of the land to the south, it is two and a half stories high on the other sides.

The cape is set on a cut granite block foundation. Its walls are clapboarded on the north and south sides, and sheathed with wooden shingles on the east and west gable ends. The walls are trimmed by cornerboards and a box cornice with mouldings and returns, but no frieze. A massive central brick chimney with simple corbeled cap interrupts the ridge of the asphalt shingled gable roof. Two modern metal framed skylights, as well as a large bathroom dormer, are found on the south roof slope.

In the center of the five bay north street front of the cape is the main entry, a paneled door with four small builtin window panes. The entry has a granite step, a vertical board outer door, a four pane transom window, and a plain frame that butts up against the cornice. It is lit by a Colonial Revival style metal and glass light mounted on

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the wall. The other four bays of the main facade each contain a 2/1 sash window with a moulded frame. The east gable end also features a central entry, another paneled door with four small builtin panes, and a plain frame. This east door is sheltered by a small porch, with a concrete base and floor reached by granite and concrete steps on the east front. Two square wooden posts, as well as two vertical boards on the wall support the gable roof. The porch's board ceiling is trimmed by a ceiling moulding. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed by a pedimented box cornice with mouldings and frieze. The pediment's tympanum is filled with flush boarding. The east gable end of the cape also features double windows with 2/1 sash and plain frames, one on each side of the side entry in the first story, and one in the gable. The two bay west gable end has two more such double windows, one in the first story and one in the gable, as well as a 2/1 sash window with a simply moulded frame in the first story. The rear south side has two 2/1 sash windows with simply moulded frames. On the rear south slope of the cape roof, directly above the ell, is the large bathroom dormer. It has clapboarded walls with cornerboards. Close verges and a plain lateral box cornice trim the asphalt shingled shed roof. The dormer has just two windows, a 2/1 sash window with plain frame on the south and an octagonal single-pane window with moulded frame on the east.

The basement entry has a high fieldstone foundation. The short upper wooden walls are trimmed with cornerboards and are sheathed with clapboards on the east side and with asbestos shingles on the west side and the south gable end. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed by close eaves and verges. The short board door in the south gable end has a plain wooden frame and a concrete sill.

The ell has fieldstone and concrete foundations. On the west side the foundation steps down as the land slopes to the south, exposing the basement level in the southern portion. The walls are clapboarded with cornerboards. The roof is trimmed by close verges on the south gable and by

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lateral box cornices with friezes on the west and east. The asphalt shingled roof is interrupted by a round metal vent on the west slope and by a brick chimney with corbeled cap on the ridge. The west side has two three pane windows and double board doors, all with plain frames, in the exposed section of the basement level. The main level has a high single pane horizontal window with plain frame, a triple window with 4/4 sash and simply moulded frame, and two 9/6 sash windows with plain frames. The east side of the ell is mostly covered by the sunroom. To the south of the sunroom are two 9/6 sash windows with plain frames in the main level and double board doors with a plain frame in the basement. The ell's south gable end has a board door in the main level that opens onto the screened porch and a 6/6 sash window in the gable, both with plain frames.

The screened porch, set on wooden posts, has a very high latticework base, a full story in height. The porch floor is set at the main floor level of the ell. A simple wooden framework supports the large screened bays, four on both the west and the south, at the main level. (The barn wall is the east side of the porch.) The plywood ceiling has exposed rafters. The low pitched shed roof is trimmed by close verges on the south and by a plain lateral box cornice with frieze on the west.

The sunroom on the east side of the ell has a fieldstone and concrete foundation, clapboarded walls, and at the southeast corner, cornerboards. The asphalt shingled shed roof is trimmed by a plain box cornice. Plain frames surround the openings in the east wall, two double windows with 9/6 sash, double French doors with fifteen panes in each leaf, and, at the south end, the entry door with its two vertical panels beneath a nine pane builtin window. The entry door is reached by three brick steps and lit by a Colonial Revival style light mounted on the wall to its south. The south end of the sunroom is windowless. Stretching the full length of the south end is a short storage box. The storage box is set on the same fieldstone

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and concrete foundation as the sunroom. It has an untrimmed asphalt shingled shed roof and a clapboarded east end wall with cornerboards. The south side of the storage box now has an exposed frame that will eventually be covered by doors.¹⁵⁰

The attached barn has a fieldstone foundation. Each wall has a different sheathing, clapboards on the north gable end, wooden shingles on the west side, vertical boards on the south gable end, and asphalt shingles on the east side. The walls are all trimmed with cornerboards, with the north and south gable ends also having sillboards. On the more public north gable and east side, the roof is trimmed by a cornice with mouldings, sloping soffit, and (on the north) a frieze. The west side and the south gable have close eaves and verges. The gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. In the center of the north gable end is the main entry, large double doors of vertical tongue and grooved boards, topped by a 17 pane transom window, and a window head with a drip moulding. The two 6/6 sash windows in the north gable also have drip mouldings on their frames. The east side has several plain framed openings, two board doors and three six pane windows in the lower level, and three wide horizontal windows (two with four panes, and one with thirteen panes) in the main level. The west side also has plain frames around its openings, a single pane window and a three pane window in the lower level, two six pane windows and one four pane window in the main level. The south gable end has two horizontal openings with plain frames in the lower level, two untrimmed horizontal double sliding windows with nine pane sash in the main level, and one four pane window with plain frame in the gable. Much of the south gable end has no foundation under the sill, leaving the crawlspace under the barn open to the elements.

¹⁵⁰ Interview of James Normandeau by David Ruell, November 3, 2001

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In the notes of Dyer S. Smith's memories, this site is described as "First settled by Samuel Pulsifer".¹⁵¹ This seems to be confirmed by early records. Samuel P. Pulsifer purchased "one acre and sixty rods" of land at this location from Benjamin Stevens, Jr. in October of 1833 for \$70,¹⁵² a price that suggests a house lot without any buildings on it. Pulsifer, who had been taxed for no real estate in 1833, was taxed for \$70 worth of real estate in the spring of 1834. The value of his real estate rose to \$400 in the spring of 1835.¹⁵³ Although the tax records of that time do not specify whether or not the property included buildings, the sharp increase in value does suggest the appearance of the house on the property in 1834 or early 1835.

There have been suggestions that the house is older than the mid 1830's. A former owner was told that it was built around 1800.¹⁵⁴ A local historian believes that the house may predate Samuel Pulsifer and may be the oldest building in the village.¹⁵⁵ Certainly, there are features of the house, such as the central chimney, the relatively low eaves, and the composition of the main facade, which suggest, if they are not later Colonial Revival modifications, that the house was built earlier. One

¹⁵¹ "Deerfield Houses" notes taken of Dyer S. Smith's memories in 1927 by Lottie P., Hersey and transcribed in 1954 by Joanne Wasson (manuscript, Philbrick-James Library, Deerfield, N.H.) entry #94

¹⁵² Deed, Book 271, Page 184, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

¹⁵³ "Invoice Books, 1822-1840, Deerfield, New Hampshire" (microfilm, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.) pp. 195-196, 237, 275

¹⁵⁴ Interview of Myron Kurtiak by David Ruell, October 18, 1999

¹⁵⁵ Interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27, 1999

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distinct possibility is that the cape was moved to this site by Samuel Pulsifer from some other location. Although there is no evidence for this theory, it would explain the apparent contradiction between the available records and the early appearance of the house.

The property remained in the Pulsifer family for two generations, as it was next owned by Samuel's son, Albert,¹⁵⁶ who died in 1899.¹⁵⁷ There appear to have been a number of changes to the cape, the main block, in the early to mid 20th century, although no dates could be found for them. These would include the two doors with their builtin panes, the 2/1 sash in the windows, the double windows, the entrance porch on the east gable end, the basement entry on the rear, and probably the wooden shingles of the two gable ends. The large bathroom dormer and the skylights on the south slope of the roof are said to have been added in the 1970's.¹⁵⁸ The ell (or at least part of it) was once a woodshed.¹⁵⁹ The ell's main level windows appear to be mid to late 20th century in date. The screened porch on the south end of the ell was built in the 1970's.¹⁶⁰ A porch was once attached to the east side of the ell.¹⁶¹ It was replaced c. 1990 by a modern metal framed greenhouse.¹⁶² The

¹⁵⁶ "Deerfield Houses", entry #94

¹⁵⁷ Joanne F. Wasson, comp. THE MORRISON CEMETERY, DEERFIELD N.H., (1990) p. 16

¹⁵⁸ Interview of Myron Kurtiak by David Ruell, October 18, 1999

¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.), survey form #11 prepared by C. Tethers, 1984

¹⁶² Interview of Myron Kurtiak by David Ruell, October 18, 1999

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greenhouse was in turn replaced by the present sunroom in the summer of 2000.¹⁶³ The asphalt shingles on the east side of the barn are obviously 20th century in date. The north gable end of the barn once had a second, albeit smaller, set of doors to the east of the main doors.¹⁶⁴ They were removed and the space clapboarded over in the summer of 1999.¹⁶⁵

The main block of the Pulsifer House is basically an early 19th century cape with some early to mid 20th century modifications that are largely compatible with the original design. Changes within the last half century, notably the dormer and skylights on the cape roof, the newer ell windows, the screened porch and the sunroom, were made to the rear and are therefore not obvious to the passerby. In most respects, the building still appears from the street as it did in the mid 20th century. It therefore retains enough architectural integrity to be considered a contributing building in the Historic District.

#7A PULSIFER SHED
PROBABLY 1886-1887

14 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The one and a half story gable roofed shed has a small one story shed roofed addition on its east gable end, and a half story shed roofed jutout on its rear south side. The shed and its addition sit on a fieldstone foundation. But, part of the short storage space under the main block is open on the south side where the land slopes down. In this open area, the building is supported by wooden posts. The main block and the addition are both sheathed with wooden shingles. Indeed, the north and south walls of the main

¹⁶³ Interview of Erika Heilman by David Ruell, August 30, 2001

¹⁶⁴ "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey", survey form #11

¹⁶⁵ Interview of Myron Kurtiak by David Ruell, December 17, 1999

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block and the addition are shingled continuously. Corner-boards are therefore found only at the outer corners of the main block and the addition. A simple cornice with sloping soffit and frieze trims the corrugated metal gable roof of the main block.

At the west end of the north street side of the main block are found two plain framed sliding doors made of vertical boards, one with a builtin 6 pane window. The main block is lit by plain framed 6/6 sash windows, two (with flowerboxes) in the west gable end and four on the rear south side. The jutout on the south side has horizontal board siding and a short shed roof sheathed with asphalt roll roofing. The same roll roofing was used to cover the main block wall above the jutout. The east gable end has a boarded up window in the gable. The addition's low pitched shed roof is sheathed with roll roofing and trimmed by close eaves and verges. The addition is lit by two plain framed 9/6 sash windows in the east side and one plain framed 6/6 sash window in the south end.

A local historian was told that this building was once a carriage shop.¹⁶⁶ There is internal evidence that there was once a forge near the center of the building. A framed rectangular section of the floor is now filled with stones and dirt. Above this floor section is a framed opening in the tie beams and a patch in the roof boards about the size of a chimney. All of this suggests that a forge once stood there. It is tempting to identify the building with the blacksmith shop that Albert S. Pulsifer is reported to have built. In December, 1886, the local newspaper correspondent noted that "A. S. Pulsifer is erecting a new blacksmith shop. He intends to take the place in blacksmithing of the late Alden B. Chase.... May success attend his efforts."¹⁶⁷

¹⁶⁶ Interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27, 1999

¹⁶⁷ Exeter News Letter, December 17, 1886

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The following March, the same paper reported, "Albert S. Pulsifer has opened his blacksmith shop at the Centre to the public."¹⁶⁸ The 1892 atlas map of the village shows two buildings labeled with Pulsifer's name here, suggesting that, besides the house, there was another building prominent enough to record, most likely the new blacksmith shop.¹⁶⁹ Later changes probably include the small eastern addition, the jutout on the rear (presumably to accommodate an automobile), and the metal sheathing of the roof. Judging from their appearance, the addition and the jutout are over fifty years old. So, save for the metal roofing, the building must appear much as it did in the District's period of significance.

The grounds around the house and the shed are mostly grassed, but much of the lot to the south is now wooded. (The district boundary has been drawn to exclude most of this wooded area.) The land north and east of the cape and the ell is mostly level, but, the land slopes to the south and west down from the building. A wooden picket fence with square posts, sometimes topped by moulded caps, extends along the street in front of the house and east to the east corner, then a short distance down the east boundary. The fence has a gate in front of the house for the brick walk to the cape's main entry. The rest of the street frontage to the west of the house and the easterly boundary south of the picket fence are marked by stone walls. A pebble covered driveway enters the property near the northeast corner, heads southwest past the shed, then turns north past the cape to exit onto the street. A spur drive, also covered with pebbles, runs from the main drive to the shed doors. A pebble covered walk connects the main drive to the sunroom's steps. A brick walk off this walk connects to the basement entry. A flowerbed with a short fieldstone retaining wall

¹⁶⁸ Exeter News Letter, March 25, 1887

¹⁶⁹ D.H. Hurd & Co., TOWN AND CITY ATLAS OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (Boston, 1892), p. 165

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is found on the east side of the basement entry and the cape's east gable end south of the side entry porch. Trees and shrubs grow around the house and on the lawns. A line of tall shrubs connects the barn and the shed. Trees line the east and west boundaries and the street to the west of the house.

#8 DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH 11 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
1835 CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Deerfield Community Church, originally the Congregational Church, is a Greek Revival Style wooden church, with later Victorian modifications. The tall gable roofed main block is mostly one and a half stories high because of the high church auditorium, but it is two and a half stories high at the south street gable end. Straddling the main block's roof ridge near the south end is the steeple, with two stages, square in plan, topped by a tall pyramidal spire. A small half story gable roofed basement entry is found on the west side of the main block. On the rear north gable end of the main block is a one story, gable roofed rear addition.

The main block is set on a cut granite block foundation. The main facade, the south street front gable end, is sheathed with flush horizontal boarding, while the other three sides are clapboarded. Paneled pilasters are found on the south facade, while the clapboarded walls have cornerboards. All four walls have sillboards. The three most visible sides, the south, east and west, share a heavy box cornice with mouldings and frieze, which is pedimented on the south gable. The frieze of the horizontal cornice of the pediment is deeper than the other friezes and features a large long horizontal panel. Close verges with returns of the lateral cornices trim the north gable. The gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

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Four monumental paneled pilasters divide the lower stories of the south gable end into three sections, with the central section being twice as wide as either end bay. The pilasters, with their high moulded bases, tall panels, and moulded capitals, support the paneled frieze of the gable pediment. The end bays are windowless. The east bay does contain a Colonial Revival style bulletin board, with a glass fronted case in an elaborate frame with an outside strut topped by a finial on each side, and a semi-elliptical pediment above that is crowned by a decorative keystone with finial. Mounted on the southwest and southeast corners of the main block are large Colonial Revival style metal and glass electric light fixtures topped by small cast metal eagles and mounted on ornate metal brackets.

The central section of the facade was once an open inset portico, but it has since been filled in by two stories of interior space, now a vestibule in the lower level and a classroom in the upper level. The first story of this central section features three entries. The wider central entry has double doors, each leaf having two horizontal moulded panels beneath a large single pane builtin window. The side entries each have a single door with three moulded panels beneath two tall narrow builtin windows. All three entries have the same door frame design, with fluting on the jambs and head, lower cornerblocks decorated with horizontal incised lines, and upper cornerblocks ornamented with simple incised circles. All three entries share a granite block step set on a wide lower concrete step that stretches the full width of the facade. Metal pipe railings flank the central entry. Between the first and second story of the central section, a cornice and a frieze, both made of beaded boarding, stretch between the flanking pilasters. The second story is lit by eight, tall, narrow 1/1 sash windows. The windows have plain frames and share a continuous sill. The eight windows are divided visually into four pairs by simple vertical boards. The short wall area between the first story cornice and the second story window sill is divided into four panels, corresponding to the pairs of

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second story windows, by vertical boards with moulded bases. These panels are ornamented by mouldings on their upper edges. Mounted in the center of the paneled frieze of the main cornice is a modern electric light fixture. In the center of the flush boarded tympanum of the main pediment is a large semicircular louver with radiating slats and a plain sill.

The east and west sides each have four large tall double windows that light the church auditorium. They have 26/26 sash, each sash having two large frosted panes in the center with a border of twenty-four small panes of colored glass around the edge. The window frames are paneled on the sides and the heads and are ornamented with plain square upper cornerblocks. The west side also has three plain framed three pane basement windows and a modern plain framed six panel door near the south end. This new side entry for the handicapped is served by a wheelchair ramp. The ramp actually begins on the south front of the church as an asphalt and concrete ramp with metal pipe railing rising to the level of the concrete step stretching the full width of the south facade. A wooden ramp begins on the concrete step and rises to the west (over part of concrete step) to a landing, where another ramp rises to the north to a landing in front of the side entry. The wooden ramp has a board floor, and simple wooden posts and rails. (Also found on the west side is the small, short basement entry. It has clapboarded walls, cornerboards, a cornice with sloping soffit, mouldings and frieze, and an asphalt shingled gable roof. The only opening is a board door with plain frame in the west gable end.) The rear gable end of the main block is mostly covered by the rear addition, although it is narrower and shorter than the main block. The only opening is a 9/6 sash window with simply moulded frame high in the gable. To the east is a tall brick exterior chimney with corbeled cap. The chimney rises from the roof of the rear addition and is stiffened by two metal tie rods attached to the main block roof.

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The steeple is set astride the roof ridge so close to the south end that the south front of the first stage is in the same plane as the southern front wall of the main block. The first stage is sheathed with flush boarding on the south front and with clapboards on the other three sides. Paneled corner pilasters trim the south front, while cornerboards trim the other sides. All sides share a box cornice with mouldings and frieze, but the frieze is deeper on the south front. The only opening is a plain framed six pane window in the rear north side.

The second stage of the steeple is the smaller open belfry. It is surrounded by a decorative railing. The four corner posts of the railing are each topped by a moulded cap surmounted by a wooden urn (now topped by a lightning rod). The railing has a moulded top rail and an interesting pattern of balusters. Three balusters, a central vertical one and two flanking slanting balusters, are grouped so that they all meet in a central crossing marked by a small moulding. The second stage is sheathed with flush boarding on three sides and with clapboards on the rear north side. Paneled corner pilasters trim the south front and cornerboards trim the other sides. A box cornice with mouldings and frieze tops all four sides. In each side of the belfry stage is a slight recess with a plain frame. Each recess contains a semicircular arched opening, through which can be seen the bell and its framework. The arches have moulded impost blocks and plain keystones.

On the roof of the belfry stage, surrounding the spire is another decorative railing. The four corner posts are similar to those below and are also topped by carved urns and lightning rods. The railings have plain vertical balusters and moulded top rails. The tall pyramidal spire has flush boarded sides with cornerboards on the ridges. Trapezoidal panels fill the lower portions of the spire sides. The more visible panels, on the south, east and west, each contain a quatrefoil panel with simple frame. The rear north panel contains an untrimmed four pane window. The

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spire is topped by an elaborate weathervane, with letters on the ends of four bars indicating the four cardinal directions, and an ornate vane whose outline combines an arrow and a lyre.

The high rear addition has an asymmetrical gable roof as it was extended a short distance to the west to incorporate a privy. The original part of the rear addition retains its granite block foundation. The poured concrete base of the privy can be found in the northwest corner. The crawlspace to the south of the privy base remains open to the outside on the west. The walls are clapboarded with sillboards and cornerboards. A box cornice with mouldings, frieze and returns trims the asphalt shingled roof. (A break can be seen in the cornice where the west slope roof was extended to cover the privy addition.) On the east side is a six panel door with a plain frame and a granite step. The north gable end has a boarded up basement window in the granite block section of the foundation and a large privy cleanout door, a board door hinged at the top, in the concrete section. The main level contains three plain framed windows, two 5/5 sash windows whose sash contain a large central pane flanked on each side by two smaller panes, and at the west end, a small single pane window that once served the privy, but is now boarded up on the inside. On the west side, three board steps rise to a side entry, a board door, with two flanking panels, all sharing a plain frame. The flanking panels feature louvers (now boarded up on the inside) at the top and bottom.

The grounds around the church are relatively level and are now mostly devoted to parking. Between the church and the street is a paved area. A paved drive from the northeast corner of this area runs southeast to the street creating a small triangular lawn. The lawn features a tree and a church sign. The sign is a painted wooden sign hanging on a metal bracket on a wooden post. Granite curbs outline beds of flowers and shrubs to the east and west of the entry steps along the south front of the church and around the

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wheelchair ramp on the west. A concrete walk runs from the front concrete step at the southeast corner of the church along the east side and around the northeast corner of the main block to the east side door of the rear addition. A similar concrete apron runs down the west side of the main block. Shrubs grow along the east side of the church. Unpaved parking lots, separated from the street by small lawns, are found on the east, west and north sides of the church. Trees grow along the street and the edges of the parking areas.

Congregationalism was the established religion in 18th century Deerfield, as it was in most New Hampshire towns of the period. Deerfield was separated from Nottingham and incorporated as a separate town in 1766.¹⁷⁰ Although the new town began discussing the erection of a meetinghouse at its first official town meeting, a dispute over the site delayed its completion until 1771.¹⁷¹ The town called its first settled minister, Rev. Timothy Upham, the following year.¹⁷² His ordination on December 9, 1772 is considered the beginning of the Congregational Church in Deerfield.¹⁷³ The meetinghouse on Meetinghouse Hill was shared by the Congregational Church and the Town of Deerfield for religious services and town meetings for over six decades.¹⁷⁴

In the 1830's, the Congregational Church profited from three revivals,¹⁷⁵ which resulted in "dramatic increases" in the church membership. Sixty-one new members were added in

¹⁷⁰ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p. 4

¹⁷¹ Cogswell, pp. 266-271; Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, pp. 1-4

¹⁷² Cogswell, p. 272

¹⁷³ Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, p. 6

¹⁷⁴ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, pp. 16, 36

¹⁷⁵ Cogswell, p. 282

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1832 and another 21 in 1834.¹⁷⁶ By that time, the old meetinghouse must have seemed quite old fashioned and obsolete, so it is not surprising that the growing church decided to erect a new building in the latest Greek Revival style. Unfortunately, only a few documents recording the construction are available. The first is the articles of agreement signed by sixty members of the Congregational Society on November 15, 1834, in which the subscribers "being desirous of providing a more comfortable house for public religious worship and estimating the expense of purchasing a lot and erecting a building suitable for said purpose at the sum of eighteen hundred dollars, have agreed to divide that sum into sixty shares of thirty dollars each." Each subscriber was to pay half his pledge within four months and the other half within eight months. The agreement states that the subscribers would choose a building committee of five persons, who would purchase the site, erect the building, and then convey the property to three trustees, members of the Congregational Society, chosen by the subscribers. The trustees would sell the pews at public auction and reimburse the subscribers for their expenses, with any extra money raised by the pew sales to be used to finish the church and its grounds.¹⁷⁷

On February 16, 1835, the building committee (Horatio G. Cilley, Thomas D. Rawlins, Francis Cate, William T. Smith and Nathan Chase) contracted with Peter P. French of Deerfield for the frame of the new church. French was to be paid \$200 to build a frame, 66 by 46 feet, with 20 foot posts, to be erected by the middle of June.¹⁷⁸ On September

¹⁷⁶ Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, p.11

¹⁷⁷ The articles of agreement were recorded as part of the later deed to the trustees (Deed, Book 279, Page 339, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.) and are reprinted in Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, pp. 14-16

¹⁷⁸ Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, pp. 13-14

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14, 1835, Trueworthy Nichols and his wife sold a half acre of land to three building committee members for \$60. The deed describes the lot as "the same land on which a meetinghouse is now building"¹⁷⁹ The church must have been completed by the end of the year, as on December 30, 1835, the building committee conveyed the lot "with a meeting house thereon erected by us pursuant to said articles of agreement" to the three trustees "chosen pursuant to the... articles of agreement."¹⁸⁰ The sale of the pews began in early January of 1836.¹⁸¹

Some significant changes were made in the late 19th century to modernize the Greek Revival style church. An undated painting by Franklin Poole shows the Congregational Church with a shorter, plain spire without a weathervane.¹⁸² An 1882 news item notes that during the pastorate of Rev. Lyman White, "a beautiful spire, vane, and cardinal points [were] erected."¹⁸³ As Rev. White served the church from October 1875 through October 1882,¹⁸⁴ and as the new spire appears in a view of the church in Cogswell's town history, published in 1878,¹⁸⁵ the present spire must have been built between 1875 and 1878. Its erection may have been related to the addition of the church bell, which was donated in the fall of 1875¹⁸⁶ and placed in the belfry in April of 1876.¹⁸⁷

¹⁷⁹ Deed, Book 279, Page 336, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

¹⁸⁰ Deed, Book 279, Page 339, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

¹⁸¹ Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1885, p.18

¹⁸² Franklin Poole, artist, "Deerfield" (undated painting, collection of Elsie and Joseph Brown, Deerfield, N.H.)

¹⁸³ Exeter News Letter, December 22, 1882

¹⁸⁴ Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, p. 28

¹⁸⁵ Cogswell, illustration following page 284

¹⁸⁶ Exeter News Letter, April 20, 1877

¹⁸⁷ Exeter News Letter, April 28, 1876; Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, p. 21

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The most significant changes appear to date from an 1887 renovation of the church, although, as the church historian notes, the church records say little about them. The church records do include accounts of the "subscription repair fund" begun in 1887, which totaled \$2,551.45.¹⁸⁸ Some of the changes are mentioned in occasional brief news items. In July of 1887, it was reported that "The carpenters are at work on the Congregational Church. An addition has been put on the back for the choir", the present rear addition.¹⁸⁹ (The chimney on the rear gable end had to be moved to make way for the new addition.¹⁹⁰) In October, it was reported that "A concrete walk has been laid around the building."¹⁹¹ But the renovations apparently also included the replacement of the original clear glass in the large east and west windows with the present frosted and colored glass, and the filling in of the inset portico in the center of the south front.¹⁹² Earlier views of the church show the inset portico with two tall monumental columns rising from the first story floor to the entablature of the church pediment. On the back wall of the inset portico were three entrances in the first story and windows in the second story.¹⁹³ (The two columns and the former entrance doors are still stored in the basement of the church.) The filled in area was used for a vestibule on the first floor and a vestry, now a classroom, on the second floor. Three new first story entrances and a bank of second story windows were installed in the new front wall. A newspaper reference in January of 1888 to a meeting

¹⁸⁸ Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, p.23

¹⁸⁹ Exeter News Letter, July 15, 1887

¹⁹⁰ Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, p.23

¹⁹¹ Exeter News Letter, October 21, 1887

¹⁹² Wasson, DEERFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH, 1835-1985, p.23

¹⁹³ Cogswell, illustration following page 284; old photograph reproduced in The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, November 7, 1948

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"in the newly finished vestry of the Congregational Church" provides something of an end date for the renovations.¹⁹⁴

Later changes have been less significant. The last two additions, the basement entry on the main block and the privy on the rear addition, have not been dated. They could be late 19th century in date, but are more likely to be early to mid 20th century. The privy was covered by an extension of the rear addition's roof. In 1985, the privy was included in the church office in the northwest corner of the rear addition, and a new side entrance for the office was installed in its west wall.¹⁹⁵

The front of the building has seen some embellishments. Rev. Robert W. Shields donated the copper Colonial Revival lanterns on the southeast and southwest corners in 1948.¹⁹⁶ The Colonial Revival sign on the front wall does not appear in a photograph taken on Easter Sunday in 1946,¹⁹⁷ but does appear in a photograph published in 1966.¹⁹⁸ The spire once had a horizontal moulding encircling it just above the lower trapezoidal panels, which is shown in photographs taken as late as 1984.¹⁹⁹ The moulding is now gone. It may have been removed when the spire was reboarded in the 1980's.²⁰⁰ Metal railings were installed at the front entry in the early

¹⁹⁴ Exeter News Letter, January 20, 1888

¹⁹⁵ "1985 Church Annual Report" (manuscript, Deerfield Community Church, Deerfield, N.H.) report of the Property Committee

¹⁹⁶ The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, October 31, 1948

¹⁹⁷ Rev. Robert W. Shields, MEMORIES OF MY MINISTRY (Alcester, South Dakota, 1952) unpagged

¹⁹⁸ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p.10

¹⁹⁹ "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.) survey form #8 prepared by C. Tethers, 1984

²⁰⁰ Interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27, 1999

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1990's.²⁰¹ The handicapped entrance, with its ramp and new side door, was completed in 1994.²⁰²

The 20th century changes to the building have all been relatively minor and have not altered the basic appearance of the building, particularly the main block. It still looks much as it did after the renovations of the 1880's. So, as a Greek Revival church with Victorian modifications, it remains a contributing building in the Historic District.

#9 JOHNSTON HOUSE
CIRCA 1954

11A OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Johnston House is a mid 20th century vernacular wooden house, basically a simplified cape. The one and a half story gable roofed main block is set with its main facade facing south towards the street. At the east end of the rear north side is a small, one story, shed roofed rear entry. An open deck runs from the rear entry to the garage (#9A).

The main block is set on a foundation made of both poured concrete and fieldstone. The clapboarded walls are trimmed with cornerboards. The gable roof is trimmed by close verges on the gables and by open eaves with exposed rafter ends on the lateral sides. A plastic gutter runs the length of the eaves on the south side. A concrete block chimney rises from the rear north slope of the asphalt shingled roof. In the center of the three bay south street front is the recessed main entry, reached by two large granite steps. The entry recess has a board floor, clapboarded inner walls, a beaded board ceiling, and a plain outer frame. The modern wooden door has three small builtin window panes and a plain frame.

²⁰¹ Interview of Rod Swanson by Irene Shores, 1999

²⁰² "1994 Church Annual Report" (manuscript, Deerfield Community Church, Deerfield, N.H.)

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To the west of the entry is a 6/6 sash window, while to the east is a large plate glass picture window. Like all the main block windows, these two southern windows have plain frames. The south windows also have simple decorative wooden shutters, each made of three vertical slats. The east gable end has a three pane basement window, a 6/6 sash window and a double sliding window with single pane sash in the first story, and a 6/6 sash window in the gable. The first and second story windows have decorative slat shutters like those on the south. The west gable end has 6/6 sash windows, two in the first story and one in the gable. The rear north side has another three pane basement window, two 6/6 sash windows and a double casement window with six pane sash in the main level. Under the rear entry, which is open on the north, is the basement entry, a short two paneled door with plain frame.

The rear entry is set on wooden posts above a short stone walled passageway to the basement door. The main level walls are sheathed with a chipboard plywood. The shed roof is sheathed with roll roofing and trimmed by close verges and, on the north, by open eaves with exposed rafter ends and a metal gutter. Plain frames grace the three openings. The north and west sides each have a hinged six pane window. In the east side is a modern paneled door with builtin nine pane window. The door is served by four board steps with a handrail rising from the deck

The small deck that runs between the rear entry and the garage has a low fieldstone foundation and a board floor. The deck has simple wooden railings with latticework on both sides. The only break in the railings is an opening on the south street side.

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This modern house was built on the site of the Rand house that burned in 1940.²⁰³ (The granite front steps are said to have come from this earlier building.²⁰⁴) The present house was erected by carpenter Howard Johnston for his own use.²⁰⁵ According to a granddaughter of Howard Johnston, her father, Richard Johnston, helped build the house, which was constructed quickly of rough lumber.²⁰⁶ Howard Johnston purchased the property in June of 1951²⁰⁷ and deeded it to his wife, Lola Johnston, in December of 1952.²⁰⁸ Howard Johnston died on January 12, 1957.²⁰⁹ So, the house must have been built between 1951 and 1957. Unfortunately, no documents are available that can definitively date the house more precisely. But, the evidence does point to c.1954 as the most probable date for the house. A granddaughter believes that it was built before her birth in 1955, most likely in 1954.²¹⁰ Deerfield tax records are not complete for the 1950's, with the years

²⁰³ Joanne Wasson, "Fires That Changed the Face of the Center" (typescript, collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

²⁰⁴ Interview of Ronald Mahoney by David Ruell, October 12, 1999

²⁰⁵ Interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27, 1999; interview of Joe Brown by David Ruell, October 28, 1999; interview of Nettie Farr by David Ruell, November 12, 1999; interview of Judith Daigle by David Ruell, August 23, 2000

²⁰⁶ Interview of Judith Daigle by David Ruell, August 23, 2000

²⁰⁷ Deed, Book 1217, Page 138, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

²⁰⁸ Deed, Book 1270, Page 169, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

²⁰⁹ DEERFIELD NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNUAL REPORT 1957 (Deerfield N.H., 1958) p. 100

²¹⁰ Interview of Judith Daigle by David Ruell, August 23, 2000

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1950, 1951 and 1957 missing. But, an analysis of the remaining tax records for the Johnstons with a comparison to several other properties in the town showed that their property tax increase between 1954 and 1955 was higher than average.²¹¹ A former neighbor who moved into the Baptist Parsonage (#10) in 1955 says that the Johnston house had been built by then.²¹² In 1963, Lola Johnston died²¹³, and the house was bought at auction by Ronald Mahoney.²¹⁴ The Mahoneys made few changes to the building's exterior. About 1997, Mahoney replaced the kitchen window in the east gable end with the present sliding window. Around the same time, he removed the breezeway that once connected the house and the garage, replacing it with the present deck and the present rear entry. The late 1990's also saw the addition of plastic gutters.²¹⁵ The Mahoneys sold the property to the Deerfield Community Church in June of 2000.²¹⁶

As the Johnston House is less than fifty years old, it is now considered a non-contributing building in the Historic District, but it is compatible with its neighbors and does not detract from the District's character.

²¹¹ Letter from Laura Guinan of the Deerfield Heritage Commission to David Ruell, undated (probably June 2000), (manuscript, collection of David Ruell, Ashland, N.H.)

²¹² Interview of Nettie Farr by David Ruell, November 12, 1999

²¹³ Interview of Judith Daigle by David Ruell, August 23, 2000

²¹⁴ Interview of Ronald Mahoney by David Ruell, October 12, 1999

²¹⁵ Interviews of Joseph and Joanna Arsenault by David Ruell, October 19, 1999

²¹⁶ Deed, Book 3478, Page 1011, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

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#9A JOHNSTON GARAGE
CIRCA 195411A OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The garage, a mid 20th century vernacular building, is a one story, gable roofed structure. It sits on a poured concrete foundation with the lateral side facing south towards the street. Clapboards cover the south front wall and a narrow strip of the west gable end, to the south of a vertical board. (The vertical board once marked the wall of a breezeway that was removed and replaced by the present deck.) Most of the west gable end, and all of the east gable end and the north side, are sheathed with novelty siding. Cornerboards, close verges on the gables, and open lateral eaves with exposed rafter ends, trim the walls. A plastic gutter is mounted on the south street front eaves. The gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The south front features two large paneled overhead garage doors made of painted metal, with plain wooden frames and a shared concrete apron. A large electric light is mounted between and above the doors. Plain wooden frames are found on the 6/6 sash window in the east gable end and the four panel door opening onto the deck in the west gable end. Two windows on the north side are now boarded up.

The garage was built at the same time as the house,²¹⁷ and was formerly connected to the house by a breezeway.²¹⁸ It is said to have built with lumber from a demolished barn. Around 1997, the breezeway was removed and the large

²¹⁷ Interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27, 1999; interview of Joe Brown by David Ruell, October 28, 1999; interview of Nettie Farr by David Ruell, November 12, 1999; interview of Judith Daigle by David Ruell, August 23, 2000

²¹⁸ "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.) survey form #9 prepared by S. Hughes, 1984

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electric light installed.²¹⁹ The garage doors, formerly double board doors,²²⁰ were replaced with the present overhead garage doors, in 1997 or 1998.²²¹ The garage, like the house, is also considered non-contributing due to its age, as it is less than fifty years old.

The grounds in front of the Johnston house and garage are mostly grassed. An unpaved drive runs from the street to the garage. A walk of concrete pavers leads from the concrete garage apron to the deck. Flowerbeds are found on the south front of the main block of the house and on both sides of the deck. The front lawn has another flowerbed and three large evergreens. The west boundary of the lawn is marked by a row of trees. North of the garage is an unpaved parking/work area. The area north and northwest of the house is wooded. Along the east boundary of the property, to the north of the garage, is an abandoned lane, about twenty feet wide, that is lined on both sides by stone walls. (The district boundary has been drawn to exclude most of the wooded area that is now part of this property.)

#10 BAPTIST PARSONAGE
1859

9 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Baptist Parsonage is a mid 19th century vernacular house. The two and a half story, gable roofed main block is set with its south gable end facing the street. The east side of the main block is covered by a screened porch to the south and a vestibule to the north, both one story high with shed roofs. To the north of the vestibule and the main block is a one and a half story, gable roofed rear wing.

²¹⁹ Interview of Joseph and Joanna Arsenault by David Ruell, October 19, 1999

²²⁰ "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey", survey form #9

²²¹ Interview of Ronald Mahoney by David Ruell, October 12, 1999; interviews of Joseph and Joanna Arsenault by David Ruell, October 19, 1999

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The main block is set on a cut granite block foundation. Its clapboarded walls are trimmed with wide cornerboards. A wide box cornice with mouldings, frieze, and returns trims the gable roof. Breaking the ridge of the asphalt shingled roof is a brick chimney with corbeled cap. With the exception of a three pane basement window in the southern foundation, the windows all have 6/6 sash. Save for the two attic windows in the gables, which retain their original wooden sash, the 6/6 sash windows now have modern vinyl sash. With one exception, they all have their original wooden frames. The second story windows on the east and west sides have plain frames that butt up against the frieze of the cornice. The other windows, excepting the plain framed basement window and one western first story window, all have mouldings topping their window heads. The three bay south gable end has such 6/6 sash windows in the end bays of the first and second stories. The central bay in both stories has window frames like those of the other windows, but the frames are filled with clapboarding. One 6/6 sash window appears in the south gable. The three bay west side has three windows in both stories. The northern window in the first story is a shorter window with vinyl 6/6 sash and a plain wooden frame, which recently replaced an original window. The east side has one first story window (opening onto the porch) and three second story windows. The rear north gable end has one 6/6 sash window apiece in the second story and the gable.

The modern screened porch is L-shaped in plan, with a screened area, square in plan to the south of the vestibule. An unscreened extension covered by the porch roof extends north a few feet along the east side of the vestibule to two board steps. The extension and the steps are flanked by a plain wooden railing. The porch is set on round poured concrete posts. The board floor is trimmed by a sillboard. The screened portion of the porch has a simple wooden framework of posts and railings with two large screened bays on both the south and east sides. On the north side of the screened area, facing the extension and the porch steps, is

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a screen door with smaller flanking screened openings. The plywood ceiling has exposed rafters. Clapboards fill the half gables at the north and south ends. The asphalt shingled shed roof is trimmed by close verges on the half gables and by a plain lateral box cornice with narrow frieze on the east.

The small vestibule, set on a cut granite block foundation, is clapboarded with cornerboards. Its east wall is clapboarded continuously with the east wall of the rear wing. The vestibule and rear wing also share the same box cornice with mouldings and frieze, although the rear wing roof has a steeper pitch than the vestibule roof. The vestibule's shed roof is continuous with the screened porch's roof, and shares the same asphalt shingling. In the south end of the vestibule is the building's main entry, which opens onto the porch. The entry has a modern paneled door with two small builtin panes, and flanking five pane full sidelights. The entry frame is topped by a moulding on its head. The east wall of the vestibule contains two windows with modern vinyl 6/6 sash set in the original wooden frames with moulded window heads like those of the main block windows.

The rear wing has cut granite block foundations on the east and west, and a fieldstone foundation on the north gable end. Save for a section of the north gable end wall, the rear wing is clapboarded with cornerboards. The gable roof is trimmed by a continuation of the vestibule's box cornice with mouldings and frieze on the east, by close verges on the south half gable and the north gable, and by close eaves with frieze on the west. A tall brick chimney with tapered top breaks the ridge of the asphalt shingled roof. The east and west walls each contain two windows with new vinyl 6/6 sash set in the original wooden frames featuring the same moulded window heads seen on the main block and the vestibule. The east wall also features two doors with three pane transom windows and plain frames that butt up against the frieze of the cornice. The southern door

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is a paneled door with moulded horizontal panels and a large builtin window, while the northern door is a four panel door. The south door has a modern vinyl storm door with a tall builtin window. Both doors are served by granite steps. But, the granite steps of the south door have been covered by a landing with a board floor, a board step on the front, and side railings with plain posts, slats and rails. The north gable end retains a plain framed window with its original 6/6 wooden sash in the gable, but it has been partly altered at the east end, where the former attached barn was removed. Approximately two-thirds of the main level and one-third of the gable are now sheathed with plywood and boards. This rebuilt section contains an untrimmed board door, served by a short wooden ramp. A small basement opening in the north foundation is now boarded up.

The grounds of the Baptist Parsonage are continuous with those of the adjoining Baptist Church (#11). So, the lawns that occupy most of the parsonage grounds, and the wooded area to the north in the rear of the lot continue uninterrupted into the church grounds. The parsonage does have its own paved drive, that runs from the street to the east of the house. Paved walks lead from the drive to the porch steps and the southern rear wing door. A flowerbed with a fieldstone curb ornaments the street front of the screened porch. A few shrubs and trees grow around the building and on the lawns. Also found on the lawns are an old well now covered by a wooden cap, a modern metal wellhead, and a metal flagpole.

The first house on this site is said to have been originally owned by Trueworthy Nichols,²²² and is thought to have been erected very early in the village's history.²²³ In 1824, the Union Society, later renamed the First Baptist

²²² "Deerfield Houses", entry # 97

²²³ Interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27, 1999

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Society, decided to purchase a parsonage.²²⁴ The parsonage committee established by the Society reported the purchase of the Dr. Seth Fogg property in 1825.²²⁵ However, in November of 1827, the Society decided to swap the parsonage property with Stephen Nichols, giving him the Fogg property and \$200 for part of the Nicholas Nichols property.²²⁶ At a March 4, 1828 meeting, the Society reconsidered the question and voted to create a committee to decide whether or not to make the property exchange. If the committee approved, John Merrill was to act as the Society's agent for the transaction.²²⁷ The committee must have given its quick approval, as on March 12, 1828, Merrill deeded the Fogg property to Nichols²²⁸ and on March 31, Nicholas Nichols deeded two pieces of property to the Society.²²⁹ The great advantage of the Nichols property for the parsonage was its location just west of the Union Meetinghouse, then used by the Baptists.

The 1857 county map shows the house here as the "Parsonage".²³⁰ But, the following year, the Baptist parsonage burned. A special meeting of the First Baptist Society was held on November 29, 1858 to appoint an agent to collect the insurance on the parsonage buildings "lately destroyed by fire" and to see what action the Society would take on the parsonage.²³¹ The Society voted to "take

²²⁴ "United Society Records, 1821" (manuscript, collection of First Baptist Church, Deerfield, N.H.) pp.40,43,45,53,55

²²⁵ Ibid., pp. 80-81

²²⁶ Ibid., pp. 110-111

²²⁷ Ibid., pp. 119-120

²²⁸ Deed, Book 261, Page 401, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

²²⁹ Deed, Book 259, Page 24, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

²³⁰ J. Chace, Jr., MAP OF ROCKINGHAM CO., NEW HAMPSHIRE (Philadelphia, 1857)

²³¹ "Records of the First Baptist Society, No. 2, 1853"

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immediate measures to rebuild the parsonage buildings". A three man building committee (Eben Tilton, Jeremiah Fellows, and David Stevens) was chosen and instructed to make a draft and specifications for a new parsonage and to estimate its cost.²³² At an adjourned meeting on December 27, the committee presented plans for the new parsonage. The meeting voted to adopt the plans and to have the committee solicit donations of materials for the project.²³³ The Society meeting was adjourned to January 22, 1859, when the committee was instructed to receive proposals "to finish the parsonage buildings".²³⁴ The Society adjourned the meeting until February 7, when it was "voted that the committee be authorized to contract with some person or persons to complete the rebuilding of the parsonage".²³⁵ Apparently, not all the members of the Society supported erecting a new parsonage, as a special meeting was called for April 28 to consider buying buildings and land for a parsonage. But, the special meeting took no action on this alternative proposal.²³⁶ At another adjourned meeting on May 21, Jeremiah Fellows and Eben Tilton were excused from the committee, William Whittier and Elbridge Tilton were appointed in their places, and John Fellows was added to the committee. The revamped committee was instructed "to go on in building said Parsonage buildings" as they thought best.²³⁷ The Society had previously voted to use part of the insurance money to pay off a loan for repairs to the old parsonage and to allow the committee to use the rest of the insurance money for the new building.²³⁸ A September 10

(manuscript, collection of First Baptist Church, Deerfield, N.H.) p. 46

²³² Ibid., p. 47

²³³ Ibid., p. 48

²³⁴ Ibid., p. 49

²³⁵ Ibid.

²³⁶ Ibid., pp. 53-54

²³⁷ Ibid., p. 50

²³⁸ Ibid., pp. 47, 49

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meeting authorized the treasurer to borrow up to \$500 for the building committee's use.²³⁹ By then, work on the new parsonage must have been well underway. A Society meeting was called for October 22, to see if the Society would accept the Parsonage as completed under "the contract made by the building committee with Jeremiah Fellows" and to decide how to pay for the new building.²⁴⁰ The meeting adjourned twice, to November 2, when the building committee reported that "Jeremiah Fellows the contractor" had completed his work according to the contract. The Society accepted the committee report. On learning that \$575 still had to be paid for the parsonage, the meeting voted to borrow \$500 and to begin soliciting for subscriptions to pay off the debt.²⁴¹ In his annual report for 1859, the Society's treasurer reported that Jeremiah Fellows had been paid \$750 for his contract on the parsonage. Other payments for building materials and labor, such as masonry and painting, totaled \$187.85. While the treasurer's report did not assign these expenses to a particular building, it seems likely that most or all of them can be attributed to the new parsonage.²⁴²

Exterior changes to the main block, the vestibule and the rear wing have been quite limited. The central windows in the first and second stories of the main block's street gable end have probably always been false windows, used to give the main facade a more symmetrical appearance. Older photographs do show that the illusion was once completed by covering the false windows with louvred shutters, like those that graced other main block windows, but which have since been removed.²⁴³ The original wooden sash were replaced by

239 Ibid., p.55

240 Ibid., p.56

241 Ibid., pp. 57-59

242 Ibid., pp. 67-68

243 Photographs (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

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vinyl sash in the second story windows and two first story windows c.1985-86, and in the remainder of the first story windows in 2000.²⁴⁴ The replacement sash used the same 6/6 pattern found in the original sash and most of the window frames were retained. When a new kitchen was built in the northwest corner of the main block's first story in 2000, one western window was replaced with a smaller window with a new frame, and one northern window was removed entirely.²⁴⁵ The door in the vestibule entry is obviously a 20th century replacement, but it is said to have been in place in 1972, if not earlier.²⁴⁶ The southern door in the rear wing's east side received a modern storm door in the mid 1990's and a wooden landing in 2000.²⁴⁷ The north gable end of the rear wing was once partly covered by a small attached barn, that stretched to the east of the building.²⁴⁸ The barn was removed sometime between the early 1960's²⁴⁹ and 1972²⁵⁰. The north gable end has therefore received a new door and some new sheathing to close in the opening left in the wall after the removal. Another significant change was the replacement of the original porch. Older views of the house show that it once had a porch to the east of the main block and to the south of the vestibule, very similar to the porch still to

²⁴⁴ Interview of Tom Stevens by David Ruell, December 1, 2000

²⁴⁵ Ibid.

²⁴⁶ Interview of Dorothy Anderson by David Ruell, October 31, 1999

²⁴⁷ Interview of Tom Stevens by David Ruell, December 1, 2000

²⁴⁸ Photographs, (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.); view of parsonage in The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, April 27, 1947 (collection of Deerfield Historical Society, Deerfield, N.H.)

²⁴⁹ Interview of Tom Stevens by David Ruell, October 31, 1999

²⁵⁰ Interview of Dorothy Anderson by David Ruell, October 31, 1999

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be seen on the Goodhue House (#14). The porch was the same width as the vestibule and covered that portion of the main block's east side not covered by the vestibule. The porch had a single post at the southeast corner and a hip roof; and it shared a box cornice and frieze with the vestibule.²⁵¹ The original porch was replaced with the present screened porch in the mid 1990's.²⁵²

Architecturally, the replacement of the original porch is the only truly significant change to the building. The removal of the barn and the modernization of windows and doors, have not really changed the design. The Baptist Parsonage retains most of its original features and therefore is a contributing building in the Historic District.

#11 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
1834

7 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The wooden First Baptist Church was originally an early "Gothick" church, which combined a Federal style form and some Federal style features, such as a pedimented gable, with Gothic arched openings and ornament. The Gothic windows, doors, and ornament of the main block have since been replaced by Victorian windows and entries, although the original Gothic elements survive in the tower. The gable roofed main block is mostly one and a half stories high, but the southwest gable end, the street front, is two and a half stories high. This reflects the internal division of the church with a high church auditorium to the north of the two

²⁵¹ Photographs, (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.); The Church of Deerfield Bulletin, April 27, 1947; "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.) survey form #7 prepared by S. Hughes, 1984

²⁵² Interview of Tom Stevens by David Ruell, December 1, 2000

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shorter stories used for the vestibule and the balcony. A two stage tower straddles the main block's roof ridge above the main facade. On the rear northeast gable end of the main block is a one story gable roofed rear addition (at the west end) and a small one story shed roofed privy (east of the rear addition).

The main block, set on a cut granite block foundation, is clapboarded, with sillboards and cornerboards. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed on the three more visible sides by a box cornice with mouldings and frieze, that is pedimented on the southwest gable. The rear northeast gable is trimmed by close verges with returns of the lateral cornices.

The central bay of the main facade, the southwest gable end, has a bank of three windows in the first story and a bank of four windows in the second story, all sharing the same frame. The banks of windows in both stories are actually the same width, but the first story's central window is twice the width of its two companions. This central first story window is filled with leaded stained glass with an ornate geometric pattern, a small circular section with the cross and the crown symbol, and the names and terms of past pastors painted on the panes. The two central second story windows also have leaded stained glass with ornate geometric patterns and a border of smaller rectangular panes. The two end windows in both the first story bank and the second story bank are 3/5 sash windows with large panes of colored glass. The first story end windows have pastors' names and memorial inscriptions painted on them. All three first story windows are now covered by plexiglass storm windows. The windows of the central bay are set in a two story tall rectangle of flush boarding, outlined by a moulded sill under the first story windows, vertical mouldings on the outer sides of the end windows, and a shallow moulded cornice above the second story windows. Between the two stories is a row of three moulded panels, whose widths correspond to those of the

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windows below them. Vertical mouldings also separate the windows in both stories. The same moulding design is used for the sills of the second story windows. Each end bay of the three bay facade is very similar in design with an entry in the first story, and a window in the second story. The door in each entry is a paneled door with three lower horizontal panels, and two upper narrow tall, vertical builtin windows, all with mouldings. The door has a plain frame, but is topped by an elaborate hood. The two heavy sawn and carved brackets supporting each hood have a profile that combines two scrolls, a lower vertical scroll and an upper horizontal scroll. At the outer upper end of each bracket is a turned pendant, composed of a globe from which is suspended a smaller globe. The hoods have beaded board ceilings with ceiling mouldings and box cornices with mouldings, friezes, and architraves. They are topped by low pitched metal sheathed hip roofs. Each entry is reached by four granite steps. The western entry has a metal pipe railing. The eastern entry is now served by a long wooden wheelchair ramp. The ramp has wooden posts, board floor, and plain wooden railings. From a landing built over the granite steps at the eastern entry, a ramp descends to the southeast to a square landing, where another ramp descends to the southwest to a paved walk. Above each entry is a second story window of colored glass. The western window has 5/4 sash, while the eastern window has 5/6 sash, with a memorial inscription on its three lowest panes. Both have moulded frames topped by shallow moulded cornices like those above the windows of the central bay. Mounted on the south corner of the main block is an ornate metal bracket that once supported a lantern. In the center of the clapboarded tympanum of the pedimented gable is a 9/6 sash window with colored glass panes and a moulded cornice like that seen on the second story windows.

The southeast and northwest sides of the main block are very similar. Each has one basement window opening, a two pane window on the southeast, a boarded up opening on the northwest. Each side has three large sash windows in the

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main level. Each sash has a central geometric pattern of stained leaded glass, with an outer border of rectangular panes of colored glass. The stained glass in the upper sash of each window features a symmetrical design focused on a central circle with a painted religious symbol. The stained glass in the lower sash has a more random geometric pattern. The window frames are topped by shallow moulded cornices. The northeast rear gable has a plain framed window, which retains a lower six pane sash, but is boarded over in the upper portion. The northeast gable end also has a tall exterior brick chimney with corbeled cap, which rises from the roof of the rear addition.

Both stages of the tower are square in plan, with the second stage being slightly smaller than the first stage. The southwest front of the first stage of the tower is set in the same plane as the southwest gable end of the main block. The first stage's clapboarded walls are trimmed by cornerboards and a box cornice with mouldings and a narrow frieze. The only opening in the first stage is a plain framed 9/6 sash window on the rear northeast side. On the roof of the first stage, surrounding the second stage, is a railing with square corner posts topped by tall pyramidal finials. Save for the metal sheathed tips of the finials, the posts and finials have plain wooden sides, ornamented only by a moulding on top of the posts, which is continued on the moulded upper rail of the railings. The rails have sawn slats, alternately narrow vertical slats and wider diamond shaped slats. (The slats touch and appear to be sawn from the same board.)

The second stage is the belfry stage. Its clapboarded walls are trimmed by paneled corner pilasters with moulded caps. The box cornice with deep frieze is decorated by mouldings and sawn modillions with a scroll profile. In each face of the belfry stage is a wide, tall Gothic arched louver. The louver's paneled frames feature plain impost blocks at the lower ends of the arches. The second stage is topped by a railing with cornerposts like that topping the

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first stage, with the same tall pyramidal finials with metal sheathed points, and the same mouldings on the upper rails and topping the cornerposts. The only significant difference is the pattern of the slats, which in the second stage railings are tapered from the bottom where they touch to the top where they are reduced to narrow tips.

The small rear addition is set on a cut granite block foundation. It has clapboarded walls with cornerboards. A box cornice with mouldings and frieze, but no returns, trims the asphalt shingled roof. The northeast gable end has the only window, a plain framed 6/6 sash window, and the only entry, a modern metal door with two panels beneath a builtin nine pane window, and a narrow moulded frame. The entry is served by a modern wooden landing with plain wooden posts, simple railings with plain balusters, and three board steps on the northeast.

In the east corner formed by the main block and the rear addition is the small privy. The privy is clapboarded, save for the lower portion of its narrow southeast wall, which is sheathed with vertical boards. Cornerboards trim the two walls. The cornerboards are notched on the edges where they abut the clapboards of the rear addition and main block walls, as there are no corresponding cornerboards on those two sections of the building. A cornice with sloping soffit, mouldings and frieze trims the asphalt shingled shed roof. At the west end of the northeast side, a short basement level louvred door and a taller main level louvred door share the same plain frame that butts up against the cornice's frieze. The southeast end has a small, high single pane window with plain frame. What appears to be an old board door has been nailed horizontally against the lower portion of the southeast end to cover the cleanout hole. An outer door made of slats is hinged on the upper edge of the old door.

The grounds are mostly grassed around the church, but are wooded along the rear northerly side of the lot. The lawns

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are interrupted by some outcrops of rocky ledge. A paved drive with two street entries curves in front of the church. A paved walk off this drive leads to the wheelchair ramp. On the lawn set off by the curved drive are two trees, some shrubs, and the church sign. The sign is L-shaped in plan with two painted wooden signboards set perpendicular to each other. The signboards are supported by three wooden posts. They both have tops sawn to look like open scrolled pediments. Granite block curbs between the main entry steps and between the steps and the main block corners outline beds filled with flowers and shrubs along the street front of the building. The easterly lot boundary is marked by a row of trees and, in the northern section, by a stone wall.

The creation of a Baptist Church in Deerfield took three attempts. The first church was organized in 1770, but disbanded in 1787.²⁵³ Another church was organized "soon after", but it only lasted a few years before it too faded away. The present church was finally formed as the "First Baptist Church in Deerfield" on September 12, 1816.²⁵⁴ The town history states, "The first house of worship occupied by the Baptists was built 1770 and located about one mile and a half southeast of the center of the town. In 1822, it was removed to the center, and occupied in connection with the Freewill Baptists and was called the "Union Meeting-house"."²⁵⁵ Deeds indicate that the Union Meetinghouse stood where the Freewill Baptist churches were later located (#12).²⁵⁶

The First Baptist Society records reveal, however, that by the summer of 1833, the two congregations were disputing

²⁵³ Elliott C. Cogswell, HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM, DEERFIELD, AND NORTHWOOD (Manchester, 1878) p. 294

²⁵⁴ Ibid., pp. 294-5

²⁵⁵ Ibid., p. 296

²⁵⁶ Deeds, Book 305, Page 411; Book 307, Book 81, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

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the use of the Union Meetinghouse.²⁵⁷ This dispute may have prompted some members of the First Baptist Church to build a new church for the exclusive use of their congregation. The new building was erected by a group of stockholders and then presented to the Society.²⁵⁸ The First Baptist Society records therefore only tell us about the beginning and the end of the construction. They show that the stockholders of "the new Baptist meetinghouse to be built near Stevens Corner" were still considering the site of the proposed building on December 28, 1833, when the Society offered them the use of the Parsonage lot.²⁵⁹ The next references in the Society records are to two meetings on October 18, 1834. At one meeting, the stockholders of the new meetinghouse voted that, when the building was completed, the stockholders would convey all title to the property to the First Baptist Society, reserving however the right to sell all but one pew and to keep the proceeds from those sales,²⁶⁰ presumably to cover the costs of the construction. At another meeting on October 18, the Society members established a committee to handle the arrangements for the dedication of the meetinghouse.²⁶¹ The dedication is said to have been in October, although the exact day was not recorded.²⁶² The Society held its first meeting in the new building on November 29, 1834.²⁶³

The stockholders chose to erect the new meetinghouse on the easterly side of North Road, just north of its intersection with Old Center Road.²⁶⁴ This site served for

²⁵⁷ "United Society Records, 1821" (manuscript, collection of First Baptist Church, Deerfield, N.H.), pp. 187-189

²⁵⁸ Exeter News Letter, August 19, 1892

²⁵⁹ "United Society Records, 1821", pp. 189-90

²⁶⁰ Ibid., p. 197

²⁶¹ Ibid., p. 196

²⁶² Cogswell, p. 296

²⁶³ Ibid.

²⁶⁴ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.22; J. Chace, Jr.,

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over half a century. But in the late 1880's, some Baptists became concerned about the "flexible and spongy" ground under the church and wanted to move it to a ledgy site on the Parsonage lot.²⁶⁵ The question of moving the building was discussed at the Society's annual meeting on April 16, 1889.²⁶⁶ A special meeting was then called for April 27 to consider moving the building to the Parsonage lot and repairing it. The meeting voted 12-5 to proceed with the move and the repairs. A three man committee was chosen to carry out the vote, but was instructed to first solicit at least \$500 for the work.²⁶⁷ At an adjourned meeting on May 11, the committee reported that \$510 had been subscribed, so Rice R. Whittier, a committee member, was chosen as the agent to supervise the moving of the building.²⁶⁸ Many were opposed to the move, and there were threats of an injunction to stop it.²⁶⁹ But, the Deerfield newspaper correspondent reported on September 20 that the move was underway, and a week later that the church had arrived at its new site.²⁷⁰ Professional movers from Concord moved the building using rollers and a windlass powered by a single horse.²⁷¹ By October 11, the foundation had been placed under the church.²⁷²

MAP OF ROCKINGHAM CO., NEW HAMPSHIRE (Philadelphia, 1857); Deeds, Book 274, Page 321; Book 525, Page 194, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

²⁶⁵ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p. 14;

Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p. 22

²⁶⁶ "Records of the First Baptist Society, No. 2 1853", p. 194

²⁶⁷ Ibid., pp.197-200

²⁶⁸ Ibid., p.200

²⁶⁹ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p.22-23; Exeter News Letter, June 7, August 23, 1889

²⁷⁰ Exeter News Letter, September 20 and 27, 1889

²⁷¹ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p. 22

²⁷² Exeter News Letter, October 11, 1889

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Description (cont.)

The next step was the repair and renovation of the church. At a May 31, 1890 Society meeting, the committee reported on the moving of the building and was instructed to solicit subscriptions for the repairs.²⁷³ The fund raising was apparently slow, as it was not until August of 1891 that the newspaper would report that work had begun on the church.²⁷⁴ The renovations apparently stopped during the winter, as it was reported that they would resume in the spring of 1892.²⁷⁵ The work was nearing completion in July.²⁷⁶ And, on August 14, 1892, the repaired and remodeled church was rededicated.²⁷⁷ In its final report, the committee said that the move and the renovations had cost \$2731.76.²⁷⁸

A lithograph in Cogswell's 1878 town history is the earliest dated view of the church that was located in the research for this nomination.²⁷⁹ The building then had the same basic form, a main block with a two stage-tower, as it has today. The tower does not appear to have changed since 1878, save that only the upper portions of the arched openings in the belfry stage were then filled with louvers. But, the windows and doors of the three public facades of the main block have all changed since the history was printed. The lithograph shows two paneled doors in the same positions as the present entries, but each is set in a door frame with two finials at the upper corners flanking a Gothic arched louver directly above the door. Between the two doors in the first story is a small window topped by a

²⁷³ "Records of the First Baptist Society, No. 2 1853", p. 218

²⁷⁴ Exeter News Letter, August 14, 1891

²⁷⁵ Exeter News Letter, March 25, 1892

²⁷⁶ Exeter News Letter, July 8 and 29, 1892

²⁷⁷ Exeter News Letter, August 19, 1892

²⁷⁸ "Records of the First Baptist Society, No. 2 1853", p. 261

²⁷⁹ Cogswell, opp. p. 296

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Gothic arched louver. In the second story of the main facade are two windows with frames butting up against the horizontal cornice of the pediment, both set between the two main entries in positions now occupied by clapboarded wall. A wide Gothic arched louver is shown in the tympanum of the pediment. The side walls (or at least the southeast wall visible in the lithograph and a c.1882 photograph²⁸⁰) each feature three tall wide Gothic arched window frames filled with louvered shutters, which probably covered large clear glass windows.

Unfortunately, the church records do not describe the exterior changes made during the 1891-92 remodeling. The August 1892 newspaper article on the rededication of the church states that "The outside of the church has not been changed with the exception of the windows". The article specifically describes the memorial windows in the southwest front with the names of pastors and deceased church members.²⁸¹ It seems likely that the colored glass window in the front pediment and the large stained glass windows in the side walls also date from the 1891-92 renovations. The newspaper article refers to another change which must be the erection of the rear addition, stating that "at the rear is a room to be used as a kitchen".²⁸² This room could only be the rear addition, as there is no such room in the main block.²⁸³ It is also likely that the present doors and their hoods date from the 1891-92 renovations. In October of 1893, the Society voted to install memorial windows, presumably window panes with memorial inscriptions, in the second story "over the hoods".²⁸⁴ Since the hoods were in

²⁸⁰ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p. 14

²⁸¹ Exeter News Letter, August 19, 1892

²⁸² Ibid.

²⁸³ Interview of Carol Stevens by David Ruell, January 28, 2000

²⁸⁴ "Records of the First Baptist Society No. 2 1853"
p.260

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Description (cont.)

place in 1893 and there are no references in the church records to any renovations between 1878 and 1893, save the 1891-92 renovations, it seems probable that the entries, with their new doors and hoods, were also included in that general remodeling, despite the newspaper correspondent's statement that only the windows were changed.

Some changes cannot be dated with any certainty. Early photographs of the church at its new site still show that the belfry arches were partly open²⁸⁵, but they were completely filled with louvers by 1966.²⁸⁶ The lantern bracket on the south corner was also installed by 1966.²⁸⁷ The privy appears to be late 19th century or early 20th century in date. The notching of its cornerboards where they meet the clapboards of the rear addition and the main block strongly suggest that the privy was built after the rear addition, but no information could be found on its date. We do know that the landing and steps on the rear addition's entry were replaced c. 1995²⁸⁸. The rear addition was remodeled into a nursery in 2000. This remodeling included the replacement of the rear addition's only window. And the addition's entry, once a double door, was replaced by a narrower modern single door.²⁸⁹ A wheelchair ramp was installed at the western main block entry in the early 1980's but it was removed because it did not meet the

²⁸⁵ Photographs (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

²⁸⁶ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p. 15

²⁸⁷ Ibid.; interview of Tom Stevens by David Ruell, October 31, 1999, interview of Dorothy Anderson by David Ruell, October 31, 1999

²⁸⁸ Interview of Tom Stevens by David Ruell, October 31, 1999

²⁸⁹ Interview of Tom Stevens by David Ruell, December 1, 2000

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handicapped code.²⁹⁰ The present ramp at the eastern main
block entry was built in the mid 1990's.²⁹¹

Changes to the church since the 1890's have been very limited. The filling of the belfry openings with louvers and the addition of the wheelchair ramp are the only changes visible to the passerby, as the other changes, the addition of the privy, and the new door, window and steps on the rear addition, cannot be seen from the street. The building therefore looks virtually as it did in the late 19th century. As an early Gothick church with Victorian alterations, it is a major contributing building in the Historic District.

#12 FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
1881-18825 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The former Freewill Baptist Church, now the Deerfield Community Center, is a Stick Style wooden church that has been modified to serve as a public hall and community center. The tall, one and a half story, gable roofed main block was set with its southwest gable end, its main facade, facing the street. At the eastern end of the southwest gable end is a one story vestibule that shares a shed roof with an open entrance porch in the center of the main facade. At the west end of the main facade of the main block and overlapping it to the west is a two story tower with a pyramidal roof. Covering the full width of the rear northeast gable end of the main block is the one and a half story, gable roofed rear wing. At the eastern end of the rear wing's northeast gable end, a small one story, shed roofed shed has been attached.

²⁹⁰ Interview of Dorothy Anderson by David Ruell, October 31, 1999

²⁹¹ Interview of Tom Stevens by David Ruell, October 31, 1999

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The main block has a cut granite block foundation on the southeast and a concrete block foundation on the northwest. The walls are sheathed with clapboards and wooden shingles and trimmed with sillboards and cornerboards. The three walls most visible to the public are subdivided into panels by vertical and horizontal boards, as is typical of the Stick Style. The steeply pitched gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. It has wide overhanging open eaves. On the lateral northwest and southeast sides, the open eaves have decoratively sawn exposed rafter ends and moulded fascia boards. The gable eaves feature paneled vergeboards, with alternating long rectangular panels and short panels, the latter decorated with applied sawn rosettes.

The two ends of the main block's main facade, the southwest gable end, are covered by the tower and the vestibule. In the center of the first story, the open porch that extends between the tower and the vestibule shelters a triple window. The window has a central 6/4 sash window and two flanking narrower stained glass windows. The leaded stained glass has a geometric pattern with diamonds and squares of colored glass in the central portion, surrounded by a border of rectangular panes with floral and geometric patterns in their stained glass. The triple window has a plain frame. The first story wall sheltered by the porch is clapboarded and is divided into panels by horizontal extensions of the two boards at the triple window's head and sill and by vertical extensions of the two boards flanking the triple window's central window. Above the porch roof is another plain framed triple window, which is directly above the first story window and has the same window widths, a wider central window with 6/4 sash and two narrower flanking 1/1 sash windows. Here the central window is taller than its companions. (The only other opening is a small modern louvred vent high in the gable.) The upper triple window is set in a large rectangle of clapboarding, formed by the shed roof below, the tower to the west, a horizontal board at the central window head level above, and a vertical board to the east corresponding to the northwestern wall of the

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vestibule. To the east of the clapboarded rectangle, the wall is sheathed with wooden shingles, mostly rectangular shingles, but with two bands of courses of semi-octagonal shingles (shingles with their lower corners cut off on the diagonal). The gable above the triple window is also sheathed with wooden shingles, with four alternating bands of several courses of rectangular and semi-octagonal shingles, two bands of each type. This triangular gable area is divided into four panels by a vertical central board and by two S-curved boards that rise diagonally to the eaves from the junction of the horizontal board above the upper triple window and the central vertical board.

The main facade is completed by the vestibule, porch and tower. The small vestibule, set on a cut granite block foundation, has clapboarded walls trimmed with cornerboards and sillboards. On the southwest street front is the lone window, a plain framed stained glass window. The leaded glass has a pattern of diamonds and squares of colored glass surrounded by a border of rectangular panes with floral designs, similar to the main block's first story triple window. A horizontal board crosses the southwest wall at the window sill level. The vestibule has one door, a three paneled door at the north end of the northwest side, where it is sheltered by the porch. The door panels, one large panel and two smaller lower panels, have beaded boarding infill and are trimmed by mouldings on the top and bottom and by chamfered edges on the sides. The door frame is plain. But, the two boards on the south side and the top of the frame are extended vertically and horizontally to divide the vestibule wall into panels.

The vestibule and the porch share the same asphalt shingled shed roof. The open wide overhanging eaves are similar to those on the main block roof, with a paneled vergeboard with an applied sawn rosette in the small lower end panel on the southeast end, and with exposed rafter ends and moulded fascia boards on the southwest side. Many of the exposed rafter ends are decoratively sawn like those on

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the main block roof. But those in the center of the porch opening are not, as they are plain replacements. (A small decorative gable once found above the porch was removed, so part of the roof and its eaves were rebuilt.) The horizontal beam supporting the front of the porch roof is itself supported at each end by a large sawn curved bracket, elaborately decorated with sawn and incised ornament. The beam itself is decorated with chamfered edges and an applied sawn rosette. The porch has a sloping beaded board ceiling, with exposed rafters. The high porch floor is now poured concrete, reached at each end by a flight of three concrete steps. The steps and the porch floor are protected by metal pipe railings.

The tower at the west end of the facade is square in plan. It has a granite block foundation. The walls, sheathed with clapboards and wooden shingles, are trimmed by sillboards and wide cornerboards. The tower is now topped by a low pitched pyramidal roof, sheathed with asphalt shingles. The roof has open eaves with exposed rafters, fascia boards, and frieze. At the north end of the southeast side is a plain framed, two paneled door sheltered by the porch. The smaller lower door panel has beveled board infill and chamfered edges. The larger upper panel has beaded board infill, chamfered side edges and mouldings at the top and bottom. The two boards on the top and the south side of the door frame are extended vertically and horizontally to divide the clapboarded wall area sheltered by the porch into panels. In the first story of the tower's southwest street front is a tall plain framed double window with eight panes of clear glass in each tall narrow window. Boards at the top and bottom of the window frame are extended horizontally across the clapboarding to create panels of clapboarding below and beside the double window. The top board is also extended horizontally down the southeast side of the tower. In the southwest front's second story is a triple window with tall narrow single pane sash again in a plain frame. The top and bottom boards of this plain frame are continued horizontally around the three most visible sides of the

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tower (the northwest, southwest, and southeast) to create panels. The panels created between the first story windows and the second story windows by the horizontal boards on the southwest and southeast sides of the tower are filled with wooden shingles, all rectangular save for a course of semi-octagonal shingles at both the top and the bottom. (Painted wooden signs identifying the building are mounted on the southwestern panel.) The panels at the second story window level are filled with clapboards on all three sides of the tower. Above the second story windows, horizontal boards divide the upper walls of all four sides into two levels of panels. The lower panels are again filled with wooden shingles, mostly rectangular save for courses of semi-octagonal shingles at the top and the bottom. The upper level, just beneath the eaves, is divided into three panels on each side by vertical boards and filled with clapboarding. The central panel in each group of three panels is further subdivided into four triangular panels by two diagonal boards crossing it. The crossing is marked by a simple applied sawn rosette. The large entrance that was once found on the northwest side of the tower has been boarded up, and the shed roofed entry porch that sheltered it has been removed. But some evidence of the entry and the porch remain. The site of the entry is now just a large plain framed rectangle of clapboarding in the first story. It is flanked by slightly projecting posts with chamfered edges that were once the inner posts of the entry porch. Above the large panel can be seen a slightly projecting horizontal beam with chamfered edges that once supported the upper end of the porch roof. The northwest and northeast sides of the tower are clapboarded, save for the uppermost panels of wood shingles near the top of the tower.

The southeast and northwest sides of the main block are almost identical. Each has one plain framed three pane basement window. The northwest side also has a short basement entry with sloping double board doors in a wooden casing with clapboarded sides on a concrete base. Each side has three large tall double windows lighting the church

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auditorium. The windows have 6/4 sash and plain frames. The walls are divided into panels by horizontal boards at the head and sill levels of the windows, and by vertical boards that extend the sides of the window frames from the sillboard to the eaves. The panels below and beside the windows are clapboarded. The upper panels, above the window head level, are filled with wooden shingles, mostly rectangular above a lower course of semi-octagonal shingles. The rear northeast gable end is almost completely covered by the rear wing, which is just as wide as the main block and only a few feet shorter. The rear gable does feature an exterior brick chimney that rises from the roof of the rear wing and through the eaves of the main block roof.

The granite block foundation of the rear wing has been replaced by concrete blocks on the southeast side and part of the northwest side. The clapboarded walls are trimmed with sillboards and cornerboards, but not the paneling seen on the main block. One vertical board on the northeast gable end, located nine feet from the east corner, is the only internal division of the clapboarding. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed by open overhanging eaves like those on the main block, complete with paneled vergeboards with rosettes on the gable, decoratively sawn exposed rafter ends and moulded fascia boards on the lateral sides. The northwest side has a plain framed 1/1 sash window, partly protected by an ornate metal screen, while the southeast side has a modern triple casement window with single pane sash and a moulded frame. In the first story of the northeast gable end is a modern metal door with a plain wooden frame. This door is served by a wooden wheelchair ramp with simple wooden posts and railings, and board floors. From the door, a ramp descends to the northeast to a landing, where a ramp descends to the northwest to a paved walk. The second story of the gable end has one 6/6 sash window and a paneled door with a builtin window, both with plain frames. The door opens onto a landing with a board floor and plain wooden railing supported by three large metal brackets. From the landing, a wooden stairway with board steps and plain wooden

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railing descends to the west along the wall to the ground. At the lower end of the stairway, the steps widen to extend down the northwest wall of the rear wing, where they once served a door that has been removed. At the east end of the northeast gable end is the small shed. The shed stands on concrete blocks. Its clapboarded walls are trimmed by cornerboards, its asphalt shingled roof by close eaves and verges. The only opening is a plain framed board door on the northeast side.

The lot is mostly grassed. A curved paved drive to the front of the building creates a semicircular area on the streetfront of the lot, which is now filled by a garden, with flowers and shrubs. The garden is protected by a granite curb along the street and by a wooden rail fence along the drive. A large shrub grows in front of the vestibule. Another paved drive branches off the main drive west of the building to run to a small paved area northwest of the building. This paved area is used primarily as a basketball court, with basketball hoops on poles at each end and an electric light fixture on a wooden pole on its east side. A paved walk runs from this side drive to the rear wing's exterior stairway and wheelchair ramp. Part of the lawn east of the building is covered with sand and protected by plastic fencing to create a play area. Stone walls lined with trees mark the easterly and northerly boundaries, while a row of trees marks the westerly boundary.

The present building is actually the third church to occupy this site, all associated with the Freewill Baptists. Deerfield's Freewill Baptist Church was organized in 1799.²⁹² As noted above in the account of the First Baptist Church (#11), the town history states that the first Baptist meetinghouse was built in 1770 "about one mile and a half southeast of the center of the town. In 1822, it was removed to the center and occupied in connection with the Freewill

²⁹² Cogswell, p. 296

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Baptists, and was called the "Union Meeting-house".²⁹³ 1822 was probably the year the building was finished, as the records of the United Society that operated the meetinghouse refer to the building as "partly finished" in October of 1821, when the sale of pews began.²⁹⁴ Pew sales continued into the summer of 1822.²⁹⁵ The United Society records also include a copy of the 1824 agreement with Benjamin Stevens, Jr. for the use of the land occupied by the meetinghouse.²⁹⁶ The joint use of the Union Meetinghouse by the Freewill Baptists and the Calvinist Baptists was short lived. As described above in the entry on the First Baptist Church, the Calvinist Baptists built their own church in 1834, leaving the Freewill Baptists the sole occupants of the Union Meetinghouse. The meetinghouse burned in 1839²⁹⁷ or 1840.²⁹⁸

We know from deeds that the Freewill Baptists built a new meetinghouse on the same site in 1841. In March of 1841, Charles Tucker sold for \$75 to 61 members of the Freewill Baptist Society "the lot of land leased by Benjamin Stevens for a site for a meeting house which meeting house has been recently burned."²⁹⁹ In January of 1842, an agent of the "stockholders of the new Freewill Baptist Meeting House and the site of land upon which it is erected", acting under a November 19, 1841 vote of the stockholders, conveyed the meetinghouse and the land to the First Freewill Baptist Society of Deerfield. The deed notes that "the site is the same where the late Union Meetinghouse stood that was

²⁹³ Ibid.

²⁹⁴ "United Society Records, 1821", pp. 6-7

²⁹⁵ "United Society Records, 1821", p. 17

²⁹⁶ "United Society Records, 1821", p. 39

²⁹⁷ Cogswell, p. 296

²⁹⁸ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p.14

²⁹⁹ Deed, Book 305, Page 411, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

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consumed by fire."³⁰⁰ But, this new building suffered the same fate as its predecessor almost four decades later. On February 2, 1880, the second church caught fire "and was soon reduced to a mass of ruins".³⁰¹

Unfortunately, the records of the Deerfield Freewill Baptists could not be found. But, we can follow the construction of the third church, the present building, in the newspapers of the day. By early March, the Morning Star, a denominational paper, could report that "the brethren and sisters have resolved to build another house of worship the present season and are now making preparations."³⁰² But, construction did not proceed as fast as the church members hoped. In September, the same paper reported that the Baptists planned to put in the foundation in the fall of 1880 and to complete the church in the spring of 1881.³⁰³ However, in June of 1881, the Morning Star had a new report from Deerfield that "The lumber is ready and work will soon commence."³⁰⁴ In September, the Exeter paper could report that the foundation was being laid.³⁰⁵ As 1881 drew to a close, the correspondent for the Exeter paper explained, "Late this fall a handful of the energetic and progressive men determined they would build a new house, and though they started late, their building is up and under cover, and it is refreshing to see, as the carpenters progress, the design of the architect developing into a somewhat unique but a very tasteful and handsome exterior".³⁰⁶ In July of 1882, both newspapers described the building as nearly

³⁰⁰ Deed, Book 307, Page 81, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

³⁰¹ Exeter News Letter, February 6, 1880

³⁰² Morning Star (Dover, N.H.) March 3, 1880

³⁰³ Morning Star, September 29, 1880

³⁰⁴ Morning Star, June 1, 1881

³⁰⁵ Exeter News Letter, September 23, 1881

³⁰⁶ Exeter News Letter, December 23, 1881

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finished.³⁰⁷ The new church was dedicated on November 16, 1882.³⁰⁸ It was reported that "the cost of the house and furnishing will slightly exceed \$5,000."³⁰⁹ The omission of the clock planned for the tower was noted, but otherwise, the new church was praised, as a "new, neat, comfortable and convenient house", whose architecture was "simple and tasty within and without".³¹⁰

The Exeter paper mentioned "the design of the architect"³¹¹, but no newspaper item or other contemporary document could be found that identified the architect. The Deerfield Historical Society owns a framed architectural drawing of the front elevation of the church. The drawing itself is unsigned, but a modern label on the frame states that is "part of a set of drawings by architect C.W. Damon of Haverhill, Mass. for Freewill Baptist Church".³¹² While this attribution could not be positively confirmed, it is not unlikely. C.Willis Damon (1849-1916) opened an architectural office in Haverhill around 1873, and remained in business there for virtually the rest of his life. Although his work was concentrated in the Haverhill area, he is known to have designed buildings in New Hampshire as well, in Portsmouth, Kingston and Tilton.³¹³

³⁰⁷ Morning Star, July 12, 1882; Exeter News Letter, July 28, 1882

³⁰⁸ Morning Star, November 15 & 22, 1882; Exeter News Letter, November 24, 1882

³⁰⁹ Morning Star, November 22, 1882

³¹⁰ Exeter News Letter, November 24, 1882

³¹¹ Exeter News Letter, December 23, 1881

³¹² "Front Elevation" of Freewill Baptist Church, drawing (collection of Deerfield Historical Society, Deerfield, N.H.)

³¹³ Haverhill Public Library ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF HAVERHILL (North Andover, Mass., 1976), p.27

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In the early 20th century, the Freewill Baptist church declined. The church disbanded in 1909.³¹⁴ In February of 1913, the Freewill Baptist Society deeded the property to the Deerfield Grange.³¹⁵ After accepting the gift, the Grange spent \$900 converting the church into a grange hall.³¹⁶ The Grange held its first meeting in its new hall on January 8, 1914.³¹⁷ In its turn, the Grange also declined. In the late 1960's, Madeleine and P.K. Lindsay, recognizing the need for a meeting place and a kindergarten in Deerfield, decided to renovate the old church to serve as a community center and a kindergarten.³¹⁸ The building was deeded by the Grange to the Deerfield Education Fund in 1969.³¹⁹ The Lindsays invested much money in the renovation of the building in the late 1960's and early 1970's.³²⁰ In 1979, the Deerfield Education Fund transferred the building to the Deerfield Community Church.³²¹ The kindergarten closed in the late 1990's. But the building still serves as the town community center, under the administration of a committee.³²²

³¹⁴ Joanne Wasson, "Information on Soldiers Memorial" (manuscript, collection of Laura Guinan, Deerfield, N.H.), p.1

³¹⁵ Deed, Book 703, Page 338, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

³¹⁶ Undated and unidentified newspaper clipping on Deerfield Grange Hall (collection of Deerfield Historical Society, Deerfield, N.H.)

³¹⁷ Exeter News Letter, January 16, 1914

³¹⁸ Interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3, 1999

³¹⁹ Deed, Book 1965, Page 476, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

³²⁰ Interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3, 1999

³²¹ Deed, Book 2331, Page 1994, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

³²² Interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3,

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The former church has seen a number of exterior changes, which might best be described by the section of the building, rather than chronologically. The most altered portion of the building is the tower. Old photographs of the church show that the tower once had a third belfry story. In each visible side of the third story could be seen a central arched opening, flanked on both sides by tall rectangular louvers. The third story was crowned by a very tall pyramidal roof with wide flared eaves, and a weathervane. At the base of each roof slope was a wide gable roofed dormer containing a circular frame.³²³ The architect's drawing of the church front reveals that clock faces were to occupy the circular frames.³²⁴ There are, however, no photographs of the church that show clock faces, so probably the clock was never installed. On the northwest side of the tower was the main church entry, a wide doorway sheltered by an ornate Stick Style porch. The porch, reached by wide steps and protected by side railings, was built of heavy timbers with a broad and deep shed roof trimmed by paneled vergeboards. At some unknown date, the belfry openings and louvers were all replaced with clapboarding and a small window installed on the street front side.³²⁵ By the 1950's, the roof and upper story were apparently becoming unsafe. One story is that the tower was struck by lightning,³²⁶ while another is that it simply deteriorated.³²⁷ Deerfield Grange records

1999

³²³ Undated photographs of the Freewill Baptist Church
(collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

³²⁴ "Front Elevation" of Freewill Baptist Church
(collection of Deerfield Historical Society, Deerfield,
N.H.)

³²⁵ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p.52

³²⁶ Interview of Joanne Wasson by David Ruell, September 27,
1999; interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3,
1999

³²⁷ Interview of Nettie Farr by David Ruell, November 12,
1999

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show that the removal of the upper portion of the tower was discussed at Grange meetings in the spring of 1952, and that the Grange voted in September of that year to proceed with the removal and the construction of a low roof.³²⁸ Presumably, the roof and the upper story were then removed, down to the sill level of the belfry openings and louvers, and replaced by the present low pitched roof. Soon after the 1969 purchase of the building by the Deerfield Education Fund, the main tower entrance was closed and covered over by clapboards and the entrance porch was removed.³²⁹ The first and second story tower windows once held stained glass windows.³³⁰ The stained glass is said to have been removed and replaced by the present clear glass in the mid 1980's.³³¹

Photographs show that the porch between the tower and the vestibule once had wooden steps fronting the entire opening, a wooden floor, and a decorative gable centered on its roof. The gable boasted clapboards divided by vertical and diagonal boards, and vergeboards like those on the main block gables.³³² During the renovations of the late 1960's and early 1970's, the gable was removed and the wooden floor and steps replaced by the concrete floor and steps.³³³ The vestibule, by contrast, seems unchanged.

³²⁸ "Deerfield Grange Secretary's Records, July 13, 1950-February 25, 1954" (manuscript, collection of the Deerfield Historical Society, Deerfield, N.H.) pp. 62 and 73

³²⁹ Interviews of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 12 and December 12, 2001

³³⁰ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p.52

³³¹ Interviews of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3 and 21, 1999

³³² Undated photographs of Freewill Baptist Church (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.), SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p. 52

³³³ Interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3, 1999

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Changes to the main block were limited. The triple window in the second story of the main facade once contained stained glass.³³⁴ The stained glass was replaced by clear glass, probably in the 1970's to provide better light for the kindergarten. The west foundation was rebuilt with concrete block in the early 1970's.³³⁵ The present basement entry was built in 1999 to replace an earlier entry.³³⁶

The rear wing has seen more change. Undated, but obviously early, photos, taken when the street was still unpaved and the building was still a church, show that the rear wing was once narrower, at least on the southeast side, but was enlarged at some early date so that its southeast wall was flush with the southeast wall of the main block.³³⁷ The vertical board, located nine feet from the east corner, that still divides the rear gable end must mark the edge of the original rear wing. The triple casement window in the southeast wall was added in the mid 1970's.³³⁸ The northwest wall once had a side door,³³⁹ which was removed in the early 1980's, when restrooms were installed in the rear wing. The present first story metal door in the northeast gable end and its wheelchair ramp date from the early 1980's.³⁴⁰ The second story door may well have been installed around 1954, after the Fire Marshall required a fire escape from the

³³⁴ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p. 52

³³⁵ Interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3, 1999

³³⁶ Interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, September 5, 2001

³³⁷ Undated photographs of Freewill Baptist Church (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

³³⁸ Interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3, 1999

³³⁹ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p. 52

³⁴⁰ Interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3, 1999

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upper level.³⁴¹ The exterior stairs were replaced in the late 1980's. The small attached shed was built around 1991 to provide more storage.³⁴²

The Freewill Baptist Church has seen significant change in the last half century, the loss of the upper portion of the tower, the tower entrance, the tower entrance porch, and the gable on the remaining porch roof; the replacement of the porch's floor and steps, and the replacement of some stained glass with clear glass. (Other changes to the rear addition, the new window, doors, exterior stairs and ramp, are less visible to the passerby and are consequently less important.) While these losses and alterations are regrettable, the building still retains many original features. The main block and vestibule are virtually intact. What remains of the tower is largely unaltered. The church can still be appreciated for its architecture and remains an important contributing building in the Historic District.

#13 STEVENS-CURRIER HOUSE
PROBABLY 1839

3 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Stevens-Currier House is a mid 19th century vernacular wooden house. The two and a half story main block is set with its main facade, the southwest lateral side, facing the street. Attached to the northwest gable end, but offset to the north, is the one and a half story gable roofed wing. Covering the entire rear northeast side of the main block is the narrow one story, shed roofed rear addition. On the roof of the rear addition, in the center

³⁴¹ "Deerfield Grange Secretary's Minutes, 1954-1959", (manuscript, collection of the Deerfield Historical Society, Deerfield, N.H.) pp. 1 and 14

³⁴² Interview of Mark Tibbetts by David Ruell, November 3, 1999

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of the main block's rear wall, is a gable roofed second story addition for a bathroom.

The main block is set on a cut granite block foundation. Its clapboarded walls are trimmed by sillboards and by cornerboards with moulded caps. The windows all have plain frames and , with the exception of two single pane basement windows, 6/6 sash. A box cornice with mouldings, frieze, and returns trims the asphalt shingled gable roof. A brick chimney with corbeled cap stands on the southwest slope near the ridge and just east of the center. In the center of the five bay southwest facade is the main entry. The six panel door is covered by an outer door of vertical boards, and is served by a granite step. The door is flanked by five pane full sidelights. The entry is framed by two pilasters with no bases and simply moulded caps, and is topped by a wide cornice with mouldings and deep frieze. The other four bays of the first story and the five bays of the second story all contain 6/6 sash windows, with the frames of the upper level windows butting up against the main cornice's frieze. Two more windows appear in each story of the two bay southeast gable end, although the gable windows are smaller than the lower windows. The northwest gable end has a single 6/6 sash window in both the first and second stories and two smaller 6/6 sash windows in the gable. The rear northeast wall is windowless, being largely covered by the rear addition with its steep roof and by the wide second story bathroom addition.

The wing to the northwest of the main block is set on a fieldstone and granite block foundation. The basement level is exposed on the northwest gable end. The walls are clapboarded with cornerboards and with sillboards on the front southwest and rear northeast walls. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed with close eaves on the southwest and northeast sides, and with a box cornice with mouldings, frieze and returns on the northwest gable. Modern metal framed skylights are now found in the wing roof, two on the southwest slope and one on the northeast slope. The

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southwest front has two 9/6 sash windows whose plain frames butt up against the eaves and, at the west end, a modern paneled wooden door with two small builtin window panes and a plain frame. The door opens onto a small landing with board floor, wooden posts, a simple wooden railing with vertical balusters, and three board steps on the front. The northwest gable end has a short board door in the basement level, a 9/6 sash window and a 6/6 sash window in the main level, and a 6/6 sash window in the gable, all with plain frames. The rear northeast wall of the wing and the northeast wall of the rear addition have been clapboarded so that the sheathing, as well as the sillboard and cornice, is continuous across both sections. The northeast wall of the wing contains a modern octagonal single pane window with simply moulded trim and a modern paneled door with builtin nine pane window, a plain frame and two granite steps.

The rear addition is set on a fieldstone and concrete foundation and is clapboarded with sillboards and cornerboards at the east corner. The asphalt shingled steeply pitched shed roof is trimmed by close verges on the southeast end and by close eaves on the northeast. Two modern metal framed skylights are found on the roof, one on each side of the bathroom addition. Plain frames surround the openings. The southeast end contains a modern paneled door with a builtin nine pane window, and a granite step. The rear northeast wall contains three 6/6 sash windows and a modern oriel window. The shallow oriel window, supported by two wooden brackets, has 1/1 sash windows, a wide central window and narrower windows on the two angled sides, plain trim, and a short asphalt shingled hip roof.

Set on the roof of the rear addition is the second story bathroom addition. It is clapboarded with cornerboards. The box cornice with mouldings, frieze and returns is continuous with the main block cornice, although differing somewhat in its design. The gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The only openings are in the northeast gable end,

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a double window with 4/4 sash and plain frame, and a small louvered vent in the apex.

According to Dyer S. Smith's recollections recorded in the "Deerfield Houses" notes, this house's "original owner was Mrs. Betsy Currier... and her husband John Currier."³⁴³ The actual history appears to be a little more complicated, although Betsy Currier was probably one of the original occupants of the house. Some family history is needed to tell the story. Theophilus Stevens (1873-1830), who moved to Deerfield as a young man, had two wives. The first "died without children". The second was Abigail Tewksbury, who had three children, including Betsey.³⁴⁴ In 1832, Betsey married John L. Currier. The Curriers had two daughters, Martha, born in 1832, and Abbie, born in 1834.³⁴⁵ John L. Currier died in September of 1838 at the age of 32.³⁴⁶ This left Betsey a widow with two young girls. It seems that she soon joined her mother, who was by then also a widow.

In September of 1839, Abigail Stevens purchased the lot of land just east of the Free Will Baptist meetinghouse for \$61 from Charles Tucker. The property had 10 rods (or 165 feet) of frontage on the highway, the same as the present lot. The deed makes no mention of buildings on the property.³⁴⁷ The low price also suggests that this was a vacant lot when purchased by Stevens. But, a house was apparently soon erected. Deerfield tax records show that the widow Abigail Stevens was assessed for one horse and one cow, but no real estate, in 1839. She was taxed for one acre

³⁴³ "Deerfield Houses", entry #101

³⁴⁴ Cogswell, p.473

³⁴⁵ Phillip Joseph Currier, comp., CURRIER FAMILY RECORDS OF U.S.A. AND CANADA (Concord, N.H., 1984), p. 638

³⁴⁶ Joanne F. Wasson, comp. THE MORRISON CEMETERY, DEERFIELD, N.H. (1990) p.11

³⁴⁷ Deed, Book 298, Page 299, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

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of real estate valued at \$150 in 1840, 1841, and 1842. In those years, the tax records did not give a breakdown of the real estate assessment, and therefore did not indicate if there was a building on the property. The increase of value over the purchase price does suggest, however, that a building had been added to the lot. In 1843, the tax assessment was more specific, noting that Abigail Stevens owned a half acre of land worth \$25, and a building worth \$125.³⁴⁸ Other documents from 1840 are also of interest. On August 25, 1840, Abigail Stevens signed her will, bequeathing to her daughter Betsy Carrier, "one undivided half of the land and buildings I own in Deerfield, situated on the north side of the highway between the Union meetinghouse and the heirs of Charles Tucker". Betsy was also to receive the other half of the land and buildings as long as she remained unmarried, but upon her death or marriage, that half was to go to Abigail's two granddaughters, Betsy's children.³⁴⁹ The 1840 census lists Abigail Stevens as the head of a household, that included five females, two between the ages of 5 and 10, one between 30 and 40, one between 70 and 80, and one between 80 and 90.³⁵⁰ These were presumably the two granddaughters, Betsy, Abigail, and an older woman we cannot identify. It appears from these documents that between September of 1839 and August of 1840, Abigail Stevens had this house built to shelter herself, her daughter and her granddaughters.

³⁴⁸ "Invoice Books, 1822-1840, Deerfield, New Hampshire" (microfilm, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.) pp. 437, 483; "Invoice Books, 1841-1856, Deerfield, New Hampshire" (microfilm, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.) 1841-1851, pp. 32, 58, 100

³⁴⁹ Will of Abigail Stevens, Probate Record No. 14735, Rockingham County Registry of Probate, Brentwood, N.H.

³⁵⁰ "Population Schedules of the Sixth Census of the United States, 1840" (microfilm, National Archives, Washington D.C.), roll 242, New Hampshire, vol. 5, Rockingham County (partial), Deerfield, p.5

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Abigail Stevens died on February 18, 1844 at the age of 78.³⁵¹ The August 1844 inventory of her estate listed a dwelling house and land valued at \$650.³⁵² The 1844 Deerfield tax records show the widow Betsey Currier owning a half acre of land valued at \$25, and a building valued at \$150.³⁵³ In 1870, Betsey Currier and her two daughters sold the house.³⁵⁴

Most of the known changes to the building are related to the c.1988 refurbishment of the house by owners Charles and Kathleen Collatos. Earlier changes are less clear, particularly on the rear of the building. It is said that the house once had an ell that was crushed by the falling of a large tree and was therefore removed.³⁵⁵ The small plan of the building on the 1984 Cultural Resources Survey form shows a small rear addition at the east end of the main block's rear facade, which had a gable roof perpendicular to the main block and which did not continue across the back of the main block.³⁵⁶ Mr. Collatos states however, that c.1988 he replaced the rear addition on its original footprint, implying that there was an addition that then covered the entire rear of the main block. In any event, the present rear addition is a new structure as the rear addition was reframed, resided and reroofed. A couple of older windows

³⁵¹ Cogswell, p. 473

³⁵² Inventory of estate of Abigail Stevens, Probate Record No. 14735, Rockingham County Registry of Probate, Brentwood, N.H.

³⁵³ "Invoice Books, 1841-1856, Deerfield, New Hampshire", 1841-1851, p. 158

³⁵⁴ Deed, Book 430, Page 179, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

³⁵⁵ Interview of Nettie Farr by David Ruell, November 12, 1999

³⁵⁶ "Deerfield Cultural Resources Survey" (manuscript, N.H. Division of Historical Resources, Concord, N.H.) survey form #2 prepared by S. Hughes, 1984.

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were reused in the new rear addition. But the door, skylights, and oriel window were all new, although the door was placed in the same position as its predecessor. The bathroom dormer on top of the rear addition was also added at that time. Collatos did attempt to preserve the original appearance of the older parts of the house, the main block and the wing, although there was some modernization. The main entry of the house was rebuilt, but the old door was retained and the original design followed. One window in the southeast gable end was moved less than a foot to make the composition of that wall more symmetrical. The wing received new skylights in the roof and an octagonal window on the rear. The front door on the wing was replaced, retrimmed, and provided with new steps. The rear door on the wing was also replaced. It opened onto a deck built for Collatos, that was removed by the next owners in the 1990's.³⁵⁷

Changes to the Currier-Stevens House have been largely limited to construction of the rear addition and the bathroom dormer on the rear, and new windows, doors, and steps on the wing. The main block still appears virtually as it did in the 19th century. So the house remains a contributing building in the Historic District.

#13A SOLLOWAY SHED
2000

3 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

Set a few feet northwest of the wing's northwest gable end is a small wooden shed, built in the summer of 2000 by the Eastern Shed Company for the present owners, the Solloways.³⁵⁸ The one story gable roofed shed is set on concrete blocks. The shed is sheathed with tongue and groove boards with beveled edges, mounted horizontally, save in the

³⁵⁷ Interview of Charles Collatos by David Ruell, January 5, 2000

³⁵⁸ Interview of Kerry Ann Solloway by David Ruell, August 30, 2001

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gables where they are mounted vertically. The walls are trimmed with cornerboards, the asphalt shingled roof with close verges and simple lateral box cornices. Plain frames trim the doors and windows. In the center of the three bay southwestern lateral wall facing the street are double board doors. Each leaf is divided into four triangular panels by vertical, horizontal and diagonal boards overlaying the vertical boards of the leaf. To each side of the central doors is a small four pane window with a small flowerbox and flanking slat shutters. The northwest gable end features another set of double doors like those on the southwest front. A small rectangular metal louver is found in each gable. Because of its age, the shed is considered a non-contributing building in the Historic District. However, its traditional materials and design make it compatible with the other buildings.

The grounds of the .6 acre Stevens-Currier House lot are mostly grassed with scattered trees and shrubs. A paved drive runs east of the house. Paved walks run from the drive to the southeast side door in the rear addition and along the rear of the house to the rear door in the wing. Granite curbed flowerbeds are found along the southwest fronts of the main block and wing, and the northwest end of the main block. A very short stone retaining wall runs from the west corner of the wing towards the street. An unpaved parking space covered with small stones is found west of this wall. North of the wing is a small terrace with fieldstone retaining walls and steps, built in 1962.³⁵⁹ Stone walls mark the westerly and northerly boundaries and most of the easterly boundary. The westerly stone wall is interrupted by a wooden arbor near its south end. Two granite posts at the south end of the easterly boundary are apparently all that remains of a fence. Trees line the boundaries, and a row of

³⁵⁹ Interview of William and Holly Haas by David Ruell, October 14, 1999

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shrubs marks the street frontage west of the unpaved parking space.

#14 GOODHUE HOUSE
BETWEEN 1859 AND 1864

1 OLD CENTER ROAD SOUTH
CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

The Goodhue House is a mid 19th century vernacular wooden house. The two and a half story, gable roofed main block is set with its southwest gable end facing the street. On the southeast side of the main block is a one story vestibule and an entrance porch, which together share a roof and cover the entire side of the main block. Attached to the rear northeast ends of the main block and the vestibule is a one and a half story gable roofed rear wing. The northwest side of the rear wing is covered by a one story shed roofed screened porch. On the southeast side of the rear wing is the one story shed roofed sunroom, while a small one story, shed roofed pantry covers most of the rear wing's northeast gable end. Attached at its west corner to the rear wing and the pantry is the tall, one and a half story, gable roofed barn. The corner between the house and the barn is large filled by a two level open wooden deck.

The main block is set on a granite block foundation. The clapboarded walls are trimmed by wide cornerboards, which have moulded caps on the front corners. The asphalt shingled roof is trimmed by a wide box cornice with mouldings, deep frieze, and returns. A plain brick chimney breaks the ridge of the gable roof. With the exception of a three pane basement window on the northwest, the main block windows all have 6/6 sash and plain frames. The windows on the three public facades, the southeast, southwest, and northwest all have wooden louvred shutters as well. The two bay southwest street gable end has two such windows in each story, although the gable windows are smaller than those in the first and second stories. The two bay northwest side has two windows in each story, while the southeast side has one window in the first story (opening onto the porch) and two in the second story. The frames of the second story windows

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on the lateral sides butt up against the frieze. The rear northeast gable end has one first story window opening onto the screened porch and two windows in the gable. On the northwest side is a short basement entry, with concrete block base, clapboarded sides, and double sloping board doors.

The vestibule and the entrance porch share a low pitched roof, sheathed with asphalt shingles, as well as the same box cornice with mouldings and frieze. The roof is basically a shed roof, but it is hipped at its southwest end. The porch, to the south of the vestibule, has one post, a plain post at the south corner. The porch has a board floor and a board ceiling. It is reached by a granite step on the southwest end and three granite steps at the north end of the southeast side. The vestibule's clapboarded walls are trimmed by cornerboards on the south corner. But the vestibule's southeast wall is clapboarded continuously with the southeast wall of the rear wing, which is also topped by a continuation of the box cornice of the vestibule and the porch. On the southwest street front of the vestibule is the house's main entry, opening onto the entrance porch. The entry is a four panel door with a modern storm door, and five pane full sidelights, all sharing the same plain frame. On the southeast side of the vestibule are two 6/6 sash windows, with plain frames, wooden louvred shutters, and wooden flowerboxes.

The rear wing has a cut granite block foundation, clapboarded walls, and cornerboards. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed by the already mentioned box cornice on the southeast and by close verges on the northeast gable and the southwest half gable above the vestibule. (The northwestern eaves are now covered by the screened porch.) A tall brick chimney with a pointed arched cap breaks the roof ridge. The windows all have plain frames and 6/6 sash. The one visible southeastern window, to the south of the sunroom, also has louvred wooden shutters and a flowerbox. (The rest of the southeastern wall, which can still be seen

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inside the sunroom, features two more windows, and a plain framed door opening with a transom window.) In the northeast gable, above the pantry, is found one more window. The northwest side has two windows and a modern plain framed multipane glass door, all opening onto the screened porch.

The screened porch, set on concrete blocks, has clapboarded lower walls trimmed with cornerboards. Above the walls are plain framed screened openings, six on the northwest and one on the northeast. There are two plain framed screen doors, one on the northwest with a granite step and one on the northeast opening onto the deck. The asphalt shingled gable roof is trimmed with a plain box cornice on the northwest and by close verges on the clapboarded northeastern half gable. The interior of the porch features plywood, on the floor, on the inside of the low outer walls and on the ceiling.

The sunroom, set on a concrete foundation, has very short clapboarded walls trimmed with cornerboards beneath ranks of plain framed 6/6 sash windows, six on the southeast side, two on the southwest end. The shed roof is trimmed by a plain shallow box cornice on the southeast and by close verges on the clapboarded southwestern half gable. Three modern metal framed skylights punctuate the asphalt shingled roof.

The small pantry on the northeast gable end of the rear wing has clapboarded walls, cornerboards, close verges and eaves, and an asphalt shingled shed roof. (The foundation is hidden by the deck.) The northeast gable end has two windows, an octagonal eight-pane window with simply moulded trim and a double casement window with six pane windows, a plain frame, and a wooden flowerbox.

The tall attached barn is set on a fieldstone foundation that incorporates some cut granite blocks. The walls are sheathed with clapboards on the southwest street gable end,

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the northwest side and in the rear northeast gable, and with wooden shingles on the lower part of the northeast gable end and on the southeast side. Cornerboards trim all four walls. Plain frames surround all of the openings. The asphalt shingled roof is trimmed by a box cornice with frieze on the southwest, but with close eaves and verges on the other three sides. In the center of the southwest gable end is the main entry, large double sliding board doors, each door having a builtin two pane window. Above the doors is a wide twelve pane transom window. In the gable are two 6/6 sash windows. The northwest side has one four pane window and three vertical eight pane windows, the latter with wooden flowerboxes. It can also boast a sliding board door, whose metal track is protected by a shallow pent roof, that opens onto the deck. The southeast side has two doors, one a sliding board door with a granite step, the other now filled with plywood. The rear northeast gable end has a board door with three concrete steps, one windowless opening and a two pane window in the main level, and three windowless openings in the upper level.

The open two level deck that stretches along the barn to the northeast of the screened porch, the rear wing, and the pantry is large but low. It has board floors, wooden posts with simple pyramidal caps, and plain railings with vertical balusters. The upper level, at the floor level of the screened porch and the rear wing, is J-shaped around the pantry. Two wide steps descend to the north from the upper level to the lower level, which is only one step above the ground.

The grounds are mostly grassed, although well shaded by trees and shrubs. Along the street and flanking the driveway entrance are white plastic rail fences with simple posts and rails. The unpaved driveway runs from the street to the east of the house to the concrete apron of the main barn entry. A lantern style lamp on a wooden pole stands next to the driveway entrance. A brick walk leads from the drive to the entrance porch side steps. Flowerbeds bloom in front of the

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main block, porch and vestibule. On the front lawn is a small metal handpump on a wooden base. Much of the western property boundary is marked by a fieldstone wall. Two granite posts are apparently all that remain of what once was a fence along the south portion of the west boundary. Trees grow along the easterly, westerly, and northerly boundaries. One peculiarity of the 3/4 acre lot is a long narrow strip of land that runs to the north of properties #12 and #13.

The 1857 county map shows no building on this site, although it does show the flanking buildings, owned by Mrs. Currier and J. B. Edgerly.³⁶⁰ According to Dyer S. Smith's recollections in the "Deerfield Houses" notes, the original owner of the house was John Goodhue, and the builder of the house was his brother Sewall Goodhue.³⁶¹ The brothers were John F. Goodhue (1805-1864) and Sewall Goodhue (1803-1870), who both lived in Deerfield, although Sewall moved to Manchester in his later years.³⁶² This land was formerly part of the Edgerly property and included in the 10 acre parcel J.B. Edgerly sold to Joseph C. Cram and Eben Tilton, Jr. in April of 1859.³⁶³ Six months later, on October 3, 1859, Cram and Tilton sold a five acre parcel "with the buildings thereon" to John F. Goodhue for \$600.³⁶⁴ It is not clear what the buildings mentioned in the deed were, but as the present lot is only .78 acre in size, Goodhue's purchase

³⁶⁰ J. Chace, Jr., MAP OF ROCKINGHAM CO., NEW HAMPSHIRE (Philadelphia, 1857)

³⁶¹ "Deerfield Houses" (manuscript, Philbrick-James Library, Deerfield) entry #102

³⁶² Rev. Jonathan Goodhue, HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE GOODHUE FAMILY IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA (Rochester, N.Y., 1891) pp. 65, 123

³⁶³ Deed, Book 381, Page 377, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

³⁶⁴ Deed, Book 385, Page 446, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

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obviously included about four acres of land to the north of the present lot, and those buildings may have been located on that section of the property. Deerfield tax records show that John F. Goodhue was not taxed for any real estate in 1859. He was taxed for 4 acres, valued at \$450 from 1860 through 1862, then valued at \$650 in 1863. In 1864, he was taxed for 64 acres assessed at \$1900.³⁶⁵ Whether the increases in value between 1862 and 1863 and between 1863 and 1864 included new construction is unclear. In his will signed February 8, 1864, John F. Goodhue bequeathed to his wife Mary F. Goodhue "my homestead farm on which I now live", which he estimated at "five acres more or less".³⁶⁶ He died on May 17, 1864.³⁶⁷ Mary Goodhue was taxed for four acres valued at \$1000 in 1865 and 1866.³⁶⁸ The tax assessments could be interpreted to indicate that the house was built either c.1859 when the land was first purchased or c.1863-1864, when the values increased. We can only say with certainty that the house was built between 1859 and 1864. The strong similarity of the Goodhue House to the Baptist Parsonage (#10), built in 1859, supports this dating.

The house seems very well preserved. Exterior changes are concentrated in the rear portions of the building, on the rear wing and barn. The only obvious change on the main block is the basement entry, which appears to be twentieth century in date, and was already there in 1967, when the present owners, the Maleys, bought the house. They did

³⁶⁵ "Invoice Books, 1852-1864, Deerfield, N.H." (microfilm, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.) 1856-1864, pp. 148, 206, 308, 336, 406, 459

³⁶⁶ Will of John F. Goodhue in Probate Records No. 19302, Rockingham County Registry of Probate, Deerfield, N.H.

³⁶⁷ Goodhue, p. 123

³⁶⁸ "Invoice Books, 1861-1875, Deerfield, N.H." (microfilm, Deerfield Town Offices, Deerfield, N.H.) 1861-1872, pp. 244, 296

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replace the doors on the basement entry.³⁶⁹ The vestibule has a modern storm door and flowerboxes. A pre 1897 photograph shows that the door on the southeast side of the rear wing has been relocated from the north end of the wall.³⁷⁰ The Maleys were told that this door and a window in the same wall had exchanged places, sometime before their 1967 purchase. The present northwestern door from the rear wing onto the screened porch was installed c.1987. The screened porch, obviously 20th century in date, had been built by 1967 when the Maleys arrived, but was subsequently enlarged to the northwest in 1976. The sunroom was added around 1987. The pantry's two windows are also additions. The double casement window was in place by 1967, while the octagonal window replaced a door c. 1987. The c.1987 renovations also included the building of the original deck on the rear.³⁷¹ The deck was rebuilt in the summer of 2001, with better wood, but practically the same design. At the same time, the northwest wall of the barn, facing the deck, was remodeled. The former sheathing of wooden shingles was replaced with clapboards. The wall's only opening, a short board door, was replaced by the present sliding door, and four windows were added.³⁷²

These changes, the addition of the sunroom, the screened porch and the dock, the installation of new doors on the rear wing and new windows on the pantry, and the remodeling of a barn wall, have had little effect on the public appearance of the house. Indeed, save for the sunroom, these

³⁶⁹ Interviews of Sylvia Maley by David Ruell, October 14 and 22, 1999; Deed, Book 1887, Page 317, Rockingham County Registry of Deeds, Brentwood, N.H.

³⁷⁰ Photograph of "George Page's Hotel prior to 1897 fire" (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

³⁷¹ Interviews of Sylvia Maley by David Ruell, October 14 and 22, 1999

³⁷² Interview of Howard Maley by David Ruell, August 31, 2001

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modern changes cannot be seen from the street. The house therefore appears to the passerby much as it did in the 19th century.

The Deerfield Center Historic District still appears much as it did in 1949, at the end of the District's period of significance. There have been some losses, such as the barn attached to the Baptist Parsonage (#10), the First Baptist Church horsesheds (#11), the upper portion of the Freewill Baptist Church tower (#12), and a small barn on the Stevens-Currier property (#13). A small house (#9), a garage (#9A) and a shed (#13A) have been built. The most significant visible changes to individual buildings, as seen from the street, are the reconstruction of the Fire Station (#3), the vinyl siding on the Ballou-Hill House (#4), and the new porch on the Baptist Parsonage (#10). But, the overall appearance of most of the buildings and the District as a whole has not changed significantly. The Deerfield Center Historic District still has its basic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Significant Dates (cont.)

1856

1859

1881-1882

1886-1887

1913-1914

1948-1949

Architect/Builder (cont.)

C. Willis Damon (attributed)

Sewall Goodhue

Jeremiah Fellows

Howard Johnston

Statement of Significance

The Deerfield Center Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Community Planning and Development, for its development in the 19th and early 20th century as the religious and governmental center of Deerfield, and in the area of Architecture for its fine collection of mid and late 19th century and early 20th century buildings.

Community Planning and Development

In 1721, a group of 101 petitioners applied to the governor and council for a tract of land "lying norwestward from Exeter".¹ In response, the Governor granted the petitioners a large parcel to be known as the Town of Nottingham in May of 1722.² As the town historian notes, "The petitioners for this tract of land asked for a territory ten miles square and received by charter one

¹ Elliot C. Cogswell HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM, DEERFIELD AND NORTHWOOD (Manchester:1878) pp. 78-82

² Cogswell, pp. 83-86

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doubtless much larger.... The result left them a large and irregular tract of land beginning and extending further in a northerly direction than they had anticipated. Hence, the point they had chosen as the capital of their township was considerably south of the center."³ The site chosen for the meetinghouse was a "Centre Square...laid out Thirty Rods square" and still known as Nottingham Square.⁴ But, its location was definitely off-center, in the southeast corner of the Nottingham tract. As the town historian continues, "This circumstance cost them eventually the loss of two tracts of land now included in the towns of Deerfield and Northwood. Being so far from the center, the bonds that held them to the capital were weakened, and they gravitated towards other and new centers."⁵ The southwestern and northwestern portions of the town eventually separated from Nottingham, becoming the towns of Deerfield in 1766 and Northwood in 1773.⁶

The movement towards a new town in the southwestern portion of Nottingham began within three decades of the initial land grant. "As early as 1750, complaints arose of neglect of this part of Nottingham, in respect to educational and religious advantages." The voters of Nottingham responded by setting off this section of the town as a separate parish. "But this served only to quiet the discontent for a season."⁷ In 1756, residents of the "South West Parish" petitioned the royal governor for incorporation as a town. The petition was successfully opposed by the larger township of Nottingham, on the grounds that there were not enough people in that section to support a town government and an established church.⁸ But, as the

³ Cogswell, p. 87
⁴ Cogswell, pp. 87-88
⁵ Cogswell, p. 87
⁶ Cogswell, p. 75
⁷ Cogswell, p. 259
⁸ Cogswell, pp. 259-261

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population of the southwestern section grew, "those whose center was the Square, foresaw what shortly would be the result, and, in a spirit of magnanimity, bade them depart in peace", voting in April of 1765 to allow the separation of the southwestern section.⁹ With this consent from the Town of Nottingham, the residents of the "South West Parish" again petitioned for the incorporation of a new town in June of 1765. In January of 1766, the new town of Deerfield was incorporated by the state legislature.¹⁰ The sole reason given in the petition and in the act of incorporation for the new township was the remoteness of the area from the meetinghouse, the religious and governmental center of Nottingham, namely that "your petitioners lives many of them to the Distance of eight and some ten Miles from the Meeting house which makes it very difficult for us or our families to attend the publick worship of God at that place".¹¹ The Town of Deerfield was therefore created primarily to erect a new meetinghouse, a new center more convenient for the people of the area.

However, the voters of the new town could not agree on where to erect their own meetinghouse. The controversy, which lasted five years, cannot be described in detail here. But, at different times, town meetings voted to build a meetinghouse on four different sites, the 7th lot in the 4th range, the 12th lot in the 2nd range, the 9th lot in the 4th range, and land donated by Stephen Batchalar. At least two frames were erected for the meetinghouse. Finally on May 30, 1771, it was voted to move the frame erected on Batchalar's land to a site on Josiah Chase's property, on top of what was then known as Chase's Hill. Here the building was finally completed and first used for a town meeting on September 24, 1771.¹² Town meeting records do not explain

⁹ Cogswell, p. 261

¹⁰ Cogswell, pp. 261-265

¹¹ Cogswell, pp. 261, 264

¹² Cogswell, pp. 266-271; Joanne Wasson DEERFIELD COMMUNITY

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why the site was chosen. But, it was located near the geographical center of the town, as shown on an 1805 map of Deerfield¹³. It was accessible by roads from all parts of town. And the hilltop site commands a fine view over the surrounding countryside. It is therefore like many other hilltop sites chosen for town meetinghouses in the 18th century. For over sixty years, the meetinghouse on top of what became known as Meetinghouse Hill served both town meetings and the services of the Congregational Church and was regarded as the town center.

However, in the 19th century, another center developed, the village sometimes called the New Center to distinguish it from the Old Center on Meetinghouse Hill.¹⁴ Like the Old Center, the New Center was near the geographical center of the town. It grew up around a major road intersection, with easy access to all parts of the town.¹⁵ Its major advantage over the nearby Old Center seems to have been its relatively level land. The Old Center could provide fewer level building sites, due to the steep slopes of Meetinghouse Hill. And the roads to the top of Meetinghouse Hill are steeper than those to the New Center.

The 1805 map of Deerfield does not show every building in the town, just those considered more important, such as inns and taverns. But, it does show four buildings, two of them labeled as inns, around the intersection of the roads we now

CHURCH 1835-1985, pp. 1-5

¹³ "Plan of Deerfield, 1805", two versions of this unsigned map are known. One is reproduced in the centerfold of Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD. The other, in the collection of the N.H. State Library, is reproduced as Plan 76 on a 1978 microfilm entitled "New Hampshire Town Plans, 1805".

¹⁴ Cogswell, pp. 302-306

¹⁵ "Plan of Deerfield, 1805"

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call Old Center Road South, Candia Road, North Road, and Raymond Road.¹⁶ In the 1820's, the village was still a modest settlement. Daniel Stevens later recalled that when he moved there in May of 1828, there were only six houses in the village.¹⁷ So, when the Baptists decided to move their meetinghouse to the village in 1821, they were not attracted by a large population. One can only assume that it was the centrality of the location that convinced the Baptists to choose it. The 1805 map shows the old Baptist meetinghouse in the southwest corner of the town.¹⁸ The new site (#12) in the village must have been more convenient for many of the town's Baptists. Certainly, when the Baptists split over the use of the Union Meetinghouse and one group built a new meetinghouse (now #11) in 1834, they did not move far, just around the corner and up North Road a short distance. A year later in 1835, the two Baptist denominations were joined by the Congregationalists, who built their new church (#8) on Old Center Road South. This brought all three of Deerfield churches to the New Center village. Since 1835, the village has been the undisputed religious center of the town, as no other churches have been built elsewhere in Deerfield. The church buildings were soon joined by parsonages, two of them on Old Center Road South. The First Baptist Society acquired the house next to the Baptist meetinghouse (the site of #10) by a land swap in 1828. The Congregational Society bought the home of a former pastor (on the site of #6) for its parsonage in 1856. The religious importance of the street was further reinforced in 1889 when the First Baptist Church (#11) was moved onto the Baptist Parsonage lot. (As a

¹⁶ "Plan of Deerfield, 1805", the version reproduced in Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD. The version in the N.H. State Library collection shows just three buildings at the intersection.

¹⁷ Exeter News Letter June 8, 1888

¹⁸ "Plan of Deerfield, 1805"

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result, the street was sometimes called "Church Street" on
early 20th century documents.¹⁹⁾

The town meetinghouse remained on Meetinghouse Hill for a decade after the Congregationalists left. In 1845, the voters decided to build a new town house, leaving the choice of the site to the selectmen. They decided to build in the New Center (on the site of #5), essentially confirming that village as the center of the town. The demolition of the old meetinghouse in the Old Center and the use of its salvaged materials for the new town house in the New Center graphically illustrates the transfer of the town center from one location to the other. When new government buildings were erected in the early 20th century, they were also built on Old Center Road South. The town library moved from the Town Hall to the Soldiers Memorial (#2), erected in 1913-1914. The new volunteer fire department built its station (#3) next to the library in 1932-33.

Even when disaster struck, there was no thought of relocating. The Town Hall, the Free Will Baptist Church, the Baptist Parsonage, and the Congregational Parsonage, were all destroyed by fire and all rebuilt on the same sites. When the Free Will Baptist Church dissolved, their building (#12) was converted to other town wide public functions, first as the Grange Hall, then as the Community Center.

(The predominance of the Center as the governmental center continued in the last half of the 20th century, although that period and the newer public places are outside the Historic District we are considering. It is no coincidence that Deerfield's first consolidated school was erected in the 1950's on Raymond Road,²⁰ just east of the Historic District. This school building now houses the town

¹⁹ Photographs of Deerfield Center (collection of Joanne Wasson, Deerfield, N.H.)

²⁰ SOUVENIR BOOK OF THE DEERFIELD BICENTENNIAL, p.37

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offices and police station. Other modern public facilities include the new post office and athletic fields on Raymond Road, the highway garage south of the Town Hall, and new recreational fields south of the Historic District.)

The concentration of public facilities in Deerfield Center is well illustrated by comparing the village to the five other villages that developed in Deerfield in the 18th and 19th centuries. None were very large. Deerfield did not have the waterpower necessary to develop industry on a significant scale. The town was bypassed by both the turnpikes and the railroads, so it never developed any important commercial centers. Deerfield Parade in the northeast section of the town is the largest of the five villages. The others are James City, near the Parade in the northeast, the already noted Old Center, Rand's Corner in the northwest, Leavitt's Hill in the southwest, and South Deerfield near the southern border.

The Old Center was the site of the town meetinghouse for over seventy years. But after its demolition, the only public facility left in the Old Center was the town cemetery which had developed around the meetinghouse and which has since expanded over the meetinghouse site and into the surrounding fields. The only other townwide public facility that any of these villages could claim was the academy established in Deerfield Parade about 1798, but that building burned around 1842.²¹ Otherwise, the five villages could only boast neighborhood institutions, such as district schools and cemeteries. A former district schoolhouse still survives as a house in Deerfield Parade.²² Cemeteries can be found at the Parade, Rand's Corner, Leavitt's Hill and South Deerfield, as well as the Old Center. The dearth of 19th century and early to mid 20th century public buildings outside Deerfield Center shows how completely Deerfield's

²¹ Cogswell, pp. 297-298

²² Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, pp.24-25

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religious and government facilities were concentrated in the village, and actually on one street in the village, during that period.

The concentration of public buildings in Deerfield Center can only be explained as the deliberate choice of church congregations, town officials and community groups to create a truly central place, a place where the residents of this largely rural town could come together for religious services, town meetings, governmental services, community gatherings, and social functions. We cannot point to a formal plan for this center, or even name a particular moment when a decision was made to create the center. The creation of the center was the result of separate decisions made by different groups over several decades. Still, the result of this informal process was a governmental and religious center that was the heart of community life in 19th and 20th century Deerfield.

Architecture

The surviving 19th century buildings in the Historic District seem to date from three distinct periods, with four buildings appearing in the 1830's, five in the late 1850's and 1860's, and two in the 1880's.

The most traditional buildings in the District are the two houses dating from the 1830's. The Pulsifer House (#7) seems to have been erected or moved to its present location circa 1834. It is an attractive early 19th century central chimney cape, boasting a symmetrical facade with a central entry. It was modified and modernized to some extent in the 20th century, but still retains much of its traditional character. The Stevens-Currier House (#13) is also a vernacular house with a traditional form and design featuring a symmetrical facade with a central entry. The two and a half story house probably dates from around 1839 to 1840. Like the Pulsifer House, its design is relatively simple but pleasing, the only elaborate element being the

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main entrance with its frame of full sidelights, pilasters, and deep cornice. Changes to the Stevens-Currier House are limited to the wing and the rear. Both houses are good example of 19th century vernacular architecture.

The two churches built in the 1830's had greater architectural pretensions. The First Baptist Church (#11) of 1834 was an early "Gothick" church, with a Federal form and features, such as the pedimented cornice, but modernized with Gothic arched doors, windows and tower openings. The tower retains its original early Gothic Revival character, but the doors and windows of the main block were replaced with later Victorian elements, colored and stained glass in the windows, and large ornate hoods over the doors, probably during the 1891-92 remodeling of the building. The result is an eclectic blend of different stylistic elements, but the building still has a pleasant design, with nice proportions, a symmetrical composition, and interesting details. The Deerfield Community Church (#8) of 1835, originally the Congregational Church, has undergone a similar transformation. It began as an almost purely Greek Revival style building, notable for its monumental inset portico. But, in the Victorian era, it also underwent modernization. In the 1870's, the original plain spire was replaced with a more decorative spire. And around 1887-1888, the side windows received more elaborate frosted and colored glass and the inset portico was replaced by new entrances and windows. While no longer stylistically pure, the church still retains many Greek Revival elements, notably the monumental pilasters on the facade, supporting the pedimented cornice. But, again the eclectic blending of different styles leaves a building with good proportions, and a dignified composition. Both churches remain attractive buildings, among the best in Deerfield.

The Deerfield Town Hall (#5), by contrast to the churches, still looks almost exactly as it did when it was built in 1856. Designed by Concord architects Joshua L. Foster and Fernando S. Robinson, the Town Hall is an excellent Greek

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Revival style building. The design is simple, but the ornament, the pilasters and heavy cornices framing the three entrances, the deep sillboards, the wide pilasters on the corners, the deep pedimented box cornice, and the circular louver in the front pediment, all give the building the classic dignity that is characteristic of the best examples of the style. The Town Hall remains one of Deerfield's finest buildings.

Three vernacular houses erected in the late 1850's or 1860's were very similar in their basic form and design. These buildings are the Baptist Parsonage (#10), built in 1859, the Goodhue House (#14), built between 1859 and 1864, and the Ballou House (#1), built between 1859 and 1884, (but most likely in the late 1850's or late 1860's). Each had a two and a half story gable roofed main block set with its gable end facing the street, and a one story hip roofed porch on the side. The gable ends are simple, with two windows in each story. The main entrances were also on the side, in small vestibules sharing the porch roof on the Baptist Parsonage (#10) and the Goodhue House (#14) and in the side of the main block on the Ballou House (#1). To the rear was a rear wing and an attached barn. Ornament is very limited on these vernacular houses, but they are nevertheless attractive buildings. Basically, they retain most of their original features, the most significant architectural changes, not counting changes to rear wings and barns, being the enclosure of the porch on the Ballou House (#1) and the replacement of the original porch with a screened porch on the Baptist Parsonage (#10). These three houses rank among the best in the District.

Related to these three houses is the Ballou-Hill House (#4), whose history is something of a mystery, as it was apparently rebuilt from a former store building at some unknown date. It was probably standing on its present site by 1875 and may have been there as early as the 1860's. Although smaller and simpler, it has a similar form to the three houses we have just described. The main block, only

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one and a half stories high, is also set with its gable end facing the street, with an entrance sheltered by a porch on one side, and to the rear, a rear wing and an attached barn. The Ballou-Hill House is one of the most altered buildings in the District, the only house that has been covered with a modern siding, a change that included covering over the trim on the windows, corners, and to some extent, the eaves. Still, this small house retains enough of its original features and design to contribute to the historic character of the District.

After their church burned, the Free Will Baptists built a new church (#12), perhaps designed by architect C. Willis Damon, in 1881-82. The church was a fine example of the Stick Style, with its characteristic features, vertical, diagonal, and horizontal boards dividing the walls of clapboards and shingles, as well as decorative braces, gables and roofs. With its paneled vergeboards and stained glass windows, the church was one of the most ornate buildings in the town. In the last half of the 20th century, the church lost some features, the upper portion of the tower, the tower entrance and its porch, the decorative gable above the front porch, and some of the stained glass. Still, it retains many original features, such as the wall treatment, the eaves trim, and many original doors and windows. The former church remains one of the best examples of its style in Deerfield.

The only surviving 19th century outbuilding is the Pulsifer Shed (#7A), apparently built in 1886-87 as a blacksmith shop. This small and simple vernacular building definitely contributes to the historic character of the District

The 20th century added six buildings to the Historic District. The first was clearly the best. The Soldiers Memorial (#2), designed by Manchester architect Chase R. Whitcher and built in 1913-14, is an excellent brick Classical Revival library that has seen little exterior

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change. The overall design features a wide central portico, with broad steps leading up to an elaborate entrance, which is sheltered by a classical pediment, supported by four Ionic columns and two piers of banded brickwork. The building is distinguished by fine Classical details, such as cast stone foundations and lintels, and the wooden entablature with its dentils and egg and dart moulding. The library was a very impressive structure for this small town when it was built and remains one of Deerfield's finest buildings.

The Deerfield Volunteer Fire Association erected a vernacular fire station next to the library in 1932-33. But, the fire station (#3) was so altered by an 1954-55 enlargement and by subsequent renovations and additions that it can no longer has architectural integrity for the District's period of significance and is therefore considered non-contributing. The building is not however incompatible with the district's other buildings.

Two mid 20th century vernacular houses were designed and built by local contractor Howard Johnston, the Congregational Parsonage (#6) in 1948-49, and his own house (#9) around 1954. These two buildings are essentially modernized and simplified versions of the traditional cape form. They are therefore compatible with the other buildings of the District. But, because of their different ages, the Congregational Parsonage (#6) will be considered contributing, while the Johnston House (#9) which is less than fifty years old, will be considered non contributing. Two simple late 20th century vernacular outbuildings, the Johnston garage (#9A) of c.1954 and the Solloway shed (#13A) of 2000, are also considered non-contributing because of their age, although they are also compatible with the District's architecture.

The period of significance for the District, from 1834 to 1949, is determined by the construction dates of its contributing buildings. The oldest buildings are the First

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Baptist Church (#11) of 1834 and the Pulsifer House (#7) apparently erected or moved here around the same year. The oldest building, that is at least fifty years old, is the Congregational Parsonage (#6) erected in 1948-49. The district does include three buildings that were built after 1949, the Johnston House (#9) and garage (#9A), and the Solloway Shed (#13A), and one building, the Fire Station (#3), that was radically altered since 1949. But, the house and the outbuildings are relatively modest structures built in a simple vernacular style of traditional materials, that seem in character with the other small buildings of the District. The Fire Station, although larger and covered with vinyl siding, is also basically compatible with the other buildings of the District in its design and scale. The non-contributing buildings do not detract from the historic character of the District.

In summary, the contributing buildings in the District include several vernacular houses, an early 19th century cape (#7), a mid 19th century two and a half story house with a symmetrical facade and central entry (#13), four mid 19th century houses with gable end fronts and side entries (#1, #4, #10, #14) and one modern "cape" (#6), as well as one late 19th century vernacular outbuilding (#7A). The high styles are represented by the public buildings, a Gothick church (#11) and a Greek Revival church (#8) (both with Victorian embellishments), a Greek Revival town hall (#5), a Stick Style church (#12), and a Classical Revival library (#2). Although the contributing buildings have been altered to various degrees, the more architecturally significant buildings all retain sufficient architectural integrity to qualify them for the National Register. (Two or three of the buildings would not normally be considered for the National Register, but they are eligible under the Criteria Considerations. The Deerfield Community Church (#8) and the First Baptist Church (#11) are still used for religious purposes. But, they are considered here for their significance in architecture and community planning. The First Baptist Church (#11) was also moved from its original

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location, but again it is considered here for its architectural significance. The Ballou-Hill House (#4) may have been moved from its original location, but it is being considered for its architectural significance after it was rebuilt as a house on its present site. All three buildings are integral parts of the Historic District.)

Before making a comparison with the town's other villages, we should briefly consider the history of Deerfield's population. The population grew from 911 in the first census of 1773 to a high point of 2133 in the national census of 1820. For the next four decades, the population was stable, hovering around 2000 (2086 in 1830, 1950 in 1840, 2022 in 1850, and 2066 in 1860). The population then begin a long decline through the late 19th century and early 20th century, reaching a low point of 635 in the 1930 census.²³ As late as 1960, the town's population was only 714. But, the late 20th century was a period of significant growth, and by 2000, the population had reached 3678.²⁴

These population trends, a stable population in the mid 19th century, and a declining population in the late 19th century and early 20th century, are reflected in the architecture of Deerfield and of its villages. As we have noted above, the five other villages in the town have virtually no public buildings, and they have only a few commercial buildings. Almost all of their buildings are residential and agricultural buildings. So it is not surprising to find, if we ignore several late 20th century houses, that the five other villages are composed predominantly of late 18th century and early 19th century houses. The surviving older buildings in the Old Center, Rand's Corner, and South Deerfield are all early buildings,

²³ Wasson, TALES OF OLD DEERFIELD, p. 12

²⁴ Peter H. Burr, comp. "Census Data and Statistics, State of New Hampshire, 1960- 2000" (typescript, N.H. Historical Society, Concord, N.H.), unpagged

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from the late 18th century and early 19th century. Leavitt's Hill has one Victorian store building. James City can claim two small Victorian vernacular houses. Deerfield Parade has some five Victorian era houses out of approximately twenty major buildings. But, again, the buildings in these three villages are predominantly late 18th century and early 19th century. The architectural styles they reflect are the Federal style and the vernacular of the period, although sometimes the Greek Revival can be seen. The predominance of mid 19th century houses and buildings in Deerfield Center is therefore unusual. It reflects the development of the village as the town center in the mid 19th century, during a period when the other villages, with the partial exception of the Parade, were apparently not growing.

When we compare the quality of the buildings in the Historic District with those of the other five villages, we find a dichotomy between the residential buildings and the public buildings. The houses in the District are not as large nor as architecturally pretentious as the grander and finer houses in the other villages. This is not to say that the other villages, such as James City and the Parade, do not have houses that are comparable to those in the Historic District. But their finest houses, the larger Federal houses in the Parade, South Deerfield and the Old Center, are architecturally more significant than the houses in the District. On the other hand, none of the buildings in the five other villages approach the architectural sophistication of the public buildings in the District, the town hall, the three churches, and the library. Because of these high style public buildings, the Deerfield Center Historic District must be ranked as the most architecturally significant village in the town of Deerfield.

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UTM References (cont.)

5. Zone 19 Easting 317740 Northing 4777710

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Deerfield Center Historical District is described as follows: Beginning at the southerly corner of the intersection of Old Center Road South and Candia Road, the district boundary proceeds southwesterly along the northwest side of Candia Road, then northwesterly on the southwest boundary of the Scott and Christine Allen property (#1), then northeast on the Allens' northwest boundary, then west on the south boundary of the Soldiers Memorial lot (#2, owned by the Town of Deerfield), then northwesterly on the southwest boundaries of the Town of Deerfield Fire Station lot (#3) and the Bonnie MacKinnon property (#4). The district boundary then continues on the line of the MacKinnon southwest boundary as an arbitrary line across the Town of Deerfield Town Hall lot (#5) to the property of Philip Jacques and Judith Mielecki (#6). The district boundary proceeds southwesterly on the southeast boundary of the Jacques/Mielecki property, then continues across the Jacques/ Mielecki property on an arbitrary line parallel to the south boundary of Old Center Road South at a distance of 250 feet. The district boundary then proceeds northeasterly on the northwest boundary of the Jacques/Mielecki property, and then crosses the property of James Normandeau and Jessica Dion (#7) on an arbitrary line parallel to the south side of Old Center Road South at a distance of 200 feet. The district boundary proceeds north along the west boundary of the Normandeau/ Dion property, then east along the south side of Old Center Road South. The district boundary then crosses Old Center Road South and proceeds north across the property of the Deerfield Community Church (#8) on an arbitrary line parallel to the west wall of the Deerfield Community Church's main block at a distance of 60 feet, then proceeds east on an arbitrary line parallel to the north wall of the Church's rear addition at a distance of 40 feet, then south on an arbitrary line parallel to the east wall of

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Verbal Boundary Description (cont.)

the Church's main block at a distance of 55 feet. The district boundary then proceeds east across the property of the Deerfield Community Church (#9) on an arbitrary line parallel to the north side of Old Center Road South at a distance of 130 feet, then north on the east boundary of the property of the Deerfield First Baptist Church (#10, #11), then east on the north boundary of the First Baptist Church and south on the east boundary of the First Baptist Church. The district boundary continues southeast on the northeast boundary of the Deerfield Community Center lot (#12, owned by the Deerfield Community Church), then north on the northwest boundary of the Howard and Sylvia Maley property (#14), then southeast on the Maleys' northeast boundary, then south on the Maleys' eastern boundary. The district boundary then crosses Old Center Road South and proceeds east on the south side of the road to the point of beginning. The district boundary is shown as a heavy dark line on the accompanying sketch map of the Deerfield Center Historic District. (The properties in the district are all shown on Deerfield Property Map No. 210. By coincidence, many of their district numbers correspond to their property map lot numbers. The district numbers are followed by the property map lot numbers as follows: #1-1, #2-2, #3-3, #4-4, #5-5, #6-6, #7-7, #8-8, #9-9, #10 and #11-10, #12-11, #13-12, #13-14.)

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Deerfield Center Historic District was drawn to include the historic public and residential buildings facing Old Center Road South in Deerfield Center. The district does not include commercial buildings and other residential buildings in the village to the east and northeast of the district. Generally the property boundaries of the included properties have been followed, as they typically include the land that has been historically associated with the contributing buildings. In the cases of

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Boundary Justification (cont.)

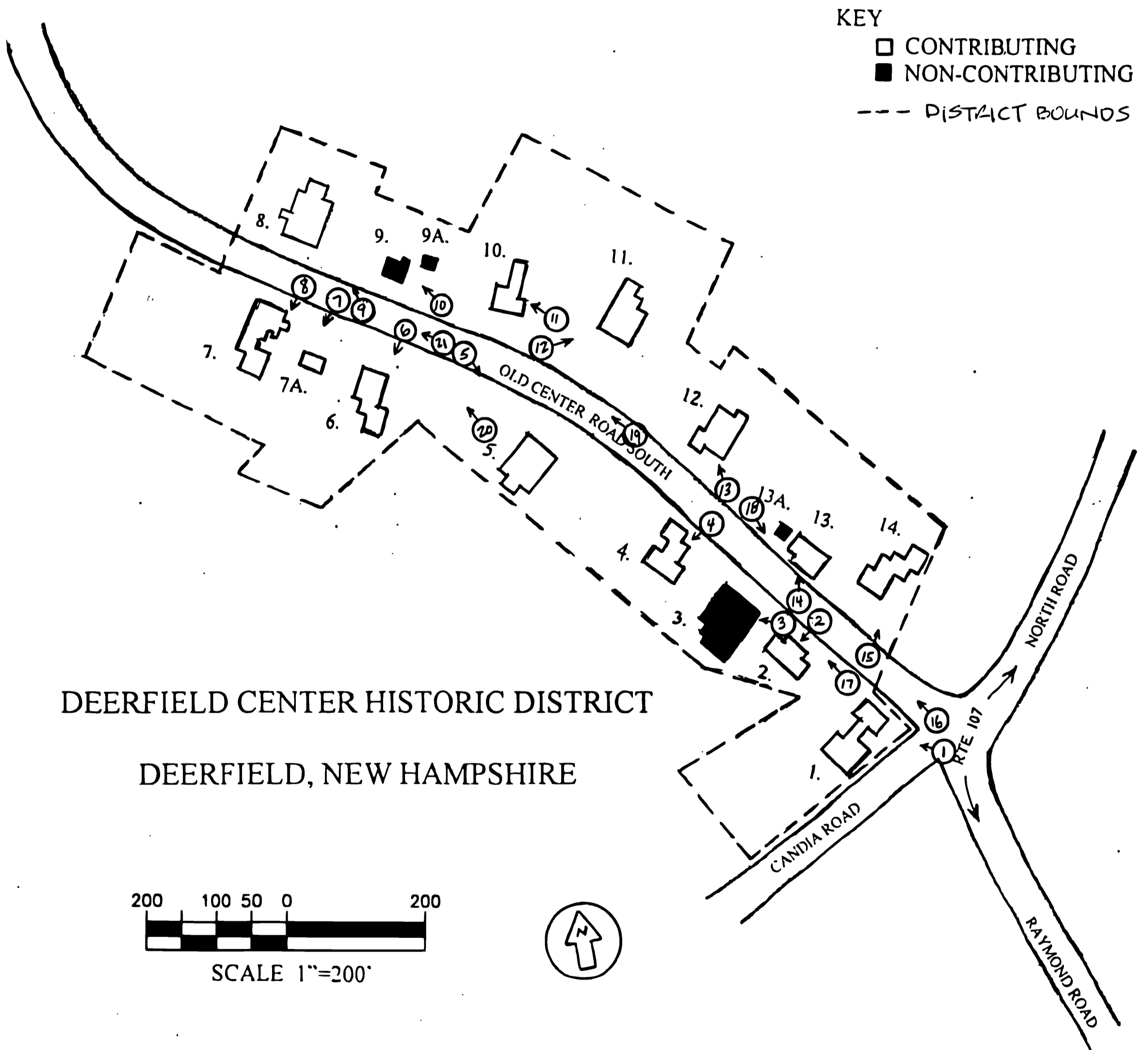
both the Deerfield Town Hall (#5) and the Deerfield Community Church (#8), substantial acreages have recently been added to the original building lots. Most of these added acres have been excluded from the historic district, as not being historically associated with the contributing buildings. Rear portions of other lots have grown up to woods and have therefore been excluded because they are no longer visually connected to the district. The excluded portions of the properties include a modern highway garage, fields and woods on the Deerfield Town Hall lot (#5) and woodland on the Congregational Parsonage (#6), Pulsifer House (#7), Deerfield Community Church (#8), and Johnston House (#9) properties. The historic district is bounded on the north and west by woods, on the south by woods, fields, and the modern highway garage, and on the east by commercial buildings on the north side of the highway intersection and by a woodlot on the south side of the intersection.

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Deerfield Center Historic District List of Owners by Property Number

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| #1 Ballou House | Scott and Christine Allen
1 Candia Road, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #2 Soldiers Memorial | Town of Deerfield
P.O. Box 159, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #3 Deerfield Fire Station | Town of Deerfield
P.O. Box 159, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #4 Ballou-Hill House | Bonnie MacKinnon
6 Old Center Road South, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #5 Deerfield Town Hall | Town of Deerfield
P.O. Box 159, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #6 Congregational Parsonage | Philip J. Jacques and Judith A. Mielecki
12 Old Center Routh South, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #7 Pulsifer House | James Normandeau and Jessica Dion
14 Old Center Road South, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #8 Deerfield Community Church | Deerfield Community Church
P.O. Box 420, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #9 Johnston House | Deerfield Community Church
P.O. Box 420, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #10 Baptist Parsonage | Deerfield First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 48, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #11 First Baptist Church | Deerfield First Baptist Church
P.O. Box 48, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #12 Freewill Baptist Church | Deerfield Community Church
P.O. Box 420, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #13 Stevens-Currier House | Scott B. and Kerry Ann Solloway
3 Old Center Road South, Deerfield NH 03037 |
| #14 Goodhue House | Howard and Sylvia Maley
1 Old Center Road South, Deerfield NH 03037 |