

7-11-73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	New Hampshire
COUNTY:	Grafton
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 7 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Littleton Town Building (Littleton Opera House)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1 Union Street

CITY OR TOWN: Littleton CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33 COUNTY: Grafton CODE: 009

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Town of Littleton, New Hampshire

STREET AND NUMBER: Littleton Town Building  
1 Union Street

CITY OR TOWN: Littleton STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 03561 33

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Grafton County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 208 Grafton County Courthouse  
North Haverhill, New Hampshire

CITY OR TOWN: Woodsville STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 03875 33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

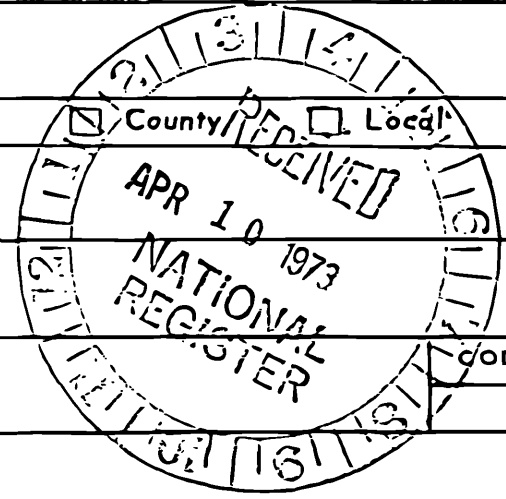
TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	New Hampshire
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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present: The Littleton Town Building, fronting directly on the southeast corner of Cottage and Union Streets, stands at the head and looks down Main Street (Union becoming Main at that point), center of the Town's business district.

Begun in 1894 and dedicated on June 15, 1895, it is a clapboard frame rectangular building, five storeys in the rear and three in front, with a six-sided tower extending from the northwest corner and a truncated hip roof.

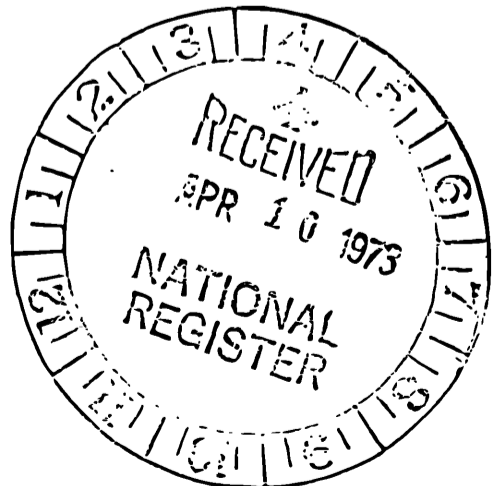
Except for the top level and roof of the tower, the exterior of the building today is for the most part as it was in 1895.

The interior as well, except for the second floor which originally provided accommodations for the temporary use of the Town Library and now contains the District Court and ante room, Community Action, Civil Defense, and Planning Board, is still much the same. The building including the Opera House is basically sound but suffers from neglect and hard usage.

Original: From the 1905 History of Littleton the Town Building is described as follows: "The building is eighty-nine feet on Union Street by seventy-seven on Cottage. Erected upon a high bank of the river, it was necessary to build a strong and high foundation of granite on the south side. On this rests a basement of brick in which are rooms for the Fire Department, storage for their engine, hose, hook, and ladder carriage, and other appliances for the use of the company in the extinguishment of fire; a place of temporary confinement for offenders against the laws; a town team and implements, wagons, rollers, and road machines of the Street Department. The entrance to this part of the building is on Cottage Street. The story above, which is entered from Union Street, has in its west end offices for the town clerk and Selectmen, with a fire-proof vault for the use of these officers; an ample room for the Police Court, which is also used by School and Village District meetings and for party caucuses. The second story is devoted to the use of the public library and reading-room.

The entire easterly end of the building is occupied by an Opera House, which has a seating capacity of seven hundred and fifty. The gallery circles an end and both sides, while the stage and dressing-rooms are at the southerly end. In equipment and elegance of decorations the auditorium is all that is necessary or could be desired. The stage, too, is finely furnished with scenery, but is not sufficiently large for purposes for which its use is sometimes desired."

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

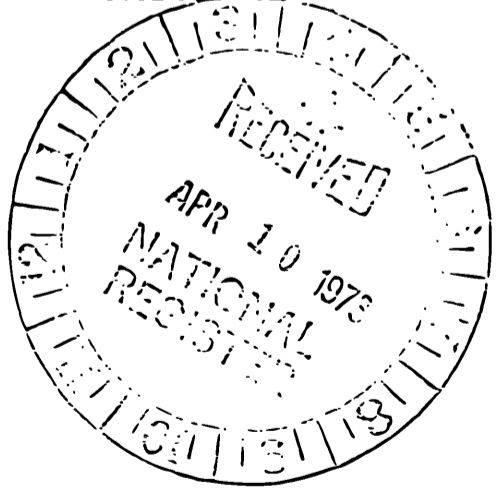
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture: The Littleton Town Building (Littleton Opera House) begun in 1894 and dedicated June 15, 1895, was designed by Howard & Austin, architects of Brockton, Massachusetts. William C. Edwards, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, was the contractor for building the superstructure and Ward & Douglass, of Barre, Vermont, contractors for laying the foundation. The decorating and frescoing were by B.F. McDonnell, and the paintings by Jackson & Elkins.

During public meetings neither the form nor style of building was given except that it was to be a "handsome wooden building" with "fire-proof vaults for town records suitable and convenient for all town and village purposes and which would be an ornament to the town..." The resultant building is a good local example of a Victorian municipal building.

Social/Humanitarian: Besides the need for having Town offices under one roof, there was the community need for a large hall-the Opera House. In the years preceeding 1894, the popularity of the North Country Musical Association Concerts had increased until the numbers were overflowing the hall on the top floor of Tilton's Opera Block. Although the Association Concerts are gone, other musical, theatrical, and political events took and still take place in the Opera House. With the aid of the Restoration of the Littleton Opera House Committee, Littleton Colonial Club, and Friends, restoration of the Building in regard to the Opera House, is anticipated not only for the Town but also as part of Littleton's plans for celebrating the American Revolutionary War Bicentennial.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Paul R. Clay, Picturesque and Progressive Littleton and the White Mountains, First published St. Johnsbury, Vt: C.T. Ranlet, Publisher and Printer, 1898.  
 James R. Jackson, History of Littleton, New Hampshire: Volume I, Annals (Cambridge: University Press, 1905) 513-520.  
Littleton Courier (1894-1895)

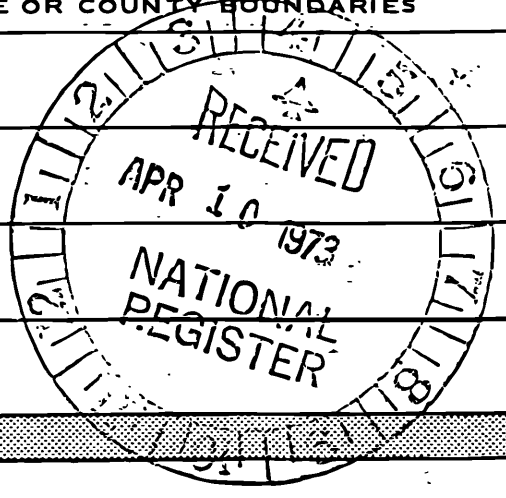
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 18' 20"	71° 46' 12"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



U.S. 741  
19/27/73  
4909

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Greta T. Poulsen, Chairman  
Mary E. Heald

ORGANIZATION: Restoration of the Littleton Opera House Committee DATE: March 17, 1973  
Littleton Colonial Club

STREET AND NUMBER: Monroe Road  
4 Merrill Street

CITY OR TOWN: Littleton STATE: New Hampshire 03561 CODE: 33

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: George Gilman  
 Title: Commissioner  
Department of Resources and Economic Development  
 Date: March 29, 1973

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

Robert H. Utley  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/7/73

ATTEST: [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4 26 73